

# CHRIST EPISCOPAL CHURCH

*Extending the Love and Embrace of Christ*

## ROSEMARY FOR REMEMBRANCE

A Service for when Christmas is a Difficult Time

Saturday, December 16, 2023 | 6:00 PM

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Welcome to Christ Episcopal Church.

Thank you for joining us this evening.



The herb rosemary has, for centuries, held great meaning as the symbol of remembrance. Shakespeare referred, in this way, to rosemary in his play Hamlet, Act IV, scene V:

“There’s rosemary; that’s for remembrance.  
Pray, love, remember.”

Legend says that the Virgin Mary, while resting, spread her cloak over a white flowering rosemary bush. The flowers turned the pale blue of her cloak, and from then on the bush was referred to as the “Rose of Mary.”

Rosemary, according to another tradition, will grow for thirty-three years, until it reaches the height of Christ when he was crucified, then it will die.

We hope this worship will help you “pray, love, and remember.”

## Opening Prayers and Hymn |

*Officiant:* We gather together today to remember loved ones who are not with us this Christmas. We give thanks for their lives and recall what they mean to us, tell their stories, and refresh their memory by saying their names once more.

*All:* **Most loving God, as you have taught us to call the evening, the morning, and the noonday one day; and have made the sun to know it's going down: Dispel the darkness of our hearts, that by your brightness we may know you to be the true God and eternal light, living and loving forever and ever. Amen.**

## Hymn | Come and Fill Our Hearts

Taizé

Come and fill our hearts with your peace. You a-lone, O Lord, are ho-ly.

Come and fill our hearts with your peace. Al-le-lu-ia!

*After a few moments of silence, the Officiant continues:*

*Officiant:* Be still...

*Officiant:* Be still and know...

*Officiant:* Be still and know that I am...

*Officiant:* Be still and know that I am God.

## The Collect of the Day |

*Deacon:* The Lord be with you.

*People:* **And also with you.**

*Deacon:* Let us pray.

Stir up your power, O Lord, and with great might come among us; and, because we are sorely hindered by our sins, let your bountiful grace and mercy speedily help and deliver us; through Jesus Christ our Lord, to whom, with you and the Holy Spirit, be honor and glory, now and forever. *Amen.*

Psalm 139:1-5 | *Read by all.*

LORD, you have searched me out and known me; \*  
you know my sitting down and my rising up;  
you discern my thoughts from afar.

You trace my journeys and my resting-places \*  
and are acquainted with all my ways.

Indeed, there is not a word on my lips, \*  
but you, O LORD, know it altogether.

You press upon me behind and before \*  
and lay your hand upon me.

Such knowledge is too wonderful for me; \*  
it is so high that I cannot attain to it.

Meditation |

Amanda McKay, viola

Psalm 139:6-11 | *Read by all.*

Where can I go then from your Spirit? \*  
where can I flee from your presence?

If I climb up to heaven, you are there; \*  
if I make the grave my bed, you are there also.

If I take the wings of the morning \*  
and dwell in the uttermost parts of the sea,

Even there your hand will lead me \*  
and your right hand hold me fast.

If I say, "Surely the darkness will cover me, \*  
and the light around me turn to night,"

Darkness is not dark to you;  
the night is as bright as the day; \*  
darkness and light to you are both alike.

Bless the Lord, my soul, and bless God's ho - ly name.

Bless the Lord, my soul, who leads me in - to life.

The image shows a musical score for the hymn "Bless the Lord, My Soul" by Taizé. It consists of two systems of music. Each system includes a vocal line (treble clef), a bass line (bass clef), and a piano accompaniment (grand staff). The first system contains the lyrics "Bless the Lord, my soul, and bless God's ho - ly name." The second system contains the lyrics "Bless the Lord, my soul, who leads me in - to life." The piano accompaniment is marked with a piano (p) dynamic. The score is written in a key signature of one flat (B-flat) and a 4/4 time signature.

For you yourself created my inmost parts; \*  
you knit me together in my mother's womb.

I will thank you because I am marvelously made; \*  
your works are wonderful, and I know it well.

My body was not hidden from you, \*  
while I was being made in secret  
and woven in the depths of the earth.

Your eyes beheld my limbs, yet unfinished in the womb;  
all of them were written in your book; \*  
they were fashioned day by day,  
when as yet there was none of them.

How deep I find your thoughts, O God! \*  
how great is the sum of them!

If I were to count them, they would be more in number  
than the sand; \*  
to count them all, my life span would need to  
be like yours.



1 How love - ly is thy dwell - ing - place, O Lord of hosts, to  
 2 Be - side thine al - tars, gra - cious Lord, the swal - lows find a  
 3 They who go through the des - ert vale will find it filled with  
 4 One day with - in thy courts ex - cels a thou - sand spent a -

me! My thirst - y soul de - sires and longs with -  
 nest; how hap - py they who dwell with thee and  
 springs, and they shall climb from height to height till  
 way; how hap - py they who keep thy laws nor

in thy courts to be; my ve - ry heart and  
 praise thee with - out rest, and hap - py they whose  
 Zi - on's tem - ple rings with praise to thee, in  
 from thy pre - cepts stray, for thou shalt sure - ly

flesh cry out, O liv - ing God, for thee.  
 hearts are set up - on the pil - grim's quest.  
 glo - ry throned, Lord God, great King of kings.  
 bless all those who live the words they pray.

The Gospel | John 20:11-17

*Deacon:* A Reading from the Gospel of John.

Mary stood weeping outside the tomb. As she wept, she bent over to look into the tomb; and she saw two angels in white, sitting where the body of Jesus had been lying, one at the head and the other at the feet. They said to her, 'Woman, why are you weeping?' She said to them, 'They have taken away my Lord, and I do not know where they have laid him.'

When she had said this, she turned round and saw Jesus standing there, but she did not know that it was Jesus. Jesus said to her, 'Woman, why are you weeping? For whom are you looking?' Supposing him to be the gardener, she said to him, 'Sir, if you have carried him away, tell me where you have laid him, and I will take him away.' Jesus said to her, 'Mary!'

She turned and said to him in Hebrew, 'Rabbouni!' (which means Teacher). Jesus said to her, 'Do not hold on to me, because I have not yet ascended to the Father. But go to my brothers and say to them, "I am ascending to my Father and your Father, to my God and your God."'

*Deacon:* The Word of the Lord.

***People:* Thanks be to God.**

Meditation | Panis Angelicus

Cesar Franck  
Catherine Hinton, soprano

Homily | The Rev'd Denise Schiavone, *Deacon*

Lighting of Candles for the Departed |

*Candles are lit in memory of those from our parish community who have departed this life, and those you now name.*

Laurie Benner  
Albertha Caldwell  
Victoria Oyiboka Chukwudinma  
Betty Jane DeBoissiere  
Charles Hearn Hoke, Jr.  
Jim Howard  
Patricia Howard  
Dan Magnes  
Georgeann Magnes  
Paul Mitchell  
Susan Elaine Philips  
Harriet Smith  
Forrest Titcomb

*Take two or three deep breaths with slow, long exhalations.*

*Imagine the breath moving through the center of your chest -- in the area of your heart.*

*Feel your energy settle into your body and into the moment.*

*If there is someone or some situation for whom you would like to light your candle, you may do so now.*

**All:** We pray for God's people throughout the world and our gathering here.

Jesus said: "Come to me, all you that are weary and are carrying heavy burdens, and I will give you rest."

We pray for all who are coping with loss and disappointment in this season leading up to Christmas.

Jesus said: "Come to me, all you that are weary and are carrying heavy burdens, and I will give you rest."

We pray for peace, for nations in conflict and the well-being of all people.

Jesus said: "Do not let your hearts be troubled. Believe in God, believe also in me." We pray for those whose pain goes unnoticed.

Jesus said: "Do not let your hearts be troubled. Believe in God, believe also in me."

We pray for all who are in danger, sorrow, or any kind of trouble.

Jesus said: "Father, if you are willing, remove this cup from me, yet not my will but yours be done."

We pray for those who are adrift or alone because of a lost job or relationship and whose experience of Christmas is not what it was.

Jesus said: "Father, if you are willing, remove this cup from me, yet not my will but yours be done."

Lord, in the midst of our difficulties and among all the changes and chances of this mortal life, help us to remember that you do not faint or grow weary.

**"but those who wait for the Lord shall renew their strength, they shall mount up with wings like eagles, they shall run and not be weary, they shall walk and not faint. Amen.**

*After a few moments of silence, the Officiant continues:*

*Officiant:* Be still...

*Officiant:* Be still and know...

*Officiant:* Be still and know that I am...

*Officiant:* Be still and know that I am God.



1 In the bleak mid - win - ter, frost - y wind made moan,  
 2 Our God, heaven can - not hold him, nor earth sus - tain;  
 3 An - gels and arch - an - gels may have gath - ered there,  
 4 What can I give him, poor as I am?

earth stood hard as i - ron, wa - ter like a stone;  
 heaven and earth shall flee a - way when he comes to reign:  
 cher - u - bim and se - ra - phim thron - ed the air;  
 If I were a shep - herd, I would bring a lamb;

snow had fal - len, snow on snow, snow on snow,  
 in the bleak mid - win - ter a sta - ble - place suf - ficed  
 but his mo - ther on - ly, in her maid - en bliss,  
 if I were a wise - man, I would do my part;

in the bleak mid - win - ter, long a - go.  
 the Lord God in - car - nate, Je - sus Christ.  
 wor - shiped the be - lov - ed with a kiss.  
 yet what I can I give him— give my heart.

Greeting and Welcome |

The Blessing of the “Rose of Mary” |

*Hold in your hearts those people, places and things for which you feel loss or hurt.*



Collect |

*Officiant:* The Lord be with you.

*People:* **And also with you.**

*Officiant:* Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

*People:* **It is right to give him thanks and praise.**

*All:* **It is right to praise you, Almighty God, for the acts of love by which you have redeemed us through your Son Jesus Christ our Lord. Infinite God and infant God, Almighty Word and baby child unable to speak a word, lead us to the selflessness that on the cross yielded life, and to your love that wraps us round like swaddling bands. May these sprigs of Rosemary be for us signs of remembrance and communion with you and those we love. Grant that we who worship in Jesus' Name may ever adore him as our Savior and follow him in the way that leads to eternal life; who lives and reigns in glory with the divine Creator and the Holy Spirit, now and forever. Amen.**

*Officiant:* Our King and Savior now draws near:

*People:* **Come, let us adore him.**

*Unison or harmony*

1 What child is this, who, laid to rest, on  
 2 Why lies he in such mean es - tate where  
 3 So bring him in - cense, gold, and myrrh, come,

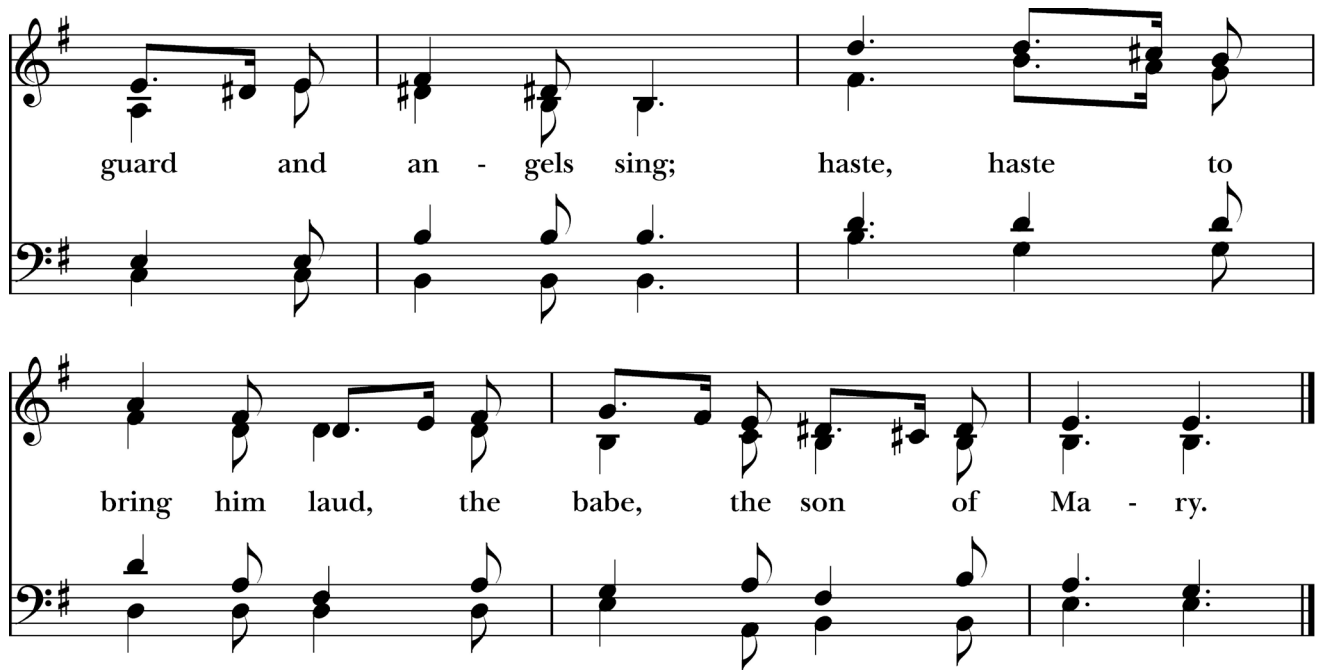
Ma - ry's lap is sleep - ing? Whom an - gels greet with  
 ox and ass are feed - ing? Good Chris - tian, fear: for  
 peas - ant, king, to own him; the King of kings sal -

an - thems sweet, while shep - herds watch are keep - ing?  
 sin - ners here the si - lent Word is plead - ing.  
 va - tion brings, let lov - ing hearts en - throne him.

*Refrain*

This, this is Christ the King, whom shep - herds

*continued*



guard and an - gels sing; haste, haste to  
bring him laud, the babe, the son of Ma - ry.

Dismissal |

*Officiant:* Let us go forth in peace;

*People:* **In the Name of Christ. Amen.**

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O COME,

LET US  
ADORE HIM.

CHRISTMAS EVE AT 4:00, 7:30, & 10:30 P.M.

CHRISTMAS DAY AT 10:00 A.M.



## Advent and Christmas Services

### **Morning and Evening Prayer Livestreams**

*Monday - Friday at 7:00 a.m.*

*Fridays at 7:00 p.m.*

*via our website and Facebook*

Our virtual tradition continues as wonderfully dedicated and faithful members of the Christ Church family lead us in a brief prayer service livestream to carry us through the Advent season.

### **Centering Prayer**

*Monday, December 18 at 7:00 p.m. on Zoom*

Centering Prayer is a unique method of prayer that helps us be present and open to God, moving us beyond conversation with Christ and towards communion with Him. Everyone is welcome to join us for this special gathering on Mondays at 7:00 p.m., so if you'd like the Zoom details, let us know and we'll send them to you.

### **Thursday Healing Eucharist**

*Thursday, December 21 at 12:00 p.m. in Old Brick*

Christ Church offers midday worship in historic Old Brick, including readings, prayers, a litany for healing, and the Holy Eucharist. Everyone is welcome to join us as we seek healing for ourselves and our loved ones, so come reflect, pray, and participate in a service in our beautiful chapel, the oldest building of worship still in regular use in Howard County.

### **The Jesse Tree**

*Each weekday through Christmas*

*on our website's Jesse Tree page*

Last year during Advent at Christ Church, we began to invite parishioners and families to observe the tradition of a Jesse Tree celebration in their homes. This tradition honors the genealogy of Jesus Christ, tracing his Old and New Testament ancestors and telling the history of God's act of salvation.

Our own Jesse Tree, complete with beautiful hand-made ornaments by artist Jenn Lavanish, will be shown in the Narthex, along with a second wall display of Jesse Tree characters and tree. Materials for families and parish members who wish to honor this daily Jesse Tree tradition of reading Scripture, a short meditation, a video from Mother Marcia about that day's character, and the creation of an ornament to display on a Jesse Tree of their own will be provided. You'll also be able to find a complete set of ornament and tree patterns, as well as daily meditations, on our website during Advent.

*(continued)*

## Festival of Nine Lessons and Carols

*Sunday, December 17th*

*at 6:00 p.m. in the New Brick Sanctuary  
and via [the CEC website](#), Facebook, and YouTube*

Christ Church will hold a Festival of Nine Lessons and Carols in New Brick, a truly wonderful gathering whose origins date back to late 19th century England. All are most welcome to join us in this celebration of glorious carols, anthems, and hymns led by our wonderful choir, interspersed with Bible passages. Please join us - in person or online - for an evening of joyful expression, in word and song, of the greatest story that has ever been told.

## Christ Church on Christmas Eve

*Sunday, December 24th*

*at 4:00, 8:00, and 11:00 p.m. in the New Brick Sanctuary  
and via [the CEC website](#), Facebook, and YouTube*

*Music begins 30 minutes prior to the 8 and 11 p.m. services*

Our youth are an integral part of the 4:00 Christmas Eve gathering at Christ Church, a family service that includes a live Nativity. All kids from pre-school - 5th grade are invited to have a role, so email us at [info@christchurchcolumbia.org](mailto:info@christchurchcolumbia.org) or call the Church Office to participate.

That evening, our excellent choir and instrumentalists will lead the seasonal music presentation prior to both uplifting Festival Eucharist services, so arrive at 7:30 and 10:30 p.m. to grab great seats and join us as we celebrate in joyous song!

## Christmas Day Worship

*Monday, December 25th*

*at 10:00 a.m. in the New Brick Sanctuary  
and livestreamed on [the CEC website](#), Facebook, and YouTube*

Christmas Day Eucharist is a truly wonderful service, and in 2023 it takes place in the Sanctuary of New Brick. And so, as the hymnist suggested... "Come and worship... worship Christ, the new-born King!"

## New Year's Day Eucharist

*Monday, January 1st*

*at 10:00 a.m. in the New Brick Sanctuary  
and via website, Facebook, and YouTube*

We will gather together for this first Sunday morning of 2024, and collectively begin the New Year with Holy Eucharist and prayers for a healthier, safer, and more peaceful year-to-come.



**HELP US DECORATE  
CHRIST CHURCH FOR CHRISTMAS!**

**JOIN US  
SATURDAY, DECEMBER 23  
AT 11 A.M.**

**CHRIST  
EPISCOPAL  
CHURCH**  
COLUMBIA, MARYLAND  
www.christchurchcolumbia.org



## CHRIST CHURCH STEWARDSHIP

**We have a pledge goal of \$550,000 this year.**

**To date, we have \$345,746 in pledges.**

Thank you. Your faithfulness is what makes life happen at Christ Church. Your faithfulness makes Christ Church stronger. Your faithfulness enables our parish to embrace, with courage, the task that God has for us. We need to remember that Christ Church is completely dependent on this faithfulness. Your beloved Christ Church counts on you and your faithful giving.

### Stewardship 2024

We are so blessed to have a community of dedicated parishioners who support our ministry of faithful service, and we hope that each parishioner will prayerfully consider their contribution to Christ Church. You may pick up a pledge card in the Narthex to complete, or you can complete one electronically on our website - [www.christchurchcolumbia.org/2024-pledge](http://www.christchurchcolumbia.org/2024-pledge)

### Text Giving

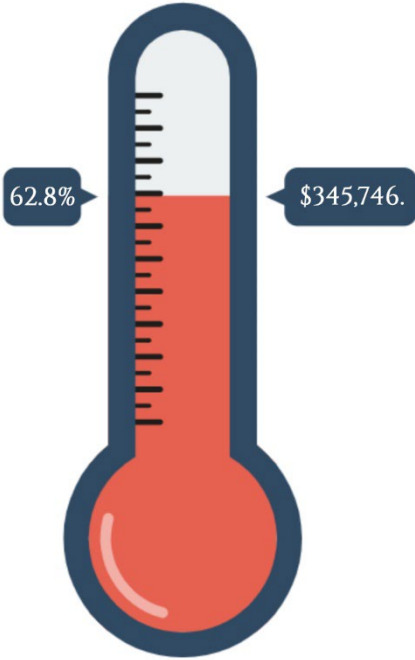
You can give securely and conveniently by using your mobile phone! Simply text **CECGIVING** to **73256**, and you'll receive a secure link to our page where you can set up a one-time or recurring gift.

### Online Giving

**You can also continue to pledge and give to Christ Church online.** It's a safe and secure method of contributing toward your annual pledge or another offering. Whether it's a one-time donation or a recurring gift, you can go to our [overview page](#) for instructions and links. Signing up is fast and easy; if you need assistance doing so, or if you have any Stewardship-related questions, please contact us at [info@christchurchcolumbia.org](mailto:info@christchurchcolumbia.org)

**You can read the latest Vestry-approved monthly report [here](#).**

**GOAL: \$550,000.**





# CHRIST EPISCOPAL CHURCH

COLUMBIA, MARYLAND

WWW.CHRISTCHURCHCOLUMBIA.ORG

## Christ Episcopal Church

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The Rev'd Emmanuel Ato Mercer, *Rector*

The Rev'd Denise Schiavone, *Deacon*

Kiona Lookingbill, *Director of Youth and Family Ministries*

Michael Looney, *Seminarian Associate*

Larissa Sanders, *Music Director*

Yetti Lipede, *Ministry Coordinator*

Christopher Pouch, *Communications Administrator*

Aisha White, *Parish Administrator*

Amanda Kirkpatrick, *Nursery Care Coordinator*

Nytia Perry, *Nursery Care*

Jefferson Cuarezma Flores, *Sexton*

## Vestry

Jan DeBoissiere (*Senior Warden*) • Isaac Olajide (*Junior Warden*) •

Andrew Eaton (*Treasurer*) • Ron Couch (*Registrar*) • Jonah Aribiah (*Youth Liaison*)

Denisa Abdallah • Ronald Baran • Tim Beaty • John Curley • Simone Kolnik • Ray Lyon • Diane Phillips-LaGuerre

Greg Schuckman • Alfred Titus-Glover • Cherry Lynn Williams