



# **FESTIVAL OF NINE LESSONS AND CAROLS**

## **AT CHRIST EPISCOPAL CHURCH**

**SUNDAY, DECEMBER 21**

### **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](http://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.

## 140 Once in Royal David's City

1 Once in roy - al Da - vid's cit - y stood a  
2 He came down to earth from heav - en who is  
3 Je - sus is our child - hood's pat - tern; day by  
4 And our eyes at last shall see him, through his

low - ly cat - tle shed, where a moth - er laid her  
God and Lord of all, and his shel - ter was a  
day like us he grew; he was lit - tle, weak and  
own re - deem - ing love; for that child so dear and

ba - by in a man - ger for his bed: Ma - ry  
sta - ble, and his cra - dle was a stall; with the  
help - less; tears and smiles like us he knew; and he  
gen - tle is our Lord in heaven a - bove; and he

The musical score is written for a four-part choir (Soprano, Alto, Tenor, Bass) in 4/4 time, with a key signature of one flat (B-flat). It consists of three systems of music. The first system contains the first four lines of the hymn. The second system contains the next four lines, starting with a measure rest for the Soprano part. The third system contains the final four lines, also starting with a measure rest for the Soprano part. The lyrics are printed below the vocal staves.

9

was that moth-er mild; Je-sus Christ, her lit-tle child.  
 poor and meek and low-ly, lived on earth our Savior ho-ly.  
 feels for all our sadness, and he shares in all our gladness.  
 leads his chil-dren on to the place where he is gone.

## BIDDING PRAYER |

*Officiant:* Beloved in Christ, in this Christmastide, let it be our care and delight to hear again the message of the Angels, and in heart and mind to go even unto Bethlehem, and see this thing which is come to pass, and the Babe lying in a manger.

Let us read and mark in Holy Scripture the tale of the loving purposes of God from the first days of our disobedience unto the glorious Redemption brought us by this holy Child; and let us make this place glad with our carols of praise.

But first, let us pray for the needs of his whole world; for peace and goodwill over all the earth; for the mission and unity of the Church for which he died, and especially in this country and within Columbia.

*Officiant:* And because this of all things would rejoice his heart, let us at this time remember in his name the poor and the helpless, the hungry and the oppressed; the sick and those who mourn; the lonely and the unloved; the aged and the little children; and all those who know not the Lord Jesus, or who love him not, or who by sin have grieved his heart of love. Lastly, let us remember before God his pure and lowly Mother, and all those who rejoice with us, but upon another shore and in a greater light, that multitude which no one can number, whose hope was in the Word made flesh, and with whom, in this Lord Jesus, we forevermore are one.

These prayers and praises let us humbly offer up to the throne of heaven, in the words which Christ himself hath taught us:

## THE LORD'S PRAYER |

*Celebrant:* And now, as our Savior Christ has taught us, let us hold hands and 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 BLESSING |

*Officiant:* May the Almighty God bless us with his grace; Christ give us the joys of everlasting life; and unto the fellowship of the citizens above may the King of Angels bring us all. **AMEN.**

**THE FIRST LESSON** | Genesis 3:8-15, 17-19

*God tells sinful Adam that he has lost the life of Paradise and that his seed will bruise the serpent's head.*

The man and his wife heard the sound of the LORD God walking in the garden at the time of the evening breeze, and they hid themselves from the presence of the LORD God among the trees of the garden. But the LORD God called to the man, and said to him, "Where are you?" He said, "I heard the sound of you in the garden, and I was afraid, because I was naked; and I hid myself." He said, "Who told you that you were naked? Have you eaten from the tree of which I commanded you not to eat?" The man said, "The woman whom you gave to be with me, she gave me fruit from the tree, and I ate." Then the LORD God said to the woman, "What is this that you have done?" The woman said, "The serpent tricked me, and I ate." The LORD God said to the serpent,

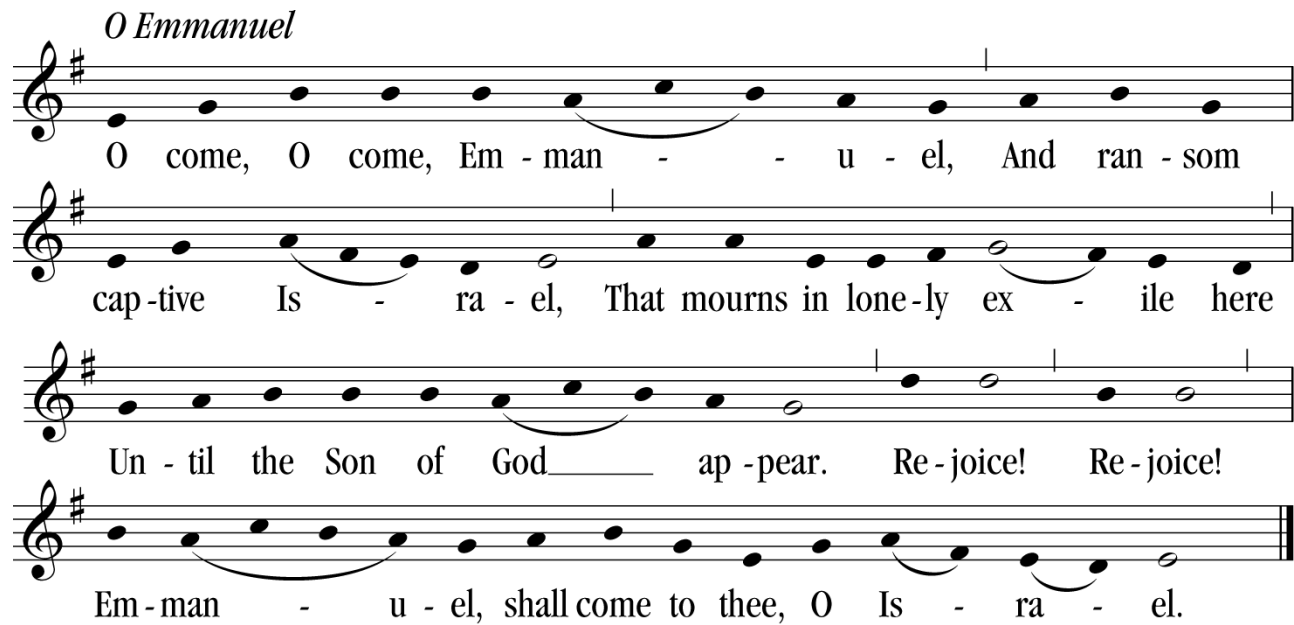
"Because you have done this,  
    cursed are you among all animals  
    and among all wild creatures;  
upon your belly you shall go,  
    and dust you shall eat  
    all the days of your life.  
I will put enmity between you and the woman,  
    and between your offspring and hers;  
he will strike your head,  
    and you will strike his heel."  
And to the man he said,  
'Because you have listened to the voice of your wife,  
    and have eaten of the tree  
about which I commanded you,  
    You shall not eat of it',  
cursed is the ground because of you;  
    in toil you shall eat of it all the days of your life;  
thorns and thistles it shall bring forth for you;  
    and you shall eat the plants of the field.  
By the sweat of your face  
    you shall eat bread  
until you return to the ground,  
    for out of it you were taken;  
you are dust,  
    and to dust you shall return."

*Reader:*           The Word of the Lord.

***People:*       Thanks be to God.**

**ANTIPHON 1 | O Emmanuel (choir and congregation)**

*O Emmanuel*



O come, O come, Em - man - u - el, And ran - som  
cap - tive Is - ra - el, That mourns in lone - ly ex - ile here  
Un - til the Son of God ap - pear. Re - joice! Re - joice!  
Em - man - u - el, shall come to thee, O Is - ra - el.



**THE SECOND LESSON | Genesis 22:15-18**

*God promises to faithful Abraham that in his seed shall all the nations of the earth be blessed.*

The angel of the LORD called to Abraham a second time from heaven, and said, "By myself I have sworn, says the LORD: Because you have done this, and have not withheld your son, your only son, I will indeed bless you, and I will make your offspring as numerous as the stars of heaven and as the sand that is on the seashore. And your offspring shall possess the gate of their enemies, and by your offspring shall all the nations of the earth gain blessing for themselves, because you have obeyed my voice."

**Reader:** The Word of the Lord.

**People:** Thanks be to God.

1 It came up - on the mid - night clear, that  
 2 Still through the clov - en skies they come with  
 3 Yet with the woes of sin and strife the  
 4 For lo! the days are haste - ning on, by

glo - rious song of old, from an - gels bend - ing  
 peace - ful wings un - furled, and still their heaven - ly  
 world has suf - fered long; be - neath the heaven - ly  
 pro - phets seen of old, when with the ev - er -

near the earth to touch their harps of gold:  
 mu - sic floats o'er all the wea - ry world;  
 hymn have rolled two thou - sand years of wrong;  
 cir - cling years shall come the time fore - told,

"Peace on the earth, good will to men, from  
 a - bove its sad and low - ly plains they  
 and war - ring hu - man - kind hears not the  
 when peace shall o - ver all the earth its

heaven's all - gra - cious King." The world in sol - emn  
 bend on hov - ering wing, and ev - er o'er its  
 tid - ings which they bring; O hush the noise and  
 an - cient splen - dors fling, and all the world give

still - ness lay to hear the an - gels sing.  
 Ba - bel - sounds the bless - ed an - gels sing.  
 cease your strife and hear the an - gels sing!  
 back the song which now the an - gels sing.

## ANTIPHON 2 | O Sapientia (choir and congregation)

*O Sapientia*

O come, Thou Wis - dom from \_\_\_\_\_ on high, Who or - derest  
 all things migh - ti - ly; To us the path of know - ledge show,  
 And teach us in her ways \_\_\_\_\_ to go. Re - joice! Re - joice!  
 Em - man - u - el, shall come to thee, O Is - ra - el.

## THE THIRD LESSON | Isaiah 9:2, 6-7

*The prophet foretells the coming of the Savior.*

The people who walked in darkness  
 have seen a great light;  
 those who lived in a land of deep darkness -  
 on them light has shined.  
 For a child has been born for us,  
 a son given to us;  
 authority rests upon his shoulders;

and he is named  
 Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God,  
 Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.  
 His authority shall grow continually,  
 and there shall be endless peace  
 for the throne of David and his kingdom.  
 He will establish and uphold it  
 with justice and with righteousness  
 from this time onward and forevermore.  
 The zeal of the LORD of hosts will do this.

*Reader:* The Word of the Lord.

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

## ANTHEM | There Is No Rose of Such Virtue

*Jessica Nelson*

## ANTIPHON 3 | O Adonai (*choir and congregation*)

*O Adonai*

O come, O come, thou Lord of might, who to thy  
 tribes on Si - nai's height In an - cient times didst give the law,  
 in cloud and ma - jes - ty and awe. Re - joice! Re - joice!  
 Em - man - u - el, shall come to thee, O Is - ra - el.

## THE FOURTH LESSON | Isaiah 11:1-3a, 4a, 6-9

*The peace that Christ will bring is foreshown.*

A shoot shall come out from the stump of Jesse,  
 and a branch shall grow out of his roots.  
 The spirit of the LORD shall rest on him,  
 the spirit of wisdom and understanding,  
 the spirit of counsel and might,  
 the spirit of knowledge and the fear of the LORD.  
 His delight shall be in the fear of the LORD.  
 With righteousness he shall judge the poor,  
 and decide with equity for the meek of the earth;  
 The wolf shall live with the lamb,  
 the leopard shall lie down with the kid,



the calf and the lion and the fatling together,  
 and a little child shall lead them.  
 The cow and the bear shall graze,  
 their young shall lie down together;  
 and the lion shall eat straw like the ox.  
 The nursing child shall play over the hole of the asp,  
 and the weaned child shall put its hand on the adder's den.  
 They will not hurt or destroy  
 on all my holy mountain;  
 for the earth will be full of the knowledge of the LORD  
 as the waters cover the sea.

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

*The people stand as able.*

**DANCE MEDITATION** | Peace, Salaam, Shalom

*Pat Humphries  
 Lumen Christi Dancers*

**ANTIPHON 4** | O Radix Jesse (*choir and congregation*)

*O Radix Jesse*

O come, Thou branch of Jes - se's tree, Free them from  
 Sa - tan's ty - ra - ny. That trust thy migh - ty pow' - er to save,  
 And give them vic - t'ry o'er the grave. Re - joice! Re - joice!  
 Em - man - u - el, shall come to thee, O Is - ra - el.

**THE FIFTH LESSON** | Luke 1:26-35, 38

*The angel Gabriel salutes the Blessed Virgin Mary.*

In the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent by God to a town in Galilee called Nazareth, to a virgin engaged to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David. The virgin's name was Mary. And he came to her and said, "Greetings, favored one! The Lord is with you." But she was much perplexed by his words and pondered what sort of greeting this might be. The angel said to her, "Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favor with God. And now, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you will name him Jesus. He will be great, and will be called the Son of the Most High, and the Lord God will give to him the throne of his ancestor David. He will reign over the house of Jacob forever, and of his kingdom there will be no end." Mary said to the angel, "How can this be, since I am a virgin?" The angel said to her, "The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you; therefore the child to be born will be holy; he will be called Son of God." Then Mary said, "Here am I, the servant of the Lord; let it be with me according to your word." Then the angel departed from her.

*Reader:* The Word of the Lord.

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

**ANTHEM** | Canticle of the Turning (My Heart Cries Out with a Joyful Shout)

*Lyrics by Rory Cooney based on the Magnificat, Traditional Irish tune, arr. Anne Krentz Organ*

**ANTIPHON 5** | O Clavis David (*choir and congregation*)

*O Clavis David*



O come, Thou Key of Dav - id, come, And o - pen  
wide our heaven - ly home; Make safe the way that leads on high,  
And close the path to mis - e - ry. Re - jice! Re - jice!  
Em - man - u - el, shall come to thee, O Is - ra - el.

The musical score is written on four staves, each with a treble clef and a key signature of one sharp (F#). The melody is simple and repetitive, with lyrics written below the notes. The lyrics are: "O come, Thou Key of Dav - id, come, And o - pen wide our heaven - ly home; Make safe the way that leads on high, And close the path to mis - e - ry. Re - jice! Re - jice! Em - man - u - el, shall come to thee, O Is - ra - el." The score ends with a double bar line.

**THE SIXTH LESSON** | Luke 2:1, 3-7

*St Luke tells of the birth of Jesus.*

In those days a decree went out from Emperor Augustus that all the world should be registered. All went to their own towns to be registered. Joseph also went from the town of Nazareth in Galilee to Judea, to the city of David called Bethlehem, because he was descended from the house and family of David. He went to be registered with Mary, to whom he was engaged and who was expecting a child. While they were there, the time came for her to deliver her child. And she gave birth to her firstborn son and wrapped him in bands of cloth, and laid him in a manger, because there was no place for them in the inn.

*Reader:* The Word of the Lord.

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

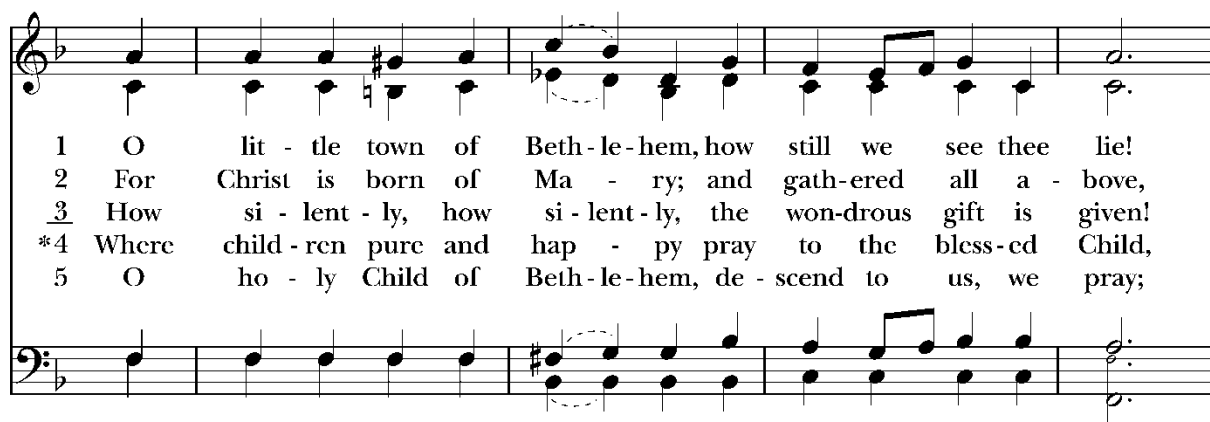
**ANTHEM** | How Quietly (Children & Adult Choirs)

*Joel Raney*

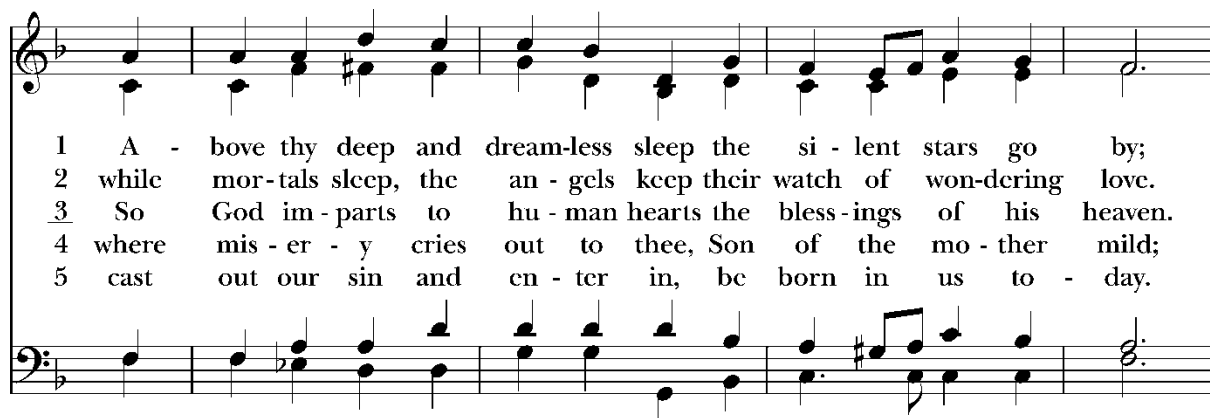
**GREETING AND WELCOME** | The Rev. Emmanuel Ato Mercer, *Rector*

*Please scan to give.*

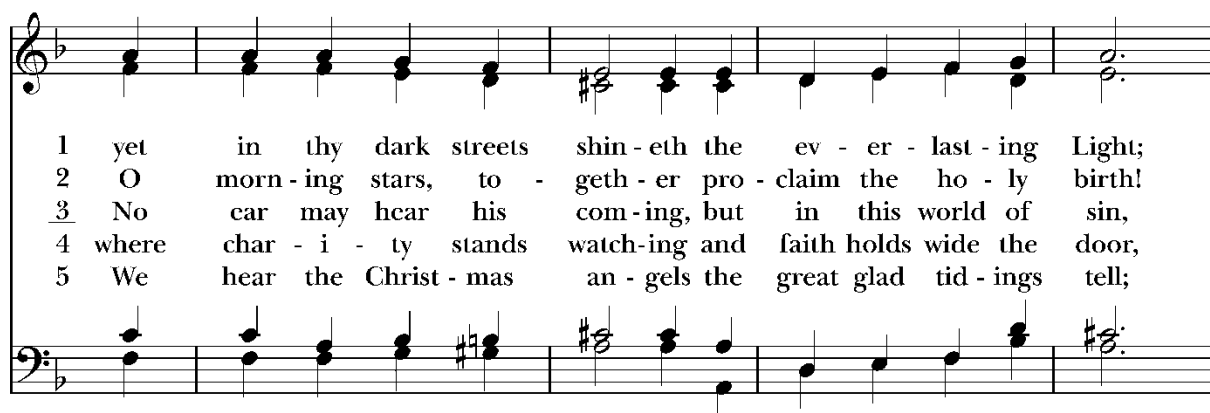




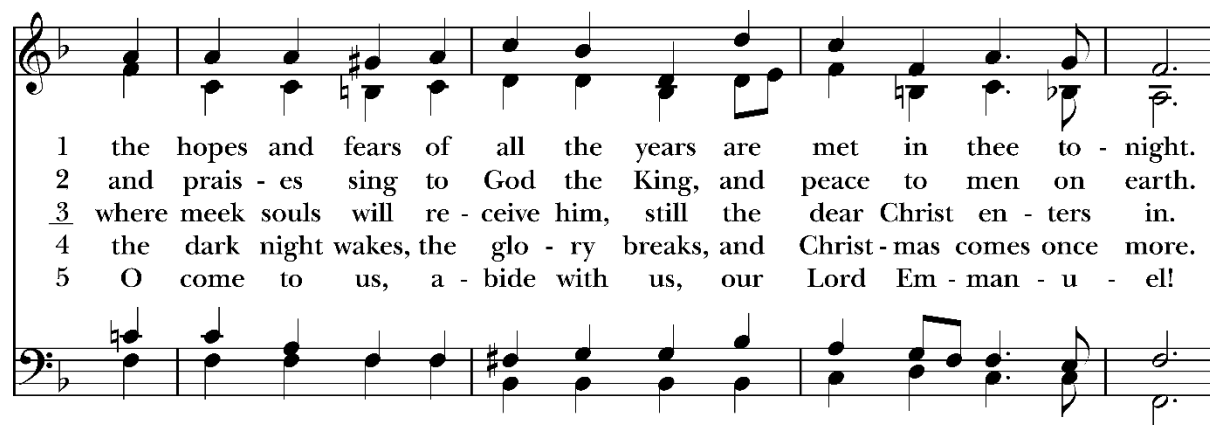
1 O lit - tle town of Beth - le - hem, how still we see thee lie!  
 2 For Christ is born of Ma - ry; and gath - ered all a - bove,  
 3 How si - lent - ly, how si - lent - ly, the won - drous gift is given!  
 \*4 Where child - ren pure and hap - py pray to the bless - ed Child,  
 5 O ho - ly Child of Beth - le - hem, de - scend to us, we pray;



1 A - bove thy deep and dream - less sleep the si - lent stars go by;  
 2 while mor - tals sleep, the an - gels keep their watch of won - d'ring love.  
 3 So God im - parts to hu - man hearts the bless - ings of his heaven.  
 4 where mis - er - y cries out to thee, Son of the mo - ther mild;  
 5 cast out our sin and en - ter in, be born in us to - day.



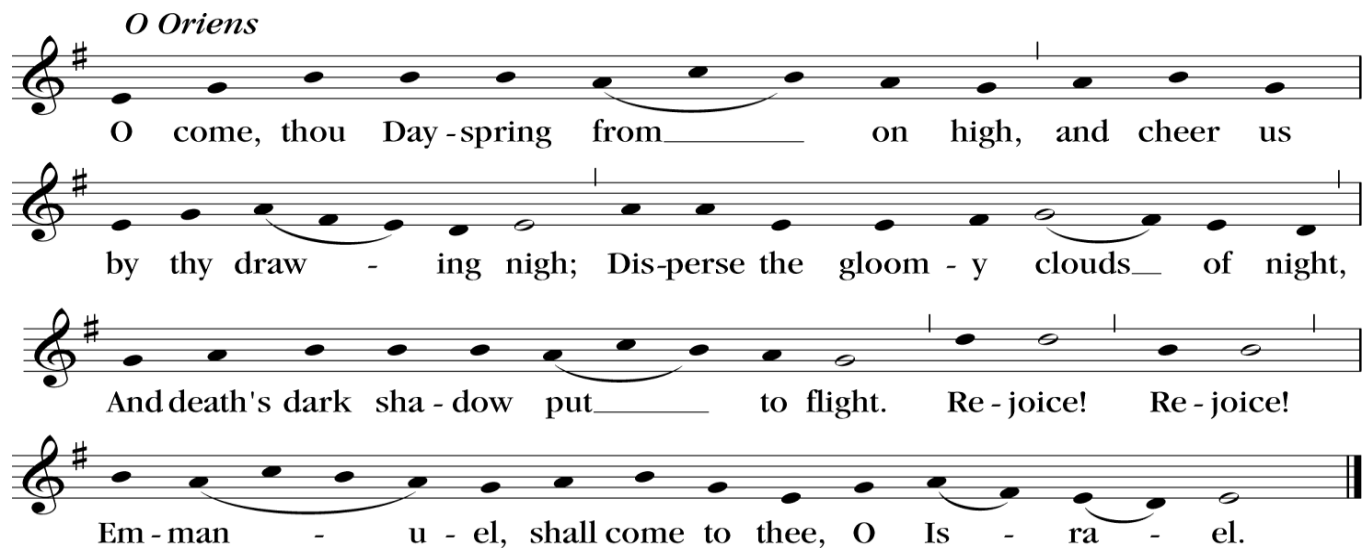
1 yet in thy dark streets shin - eth the ev - er - last - ing Light;  
 2 O morn - ing stars, to - geth - er pro - claim the ho - ly birth!  
 3 No ear may hear his com - ing, but in this world of sin,  
 4 where char - i - ty stands watch - ing and faith holds wide the door,  
 5 We hear the Christ - mas an - gels the great glad tid - ings tell;



1 the hopes and fears of all the years are met in thee to - night.  
 2 and prais - es sing to God the King, and peace to men on earth.  
 3 where meek souls will re - ceive him, still the dear Christ en - ters in.  
 4 the dark night wakes, the glo - ry breaks, and Christ - mas comes once more.  
 5 O come to us, a - bide with us, our Lord Em - man - u - el!

ANTIPHON 6 | O Oriens (*choir and congregation*)

*O Oriens*



O come, thou Day-spring from \_\_\_\_\_ on high, and cheer us  
by thy draw - ing nigh; Dis-perse the gloom - y clouds\_ of night,  
And death's dark sha - dow put \_\_\_\_\_ to flight. Re - joice! Re - joice!  
Em - man - u - el, shall come to thee, O Is - ra - el.

THE SEVENTH LESSON | Luke 2:8-16

*The shepherds go to the manger.*

In that region there were shepherds living in the fields, keeping watch over their flock by night. Then an angel of the Lord stood before them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. But the angel said to them, "Do not be afraid; for see-- I am bringing you good news of great joy for all the people: to you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is the Messiah, the Lord. This will be a sign for you: you will find a child wrapped in bands of cloth and lying in a manger." And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host, praising God and saying,

"Glory to God in the highest heaven,  
and on earth peace among those whom he favors!"

When the angels had left them and gone into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, "Let us go now to Bethlehem and see this thing that has taken place, which the Lord has made known to us." So they went with haste and found Mary and Joseph, and the child lying in the manger.

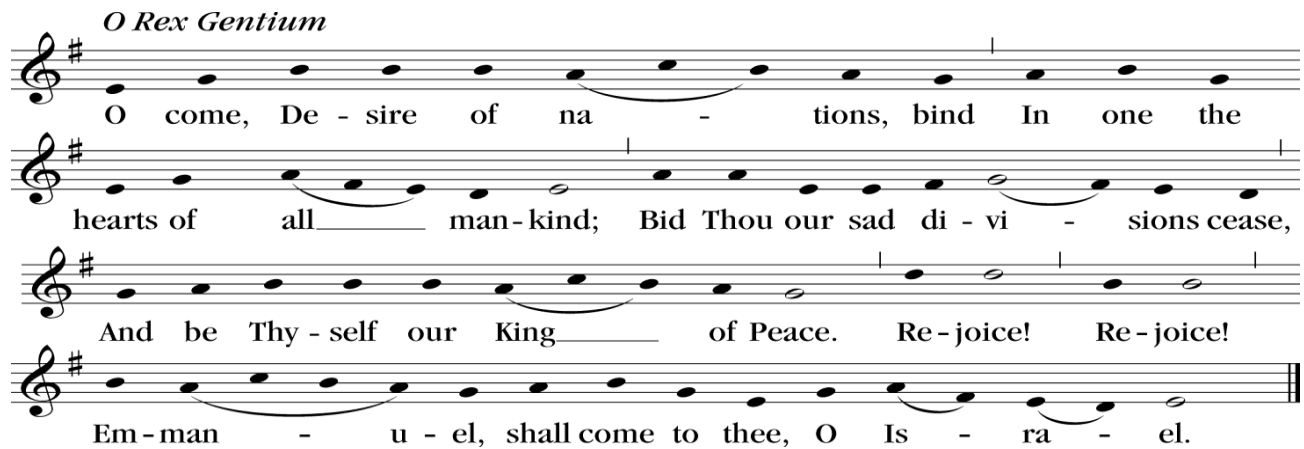
*Reader:* The Word of the Lord.  
*People:* Thanks be to God.



ANTHEM | Angels We Have Heard on High  
O Come, All Ye Faithful

*arr. Jacob B. Weber*  
*Handbell Choir*

## ANTIPHON 7 | O Rex Gentium *(choir and congregation)*



## THE EIGHTH LESSON | Matthew 2:1-12

*The wise men are led by the star to Jesus.*

In the time of King Herod, after Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea, wise men from the East came to Jerusalem, asking, "Where is the child who has been born king of the Jews? For we observed his star at its rising, and have come to pay him homage." When King Herod heard this, he was frightened, and all Jerusalem with him; and calling together all the chief priests and scribes of the people, he inquired of them where the Messiah was to be born. They told him, "In Bethlehem of Judea; for so it has been written by the prophet:

And you, Bethlehem, in the land of Judah,  
are by no means least among the rulers of Judah;  
for from you shall come a ruler  
who is to shepherd my people Israel."

Then Herod secretly called for the wise men and learned from them the exact time when the star had appeared. Then he sent them to Bethlehem, saying, "Go and search diligently for the child; and when you have found him, bring me word so that I may also go and pay him homage." When they had heard the king, they set out; and there, ahead of them, went the star that they had seen at its rising, until it stopped over the place where the child was. When they saw that the star had stopped, they were overwhelmed with joy. On entering the house, they saw the child with Mary his mother; and they knelt down and paid him homage. Then, opening their treasure chests, they offered him gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh. And having been warned in a dream not to return to Herod, they left for their own country by another road.

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

*The people stand as able.*

1 The first No - well the an - gel did say  
 2 They look - ed up and saw a star  
 3 And by the light of that same star  
 4 This star drew nigh to the north - west,  
 5 Then en - tered in those wise men three

1 was to cer - tain poor shep - herds in fields as they lay;  
 2 shin - ing in the east be - yond them far,  
 3 three wise men came from coun - try far;  
 4 o'er Beth - le - hem it took its rest,  
 5 full rev - erent - ly up - on their knee,

1 in fields as they lay, keep - ing their sheep,  
 2 and to the earth it gave great light,  
 3 to seek for a king was their in - tent,  
 4 and there it did both stop and stay  
 5 and of - fered there in his pres - ence

1 on a cold win - ter's night that was so deep.  
 2 and so it con - tin - ued both day and night.  
 3 and to fol - low the star wher - ev - er it went.  
 4 right o - ver the place where Je - sus lay.  
 5 their gold, and myrrh, and frank - in - cense.

*Refrain*

No - well, No - well, No - well, No - well,

born is the King of Is - ra - el.

6 Then let us all with one accord  
sing praises to our heavenly Lord;  
that hath made heaven and earth of nought,  
and with his blood our life hath bought.

*Refrain*

*Alternative Refrain*  
*Descant (others unison)*

No - well, No - well, No - well, No - well,

born is the King of Is - ra - el.

# ANTIPHON 8 | O Emmanuel (*choir and congregation*)

*O Emmanuel*

O come, O come, Em - man - u - el, And ran - som

cap - tive Is - ra - el, That mourns in lone - ly ex - ile here

Un - til the Son of God ap - pear. Re - joice! Re - joice!

Em - man - u - el, shall come to thee, O Is - ra - el.

*The people remain standing for the reading from John.*

**THE NINTH LESSON** | John 1:1-14

The Rev Emmanuel Ato Mercer, *Rector*

*St John unfolds the great mystery of the Incarnation.*

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was in the beginning with God. All things came into being through him, and without him not one thing came into being. What has come into being in him was life, and the life was the light of all people. The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overcome it.

There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. He came as a witness to testify to the light, so that all might believe through him. He himself was not the light, but he came to testify to the light. The true light, which enlightens everyone, was coming into the world.

He was in the world, and the world came into being through him; yet the world did not know him. He came to what was his own, and his own people did not accept him. But to all who received him, who believed in his name, he gave power to become children of God, who were born, not of blood or of the will of the flesh or of the will of man, but of God.

And the Word became flesh and lived among us, and we have seen his glory, the glory as of a father's only son, full of grace and truth.

*Officiant:* The word of the Lord.

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

**ANTHEM** | Tomorrow Shall Be My Dancing Day

*Traditional Carol, arr. Richard Shephard*

**ANTHEM** | Mary Had a Baby

*Spiritual, arr. by Roland Carter  
Catherine Hinton, Soprano*

*The people stand as able.*

**COLLECT AND BLESSING** |

*Officiant:* The Lord be with you.

***People:* And also with you.**

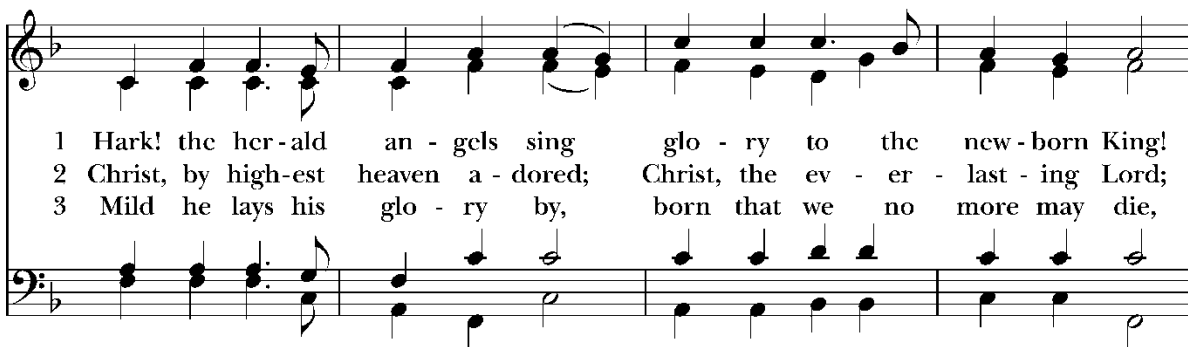
*Officiant:* Let us pray.

O God, you make us glad by the yearly festival of the birth of your only Son Jesus Christ: Grant that we, who joyfully receive him as our Redeemer, may with sure confidence behold him when he comes to be our Judge; who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. ***Amen.***

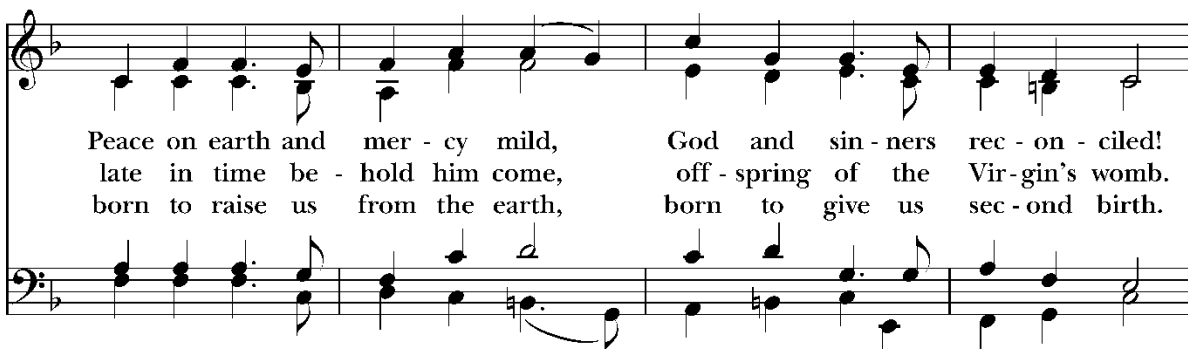
*Officiant:* May Christ, who by his Incarnation gathered into one things earthly and heavenly, fill you with his joy and peace; and the blessing of God Almighty, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, be among you, and remain with you always. ***Amen.***

*The people may be seated.*

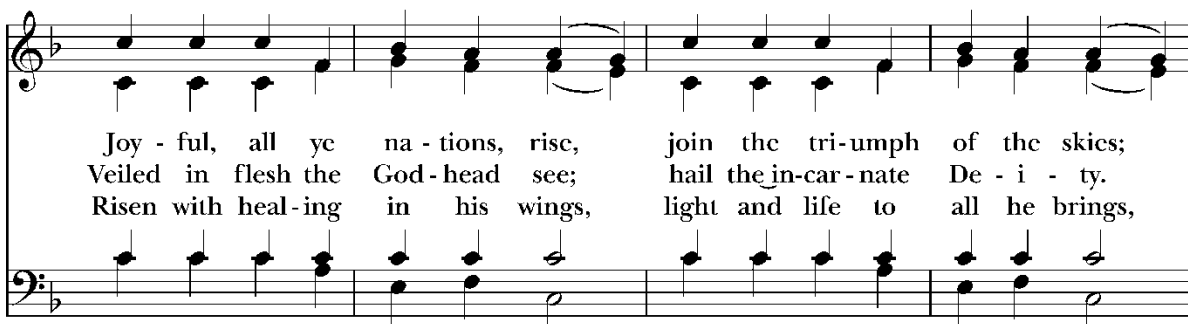




1 Hark! the her-ald an - gels sing glo - ry to the new-born King!  
 2 Christ, by high-est heaven a - dored; Christ, the ev - er - last - ing Lord;  
 3 Mild he lays his glo - ry by, born that we no more may die,



Peace on earth and mer - cy mild, God and sin - ners rec - on - ciled!  
 late in time be - hold him come, off - spring of the Vir - gin's womb.  
 born to raise us from the earth, born to give us sec - ond birth.



Joy - ful, all ye na - tions, rise, join the tri-umph of the skies;  
 Veiled in flesh the God-head see; hail the in-car-nate De - i - ty.  
 Risen with heal-ing in his wings, light and life to all he brings,



with the an - gel - ic host pro - claim Christ is born in Beth - le - hem!  
 Pleased as man with us to dwell; Je - sus, our Em - man - u - el!  
 hail, the Sun of Right-eous-ness! hail, the heaven-born Prince of Peace!

*Refrain*



Hark! the her - ald an - gels sing glo - ry to the new-born King!

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**BRASS QUARTET**

Nathan Clark  
Rob Singer  
Todd Stubbs  
Tim Dugan

**HANDBELL CHOIR**

Canh Chau  
Lexi Couch  
Jan DeBoissiere  
Joan Harvey  
James Schempp  
Shahra Toth

**CHOIR**

**Sopranos**

Greta Barnes  
Jan DeBoissiere  
Catherine Hinton  
Nalini Jairath  
Kim Mosier  
Cathy Whittaker

**Altos**

Emily Aubin  
Sara Kirkpatrick  
Dorothy Lee  
Nancy Schempp  
Shahra Toth  
Lenore Turner

**Tenor**

Michael Brisentine  
Bill Kirkpatrick  
Ola Oladipupo  
Louis Spencer

**Bass**

Phil Bray  
Canh Chau  
Christopher Diaz  
James Schempp  
George Toth

## PAINT BRANCH CHALICE DANCERS

Ken Shilling  
Karen Lee Scrivo  
Marcia Freeman  
Anne Hoover  
Sharon Werth

## LUMEN CHRISTI

Suzanne Ziobro  
Shahra Toth  
Veronica Ivey  
Peggy Hoffman  
Allison Davis

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## PARISH CALENDAR

DECEMBER 21 – 27, 2025

### Sunday, December 21

8:00 am	Holy Eucharist – Old Brick
8:45 am– 9:30 am	Coffee Hour
9:00 am– 9:30 am	Family Worship – New Brick, UL
9:30 am– 10:30 am	Pageant Rehearsal, Sunday Circle
10:30 am	Holy Eucharist w/music – New Brick, UL
12:00 – 2:00 pm	Greening of the Church – New Brick, UL
12:30 – 5:30 pm	Tabernacle of David Church – Old Brick & Parish Hall, LL
1:00 – 5:00 pm	Education for Ministry (EfM) – Zoom & Parish Hall, CR
4:00 – 5:30 pm	Lumen Christi Practice – New Brick, UL
4:30 – 7:30 pm	Total Restoration Church – Old Brick & Parish Hall, LL
6:00 – 8:00 pm	Festival of Nine Lessons & Carols – New Brick, UL

### Monday, December 22

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 pm	Evening Compline with Mother Marcia livestream
7:00 – 8:00 pm	Refugee Ministry Meeting – Zoom

### Tuesday, December 23

7:00 am	Morning Prayer Livestream
11:00 am– 12:00 pm	Weekly Staff Meeting
6:30 – 9:00 pm	Vestry Meeting – New Brick, LL
7:30 pm	Evening Compline with Mother Marcia livestream

### Wednesday, December 24

All Day	Christmas Eve
7:00 am	Morning Prayer Livestream
4:00 – 5:30 pm	Christmas Pageant – New Brick, UL
7:30 – 9:30 pm	Festal Eucharist with Music – New Brick, UL
10:30 – 11:30 pm	Festal Eucharist with Music – New Brick, UL

*(continued)*

**Thursday, December 25**

All Day	Christmas Day
10:00 am	Christmas Day Service – New Brick, UL
4:30 – 7:30 pm	Total Restoration Church – Old Brick & Parish Hall, LL

**Saturday, December 27**

9:00 – 3:00 pm	Iglesia Adventista Del Septimo Dia Fidelidad – Old Brick & Parish Hall, LL
2:00 pm	AA Meeting – Parish Hall, LL
3:30 – 4:30 pm	Altar Guild prep

# CHRISTMAS EVE AT CHRIST CHURCH



**CHRISTMAS PAGEANT AT 4 P.M.**

**FESTAL EUCHARIST AT 8 & 11 P.M.**

**(MUSIC BEGINS AT 7:30 AND 10:30)**

**6800 OAKLAND MILLS ROAD, COLUMBIA, MARYLAND**

# ANNOUNCEMENTS

If you have an announcement to share with the church,  
Please send to [communications@christchurchcolumbia.org](mailto:communications@christchurchcolumbia.org) by Tuesday evening.



**SCAN THE QR CODE FOR ALL OF THIS WEEK'S ANNOUNCEMENTS & LINKS**

## Christ Church's 2025 Christmas Schedule

The season is upon us! Christ Church's Advent and Christmas page provides an overview of upcoming services and gatherings throughout the season; visit [christchurchcolumbia.org/advent-and-christmas-2025](http://christchurchcolumbia.org/advent-and-christmas-2025) for many wonderful worship and fellowship opportunities. Also, be sure to check back starting next Monday, December 1, for Mother Marcia's Weeknight Compline series, Pam Pruitt's daily Advent Poems, and young people's Jesse Tree details - content for all ages! You can also view our Parish Calendar [here](#), which includes all upcoming gatherings for the parish and the community. Check back often for updates and new events.

## "Advent Saints and Holy Ones" Compline – Every Weeknight in Advent

A cornerstone of Christ Church's Advent season celebration, Mother Marcia presents a unique compline livestream every weeknight leading up to Christmas. Gathering inspiration from many different Christian texts, she shares stories that are both familiar and new, personal reflections, and beautiful prayers that will assist us all in maintaining a sense of calm and peace during this busy season. You can find these [on our website](#), [YouTube](#), and [Facebook](#) pages at 7:30 p.m., and we hope that you'll join us and make this a special part of your Advent journey.

## Christ Church on Christmas Eve – December 24

Our incredible youth are featured in the 4:00 Christmas Eve worship at Christ Church, a family service that includes a live Nativity. All kids from pre-school through 5th grade are invited to take on a role, so email us at [info@christchurchcolumbia.org](mailto: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 and join us as we celebrate in joyous song! Worship begins at 8:00 and 11:00 p.m.

## Celebrate Christmas Day – December 25

Christmas Day Eucharist is a truly wonderful service, and in 2025, it takes place in the sanctuary of New Brick at 10 a.m. And so, as the hymnist suggested... *"Come and worship... worship Christ, the new-born King!"*

## Read to Our Sunday School Children

Do you love sharing stories and reading? Did you know that we have volunteers who read a Bible story to our youngest children in the nursery? We can always use more, and we welcome anyone - young, or young at heart - to participate in this ministry. We have books and children's Bibles, or you can bring your favorite story to share. There is no preparation needed, and it only takes 10 minutes of your Sunday. If you are interested, please contact Jenn Atkins at [dandjatkins@verizon.net](mailto:dandjatkins@verizon.net).

## Jesse Tree

Jesse Tree materials are available in the Narthex throughout December, so be sure to grab yours! An example of a simple Jesse Tree is on the table, with both JT packets including "color your own" ornaments, as well as a Jesse Tree coloring and activity book for very young children. Wreath forms and candles are also for sale at a minimal cost. All of these materials will also be available at the December 3 First Wednesday Fellowship gathering, so put on your favorite ugly sweater and join us there!

## **Center for Spiritual Nourishment Returns in January - January 10**

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

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

## **Pledge to Christ Church for 2026**

We are incredibly blessed to have a community of dedicated parishioners who support our ministry of faithful service, and we hope that each of you will prayerfully consider your contribution to Christ Church for the next year, as well.

Pledge cards and envelopes are available in the Narthex to fill out, or you can safely complete one on our website at [christchurchcolumbia.org/2026-pledge](http://christchurchcolumbia.org/2026-pledge). You can also call the church office, and they will send one to you in the mail.

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

## **Centering Prayer - Monday Evenings**

Centering Prayer is a special evening prayer gathering that can help lead to a more intimate union with God, a gathering that takes place every Monday. This active presence heals, transforms, and offers freedom and peace.

We are a hybrid gathering, so be with us in Old Brick or online via Zoom at 7 p.m. on Monday evenings. The Zoom link is here, the Meeting ID is 817 6254 3177, and the Passcode is CP. You can also ask for more information by speaking with Kathy Lyon at church or by emailing [centering@christchurchcolumbia.org](mailto:centering@christchurchcolumbia.org).

## **Bridges' Guilford House Gets a Facelift, and Christ Church Makes a Donation**

Volunteers from Christ Episcopal Church worked during several outings this fall to spiff up a townhouse that is owned by Bridges to Housing Stability. The Howard County property needed TLC inside and out. Known as Guilford House, it is the home of several returning citizens who have gotten their lives on track after incarceration. Bridges operates this transitional housing in partnership with the Howard County Department of Corrections.

George Toth, a Vestry and Outreach member who is knowledgeable about home repair, led the refurbishment. He and Shahra Toth, who took on the role of landscaper, called on a few parishioners who have worked together on efforts for Building & Grounds at Christ Church. Dave Lanczynski worked with George to tackle outdoor drainage issues during sessions in October while Outreach member Shahra handled pruning, weeding and mulching.

Meanwhile George conferred with Bridges and Howard County personnel to plan stairwell repairs that included safety upgrades of the handrail. After George completed the improvements, including drywall, it was time to paint. On Nov. 3, a Christ Church team of six took up paint brushes and rollers to beautify the kitchen, living room, and stairwell. The Toths were joined by Buildings & Grounds Chair Jan DeBoissiere, Cathy Gold, Eileen Harlee and Outreach member Michon Semon.

Planning began during the summer after Bridges called for volunteerism during a presentation to congregations attended by Father Manny. In the next few months, the volunteers had the chance to get to know the Guilford house residents, who work and are involved in the community. Bridges paid the bulk of expenses for the home improvement.

“The transformation is night and day!” said Sarah Hicks, Affordable Housing Program Manager at Bridges. “Thank you for all the work that you have done.”

The Outreach Commission at its December meeting approved a donation of \$450 to Bridges for its various programs intended to prevent and end homelessness in Howard County. These include Bridges Alliance, which offers a “Circle of Support” for low-to-moderate income tenants of its properties; an initiative that collaborates with landlords, and its new HoCo Home Share program that could benefit empty-nesters. Among the two dozen entries in Bridges’ client stories of success is one about Bobby, who lived at Guilford House while advancing in a supermarket job. Bobby met his fiancée at work and they moved on to a home of their own.

### **On Sunday, A Last Chance Before Christmas to Buy DreamBuilders Goods**

Look for fair-trade coffee, tea and chocolates being sold to benefit DreamBuilders after worship services on Sunday, Dec. 21. It’s for a good cause so teams can prepare to rebuild after disasters. The group most recently traveled to Kentucky for the third year in a row to build homes after devastating floods.

### **Hearty Thanks for a Heartwarming 2025 Angel Tree Drive**

What a memorable Christmas it will be for each of the 12 children whose wishes are being fulfilled, for their families, and for all the helpers who have made it happen. We focused our support on a group of middle-school age “angels” to meet a need identified by the Howard County (Central Maryland) division of The Salvation Army. It sponsors the Angel Tree here and elsewhere.

Generous parishioners granted all of the children’s wishes, either buying the items or donating funds. Soon after Thanksgiving, you rapidly filled up all 48 slots on the 2025 Angel Tree signup list. Our “angels” will be receiving gifts such as a scooter, a soccer ball, earbuds, and a crochet kit. And each child will enjoy an outfit and new shoes.

Outreach Commission member Melanie Yaksich led the drive, which culminated on Dec. 12 when she was joined by Angela Braham and Jenny Cecil to sort the incoming gifts (see photos). These were delivered by Dec. 13 to the Salvation Army’s warehouse space. The timing allows families to receive and wrap their children’s gifts as parents anticipate a much brighter Christmas than otherwise possible. On their behalf, please accept this hearty “Thank You!”

### **CCC and FISH Need Diapers, Non-Perishables for Their Shared Pantry**

FISH and Columbia Community Care (CCC) partnered earlier this year and merged their pantries. CCC continues to hand out food at three sites on Saturday mornings and by home delivery to Howard County residents. For information, go online to Get Help. CCC also offers activities for young people. Find updates on CCC’s Facebook page.

FISH continues to pick up donated goods from Christ Church and others. Please put non-perishable food and personal care products in the altar basket or in a bin just inside the Parish Hall. Look for a combo label “FISH/CCC”. Please bring baby wipes and diapers, especially large sizes. 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](mailto:outreach@christchurchcolumbia.org). Your help is greatly welcomed and appreciated. Thank you.



### **Christ Episcopal Church**

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(410) 381-9365

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[office@christchurchcolumbia.org](mailto:office@christchurchcolumbia.org)

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

The Rev. Richard Ginnever, *Rector Emeritus*

The Rev. Yehinuel Odidi, *Seminarian Associate*

Larissa Sanders, *Director of Music Ministry*

Ola Oladipupo, *Assistant Organist*

Yetti Lipede, *Parish Administrator & Ministry Coordinator*

Diya Jackson, *Office & Youth Ministry Coordinator*

Christopher Pouch, *Communications Administrator*

Amanda Kirkpatrick, *Nursery Care Coordinator*

Nytia Perry, *Nursery Care*

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