



CHRIST EPISCOPAL CHURCH

EXTENDING THE LOVE AND EMBRACE OF CHRIST

THE HOLY EUCHARIST, RITE II

8:00 & 10:30 A.M.

Sunday, January 4, 2026 | Second Sunday after Christmas



God says:

You will be my
people and I will
be your God.
I will always love
you,

You are precious
to me....

Once again you
will dance for joy.

Jeremiah 31: 3-4

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:

www.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.

PRELUDE |

OPENING HYMN 93 | Angels from the Realms of Glory

Regent Square

1 An - gels, from the realms of glo - ry, wing your flight o'er
2 Shep - herds in the field a - bid - ing, watch - ing o'er your
3 Sa - ges, leave your con - tem - pla - tions; bright - er vi - sions
4 Saints be - fore the al - tar bend - ing, watch - ing long in

all the earth; ye, who sang cre - a - tion's sto - ry,
flocks by night, God with you is now re - sid - ing;
beam a - far: seek the great De - sire of na - tions;
hope and fear, sud - den - ly the Lord, de - scend - ing,

Refrain

now pro - claim Mes - si - ah's birth:
yon - der shines the in - fant Light: come and wor - ship,
ye have seen his na - tal star:
in his tem - ple shall ap - pear:

come and wor - ship, wor - ship Christ, the new - born King.

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.
People: Amen

The St. James Christmas Service

Joyously

Glo - ry be to God on high,
Je - sus Christ, we now de - clare
Prai - ses to the Ho - ly One,
To all peo - ple, peace on earth, An - gels, shep - herds
Lamb of God and Lord of Love. Grant us mer - cy,
Prai - ses sing in high - est heav'n; To the Fath - er
draw - ing nigh, Join to ce - le - brate His birth.
hear our prayer, Give us grace from heav'en a - bove.
and the Son and the Ho - ly Spi - rit giv'n.
Glo - ri - a
1. in ex - cel - sis De - o! 2. in ex - cel - sis De o!

THE COLLECT OF THE DAY |

Celebrant: The Lord be with you.

People: And also with you.

Celebrant: Let us pray.

O God, who wonderfully created, and yet more wonderfully restored, the dignity of human nature: Grant that we may share the divine life of him who humbled himself to share our humanity, your Son Jesus Christ; who lives and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. **Amen.**

The people may be seated.

THE FIRST LESSON | Jeremiah 31:7-14

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
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.

Hear the word of the Lord, O nations,
and declare it in the coastlands far away;

say, "He who scattered Israel will gather him,
and will keep him as a shepherd a flock."

For the Lord has ransomed Jacob,
and has redeemed him from hands too strong for him.

They shall come and sing aloud on the height of Zion,
and they shall be radiant over the goodness of the Lord,

over the grain, the wine, and the oil,
and over the young of the flock and the herd;

their life shall become like a watered garden,
and they shall never languish again.

Then shall the young women rejoice in the dance,
and the young men and the old shall be merry.

I will turn their mourning into joy,
I will comfort them, and give them gladness for sorrow.

I will give the priests their fill of fatness,
and my people shall be satisfied with my bounty,

says the Lord.

Reader: The word of the Lord.

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

The following psalm is read responsively by half-verse.

THE PSALM

Psalm 84:1-8 | *Quam dilecta!*

How dear to me is your dwelling, O Lord of hosts! *

**My soul has a desire and longing for the courts of the Lord;
my heart and my flesh rejoice in the living God.**

The sparrow has found her a house

and the swallow a nest where she may lay her young; *

**by the side of your altars, O Lord of hosts,
my King and my God.**

Happy are they who dwell in your house! *

they will always be praising you.

Happy are the people whose strength is in you! *

whose hearts are set on the pilgrims' way.

Those who go through the desolate valley will find it a place of springs, *

for the early rains have covered it with pools of water.

They will climb from height to height, *

and the God of gods will reveal himself in Zion.

Lord God of hosts, hear my prayer; *

hearken, O God of Jacob.

Behold our defender, O God; *

and look upon the face of your Anointed.

[For one day in your courts is better than a thousand in my own room, *

**and to stand at the threshold of the house of my God
than to dwell in the tents of the wicked.**

For the Lord God is both sun and shield; *

he will give grace and glory;

No good thing will the Lord withhold *

from those who walk with integrity.

O Lord of hosts, *

happy are they who put their trust in you!]

THE EPISTLE | Ephesians 1:3-6, 15-19a

Reader: *A reading from Ephesians.*

Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us in Christ with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places, just as he chose us in Christ before the foundation of the world to be holy and blameless before him in love. He destined us for adoption as his children through Jesus Christ, according to the good pleasure of his will, to the praise of his glorious grace that he freely bestowed on us in the Beloved.

I have heard of your faith in the Lord Jesus and your love toward all the saints, and for this reason I do not cease to give thanks for you as I remember you in my prayers. I pray that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, may give you a spirit of wisdom and revelation as you come to know him, so that, with the eyes of your heart enlightened, you may know what is the hope to which he has called you, what are the riches of his glorious inheritance among the saints, and what is the immeasurable greatness of his power for us who believe.

Reader: The word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

SEQUENCE HYMN 119 | As with Gladness Men of Old

arr. Mark Schweizer

1 As with glad - ness men of old did the guid - ing star be - hold;
2 As with joy - ful steps they sped to that low - ly man - ger - bed;
3 As they of - fered gifts most rare at that man - ger rude and bare;
4 Ho - ly Je - sus! ev - ery day keep us in the nar - row way;
5 In the heaven - ly coun - try bright, need they no cre - a - ted light;

1 as with joy they hailed its light, lead - ing on - ward, beam - ing bright;
2 there to bend the knee be - fore him whom heaven and earth a - dore;
3 so may we with ho - ly joy, pure and free from sin's al - loy,
4 and, when earth - ly things are past, bring our ran - somed souls at last
5 thou its light, its joy, its crown, thou its sun which goes not down:

1 so, most gra - cious Lord, may we ev - er - more be led to thee.
2 so may we with will - ing feet ev - er seek the mer - cy - seat.
3 all our cost - liest trea - sures bring, Christ! to thee, our heaven - ly King.
4 where they need no star to guide, where no clouds thy glo - ry hide.
5 there for ev - er may we sing al - le - lu - ias to our King.

THE GOSPEL | Luke 2:41-52

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

People: Glory to you, Lord Christ.

The parents of Jesus went to Jerusalem every year for the festival of the Passover. And when he was twelve years old, they went up as usual for the festival. When the festival was ended and thy started to return, the boy Jesus stayed behind in Jerusalem, but his parents did not know it. Assuming that he was in the group of travelers, they went a day's journey. Then they started to look for him among their relatives and friends. When they did not find him, they returned to Jerusalem to search for him. After three days they found him in the temple, sitting among the teachers, listening to them and asking them questions. And all who heard him were amazed at his understanding and his answers. When his parents saw him they were astonished; and his mother said to him, "Child, why have you treated us like this? Look, your father and I have been searching for you in great anxiety." He said to them, "Why were you searching for me? Did you not know that I must be in my Father's house?" But they did not understand what he said to them. Then he went down with them and came to Nazareth, and was obedient to them. His mother treasured all these things in her heart.

And Jesus increased in wisdom and in years, and in divine and human favor.

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

HYMN | Lead Me, Lord

Samuel Sebastian Wesley

Lead me, Lord, lead me in Thy right-eousness,

Make Thy way plain be - fore Thy face.

Optional Ending

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

mak - est me dwell in safe - ty.

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

THE SERMON | The Rev. Emmanuel Ato Mercer, *Rector*

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 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 |

Lord God of hosts, hear the prayers of your people here today at Christ Church as we enter a New Year.
Lord God of hosts, hear our prayer.

Lord, many of us enter this year with worries – about our health, about our families, about our jobs, about our nation, about our world. As we enter this New Year, we ask your help to overcome these issues in our lives and that You inspire us to do our part to make our world new. **Lord God of hosts, hear our prayer.**

Lord, against all odds, Mary gave birth to Your Son. Against all odds, Mary, Joseph, and the baby Jesus fled violent and vengeful rulers, becoming refugees, again and again. Christ Church opened our arms to support refugee families who have fled Afghanistan, help us, against all odds, to ensure that these families will have a chance at a new life, and home, in the United States, now and in the years to come.
Lord God of hosts, hear our prayer.

Lord, against all odds, You care for the lonely, the poor, the sick, the dying, the discouraged, the down and out. In our parish, we pray especially for Clarence, Steve, Diane, Natasha, Mildred, Nancy, Patrick, Winifred, Priscilla, Kayode, Rachan & Sherry, and those we each also hold in our hearts. Against all odds, you opened to us the way to eternal life. Be with those who have died and with those who love them. We pray especially for those we hold in our hearts. Against all odds, help us in this New Year to care for those at the margins of our society and those who need help. **Lord God of hosts, hear our prayer.**

Lord, against all odds, the people in your churches throughout the world continue to work to make our world a better place. Help us to do more, to be better, to overcome any obstacles to bring about Your Kingdom here on earth, for all people. Today we especially pray for the parishioners, priests and leaders The Church of the Province of Central Africa. We welcome visitors and newcomers to our congregation, as your presence makes us better. We humbly pray for ourselves, our priests, and our leaders that in 2026, against all odds, we may rise up to do Your will. **Lord God of hosts, hear our prayer.**

Lord, we are grateful for the many happy and wonderful times in our lives. This week we celebrate the birthdays of Liam, Francis, Ryan, J.B., Angela & Don, wedding anniversaries of Emily & Ron Aubin and Preethi & Sam Jackson, and baptismal anniversaries of Gavin, Elizabeth & Michon. We pray that their new year may be joyous. **Lord God of hosts, hear our prayer.**

Help us, we pray, to always find You when we need You, when we feel separated from You, when we need Your peace which passes all understanding, when we feel we cannot do what needs to be done. You give us hope and strength, and with that, even against all odds, we can do anything. **Alleluia.**

CONFESSION & ABSOLUTION |

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.

THE PEACE |

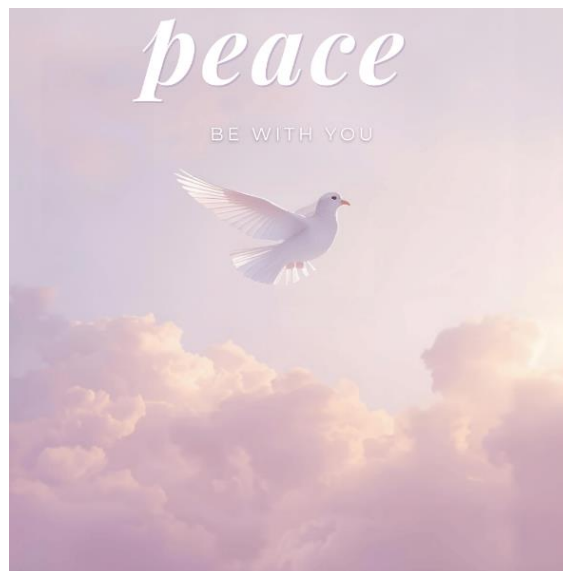
Celebrant:

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 |

Please scan to give.



1 Love came down at Christ-mas, love all love - ly, love di - vine;
 2 Wor-ship we the God - head, love in - car - nate, love di - vine;
 3 Love shall be our to - ken; love be yours and love be mine,

love was born at Christ - mas: star and an - gels gave the sign.
 wor - ship we our Je - sus, but where-with for sa - cred sign?
 love to God and neigh - bor, love for plea and gift and sign.

DOXOLOGY |

Divinum mysterium

Christ, to thee with God the Fa - ther, and, O Ho - ly Ghost, to thee,
 hymn and chant and high thanks giv - ing, and un - wea - ried
 prais - es be; hon - or, glo - ry and do - min - - - ion,
 and e - ter - nal vic - to - ry, ev - er-more and ev - er- more!—



THE HOLY COMMUNION



EUCCHARISTIC 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 Lord, God of pow - er and might,
heaven and earth are full of your glo - ry. Ho -
san - na in the high - est. Ho - san - na in the high - est.
Blessed is he who comes in the name 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. **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





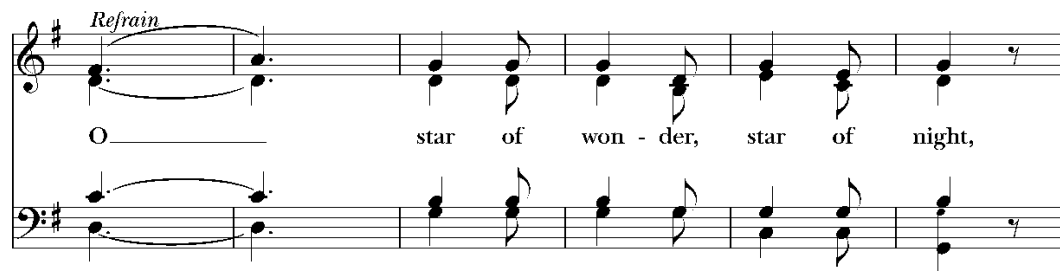
1 We three kings of O - ri - ent are, bear - ing
 2 Born a King on Beth - le - hem's plain, gold I
 3 Frank - in - cense to of - fer have I: in - cense
 4 Myrrh is mine; its bit - ter per - fume breathes a
 5 Glo - rious now be - hold him a - rise, King and



1 gifts we tra - verse a - far, field and foun - tain,
 2 bring to crown him a - gain, King for ev - er,
 3 owns a De - i - ty nigh; prayer and prais - ing,
 4 life of gath - er - ing gloom; sor - rowing, sigh - ing,
 5 God and Sac - ri - fice; heaven sings al - le -

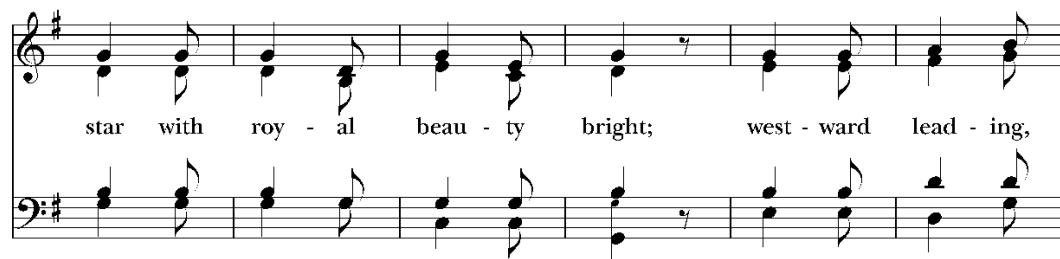


1 moor and moun - tain, fol - low - ing yon - der star.
 2 ceas - ing nev - er o - ver us all to reign.
 3 glad - ly rais - ing, wor - ship him, God Most High.
 4 bleed - ing, dy - ing, sealed in the stone - cold tomb.
 5 lu - ia: al - le - lu - ia the earth re - plies.



Refrain

O star of won - der, star of night,



star with roy - al beau - ty bright; west - ward lead - ing,

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 |

The Celebrant offers a blessing, and the People respond Amen

Refrain

Go tell it on the moun - tain, o - ver the hills and

ev - ery - where; go tell it on the moun - tain, that

Je - sus Christ is born!

1 While shep - herds kept their
2 The shep - herds feared and
3 Down in a low - ly

watch - ing o'er si - lent flocks by night, be -
trem - bled when lo! a - bove the earth rang
man - ger the hum - ble Christ was born, and

still pro - ceed - ing, guide us to thy per - fect light!

THE DISMISSAL |

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

POSTLUDE |

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

Assisting in Worship Today

8:00 a.m. Service

Chalicerist: Sonni Aribiah
Lector/Reader: Sonni Aribiah
Ushers: Kayode Fatodu

10:30 a.m. Service

Acolytes : Aston Fox, Ava Fox, Lucinda Banks, Wynstan Eguakun

Chalicerist: Kathy Lyon
Lector/Reader: Kathy Lyon
Ushers: Isaac Olajide, Yetti Lipede, Jane Adams,
Betty Dagne, Alex Amponsah

Altar Guild: Pamela Foreman, Jai Jones, Kathy Simms, Leigh Smith

Tellers: Brian Farnandis, Cherry Williams

PARISH CALENDAR JANUARY 4 – 10, 2026

Sunday, January 4

8:00 am	Holy Eucharist – Old Brick
8:45 am– 9:30 am	Coffee Hour
9:00 am– 9:30 am	Family Worship – New Brick, UL
10:30 am	Holy Eucharist w/music – New Brick, UL
12:30 – 5:30 pm	Tabernacle of David Church – Old Brick & Parish Hall, LL
1:00 – 5:00 pm	Education for Ministry (EfM) – Zoom & Parish Hall, CR
4:30 – 7:30 pm	Total Restoration Church – Old Brick & Parish Hall, LL

Monday, January 5

All Day	Fr. Manny out (Day 2)
7:00 am	Morning Prayer Livestream
6:00 – 8:30 pm	Food Addicts Anonymous – New Brick, LL
7:00 – 8:00 pm	Centering Prayer – Old Brick & Zoom
7:30 – 10:00 pm	WOCC Meeting – Zoom

Tuesday, January 6

All Day	Fr. Manny out (Day 3)
7:00 am	Morning Prayer Livestream
11:00 am– 12:00 pm	Weekly Staff Meeting
7:00 – 9:00 pm	MS Support Group – New Brick, LL
7:30 – 8:30 pm	300 yr Race & Slavery Comm Meeting – Zoom

Wednesday, January 7

All Day	Fr. Manny out (Day 4)
7:00 am	Morning Prayer Livestream
6:00 – 8:00 pm	First Wednesday Fellowship (FWF) – New Brick, LL

Thursday, January 8

All Day	Fr. Manny out (Day 5)
7:00 am	Morning Prayer Livestream
6:30 – 9:030 pm	Choir Rehearsal
6:30 – 9:00 pm	Education for Ministry (EfM): Fast Track – Zoom
7:30 – 9:00 pm	Boy Scouts – New Brick, LL

Friday, January 9

All Day	Fr. Manny out (Day 6)
7:00 am	Morning Prayer Livestream
7:00 pm	Evening Prayer Livestream

Saturday, January 10

All Day	Fr. Manny out (Day 7)
8:00 am – 12:00 pm	Center for Spiritual Nourishment (CSN) – New Brick
2:00 pm	AA Meeting – Parish Hall, LL
3:30 – 4:30 pm	Altar Guild prep



WE INVITE YOU TO
PRAYERFULLY CONSIDER SUPPORTING
CHRIST CHURCH WITH A GIFT.



THANK YOU.

Merry Christmas, my beloved.

As we approach the end of the calendar year, we pause to give thanks for the grace God has given to Christ Church. We have seen people changed, faith deepened, and our community served with abundant love, compassion, and acceptance. Although 2025 has been quite a challenging year, we ask you to prayerfully reflect on how the incredible ministries here at Christ Episcopal Church have affected lives and to consider a gift to Christ Church as part of your end-of-year giving.

Helping us close out our fiscal year with a year-end contribution is more than a donation; it is an act of stewardship that provides strength and stability and sustains our worship, ministries, facilities, operations, and our ability to care for those in need.

We deeply and humbly thank you for your faithful stewardship and for believing in our vision.

With our most heartfelt wishes for a very Happy New Year,

Fr. Manny+

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 & LINKS

WOCC's January Meeting – January 5

The Women of Christ Church will have their first meeting of 2026 on Monday, January 5th on Zoom. Join them at 7:30 as they discuss plans for their 2026 events and create a calendar for the year. **The Zoom link is here**, Meeting ID is **898 1689 9010** and the Passcode is **WOCC**

First Wednesday Fellowship – January 7

The very first FWF of 2026 contains food to warm the insides and a game to warm the heart! Please bring soup, salad, or a dessert to share, and bring a game that's fun for groups to play! It might be cold outside, but we'll have a heartwarming time in the Great Hall.

Center for Spiritual Nourishment Returns in January - January 10

As we begin the new year, consider taking a break from the chaos and treating yourself to a peaceful morning in a soul-nurturing community. The 2nd Saturday Center for Spiritual Nourishment (CSN) provides opportunities for us to be in closer relationship with God by offering an array of experiences that engage the mind, body, and spirit.

Programs for January center around the theme “Sacred Vision” and include Conversations on Spiritual Practices, Spiritual Direction, Meditation, and Sacred Art. You can learn more about the 2nd Saturday CSN at our website www.christchurchcolumbia.org/spiritual-nourishment.

Pledge to Christ Church for 2026

We are incredibly blessed to have a community of dedicated parishioners who support our ministry of faithful service, and we hope that each of you will prayerfully consider your contribution to Christ Church for the next year, as well. Pledge cards and envelopes are available in the Narthex to fill out, or you can safely complete one on our website at christchurchcolumbia.org/2026-pledge. You can also call the church office, and they will send one to you in the mail.

From the bottom of our hearts, we thank you for supporting our worship, outreach, youth, music, and every other vital part of our common life.

The 2025 Lenten Meditation Book: *Building Relationships through Love*

For nearly 25 years, Christ Church has published a Lenten Meditation Book and distributed it to our parishioners on the Sunday before Ash Wednesday. The LMB 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 throughout the season.

To accomplish this, we must have all submissions in by Sunday, February 1, 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 only one 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 christchurchcolumbia.org/lenten-meditations and check out past reflections. Submit yours by email to SL@christchurchcolumbia.org or place it in the Spiritual Life mailbox in the Church office. Questions? Speak with Ellen Hoke at church, or email them to Ellen and Chris at the above address.

Claggett Center Retreats - Early Next Year

Next February, the Diocese of Maryland will host two retreats at the Claggett Center to gather and connect, and to form new friendships and nurture old ones. First, from January 30 - February 1 is a men's retreat, ***What Does It Mean to Be a Man in 2026? How Can Men Find and Make Community Now?*** and later that month, from February 20-22, is a women's retreat, ***Who Is My Neighbor? Loving All in Divided Times***.

Both are filled with workshops and keynote speakers, and aim to leave participants connected, cared for, and inspired. Registration information, event details, and other information can be found on the Diocese website - visit [here for the men's retreat](#) and [here for the women's weekend](#).

Centering Prayer - Monday Evenings

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. [The Zoom link is here](#), the Meeting ID is **817 6254 3177**, and the Passcode is **CP**. You can also ask for more information by speaking with Kathy Lyon at church or by emailing centering@christchurchcolumbia.org.

Join the Christ Church Choir - Thursdays

If you ever thought about giving Choir a shot, how about now? We have rehearsals in New Brick on Thursday evenings—Handbell Choir at 6:45 and Adult Choir at 7:30—and all adults are welcome to join us.

Whether you read music or not, have previous experience or not, and whether you are ready to commit full-time or not, there's a place for you in our handbell &/or vocal choirs. If interested, please speak with Larissa at church, email her at music@christchurchcolumbia.org, or stop by New Brick on any Thursday evening.

Find a Ministry that's Right for You!

We can always use some more people to keep Christ Church the vibrant, active, dedicated parish that it is. You can be a Teller, Acolyte, Lay Eucharistic Visitor, or choose to assist the Christ Church Altar Guild, Inreach, or Buildings and Grounds ministries - and many others.

None of these requires weekly assistance - they only require a short amount of time every few weeks or so, but the impact you have on the entire parish is significant. For those interested in the Altar Guild, please email altarguild@christchurchcolumbia.org, or inreach@christchurchcolumbia.org for Inreach (or [visit their website page](#)), and if you're interested in assisting as a Teller, LEV, or Acolyte, please call the Church Office at office@christchurchcolumbia.org.

Read to Our Sunday School Children

Do you love sharing stories and reading? Did you know that we have volunteers who read a Bible story to our youngest children in the nursery? We can always use more, and we welcome anyone - young, or young at heart - to participate in this ministry. We have books and children's Bibles, or you can bring your favorite story to share.

There is no preparation needed; you can do it as often or as little as you wish, and it only takes ten minutes on a Sunday morning. If you are interested, don't hesitate to get in touch with Jenn Atkins at dandjatkins@verizon.net or speak with any Sunday School volunteer.

FIRST WEDNESDAY FELLOWSHIP

JOIN US on JANUARY 7 at 6 p.m. in the GREAT HALL

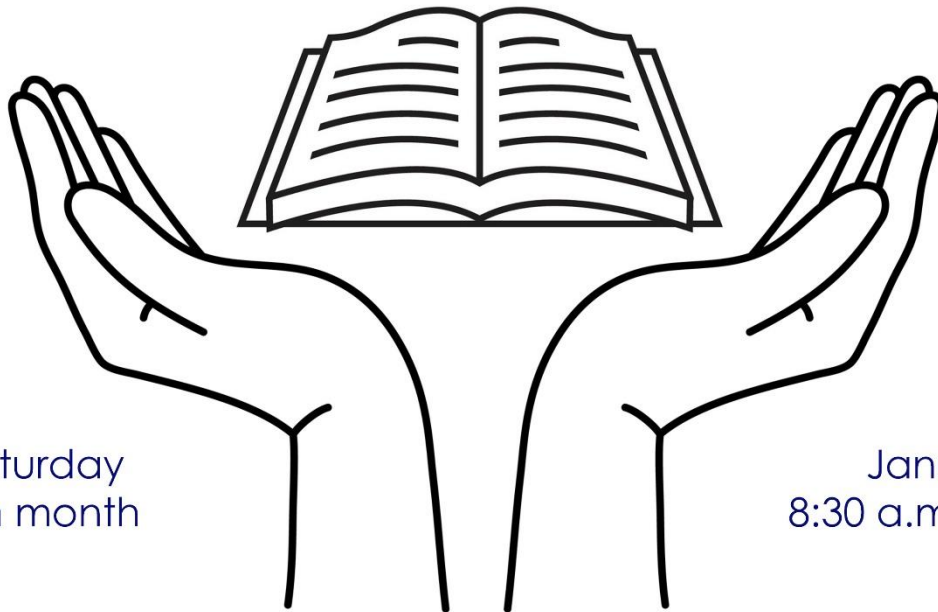
IT'S WINTER WARMTH NIGHT!
BRING YOUR FAVORITE HOT AND TASTY SOUP,
SALAD, OR DESSERT TO SHARE

...AND BRING A FUN
(and funny or competitive)
GAME TO PLAY WITH OTHERS!



CELEBRATE THE NEW YEAR TOGETHER

New Year. New Nourishment.



2nd Saturday
of each month



January 10
8:30 a.m. - 12 noon

CENTER for SPIRITUAL NOURISHMENT



Christ Episcopal Church

6800 Oakland Mills Road

Columbia, MD 21045

(410) 381-9365

www.christchurchcolumbia.org

office@christchurchcolumbia.org

The Rev. Emmanuel Ato Mercer, *Rector*
The Rev. Marcia Davenport, *Associate Rector for Children and Family Ministries*

The Rev. Richard Ginnever, *Rector Emeritus*

The Rev. Yehinuel Odidi, *Seminarian Associate*

Larissa Sanders, *Director of Music Ministry*

Ola Oladipupo, *Assistant Organist*

Yetti Lipede, *Parish Administrator & Ministry Coordinator*

Diya Jackson, *Office & Youth Ministry Coordinator*

Christopher Pouch, *Communications Administrator*

Amanda Kirkpatrick, *Nursery Care Coordinator*

John Prempeh Sencherey, *Sexton*

Vestry

- Denisa Abdallah (*Senior Warden*) • Greg Schuckman (*Junior Warden*) • Andrew Eaton (*Treasurer*) • Ron Couch (*Registrar*)
- Shreya Chrzanowski (*Youth Liaison*) • Diane Phillips-LaGuerre • Ronald Baran • George Toth • Sara Kirkpatrick
- Ed Chrzanowski • Kathy Simms • Jay Abbott • David James • Katie Adams • Jim Berkson