

CHRIST EPISCOPAL CHURCH EXTENDING THE LOVE AND EMBRACE OF CHRIST

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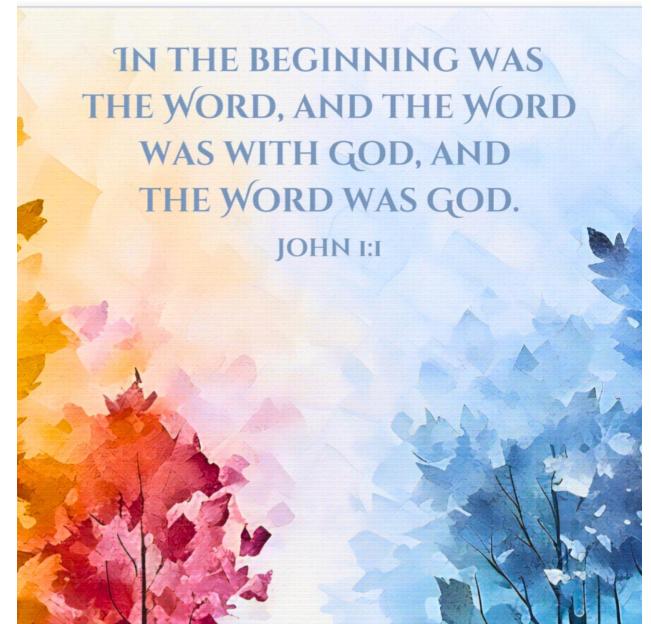
The Holy Eucharist, Rite II 10:30 a.m.

Sunday, December 29, 2024 | First Sunday after Christmas

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 HYMN 102 | Once in Royal David's City



OPENING ACCLAMATION

Celebrant:	Blessed be God: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.
People:	And blessed be his kingdom, now and forever. Amen.
Celebrant:	There is one Body and one Spirit;
People:	There is one hope in God's call to us;
Celebrant:	One Lord, one Faith, one Baptism;
People:	One God and Father of all.

THE COLLECT |

Celebrant:	The Lord be with you
People:	And also with you
Celebrant:	Let us pray.

Celebrant: Almighty God, you have poured upon us the new light of your incarnate Word: Grant that this light, enkindled in our hearts, may shine forth in our lives; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. Amen. **Amen.**

HYMN OF PRAISE 96 | Angels We Have Heard on High



Gloria



The people may be seated.

THE FIRST LESSON | Isaiah 61:10-62:3

Reader: *A reading from Isaiah.*

I will greatly rejoice in the Lord, my whole being shall exult in my God; for he has clothed me with the garments of salvation, he has covered me with the robe of righteousness, as a bridegroom decks himself with a garland, and as a bride adorns herself with her jewels. For as the earth brings forth its shoots, and as a garden causes what is sown in it to spring up, so the Lord God will cause righteousness and praise to spring up before all the nations. For Zion's sake I will not keep silent, and for Jerusalem's sake I will not rest, until her vindication shines out like the dawn, and her salvation like a burning torch. The nations shall see your vindication, and all the kings your glory; and you shall be called by a new name that the mouth of the Lord will give. You shall be a crown of beauty in the hand of the Lord, and a royal diadem in the hand of your God.

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

THE PSALM |

Psalm 147 | Laudate Dominum

Hallelujah! How good it is to sing praises to our God! * how pleasant it is to honor him with praise! The Lord rebuilds Jerusalem; * he gathers the exiles of Israel. He heals the brokenhearted * and binds up their wounds. He counts the number of the stars * and calls them all by their names. Great is our Lord and mighty in power; * there is no limit to his wisdom. The Lord lifts up the lowly, * but casts the wicked to the ground. Sing to the Lord with thanksgiving; * make music to our God upon the harp. He covers the heavens with clouds * and prepares rain for the earth; He makes grass to grow upon the mountains * and green plants to serve mankind. He provides food for flocks and herds * and for the young ravens when they cry. He is not impressed by the might of a horse; * he has no pleasure in the strength of a man; But the Lord has pleasure in those who fear him, * in those who await his gracious favor.] Worship the Lord, O Jerusalem; * praise your God, O Zion; For he has strengthened the bars of your gates; * he has blessed your children within you. He has established peace on your borders; * he satisfies you with the finest wheat. He sends out his command to the earth, * and his word runs very swiftly. He gives snow like wool; * he scatters hoarfrost like ashes. He scatters his hail like bread crumbs; * who can stand against his cold? He sends forth his word and melts them; * he blows with his wind, and the waters flow. He declares his word to Jacob, * his statutes and his judgments to Israel. He has not done so to any other nation; * to them he has not revealed his judgments. Hallelujah!

THE EPISTLE | Galatians 3:23-25; 4:4-7

Reader: A reading from Galatians.

Now before faith came, we were imprisoned and guarded under the law until faith would be revealed. Therefore the law was our disciplinarian until Christ came, so that we might be justified by faith. But now that faith has come, we are no longer subject to a disciplinarian.

But when the fullness of time had come, God sent his Son, born of a woman, born under the law, in order to redeem those who were under the law, so that we might receive adoption as children. And because you are children, God has sent the Spirit of his Son into our hearts, crying, "Abba! Father!" So you are no longer a slave but a child, and if a child then also an heir, through God.

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

The people stand as able.

God Rest You Merry

SEQUENCE HYMN 105 | God Rest Ye Merry Gentlemen

0 God mer - ry, gen-tle-men, let noth-ing you dis - may; 1 rest you 2 an - gel From God our heaven - ly Fa ther а bless - ed came 3 "Fear then," said noth-ing you af fright; not, the an gel, "Let 4 Now you with - in this to the Lord sing prais es. all place, O. re mem-ber Christ our Sa - vior born on Christ-mas Day, was un - to cer - tain shep - herds brought tid - ings of the same: and this day is born а Sa - vior of a pure vir - gin bright, with true love char-i - ty and and each 0 - ther now em - brace; from Sa-tan's power when all were gone to save us we а stray. how in Beth - le hem was born the Son of God by name. that free all those who trust in him from Sa - tan's power and to might." this ho - ly tide of Christ mas doth bring re - deem-ing grace. Refrain Ο tid of fort and joy, com-fort and ings com --0 tid joy; ings of fort and joy! com

THE GOSPEL | John 1: 1-18

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

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was in the beginning with God. All things came into being through him, and without him not one thing came into being. What has come into being in him was life, and the life was the light of all people. The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overcome it.

There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. He came as a witness to testify to the light, so that all might believe through him. He himself was not the light, but he came to testify to the light. The true light, which enlightens everyone, was coming into the world.

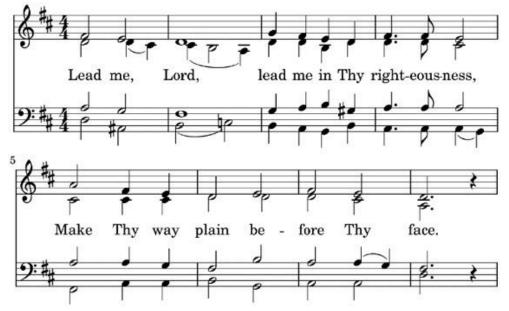
He was in the world, and the world came into being through him; yet the world did not know him. He came to what was his own, and his own people did not accept him. But to all who received him, who believed in his name, he gave power to become children of God, who were born, not of blood or of the will of the flesh or of the will of man, but of God.

And the Word became flesh and lived among us, and we have seen his glory, the glory as of a father's only son, full of grace and truth. (John testified to him and cried out, "This was he of whom I said, 'He who comes after me ranks ahead of me because he was before me."") From his fullness we have all received, grace upon grace. The law indeed was given through Moses; grace and truth came through Jesus Christ. No one has ever seen God. It is God the only Son, who is close to the Father's heart, who has made him known.

Celebrant:The Gospel of the Lord.People:Praise to you, Lord Christ.

HYMN | Lead Me, Lord

Samuel Sebastian Wesley





THE SERMON | The Rev. Emmanuel Ato Mercer, Rector

HOLY BAPTISM |

THE PRESENTATION AND EXAMINATION OF THE CANDIDATE |

Celebrant: The Candidate(s) for Holy Baptism will now be presented.

Then the candidates unable to speak for themselves are presented individually by their Parents and Godparents, as follows

Parents and Godparents:	I present Urenna Kiara Okeke to receive the Sacrament of Baptism.
	When all have been presented the Celebrant asks the parents and godparents:
Celebrant:	Will you be responsible for seeing that the child you present is brought up in the Christian faith and life?
Parents and	I will, with God's help.
Godparents:	
Celebrant:	Will you by your prayers and witness help this child to grow into the full stature of Christ?
Parents and Godparents:	I will, with God's help.

Then the Celebrant asks the following questions of the parents and godparents who speak on behalf of the infants and younger children: Do you renounce Satan and all the Spiritual forces of wickedness that rebel against God? Question: Answer: I renounce them. Do you renounce the evil powers of this world which corrupt and destroy the creatures of God? I renounce them. Do you renounce all the sinful desires that draw you from the love of God? I renounce them. Do you turn to Jesus Christ and accept him as your Savior? I do. Do you put your whole trust in his grace and love? I do. Do you promise to follow and obey him as your Lord? I do.

The celebrant then addresses the congregation:

Celebrant:	Will you who witness these vows do all in your power to support these persons in their life
	in Christ?
People:	We will.
Celebrant:	Let us join with those who are committing themselves to Christ and renew our own
	baptismal covenant.

THE BAPTISMAL CONVENANT |

Celebrant:	Do you believe in God the Father?
People:	I believe in God, the Father almighty,
_	creator of heaven and earth.
Celebrant:	Do you believe in Jesus Christ, the Son of God?
People:	I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord,
	He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit
	and born of the Virgin Mary.
	He suffered under Pontius Pilate,
	was crucified, died, and was buried.
	He descended to the dead.
	On the third day he rose again.
	He ascended into heaven,
	and is seated at the right hand of the Father.
	He will come again to judge the living and the dead.
Celebrant:	Do you believe in God the Holy Spirit?
People:	I believe in the Holy Spirit,
	the holy Catholic Church,
	the communion of saints,
	the forgiveness of sins,
	the resurrection of the body,
	and the life everlasting.

Celebrant:	Will you continue in the apostles' teaching and fellowship, in the breaking of the bread, and
	in the prayers?
People:	I will, with God's help.
Celebrant:	Will you persevere in resisting evil, and, whenever you fall into sin, repent and return to the
	Lord?
People:	I will, with God's help.
Celebrant:	Will you proclaim by word and example the Good News of God in Christ?
People:	I will, with God's help.
Celebrant:	Will you seek and serve Christ in all persons, loving your neighbor as yourself?
People:	I will, with God's help.
Celebrant:	Will you strive for justice and peace among all people, and respect the dignity of every
	human being?
People:	I will, with God's help.

PRAYERS FOR THE CANDIDATE |

Celebrant:	Let us now pray for this person who is to receive the Sacrament of new birth.
Intercessor:	Deliver her, O Lord, from the way of sin and death.
People:	Lord, hear our prayer.
Intercessor.	Open her heart to your grace and truth.
People:	Lord, hear our prayer.
Intercessor:	Fill her with your holy and life-giving Spirit.
People:	Lord, hear our prayer.
Intercessor:	Keep her in the faith and communion of your holy Church.
People:	Lord, hear our prayer.
Intercessor:	Teach her to love others in the power of the Spirit.
People:	Lord, hear our prayer.
Intercessor:	Send her into the world in witness to your love.
People:	Lord, hear our prayer.
Intercessor:	Bring her to the fullness of your peace and glory.
People:	Lord, hear our prayer.
Celebrant:	Grant, O Lord, that all who are baptized into the death of Jesus Christ your Son may live in
	the power of his resurrection and look for him to come again in glory; who lives and reigns
	now and forever. Amen.

THANKSGIVING OVER WATER |

Celebrant:	The Lord be with you
People:	And also with you.
Celebrant:	Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.
People:	It is right to give him thanks and praise.
Celebrant:	We thank you, Almighty God, for the gift of water. Over it the Holy Spirit moved in the
	beginning of creation. Through it you led the children of Israel out of their bondage in
	Egypt into the land of promise. In it your Son Jesus received the baptism of John and was
	anointed by the Holy Spirit as the Messiah, the Christ, to lead us, through his death and
	resurrection, from the bondage of sin into everlasting life.

We thank you, Father, for the water of Baptism. In it we are buried with Christ in his death. By it we share in his resurrection. Through it we are reborn by the Holy Spirit. Therefore in joyful obedience to your Son, we bring into his fellowship those who come to him in faith, baptizing them in the Name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

At the following words, the Celebrant touches the water.

Now sanctify this water, we pray you, by the power of your Holy Spirit, that those who here are cleansed from sin and born again may continue forever in the risen life of Jesus Christ our Savior. To him, to you, and to the Holy Spirit, be all honor and glory, now and forever. **Amen.**

THE BAPTISM |

Each candidate is presented by name to the Celebrant, who pours water upon the candidate, saying:

Celebrant: Urenna, I baptize you in the Name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. **Amen.** Let us pray.

> Heavenly Father, we thank you that by water and the Holy Spirit you have bestowed upon this your servant the forgiveness of sin, and have raised her to the new life of grace. Sustain her, O Lord, in your Holy Spirit. Give her an inquiring and discerning heart, the courage to will and to persevere, a spirit to know and to love you, and the gift of joy and wonder in all your works. **Amen.**

Then the Priest places a hand on the candidates' heads, marking on the forehead the sign of the cross and saying:

Urenna, you are sealed by the Holy Spirit in Baptism and marked as Christ's own forever. Amen.

When all have been baptized, the Celebrant says:

Celebrant:	Let us welcome the newly baptized.
All:	We receive you into the household of God.
	Confess the faith of Christ crucified,
	proclaim his resurrection,
	and share with us in his eternal priesthood.

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 |

THE HOLY COMMUNION

OFFERTORY ANTHEM 107 | Good Christian Friends, Rejoice!

In dulci jubilo

Please scan to give.



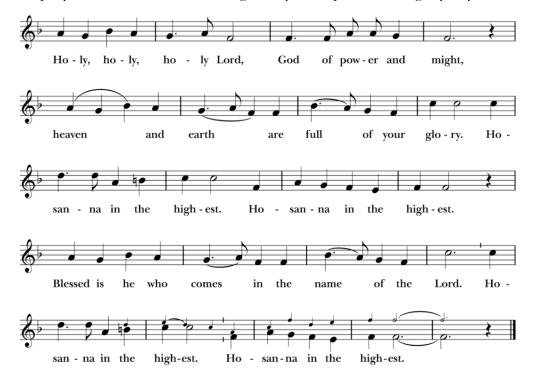


THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

EUCHARISTIC PRAYER A |

Celebrant:	The Lord be with you.
People:	And also with you.
Celebrant:	Lift up your hearts.
People:	We lift them to the Lord.
Celebrant:	Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.
People:	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 company of heaven, who forever sing this hymn to proclaim the glory of your Name:



The Celebrant continues

All:

Celebrant: Holy and gracious Father: In your infinite love you made us for yourself, and, when we had fallen into sin and become subject to evil and death, you, in your mercy, sent Jesus Christ, your only and eternal Son, to share our human nature, to live and die as one of us, to reconcile us to you, the God and Father of all.

He stretched out his arms upon the cross, and offered himself, in obedience to your will, a perfect sacrifice for the whole world.

On the night he was handed over to suffering and death, 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."

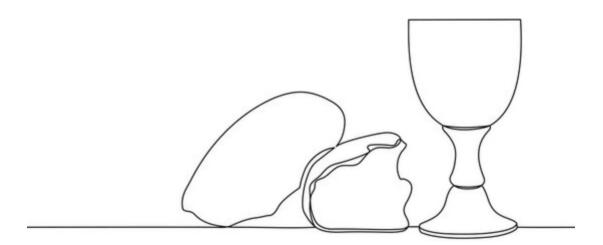
Celebrant: After supper he took the cup of wine; and when he had given thanks, he gave it to them, and said, "Drink this, all of you: This is my Blood of the new Covenant, which is shed for you and for many for the forgiveness of sins. Whenever you drink it, do this for the remembrance of me."

All:Therefore we proclaim the mystery of faith:All:Christ has died.Christ is risen.Christ will come again.

Celebrant: We celebrate the memorial of our redemption, O Father, in this sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving. Recalling his death, resurrection, and ascension, we offer you these gifts.

Sanctify them by your Holy Spirit to be for your people the Body and Blood of your Son, the holy food and drink of new and unending life in him. Sanctify us also that we may faithfully receive this holy Sacrament, and serve you in unity, constancy, and peace; and at the last day bring us with all your saints into the joy of your eternal kingdom.

All this we ask through your Son Jesus Christ: 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.**



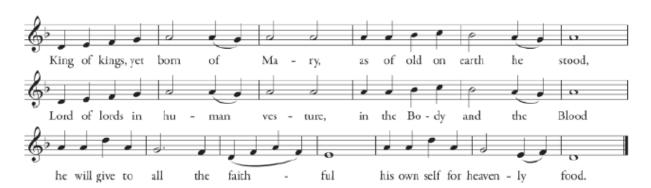
THE LORD'S PRAYER |

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.

FRACTION ANTHEM HYMN 324 (V.2) | King of Kings





Picardy

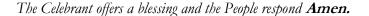
COMMUNION HYMN 115 | What Child is This



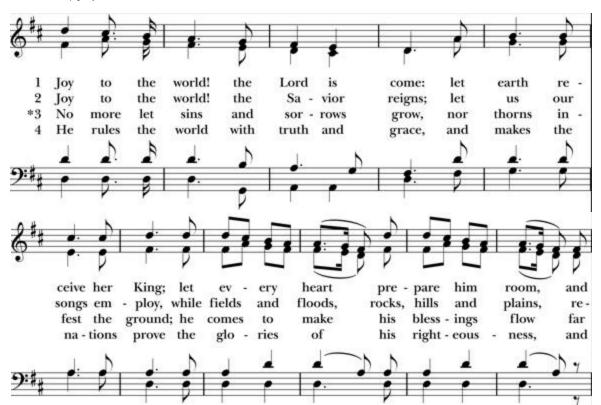
POST COMMUNION PRAYER |

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.

THE BLESSING |



CLOSING HYMN 100 | Joy to the World



Antioch



THE DISMISSAL |

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

POSTLUDE |

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Assisting in Worship Today

10:30 a.m. in New Brick Lector: Robin Bradley Ushers: Isaac Olajide, Yetti Lipede, Cherry Williams, Jane Adams Chalicist: Sonni Aribiah, Mary Vail

Altar Guild: Jan DeBoissiere, Virginia Jarrett, Cara O'Campo Tellers: Mary Vail, Cherry Williams, Yetti Lipede

PARISH CALENDAR

December 29, 2024 to January 4, 2025

Sunday, December 29

8:00 am	Holy Eucharist – Old Brick
8:45 am	Coffee Hour – Old Brick
9:00 am	Family Worship Service – New Brick, upper level
9:30 am	Sunday Circle – Old Brick & Zoom
9:30 am	Sunday School – New Brick & Parish Hall
9:30 am	Parents Group – New Brick, lower level
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 Church – Old Brick
1:00 – 4:00 pm	EFM – Parish Hall, conference room & Zoom

Monday, December 30

7:00 am	Morning Prayer Livestream
6:00 – 8:30 pm	Food Addicts Anonymous – New Brick, lower level

Tuesday, December 31

Today	Church Office closed half day
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Wednesday, January 1

Today	Church Office closed
10:00 – 11:30 am	New Year's Day Eucharist Service – New Brick
6:30 – 8:30 pm	Adult Children of Alcoholics – Parish Hall, lower level

Thursday, January 2

12:00 – 1:00 pm	Virtual Coffee Hour – Zoom
7:30 – 9:00 pm	Boy Scouts - New Brick, lower level

Friday, January 3

7:00 am	Morning Prayer Livestream
7:00 pm	Evening Prayer Livestream
8:00 pm – 12:00 am	Tabernacle of David Church – Old Brick

Saturday, January 4

All Day	Angel Tree Removal
1:00 – 3:30 pm	AA Meeting – Parish Hall, lower level

For all of this week's announcements with working links and details, please scan this QR code or visit: www.cecevents.org/GatheringsforthisWeek



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 • Diane Phillips-LaGuerre 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