



CHRIST EPISCOPAL CHURCH

EXTENDING THE LOVE AND EMBRACE OF CHRIST

THE HOLY EUCHARIST, RITE II

10:30 A.M.

Sunday, December 14, 2025 | Third Sunday of Advent – Holy Baptism



Welcome Home!

Welcome to worship at Christ Episcopal Church. If this is your first time with us, we invite you to complete a visitor's form. Our website provides up to date information about our vibrant church:
www.christchurchcolumbia.org.

This bulletin contains all you need to join us in worship, everyone is welcome to receive communion at God's table, and the clergy are happy to speak with you at any time.

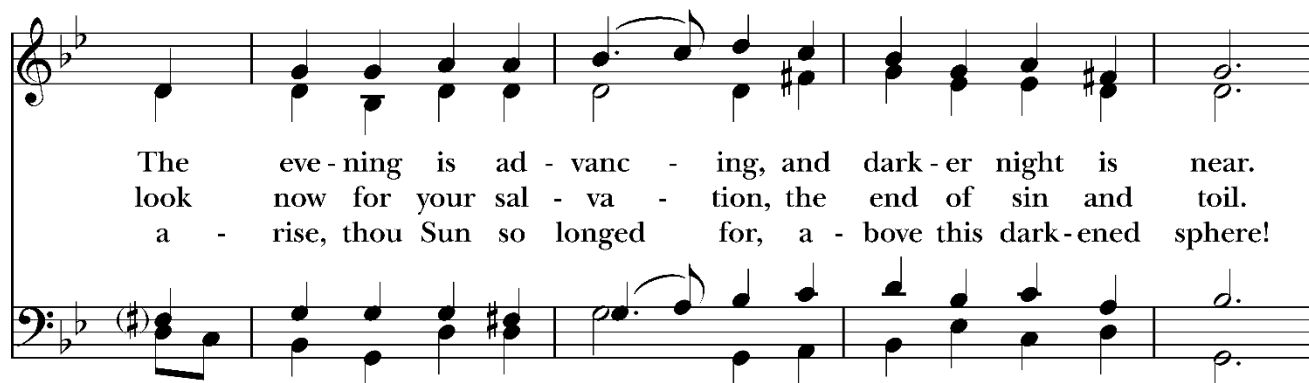
PRELUDE |

OPENING HYMN 68 | Rejoice! Rejoice, Believers

Llangloffan



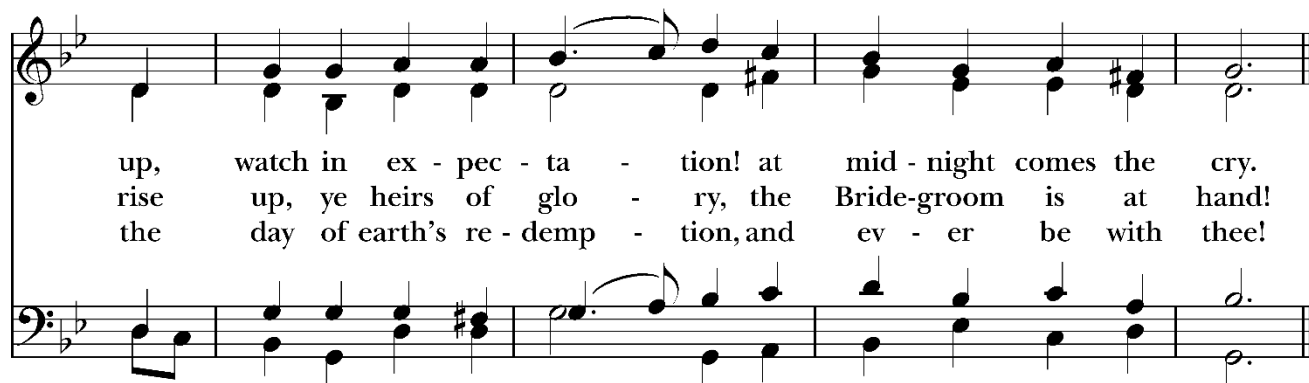
1 Re - joice! re - joice, be - liev - ers, and let your lights ap - pear!
 2 See that your lamps are burn - ing, re - ple-nish them with oil;
 3 Our hope and ex - pec - ta - tion, O Je - sus, now ap - pear;



The eve - ning is ad - vanc - ing, and dark - er night is near.
 look now for your sal - va - tion, the end of sin and toil.
 a - rise, thou Sun so longed for, a - bove this dark - ened sphere!



The Bride - groom is a - ris - ing, and soon he will draw nigh;
 The mar - riage - feast is wait - ing, the gates wide o - pen stand;
 With hearts and hands up - lift - ed, we plead, O Lord, to see



up, watch in ex - pec - ta - tion! at mid - night comes the cry.
 rise up, ye heirs of glo - ry, the Bride - groom is at hand!
 the day of earth's re - demp - tion, and ev - er be with thee!

LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT CANDLE |

Third Candle | The Candle of Joy

Celebrant: Last Sunday we lit the Candle of Peace. We light it and the Candle of Hope as we remember that Jesus, born in Bethlehem, will come again to fulfill all of God's promises and bring us everlasting peace and hope. *(A person lights the candles here)*

Today we light the Third Candle of Advent, the Candle of Joy. When the angel Gabriel told Mary that a special child would be born to her she was filled with joy. She sang a song that began with the words: "My soul magnifies the Lord, my spirit rejoices in God my Savior."

We light the Candle of Joy to remind us that when Jesus is born in us we have joy and that through him there will be everlasting joy on earth. *(A person lights the candles here)*

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

Celebrant: Let us pray.

People: Thank you God for the joy you give us. We ask that as we wait for all your promises to come true, and for Christ 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 joy 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.**

Celebrant: There is one Body and one Spirit;

People: **There is one hope in God's call to us;**

Celebrant: One Lord, one Faith, one Baptism;

People: **One God and Father of all.**

THE COLLECT OF THE DAY |

Celebrant: The Lord be with you.

People: **And also with you.**

Celebrant: Let us pray.

Stir up your power, O Lord, and with great might come among us; and, because we are sorely hindered by our sins, let your bountiful grace and mercy speedily help and deliver us; through Jesus Christ our Lord, to whom, with you and the Holy Spirit, be honor and glory, now and for ever. **Amen.**

The people may be seated.

THE FIRST LESSON | Isaiah 35:1-10

Reader: A reading from Isaiah.

The wilderness and the dry land shall be glad,
the desert shall rejoice and blossom;
like the crocus it shall blossom abundantly,
and rejoice with joy and singing.

The glory of Lebanon shall be given to it,
the majesty of Carmel and Sharon.
They shall see the glory of the Lord,
the majesty of our God.

Strengthen the weak hands,
and make firm the feeble knees.
Say to those who are of a fearful heart,
"Be strong, do not fear!
Here is your God.
He will come with vengeance,
with terrible recompense.
He will come and save you."

Then the eyes of the blind shall be opened,
and the ears of the deaf unstopped;
then the lame shall leap like a deer,
and the tongue of the speechless sing for joy.
For waters shall break forth in the wilderness,
and streams in the desert;
the burning sand shall become a pool,
and the thirsty ground springs of water;
the haunt of jackals shall become a swamp,
the grass shall become reeds and rushes.

A highway shall be there,
and it shall be called the Holy Way;
the unclean shall not travel on it,
but it shall be for God's people; no traveler, not even fools, shall go astray.
No lion shall be there,
nor shall any ravenous beast come up on it;
they shall not be found there,
but the redeemed shall walk there.
And the ransomed of the Lord shall return,
and come to Zion with singing;
everlasting joy shall be upon their heads;
they shall obtain joy and gladness,
and sorrow and sighing shall flee away.

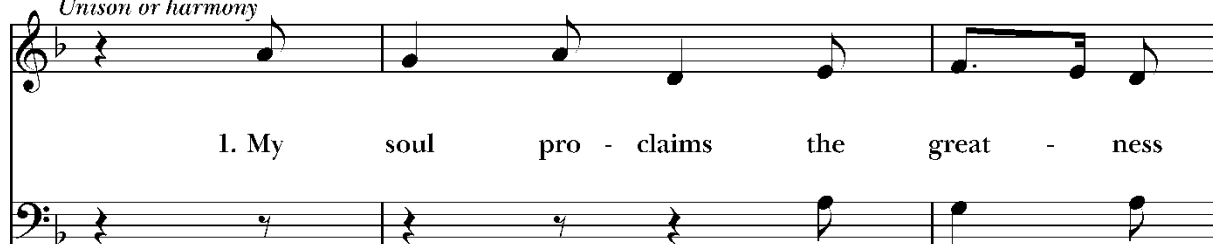
Reader: The word of the Lord.
 People: Thanks be to God.

THE PSALM

Canticle 15 | *The Song of Mary Magnificat*

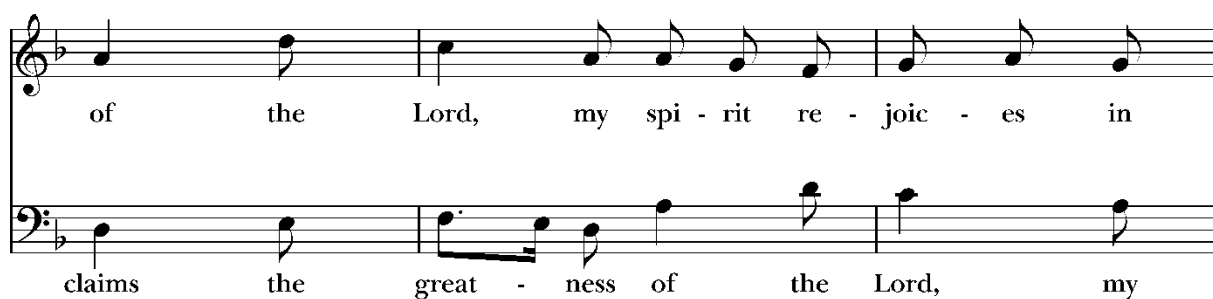
Antiphon

Unison or harmony



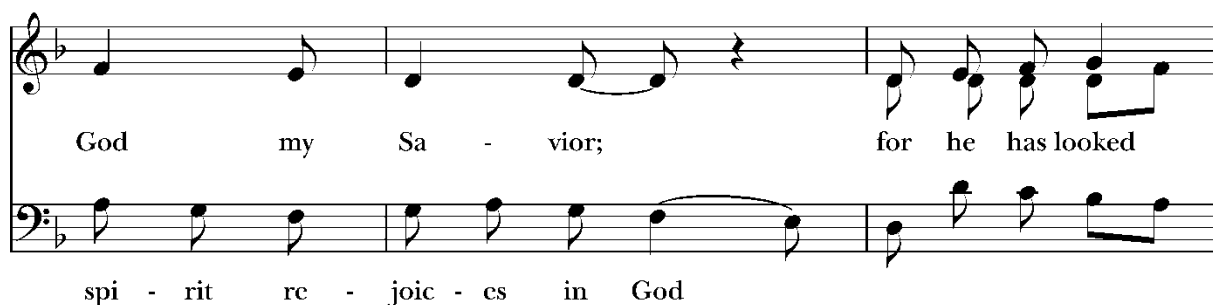
1. My soul pro - claims the great - ness

1. My soul pro -



of the Lord, my spi - rit re - joic - es in

claims the great - ness of the Lord, my

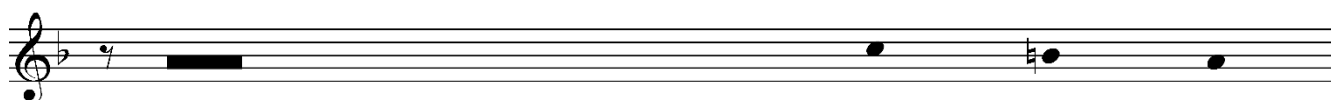


God my Sa - vior; for he has looked

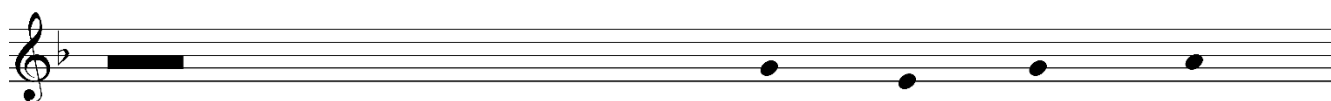
spi - rit re - joic - es in God



with fa - vor on his low - ly ser - vant.



2 From this day all generations will call me blessed:
 3 He has mercy on those who fear him
 4 He has shown the strength of his arm,
 5 He has cast down the mighty from their thrones,
 6 He has filled the hungry with good things,
 7 He has come to the help of his servant Israel,
 8 The promise he made to our fathers,
 9 Glory to the Father, and to the Son,
 10 As it was in the beginning, is now,



2 the Almighty has done great things for me, and holy is his Name.
 3 in every generation. [Ant.]
 4 he has scattered the proud in their conceit.
 5 and has lifted up the lowly. [Ant.]
 6 and the rich he has sent away empty.
 7 for he has remembered his promise of mercy,
 8 to Abraham and his children for ever. [Ant.]
 9 and to the Holy Spirit:
 10 and will be for ever. Amen. [Ant.]

The antiphon may be sung in unison, with the counter-melody played by an instrument, or it may be sung in three parts.

THE EPISTLE | James 5:7-10


Reader: *A reading from James.*

Be patient, therefore, beloved, until the coming of the Lord. The farmer waits for the precious crop from the earth, being patient with it until it receives the early and the late rains. You also must be patient. Strengthen your hearts, for the coming of the Lord is near. Beloved, do not grumble against one another, so that you may not be judged. See, the Judge is standing at the doors! As an example of suffering and patience, beloved, take the prophets who spoke in the name of the Lord.

Reader: The word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

The people stand as able.



5 O come, thou Key of Da - vid, come, and o - pen
 6 O come, thou Day - spring from on high, and cheer us

5 wide our heaven - ly home; make safe the way that leads on
 6 by thy draw - ing nigh; dis - perse the gloom - y clouds of

5 high, and close the path to mis - er - y. Re - joice! Re - joice!
 6 night, and death's dark shad - ow put to flight.

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

THE GOSPEL | Matthew 11:2-11

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

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

When John heard in prison what the Messiah was doing, he sent word by his disciples and said to him, “Are you the one who is to come, or are we to wait for another?” Jesus answered them, “Go and tell John what you hear and see: the blind receive their sight, the lame walk, the lepers are cleansed, the deaf hear, the dead are raised, and the poor have good news brought to them. And blessed is anyone who takes no offense at me.”

As they went away, Jesus began to speak to the crowds about John: “What did you go out into the wilderness to look at? A reed shaken by the wind? What then did you go out to see? Someone dressed in soft robes? Look, those who wear soft robes are in royal palaces. What then did you go out to see? A prophet? Yes, I tell you, and more than a prophet. This is the one about whom it is written,

‘See, I am sending my messenger ahead of you,
 who will prepare your way before you.’

“Truly I tell you, among those born of women no one has arisen greater than John the Baptist; yet the least in the kingdom of heaven is greater than he.”

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

HYMN | Lead Me, Lord

Samuel Sebastian Wesley

Lead me, Lord, lead me in Thy right-eous-ness,

5 Make Thy way plain be - fore Thy face.

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

13 mak - est me dwell in safe - ty.

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

THE SERMON | Rev. Emmanuel Ato Mercer, Rector

The people stand as able.

HOLY BAPTISM

THE PRESENTATION AND EXAMINATION OF THE CANDIDATE: Margaret Lakeman Taulbee

Celebrant: The Candidate for Holy Baptism will now be presented.
Parents and
Godparents: **I present Margaret to receive the Sacrament of Baptism.**

When all have been presented the Celebrant asks the parents and godparents:

Celebrant: Will you be responsible for seeing that the child you present is brought up in the Christian faith and life?

Parents and
Godparents: **I will, with God's help.**

Celebrant: Will you by your prayers and witness help this child to grow into the full stature of Christ?

Parents and
Godparents: **I will, with God's help.**

Then the Celebrant asks the following questions of the parents and godparents who speak on behalf of the infants and younger children:

Question: Do you renounce Satan and all the Spiritual forces of wickedness that rebel against God?

Answer: **I renounce them.**

Do you renounce the evil powers of this world which corrupt and destroy the creatures of God?

I renounce them.

Do you renounce all the sinful desires that draw you from the love of God?

I renounce them.

Do you turn to Jesus Christ and accept him as your Savior?

I do.

Do you put your whole trust in his grace and love?

I do.

Do you promise to follow and obey him as your Lord?

I do.

The celebrant then addresses the congregation:

Celebrant: Will you who witness these vows do all in your power to support this person in their life in Christ?

***People:* We will.**

Celebrant: Let us join with Margaret and all who are committing themselves to Christ and renew our own baptismal covenant.

THE BAPTISMAL COVENANT

Celebrant: Do you believe in God the Father?

***People:* I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth.**

Celebrant: Do you believe in Jesus Christ, the Son of God?

***People:* I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord. He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit and born of the Virgin Mary. He suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried. He descended to the dead. On the third day he rose again. He ascended into heaven, and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again to judge the living and the dead.**

Celebrant: Do you believe in God the Holy Spirit?

***People:* I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting.**

Celebrant: Will you continue in the apostles' teaching and fellowship, in the breaking of the bread, and in the prayers?

***People:* I will, with God's help.**

Celebrant: Will you persevere in resisting evil, and, whenever you fall into sin, repent and return to the Lord?

***People:* I will, with God's help.**

Celebrant: Will you proclaim by word and example the Good News of God in Christ?

***People:* I will, with God's help.**

Celebrant: Will you seek and serve Christ in all persons, loving your neighbor as yourself?

***People:* I will, with God's help.**

Celebrant: Will you strive for justice and peace among all people, and respect the dignity of every human being?

***People:* I will, with God's help.**

PRAYERS FOR THE CANDIDATE

- Celebrant:* Let us now pray for this person who is to receive the Sacrament of new birth.
- Intercessor:* Deliver her, O Lord, from the way of sin and death.
***People:* Lord, hear our prayer.**
- Intercessor:* Open her heart to your grace and truth.
***People:* Lord, hear our prayer.**
- Intercessor:* Fill her with your holy and life-giving Spirit.
***People:* Lord, hear our prayer.**
- Intercessor:* Keep her in the faith and communion of your holy Church.
***People:* Lord, hear our prayer.**
- Intercessor:* Teach her to love others in the power of the Spirit.
***People:* Lord, hear our prayer.**
- Intercessor:* Send her into the world in witness to your love.
***People:* Lord, hear our prayer.**
- Intercessor:* Bring her to the fullness of your peace and glory.
***People:* Lord, hear our prayer.**
- Celebrant:* Grant, O Lord, that all who are baptized into the death of Jesus Christ your Son may live in the power of his resurrection and look for him to come again in glory; who lives and reigns now and forever. **Amen.**

THANKSGIVING OVER THE WATER

- Celebrant:* The Lord be with you
***People:* And also with you.**
- Celebrant:* Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.
***People:* It is right to give him thanks and praise.**
- Celebrant:* We thank you, Almighty God, for the gift of water. Over it the Holy Spirit moved in the beginning of creation. Through it you led the children of Israel out of their bondage in Egypt into the land of promise. In it your Son Jesus received the baptism of John and was anointed by the Holy Spirit as the Messiah, the Christ, to lead us, through his death and resurrection, from the bondage of sin into everlasting life.
- We thank you, Father, for the water of Baptism. In it we are buried with Christ in his death. By it we share in his resurrection. Through it we are reborn by the Holy Spirit. Therefore in joyful obedience to your Son, we bring into his fellowship those who come to him in faith, baptizing them in the Name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

At the following words, the Celebrant touches the water.

Now sanctify this water, we pray you, by the power of your Holy Spirit, that those who here are cleansed from sin and born again may continue forever in the risen life of Jesus Christ our Savior. To him, to you, and to the Holy Spirit, be all honor and glory, now and forever. **Amen.**

THE BAPTISM

The candidate is presented by name to the Celebrant, who pours water upon the candidate, saying:

Celebrant: Margaret, I baptize you in the Name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

The celebrant continues:

Let us pray.

Heavenly Father, we thank you that by water and the Holy Spirit you have bestowed upon this servant the forgiveness of sin, and have raised him to the new life of grace. Sustain her, O Lord, in your Holy Spirit. Give her an inquiring and discerning heart, the courage to will and to persevere, a spirit to know and to love you, and the gift of joy and wonder in all your works. **Amen.**

Then the Priest places a hand on the candidate's head, marking on the forehead the sign of the cross and saying:

Margaret, you are sealed by the Holy Spirit in Baptism and marked as Christ's own forever. **Amen.**

BAPTISM SONG | This Little Light of Mine

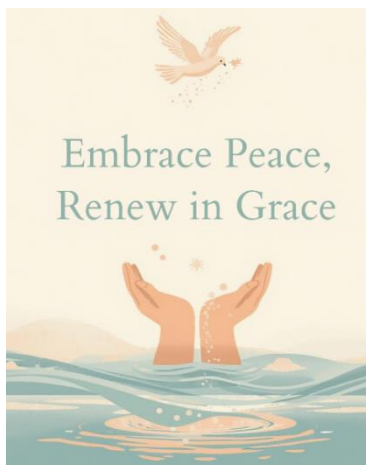
This Little Light of Mine

This little light of mine,
I'm gonna let it shine;
This little light of mine,
I'm gonna let it shine;
This little light of mine,
I'm gonna let it shine,
Let it shine, let it shine, let it shine.

When all have been baptized, the Celebrant says:

Celebrant: Let us welcome the newly baptized.

All: We receive you into the household of God. Confess the faith of Christ crucified, proclaim his resurrection, and share with us in his eternal priesthood.



THE PEACE |

Celebrant: The peace of the Lord be always with you.

People: **And also with you.**

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

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS |

OFFERTORY ANTHEM | Canticle of the Turning (My Soul Cries Out with a Joyful Shout)

Lyrics by Rory Cooney, based on the Magnificat, Traditional Irish tune

arr. Anne Krentz, Organ

Please scan to give.



DOXOLOGY HYMN 380 (v. 1) |

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 HOLY COMMUNION



EUCCHARISTIC PRAYER B |

Celebrant: The Lord be with you.

People: **And also with you.**

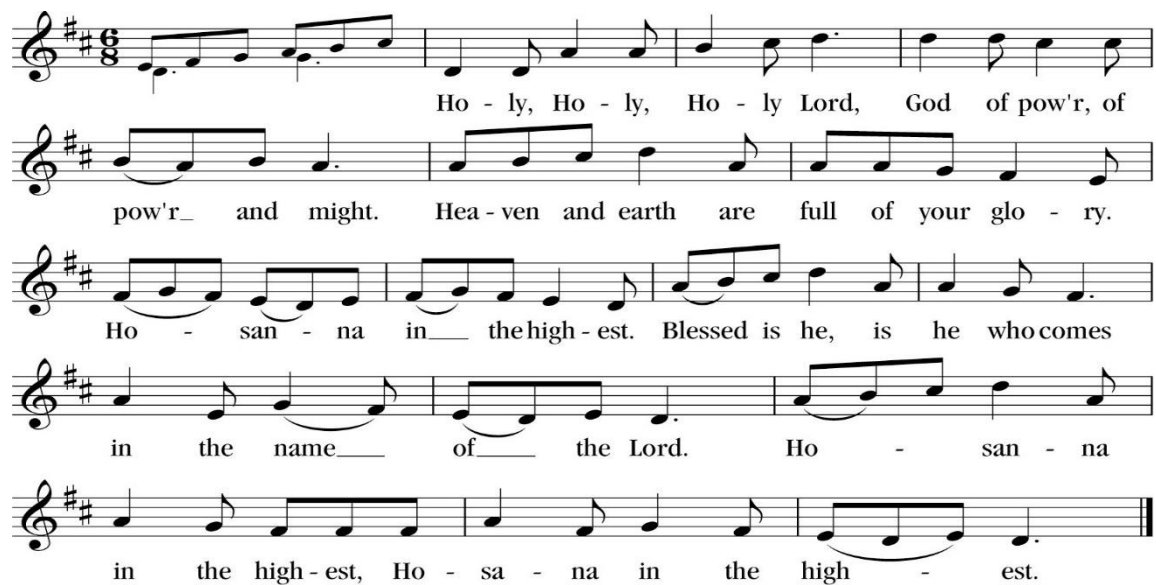
Celebrant: Lift up your hearts.

People: **We lift them to the Lord.**

Celebrant: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

People: **It is right to give him thanks and praise.**

Celebrant: It is right, and a good and joyful thing, always and everywhere to give thanks to you, Father Almighty, Creator of heaven and earth...
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 Celebrant continues

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

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."

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

Therefore, according to his command, O Father,

Celebrant and People:: **We remember his death,
 We proclaim his resurrection
 Christ will come again.**

Celebrant: 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.**

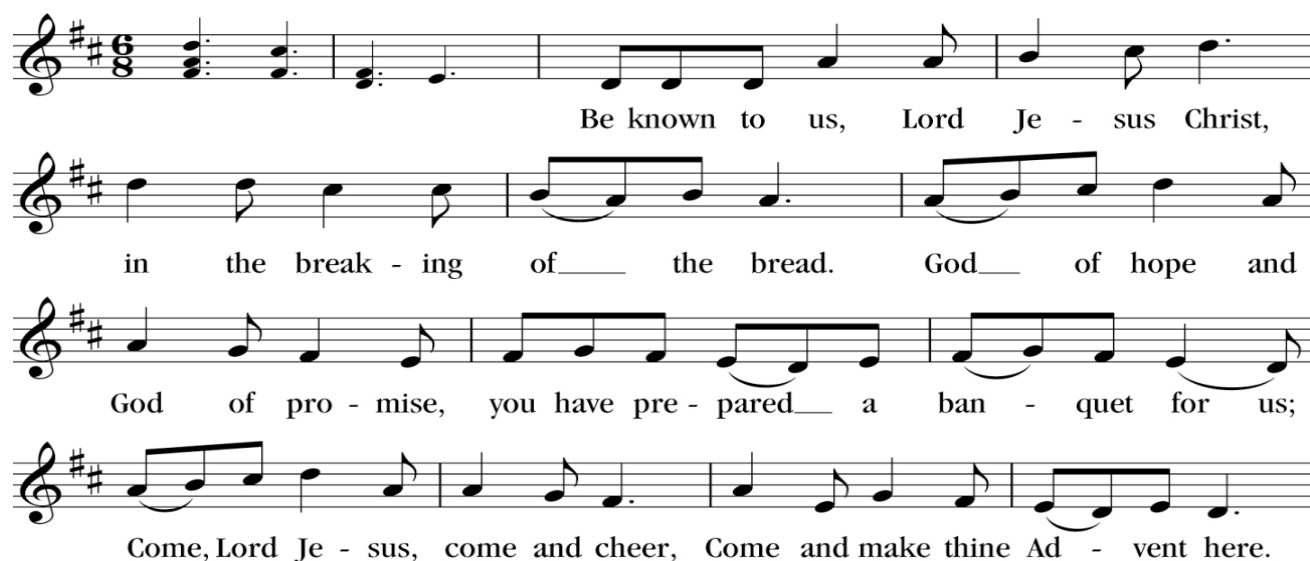
THE LORD'S PRAYER |

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, from St. James Advent Service *Richard Shephard*



Be known to us, Lord Je - sus Christ,
 in the break - ing of the bread. God of hope and
 God of pro - mise, you have pre - pared a ban - quet for us;
 Come, Lord Je - sus, come and cheer, Come and make thine Ad - vent here.




1 In the bleak mid - win - ter, frost - y wind made moan,
 2 Our God, heaven can - not hold him, nor — earth sus - tain;
 3 An - gels and arch - an - gels may have gath - ered there,
 4 What — can I give him, poor — as I am?



earth stood hard as i - ron, wa - ter like a stone;
 heaven and earth shall flee a - way when he comes to reign:
 cher - u - bim and se - ra - phim throng - ed the air;
 If I were a shep - herd, I would bring a lamb;



snow had fal - len, snow on snow, snow — on — snow,
 in the bleak mid - win - ter a sta - ble - place suf - ficed
 but his mo - ther on - ly, in her maid - en bliss,
 if I were a wise — man, I would do my part;



in the bleak mid - win - ter, long a - go.
 the Lord — God in - car - nate, Je - sus Christ.
 wor - shiped the be - lov - ed with a kiss.
 yet what I can I give him — give my heart.

POST COMMUNION PRAYER |

Celebrant: Let us pray.

All: Eternal God, heavenly Father, you have graciously accepted us as living members of your Son our Savior Jesus Christ, and you have fed us with spiritual food in the Sacrament of his Body and Blood. Send us now into the world in peace, and grant us strength and courage to love and serve you with gladness and singleness of heart; through Christ our Lord. Amen.

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

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

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

THE BLESSING |

The Celebrant offers a blessing, and the People respond Amen.



1 The King shall come when morn - ing dawns and
 2 Not, as of old, a lit - tle child, to
 3 The King shall come when morn - ing dawns and
 4 and let the end - less bliss be - gin, by
 5 The King shall come when morn - ing dawns and

1 light tri - um - phant breaks; when beau - ty gilds the
 2 bear, and fight, and die, but crowned with glo - ry
 3 earth's dark night is past; O haste the ris - ing
 4 wear - y saints fore - told, when right shall tri - umph
 5 light and beau - ty brings: Hail, Christ the Lord! Thy

1 east - ern hills and life to joy a - wakes.
 2 like the sun that lights the morn - ing sky.
 3 of that morn, the day that e'er shall last;
 4 o - ver wrong, and truth shall be ex - tolled.
 5 peo - ple pray, come quick - ly, King of kings.

THE DISMISSAL |

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

POSTLUDE |

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Assisting in Worship Today

10:30 a.m. Service

Acolytes: Chloe Spencer, Hope Spencer, Eli Wasula

Advent Candle Lighting: Julie, Matt & Chris Lawser

Altar Guild: Cheryl Lucente, Leigh Smith, Pamela Foreman

Chalicerist: Cheryl Lucente

Lector/Reader: Cheryl Lucente

Tellers: Bill Kirkpatrick, Philip Wright

Ushers: Isaac Olajide, Jane Adams, Yetti Lipede

PARISH CALENDAR

DECEMBER 14 – 20, 2025

Sunday, December 14

8:00 am	Holy Eucharist – Old Brick
8:45 am	Coffee Hour – Old Brick
9:00 am	Family Worship – New Brick
8:45 am	Coffee Hour – Old Brick
9:30 – 10:20 am	Pageant Rehearsal, Sunday Circle
9:30 – 10:00 am	LEV Training – New Brick, UL
10:30 am	Holy Eucharist w/music – New Brick, UL
12:30 – 5:30 pm	Tabernacle of David – Old Brick
1:00 – 3:00 pm	Christmas Caroling Event – New Brick, LL
1:00 – 5:00 pm	Education for Ministry (EfM) – Parish Hall, CR & Zoom
1:15 – 5:30 pm	Sundays @ 3 Concert – New Brick, UL
4:30 – 7:30 pm	Total Restoration Church – Old Brick & Parish Hall, LL

Monday, December 15

7:00 am	Morning Prayer Livestream
4:00 – 6:00 pm	Lumen Christi Practice – New Brick, UL
7:00 – 8:00 pm	Centering Prayer – Old Brick & Zoom
7:30 – 8:00 pm	Evening Compline with Mtr. Marcia Livestream

Tuesday, December 16

7:00 am	Morning Prayer Livestream
5:30 – 6:30 pm	Yoga Camp – Online
7:30 – 8:00 pm	Evening Compline with Mtr. Marcia Livestream
7:00 – 9:00 pm	MS Support Group – New Brick, LL
7:30 – 8:30 pm	300 yr. Communications – Zoom

Wednesday, December 17

7:00 am	Morning Prayer Livestream
7:30 – 8:00 pm	Evening Compline with Mtr. Marcia Livestream

(continued)

Thursday, December 18

7:00 am	Morning Prayer Livestream
9:00 – 4:00 pm	HC Homeschool – New Brick, LL
5:30 – 6:30 pm	Yoga Camp – Online
6:30 – 9:00 pm	Choir Rehearsal – New Brick, upper level
6:30 – 9:00 pm	Education for Ministry (EfM) – Zoom
7:30 – 8:00 pm	Evening Compline with Mtr. Marcia Livestream
7:30 – 9:00 pm	Boy Scouts – New Brick, LL
7:30 – 9:00 pm	CEC Book Club – Zoom

Friday, December 19

7:00 am	Morning Prayer Livestream
2:00 – 4:00 pm	Lumen Christi Practice – New Brick, UL
7:00 pm	Evening Prayer Livestream
7:00 – 10:00 pm	Columbia Procantare Rehearsal – New Brick, UL
7:30 – 8:00 pm	Evening Compline with Mtr. Marcia Livestream

Saturday, December 20

9:00 – 3:00 pm	Iglesia Adventista Del Septimo Dia Fidelidad – Old Brick & Parish Hall, LL
2:00 pm	AA Meeting – Parish Hall, LL
2:00 – 6:30 pm	Columbia Procantare Concert – New Brick, UL
3:30 – 4:30 pm	Altar Guild Prep
5:30 – 8:30 pm	MOCC Xmas Dinner – The King's Contrivance Restaurant



ANNOUNCEMENTS

If you have an announcement to share with the church,
Please send to communications@christchurchcolumbia.org by Tuesday evening.



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

Community Caroling – This Sunday

Join us for a fantastic and uplifting tradition at Christ Church and one that lifts the spirits of those who cannot make it to church or need an extra pick-me-up.

We gather in the Great Hall at 1 p.m., form groups, and travel throughout the community to spend a few minutes with parishioners at their homes while we sing the beloved, inspirational songs of the season.

Christ Church's 2025 Advent and 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 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.

Festival of Nine Lessons and Carols – December 21

Christ Church will hold a Festival of Nine Lessons and Carols in New Brick, a truly wonderful gathering whose origins date back to the late 19th century in 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. We will host a reception with beverages and hors d'oeuvres before the service, so come to the Narthex at 5:00. We will then enter the sanctuary at 6 p.m. for an evening of joyful expression, in word and song, of the greatest story ever told.

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 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 dandjatkings@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.

Pledge to Christ Church for 2026

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

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

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

Our Deadline to Bring in Angel Tree Gifts is Noon on Friday, Dec. 12

Parishioners have kept a long tradition by signing up to fulfill all the wishes of a dozen middle-school-aged children identified by the Central Maryland division of The Salvation Army. Instructions for bagging and tagging the items can be found on the [Angel Tree signup list](#). The deadline to bring unwrapped gifts is noon on Friday, Dec. 12. Please put them in the Parish Hall Operations Room.

Any monetary gifts go toward the cost of purchasing a pair of shoes for each child. To help, consider a contribution to Christ Episcopal Church made online [through Realm](#), by check, or by putting cash in a marked envelope in the collection plate. Please designate Outreach/Angel Tree in the memo section.

Thanks for lifting the hearts of the children and their families who turned to The Salvation Army for help, which conducts the original Angel Tree effort here and elsewhere.

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.

Christ Church Sends Aid to Episcopal Relief & Development to Help Jamaica Cope in the Aftermath of Hurricane Melissa

After Hurricane Melissa struck the Caribbean in late October as a powerful Category 5 storm, Jamaica is facing a long recovery process. A [report by NPR](#) that aired on Dec. 1 describes a town where not a single house survived. At its December meeting, the Outreach Commission approved a donation of \$200 to [Episcopal Relief & Development](#) (ERD), which said in [an online post](#) on Oct. 29 that it would be working with local dioceses and agencies to respond. ERD also offers people seeking comfort and hope an online resource in the form of its [Prayer Hub](#). You'll find a link that provides meaningful prayers in a [time of a disaster](#), [amid crisis](#), and for other needs such as for [mental health and mindfulness](#). Last month, Christ Church gave \$500 to UNICEF, which had begun to aid families across the Caribbean who were displaced by the hurricane. These are Vestry-approved funds derived from your pledges and contributions. Thank you!

Community Action Council Raises Funds to Provide Holiday Gifts for Children of Disadvantaged Families in its Howard County Programs

The [Community Action Council of Howard County](#) (CAC), which operates multiple programs to help struggling Howard County families, is staging a fund drive to buy holiday gifts for children in these families. The Outreach Commission, at its December meeting, approved a \$1,000 donation to CAC for its campaign. Parishioners who wish to donate individually may go online to CAC's [fund drive](#) for clothing, books, and toys. Please spread the word among family, friends, and co-workers. CAC leaders hope to receive donations by Friday, Dec. 19, and expect to distribute gifts on Saturday, Dec. 20, at CAC's Children's Learning Center at the Howard Community College location, which offers Early Head Start programming. CAC is the county's designated anti-poverty organization, providing multiple services as described in its [2024 Impact Report](#). As a partner of CAC, Christ Church is most familiar with the [Howard County Food Bank](#), which benefits from our Thanksgiving Drive and our Fall and Spring Food Drives at Giant supermarkets. We have also supported CAC's additional [programs](#), including eviction prevention, utility assistance, weatherization, and early childhood education.

MOCC's *Random Act of Kindness*

The MOCC's current R.A.K. (*Random Act of Kindness*) is supporting Comfort Cases, and they can use your donations and assistance. A Comfort Case is a small duffel bag or backpack designed to provide comfort for youth as they enter the local foster care system.

In today's world, the number of kids entering the foster care system is rising, and so anything that can be done to help provide a level of comfort and care for the youngest is welcome. The MOCC is accepting donations from now through January 10th, and you can find details and a donation bin in the Narthex. You can also speak with Duane Smith, Ed Chrzanowski, or any MOCC member to get more information about Comfort Cases or upcoming MOCC gatherings.



CHRIST EPISCOPAL CHURCH

COLUMBIA, MARYLAND

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

The Rev. Richard Ginnever, *Rector Emeritus*

The Rev. Yehinuel Odidi, *Seminarian Associate*

Larissa Sanders, *Director of Music Ministry*

Ola Oladipupo, *Assistant Organist*

Yetti Lipede, *Parish Administrator & Ministry Coordinator*

Diya Jackson, *Office & Youth Ministry Coordinator*

Christopher Pouch, *Communications Administrator*

Amanda Kirkpatrick, *Nursery Care Coordinator*

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