Christ Episcopal Church

Extending the Love and Embrace of Christ

Second Sunday of Advent

The Holy Eucharist, Rite II | Sunday, December 10, 2023 | 8:00 a.m. and 10:30 a.m.



Welcome Home!

Welcome to worship at Christ Episcopal Church. If this is your first time with us, we invite you to complete a visitor's form. Our website provides up to date information about our vibrant church community: christchurchcolumbia.org. This bulletin contains all you need to join us in worship, everyone is welcome to receive communion at God's table, and the clergy are happy to speak with you at any time.

We are delighted you're here - Welcome home!

Prelude | Prelude on "Morning Song" Robert J. Powell

Lighting of the Advent Candle |



Second Candle | The Candle of Peace

Celebrant: Light and peace, in Jesus Christ our Lord.
People: **Thanks be to God.**

Celebrant: Today is the second Sunday of Advent and we will light the Candle of Peace. Last Sunday we lit the First Candle in our Advent Wreath, and celebrated the patriarchs, this First Candle reminded us of our hope in Christ. We light it again as we remember our Savior, born a king in the line of King David. Jesus was born in Bethlehem, and we believe that he will come again to fulfill all of God's promises to us, to rule the world wisely and bless all nations.

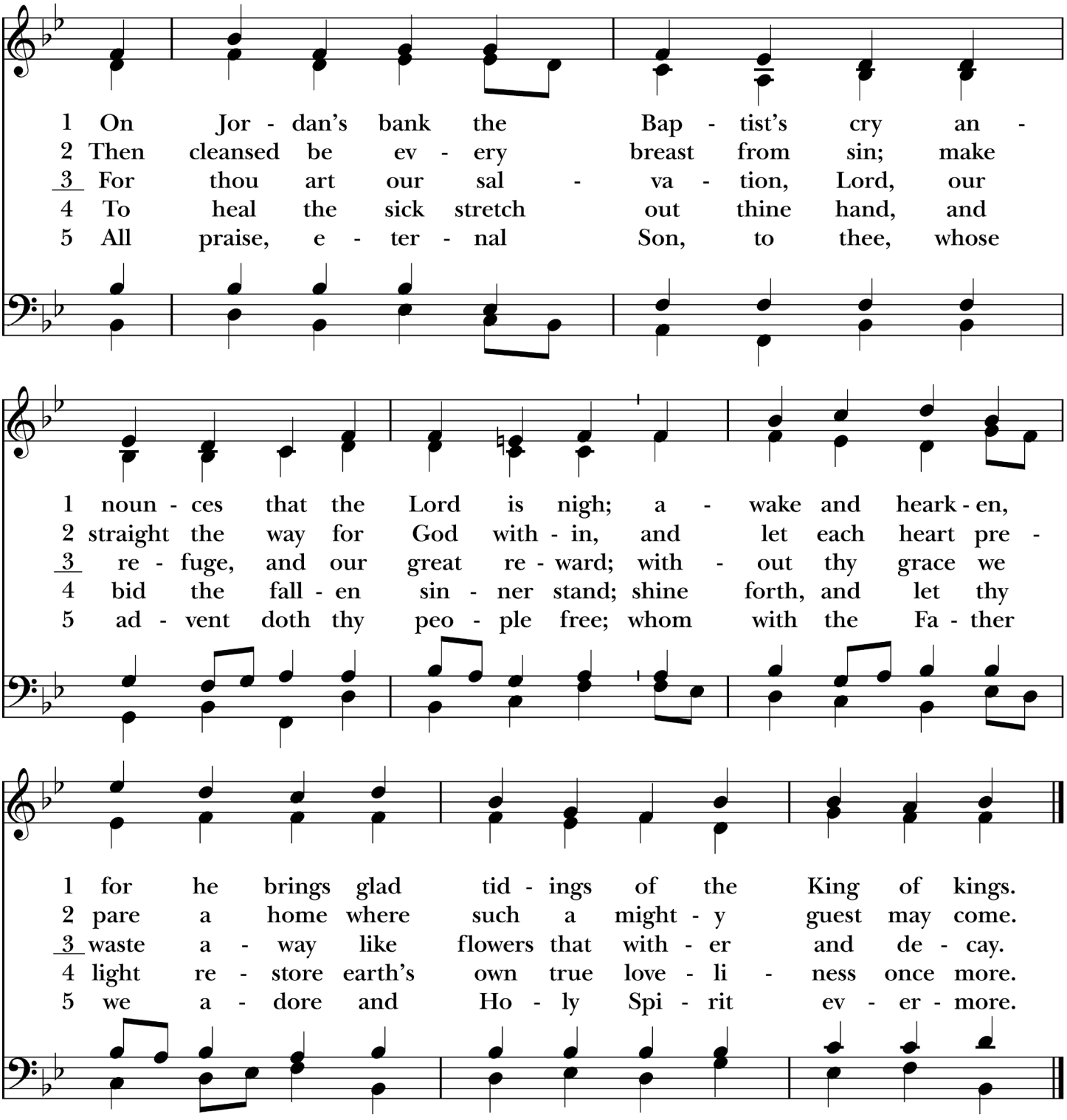
Candle Lighting: – A person lights the candles.

Today we light the Second Candle of Advent, the Candle of Peace. We remember the prophets who spoke of the coming of Christ, of how a Savior would be born, a king in the line of King David. The prophet Isaiah called Christ "the Prince of Peace". They told us how he would rule the world wisely and bless all the nations.

When Jesus came he taught people the importance of being peace-makers. He said that those who make peace shall be called the children of God. When Christ comes to us he brings us peace and he will bring everlasting peace when he comes again. We light the Candle of Peace to remind us that Jesus is the Prince of Peace and that through him peace is found.

Peace is like a shining light in a dark place. As we look at this candle we celebrate the peace we find in Jesus Christ.

Celebrant: Let us pray:
People: **Lord Jesus, Light of the World, the prophets said you would bring peace and save your people from trouble. Give peace in our hearts at Christmastide. We ask that as we wait for you to come again, that you would remain present with us. Help us today, and every day to worship you, to hear your word, and to do your will by sharing your peace with each other. We ask it in the name of the one who was born in Bethlehem. Amen.**



Opening Acclamation |

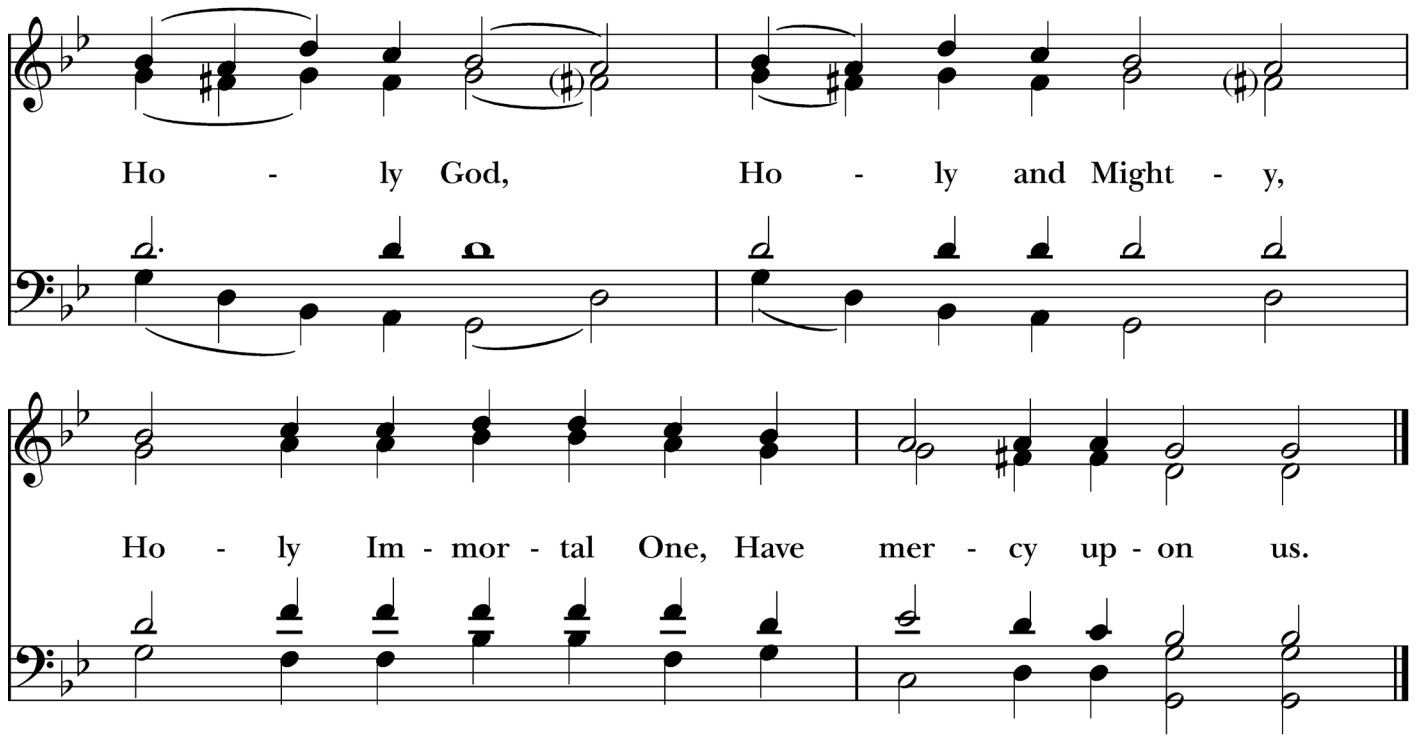
Celebrant: Blessed be God: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.
People: **And blessed be his kingdom, now and forever. Amen.**

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.**

Trisagion S102 | Holy God — Alexander Archangelsky



The Collect of the Day |

Celebrant: The Lord be with you.

People: **And also with you.**

Celebrant: Let us pray.

Merciful God, who sent your messengers the prophets to preach repentance and prepare the way for our salvation: Give us grace to heed their warnings and forsake our sins, that we may greet with joy the coming of Jesus Christ our Redeemer; who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

People: **Amen.**

The people may be seated.

A Reading from Isaiah 40:1-11 |

Reader: A Reading from Isaiah.

Comfort, O comfort my people,
says your God.
Speak tenderly to Jerusalem,
and cry to her
that she has served her term,
that her penalty is paid,
that she has received from the LORD's hand
double for all her sins.

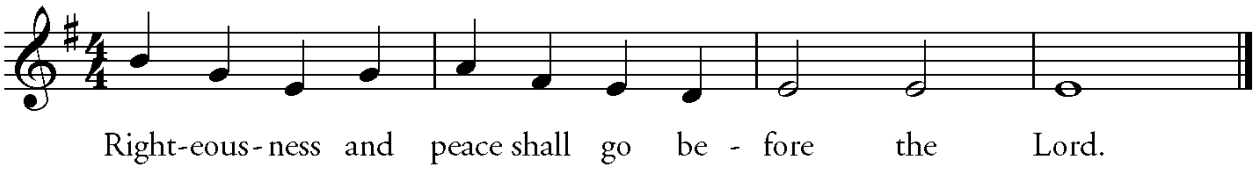
A voice cries out:
"In the wilderness prepare the way of the LORD,
make straight in the desert a highway for our God.
Every valley shall be lifted up,
and every mountain and hill be made low;
the uneven ground shall become level,
and the rough places a plain.
Then the glory of the LORD shall be revealed,
and all people shall see it together,
for the mouth of the LORD has spoken."

A voice says, "Cry out!"
And I said, "What shall I cry?"
All people are grass,
their constancy is like the flower of the field.
The grass withers, the flower fades,
when the breath of the LORD blows upon it;
surely the people are grass.
The grass withers, the flower fades;
but the word of our God will stand for ever.
Get you up to a high mountain,
O Zion, herald of good tidings;
lift up your voice with strength,
O Jerusalem, herald of good tidings,
lift it up, do not fear;
say to the cities of Judah,
"Here is your God!"
See, the Lord GOD comes with might,
and his arm rules for him;
his reward is with him,
and his recompense before him.
He will feed his flock like a shepherd;
he will gather the lambs in his arms,
and carry them in his bosom,
and gently lead the mother sheep.

Reader: The word of the Lord.
People: **Thanks be to God.**

The following Psalm is read responsively by half-verse.

Psalm 85:1-2, 8-13 | *Benedixisti, Domine*



You have been gracious to your land, O LORD, *
you have restored the good fortune of Jacob.
You have forgiven the iniquity of your people *
and blotted out all their sins.
I will listen to what the LORD God is saying, *
for he is speaking peace to his faithful people
and to those who turn their hearts to him.
Truly, his salvation is very near to those who fear him, *
that his glory may dwell in our land.

Antiphon

Mercy and truth have met together; *
righteousness and peace have kissed each other.
Truth shall spring up from the earth, *
and righteousness shall look down from heaven.
The LORD will indeed grant prosperity, *
and our land will yield its increase.
Righteousness shall go before him, *
and peace shall be a pathway for his feet.

Antiphon

A Reading from 2 Peter 3:8-15a |

Reader: A Reading from the Second Epistle of Peter.

Do not ignore this one fact, beloved, that with the Lord one day is like a thousand years, and a thousand years are like one day. The Lord is not slow about his promise, as some think of slowness, but is patient with you, not wanting any to perish, but all to come to repentance. But the day of the Lord will come like a thief, and then the heavens will pass away with a loud noise, and the elements will be dissolved with fire, and the earth and everything that is done on it will be disclosed.

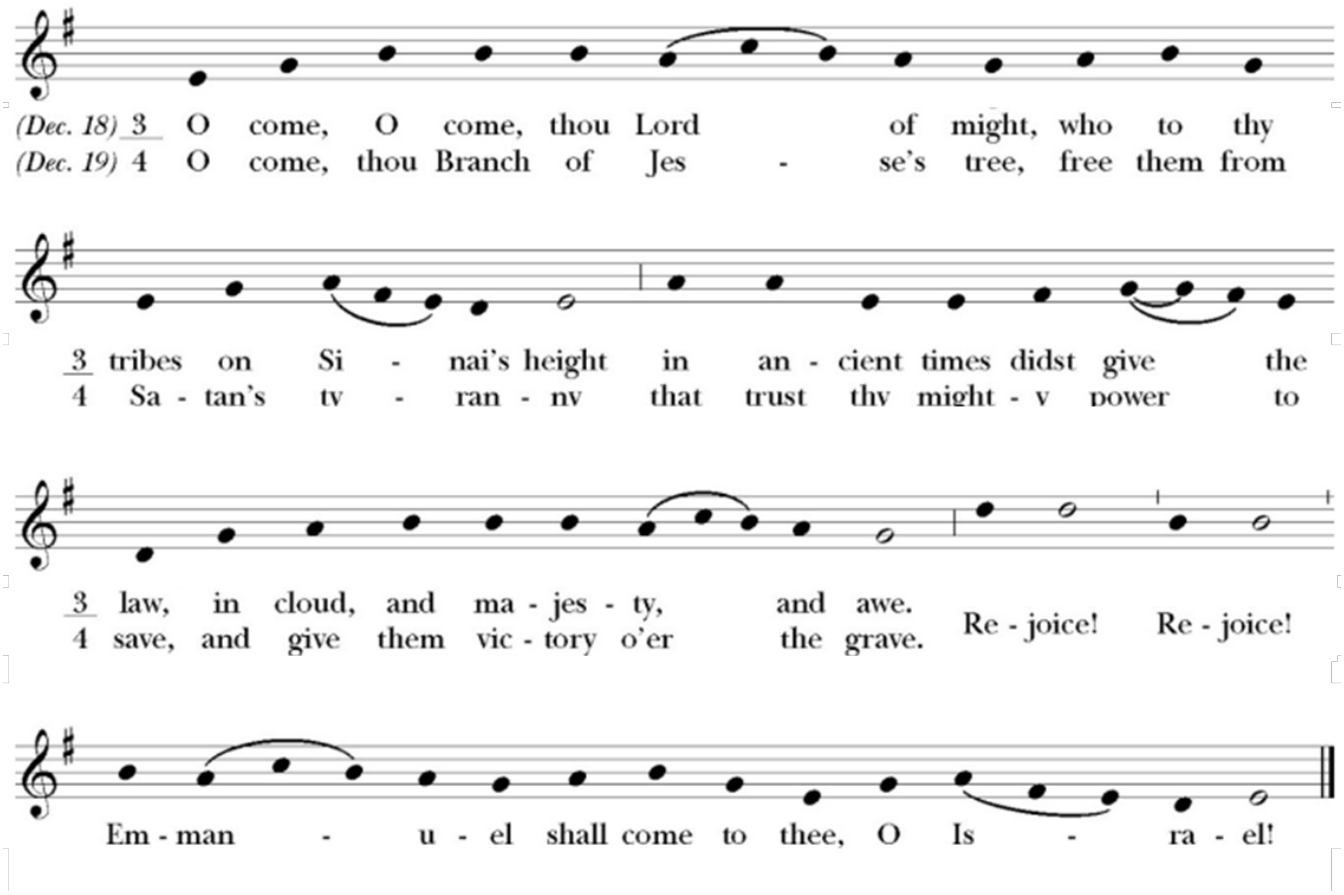
Since all these things are to be dissolved in this way, what sort of persons ought you to be in leading lives of holiness and godliness, waiting for and hastening the coming of the day of God, because of which the heavens will be set ablaze and dissolved, and the elements will melt with fire? But, in accordance with his promise, we wait for new heavens and a new earth, where righteousness is at home.

Therefore, beloved, while you are waiting for these things, strive to be found by him at peace, without spot or blemish; and regard the patience of our Lord as salvation.

Reader: The word of the Lord.
People: **Thanks be to God.**

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

Sequence Hymn 56 | O Come, O Come Emmanuel (Vs 3 & 4) *Veni, veni, Emmanuel*



The Gospel | Mark 1:1-8

Deacon: The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Mark.
People: **Glory to you, Lord Christ.**

The beginning of the good news of Jesus Christ, the Son of God.

As it is written in the prophet Isaiah,

> "See, I am sending my messenger ahead of you,
> who will prepare your way;
> the voice of one crying out in the wilderness:
> 'Prepare the way of the Lord,
> make his paths straight,'"

John the baptizer appeared in the wilderness, proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins. And people from the whole Judean countryside and all the people of Jerusalem were going out to him, and were baptized by him in the river Jordan, confessing their sins. Now John was clothed with camel's hair, with a leather belt around his waist, and he ate locusts and wild honey. He proclaimed, "The one who is more powerful than I is coming after me; I am not worthy to stoop down and untie the thong of his sandals. I have baptized you with water; but he will baptize you with the Holy Spirit."

Deacon: 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.

Prayers of the People |

We rejoice always because the Lord is near. We are reminded that God's Spirit calls us to spread love through deeds of caring and giving. May our lives bear fruit—reflecting the values of God's kingdom. Let us take heart and live the promise made and given to us, as we say, **Rejoice, for the Lord is near! May God's Spirit burn within us!**

Lord, we often find it difficult to love and embrace all the people of the world, when conflict and strife are ever present. Let us pray for those who violate peace and pursue power. Let's not isolate ourselves from people of different cultures who live among us. All of humanity hold a God-given potential to achieve Your purposes in the world. We value the incredible freedom, intellect, and resources available to us. May we always welcome the foreigner, stranger, or newcomer, as we pray, **Lord, make me an instrument of Your peace.**

Gracious God, send us able and courageous spiritual leaders to encourage all of us with gifts of grace and wisdom. Empower them to spread the Good News and the knowledge of Your truth. May we continue to grow as a community of love and compassion. We pray for our Presiding Bishop, Michael; our Diocesan Bishops, Eugene and Carrie; Emmanuel, our Rector; Denise, our Deacon; our staff and our postulants, Kiona, Mike, and Rebecca; and Richard, our Rector Emeritus. In the Anglican cycle of prayer, we remember The Church of Pakistan (United). In our Diocese, we pray for Holy Trinity, Churchville; St. John's, Kingsville; St. Mary's, Abingdon; and Resurrection, Copley Parish. **Lord, let Your Word burn on our tongues and Your Love bring all into one fellowship!**

Lord, we know you feel and understand our pain, when we hurt, alone, wrongly accused, imprisoned, or abused, and when we suffer in body, mind, or spirit. We remember those who are ill, especially John, Brandin, Nathan, Debbie, Sarah, Harriet, Doug, Mary Ann, Lexi, Georgia, Dennis, Altra, Barbara, Sherry, Tim, Christine, Jan, Patricia, Cindy, Roberta, Samuel, Ashley, Alta, Farris, Mildred, Nell, and those we now name. We ask that Your healing spirit restore them to fullness of health. We ask your blessings upon those serving in the military, especially Kofi Abdallah and Conner Warlow. We remember those who have died especially Raymond Nze, Lidell Ford, Sr. & Olayemi Osunniyi, and those we now name. We pray for those who grieve, that You send them comfort. **The Lord is our refuge, our strength, and our salvation.**

For all the blessings in our lives, we are heartily thankful. In bountiful joy we remember our anniversaries, a celebration of joined love, especially Nii & Theo Jones-Quartey and baptism of Skip. For those who touch our lives and reveal the image of Christ, we give thanks and remember their birthdays, especially Cheryl, Daniel, Trey, Kiona, Jordan, Margaret, Aisha & Cathy. **May the Spirit always be around you and within you, bringing you peace and joy all your days.**

Let us with joyful hearts always and everywhere remember our words and prayers as we say again, **Rejoice, for the Lord is near! May His Spirit burn within us! Amen.**

Confession of Sin |

Deacon: Let us confess our sins against God and our neighbor.

All: **Most merciful God,**
we confess that we have sinned against you
in thought, word, and deed,
by what we have done,
and by what we have left undone.
We have not loved you with our whole heart;
we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves.
We are truly sorry and we humbly repent.
For the sake of your Son Jesus Christ,
have mercy on us and forgive us;
that we may delight in your will,
and walk in your ways,
to the glory of your Name. Amen.

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

The Peace |

Celebrant: The peace of the Lord be always with you.
People: **And also with you.**

The people may greet one another in the name of the Lord and then be seated.

Welcome and Announcements

THE HOLY COMMUNION

Offertory Anthem | An Advent Prayer — Allen Pote

Please scan to give.

The people stand as able.

Presentation Hymn 380 (v. 3) | *Old 100th*

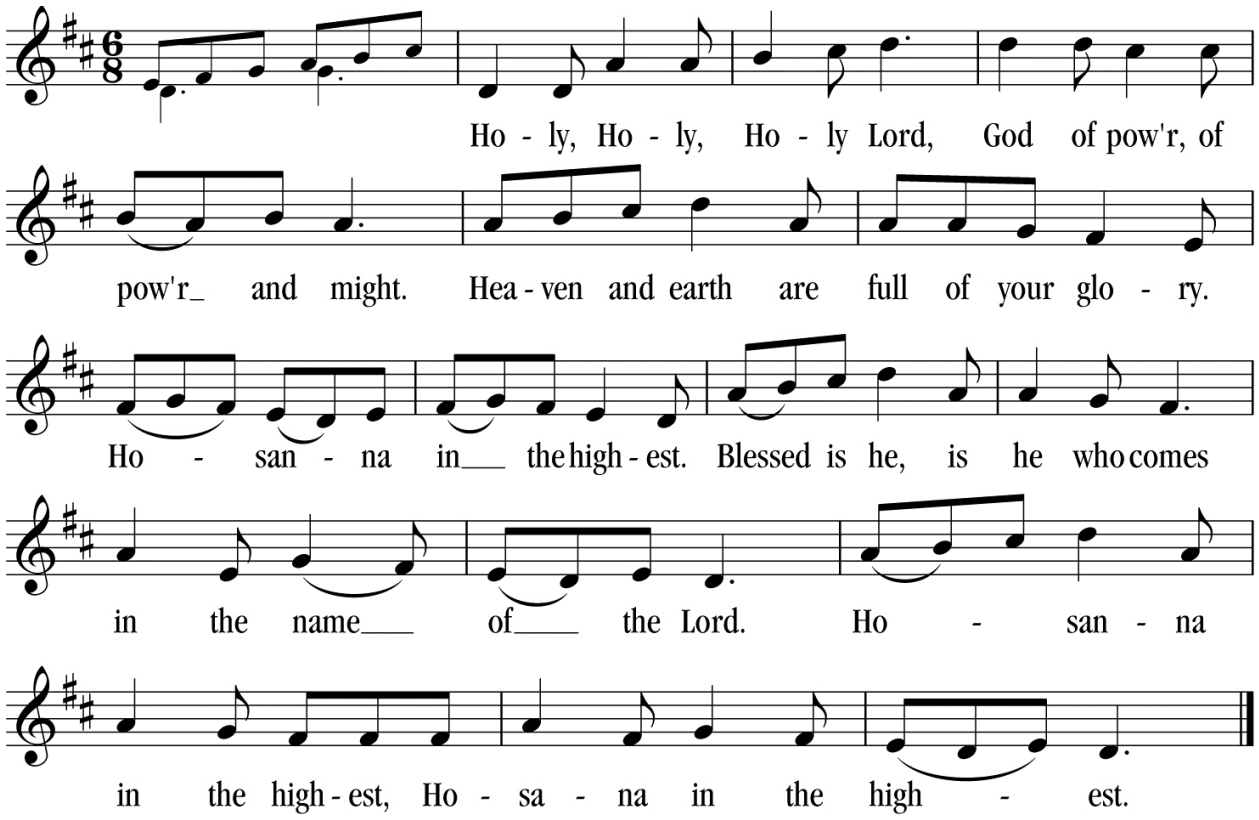
Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;
Praise Him, all creatures here below;
Praise Him above, ye heavenly host:
Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

Eucharistic Prayer 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.

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:



The people stand or kneel.

Then the Celebrant continues

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.

At the following words concerning the bread, the Celebrant is to hold it, or to lay a hand upon it; and at the words concerning the cup, to hold or place a hand upon the cup and any other vessel containing wine to be consecrated.

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 |

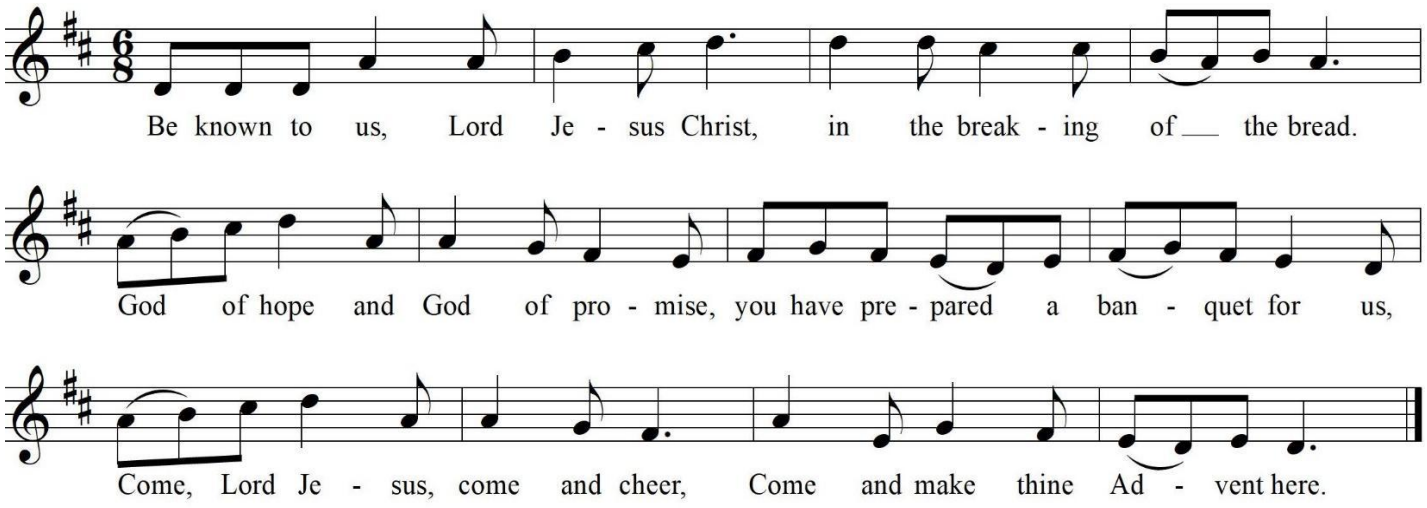
Celebrant: And now, as our Savior Christ has taught us, we are bold to say,

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.

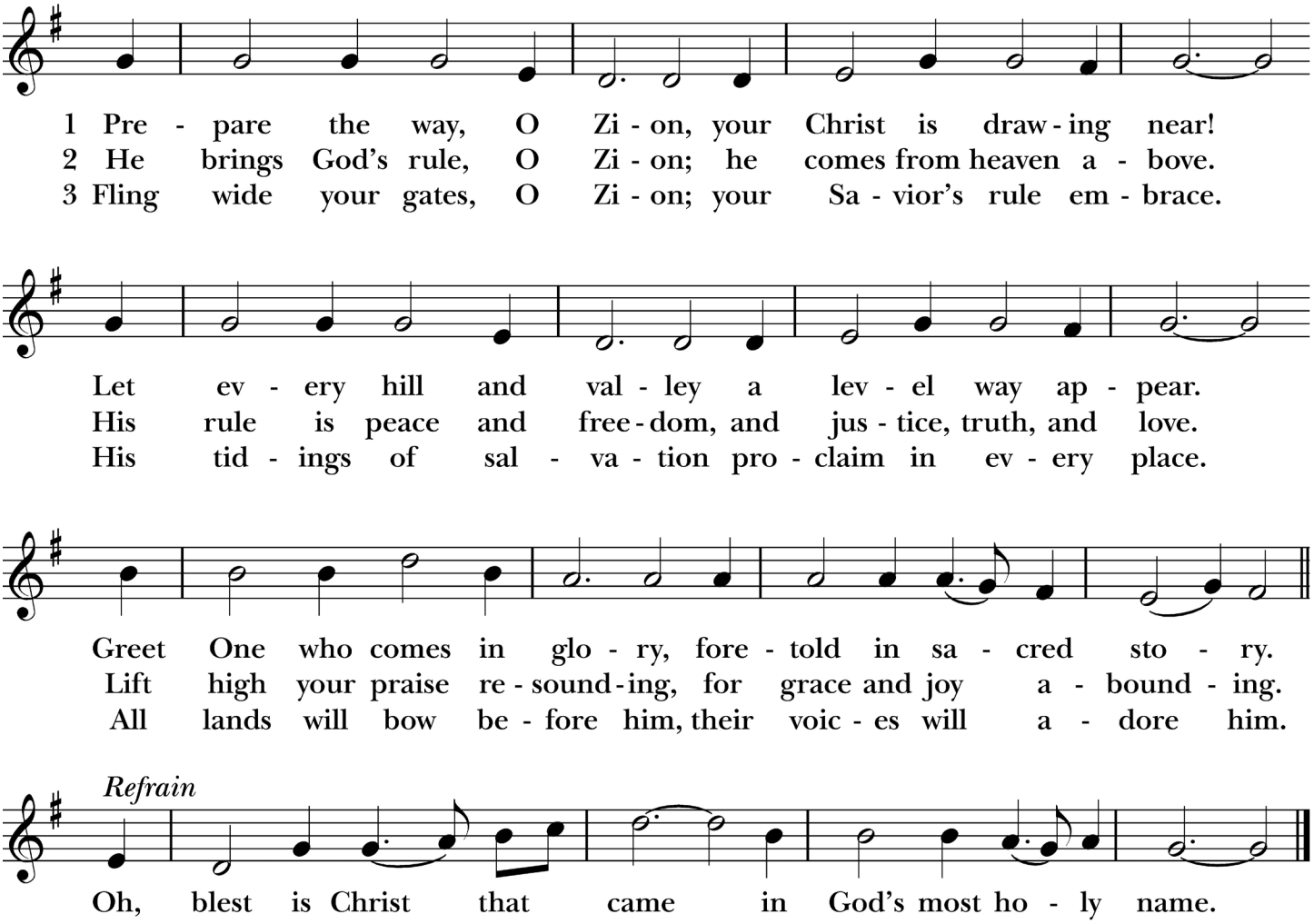
The Breaking of the Bread |

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

Fraction Anthem | Be Known to Us, Lord Jesus arr. Richard Shephard



Celebrant: The Gifts of God for the People of God.



The people stand as able.

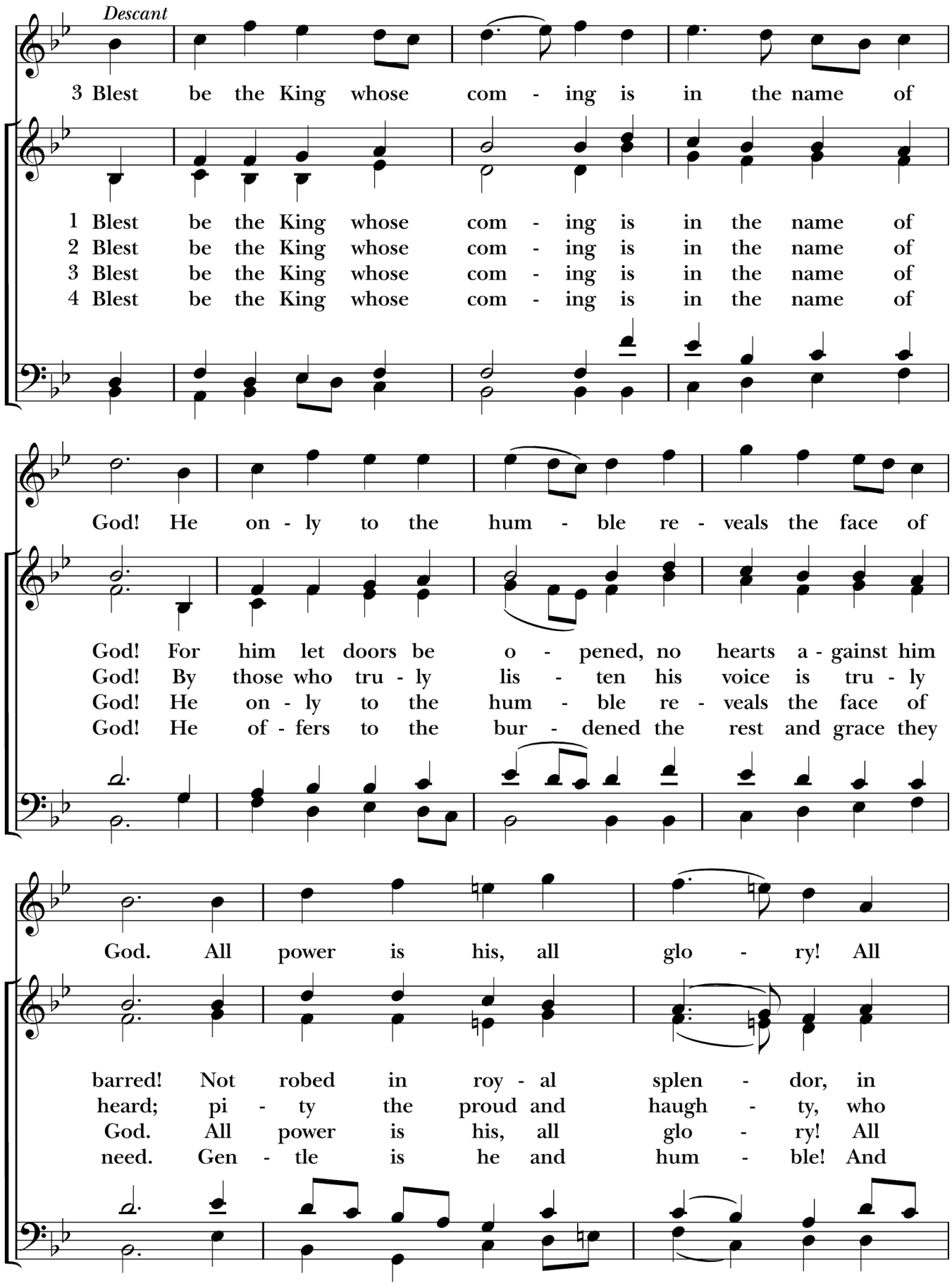
Post-Communion Prayer |

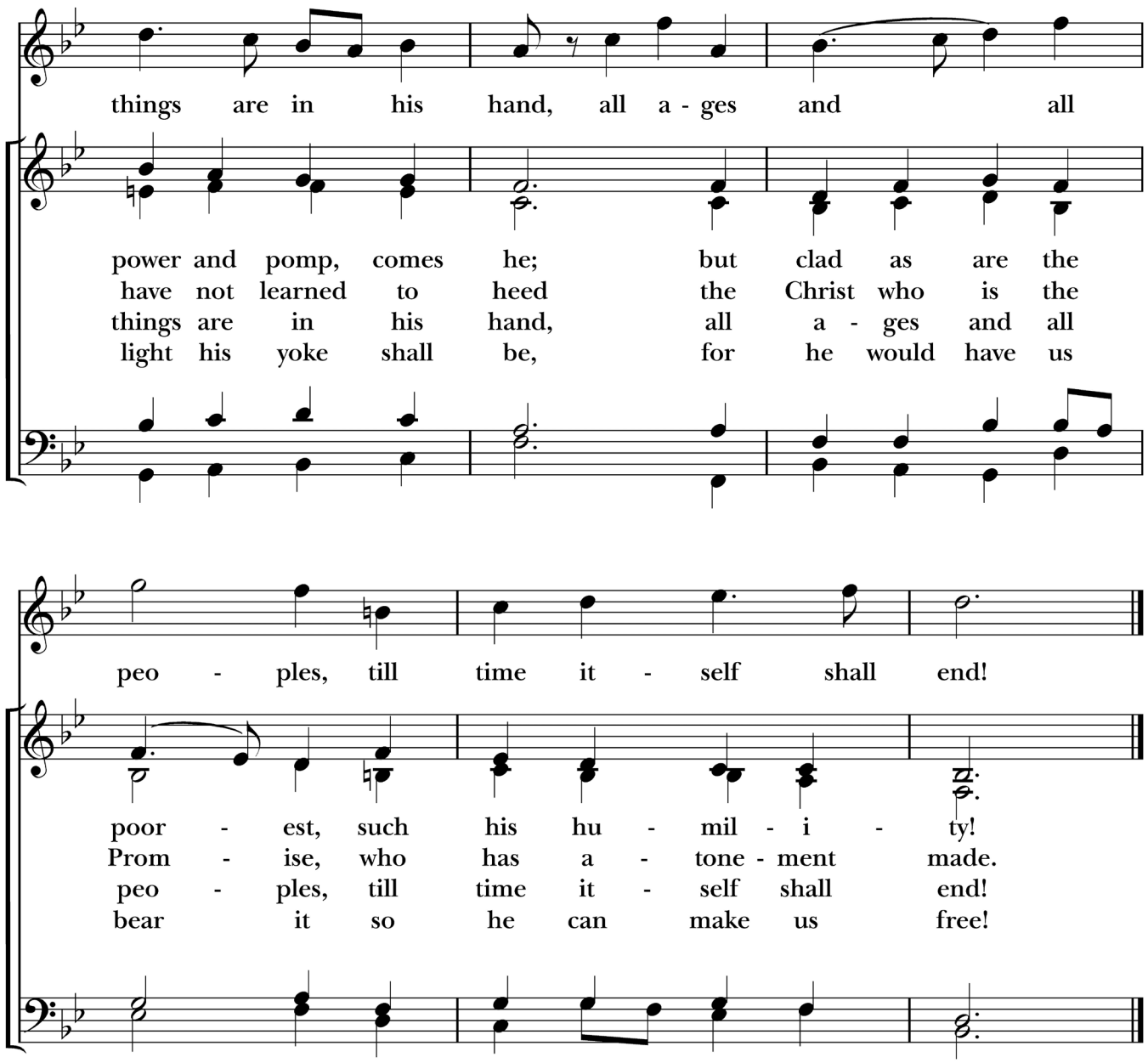
Celebrant: Let us pray.

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.**


Descant
3 Blest be the King whose com - ing is in the name of
1 Blest be the King whose com - ing is in the name of
2 Blest be the King whose com - ing is in the name of
3 Blest be the King whose com - ing is in the name of
4 Blest be the King whose com - ing is in the name of
God! He on - ly to the hum - ble re - veals the face of
God! For him let doors be o - pened, no hearts a - gainst him
God! By those who tru - ly lis - ten his voice is tru - ly
God! He on - ly to the hum - ble re - veals the face of
God! He of - fers to the bur - dened the rest and grace they
God. All power is his, all glo - ry! All
barred! Not robed in roy - al splen - dor, in
heard; pi - ty the proud and haugh - ty, who
God. All power is his, all glo - ry! All
need. Gen - tle is he and hum - ble! And



The Dismissal |

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

Postlude | Nun Komm, Der Heiden Heiland (Savior of the Heathen, Come) J.S. Bach

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 | "Be Known to Us" St. James Advent Service, arr. Richard Shephard | "Holy, Holy, Holy, Lord" from St. James Advent Service arr. Richard Shephard

ASSISTING IN WORSHIP TODAY

8:00 a.m. Service
Lectors/Readers: Ronald Baran
Ushers: Nancy Winchester, Kayode Fatodu
Chalicist: Dione Mahoney

10:30 a.m. Service
Lectors/Readers: Cheryl Lucente
Ushers: Isaac Olajide, Yetti Lipede, Jane Adams, Cherry Williams, Beth Dagne, Alex Amponsah, Hope Oladipupo, Eva Oladipupo
Acolytes and Crucifer: Ava Fox, Alex Opiri, Jasmine Opiri
Chalicist: Kathy Lyon

Altar Guild
Jan DeBoissiere, Virginia Jarrett



Advent at Christ Church is a time of waiting and of watching, of listening and of breathing, and of focusing on our search for Christ's love and peace in our lives as we prepare ourselves to celebrate his birth. This focus encourages us to slow down; Advent challenges the commotion that is commonly found around the holidays and helps us stay grounded. From worship and musical celebrations to communal dinners and holiday get-togethers, Christ Church has a full schedule of services and gatherings that you can take part in.

View our website's Advent and Christmas page for more information: **https://www.christchurchcolumbia.org/advent-and-christmas** and check **our parish calendar** for timing details.

A FEW OF OUR UPCOMING GATHERINGS:
Weekday Mornings: Morning Prayer on our website and Facebook
Tuesday and Thursday: Virtual Coffee Hour on Zoom
December 14: Healing Eucharist in Old Brick
December 16: Rosemary for Remembrance in New Brick
December 17: Festival of Nine Lessons and Carols in New Brick

PARISH CALENDAR
DECEMBER 10 TO DECEMBER 16

Sunday, December 10

8:00 am	Holy Eucharist – Old Brick
8:30 am	Breakfast – New Brick, lower level
8:45 – 9:30 am	Coffee Hour – Old Brick
9:00 – 9:30 am	Family Service – New Brick, upper level
9:30 am	Sunday School
9:30 – 10:30 am	Bible Study – Parish Hall, conference room
9:30 – 10:30 am	Sunday Circle – Old Brick
10:30 am	Holy Eucharist w/music – New Brick, upper level
11:30 am – 12:30 pm	Virtual Coffee Hour – Zoom
12:30 – 5:30 pm	Tabernacle of David Church – Old Brick
1:15 – 5:30 pm	Columbia Pro Cantare – New Brick, upper level
2:00 pm	Confirmation Class – Parish Hall, lower level
2:00 pm	EFM – Parish Hall, conference Room
6:00 – 10:00 pm	Ministerio Embajadores M.E.J. – Parish Hall, lower level

Monday, December 11

7:00 am	Morning Prayer Livestream
12:45 – 1:00 pm	Dorsey Center Meal Drop-off
3:15 – 3:30 pm	Grassroots Drop-off
7:00 – 8:00 pm	Centering Prayer – Old Brick & Zoom
7:30 – 10:00 pm	Columbia Conjurers – Parish Hall, lower level
7:30 – 9:00 pm	Outreach Meeting – Zoom

Tuesday, December 12

7:00 am	Morning Prayer Livestream
11:00 – 12:00 pm	Weekly Staff Meeting – Zoom
12:00 – 1:00 pm	Virtual Coffee Hour – Zoom
7:00 – 11:00 pm	Ministerio Embajadores M.E.J. – Parish Hall, lower level
7:30 – 9:30 pm	Building and Grounds Meeting – Zoom

Wednesday, December 13

7:00 am	Morning Prayer Livestream
5:00 – 6:00 pm	Refugee Leadership Meeting – Zoom
5:00 – 9:00 pm	Peabody Recital – New Brick, upper level
7:00 – 8:00 pm	Adult Children of Alcoholics – Parish Hall, lower level

Thursday, December 14

8:00 am	Morning Prayer Livestream
9:00 am – 3:00 pm	Howard County Homeschool – New Brick, lower level
12:00 pm	Healing Eucharist – Old Brick
12:00 – 1:00 pm	Virtual Coffee Hour – Zoom
7:00 – 7:30 pm	Handbell Choir Rehearsal – New Brick, upper level
7:00 – 11:00 pm	Ministerio Embajadores M.E.J. – Parish Hall, lower level
7:30 – 9:00 pm	Adult Choir Rehearsal – New Brick, upper level
7:30 – 9:00 pm	Boy Scouts – New Brick, lower level

(continued)

Friday, December 15

7:00 am	Morning Prayer Livestream
5:00 – 9:00 pm	Peabody Recital – New Brick, upper level
7:00 pm	Evening Prayer Livestream
8:00 pm – 12:00 am	Tabernacle of David Church – Old Brick

Saturday, December 16

12:30 – 3:30 pm	Peabody Recital – New Brick, upper level
2:00 pm	AA Meeting, Parish Hall, lower level
5:00 – 6:30 pm	Rosemary for Remembrance Service – New Brick, upper level
6:00 – 8:00 pm	Men of Christ Church Christmas Dinner – Ale House, Columbia
6:00 – 12:00 pm	Event Rental – New Brick, lower level
7:00 – 11:00 pm	Ministerio Embajadores M.E.J. – Parish Hall, lower level

---

ANNOUNCEMENTS

To submit announcements, email to **communications@christchurchcolumbia.org** by Tuesday evening.
For a digital copy of the complete service leaflet with working links, etc., visit the main page of our website, or visit **www.christchurchcolumbia.org/worship-archive**

Our Advent and Christmas Schedule

The season is upon us! Christ Church's Advent and Christmas page contains the schedule of the main services and gatherings occurring throughout the season, so be sure to check back regularly and join us. Visit **christchurchcolumbia.org/advent-and-christmas**. You can also view our Parish Calendar **here**, which includes all upcoming events on our campus, both for the parish and the community.

Christmas Flowers and Music

Christmas Flowers and Music donations in memory or dedication of a loved one are being gratefully accepted. These help fund the wonderful greenery, flowers, and musicians that assist in bringing the seasons of Advent and Christmas to life for everyone. There are two ways you can donate - you can do so digitally using our **Online Giving Form** and simply select "Christmas Flowers & Music" or "Christmas General Offering" from the *FUND* dropdown menu and write the dedication name(s) on the *MEMO* line. If doing so by check, you'll find both Christmas envelopes in the Narthex and in Old Brick. When using either method, please be sure to submit yours no later than Wednesday, December 20th.

Centering Prayer - December 11

Join us in Old Brick at 7:00 p.m. Monday evenings for Centering Prayer, a special evening prayer gathering that helps us be present and open to God. You can also take part virtually from wherever you are; **The Zoom link is here**, the Meeting ID is **859 2522 4340,** and the Passcode is **Centering!**

Healing Eucharist - December 14

Christ Church offers midday worship in historic Old Brick on Thursday at 12 noon, including readings, prayers, a litany for healing, and the Holy Eucharist. Everyone is welcome to join us for a prayerful time as we seek healing for ourselves and our loved ones, so come reflect, pray, and participate in a service in our beautiful chapel, the oldest building of worship still in regular use in Howard County.

Christ Church Choirs - December 14
CEC Choirs are busy on Thursdays in December! Handbell Choir gathers from 7-7:30, and Adult Choir rehearses from 7:30-9 p.m. **You can find links to the registration forms on our website's Music Ministry page**. Whether you read music or not, whether you have previous experience or not, and whether you are ready to commit or not, there's a place for you in our choir. If you're interested, or if you have any questions, please speak with Larissa or email her at **music@christchurchcolumbia.org**

MOCC Holiday Dinner - December 16
The MOCC has its Holiday Dinner on Saturday, December 16th at The Ale House in Columbia at 6 p.m. The cost is $50. per person, **and the menu can be found here**. You can pay using **our Online Giving Form**, selecting "Men of Christ Church" from the *FUND* dropdown menu, and writing "2023 Holiday Dinner" in the *MEMO* line. Interested to learn more about the MOCC, or this event? Please email Duane Smith at **cduanesmith@verizon.net**

Rosemary for Remembrance - December 16
We have all known a great amount of loss, either directly or indirectly. In addition, the weeks leading up to Christmas can be a pressured time, and frazzled nerves can cause us to get beside ourselves. This is why Christ Church offers our *Rosemary Service of Remembrance*, a quiet, reflective worship that helps us to slow down and recover ourselves. We welcome everyone to join us at 5 p.m. in New Brick in a comforting and meditative service of prayer, music, and readings, as we lift up all of those loved ones who have left us.

Festival of Nine Lessons and Carols - December 17
Christ Church will hold a Festival of Nine Lessons and Carols in New Brick, a truly wonderful gathering whose origins date back to late 19th century England. All are most welcome to join us in this celebration of glorious carols, anthems, and hymns led by our wonderful choir, interspersed with Bible passages. Please join us at 6 p.m. in New Brick for an evening of joyful expression, in word and song, of the greatest story that has ever been told.

Christmas Eve at Christ Episcopal Church - December 24
Our incredible youth and children are featured in the 4:00 Christmas Eve worship at Christ Church, a family service in New Brick that includes a live Nativity. All preschool - 5th grade kids are invited to join in and have a role, so email us at **info@christchurchcolumbia.org** or call the Church Office to participate.

That evening, our excellent choir and instrumentalists will lead the seasonal music presentation before both uplifting evening services, so arrive at 7:30 and 10:30 p.m. to grab great seats in New Brick and join us as we celebrate in joyous song!

Celebrate Christmas Day - December 25
Christmas Day Eucharist is a truly wonderful service, and in 2023 it takes place in the Sanctuary of New Brick. And so, as the hymnist suggested... *"Come and worship… worship Christ, the new-born King!"*

New Year's Eve Worship - December 31
We will gather together for this final day of 2023, and collectively begin the New Year with worship and prayers for a healthier, safer, and more peaceful year to come. Join us at 8:00 a.m. in Old Brick and 10:30 for Jazz Eucharist with the Leister Quartet in New Brick.

New Year's Day - January 1
Celebrating the first morning of the New Year is always special, so join us at 10 a.m. in New Brick for Holy Eucharist and a ringing in of the new year.

CEC Book Club - Fridays in 2024
Christ Chruch's Book Club has wrapped up a book recently and decided to take a break this month so that we can focus on Advent and Christmas. We'll return in the new year and meet for about an hour or so on Friday evenings to discuss a chapter or two of our current book. We're always welcoming new people into our group so if this sounds like something you might enjoy, join us! Email Ellen Hoke at **bookclub@christchurchcolumbia.org** for more information.

Meals Ministry
The Stewardship season focuses on the giving of our time, talent, and treasure, and one way to do so is by lending a hand to those in need. Christ Church's Pastoral Care Commission is growing its Meals Ministry to ensure that there is always someone who can provide a home-cooked meal to those who might need one. If you would like to help, or if you know someone in need, please speak with Deacon Denise or email her at **deacondenise@christchurchcolumbia.org**

Healing Stations
Christ Church now has healing stations during the 10:30 Eucharist at the back of the sanctuary. If you need prayer, we invite you to visit the healing station after receiving Communion. We also welcome those of you who wish to help, so if you are interested in joining a group of parishioners who offer healing prayer, speak with or email Rebecca Warlow at **rwarlow131@gmail.com**

Please Support the Rector's Discretionary Fund
The RDF typically helps fulfill the needs of those in our community. There are real people with real needs that we help support, so we appeal to you to consider supporting the RDF in order for us to help our neighbors. **Visit our main Online Giving Form** and select "Rector's Discretionary Fund" from the *FUND* dropdown menu if you'd like to help.

Help Us Plan Christ Church's 300th Birthday
We are gathering and planning for Christ Church's 300th year - such an important milestone for our church - and we want participation and ideas from as many of us as possible. There are a variety of committees that you can serve on and so we would like to encourage everyone to consider being a part of this historic occasion. If you have ideas, are interested in assisting, or need more information, please speak with Robin Bradley or email **300@christchurchcolumbia.org**

Communion to You
In an effort to connect more directly with those of you who are local and worship virtually, Christ Church offers Communion to You, an opportunity to have altar gifts delivered to you or made available for pickup at the Church Office. If you want more information, **please complete this form** or **email** the Church Office.

Inviting You to Remotely the Monthly Outreach Meeting on Monday, Dec. 11
Learn many ways to help others by joining us remotely for the Outreach Commission meeting on Monday, Dec. 11 at 7:30 p.m. Our mission has a local, national, and international scope. The Zoom link is **HERE**, the Meeting ID is **876 3365 4968** and the Passcode is **Outreach!** See you on Zoom!

Christ Church Extends Extra Help to the Homeless at Grassroots' DRC in Jessup, Where You Can Help Prepare or Serve a Meal on Monday, Dec. 11
Our homeless friends depend on the Day Resource Center (DRC) for more than its tasty meals. Once more, staff members called on Christ Church to help replenish resources at the DRC, which is operated by the **Grassroots Crisis Intervention Center**.

Responding to the latest need, Outreach member Dione Mahoney bought 357 pairs of men's and women's underwear, ordering from a wholesaler and shopping at Walmart. The items cost $504. Funds came from parishioners who donate through the church and mark their contributions to "General Outreach" or specifically to the DRC, which is located at the Leola Dorsey Community Resource Center. Thanks to one and all!

Next up is our turn to provide DRC's hot midday meal on the second Monday of each month. To join us on Monday, Dec. 11, please sign up by Sunday, Dec. 10. If you wish to volunteer or bring food for the midday meal, our **DRC online signup form** describes the procedure. We most recently took part on Oct. 9 (see photos).

The drop-off time for side dishes, desserts, and fruit is 12:45 p.m. in the Christ Church parking lot near Old Brick. In-person volunteers are gathering at that time to carpool to Jessup. Later, parishioners cook or shop for the evening meal for 50 residents of Grassroots' Live-In Facility on Freetown Rd. arrive in the Old Brick parking lot between 3:15 and 3:30 p.m. Get details in our **Grassroots online signup form**.

Grassroots staff serves the evening meal. It's efficient to provide for both venues on the same day. Your donations and Vestry-approved funds pay for the fried chicken entrees. Thank you! Grassroots has wider needs for its pantries, now located at three sites. It welcomes in-kind donations to be dropped off for delivery on the second Mondays. Look for its list on church bulletin boards or see "Related Files" on each signup form.

Columbia Community Care Makes Plea for Diapers, Sizes 3-6, and Plans a Holiday Toy and Kids' Book Giveaway on Saturday, Dec. 16

Columbia Community Care (CCC) has announced holiday activities to help kids and their families, planning a children's holiday giveaway at Oakland Mills High School at 11 a.m. on Saturday, Dec. 16. Check the **CCC Facebook Group** for updates to find out how to do your part.

Please help CCC replenish its inventory of baby wipes and diapers. "We give out so many every weekend, mostly sizes 3 through 6," the organization's pantry manager, April Lee, told Christ Church this week. Put these, along with sanitary and personal care items and adult diapers, in the yellow bin, marked "CCC," inside the Parish Hall. Our point of contact is Leigh Smith, who monitors the bin and delivers its contents.

Please Donate All Kinds of Grocery Non-Perishables and Toiletries to FISH

FISH of Howard County needs non-perishable foods and toiletries. FISH provides committed support to select families in need. Please put donations in the basket at the altar or in the marked yellow bin on the breezeway between Old Brick and Parish Hall. The neighbors you help give thanks for all you do in their support.

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.



YOUTH & FAMILY MINISTRIES

The Jesse Tree

The Jesse Tree is back! This tradition honors the genealogy of Jesus Christ, tracing his Old and New Testament ancestors and telling the history of God's act of salvation. Our own Jesse Tree, complete with beautiful hand-made ornaments by artist Jenn Lavanish, is in the Narthex, and each weekday, Mother Marcia Davenport posts a brief video explaining the Jesse Tree subject of the day. Those who wish to honor this wonderful, daily tradition will find a brief Scripture reading and an ornament template to print, decorate, and display on a Jesse Tree of their own on our website throughout Advent. Visit **www.christchurchcolumbia.org/jessetree** each weekday between December 1st and Christmas.

Children & Youth Ministry Schedule for December

The Children's Ministry Program for the month of December will be as follows:

This Sunday from 9:30 - 9:40 a.m. Rehearsal of Pageant songs with Larissa in the Sanctuary.

December 17 from 9:30 - 10:15 a.m.: Pageant dress rehearsal and final Handbell Choir practice.

December 23 from 2 - 4 p.m.: Christmas Caroling

December 24 There is no 9 a.m. service and no Sunday School.
The Christmas Pageant is at 4:00 p.m. sharp, so please arrive by 3:30 p.m. Thanks!

December 24 There is no 9 a.m. service and no Sunday School.

For more information, please email Kiona (**kiona@christchurchcolumbia.org**) or Jennifer Atkins (**sundayschool@christchurchcolumbia.org**) with any questions.

In 2024 (save the date):

- **Skiing trip to Whitetail**: January 6th
- **Discovery Weekend Youth Retreat @ St. John's:** January 20-21
- **Souper-Bowl Fundraiser:** February 11
- **Diocese of Maryland's "Happening" Retreat:** February 16-18
- **Easter Egg Hunt:** March 31
- **New Beginnings:** April 19-21
- **Youth Sunday:** April 28
- **Mothers' Day Flower Sale:** May 11
- **DreamBuilders Blitz-Building Outreach:** June 16-22



CHRIST CHURCH STEWARDSHIP

Donation envelopes are now located in the Narthex for those needing them. If you have any questions, **please email the church office**.

Thank YOU.

Your faithfulness is what makes life happen at Christ Church. Your faithfulness makes Christ Church stronger. Your faithfulness enables our parish to embrace, with courage, the task that God has for us. We need to remember that Christ Church is completely dependent on this faithfulness. Your beloved Christ Church counts on you and your faithful giving.

Stewardship 2024

We are so blessed to have a community of dedicated parishioners who support our ministry of faithful service, and we hope that each parishioner will prayerfully consider their contribution to Christ Church. You may pick up a pledge card in the Narthex to complete, or you can complete one electronically on our website - **www.christchurchcolumbia.org/2024-pledge**

Text Giving

You can 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 toward your annual pledge or another offering. Whether it's a one-time donation or a recurring gift, you can go to our **overview page** for instructions and links. Signing up is fast and easy; if you need assistance doing so, or if you have any Stewardship-related questions, please contact us at **info@christchurchcolumbia.org**

You can read the latest Vestry-approved monthly report here.



Christ Episcopal Church
6800 Oakland Mills Road
Columbia, MD 21045
(410) 381-9365
www.christchurchcolumbia.org
office@christchurchcolumbia.org

The Rev'd Emmanuel Ato Mercer, *Rector*
The Rev'd Denise Schiavone*, Deacon*
Kiona Lookingbill, *Director of Youth and Family Ministries*
Michael Looney, *Seminarian Associate*
Larissa Sanders, *Music Director*
Yetti Lipede, *Ministry Coordinator*
Christopher Pouch, *Communications Administrator*
Aisha White, *Parish Administrator*
Amanda Kirkpatrick, *Nursery Care Coordinator*
Nytia Perry, *Nursery Care*
Jefferson Cuarezma Flores, *Sexton*

Vestry

Jan DeBoissiere (*Senior Warden*) • Isaac Olajide (*Junior Warden*) •
Andrew Eaton (*Treasurer*) Ron Couch (*Registrar*) • Jonah Aribiah (*Youth Liaison*)
Denisa Abdallah • Ronald Baran • Tim Beaty • John Curley • Simone Kolnik • Ray Lyon• Diane Phillips-LaGuerre
Greg Schuckman •Alfred Titus-Glover • Cherry Lynn Williams