



CHRIST EPISCOPAL CHURCH

EXTENDING THE LOVE AND EMBRACE OF CHRIST

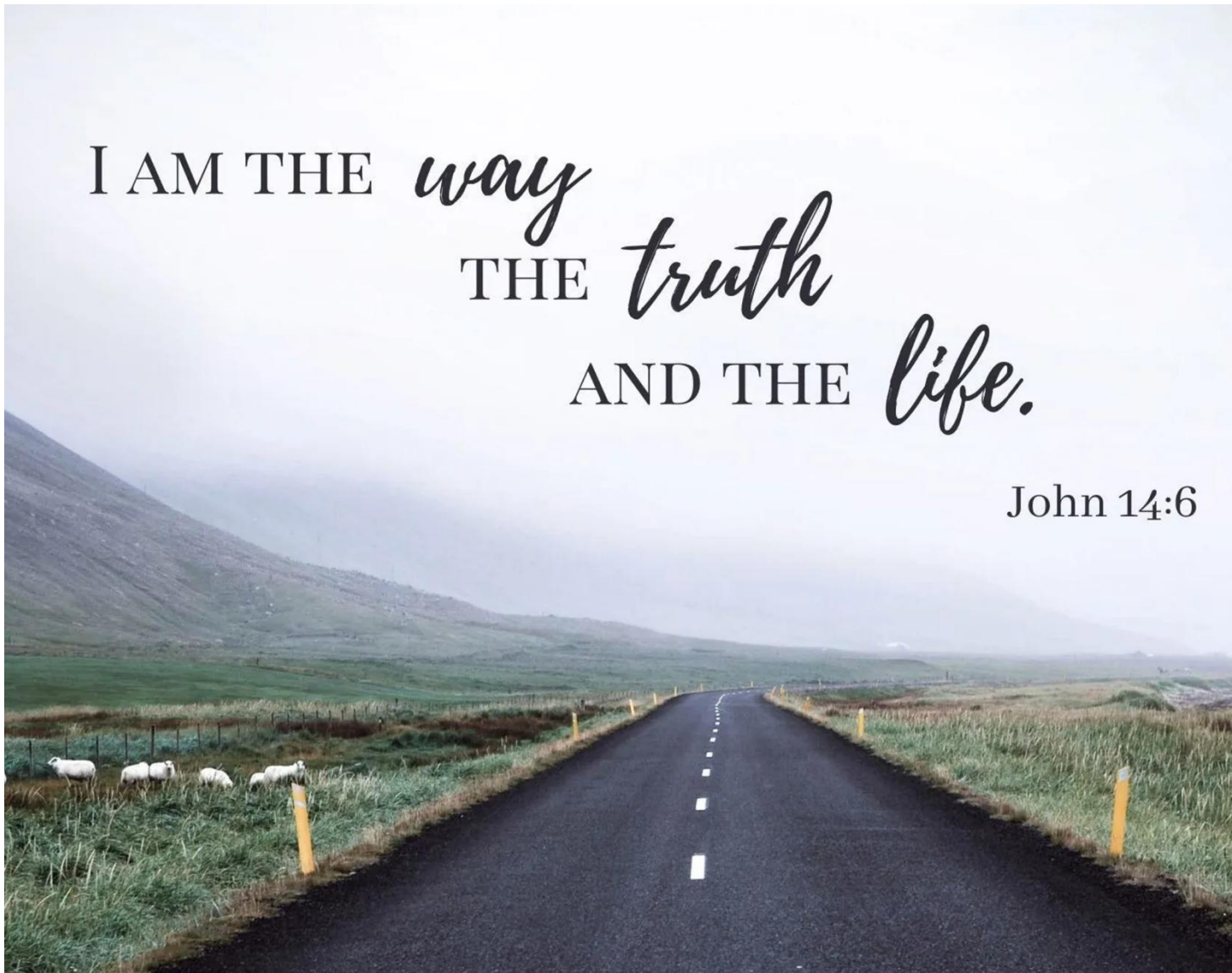
THE HOLY EUCHARIST, RITE II

8:00 & 10:30 A.M.

Sunday, May 3, 2026 | Fifth Sunday of Easter

I AM THE *way*
THE *truth*
AND THE *life.*

John 14:6



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.

Descant

4 Here vouch - safe to all thy serv - ants what they ask of

1 Christ is made the sure foun - da - tion, Christ the head and
 2 All that ded - i - cat - ed ci - ty, dear - ly loved of
 3 To this tem - ple, where we call thee, come, O Lord of
 4 Here vouch - safe to all thy serv - ants what they ask of

thee to gain; what they gain from thee, for ev - er

cor - ner - stone, cho - sen of the Lord, and pre - cious,
 God on high, in ex - ult - ant ju - bi - la - tion
 Hosts, to - day; with thy wont - ed lov - ing - kind - ness
 thee to gain; what they gain from thee, for ev - er

with the bless - ed to re - tain, and here - af - ter

bind - ing all the Church in one; ho - ly Zi - on's
 pours per - pet - ual mel - o - dy; God the One in
 hear thy serv - ants as they pray, and thy full - est
 with the bless - ed to re - tain, and here - af - ter

in thy glo - ry ev - er - more with thee to reign.

help for ev - er, and her con - fi - dence a - lone.
 Three a - dor - ing in glad hymns e - ter - nal - ly.
 ben - e - dic - tion shed with - in its walls al - way.
 in thy glo - ry ev - er - more with thee to reign.

OPENING ACCLAMATION |

Celebrant: Alleluia. Christ is risen.
People: **The Lord is risen indeed. Alleluia.**

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**

GLORIA | Melodic Gloria

James J. Chepponis

REFRAIN:

Glo - ry to God in the high - est, and
peace to his peo-ple on earth.

Choir: Lord God, heavenly King, almighty God and Father. *Refrain*

We worship you, we give you thanks, we praise you for your glory.

Refrain

Lord Jesus Christ, only Son of the Father, Lord God, Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world: have mercy on us; You are seated at the right hand of the Father: Receive our prayer.

Refrain

For you alone are the Holy One, you alone are the Lord, you alone are the Most High, Jesus Christ, with the Holy Spirit, in the Glory of God the Father. Amen.

Refrain

THE COLLECT OF THE DAY |

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

Almighty God, whom truly to know is everlasting life: Grant us so perfectly to know your Son Jesus Christ to be the way, the truth, and the life, that we may steadfastly follow his steps in the way that leads to eternal life; through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord, 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 | Acts 7:55-60

Reader: *A reading from Acts.*

Filled with the Holy Spirit, Stephen gazed into heaven and saw the glory of God and Jesus standing at the right hand of God. "Look," he said, "I see the heavens opened and the Son of Man standing at the right hand of God!" But they covered their ears, and with a loud shout all rushed together against him. Then they dragged him out of the city and began to stone him; and the witnesses laid their coats at the feet of a young man named Saul. While they were stoning Stephen, he prayed, "Lord Jesus, receive my spirit." Then he knelt down and cried out in a loud voice, "Lord, do not hold this sin against them." When he had said this, he died.

Reader: The word of the Lord.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

THE PSALM

Psalm 31:1-5, 15-16 | *In te, Domine, speravi*



In you, O Lord, have I taken refuge; let me never be put to | shame; * |
deliver me in your | righteousness. ||

Incline your ear to | me; * |
make haste to de- | liver me. ||

Be my strong rock, a castle to keep me safe,
for you are my crag and my | stronghold; * |
for the sake of your Name, lead me and | guide me. ||

Take me out of the net that they have secretly | set for me, * |
for you are my tower of | strength. ||

Into your hands I commend my | spirit, * |
for you have redeemed me,
O Lord, O God of | truth. ||

My times are in your | hand; * |
rescue me from the hand of my enemies,
and from those who perse- | cute me. ||

Make your face to shine upon your | servant, * |
and in your loving-kindness | save me." ||

THE EPISTLE | 1 Peter 2:2-10

Reader: *A reading from 2nd Peter.*

Like newborn infants, long for the pure, spiritual milk, so that by it you may grow into salvation— if indeed you have tasted that the Lord is good.

Come to him, a living stone, though rejected by mortals yet chosen and precious in God’s sight, and like living stones, let yourselves be built into a spiritual house, to be a holy priesthood, to offer spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ. For it stands in scripture:

“See, I am laying in Zion a stone,
a cornerstone chosen and precious;

and whoever believes in him will not be put to shame.”

To you then who believe, he is precious; but for those who do not believe,

“The stone that the builders rejected
has become the very head of the corner”,

and

“A stone that makes them stumble,
and a rock that makes them fall.”

They stumble because they disobey the word, as they were destined to do.

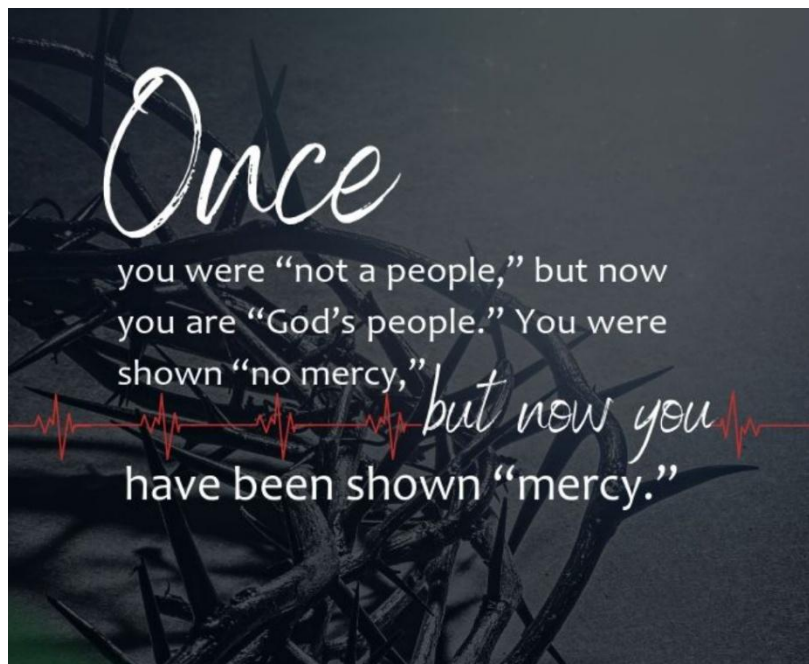
But you are a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, God’s own people, in order that you may proclaim the mighty acts of him who called you out of darkness into his marvelous light.

once you had not received mercy,
but now you have received mercy.

Reader: The word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

The people stand as able.



1 How sweet the Name of Je - sus sounds in a be - liev - er's ear!
 2 It makes the wound - ed spi - rit whole, and calms the trou - bled breast;
 3 Dear Name, the rock on which I build, my shield and hid - ing - place,
 4 O Je - sus! Shep - herd, Guard - ian, Friend, O Pro - phet, Priest, and King,
 *5 Weak is the ef - fort of my heart, and cold my warm - est thought;

1 It soothes our sor - rows, heals our wounds, and drives a - way our fear.
 2 'tis man - na to the hun - gry soul, and to the wea - ry, rest.
 3 my nev - er - fail - ing trea - sury, filled with bound - less stores of grace!
 4 my Lord, my Life, my Way, my End, ac - cept the praise I bring.
 5 but when I see thee as thou art, I'll praise thee as I ought.

THE GOSPEL | John 14:1-14

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

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

Jesus said, “Do not let your hearts be troubled. Believe in God, believe also in me. In my Father’s house there are many dwelling places. If it were not so, would I have told you that I go to prepare a place for you? And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and will take you to myself, so that where I am, there you may be also. And you know the way to the place where I am going.” Thomas said to him, “Lord, we do not know where you are going. How can we know the way?” Jesus said to him, “I am the way, and the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me. If you know me, you will know my Father also. From now on you do know him and have seen him.”

Philip said to him, “Lord, show us the Father, and we will be satisfied.” Jesus said to him, “Have I been with you all this time, Philip, and you still do not know me? Whoever has seen me has seen the Father. How can you say, ‘Show us the Father?’ Do you not believe that I am in the Father and the Father is in me? The words that I say to you I do not speak on my own; but the Father who dwells in me does his works. Believe me that I am in the Father and the Father is in me; but if you do not, then believe me because of the works themselves. Very truly, I tell you, the one who believes in me will also do the works that I do and, in fact, will do greater works than these, because I am going to the Father. I will do whatever you ask in my name, so that the Father may be glorified in the Son. If in my name you ask me for anything, I will do it.”

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.

9 Optional Ending
For it is Thou, Lord, Thou, Lord on - ly, that

13 mak - est me dwell in safe - ty.

THE SERMON | The Most Rev. Cyril Ben-Smith, *ArchBishop of the Church of the Province of West Africa*

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, we come to you today, each at a unique place in our spiritual journey; some with joy and gratitude, some with deep emotional sorrow and heavy burdens, some needing physical healing, some asking for your guidance, and some asking for your forgiveness. The petitions are as varied as the persons calling out to you. We humbly ask that we may grow in love, as revealed in the life, death and resurrection of your Son, Jesus Christ. All was given for each of us. **Lord hear our prayer!**

We give a warm welcome to those who are new to Christ Church and those who are visiting this morning. We thank you for sharing in our worship and look forward to meeting you. We hope you will come back and join our community. Help us to reach out to others. **Lord hear our prayer!**

Our faith teaches us that love is the foundation on which we shape our lives. We pray for believers everywhere that they may be a beacon of hope in a broken world. In the Anglican Communion, we pray for The Church of North India. In the Diocese of Maryland, we ask the Lord's blessing for St. James', Parkton, St. John's, Havre de Grace, and St. Mark's on-the-Hill, Pikesville. We pray our Presiding Bishop, Sean; our Diocesan Bishop Carrie; our rector, Emmanuel; Clergy; Richard & Marcia, and Seminarian, Yehinuel. We also pray for our government leaders: our President, our Congress, and our court system. May they be granted the wisdom and courage to guide our country through very difficult times. **Lord hear our prayer!**

We remember all who have passed from this life and into new and glorious, eternal life in your heavenly kingdom, especially Barbara Frith & Thomas Day and those we now name. We pray for those who grieve, that you, Lord, are their comfort and that you are at their side. **Lord hear our prayer!**

Send your loving spirit to uplift those most in need of your comfort. To those suffering illness we remember Steve, Tammy, Jim, Kaci, Kristin, Carol, MaryAnn, Alta, Mark, Clarence, Diane, Mildred, Kayode, Rachan & Sherry and those we now name. We profess our faith to you. **Lord hear our prayer!**

With joy we remember those who touch our lives and reveal the image of Christ, we give thanks and remember their birthdays and anniversaries, naming Mary, Kofi, Cathy, Denny, Lucas, Lorraine & Nathan, Mary & Roger Vail, Johanna & Jonathan Smith and Sara & Bill Kirkpatrick, and Tanner, Steve & Emily. Let us fervently pray, as we go through this week to remember we are united by Christ Jesus. We are not alone. **Lord hear our prayer!**

May the Holy Spirit always be around you and within you, bringing you peace and joy all your days! 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 |

OFFERTORY ANTHEM | Come, My Way

Mark Schweizer

Please scan to give.



PRESENTATION HYMN 400 vs 7 |

Lasst uns Erfreuen

**Let all things their Creator bless, and worship Him in humbleness, O praise Him, Alleluia!
Praise God the Father, praise the Son, and praise the Spirit, Three in One:
Praise Him, O praise Him, Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia.**



THE HOLY COMMUNION



EUCCHARISTIC PRAYER B |

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. But chiefly are we bound to praise you for the glorious resurrection of your Son Jesus Christ our Lord; for he is the true Paschal Lamb, who was sacrificed for us, and has taken away the sin of the world. By his death he has destroyed death, and by his rising to life again he has won for us everlasting life.

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

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

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

"Therefore, according to his command, O Father,

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

The Celebrant continues

And we offer our sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving to you, O Lord of all; presenting to you, from

your creation, this bread and this wine.

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

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

THE LORD'S PRAYER |

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

Our Fa - ther in heaven, hal - lowed be your Name, your king - dom come,

your will be done, on earth as in heaven. Give us to - day our dai - ly bread.

For - give us our sins as we for - give those who sin a - gainst us.

Save us from the time of trial, and de - liv - er us from e - vil.

For the king - dom, the power, and the glo - ry are yours, now and for - ev - er. A - men.

THE BREAKING OF THE BREAD |

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

FRACTION ANTHEM S171 | Mode 6 melody;

adapt. Mason Martens (1933-1991)

This setting is not used in Lent.

Antiphon: Cantor; then All



Be known to us, Lord Je - sus, in the break - ing of the bread.

Cantor



1. The bread which we break, al - le - lu - ia,



is the com - mun - ion of the bo - dy of Christ. [Ant.]

Cantor



2. One bo - dy are we, al - le - lu - ia,



for though man - y we share one bread. [Ant.]

COMMUNION HYMN LEVAS 60 | How Great Thou Art

Stuart K. Hine



1. O Lord my God, when I in awe - some won - der Con - sid - er
 2. When through the woods and for - est glades I wan - der And hear the
 3. And when I think that God, his Son not spar - ing, Sent him to
 4. When Christ shall come with shout of ac - cla - ma - tion And take me



1. all the worlds* thy hands have made, — I see the stars I hear the roll - ing*
 2. birds sing sweet - ly in the trees, — When I look down from loft - y moun - tain
 3. die, I scarce can take it in, — That on the cross, my bur - den glad - ly
 4. home, what joy shall fill my heart! — Then I shall bow in hum - ble ad - o -



1. thun - der, Thy pow'r through - out the u - ni - verse dis - played.____
 2. gran - deur, And hear the brook and feel the gen - tle breeze.____
 3. bear - ing, He bled and died to take a - way my sin.____
 4. ra - tion, And there pro - claim, my God how great thou art.____

Then sings my soul, my Sav - ior, God, to Thee:____ How great Thou

art,____ how great Thou art!____ Then sings my soul, my Sav - ior, God, to

Thee:____ How great Thou art,____ how great Thou art!____

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.

EUCCHARISTIC VISITORS' PRAYER | 8 & 10:30 a.m. service

Celebrant: In the name of this congregation, we send you forth bearing these gifts that those to whom you go may share with us in the communion of Christ's Body and Blood.

People: We who are many are one body because we all share one bread, one cup.

THE BLESSING |

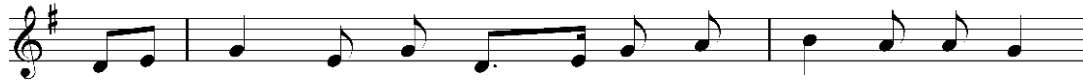
The Celebrant offers a blessing, and the People respond Amen

CLOSING 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



THE DISMISSAL |

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

POSTLUDE |

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Assisting in Worship Today

Altar Guild

Ivy Amponsah, Jai Jones, Kathy Simms, Sonni Aribiah

8:00 a.m. Service

Chalicerist: Sonni Aribiah

Lector/Reader: Sonni Aribiah

Usher: Kayode Fatodu

10:30 a.m. Service

Acolytes: Chloe Spencer, Hope Spencer, Lucinda Hart

Chalicerist: Kathy Lyon

Lector/Reader: Kathy Lyon

Ushers: Isaac Olajide, Yetti Lipede, Jane Adams, Betty Dagne, Alex Amponsah

Tellers

Brian Farnandis, Cherry Williams

PARISH CALENDAR

MAY 3 – 9, 2026

Sunday, May 3

8:00 – 9:00 am	Holy Eucharist – Old Brick
8:45 – 9:30 am	Coffee Hour – Old Brick
9:00 – 9:30 am	Family Worship – New Brick, UL
9:30 – 10:30 am	Sunday School, Sunday Circle
10:30 am	Holy Eucharist w/music – New Brick, UL
11:00 – 11:30 am	Coffee Hour - Zoom
12:30 – 5:30 pm	Tabernacle of David – Old Brick & Parish Hall, LL
1:00 – 5:00 pm	Education for Ministry (EfM) – Parish Hall, CR & Zoom
4:30 – 7:30 pm	Total Restoration Church – Old Brick & Parish Hall, LL
6:00 – 7:30 pm	Taizé service – New Brick, UL

Monday, May 4

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 Monthly Meeting – Zoom

Tuesday, May 5

7:00 am	Morning Prayer Livestream
11:00 am– 12:00 pm	Weekly Staff Meeting
12:00 – 1:00 pm	Coffee Hour - Zoom
7:00 – 9:00 pm	MS Support Group – New Brick, LL
7:30 – 8:30 pm	300 yr Race & Slavery Comm. Meeting – Zoom
7:30 – 9:00 pm	CEC Book Club – Zoom

Wednesday, May 6

7:00 am Morning Prayer Livestream
6:00 – 8:00 pm First Wednesday Fellowship (FWF) – New Brick, LL
6:00 – 9:00 pm Howard County Employee Chorus Dress Rehearsal – New Brick, UL

Thursday, May 7

7:00 am Morning Prayer Livestream
12:00 – 1:00 pm Healing Eucharist – Old Brick
12:00 – 1:00 pm Coffee Hour – Zoom
6:30 – 9:00 pm Choir Practice – New Brick, UL
6:30 – 9:00 pm Education for Ministry (EfM): Fast Track – Zoom
7:30 – 9:00 pm Boy Scouts – New Brick, LL

Friday, May 8

7:00 am Morning Prayer Livestream
10:00 am – 12:00 pm Lumen Christi Practice – New Brick, UL
5:00 – 9:00 pm Howard County Employee Chorus Concert – New Brick, UL
7:00 pm Evening Prayer Livestream
7:00 – 9:00 pm Friday Faith Film: RISEN – Parish Hall, LL

Saturday, May 9

7:30 am – 12:30 pm Center for Spiritual Nourishment (CSN)
12:00 – 6:00 pm LaGuerre Event – New Brick, LL
5:00 – 9:00 pm AA Meeting – Parish Hall, LL
3:30 – 4:30 pm Altar Guild prep

FAITHFULNESS: Taizé Vespers at Christ Church - Sunday, May 3

Each month, Christ Church offers a service of contemplative prayer and music, in which we focus on a single perspective or discipline. Taizé Vespers is this special service, and this Sunday, May 3, we will focus on FAITHFULNESS.

Taizé Vespers at Christ Church is a unique and meditative form of evening prayer, characterized by simple songs, prayers, silence, and candlelight, fostering a peaceful atmosphere for reflection. This community also promotes peace and justice through prayer and meditation, and offers a chance to meditate and reflect on God's love and presence in one's life, to offer prayer for oneself and others, and to share in a supportive community of fellow pilgrims on the way. Come and join us at 6 p.m. on May 3 for a new way to sense a special connection with the divine.





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

Prepare for Mother's Day by Buying DreamBuilders Goods This Sunday, May 3, as Christ Church Takes Steps to Support a June Trip to Kentucky

Look for fair-trade coffee, tea, cocoa, and chocolates being sold to benefit **DreamBuilders** just in time for Mother's Day, a week later. The goods will be available after all three worship services on Sunday, May 3.

It's all for a good cause as a team of youth and adults get ready to rebuild after devastating floods in Hazard, Ky. One youth from Christ Church will be traveling June 21-17 on what will be the group's fourth trip in a row to build homes there. At its April meeting, the Outreach Commission approved spending \$750 to subsidize the youth's trip. These are Vestry-approved funds derived from your pledges and contributions. Thank you!

Join the Upcoming WOCC Zoom Meeting - May 4

We are also meeting virtually for our next WOCC meeting; join us on Zoom next Monday, May 4, at 7:30 p.m. **The Zoom link is here**; ID is **843 0204 4790**; Passcode is **cecWOCC**. And don't forget about our "Wear Hats on Mother's Day" tradition, taking place next Sunday, May 10. The announcement is further down in this email. There's a lot more happening with the WOCC in 2026, as well, so **visit our website page for details and calendar**.

Centering Prayer - Mondays

Centering Prayer is a special evening prayer gathering that can help lead to a more intimate union with God. This active presence heals, transforms, and offers freedom and peace. Be with us in Old Brick or online via Zoom at 7:00 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**.

Christ Church Book Club - Tuesdays

This might be a perfect time to join the CEC Book Club, as we will be starting a new book soon. The Christ Church Book Club is an informal online conversation that selects a book and discusses it as a group, offering diverse perspectives and experiences. Email **bookclub@christchurchcolumbia.org** and let us know that you're interested, or just log on later this month - everyone is welcome to take part, and we always welcome a few more participants!

First Wednesday Fellowship Returns - Next Wednesday, May 6

Spring is definitely in the air, and with Lent and Easter now behind us, we will gather for food and flowers at May's First Wednesday Fellowship. Join us in the Great Hall of New Brick on Wednesday, May 6, at 6 p.m. for sandwiches from Jimmy John's. Our activity that evening will be creating Mother's Day flowers, which we will then hand out to moms and mother figures at church services next Sunday, May 10th (Mother's Day - don't forget!). The church will provide the entree, but please either bring a salad, side, or dessert, or consider donating to help support our FWF events. And stay tuned... because soon, we will share the details for what is a VERY popular Christ Church FWF tradition - our annual Crab Feast!

Noonday Healing Eucharist - Thursdays

Throughout the year, Christ Church offers a midday Healing Eucharist on Thursdays in Old Brick. A member of our clergy leads this service of readings, prayers, a litany for healing, and the Holy Eucharist. Parishioners and community members 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 Choir - Thursday Evenings

The Christ Church Choirs rehearse in New Brick on Thursday evenings, and anyone can join us. Handbell Choir meets from 6:45 to 7:30 p.m., and Adult Choir meets from 7:30 to 9:00 on the same night. 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 being a part of.

Faith Film Weekend - May 8 & 9

Over two consecutive days, you can gather with us to watch three films that will spark open, honest, faith-based conversations. First, gather with us next Friday, May 8 at 7:00 p.m. in the lower level of the Parish Hall (church office) for *Risen* - you can view the trailer [here](#). At the Center for Spiritual Nourishment the following morning, May 9, you can join us for *It's All Connected* ([trailer](#)) and *Miracle* ([trailer](#)). Join us at 9:10 and 10:15 a.m., respectively.

The Center for Spiritual Nourishment Celebrates All Mothers Next Saturday, May 9

Journey with us as we discover the ways we view God as a divine mother and explore how we celebrate those who have played a nurturing role in our lives. At May's Center for Spiritual Nourishment, we celebrate the return of the community bike ride and the introduction of our first-ever Sound Bath experience! Our inspirational film options are split into two sessions, so that you can mix and match your choices throughout the morning. The 2nd Saturday Center for Spiritual Nourishment (CSN) provides opportunities for us to be in a closer relationship with God through an array of experiences that engage the mind, body, and spirit. Learn all about May's packed CSN schedule on our website - CECevents.org/CSN - and join us on Saturday morning, May 9.

Wear Your Favorite Hat on Mother's Day! - May 10

To celebrate Mother's Day, we welcome you to join in on a great Christ Church tradition - please wear your favorite hat to church this Sunday, May 10, in honor of the mothers in our lives. We'll take a group photo after each service, and invite those worshipping online to email a photo of you in your favorite springtime hat to Chris at communications@christchurchcolumbia.org so he can include you in this year's post (you can see past examples [here](#), [here](#), and [here](#)).

MOCC Breakfast - May 16

Join us for French toast and fellowship - the MOCC breakfast is a monthly tradition, and in May, it will take place on Saturday, May 14th. Set your GPS to Silver Diner at 8250 Gateway Overlook Drive in Columbia. We'll meet up at 9:30 a.m., and all ages are welcome. You can also set a calendar reminder on your phone for every third Saturday of a month, for that's when we always meet up for this tasty start to the weekend.

A Streamlined Plan For Volunteers at Our Spring Food Drive on Saturday, May 16, 10 AM to 2 PM, at River Hill Giant to Help Two Food Pantries

You can be a part of one of the most rewarding ways to help feed the hungry. Please sign up for a shift during the Spring Food Drive on Saturday, May 16, from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m., at River Hill Giant Food, 6050 Daybreak Circle, Clarksville, Md., 21029.

It's a hands-on, family-friendly activity that occurs twice a year, in spring and fall. Look for a signup sheet in the Narthex or in Old Brick, starting on Sunday. Please volunteer for a one-hour shift. To learn more, email

outreach@christchurchcolumbia.org.

Once again, Christ Church is adapting to corporate rules that limit the number of volunteers on the supermarket premises. In response to a request from the management of Giant Foods, we must streamline how we conduct our traditional drive. The policy will limit us at any one time to four volunteers, of whom two will be interacting with Giant customers. For information, email outreach@christchurchcolumbia.org.

Walk-in volunteers will be encouraged to do their part by taking a shopping list and purchasing some of the pantries' requested items. Groceries collected at the supermarket will go to two food pantries. One is the Howard County Food Bank, which is operated by the **Community Action Council of Howard County** (CAC). The other is **SAFE**, its partner pantry that provides free gluten-free and allergy-safe foods to low-income families and individuals.

At our Fall Food Drive held at a Giant supermarket in Dorsey's Search, we collected 1,776 pounds for the food bank and 307 pounds for SAFE. That combined total of 2,083 pounds amounts to more than a ton of food and staples!

During the drives, the experience provides hands-on service not only to our volunteers but also to shoppers we approach with a list of requested items. Most importantly, access to food and necessities is a lifeline for people struggling to make ends meet in Howard County.

Spring Family BBQ & Picnic - June 14

The Men of Christ Church have rescheduled this weekend's Spring Family BBQ & Picnic for a later (and likely warmer) date - Saturday, June 14. This no-charge event is a new MOCC fellowship gathering that connects generations and celebrates our church family. All ages are welcome - there will be a moon bounce for the children, and fun, food, and drink for everyone.

Their raffle drawing has also been moved to this date, which means you still have time to get in on it! Tickets are \$10 each, and three for \$20. That's right - if you buy two tickets, you get one free, which sounds like a pretty good deal. Proceeds are split 50/50 between the winner and supporting MOCC Outreach programs and events. Speak with Duane, Ed, Sonni, or any MOCC member, or email MOCC@christchurchcolumbia.org. The MOCC are providing all the grillables, but are asking for a little side support to make this event the best possible community gathering of the year. **Please sign up to contribute items for the event.** If snacks or condiments are not your preference, you can also sign up to help with setup or cleanup on the day of the event. Thank you, and we hope to see you there!

Get Ready for Another Summer of VBS!

Christ Church's Vacation Bible School and Choir Camp takes place this summer from Monday, June 22, to Friday, June 26, and gathers daily from 9:00 a.m. to 12 p.m. Then, after the Sunday 10:30 a.m. service on June 28, we'll have a wonderful ice cream celebration for all VBS&CC participants! At VBS&CC, children will enjoy a week of Bible stories, music, science, crafts, games, and making new friends and seeing old ones! Snacks, lunch, and refreshments are served daily, and the program is staffed by our wonderful Christ Church parishioners, many of whom have been a part of VBS and our Choir for years.

The registration form for VBS&CC can be completed here. If you have multiple children to register, please complete a separate form for each child. The tuition is \$30/child or \$75/family, and **you can process your tuition payment here.**

Volunteers are also needed, so join us and have fun! **Please email us** if you'd like to assist with the program or have any questions.

Mark Your Calendars! DreamBuilders Fundraiser at Bushel and a Peck - May 13

DreamBuilders will host their Spring fundraising event at Bushel and a Peck - 12250 Clarksville Pike in Clarkesville. It takes place on Wednesday, May 13th and **you can reserve your seats for happy hour and dinner on their website.** Then, join us from 4:30 - 8:30 p.m. that evening as we help raise funds to build three homes in Hazard, Kentucky. When you make your reservation, please put a note that you are there for the DB event. You can also call B&aP at 410.531.1809 to reserve space.



Christ Episcopal Church

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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*

Shereen Benka-Coker, *Nursery Care Assistant*

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