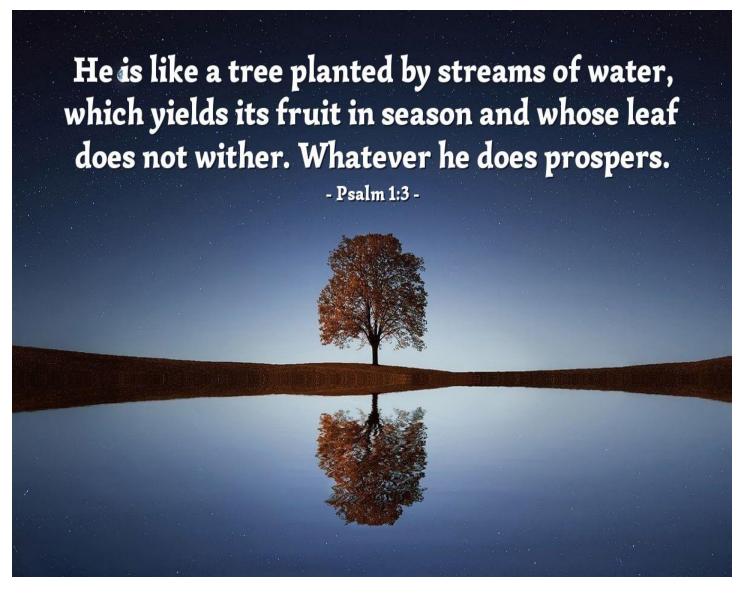


CHRIST EPISCOPAL CHURCH EXTENDING THE LOVE AND EMBRACE OF CHRIST THE HOLY EUCHARIST, RITE II

8:00 & 10:30 A.M.

Sunday, February 16, 2025 | Sixth Sunday after Epiphany



# WELCOME HOME!

Welcome to worship at Christ Episcopal Church. If this is your first time with us, we invite you to complete a visitor's form. Our website provides up to date information about our vibrant church community: christchurchcolumbia.org. This bulletin contains all you need to join us in worship, everyone is welcome to receive communion at God's table, and the clergy are happy to speak with you at any time.

# We are delighted you're here – welcome home!

**PRELUDE** |



# **OPENING ACCLAMATION**

Celebrant:Blessed be God: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.People:And blessed be his kingdom, now and forever. Amen.

#### THE COLLECT FOR PURITY|

*Celebrant:* Almighty God, to you all hearts are open, all desires known, and from you no secrets are hid: Cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love you, and worthily magnify your holy Name; through Christ our Lord. **Amen.** 



#### THE COLLECT OF THE DAY

Celebrant:	The Lord be with you
People:	And also with you
Celebrant:	Let us pray.
Celebrant:	O God, the strength of all who put their trust in you: Mercifully accept our prayers; and
	because in our weakness we can do nothing good without you, give us the help of your
	grace, that in keeping your commandments we may please you both in will and deed;
	through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God,
	for ever and ever. Amen.

#### The people may be seated.

#### THE FIRST LESSON | Jeremiah 17:5-10

Reader: A reading from Jeremiah.

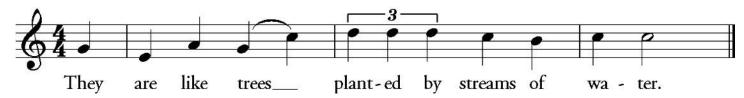
Thus says the Lord:

Cursed are those who trust in mere mortals and make mere flesh their strength, whose hearts turn away from the Lord. They shall be like a shrub in the desert, and shall not see when relief comes. They shall live in the parched places of the wilderness, in an uninhabited salt land. Blessed are those who trust in the Lord, whose trust is the Lord. They shall be like a tree planted by water, sending out its roots by the stream. It shall not fear when heat comes, and its leaves shall stay green; in the year of drought it is not anxious, and it does not cease to bear fruit. The heart is devious above all else; it is perverse-who can understand it? I the Lord test the mind and search the heart, to give to all according to their ways, according to the fruit of their doings.

Reader:	The word of the Lord.
People:	Thanks be to God.

THE PSALM |

Psalm 1 | Beatus vir qui non abiit



Happy are they who have not walked in the counsel of the wicked, \* nor lingered in the way of sinners, nor sat in the seats of the scornful! Their delight is in the law of the Lord, \* and they meditate on his law day and night. They are like trees planted by streams of water, bearing fruit in due season, with leaves that do not wither; \* everything they do shall prosper. Antiphon It is not so with the wicked; \* they are like chaff which the wind blows away. Therefore the wicked shall not stand upright when judgment comes, \* nor the sinner in the council of the righteous. For the Lord knows the way of the righteous, \* but the way of the wicked is doomed. Antiphon

**THE EPISTLE** | 1 Corinthians 15:12-20

Reader: A reading from 1<sup>st</sup> Corinthians.

Now if Christ is proclaimed as raised from the dead, how can some of you say there is no resurrection of the dead? If there is no resurrection of the dead, then Christ has not been raised; and if Christ has not been raised, then our proclamation has been in vain and your faith has been in vain. We are even found to be misrepresenting God, because we testified of God that he raised Christ--whom he did not raise if it is true that the dead are not raised. For if the dead are not raised, then Christ has not been raised. If Christ has not been raised, your faith is futile and you are still in your sins. Then those also who have died in Christ have perished. If for this life only we have hoped in Christ, we are of all people most to be pitied.

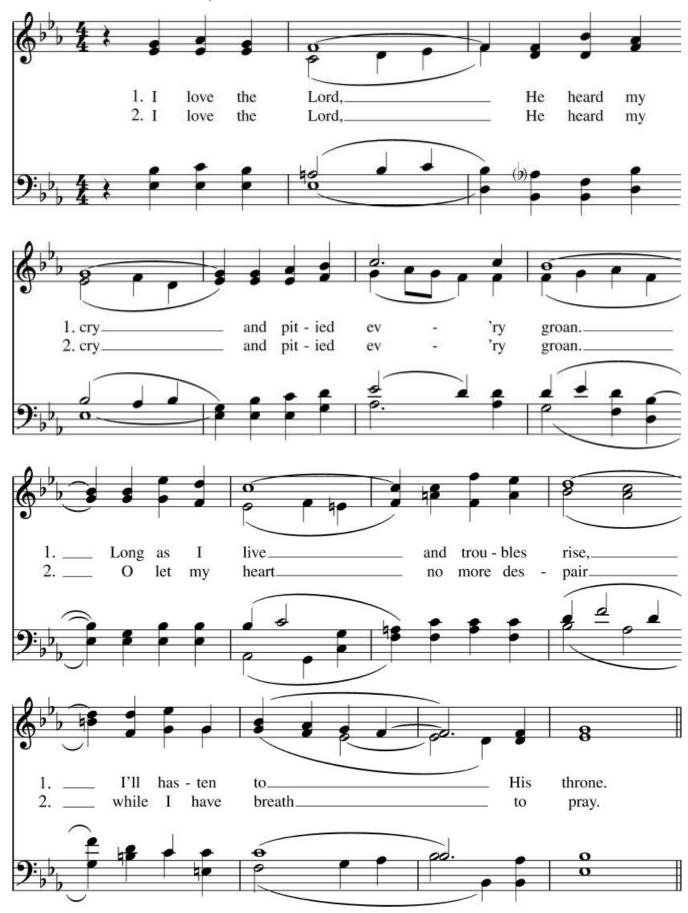
But in fact Christ has been raised from the dead, the first fruits of those who have died.

Reader:The word of the Lord.People:Thanks be to God.

The people stand as able.

SEQUENCE HYMN LEVAS 67 | I Love the Lord

Traditional, arr Richard Smallwood



#### THE GOSPEL | Luke 6:17-26

Celebrant:The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Luke.People:Glory to you, Lord Christ.

Jesus came down with the twelve apostles and stood on a level place, with a great crowd of his disciples and a great multitude of people from all Judea, Jerusalem, and the coast of Tyre and Sidon. They had come to hear him and to be healed of their diseases; and those who were troubled with unclean spirits were cured. And all in the crowd were trying to touch him, for power came out from him and healed all of them.

Then he looked up at his disciples and said:

"Blessed are you who are poor, for yours is the kingdom of God.
"Blessed are you who are hungry now, for you will be filled.
"Blessed are you who weep now, for you will laugh.
"Blessed are you when people hate you, and when they exclude you, revile you, and defame you on account of the Son of Man. Rejoice in that day and leap for joy, for surely your reward is great in heaven; for that is what their ancestors did to the prophets."
"But woe to you who are rich, for you have received your consolation.
"Woe to you who are full now, for you will be hungry.
"Woe to you who are laughing now,

for you will mourn and weep.

"Woe to you when all speak well of you, for that is what their ancestors did to the false prophets."

<i>Celebrant:</i> The Gospel of the Lord.
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*People:* Praise to you, Lord Christ.





THE SERMON | Rev. Emmanuel Ato Mercer, Rector

#### THE NICENE CREED |

*All:* We believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty, maker of heaven and earth, of all that is, seen and unseen.

We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only Son of God, eternally begotten of the Father, God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God, begotten, not made, of one Being with the Father. Through him all things were made.

For us and for our salvation he came down from heaven: by the power of the Holy Spirit he became incarnate from the Virgin Mary, and was made man. For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate; he suffered death and was buried. On the third day he rose again in accordance with the Scriptures; he ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead, and his kingdom will have no end.

We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son. With the Father and the Son he is worshipped and glorified. He has spoken through the Prophets. We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic Church. We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins. We look for the resurrection of the dead, and the life of the world to come.

Amen.

# THE PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE |

Oh, Lord, on this Sunday following St. Valentine's Day, we thank you for love.

First we offer our thanks to you for loving us more than we can ever imagine, more than we can ever deserve, more than we can ever repay. Thank you for the gift of your Son, our Lord Jesus Christ, and for your gift of the Holy Spirit. Thank you for your presence with us always, especially when we don't know you are there. *Thank you for your love, Lord*.

Thank you for the gift of human love, the spontaneous love for a child, for the mystery of romantic love, for the cherished love of friendship, for that love deep within us that plays out in acts of care, even sacrifice, for complete strangers. *Thank you, Lord, for human love*.

Thank you, Lord, for the love that is present at the times when we need it most, yet may most be unable to see it, in those times when we are sick or dying, when we are lost or afraid, when we feel we are alone, when we stand on the edge of grief and loss. This week we pray especially for Sam, Sharon, Joseph, Kaci, Sam, Tori, Trish, Marcy, Darice, Carlos, Victoria, Pat, Betsy, Emmy, John, Claudia, Constance, Jim, Wayne, Ronald, Rachan, Kim, Sabrina, Jim, Tim, Cindy, Sherry, Roberta, Samuel, Ashley, Alta, Mildred & Nell, and those who care for them. We lift in prayer those we love who have died, and those who grieve for them, especially Ben Hudgins. *Thank you, Lord, for your constant love in the worst of our times*.

Thank you, Lord, for the love that we feel in times of celebration, of achievement, at the milestones in our lives. This week we remember the birthdays of Theresa, Cheryl & Cherryllynn, and the baptismal anniversaries of Susan, Nii, Theo & David. *Thank you, Lord, for the love that is present in rejoicing*.

Thank you, Lord, for the love within your Church throughout the world. Help us be beacons of care and compassion, of right actions and justice, to be your hands at work in a simultaneously broken and glorious world. Thank you for your presence here in Christ Church, in our ministers, our congregation, our visitors and newcomers. Thank you for the work of your people in the Diocese of Maryland, especially in St. James', Lothian, St. Mark's, Deale and St. James School Chapel, Hagerstown. To the Anglican Church around the world, we send our love and prayers to the people of The Church of Bangladesh. *Thank you, Lord, for the love of your Church.* 

Thank you, Lord, for the freeing, life-giving love of forgiveness. Help us understand that forgiveness is at least as much about loving ourselves as it is about forgiving another person. Help us let go of our bitterness and hatred, our desires for revenge and retribution, our hurt and pain, and so be able to walk into a deeper understanding of your love for us. *Thank you, Lord, for your all-encompassing love for us.* 

Lord, you have taught us that the first and great commandment is to love You with our whole heart, and soul, and mind, and that the second is the same – to love our neighbors as ourselves. Thank you for all of your love for us. *Amen.* 

#### **CONFESSION OF SIN |**

Deacon: Let us confess our sins against God and our neighbor.
All: Most merciful God, we confess that we have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done, and by what we have left undone. We have not loved you with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. We are truly sorry and we humbly repent. For the sake of your Son Jesus Christ, have mercy on us and forgive us; that we may delight in your will, and walk in your ways, to the glory of your Name. Amen.

#### THE PEACE |

Celebrant:The peace of the Lord be always with you.People:And also with you.

The people may greet one another in the name of the Lord and then be seated.

#### WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS |

If you are new here – Welcome! We are so glad that you've decided to gather with us. If you can take a moment to complete a brief form so that we can learn how to better service you, please pick one up in the Narthex, or speak to any Usher.

# THE HOLY COMMUNION

OFFERTORY ANTHEM | Ev'ry Time I Feel the Spirt

Spirituals, arr William I. Dawson

*Old* 100th

Please scan to give.



DOXOLOGY HYMN 380 (V.1)

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow; Praise him, all creatures here below; Praise him above, ye heavenly host: Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.

# THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

## EUCHARISTIC PRAYER B |

Celebrant:	The Lord be with you.
<b>People:</b>	And also with you.
Celebrant:	Lift up your hearts.
<b>People:</b>	We lift them to the Lord.
Celebrant:	Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.
<b>People:</b>	It is right to give him thanks and praise.
Celebrant:	It is right, and a good and joyful thing, always and everywhere to give thanks to you, Father

Almighty, Creator of heaven and earth... Therefore we praise you, joining our voices with Angels and Archangels and with all the



The people stand or kneel.

#### Then the Celebrant continues

We give thanks to you, O God, for the goodness and love which you have made known to us in creation; in the calling of Israel to be your people; in your Word spoken through the prophets; and above all in the Word made flesh, Jesus, your Son. For in these last days you sent him to be incarnate from the Virgin Mary, to be the Savior and Redeemer of the world. In him, you have delivered us from evil, and made us worthy to stand before you. In him, you have brought us out of error into truth, out of sin into righteousness, out of death into life.

At the following words concerning the bread, the Celebrant is to hold it, or to lay a hand upon it; and at the words concerning the cup, to hold or place a hand upon the cup and any other vessel containing wine to be consecrated.

On the night before he died for us, our Lord Jesus Christ took bread; and when he had given thanks to you, he broke it, and gave it to his disciples, and said, "Take, eat: This is my Body, which is given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me."

After supper he took the cup of wine; and when he had given thanks, he gave it to them, and said, "Drink this, all of you: This is my Blood of the new Covenant, which is shed for you and for many for the forgiveness of sins. Whenever you drink it, do this for the remembrance of me."

Therefore, according to his command, O Father,

Celebrant and People:	We remember his death,
	We proclaim his resurrection,
	We await his coming in glory.

#### The Celebrant continues

And we offer our sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving to you, O Lord of all; presenting to you, from your creation, this bread and this wine.

We pray you, gracious God, to send your Holy Spirit upon these gifts that they may be the Sacrament of the Body of Christ and his Blood of the new Covenant. Unite us to your Son in his sacrifice, that we may be acceptable through him, being sanctified by the Holy Spirit. In the fullness of time, put all things in subjection under your Christ, and bring us to that heavenly country where all your saints, we may enter the everlasting heritage of your sons and daughters; through Jesus Christ our Lord, the firstborn of all creation, the head of the Church, and the author of our salvation.

By him, and with him, and in him, in the unity of the Holy Spirit all honor and glory is yours, Almighty Father, now and forever.

# AMEN.

#### THE LORD'S PRAYER |

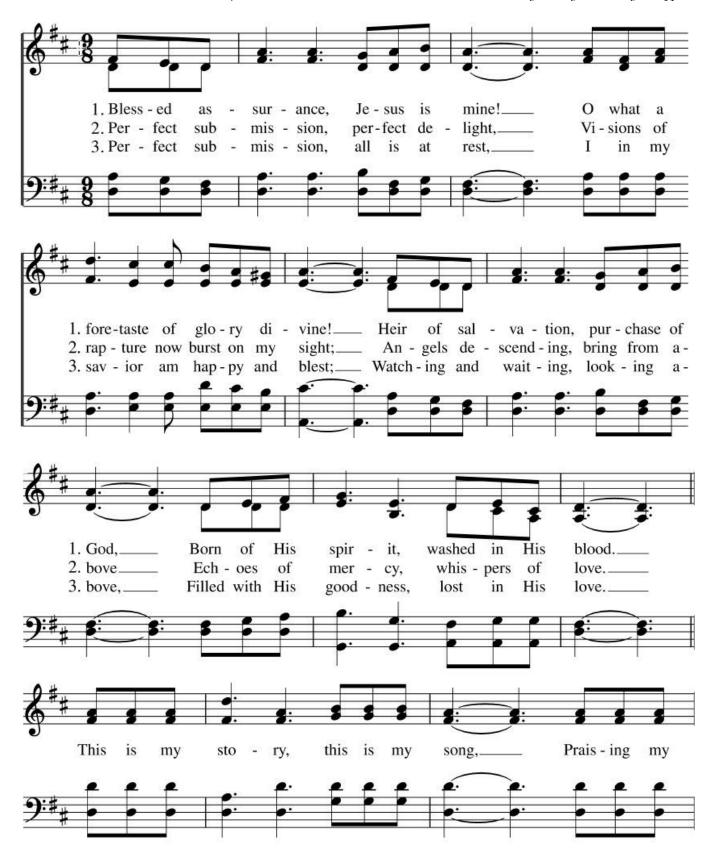
*Celebrant:* And now, as our Savior Christ has taught us, we are bold to say,

*All:* Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy Name, thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread. And forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever and ever. Amen.

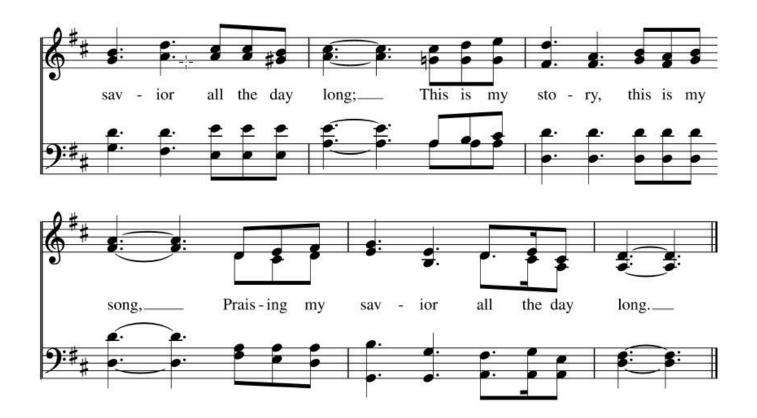
#### THE BREAKING OF THE BREAD |

Celebrant:Alleluia. Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us;People:Therefore let us keep the feast. Alleluia.





(continued)



#### **POST COMMUNION PRAYER** |

*Celebrant:* Let us pray.

All: Eternal God, heavenly Father, you have graciously accepted us as living members of your Son our Savior Jesus Christ, and you have fed us with spiritual food in the Sacrament of his Body and Blood. Send us now into the world in peace, and grant us strength and courage to love and serve you with gladness and singleness of heart; through Christ our Lord. Amen.

# EUCHARISTIC VISITORS' PRAYER | 8:00 a.m. service

*Celebrant:* In the name of this congregation, we send you forth bearing these gifts that those to whom you go may share with us in the communion of Christ's Body and Blood.*People:* We who are many are one body because we all share one bread, one cup.

#### THE BLESSING |

The Celebrant offers a blessing, and the People respond Amen.

Traditional Negro Spiritual



The Celebrant dismisses the people, who respond: Thanks be to God! Alleluia, Alleluia!

#### **POSTLUDE** | Festal March

Florence B. Price

PERMISSIONS | New Revised Standard Version Bible, copyright 1989, Division of Christian Education of the National Council of the Churches of Christ in United States of America. All rights reserved. Used by permission. | Book of Common Prayer, 1928 & 1979, Church Publishing. Public Domain | Music/texts under copyright are reprinted and broadcast by permission under OneLicense.net #A-701378 | Holy, Holy, Holy, from *A Mass for a Soulful People*, Grayson Warren Brown

# Assisting in Worship Today

8:00 a.m. in Old Brick Lector: Ron Baran Chalicist: Sonni Aribiah Ushers: Jo Emily Knox Lay Eucharistic Visitor: Joan Harvey

#### 10:30 a.m. in New Brick

Lector: Robin Bradley Ushers: Isaac Olajide, Yetti Lipede, Cherry Williams, Jane Adams, Betty Dagne, Alex Amponsah Chalicist: Cheryl Lucente Crucifer & Acolytes: Mikailu Sheriff, Ava Fox, James Mercer Altar Guild: Sonni Aribiah, ivy Amponsah, Kathy Simms Tellers: Jenny Cecil, Maggie Thompson



#### FINAL DAYS to Get Us Your 2025 LMB Submissions!

For over 20 years now, Christ Church has created a fantastic yearly Lenten Meditation Book and distributed it to our parishioners on the Sunday preceding Ash Wednesday. The LMB, this year, titled *Reaching Out in Faith*, is created with love and designed to assist us all in times of quiet contemplation, preparing ourselves for rebirth and renewal at Easter. Poems, quotes, stories of reflection, images, prayers, and inspirational pieces by writers or theologians - they all come together to make up this special booklet - one that you can take home with you and use each day during the season.

To accomplish this, we must have all submissions in by next Sunday, February 16 to edit and publish this work in physical and digital form, the latter of which is viewed by many thousands of individuals worldwide throughout Lent. That gives us less than a month for submissions, so please don't delay. You can submit these by name or anonymously - your choice. If you need help getting started, visit <u>christchurchcolumbia.org/lenten-meditations</u> and check out past years' reflections. Submit yours by email to <u>SL@christchurchcolumbia.org</u> or place it in the Spiritual Life mailbox in the Church office. Questions? Speak with Ellen Hoke at church or email us.

# PARISH CALENDAR

# February 16-22, 2025

# Sunday, February 16

8:00 am	Holy Eucharist – Old Brick
8:45 am	Coffee Hour – Old Brick
9:00 am	Family Worship – New Brick
9:30 am	Youth Formation, Adult Forum: Sunday Circle, Sunday School
10:30 am	Holy Eucharist w/music – New Brick, upper level
11:30 am – 12:30 pm	Virtual Coffee Hour – Zoom
12:30 – 5:30 pm	Tabernacle of David – Old Brick
1:15 – 5:45 pm	Sundays at Three – New Brick, upper level
1:30 – 4:00 pm	EfM – Parish Hall, Conference Room & Zoom

# Monday, February 17

7:00 am	Morning Prayer Livestream
6:00 – 8:30 pm	Food Addicts Anonymous – New Brick, lower level
7:00 – 8:00 pm	Centering Prayer – Old Brick & Zoom
7:00 – 8:00 pm	Pastoral Care Team Meeting – Zoom
7:00 – 9:00 pm	300th Music and Liturgy Meeting - Zoom

# Tuesday, February 18

7:00 am	Morning Prayer Livestream
12 – 1:00 pm	Virtual Coffee Hour – Zoom

# Wednesday, February 19

7:00 am	Morning Prayer Livestream
6:30 – 8:30 pm	Adult Children of Alcoholics – Parish Hall, lower level

# Thursday, February 20

7:00 am	Morning Prayer Livestream
12:00 – 1:00 pm	Virtual Coffee Hour – Zoom
6:45 – 7:30 pm	Handbell Choir Rehearsal – New Brick, lower level
7:30 – 9:00 pm	Choir Rehearsal – New Brick sanctuary

# Friday, February 21

All Day	Vestry Retreat
7:00 am	Morning Prayer Livestream
7:00 pm	Evening Prayer Livestream
7:00 – 9:00 pm	Movie Screening "The Secrets of Jonathan Sperry" – Parish Hall LL
7:30 – 9:00 pm	CEC Book Club – Zoom
8:00 – 11:59 pm	Tabernacle of David – Old Brick

# Saturday, February 22

All Day	Vestry Retreat
9:30 am – 1:30 pm	Iglesia Adventista Del Septimo Dia Fidelidad – Old Brick
2:00 – 4:00 pm	AA Meeting – Parish Hall, lower level
3:30 – 4:30 pm	Altar Guild Prep – Old Brick

# **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

If you have an announcement to share with the church, Please send to <u>communications@christchurchcolumbia.org</u> by Tuesday evening. SCAN THE QR CODE FOR ALL OF THIS WEEK'S ANNOUNCEMENTS



All are invited to join us in Old Brick on Sunday mornings as we explore the spiritual practices of the Benedictines, Franciscans, Dominicans, and Jesuits. Gather in person or via Zoom for today's presentation by Sister Teresa Irene.

# Our Altar Guild Needs Your Help this Lenten Season

With Lent quickly approaching, the Christ Church Altar Guild can truly use a few more people to help us in our ministry of providing clean linens and items for every worship service. It is a vital service to our parish, so if you are interested in signing up or learning more, please speak with Altar Guild Coordinator, Pam Foreman.

#### **Centering Prayer - Mondays**

Centering Prayer returns in 2025, a special evening prayer gathering that can help lead to a more intimate union with God and a more powerful experience of God's presence in our lives. Be with us in Old Brick or online via Zoom at 7 p.m. on Monday evenings.

#### **Christ Church Choirs - Thursdays**

The Christ Church Choirs rehearse in New Brick on Thursday evenings, and anyone is welcome to join us. Handbell Choir meets from 6:45-7:30 p.m. and Adult Choir meets from 7:30-9:00 p.m. You don't need to know how to read music, so whether you have previous experience or are ready to commit or not, there's a place for you in our choirs.

#### **Christ Church Book Club - Fridays**

If you're interested in reading and discussing great works with a friendly, engaging, and welcoming group of fellow parishioners, the CEC Book Club might be for you! Speak with Ellen Hoke at church or email <u>bookclub@christchurchcolumbia.org</u>.

# Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper - March 4

The incredible youth of Christ Church will once again host our annual Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper! On Marech 4th, join us in the Great Hall of New Brick for this traditional start to the Lenten season.

# Ash Wednesday Services - March 5

Christ Church offers three services with the Imposition of Ashes on Wednesday, March 5. Gather with us at 7:00 a.m. in Old Brick, or in New Brick at 12:00 noon or 7:00 p.m. *Ashes to Go* also returns, an opportunity for working commuters, students, and early risers to stop by and receive ashes as they start their day. We will offer a short prayer and administer Ashes to those who cannot be with us in worship that morning, but who desire them. Simply stop by between 6 and 7 a.m. and follow the *Ashes to Go* signs on the lawn.

# Lifting Each Other Up with Love and Support

This month, we celebrate love, help the music ministry, and share some kindness. What better way than to send a handmade card to someone near and dear? Choir member Emily Aubin has created a collection of gorgeous cards, and each \$2.00 card and envelope set is designed specifically to uplift and connect. Proceeds from the sale will benefit the Music Ministry and others, such as Outreach. Look for the sale after the 10:30 a.m. Sunday service or you can speak with or contact Emily Aubin (<u>eaubin1@gmail.com</u>) for more information. Thank you so much for supporting this sale and for helping to get the cards sent to people who could use a lift at this time of the year.



# CHRIST EPISCOPAL COLUMBIA, MARYLAND

WWW.CHRISTCHURCHCOLUMBIA.ORG

# Christ Episcopal Church 6800 Oakland Mills Road Columbia, MD 21045 (410) 381-9365 www.christchurchcolumbia.org office@christchurchcolumbia.org

Rev. Emmanuel Ato Mercer, Rector Rev. Kiona Lookingbill, Deacon & Director of Youth and Family Ministries Michael Looney, Seminarian Associate Larissa Sanders, Director of Music Ministry Ola Oladipupo, Assistant Organist Yetti Lipede, Parish Administrator & Ministry Coordinator Christopher Pouch, Communications Administrator Amanda Kirkpatrick, Nursery Care Coordinator Nytia Perry, Nursery Care John Prempeh Sencherey, Sexton

# Vestry

Denisa Abdallah (*Senior Warden*) • Diane Phillips-LaGuerre (*Junior Warden*) Andrew Eaton (*Treasurer*) • Ron Couch (*Registrar*) • Deepti Jackson (*Youth Liaison*) • Ronald Baran • John Curley • Ray Lyon • Greg Schuckman • Alfred Titus-Glover • Cherry Lynn Williams • George Toth • Sara Kirkpatrick • Ed Chrzanowski • Kathy Simms

> Rev. Richard Ginnever, Rector Emeritus Rev. Marcia Davenport, Associate Rector Emeritus