

CHRIST EPISCOPAL CHURCH

EXTENDING THE LOVE AND EMBRACE OF CHRIST

TAIZÉ VESPERS

6:00 P.M.

Sunday, March 16, 2025 | Second Sunday in Lent

WELCOME TO SUNDAY TAIZÉ VESPERS AT CHRIST CHURCH

For centuries, people have asked God for guidance and care as day turns to night. This night, we ask God to refresh, inspire, and call us into a deeper relationship with the Divine Spark that is in this world. Enter into God's presence through prayers, readings, songs, silence and poetry. And as you feel so moved: breathe deeply, be still, and know that you are loved.

May God bless you in this time of reflection and meditation.

TAIZÉ

Taizé (named for the ecumenical Christian community formed in Taizé, France, in 1940) is a quiet, sung, meditative prayer. The songs are short phrases that we sing repeatedly so that the words may enter our hearts. The songs may be sung in many different languages, reminding us that the Gospel is for all the world and we are all God's people.

THE PATTERN OF VESPERS

GATHERING: God beckons us to gather, to reflect on life where we live it, and to be engaged as fully as possible in the world around us. We light candles and sing a song of thanksgiving for God's bringing light into the darkness of our lives.

WORD: God continues to communicate through words of wisdom, encouragement, hope, and challenge spoken throughout the ages by God's beloved children.

PSALMS: Psalms are the Bible's language of prayer and praise. They provide us language to speak about all of life, including our joys, disappointments, confusion and anger, sadness, and concern for ourselves, others, and this world.

MEDITATION: When we listen and pray while gathered in community, we are reminded that we are not alone. We also affirm that life is not about "just me," but about participating in a larger movement for wholeness in a fragmented world.

PRAYERS: Prayer is honest, holy conversation with God and those who gather. God invites our honesty, joys, sorrows, confusion, anger, and wonder. Prayer practices can open us up to deeper understanding and meaningful spiritual connections with God, others, and ourselves.

GOING OUT: As we leave the Vesper service, we are reminded of Christ's peace, presence and purpose in all of life.



OPENING SONG | Adoramus te



Officiant: God dwells in you.

People: And also in you.

Officiant: Jesus said, "You are the light of the world. A city built on a hill cannot be hid. No one lights a lamp to put it under a bucket, but on a lampstand where it gives light for everyone in the house. And you, like the lamp, must shed light among your fellow men, so that they may see the deed you do, and give glory to your Father in heaven." *Matthew 5:14-16*

Let us pray.

All: Almighty God, we give you thanks for surrounding us, as daylight fades, with the brightness of the vesper light; and we implore you of your great mercy that, as you enfold us with the radiance of this light, so you would shine into our hearts the brightness of your Holy Spirit; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen

Almighty and most merciful God, kindle within us the fire of love, that by its cleansing flame we may be purged of all our sins and made worthy to worship you in spirit and in truth; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Please be seated.

SONG | Nothing Can Trouble, Nothing Can Frighten |

1.

Na - da te tur - be, na - da te es-pan - te. Quien a Dios tie - ne
Noth-ing can trou-ble, noth-ing can fright-en. Those who seek God shall

2.

na - da le fal - ta. So - lo Dios bas - ta.
nev - er go want - ing. God a - lone fills us.

CONSOLATIONS | Regret

Regret is a short, evocative and achingly beautiful word; an elegy to lost possibilities even in its brief annunciation, it is also a rarity and almost never heard except where the speaker insists that they have none, that they are brave and forward-looking and could not possibly imagine their life in any other way than the way it is. To admit regret is to understand we are fallible: that there are powers in the world beyond us; to admit regret is to lose control not only of a difficult past but of the very story we tell about our present; and yet strangely, to admit sincere and abiding regret is one of our greatest but unspoken contemporary sins.

The rarity of honest regret may be due to our contemporary emphasis on the youthful perspective; it may be that a true, useful regret is not a possibility or a province of youth; that it takes a hard-won maturity to experience the depths of regret in ways that do not overwhelm and debilitate us into a proper, more generous relationship with the future. Except for brief senses of having missed a tide, having hurt another, having taken what is not ours, youth is not yet ready for the rich current of abiding regret that runs through and emboldens a mature human life.

Sincere regret may in fact be a faculty for paying attention to the future, for sensing a new tide where we missed a previous one, for experiencing timelessness with a grandchild where we neglected a boy of own. To regret fully is to appreciate how high the stakes are in even the average human life. Fully experienced, regret turns our eyes, attentive and alert to a future possibly lived better than our past.

THE PSALM |

Psalm 27 | *Dominus illuminatio*

The Lord is my light and my salvation;
 whom then shall I fear? *

the Lord is the strength of my life;
 of whom then shall I be afraid?
 When evildoers came upon me to eat up my flesh, *
it was they, my foes and my adversaries, who
stumbled and fell.
 Though an army should encamp against me, *
yet my heart shall not be afraid;
 And though war should rise up against me, *
yet will I put my trust in him.
 One thing have I asked of the Lord;
 one thing I seek; *
that I may dwell in the house of the Lord all the days of my life;
 To behold the fair beauty of the Lord *
and to seek him in his temple.
 For in the day of trouble he shall keep me safe
 in his shelter; *
he shall hide me in the secrecy of his dwelling
and set me high upon a rock.
 Even now he lifts up my head *
above my enemies round about me.
 Therefore I will offer in his dwelling an oblation
 with sounds of great gladness; *
I will sing and make music to the Lord.
 Harken to my voice, O Lord, when I call; *
have mercy on me and answer me.
 You speak in my heart and say, "Seek my face." *
Your face, Lord, will I seek.
 Hide not your face from me, *
nor turn away your servant in displeasure.
 You have been my helper;
 cast me not away; *
do not forsake me, O God of my salvation.
 Though my father and my mother forsake me, *
the Lord will sustain me.
 Show me your way, O Lord; *
lead me on a level path, because of my enemies.
 Deliver me not into the hand of my adversaries, *
for false witnesses have risen up against me,
and also those who speak malice.
 What if I had not believed
 that I should see the goodness of the Lord *
in the land of the living!
 O tarry and await the Lord's pleasure;
 be strong, and he shall comfort your heart; *
wait patiently for the Lord.

Con - fi - te - mi - ni Do - mi - no quo - ni - am bo - nus.
Come and fill our hearts with your peace. You a-lone, O Lord, are ho - ly.

5
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SCRIPTURE READING | Genesis 15:1-12,17-18

Reader: A reading from Genesis.

The word of the Lord came to Abram in a vision, “Do not be afraid, Abram, I am your shield; your reward shall be very great.” But Abram said, “O Lord God, what will you give me, for I continue childless, and the heir of my house is Eliezer of Damascus?” And Abram said, “You have given me no offspring, and so a slave born in my house is to be my heir.” But the word of the Lord came to him, “This man shall not be your heir; no one but your very own issue shall be your heir.” He brought him outside and said, “Look toward heaven and count the stars, if you are able to count them.” Then he said to him, “So shall your descendants be.” And he believed the Lord; and the Lord reckoned it to him as righteousness.

Then he said to him, “I am the Lord who brought you from Ur of the Chaldeans, to give you this land to possess.” But he said, “O Lord God, how am I to know that I shall possess it?” He said to him, “Bring me a heifer three years old, a female goat three years old, a ram three years old, a turtledove, and a young pigeon.” He brought him all these and cut them in two, laying each half over against the other; but he did not cut the birds in two. And when birds of prey came down on the carcasses, Abram drove them away.

As the sun was going down, a deep sleep fell upon Abram, and a deep and terrifying darkness descended upon him.

When the sun had gone down and it was dark, a smoking fire pot and a flaming torch passed between these pieces. On that day the Lord made a covenant with Abram, saying, “To your descendants I give this land, from the river of Egypt to the great river, the river Euphrates.”

Reader: The word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

SCRIPTURE READING | Philippians 3:17-4:1

Reader: A reading from Philippians.

Brothers and sisters, join in imitating me, and observe those who live according to the example you have in us. For many live as enemies of the cross of Christ; I have often told you of them, and now I tell you even with tears. Their end is destruction; their god is the belly; and their glory is in their shame; their minds are set on earthly things. But our citizenship is in heaven, and it is from there that we are expecting a Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ. He will transform the body of our humiliation that it may be conformed to the body of his glory, by the power that also enables him to make all things subject to himself. Therefore, my brothers and sisters, whom I love and long for, my joy and crown, stand firm in the Lord in this way, my beloved.

Reader: The word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

THE HOMILY/REFLECTION | Rebecca Warlow, *Candidate for Ordination to the Diaconate*

THE SILENT MEDITATION |

ANNOUNCEMENTS



OFFERTORY SONG | Jesus, Remember Me |

During the singing, you are invited to come forward to light a candle in prayer.

Please scan to give



Ostinato Refrain

Capo 1: (D) E $\flat$ (Em/G) Fm/A $\flat$ (A) B $\flat$ (D) E $\flat$

Je-sus, re-mem-ber me when you come in - to your King-dom.

(Bm) Cm (Em/G) Fm/A $\flat$ (A) B $\flat$ (D) E $\flat$

Je-sus, re-mem-ber me when you come in - to your King-dom.

POEM | by PAMELA PRUITT

Faces

To Chuck

God's face
 Resembles
 The light
 Of a new
 Day
 With
 Beauty,
 Hope,
 Love
 And Dreams
 Amidst heavenly
 Promises
 For Tomorrow,

And,
 Every morning
 Brings

All of us
Another chance
To reflect
That abundance
In ours.

THE PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE |

Intercessor: Let us pray for the whole state of Christ's Church and the world.
Almighty and everliving God, who in thy holy Word hast taught us to make prayers, and supplications, and to give thanks for all men: Receive these our prayers which we offer unto thy divine Majesty, beseeching thee to inspire continually the Universal Church with the spirit of truth, unity, and concord; and grant that all those who do confess thy holy Name may agree in the truth of thy holy Word, and live in unity and godly love.

Give grace, O heavenly Father, to all bishops and other ministers, especially Sean, our Presiding Bishop, Carrie, our Diocesan Bishop, Emmanuel, our Rector, Kiona, our Deacon, Marcia, our Associate Priest, Rebecca, our Candidate for Ordination to the Diaconate, and Mike our Postulant; that they may, both by their life and doctrine, set forth thy true and lively Word, and rightly and duly administer thy holy Sacraments.

And to all thy people give thy heavenly grace, and especially to this congregation here present; that, with meek heart and due reverence, they may hear and receive thy holy Word, truly serving thee in holiness and righteousness all the days of their life.

We beseech thee also so to rule the hearts of those who bear the authority of government in this and every land, especially Donald, our President: Wes, our Governor; and Calvin, our County Executive; that they may be led to wise decisions and right actions for the welfare and peace of the world.

And we most humbly beseech thee, of thy goodness, O Lord, to comfort and succor Molly, Lucy, Jan, Ed, Chuck, Wha-Ja, Sharon, Joseph, Kaci, Sam, Tori, Trish, Marcy, Darice, Carlos, Victoria, Pat, 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.

The People may add additional petitions and thanksgivings.

Intercessor: And we also bless thy holy Name for all thy servants departed this life in thy faith and fear especially those you now name, beseeching thee to grant them continual growth in thy love and service; and to grant us grace so to follow the good examples of all thy saints, that with them we may be partakers of thy heavenly kingdom.

People: Grant these our prayers, O Father, for Jesus Christ's sake, our only Mediator and Advocate.
Amen.

THE LORD'S PRAYER |

Officiant: Let us pray.

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.

Officiant: The coming night is dark. Let our fears of the darkness of the world and of our own lives be dispelled in this hour. The night is quiet. Let the quietness of your peace enfold us, all who are dear to us, and all who have no peace. The night heralds the dawn. Let us look expectantly to a new day, new joys, new possibilities. In your name we pray. **Amen.**

Officiant: The Lord bless you and keep you. **Amen.**

The Lord make his face to shine upon you
and be gracious to you. **Amen.**

The Lord lift up his countenance upon you
and give you peace. **Amen.**

CLOSING SONG | Nunc Dimittis

1st time in Latin, all following repetitions in English.

Ostinato Refrain

Nunc di - mīt - tis ser - vum tu - um, Dó - mi -
Let your ser - vant now go in peace, O

ne, se - cún - dum ver - bum
Lord, now go in peace ac -

ne, Dó - mi - ne, Lord, O Lord,



Caitlin Gompf, soprano
 Catherine Hinton, soprano
 Maureen Monk, flute
 Amanda McKay, viola
 Larissa Sanders, piano

Thank you for joining us today!

CHRIST EPISCOPAL CHURCH
WEDNESDAY EVENING LENTEN SERIES
 6:30 P.M. IN THE GREAT HALL OF NEW BRICK

MARCH 19:
REV. MARCIA DAVENPORT

WWW.CHRISTCHURCHCOLUMBIA.ORG/LENT

ANNOUNCEMENTS

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



Lenten Meditation Book – Final Copies Available Now

The first printing of the sixty-page edition of the 2025 Lenten Meditation Book flew off the shelves on one day, and the second is about to do the same! While supplies last, you can grab a copy this weekend at CSN or at worship. The LMB is a Lenten tradition that we look forward to creating each year - but it simply would not be possible without the beautiful, heartfelt, and inspiring submissions of your fellow parishioners. If you missed out, you can always request a digital copy by emailing us at info@christchurchcolumbia.org

The Easter Challenge

Easter is our celebration of rebirth - we celebrate the risen life of Christ and open ourselves to rise with Jesus. This Easter, we challenge each parishioner to lead another person to the resurrection experience. Invite a loved one, a friend, a neighbor, a colleague, or even a total stranger to church to experience the joy of rebirth. Let's share this experience with as many as possible. Easter is on April 20 and the services are 8:00, 9:00, and 11:00 a.m., and you can send your new guest a link to www.christchurchcolumbia.org/lent so they can learn more about Christ Church and our upcoming Lenten season.

Centering Prayer - Mondays

Centering Prayer is a special evening prayer gathering that can help lead to a more intimate union with God, a gathering that takes place every Monday. 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.

Wednesday Evening Lenten Supper Series

Christ Church's Wednesday Evening Lenten Series, one of the most cherished traditions of the season, continues Wednesday at 6:30 with a communal meal provided by Christ Church Outreach, is followed by a presentation by our own Mother Marcia Davenport offering her perspective on our theme for this year, *Reaching Out in Faith*.

Healing Eucharist - Thursdays

Each Thursday at 12 noon during Lent, Christ Church offers midday worship in Old Brick. This service includes readings, prayers, a litany for healing, and the Holy Eucharist. Parishioners and non-parishioners are all welcome to join in a prayerful time in the presence of God, and to share in the wonderful mystery of God's love whilst we seek healing for ourselves and our loved ones. Please come in to reflect, pray, and participate in a service held in our beautiful, historic chapel.

Christ Church Choirs - Thursdays

The Christ Church Choirs rehearse in New Brick on Thursday evenings, and anyone can 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 long-term or not, there's a place for you in our choirs. Why not give it a try? If you're interested, speak with our Director of Music, Larissa, on Sundays, email her at music@christchurchcolumbia.org, or simply stop by a rehearsal and see if it's something you might enjoy.

Christ Church Book Club - Fridays

Book Club has just started a new book for Lent that's titled *The Second Mountain: The Quest for a Moral Life* by David Brooks. [Learn more here](#), and Ellen will scan a few chapters to get you started if you [email her](#). We read a few chapters

each week, and then gather virtually for an hour or so on Fridays at 7:30 p.m. to share thoughts and have lively conversations. Email bookclub@christchurchcolumbia.org for more information and the Zoom link.

WOCC's March News

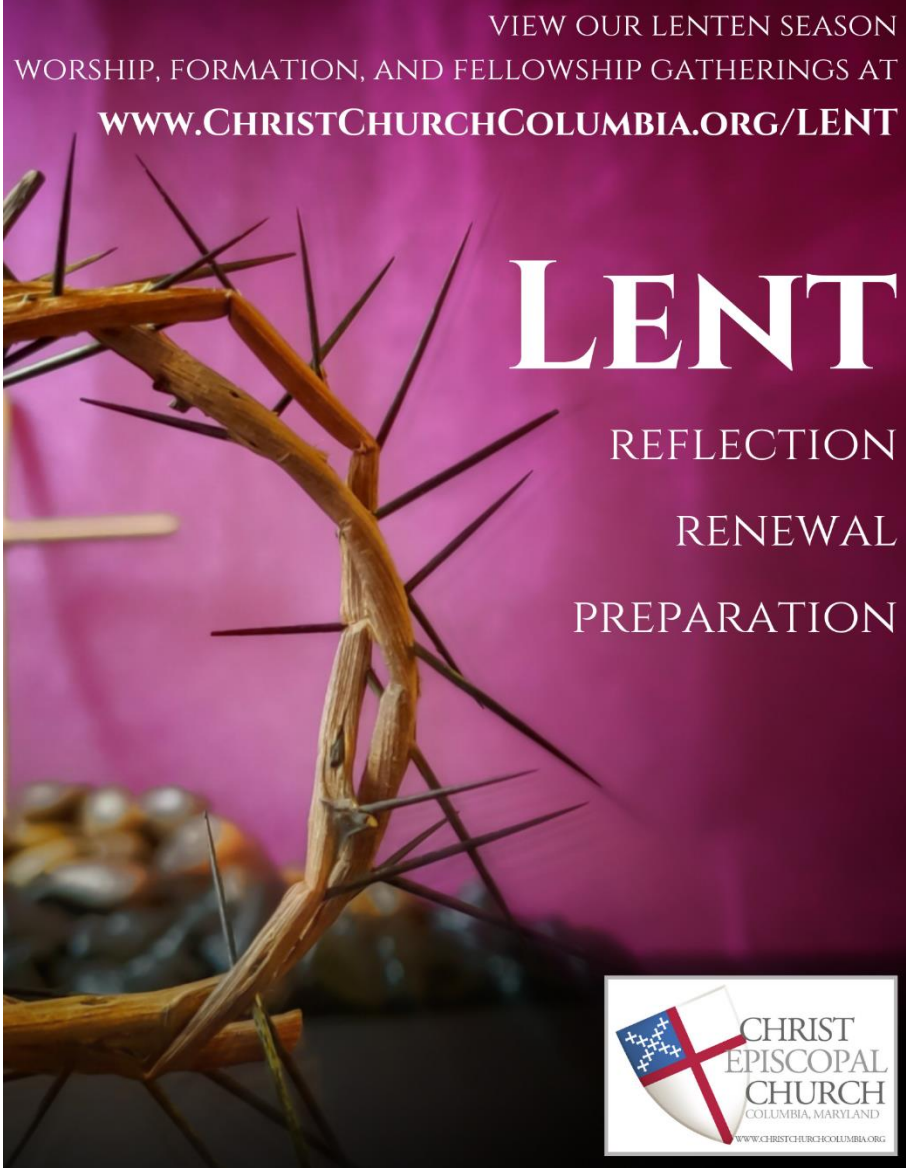
The WOCC is coordinating a gathering at London Town & Garden during Maryland Day Weekend, so on March 22nd from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. join us for an event that includes a historic area tour, gardens tour, and hands-on activities for everyone. If you would like more information, please speak to any WOCC member at church, or email WOCC@christchurchcolumbia.org

Baptism Class - March 22

During Holy Week, Christ Church will have a Baptism! It will take place on Holy Saturday, April 19th. To prepare all children and adults wishing to be baptized, there will be a special class in the New Brick sanctuary on Saturday, March 22 at 10:00 a.m. Lunch will be provided. If you're interested in learning more, please reach out to the Church Office any time, or speak with Fr. Manny at church.

Our Altar Guild Needs Your Help

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 ministry, so if you are interested in signing up or learning more, please visit our website's Altar Guild page - www.christchurchcolumbia.org/altar-guild, or you can speak with Altar Guild Coordinator, Pam Foreman, or any Altar Guild member at church.

A vertical poster with a deep purple background. On the left side, there is a close-up photograph of a crown of thorns, showing the sharp, dark thorns and the lighter, woody branches. The text is arranged on the right side of the poster. At the top, in a smaller white font, it says "VIEW OUR LENTEN SEASON WORSHIP, FORMATION, AND FELLOWSHIP GATHERINGS AT". Below this, in a larger white font, is the website "WWW.CHRISTCHURCHCOLUMBIA.ORG/LENT". The word "LENT" is written in very large, bold, white serif capital letters. Below "LENT", the words "REFLECTION", "RENEWAL", and "PREPARATION" are stacked vertically in a smaller white serif font. In the bottom right corner, there is a white rectangular box containing the Christ Episcopal Church logo, which features a shield with a red cross and a blue field with white stars, and the text "CHRIST EPISCOPAL CHURCH COLUMBIA, MARYLAND" and the website "WWW.CHRISTCHURCHCOLUMBIA.ORG" below it.

VIEW OUR LENTEN SEASON
WORSHIP, FORMATION, AND FELLOWSHIP GATHERINGS AT
WWW.CHRISTCHURCHCOLUMBIA.ORG/LENT

LENT

REFLECTION
RENEWAL
PREPARATION



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