

Christ Episcopal Church

Extending the Love and Embrace of Christ

Twenty-Third Sunday after Pentecost

The Holy Eucharist, Rite II

Sunday, October 27, 2024 | 8:00 & 10:30 a.m.

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:

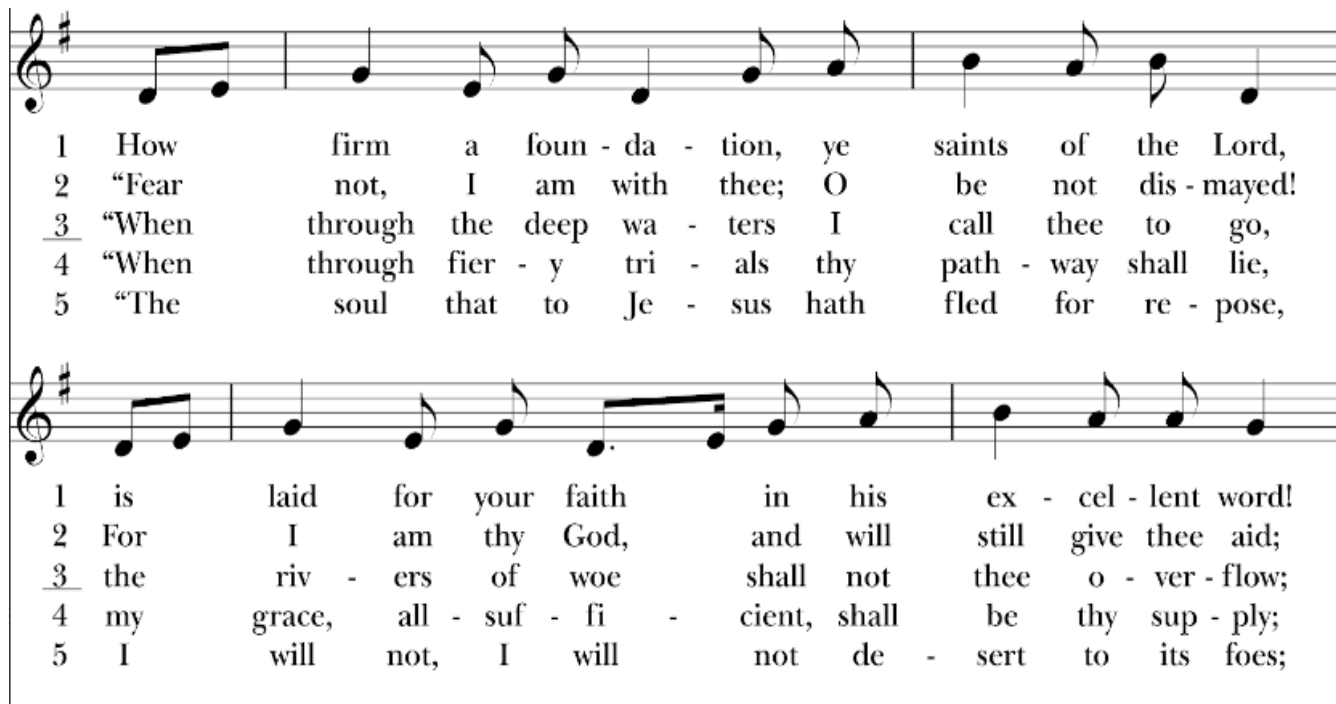
christchurchcolumbia.org. This bulletin contains all you need to join us in worship, everyone is welcome to receive communion at God's table, and the clergy are happy to speak with you at any time.

We are delighted you're here – welcome home!

Prelude |

Opening Hymn 636 | How Firm a Foundation

Foundation



1 How firm a foun - da - tion, ye saints of the Lord,
2 "Fear not, I am with thee; O be not dis - mayed!
3 "When through the deep wa - ters I call thee to go,
4 "When through fier - y tri - als thy path - way shall lie,
5 "The soul that to Je - sus hath fled for re - pose,
1 is laid for your faith in his ex - cel - lent word!
2 For I am thy God, and will still give thee aid;
3 the riv - ers of woe shall not thee o - ver - flow;
4 my grace, all - suf - fi - cient, shall be thy sup - ply;
5 I will not, I will not de - sert to its foes;



1 What more can he say than to you he hath said,
 2 I'll strength - en thee, help thee, and cause thee to stand,
 3 for I will be with thee, thy trou - bles to bless,
 4 the flame shall not hurt thee; I on - ly de - sign
 5 that soul, though all hell shall en - deav - or to shake,



1 to you that for ref - uge to Je - sus have fled?
 2 up - held by my right - eous, om - ni - po - tent hand.
 3 and sanc - ti - fy to thee thy deep - est dis - tress.
 4 thy dross to con - sume, and thy gold to re - fine.
 5 I'll nev - er, no, nev - er, no, nev - er for - sake."

Optional Interlude



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.**

Glory
 to
 God in the
 Highest

1. Glo - ry to God in the high - est, and
 peace to his peo - ple on earth. 2. Lord God, heaven - ly
 King, al - might - y God and Fa - ther, we wor - ship you, we
 give you thanks, we praise you for your glo - ry. 3. Lord Je - sus
 Christ, on - ly Son of the Fa - ther, Lord God, Lamb of God, 4. you
 take a - way the sin of the world: have mer - cy
 on us; 5. you are seat - ed at the right hand of the Fa - ther: re -
 ceive our prayer. 6. For you a - lone are the Ho - ly One,
 you a - lone are the Lord, 7. you a - lone are the Most
 High, Je - sus Christ, with the Ho - ly Spi - rit, in the
 glo - ry of God the Fa - ther. A - men.

The Collect |

Celebrant: The Lord be with you.

People: **And also with you.**

Celebrant: Let us pray.

Almighty and everlasting God, increase in us the gifts of faith, hope, and charity; and, that we may obtain what you promise, make us love what you command; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, for ever and ever. **Amen.**

The people may be seated.

A Reading from Jeremiah 31:7-9 |

Reader: A reading from Jeremiah.

Thus says the Lord:

Sing aloud with gladness for Jacob,
and raise shouts for the chief of the nations;
proclaim, give praise, and say,

“Save, O Lord, your people,
the remnant of Israel.”

See, I am going to bring them from the land of the north,
and gather them from the farthest parts of the earth,
among them the blind and the lame, those with child and
and take from them levies of grain,

those in labor, together;
a great company, they shall return here.

With weeping they shall come,
and with consolations I will lead them back,

I will let them walk by brooks of water,
in a straight path in which they shall not stumble;

For I have become a father to Israel,
and Ephraim is my firstborn.

Reader: The word of the Lord.

People: **Thanks be to God.**





Those who sowed with tears will reap with songs of joy.

When the Lord restored the fortunes of Zion, *
then were we like those who dream.

Then was mouth filled with laughter, *
and our tongue with shouts of joy.

Then they said among the nations, *
“The Lord has done great things for them.”

The Lord has done great things for us, *
and we are glad indeed.

Antiphon

Restore our fortunes, O Lord, *
like the watercourses of the Negev.

Those who sowed with tears *
will reap with songs of joy.

Those who go out weeping, carrying the seed *
will come again with joy, shouldering their sheaves.

Antiphon

A Reading from Hebrews 4:12-16 |

Reader: A reading from the Epistle to the Hebrews.

The former priests were many in number, because they were prevented by death from continuing in office; but Jesus holds his priesthood permanently, because he continues forever. Consequently he is able for all time to save those who approach God through him, since he always lives to make intercession for them.

For it was fitting that we should have such a high priest, holy, blameless, undefiled, separated from sinners, and exalted above the heavens. Unlike the other high priests, he has no need to offer sacrifices day after day, first for his own sins, and then for those of the people; this he did once for all when he offered himself. For the law appoints as high priests those who are subject to weakness, but the word of the oath, which came later than the law, appoints a Son who has been made perfect forever.

Reader: The word of the Lord.

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

The people stand as able.

Sequence Hymn 656 | Blest Are the Pure in Heart Franconia



1 Blest are the pure in heart, for they shall see our God; the
 2 The Lord, who left the heavens our life and peace to bring, to
 3 he to the low - ly soul will still him - self im - part and
 4 Lord, we thy pres - ence seek; may ours this bless - ing be; give

se - cret of the Lord is theirs, their soul is Christ's a - bode.
 dwell in low - li - ness with us, our pat - tern and our King;
 for his dwell - ing and his throne will choose the pure in heart.
 us a pure and low - ly heart, a tem - ple fit for thee.

The Gospel | Mark 10:46-52

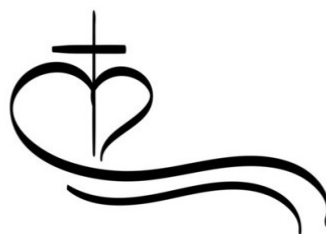
Celebrant: The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Mark.

People: **Glory to you, Lord Christ.**

Jesus and his disciples came to Jericho. As he and his disciples and a large crowd were leaving Jericho, Bartimaeus son of Timaeus, a blind beggar, was sitting by the roadside. When he heard that it was Jesus of Nazareth, he began to shout out and say, "Jesus, Son of David, have mercy on me!" Many sternly ordered him to be quiet, but he cried out even more loudly, "Son of David, have mercy on me!" Jesus stood still and said, "Call him here." And they called the blind man, saying to him, "Take heart; get up, he is calling you." So throwing off his cloak, he sprang up and came to Jesus. Then Jesus said to him, "What do you want me to do for you?" The blind man said to him, "My teacher, let me see again." Jesus said to him, "Go; your faith has made you well." Immediately he regained his sight and followed him on the way.

Celebrant: The Gospel of the Lord.

People: **Praise to you, Lord Christ.**



Lead me, Lord, lead me in Thy right-eous-ness,

5

Make Thy way plain be - fore Thy face.

Optional Ending

9

For it is Thou, Lord, Thou, Lord on - ly, that

13

mak - est me dwell in safe - ty.

The people may be seated at the invitation of the preacher.

Sermon | Rebecca Warlow, *Postulant for the Diaconate*

The people stand as able.

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 worshiped 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 |

With all our hearts and with all our minds, let us pray to the Lord.... Let all who seek you rejoice and be glad in you and say: ***Great is the Lord!***

Lord of all, we pray for your holy Catholic Church. Fill it with your truth, grace, and peace. Provide for it, reform it, and reunite it. ***Help us to rebuild your Church.***

In the Diocese of Maryland, we pray for Holy Nativity, Baltimore, St. Andrew's, Baltimore, and St. Francis', Timonium. In the worldwide Anglican Communion, we hold up The Church of Scotland in prayer. With all our hearts and with all our minds, let us pray to the Lord.... Let all who seek you rejoice and be glad in you and say: ***Great is the Lord!***

We also ask God's blessing for our own Christ Church, Columbia and for our newcomers and visitors today. We also pray for all bishops, priests, deacons, postulants and laity. ***Adopt us as your children and make us heirs of eternal life in you.***

Lord our Governor, bless the leaders of our federal, state, and local governments, also bless those candidates in the upcoming elections, that we may be at peace among ourselves and be a blessing to others. ***Let justice roll down like waters, and righteousness like an overflowing stream.***

Man of Sorrows, we pray for the poor, the hungry, and the oppressed. We also pray for those in prison, in war zones, in other trouble, and in any danger. ***We are needy; make haste to help us.***

Great Physician, we pray for the sick, especially for Rhonda, Aisha, Jay, Ronald, Dolores, Edvon, Kitzel, Claudia, Sarah, Rachan, Ian, Jerry, Kristin, Kim, Sabrina, Jim, Erica, Marilyn, Carolyn, Mary Ann, Barbara, Cindy, Tim, Sherry, Roberta, Samuel, Ashley, Alta, Mildred & Nell, and for others we now name.... ***Give us hope in our afflictions.***

Rock of Ages, we pray for those who have departed this earthly life, especially Frances Anin in whose memory we offer this Eucharistic prayer and those we now name.... ***Help us to know that we will be with you forever.***

We give thanks for all the joyous occasions in our lives, especially the birthdays of Derek, Brian, Toyin, Elizabeth, Duane & Alta and baptismal anniversaries of Elizabeth, Lexi, Stacey, David, Michael, Noah, Kyle, Rebecca, Esther, Emmanuel, Maria, Janeene, Duane & Zakiya, as we grow together as a family of faith. ***Our hearts are full of gratitude.***

Giver of Every Good and Perfect Gift, your will be done.

Good and gracious God, You call us to be disciples carrying out your mission. Transform us through the power of your Spirit. Open our hearts to acknowledge your many blessings in our lives, to use your gifts wisely, to give generously, to serve joyfully, to live responsibly, to be a gift to others. Help us nurture a stewardship way of life, which connects, serves, and impacts our communities. Guide us as we prayerfully discern how to give of our time, talents, and treasures, to further Your kingdom on earth. We pray, through Christ our Lord, **Amen.**

Confession of Sin |

Celebrant: 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.

Celebrant: Almighty God have mercy on you, forgive you all your sins through our Lord Jesus Christ, strengthen you in all goodness, and by the power of the Holy Spirit keep you in eternal life. ***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.

**I love you with the love of the Lord,
Yes, I love you with the love of the Lord.
I can see in you the glory of my King
And I love you with the love of the Lord.**

Welcome and Announcements |

Commissioning of the Members of the Vestry of Christ Church |

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

Presenters: We present to you these persons to be admitted to the ministry of Members of the Vestry in this congregation.

Rector: Brothers and Sisters in Christ Jesus, we are all baptized by the one Spirit into one Body and given gifts for a variety of ministries for the common good. Our purpose is to commission these persons in the name of God and this congregation to the special ministries to which they are called.

Are these persons prepared by a commitment to Christ as Lord, by regular attendance and by the knowledge of their duties, to exercise their ministry to the honor of God and the well-being of Christ Episcopal Church and the Diocese of Maryland?

Presenters: We believe they are.

Rector: You have been called to a ministry in this congregation. Will you, as long as you are engaged in this work, perform it with diligence?

Vestry Members: I will, with God's help.

Rector: Will you faithfully and reverently execute the duties of your ministry to the honor of God, and the benefit of the members of this congregation?

Vestry Members: I will, with God's help.

Rector: Let us pray.
O Eternal God, the foundation of all wisdom and the source of all courage: Enlighten with your grace the Members of the Vestry of this congregation, and so rule their minds and guide their counsels, that in all things they may seek your glory and promote the mission of your Church; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

People: **Amen.**

Rector: In the Name of God and of this congregation, I commission you as Members of the Vestry in this Parish.

THE HOLY COMMUNION



Offertory Anthem | Be Not Afraid

Bob Dufford

Please scan to give.



Doxology Hymn 380 (v. 1) |

Old 100th

**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 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:

Ho-ly, ho - ly, - ho-ly, ho - ly - ho-ly - Lord God - of hosts -
 - Heav-en and earth - are - filled with your glo - ry. Ho - san-na in - the -
 high - est - ! Bless-ed is the One who - comes in the name - of the Lord, -
 - of the Lord - Ho - san - na - in the high - est, Ho - san - na
 in - the - high - est.

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:

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.

All: **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 LEVAS 270 | Lamb of God

Marjorie Landsmark-DeLewis

The image shows a musical score for the hymn 'Lamb of God'. It consists of four staves of music. The first staff is labeled 'organ' and contains the instrumental accompaniment. The following three staves are vocal lines. The lyrics are: 'Lamb of God, you take a - way the sins of the world: have mer - cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a - way the sins of the world: have mer - cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a - way the sins of the world: grant us peace.' The music is in a key with three sharps (F#, C#, G#) and a 4/4 time signature.

1 A - maz - ing grace! how sweet the sound, that
 2 'Twas grace that taught my heart to fear, and
 3 The Lord has prom - ised good to me, his
 4 Through man - y dan - gers, toils, and snares, I
 *5 When we've been there ten thou - sand years, bright

1 saved a wretch like me! I once was lost but
 2 grace my fears re - lieved; how pre - cious did that
 3 word my hope se - cures; he will my shield and
 4 have al - rea - dy come; 'tis grace that brought me
 5 shin - ing as the sun, we've no less days to

1 now am found, was blind but now I see.
 2 grace ap - pear the hour I first be - lieved!
 3 por - tion be as long as life en - dures.
 4 safe thus far, and grace will lead me home.
 5 sing God's praise than when we'd first be - gun.

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.

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.

Closing Hymn 381 | Thy Strong Word did Cleave the Darkness

Ton-y Botel



1 Thy strong word did cleave the dark - ness; at thy speak - ing
2 Lo, on those who dwelt in dark - ness, dark as night and
3 Thy strong word be - speaks us right - eous; bright with thine own
4 God the Fa - ther, Light - Cre - a - tor, to thee laud and



it was done; for cre - at - ed light we thank thee,
deep as death, broke the light of thy sal - va - tion,
ho - li - ness, glo - rious now, we press toward glo - ry,
hon - or be; to thee, Light of Light be - got - ten,



while thine or - dered sea - sons run: Al - le - lu - ia, al - le -
breathed thine own life - giv - ing breath: Al - le - lu - ia, al - le -
and our lives our hopes con - fess: Al - le - lu - ia, al - le -
praise be sung e - ter - nal - ly; Ho - ly Spi - rit, Light - Re -



lu - ia! Praise to thee who light dost send! Al - le - lu - ia,
lu - ia! Praise to thee who light dost send! Al - le - lu - ia,
lu - ia! Praise to thee who light dost send! Al - le - lu - ia,
veal - er, glo - ry, glo - ry be to thee; mor - tals, an - gels,



al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia with - out end!
al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia with - out end!
al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia with - out end!
now and ev - er praise the Ho - ly Tri - ni - ty.

The Alleluias in stanzas 1-3 may be sung antiphonally.

Dismissal |

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

Postlude |

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ASSISTING IN WORSHIP TODAY

8:00 a.m. Service

Lector/Reader: Dione Mahoney

Usher: Kayode Fatodu, Diane Phillips LaGuerre

10:30 a.m. Service

Lector/Reader: Cheryl Lucente

Ushers: Isaac Olajide, Yetti Lipede, Jane Adams, Cherry Williams, Betty Dagne, Alex Amponsah, Eva Oladipupo, Hope Oladipupo

Crucifer: Deepti Jackson

Chalicer: Cheryl Lucente

Altar Guild

Jan DeBoissiere, Virginia Jarrett

Teller

Sarah Mugo, Mary Oladipupo

PARISH CALENDAR

OCTOBER 27 TO NOVEMBER 2

Sunday, October 27

8:00 am Holy Eucharist – New Brick, upper level
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
1:30 – 4:00 pm EFM – Parish Hall, conference room & Zoom
2:30 – 7:00 pm National String Symphonia – New Brick, upper level

Monday, October 28

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
7:00 – 9:00 pm Refugee Ministry Meeting – Zoom

Tuesday, October 29

7:00 am Morning Prayer Livestream
9:00 am – 3:00 pm Howard County Homeschool – New Brick, lower level
11:00 am – 12:00 pm Weekly Staff Meeting – Zoom
12:00 – 1:00 pm Virtual Coffee Hour – Zoom

Wednesday, October 30

7:00 am Morning Prayer Livestream
6:45 – 7:30 pm Handbell Choir Rehearsal – New Brick, upper level
7:30 – 9:00 pm Choir Rehearsal – New Brick, upper level
7:00 – 8:00 pm Adult Children of Alcoholics – Parish Hall, lower level

Thursday, October 31

8:00 am Morning Prayer Livestream
9:00 am – 3:00 pm Howard County Homeschool – New Brick, lower level
12:00 – 1:00 pm Virtual Coffee Hour – Zoom
7:30 – 9:00 pm Boy Scouts – New Brick, lower level
7:30 – 9:00 pm CEC Book Club – Zoom

Friday, November 1

7:00 am Morning Prayer Livestream
5:00 pm – 11:00 pm Auction Setup – New Brick, lower level
7:00 pm Evening Prayer Livestream
8:00 pm – 12:00 am Tabernacle of David Church – Old Brick

Saturday, November 2

1:00 – 3:30 pm AA Meeting – Parish Hall, lower level
6:00 pm – 11:00 pm Auction – New Brick, lower level

ANNOUNCEMENTS

To submit announcements for publication,
email to communications@christchurchcolumbia.org by Tuesday evening.
For a PDF copy of this service leaflet with working links, etc., visit the main page of our website.

Altar Flowers and Gifts

If you would like to present altar flowers and gifts in dedication or celebration of a loved one on any upcoming Sunday, you can do so by using our [Realm Online Giving Form](#); choose "Altar Flowers and Gifts" from the *FUND* dropdown menu, and place the dedication name(s) and service date in the *MEMO* line. Then please email or call the church office to let them know, and we'll be sure to place an acknowledgment in the Sunday service leaflet.

Pledge for 2025

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 safely complete one electronically on our website - www.christchurchcolumbia.org/pledge-2025

All Saints' Day Submissions

Parishioners who have lost loved ones and want them remembered on All Saints' Day should please submit their names to the office by next Wednesday, October 30th. You can email them to office@christchurchcolumbia.org

Centering Prayer - Mondays

Centering Prayer is 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. This active presence heals, transforms, and offers freedom and peace. We are a hybrid gathering, so be with us in Old Brick or online via Zoom at 7 p.m. on Monday evenings. [The Zoom link is here](#), the Meeting ID is 875 9496 3596 and the Passcode is Centering! You can also ask for more information by speaking with Kathy Lyon at church, or by emailing centering@christchurchcolumbia.org.

Christ Church Choir - Thursdays

Singers and music lovers, come lift your voice! 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. If you're interested, please speak with Larissa on Sundays, email her at music@christchurchcolumbia.org, or simply come join us in New Brick on a Thursday evening.

Christ Church Book Club - Thursdays

If you're interested in reading and discussing great books with a friendly, engaging, and welcoming group of fellow parishioners, the CEC Book Club might be for you! We choose a book as a group, read a chapter or two each week, and then gather virtually for an hour or so on Thursdays at 7:30 p.m. to share thoughts and have lively conversations - [the Zoom link is here](#), the Meeting ID is 817 9855 4366, and the Passcode is CECbooks. If you have any questions, email bookclub@christchurchcolumbia.org.

Taizé: *In Praise of Peace* - November 3

The Sunday before Election Day is our November Taizé worship, which will center around the vital importance of peace. We will pray for the people of this nation: for acceptance, healing, and reconciliation. We'll ask the Lord to bind and unite us in the bonds of democracy, help us in our quest for justice, truth, and liberty, and remind us to engage with one another not with hatred or bitterness, but with love. This is a very special service each month that could not come at a more important time in November, so we encourage every individual - no matter where you might sit on the political spectrum - to gather and share in this prayerful gathering of peace and unity.

First Wednesday Fellowship - November 6

November's FWF will be a costume and pasta party that celebrates Halloween/All Saints' Day, so gather with us in the Great Hall at 6 p.m. on November 6th all decked out in your fun Halloween getup! There will, of course, be a prize for the best costume, so get creative! And be sure to bring their leftover Halloween candy to share with others. It's sure to be a blast - see you there!

Two Days, Two Films - November 8 & 9

George Toth will host two films over the second weekend in November. On Friday, November 8th, the PBS film *The Pilgrims* will be shown, a documentary film that provides a comprehensive look at the Pilgrims and their perilous journey across the Atlantic, their landing at Plymouth Rock, and their efforts to establish Plymouth Colony in the New World. It delves into the challenges they faced, including harsh winters, disease, and interactions with the Native American inhabitants, particularly their relationship with Squanto, a Patuxet Native American who played a crucial role in their survival culminating in the celebration of the first Thanksgiving in 1621. The next morning at The Center for Spiritual Nourishment, *Metamorphosis* ([view the trailer here](#)) is a film that explores the design and engineering of the butterfly and discusses how they came into being. Using spectacular photography, computer animation, and magnetic resonance imaging, once-hidden doors will be opened to every stage of a butterfly's life cycle, letting you explore their remarkable world as few ever have before. Want to host a film in the CEC Theatre? [Let us know!](#)

Larissa and Friends Recital - Saturday, November 9

We are thrilled to present our Music Director, Larissa Sanders, in this year's fall recital, which is now an annual tradition. Larissa and her selection of incredibly talented musicians and vocalists will present a program of beautiful music spanning several centuries and cultures. Light refreshments will be served at a reception with the musicians following the performance, as well. Offerings are gratefully accepted for this performance, and they will help support Christ Church's flourishing Music Ministry, so we hope that you'll all save the date, and gather with us in New Brick on November 9th at 5:00 p.m. You'll be sure to enjoy a program excellent works performed by talented musicians.

300th Anniversary News

The new landing page for the 300th Anniversary celebrations is live on our website, so visit www.christchurchcolumbia.org/300 and see how we are gearing up for a year-long series of special gatherings, activities, and parties! Please bookmark it and check for updates often. It's still early days, but committees are already taking shape and

making plans. We are always looking for more people to provide their input and would love to have you join us. This celebration is a massive milestone for our church, and we encourage everyone to consider being a part of this historic occasion. If you are interested in assisting, please speak with Robin Bradley at church, [complete the brief contact form on our website](#), or email 300@christchurchcolumbia.org.

Christ Church Donates to Christian Jail Ministry to Support Religious Education and Pastoral Care for Detainees and Their Families

Christ Church has long supported [Christian Jail Ministry](#) (CJM), which provides pastoral care to people who might otherwise be ignored. Again this year, the Outreach Commission approved contributing \$500 for its work at the Howard County Detention Center (HCDC).

Chaplain Kevin Griffith expressed gratitude: “Your support means a great deal to us, and it will make a significant impact on our efforts. Additionally, I would like to extend my sincere thanks for your unwavering support and prayers over the many years. Your commitment to our Ministry has been truly invaluable, and we are deeply appreciative of your continued partnership.”

CJM board member, Dr. Dale K. Pace, ThD, wrote to the parish: “CJM appreciates the financial support that Christ Church has given to this ministry over the years; and in the distant past, the use of its facility for some of CJM's office functions. We praise God for your help with this ministry.”

Please pray for CJM leaders and volunteers as they go about their weekly rounds and for detainees as CJM seeks to meet their spiritual needs. Bible study is one way that CJM reaches them; our donations provide religious materials such as a detainee's worksheet for Romans 9:16, Unit II. Volunteers at partner churches grade the worksheets. If you are interested in participating, email outreach@christchurchcolumbia.org.

Volunteers are recognized at an annual banquet that includes present and former CJM leaders such as retired Chaplain Gerard M. Washington. On Nov. 4, 2018, Washington preached at both services of Christ Church, accompanied by a former detainee who shared how CJM helped turn his life around, as described in the [Outreach Blog of July 20, 2022](#). The current HCDC Chaplain Griffith, who was recently photographed holding a detainee's Bible packet, joined Washington at the banquet. The donation to CJM is drawn from the 2024 Vestry-approved Outreach budget, derived from your pledges and contributions. Heartfelt thanks go out to one and all who make this possible.

Help Families in Need by Filling the Altar Basket, our FISH Bin on the Breezeway

If you are concerned about people in our midst who are going hungry, please consider regularly donating non-perishables to [FISH of Howard County](#). Please put groceries and/or toiletries in the basket at the altar in New Brick or in the marked yellow bin on the breezeway between Old Brick and Parish Hall. FISH provides committed support to select families in need, and the neighbors you help give thanks for all you do in their support.

Columbia Community Care Needs Diapers, Recruits Volunteers of All Ages

[Columbia Community Care](#) (CCC) keeps its pantry open each Wednesday, from 11:30 a.m. to 4 p.m., in hopes of attracting youth who earn community service credits at their public schools by sorting supplies. Also teens can help at upcoming events that CCC is sponsoring. Find options on the [CCC Facebook Group](#).

People of all ages can volunteer at the pantry, located in the rear of the Long Reach distribution site at Long Reach Village Center, Suite 107, 8775 Cloudleap Ct. Also consider volunteering at that site on Saturdays from 9:30 to 11:30 a.m. or one of the other distribution sites: Wilde Lake Interfaith Center, 10431 Twin Rivers Rd., and The Barn at Oakland Mills Village Center, 5853 Robert Oliver Place. Go online to [learn how to volunteer](#). Those who need groceries and other necessities can find information by going online to [“Get Help”](#) on CCC's website.

CCC continues to request baby-care items and diapers, especially sizes 4-6. Put these along with sanitary and personal care items and adult diapers in the yellow bin, marked “CCC,” inside the Parish Hall. Drop off items on weekdays when the church office is open or on Sundays. The Christ Church point of contact is Leigh Smith, who monitors the bin and delivers items.

In general, if you have suggestions about ways to help the community, if you want to get involved, or if you need assistance, please email Christ Church Outreach at outreach@christchurchcolumbia.org. Your help is greatly welcomed and appreciated. Learn more at <https://www.christchurchcolumbia.org/outreach>

CHRIST CHURCH 2025 STEWARDSHIP CAMPAIGN



USING THE GIFTS GOD HAS GIVEN US,
TO DO THE WORK GOD IS CALLING US TO DO.

FROM THE TREASURER

August's net loss exceeded that of July - putting us in a \$10k hole for the year. While this is better than last year at this time, last year was not a great year for comparison. The issue is with revenue, as both plate offerings and pledge payments were well below budget. Expenses were in line with expectations and remain below budget on a year-to-date basis.

Best Regards,
Drew

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

STEWARDSHIP 2025

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/pledge-2025

TEXT GIVING

You can give securely and conveniently by using your mobile phone! Simply send a text with the word 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

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.

THANK YOU.



**It's finally here...
The Online Auction is now LIVE!**

THE fundraising event that promises to be great fun for all has begun! Viewing of the Online Auction catalog and bidding on items is live at tinyurl.com/CECAuction-2024catalog, but please register now so that you can bid on as many items as you want. In the catalog, you'll find everything you need or want for gifts, for celebrating... and even for a little self-indulgence. Gift-giving items, home and professional services, handcrafted works of art, holiday decorative pieces, exciting books, incredible culinary experiences - so many wonderful things await you! All of the proceeds go toward supporting Christ Church activities, ministries, and programs, so the more you bid, the more we get to enjoy as a parish family. We all win!

Then, be sure to reserve next Saturday evening, November 2nd, for *An Evening in Paris* - our exciting gala event complete with silent and live auctions and our 50/50 raffle drawing. Doors open at 6:30 p.m. in the Great Hall of New Brick for this one-of-a-kind event you surely don't want to miss - it's sure to be *fantastique!*

There will be refreshments of all sorts, and although we have some volunteers already, we do need a few more to provide non-alcoholic beverages and other refreshments. Visit our sign-up sheet at tinyurl.com/CEC-2024AuctionRefreshments and see how you can help. Thanks!

If you have any questions or need help registering for the Online Auction, please email us at auction@christchurchcolumbia.org

THREAD

This past weekend was one of unexpected challenges, but it was also one of celebration. We held a successful Annual Meeting, celebrating all the wonderful ministries that fill our sacred space and time, and we elected Sara Kirkpatrick, Kathy Simms, Ed Chrzanowski, and George Toth to serve on the Christ



Church Vestry. I am thankful to Isaac, Ed, Sara, George, and Kathy for offering themselves for election. It is a pleasure to see many capable and faithful parishioners stepping up to lead this amazing congregation.

This past week, I joined nine people on Zoom for a program called *Spiritual Journey*. It is a nine-month program comprised of monthly meetings, readings, reflections, and journaling, and I love being a part of this group. I must add that this is my first time being involved in something like that and it was very interesting. My ultimate goal is to be a spiritual director.

It was at this gathering that the leader shared this poem called *The Way It Is*:

There's a thread you follow. It goes among things that change.

But it doesn't change.

People wonder about what you are pursuing.

You have to explain about the thread.

But it is hard for others to see.

While you hold it you can't get lost.

Tragedies happen, people get hurt

Or die, and you suffer and get old.

Nothing you do can stop time's unfolding

You don't ever let go of the thread.

As I reflected on the poem, the one word that jumped out at me was *thread*. I don't know why it jumped out at me; one reason may be that it was probably used multiple times, and another reason may be because the imagery of a thread provoked something much deeper in me.

There's an invisible thread that we follow, and it is unchangeable. Although all those who follow the invisible thread do change, they are never to let go of the thread. Never let go of the thread!

Which thread are you holding on to? Our story is one where we want to hold on to something - some thread. It isn't part of our human narrative not to hold on to anything. We all hold on to a thread of some sort. But whichever thread we hold on to, some of us want to see, touch, and feel it. Listen to Thomas when his friends told him about the crucified and risen Christ appearing to them: "Unless I see the nail marks in his hands and put my finger where the nails were, and put my hand into his side, I will not believe." Which thread was Thomas holding on to? Are you holding on to a thread similar to Thomas'? Do you want to see and touch your thread?

Here's a question: Why would you want to hold on to an invisible thread? It is one thing seeing the thread and knowing what it looks like, and it is another holding on to it. To hold on to the thread, you need to have a reason - you need to know the thread. It doesn't have to be an absolute, fantastic, or unassailable reason, but you do need to have a reason. The reason, or your knowledge of the thread, doesn't have to make sense - but you must have a reason. And those who have a reason to hold on to the invisible thread don't ask about how the thread looks like. For those people, the thread isn't anything they can touch, feel, push around, or see. But they can most certainly feel the manifestation of the thread in their lives.

(continued)

They trust in its benevolent power, and they know the thread to the point where their confidence in the functionality of the thread in their lives empowers them to hold on, and makes them want to continue to hold on to it.

The story is told of a student who once said to a pastor that Christianity is a crutch. The pastor asked him, "If you broke both of your legs, would you appreciate the use of a wheelchair to get around?" The student responded, "Yes, I would." The pastor asked him another question: "If you broke one leg, would you appreciate the use of crutches to get around?" and the student responded with, "Yes, I would." The pastor went on to tell the student, "I am a broken person, and so are you. I have never met a person who isn't broken, and I am so glad I can lean on Jesus who is putting me back together again."

This isn't a testimony from a pastor who has seen Jesus, but it is a testimony from a pastor who believes in the power of the invisible thread to put his broken life together. This is also your testimony and mine - that the thread puts our broken lives together. But through this process of mending our brokenness, we have to give up something to hold on to this invisible thread.

Some of the things we are invited to give up may be daunting, but we are called to give them up, nonetheless, so that you can be free to hold on to the thread. The simple truth is that if your hands are full, there's no way you can hold on to anything. That's why we have to let go - so we can hold on to the thread.

As we bring our Stewardship season to a close, please keep in mind that Stewardship Sunday is November 3, 2024. On that Sunday, we will each be invited to bring our pledge cards forward or to pledge online. We will then offer a prayer of thanksgiving together. All of these acts will symbolize one thing: we have to let go of some of what we possess to hold on to the thread.

I celebrate the thread that puts our broken lives together. The power of the thread isn't always visible, but its effect always confounds us. I hold on to the thread because it assures me of who I am.

Thanks be to God; we are made by the thread for the thread, and that's the only hope we can boast of.

Manny +
revmanny@christchurchcolumbia.org

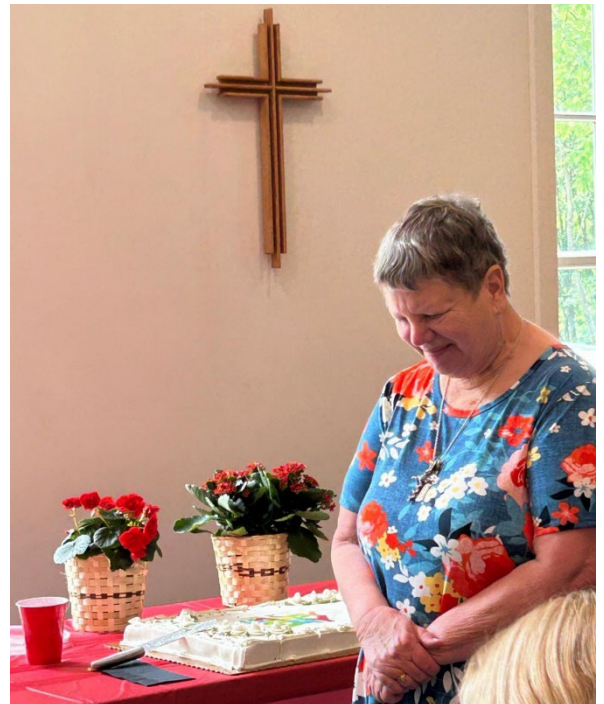
A MESSAGE FROM MOTHER MARCIA

Dear People of Christ Church,

Thank you! I want to take this opportunity to offer my heartfelt gratitude to Fr. Manny, the wardens and vestry, and this beloved congregation here at Christ Church, Columbia. I was surprised, and deeply honored, that you have chosen to designate me as an Associate Rector Emeritus at Christ Church. My first reaction was, "Oh, Jim Shields would be so proud!" I have always understood my returning to Christ Church in my late career in ministry as a way to contribute to the beloved people and parish who first gave me the chance to follow my call to the priesthood. I continue to hope to be useful in the time to come, and to contribute with the gifts, talents, and time I can offer. Thank you, thank you all. I am so grateful and deeply honored.

Blessings -
Mother Marcia+

P.S: Cat lovers, my health requires me to find a new home for my two beloved cats. If interested, please visit <https://ibb.co/Kq6BZKG>





Christ Episcopal Church

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

The Rev. Richard Ginnever, *Rector Emeritus*
The Rev. Marcia Davenport, *Associate Rector Emeritus*