

CHRIST EPISCOPAL CHURCH

COLUMBIA, MD

THE HOLY EUCHARIST, RITE II

Second Sunday after the Epiphany

January 16, 2022 | 8:00 a.m. and 10:30 a.m.

You may stream this service from Christ Church's website, YouTube, or Facebook pages

THE WORD OF GOD

PRELUDE – Thou Wilt Keep Him in Perfect Peace

Samuel Wesley

Ola Oladipupo, organist

INTROIT – Christ is Our Guiding Light

Eric Law

Christ is our guiding light: come let us walk in the way of peace.

OPENING HYMN 371 – Christ, Whose Glory Fills the Sky

Ratisbon

1 Christ, whose glo - ry fills the skies, Christ, the true, the on - ly Light,
2 Dark and cheer-less is the morn un - ac - com - pan - ied by thee;
3 Vis - it then this soul of mine! Pierce the gloom of sin and grief!

Sun of Right-eous - ness, a - rise! Tri-umph o'er the shades of night:
joy-less is the day's re - turn, till thy mer - cy's beams I see,
Fill me, ra - dian - cy di - vine; scat - ter all my un - be - lief;

Day-spring from on high, be near; Day-star, in my heart ap - pear.
till they in - ward light im - part, glad my eyes, and warm my heart.
more and more thy - self dis - play, shin - ing to the per - fect day.

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.**

GLORIA

8:00 a.m. service

Glory to God in the highest,
and peace to his people on earth.

Lord God, heavenly King,
almighty God and Father,
we worship you, we give you thanks,
we praise you for your glory.

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.

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.

SONG OF PRAISE – Gloria

Jacque Berthier/Taizé

Sung at the 10:30 a.m. service.

Refrain

1
Glo - ri - a, glo - ri - a, 2
in ex - cel - sis De - o!

3
Glo - ri - a, glo - ri - a, 4
al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia!

THE COLLECT OF THE DAY

Celebrant: The Lord be with you.

People: **And also with you.**

Celebrant: Let us pray.

Almighty God, whose Son our Savior Jesus Christ is the light of the world: Grant that your people, illumined by your Word and Sacraments, may shine with the radiance of Christ's glory, that he may be known, worshipped, and obeyed to the ends of the earth; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who with you and the Holy Spirit lives and reigns, one God, now and forever.
Amen.

The people may be seated.

THE FIRST LESSON

Isaiah 62:1-5

For Zion's sake I will not keep silent,
and for Jerusalem's sake I will not rest,
until her vindication shines out like the dawn,
and her salvation like a burning torch.
The nations shall see your vindication,
and all the kings your glory;
and you shall be called by a new name
that the mouth of the LORD will give.
You shall be a crown of beauty in the hand of the LORD,
and a royal diadem in the hand of your God.
You shall no more be termed Forsaken,
and your land shall no more be termed Desolate;
but you shall be called My Delight Is in Her,
and your land Married;
for the LORD delights in you,
and your land shall be married.
For as a young man marries a young woman,
so shall your builder marry you,
and as the bridegroom rejoices over the bride,
so shall your God rejoice over you.

Reader: The word of the Lord.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

The Psalm will be read responsively by half verse.

Your love, O LORD, reaches to the heavens, *
and your faithfulness to the clouds.

Your righteousness is like the strong mountains,
 your justice like the great deep; *
you save both man and beast, O LORD.

How priceless is your love, O God! *
your people take refuge under the shadow of your wings.

They feast upon the abundance of your house; *
you give them drink from the river of your delights.

For with you is the well of life, *
and in your light we see light.

Continue your loving-kindness to those who know you, *
and your favor to those who are true of heart.

THE EPISTLE

1 Corinthians 12:1-11

Now concerning spiritual gifts, brothers and sisters, I do not want you to be uninformed. You know that when you were pagans, you were enticed and led astray to idols that could not speak. Therefore I want you to understand that no one speaking by the Spirit of God ever says "Let Jesus be cursed!" and no one can say "Jesus is Lord" except by the Holy Spirit.

Now there are varieties of gifts, but the same Spirit; and there are varieties of services, but the same Lord; and there are varieties of activities, but it is the same God who activates all of them in everyone. To each is given the manifestation of the Spirit for the common good. To one is given through the Spirit the utterance of wisdom, and to another the utterance of knowledge according to the same Spirit, to another faith by the same Spirit, to another gifts of healing by the one Spirit, to another the working of miracles, to another prophecy, to another the discernment of spirits, to another various kinds of tongues, to another the interpretation of tongues. All these are activated by one and the same Spirit, who allots to each one individually just as the Spirit chooses.

Reader: The word of the Lord.

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

The people stand as able for the singing of the hymn and remain standing for the reading of the Gospel and the prayers.



1 When Christ's ap - pear - ing was made known, King He - rod
 2 The east - ern sa - ges saw from far and fol - lowed
 3 With - in the Jor - dan's sa - cred flood the heaven - ly
 4 Oh, what a mir - a - cle di - vine, when wa - ter
 5 All glo - ry, Je - sus, be to thee for this thy



1 trem - bled for his throne; but he who of - fers
 2 on his guid - ing star; by light their way to
 3 Lamb in meek - ness stood, that he, to whom no
 4 red - dened in - to wine! He spoke the word, and
 5 glad e - piph - a - ny: whom with the Fa - ther



1 heaven - ly birth sought not the king - doms of this earth.
 2 Light they trod, and by their gifts con - fessed their God.
 3 sin was known, might cleanse his peo - ple from their own.
 4 forth it flowed in streams that na - ture ne'er be - stowed.
 5 we a - dore and Ho - ly Ghost for ev - er - more.

THE GOSPEL

John 2:1-11

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

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

On the third day there was a wedding in Cana of Galilee, and the mother of Jesus was there. Jesus and his disciples had also been invited to the wedding. When the wine gave out, the mother of Jesus said to him, "They have no wine." And Jesus said to her, "Woman, what concern is that to you and to me? My hour has not yet come." His mother said to the servants, "Do whatever he tells you." Now standing there were six stone water jars for the Jewish rites of purification, each holding twenty or thirty gallons. Jesus said to them, "Fill the jars with water." And they filled them up to the brim. He said to them, "Now draw some out, and take it to the chief steward." So they took it. When the steward tasted the water that had become wine, and did not know where it came from (though the servants who had drawn the water knew), the steward called the bridegroom and said to him, "Everyone serves the good wine first, and then the inferior wine after the guests have become drunk. But you have kept the good wine until now." Jesus did this, the first of his signs, in Cana of Galilee, and revealed his glory; and his disciples believed in him.

Celebrant: The Gospel of the Lord.

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

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

SERMON

The Rev'd 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 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

In this new year, we seek hope for a better life and new beginnings. Many see storm clouds in the future, welling fear in our hearts. Remind us, Father, that Your will prevails. All goodness comes from You, and all fear is quelled as we trust in Your perfect love. May we act as instruments of your peace. Strengthen our faith, to know that You will make the impossible possible. Give us patience and calm our spirits to weather any despair. **“Lord, hear our prayer.”**

We pray for our spiritual leaders. May they act boldly to grow Your kingdom among all people. We pray for the health and continued leadership of Fr. Manny, our Rector; our Associate Priest and Deacon working diligently to serve us. We pray for the growth of our laity, and may God’s spirit be with them always. We pray for the churches of: St. Andrew’s, Clear Spring; St. Anne’s, Smithsburg, and St. John’s, Hagerstown. We pray for our Presiding Bishop, Michael, and our diocesan Bishops, Eugene and Robert. In the Anglican Communion, we pray for the Church of England. We give thanks for all visitors and newcomers who worship with us today, either in person or online. **“Lord, hear our prayer.”**

We pray for the leaders of every land that they act with wisdom and compassion. Help us overcome the pain and divisions in our communities and the nation. We pray for bold, truthful leadership and discerning hearts to know and see the truth. We pray for the world’s people to be free. **“Lord, hear our prayer.”**

We pray for the forgotten, destitute, imprisoned, terrorized, and all whom we neglect. May we open our eyes to their distress and act with love shown to us. For those ill in body, mind, or spirit, especially Marjorie, Dick, Sherry, Jim, Mark, Erin, Chuck, Bunmi, Frantz, Sam, Chad, Alta, Alfred, Kathleen, Ashley & Jeanette, we pray for their restoration to wholeness. For those who have passed into Your care, we pray, and also for those who mourn and hurt from the wounds of loss. **“Lord, hear our prayer.”**

We give thanks for the innumerable blessings You have showered upon us. In thanksgiving, we celebrate the special occasions of dear lives journeying with us: birthdays of Diya, Brian, Hao, Farris, Harolyn, Sam, Cindy, Johanna, Cindy, and Olabisi. We pray for their continued welfare and favor in Your sight. **“Lord, hear our prayer.”**

May we never waver in our faith in the Almighty, knowing that His kingdom is emerging and shall prevail. **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

THE HOLY COMMUNION

MUSIC DURING THE OFFERING – Gracious Spirit, Dwell with Me

arr. K. Lee Scott

*Gracious Spirit, dwell with me: I would gracious be;
Help me now thy grace to see, I would be like thee;
And with words that help and heal Thy life would mine reveal;
And with actions bold and meek, For Christ my Savior speak.*

*Truthful Spirit, dwell with me: I would truthful be;
Help me now thy truth to see, I would be like thee;
And with wisdom kind and clear Thy life in mine appear;
And with actions brotherly, Speak Christ's sincerity.*

*Holy Spirit, dwell with me: I would holy be;
Show thy mercy tenderly, Make me more like thee;
Separate from sin I would, And cherish all things good,
And whatever I can be Give him who gave me thee.*

*Mighty Spirit, dwell with me, I would mighty be;
Help me now thy pow'r to see, I would be like thee;
'Gainst all weapons hell can wield, Be thou my strength and shield;
Let thy word my weapon be, Lord, Thine the victory.
Gracious Spirit, dwell with me, I would be like thee!*

The people stand as able.

PRESENTATION HYMN 124, V. 5

Puer Nobis

The image shows two staves of musical notation in G major (one sharp). The first staff contains the melody for the first line of the hymn: "To God, the Fa - ther, heaven - ly Light, to Christ, re - vealed in earth - ly night,". The second staff contains the melody for the second line: "to God the Ho - ly Ghost we raise our e - qual and un - ceas - ing praise." The lyrics are written below the notes.

EUCHARISTIC PRAYER C

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: God of all power, Ruler of the Universe, you are worthy of glory and praise.

***People:* Glory to you for ever and ever.**

Celebrant: At your command all things came to be: the vast expanse of interstellar space, galaxies, suns, the planets in their courses, and this fragile earth, our island home.

***People:* By your will they were created and have their being.**

Celebrant: From the primal elements you brought forth the human race, and blessed us with memory, reason, and skill. You made us the rulers of creation. But we turned against you, and betrayed your trust; and we turned against one another.

***People:* Have mercy, Lord, for we are sinners in your sight.**

Celebrant: Again and again, you called us to return. Through prophets and sages you revealed your righteous Law. And in the fullness of time you sent your only Son, born of a woman, to fulfill your Law, to open for us the way of freedom and peace.

***People:* By his blood, he reconciled us.
By his wounds, we are healed.**

Celebrant: And therefore we praise you, joining with the heavenly chorus, with prophets, apostles, and martyrs, and with all those in every generation who have looked to you in hope, to proclaim with them your glory, in their unending hymn:

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow - er and might,
heav'n and earth are full of your glo - ry, Ho - san - na in the
high - est. Bless - ed is he who comes in the name of the
Lord. Ho - san - na in the high - est, Ho - san - na in the high - est.

The Celebrant continues

And so, Father, we who have been redeemed by him, and made a new people by water and the Spirit, now bring before you these gifts. Sanctify them by your Holy Spirit to be the Body and Blood of Jesus Christ our Lord.

On the night he was betrayed he took bread, said the blessing, broke the bread, and gave it to his friends, 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, gave thanks, 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."

Remembering now his work of redemption, and offering to you this sacrifice of thanksgiving,

People: ***We celebrate his death and resurrection, as we await the day of his coming.***

Celebrant: Lord God of our Fathers: God of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob; God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ: Open our eyes to see your hand at work in the world about us. Deliver us from the presumption of coming to this Table for solace only, and not for strength; for pardon only, and not for renewal. Let the grace of this Holy Communion make us one body, one spirit in Christ, that we may worthily serve the world in his name.

People: **Risen Lord, be known to us in the breaking of the Bread.**

Celebrant: Accept these prayers and praises, Father, through Jesus Christ our great High Priest, to whom, with you and the Holy Spirit, your Church gives honor, glory, and worship, from generation to generation. **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,
for ever and ever. Amen.

THE BREAKING OF THE BREAD

Celebrant: Alleluia. Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us;

All: **Therefore let us keep the feast. Alleluia.**

FRACTION ANTHEM – This is the Body of Christ

John Bell

This is the bo-dy of Christ, bro-ken that we may be whole; this cup, as prom-ised by
 God, true to his word, cra-dles our Lord: food for the good of the soul.

COMMUNION HYMN LEVAS 152– Let Us Break Bread Together

Negro Spiritual

1 Let us break bread to - geth-er on our knees; _____
 2 Let us drink wine to - geth-er on our knees; _____

let us break bread to - geth-er on our knees; _____
 let us drink wine to - geth-er on our knees; _____

Refrain
 when I fall on my knees, with my face to the ris - ing sun,

O Lord, have mer-cy on me. _____

3 Let us praise God to - geth-er on our knees; _____

let us praise God to - geth-er on our knees; _____

Refrain
 when I fall on my knees, with my face to the ris - ing sun,

O Lord, have mer-cy on me. _____

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.

CLOSING HYMN LEVAS 1 – Lift Every Voice and Sing

J. Rosamond Johnson



1. Lift ev - 'ry voice and sing, Till earth and heav - en
2. Sto - ny the road we trod, Bit - ter the chast - 'ning
3. God of our wea - ry years, God of our si - lent



1. ring, Ring with the har - mo - nies of lib - er -
2. rod, Felt in the days when hope un - born had
3. tears, Thou who hast brought us thus far on the



1. ty; Let our re - joic - ing rise High as the list - 'ning
2. died; Yet with a stead - y beat, Have not our wear - y
3. way; Thou who hast by thy might, Led us in - to the



1. skies, Let it re - sound loud as the roll - ing sea.
2. feet Come to the place for which our fa - thers sighed?
3. light, Keep us for - ev - er in the path, we pray.



1. Sing a song full of the faith that the dark past has taught us;
 2. We have come o - ver a - way that with tears has been wa - tered;
 3. Lest our feet stray from the pla - ces, our God, where we met thee;



1. Sing a song full of the hope that the pres - ent has
 2. We have come, tread - ing our path through the blood of the
 3. Lest our hearts, drunk with the wine of the world, we for -



1. brought us; Fac - ing the ris - ing sun Of our new
 2. slaugh - tered; Out from the gloom - y past, Till now we
 3. get thee, Shad - owed be - neath Thy hand, May we for -



1. day be - gun, Let us march on till vic - to - ry is won.
 2. stand at last Where the white gleam of our bright star is cast.
 3. ev - er stand, True to our God, true to our na - tive land.

DISMISSAL

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

POSTLUDE – *Verset I, Dans la gloire des Invalides (In the glory of the Invalides)*

Marcel Dupré
 Ola Oladipupo, organist

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ANNOUNCEMENTS

Send announcements to communications@christchurchcolumbia.org

Epiphany II: This Sunday | Join us at 8:00 and 10:30 a.m. for the Second Sunday after the Epiphany, as Father Manny, Mother Marcia, and Deacon Denise lead us in worship. At the start of this new year, Christ Church requests that all parishioners attending services in-person complete our brief attendance registration form before coming to worship. Just check the box(es) of those services you expect to attend so that we can keep tabs on the number of attendees and maintain a safe environment for all. Thank you very much.

Youth Formation: Sunday School | Every child is welcome to join us virtually for Sunday School this weekend. The registration form is located here, and you can send them to ministry@christchurchcolumbia.org to enroll your child(ren). Elementary school sessions begin at 9:15 a.m. and you can receive the Zoom link by emailing Jennifer Atkins at dandjatkings@verizon.net. The older youth session begins at 9:30 a.m. and is run by our Youth Minister, Todd Domer. You can reach Todd at youthministry@christchurchcolumbia.org for Zoom details.

Adult Forum: Sunday Circle | Sunday Circle takes place this Sunday with our January theme of Renewal and Reconciliation. Later this season, we will explore healing, renewal, and commitment to change. Join us each Sunday from 9:30-10:15 a.m. in Old Brick. Questions? Contact Mother Marcia or Jenn Lavanish.

Altar Flowers and Gifts | If you would like to present Altar gifts in dedication or celebration of a loved one on an upcoming Sunday, you can find the details and 2022 sign-up sheet at <https://tinyurl.com/CECaltargifts>. You can also sign up and reserve a slot by using our Realm Online Giving Form; just choose "Altar Flowers and Gifts" from the *Fund* drop-down menu, and place the dedication name(s) and service date in the *Memo* line. Email the Church Office with any questions.

Adult and Children's Choir - Tuesdays and Thursdays | Our choirs have resumed activities for 2022, and everyone is welcome to join... so maybe 2022 is your year! Please email Len Langrick, our Director of Music, at music@christchurchcolumbia.org to learn more.

Bible Study – Wednesdays | Bible Study gathers in person next Wednesday at 10:30 a.m. and will be a discussion on the readings for that coming Sunday. Next week's gathering focuses on these readings. You do not have to know much about the Bible; just join in and let's all study together.

Christ Church Needs More Ushers and Lectors | *Your* Christ Church needs your help! We need ushers and lectors for both Sunday services, especially during the 8 a.m. service. You will serve at specified scheduled services and select events, will know your schedule well ahead of time, and all ushers and lectors will receive training before scheduling. Please contact Yetti Lipede at ministry@christchurchcolumbia.org for more information.

Attention Ministry and Program Leaders... | At the start of each year, we work to update and refresh our website's ministry and program pages. If you are a part of a Christ Church ministry or group that has a 2022 meeting calendar, updated schedule of events, photos, articles, or any other relevant information that you want to share, please send them to us so that we can keep things up-to-date. Also, if you would like a ministry or program that you're a part of to have its own page on the website, let us know so we can start planning one. Email Chris at communications@christchurchcolumbia.org

Garden Tribute for Seiko Shields | As a tribute to Seiko Shields, we are collecting spring and summer bulbs for flowering plants to be planted around the church grounds. This will become a living memorial called *Seiko's Garden*. You are invited to drop bulbs off at the Church Office or in the basket located on a Narthex table.

(continued)

Diocese of Maryland's COVID Update for This Week | The Omicron variant continues to increase the number of cases throughout the region. The most recent Diocesan update can be read in full [here](#). Please note that masks are still required at all times while indoors at Christ Church, and we encourage those with compromised immune systems to remain home on Sundays and worship virtually. As always, we'll continue our dialogue with the appropriate organizations and adjust restrictions with care and consideration. [Email us if you have any questions.](#)

Fulfill a New Year's Resolution to Help People in Need | There's no need to wait until Christ Church takes its turn feeding the hungry at one of the facilities operated by [Grassroots Crisis Intervention Center](#). You are invited to provide the entree for the 50 residents of the Live-In Facility. Or go all in and cook – or order from a restaurant – to provide not only an entree but the side dishes and desserts for an evening meal.

The process is simple. Here is a [link to the sign-up list](#) that Grassroots keeps up to date, showing openings through Feb. 28. On it, the staff makes helpful suggestions for menu items (while discouraging lasagna or other pasta dishes).

Or you can take a look at what others are bringing. For example, one Christ Church parishioner signed up for the Martin Luther King holiday meal to provide 12 rotisserie chickens, no sides, no dessert. The poultry will arrive hot, purchased only minutes before from the Giant supermarket nearby on Freetown Road. Or food can be made ahead of time and arrive cold. For example, a donor has posted that a frozen entree of beef fried rice will be on the menu on Jan. 28.

Dinner is served at 5 p.m. and food should be brought no later than 3 to 3:15 p.m. for dishes that need to be reheated, or by 4:15 p.m. if delivered hot. You can bring frozen dishes in advance. The address is 6700 Freetown Road, Columbia 21044. For questions, contact Grassroots Food Services Manager Dorothy Howard at 410-531-6006 or dorothyh@grassrootscrisis.org.

Grassroots offers ideas on [making a meal](#) on its main website. It also welcomes monetary donations to cover the cost of a meal, with instructions on the [signup form](#).

You'll see that Christ Church Outreach has promised our group of parishioners will provide its next meal for the Live-In Facility on Feb. 14, Valentine's Day. Please save the date, and look for reminders and separate sign-up instructions in the Gatherings next month.

For all those who have participated either individually or as part of the group, Grassroots expressed thanks: "As we move onward into 2022 we would like to express our deep gratitude to everyone for the outpouring of gifts and kindnesses you've shown us throughout the last year, particularly with our meals program – we couldn't have made it through without your support! With a new year comes new beginnings and soon you will see information on how we are working to develop healthy eating lifestyles for our shelter residents. Stay tuned and thanks for all you do!"

Grassroots also operates the Day Resource Center (DRC) at the Dorsey Center in Jessup. Due to the surging omicron variant of the coronavirus, the DRC has suspended many indoor operations until further notice.

For questions about how Christ Church participates in supporting both of these Grassroots facilities, please email outreach@christchurchcolumbia.org so we can put you in touch with co-coordinators Nancy Winchester and Shakra Toth.

(continued)

Columbia Community Care Offers Volunteer Opportunities in the Community | If you are looking for a multi-generational way to volunteer in person, with coronavirus protocols in place, consider Columbia Community Care (CCC), the non-profit organization that sprang up in 2020 in response to the pandemic.

It succeeded last Saturday in moving all of its operations indoors for winter. Neighbors in need picked up groceries and items such as diapers at three locations: the Wilde Lake Interfaith Center, 10431 Twin Rivers Rd., the Barn/Teen Center indoor space in the Oakland Mills Village Center, 5851 Robert Oliver Place in Columbia, and Long Reach Village Center, Suite 9, 8775 Cloudleap Ct.

On Saturday, Jan. 8, organizers reported that Long Reach was the busiest of the three.

Recipients are welcomed from 10 a.m. to noon. For volunteers, donations and drop-offs begin at 9 a.m. You'll find updates, such as requests for volunteers at specific sites, posted in the CCC Facebook Group.

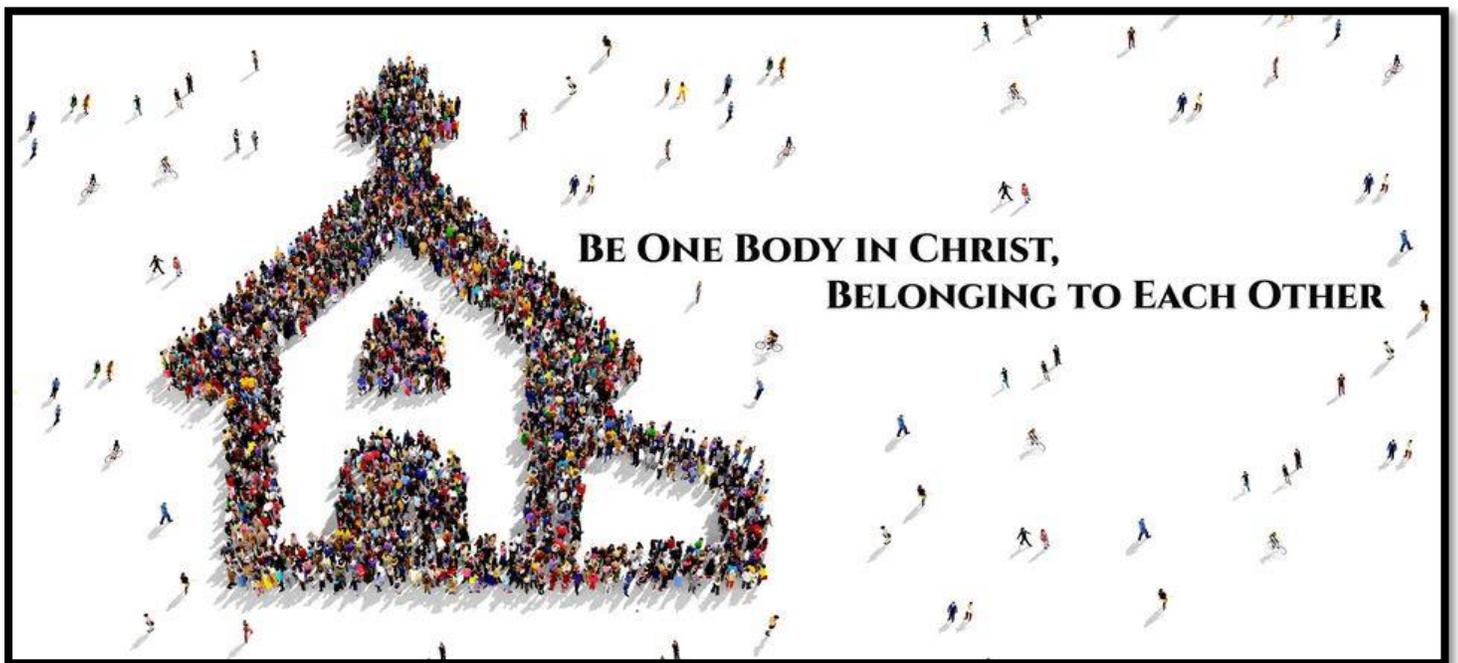
At Christ Church, members of R.A.G.E and the Outreach Commission ask parishioners to continue supporting CCC by collecting diapers, baby wipes, sanitary and personal care items and adult diapers. Please put any of these items in the yellow bin, marked "CCC," inside the Parish Hall. You can drop off items on weekdays when the church office is open or on Sunday.

The Christ Church point of contact is Violet Smith, who delivers the items to CCC for the Saturday distribution.

FISH Continues its Request for Cookies, Crackers, and Snacks | As winter continues, organizers for FISH of Howard County continue to ask for cookies, crackers, and snacks to fulfill shopping lists. They also say thanks to Christ Church for its response to their earlier needs, which produced an adequate inventory of household cleaning supplies and personal items. The bin is on the breezeway near the door to the Parish Hall.



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. Thank you.



CHRIST EPISCOPAL CHURCH'S 2022 LENTEN MEDITATION BOOK

For each of the last 19 years, Christ Church has compiled and published a Lenten Meditation Book, which is distributed to parishioners around the weekend preceding Ash Wednesday. It is composed of parishioner submissions that center around that year's Spiritual Life Theme. and assists us all in times of quiet contemplation. The theme for this year is *"Be One Body in Christ, Belonging to Each Other"* which [you can read more about on our website](#). The LMB - nearly 80 pages last year - shares these submissions and helps us prepare ourselves for rebirth and renewal at Easter. We also post these Meditations on our website and social media each weekday during Lent and present a special musical selection each weekend. Our website is viewed by our congregation and by many thousands of individuals worldwide during the Lenten season.

The Lenten Meditation Book is a fully-collaborative project made of wonderful prayers, songs, stories, poems, readings, and personal reflections. We invite you all to send us yours so that we share them with the world. This year, we need to have all of your submissions in by February 13th in order to put this publication together in time. Submit yours by email to Ellen Hoke at efboudreau1@gmail.com, or place it in the Spiritual Life mailbox in the Church office. You can also speak with Ellen for more information, or for an example of past years' submissions.



WE ARE ALL STEWARDS OF OUR BELOVED CHRIST CHURCH

Because of your genuine and overwhelming acts of selflessness, kindness, grace, compassion, and love, you continue to give immensely to support and build our common life at Christ Church. You inject life into Christ Church so that we may be able to serve the world. It is your giving that has made it possible for us to accomplish some of the work that God has given us. The truth is that we have been able to minister and serve countless people because of your faithfulness, and for that, we thank God for each one of you and thank God for what God is doing in your lives.

We also want to thank **YOU**. Your faithfulness is what makes life happen at Christ Church. Your faithfulness makes Christ Church stronger. Your faithfulness enables Christ Church 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, and so as we celebrate the season of giving, we want to highly encourage all who have not fully completed their pledge for 2021 to remember their faithfulness. We also want to appeal to all who have not as yet returned their pledge for 2022 to remember their faithfulness.

Text Giving

You can now give securely and conveniently by using your mobile phone! Simply text **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 towards 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**

REJECT RACISM

A few months back, I joined with some of our parishioners to hang a **Reject Racism** banner on our campus. We hung the banner by the roadside so all who drive by can see it. After all, "Who lights a candle and puts it under a bushel?" asked Jesus. While we hung the banner, a few cars honked in appreciation of the message on it. It is my understanding that this is the first banner of its kind that we have ever hung on our campus, and one that invited us to take a particular stand against a critical and concerning issue within our country.

What I found to be incredibly peculiar about this banner was that although the message appeared very simple - just two words, **Reject Racism** - it was loaded. And it was so because it invited us, all of us, to pursue a particular path. The message called on us to reject a destructive human tendency that is premised on the false narrative of the superiority of one race over another.

The call of this message is in line with what **Dr. King once said** when he made the point that **"...if America is to remain a first-class nation, she can no longer have second-class citizens."** The second-class citizens here referenced are African Americans, in particular, and people of color, in general.

As your pastor, priest, and friend, I have often shared with you some of the moments of racism that I have experienced, and there are more telling stories that I do not find needful to share. I am, however, guided by every single experience because to assume that one is immune from being either a victim or perpetrator is to fall into that same narrative of feeling superior or inferior to another. It is to insidiously reject the idea that we are all children of God who were created in the image and likeness of God, and who bear within us the divinity of God.

I feel immensely blessed that I find myself within and among this community of people here at Christ Church. I have not, throughout my time here, ever experienced or heard a story of a parishioner falling victim to any kind of racism from another parishioner. This is mainly driven by the fact that **all of YOU** - those who have chosen to worship God here, those who consider Christ Church to be their spiritual home, those who find meaning in this community and feel God's abiding presence in each other, those who find a much deeper and richer meaning in the giving of themselves in support of God's work at this church - all of you believe that every single one of us is worthy. More than that, we believe in our baptismal call of respecting the dignity of every human being. For me, that is why we **Reject Racism**.

Someone asked me this afternoon if the **Reject Racism** banner will go up once more. I responded that the banner was already up, but it is somewhat creased. The response I got was that they will work on it to straighten it up a little bit - just so the words may stand out even more poignantly. For me, that is the joy of knowing that others care - not simply about the banner, but the words that the banner speaks to us.

This week, we celebrate Dr. Martin Luther King. His words echo through every facet of our lives. For many of us, his message spoke in a way that connected our individual realities with our hopes of a fulfilling future, a future devoid of the legacies of slavery, of Jim Crow and redlining, a future devoid of systemic racism and the many ills that African Americans and people of Color face in our country.

It is possible that you have been a victim of racism before. It is equally possible that you have not been a perpetrator of racism. But for those who have been, this message is very timely. They need to be reminded of the universal call to reject those things that demean and cause harm. In fact, we all need to be reminded of the harm that our actions inflict on others and how intentional acts of overcoming the seduction of destructive tendencies can make a huge difference in the lives of people.

A simple banner that sits on our campus makes a universal call, inviting people to walk on a particular path. We can never tell who it is that may need such a reminder or invitation. We can never tell who it is that needs to hear this clarion call.

But if we can change one mind, we have done our duty.

Manny





Christ Episcopal Church

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The Rev'd Emmanuel Ato Mercer, *Rector*
The Rev'd Marcia Davenport, *Associate Priest*
The Rev'd Denise Schiavone, *Deacon*
Aisha White, *Parish Administrator*
Christopher Pouch, *Communications Administrator*
Yetti Lipede, *Ministry Coordinator*
Todd Domer, *Youth Minister*
Len Langrick, *Interim Music Director*

Vestry

Sara Kirkpatrick (*Senior Warden*) • Isaac Olajide (*Junior Warden*) • Andrew Eaton (*Treasurer*) Ron Couch (*Registrar*)
Tim Beaty • Jan DeBoissiere • Alfred Titus-Glover • Lynn Foor • Greta Pike-Barnes •
Jason Whong • Jane Adams • Diane Phillips-Laguerre • Beth Johnson • Andrea Leeman