

Christ Episcopal Church

Extending the Love and Embrace of Christ

Fourth Sunday after the Epiphany

The Holy Eucharist, Rite II

Sunday, January 28, 2024 • 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!

*Today's hymns were chosen by Rebecca Warlon,
winner of the Hymn Selection Auction Offering.*

Unison or harmony

1 Morn-ing has bro - ken like the first morn - ing,
 2 Sweet the rain's new fall sun - lit from hea - ven,
 3 Mine is the sun - light! Mine is the morn - ing

black-bird has spo - ken like the first bird. _____
 like the first dew - fall on the first grass. _____
 born of the one light E - den saw play! _____

Praise for the sing - ing! Praise for the morn - ing!
 Praise for the sweet - ness of the wet gar - den,
 Praise with e - la - tion, praise ev - ery morn - ing,

Praise for them, spring - ing fresh from the Word! _____
 sprung in com - plete - ness where his feet pass. _____
 God's re - cre - a - tion of the new day! _____

Opening Acclamation |

Celebrant: Blessed be God: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

People: And blessed be his kingdom, now and forever. Amen.

Celebrant: Almighty God, to you all hearts are open, all desires known, and from you no secrets are hid: Cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love you, and worthily magnify your holy Name; through Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Gloria S 280 | Glory to God

Robert Powell

1. Glo - ry to God in the high - est, and
peace to his peo - ple on earth. 2. Lord God, heaven - ly
King, al - might - y God and Fa - ther, we wor - ship you, we
give you thanks, we praise you for your glo - ry. 3. Lord Je - sus
Christ, on - ly Son of the Fa - ther, Lord God, Lamb of God, 4. you
take a - way the sin of the world: have mer - cy
on us; 5. you are seat - ed at the right hand of the Fa - ther: re -
ceive our prayer. 6. For you a - lone are the Ho - ly One,
you a - lone are the Lord, 7. you a - lone are the Most
High, Je - sus Christ, with the Ho - ly Spi - rit, in the
glo - ry of God the Fa - ther. A - men.

The Collect of the Day |

Celebrant: The Lord be with you.

People: **And also with you.**

Celebrant: Let us pray.

Almighty and everlasting God, you govern all things both in heaven and on earth: Mercifully hear the supplications of your people, and in our time grant us your peace; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, forever and ever.
Amen.

The people may be seated.

A Reading from Deuteronomy 18:15-20 |

Reader: A reading from Deuteronomy.

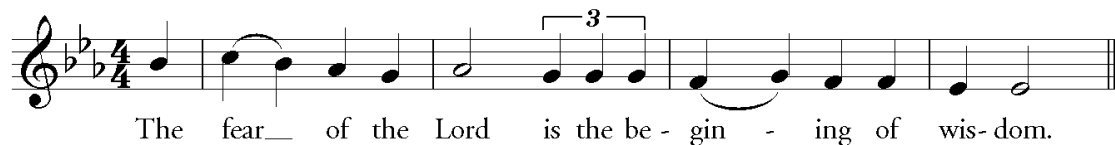
Moses said: The LORD your God will raise up for you a prophet like me from among your own people; you shall heed such a prophet. This is what you requested of the LORD your God at Horeb on the day of the assembly when you said: “If I hear the voice of the LORD my God anymore, or ever again see this great fire, I will die.” Then the LORD replied to me: “They are right in what they have said. I will raise up for them a prophet like you from among their own people; I will put my words in the mouth of the prophet, who shall speak to them everything that I command. Anyone who does not heed the words that the prophet shall speak in my name, I myself will hold accountable. But any prophet who speaks in the name of other gods, or who presumes to speak in my name a word that I have not commanded the prophet to speak—that prophet shall die.”

Reader: The word of the Lord.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

The following Psalm is read responsively by half-verse.

Psalm 111 | *Confitebor tibi*



Hallelujah!

I will give thanks to the LORD with my whole heart, *
in the assembly of the upright, in the congregation.

Great are the deeds of the LORD! *
they are studied by all who delight in them.

His work is full of majesty and splendor, *
and his righteousness endures forever.

He makes his marvelous works to be remembered; *
the LORD is gracious and full of compassion.

Antiphon

He gives food to those who fear him; *

he is ever mindful of his covenant.

He has shown his people the power of his works *

in giving them the lands of the nations.

The works of his hands are faithfulness and justice; *

all his commandments are sure.

They stand fast for ever and ever, *

because they are done in truth and equity.

He sent redemption to his people;

he commanded his covenant for ever; *

holy and awesome is his Name.

The fear of the LORD is the beginning of wisdom; *

those who act accordingly have a good understanding;

his praise endures forever.

Antiphon

A Reading from 1 Corinthians 8:1-13 |

Reader: A reading from the first Epistle to the Corinthians.

Now concerning food sacrificed to idols: we know that “all of us possess knowledge.” Knowledge puffs up, but love builds up. Anyone who claims to know something does not yet have the necessary knowledge; but anyone who loves God is known by him.

Hence, as to the eating of food offered to idols, we know that “no idol in the world really exists,” and that “there is no God but one.” Indeed, even though there may be so-called gods in heaven or on earth—as in fact there are many gods and many lords—yet for us there is one God, the Father, from whom are all things and for whom we exist, and one Lord, Jesus Christ, through whom are all things and through whom we exist.

It is not everyone, however, who has this knowledge. Since some have become so accustomed to idols until now, they still think of the food they eat as food offered to an idol; and their conscience, being weak, is defiled. “Food will not bring us close to God.” We are no worse off if we do not eat, and no better off if we do. But take care that this liberty of yours does not somehow become a stumbling block to the weak. For if others see you, who possess knowledge, eating in the temple of an idol, might they not, since their conscience is weak, be encouraged to the point of eating food sacrificed to idols? So by your knowledge those weak believers for whom Christ died are destroyed. But when you thus sin against members of your family, and wound their conscience when it is weak, you sin against Christ. Therefore, if food is a cause of their falling, I will never eat meat, so that I may not cause one of them to fall.

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 | Sanctuary

Randy Scruggs & John Thompson

Lord, prepare me to be a sanctuary
Pure and holy, tried and true
With thanksgiving, I'll be a living
Sanctuary for You

The Gospel | Mark 1:21-28

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

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

Jesus and his disciples went to Capernaum; and when the sabbath came, he entered the synagogue and taught. They were astounded at his teaching, for he taught them as one having authority, and not as the scribes. Just then there was in their synagogue a man with an unclean spirit, and he cried out, "What have you to do with us, Jesus of Nazareth? Have you come to destroy us? I know who you are, the Holy One of God." But Jesus rebuked him, saying, "Be silent, and come out of him!" And the unclean spirit, convulsing him and crying with a loud voice, came out of him. They were all amazed, and they kept on asking one another, "What is this? A new teaching—with authority! He commands even the unclean spirits, and they obey him." At once his fame began to spread throughout the surrounding region of Galilee.

Deacon: The Gospel of the Lord.

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

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

Sermon | Leah Chrest, *Lay Preacher*

The people stand as able.

The Nicene Creed |

All: We believe in one God,
the Father, the Almighty,
maker of heaven and earth,
of all that is, seen and unseen.

We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ,
the only Son of God,
eternally begotten of the Father,
God from God, Light from Light,
true God from true God,
begotten, not made,
of one Being with the Father.
Through him all things were made.
For us and for our salvation
he came down from heaven:

by the power of the Holy Spirit
he became incarnate from the Virgin Mary,
and was made man.
For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate;
he suffered death and was buried.
On the third day he rose again
in accordance with the Scriptures;
he ascended into heaven
and is seated at the right hand of the Father.
He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead,
and his kingdom will have no end.

We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life,
who proceeds from the Father and the Son.
With the Father and the Son he is worshiped and glorified.
He has spoken through the Prophets.
We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic Church.
We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins.
We look for the resurrection of the dead,
and the life of the world to come. Amen.

The Prayers of the People |

Today's Psalm states: "The awe of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom; Those who act accordingly have a good understanding; his praise endures forever." **Be with us, Lord.**

We ask Your help in living up to what You require of each of us. Your commands, Lord, are, so deceptively simple, so easy with which to agree, yet so hard to actually accomplish, cannot be lived without Your help. We pray, **Help us, Lord.**

In these days of stark divisions – in our country, between peoples of different races and cultures, around the world in nearly every land – help each of us individually, and together in our societies, seek the common ground that always exists between people of good will. Your people pray, **Help us do Your will, Lord.**

Open our eyes and our hearts, Lord, to do the work you have before us, to care for those with less than we, to be the first to say, "I'm sorry," to be the first to put our feet on the bridge of reconciliation, to act with kindness and decide with justice. We pray together, **Be with us, Lord.**

"Blessed are those who mourn, for they will be comforted." In the times of loss that inevitably come in our mortal lives – of relationships, of worldly possessions, of livelihoods, of health, of the people dear to us, even of hope – we pray for Your comfort. We pray for those in military service, especially Kofi Abdallah and Conner Warlow. Today we especially pray for those ill in body, mind, or spirit: Jack, Kim, Tim, Karen, Nathan, Jim, Doug, Mary Ann, John, Barbara, Sherry, Patricia, Cindy, Roberta, Samuel, Ashley, Alta, Farris, Mildred, and Nell, and those we now name. We pray also for those who have died, especially those we now name. We pray for those for whom these days are especially hard. **Lord, be with us.**

Across the world, we pray for Your people in all lands, in all places, however we conceive of You. We pray especially for our spiritual leaders: Presiding Bishop, Michael; Diocesan Bishops, Eugene and Carrie; our Rector, Emmanuel and Deacon, Denise; and our postulants. We are especially grateful for the staff, vestry, and lay leaders whose contributions to the parish are so essential. We welcome all visitors and newcomers here with us. In our diocese, we pray today especially for the congregations of Redeemer, Baltimore; St. Bartholomew's, Baltimore; and Resurrection, Baltimore. In our worldwide Anglican Communion, we pray today for The Anglican Church of Southern Africa. **Thank you, Lord.**

We are blessed with many times of joy in our lives – for new birth, for rekindled love, for renewed hope, for the birthdays of those we love and the anniversaries of special occasions, for all that is good in our world, we thank You. Today we remember the birthdays of Ed, Rebecca, Monique, Eric, Ann, Michael, Nancy & Tim, and the wedding anniversaries of Victoria & Samuel Herring and Nancy & James Schempp. Together we acclaim, **We praise You, Lord.**

All this we ask in the Name of Jesus Christ, our Lord. **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.**

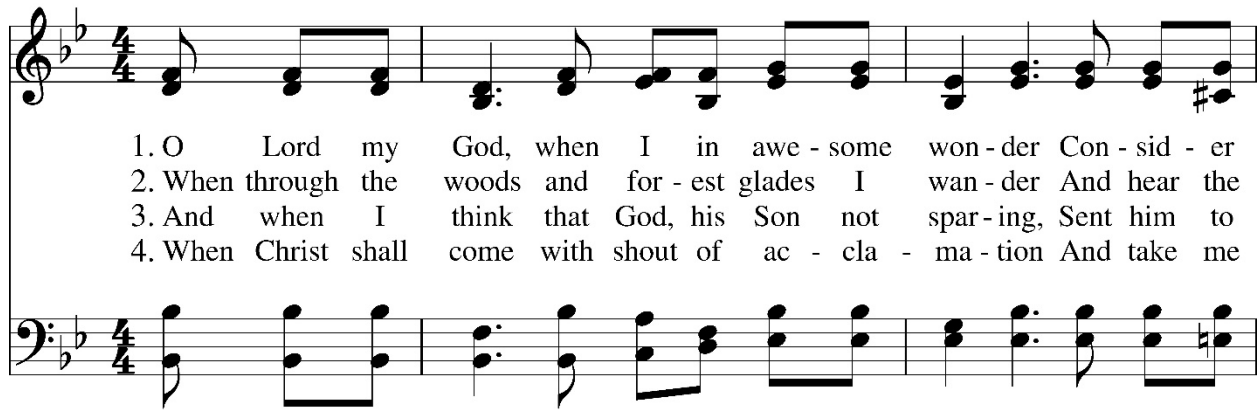
The people may greet one another in the name of the Lord and then be seated.

Welcome and Announcements |

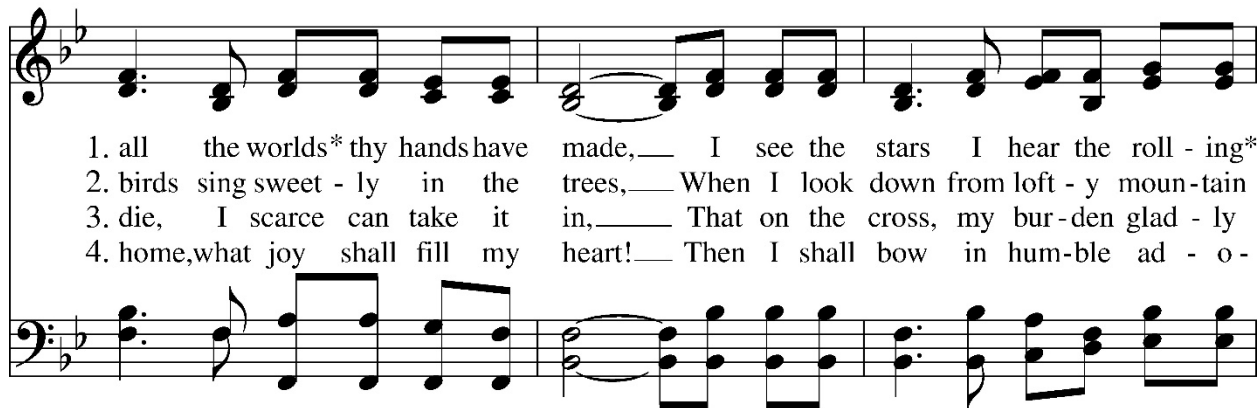
THE HOLY COMMUNION

Offertory Hymn LEVAS 60 | How Great Thou Art

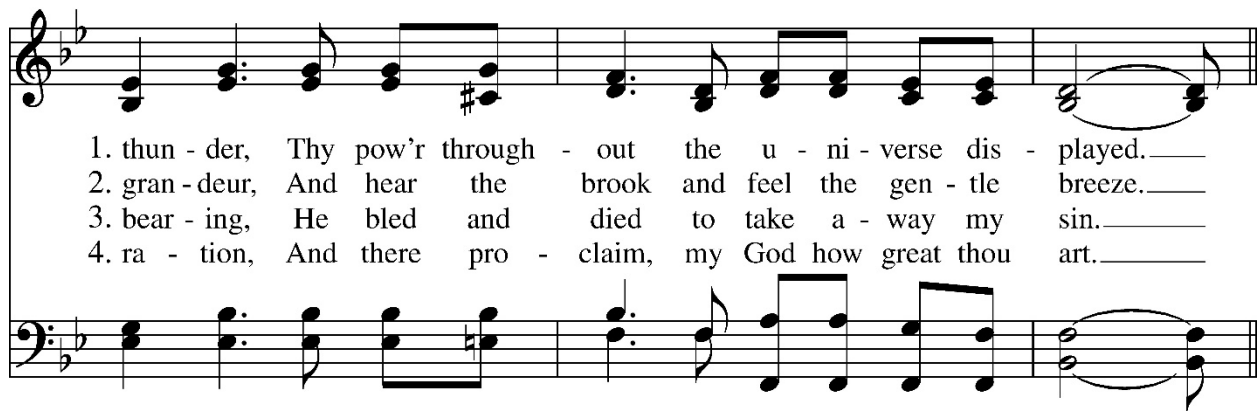
Stuart K. Hine



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



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



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



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

continued

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

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

Please scan to give.



The people stand as able.

Presentation 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 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:

Ho-ly, ho - ly, - ho-ly, ho - ly - ho-ly - Lord God - of hosts -

- Heav-en and earth - are - filled with your glo - ry. Ho - san-na in - the -

high - est - ! Bless-ed is the One who - comes in the name - of the Lord, -

- of the Lord - Ho - san - na - in the high - est, Ho - san-na

in - the - high - est. -

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;

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

organ

Lamb of God, you take a - way the sins of the
world: have mer - cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a - way the
sins of the world: have mer - cy on us. Lamb of God, you
take a - way the sins of the world: grant us peace.

Communion Hymn 335 | I Am the Bread of Life

Suzanne Toolan

1 I am the bread of life; they who
2 (The) Bread that I will give is my
3 (Un-) less you eat of the
4 I am the re - sur - rec - tion,
5 (Yes,) Lord, we be - lieve that

1 come to me shall not hun - ger; they who be -
2 Flesh for the life of the world, and they who
3 Flesh of the Son of Man and
4 I am the life. They who be -
5 you are the Christ, the

1 lieve in me shall not thirst. No one can come to
2 eat of this bread, they shall live for
3 drink of his Blood, you shall not have life with -
4 lieve in me, e - ven if they
5 Son of God who has

1 me un - less the Fa - ther draw them.
2 ev - er. they shall live for ev - er.
3 in you. you shall not have life with - in you.
4 die, they shall live for ev - er.
5 come in - to the world.

continued

Descant
And I will raise them up, and I will raise them

Refrain
And I will raise them up, and I will raise them

up, and I will raise them up on the

up, and I will raise them up on the

last day. 5 Yes, day.

last day. 2 The 3. Un- day. 4 — 5 Yes, (2)

Post-Communion Prayer |

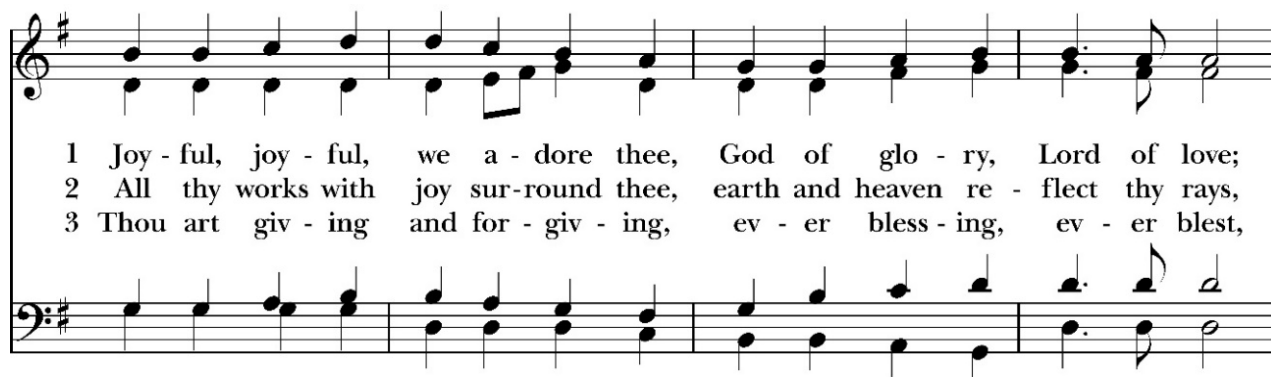
Celebrant: Let us pray.

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.

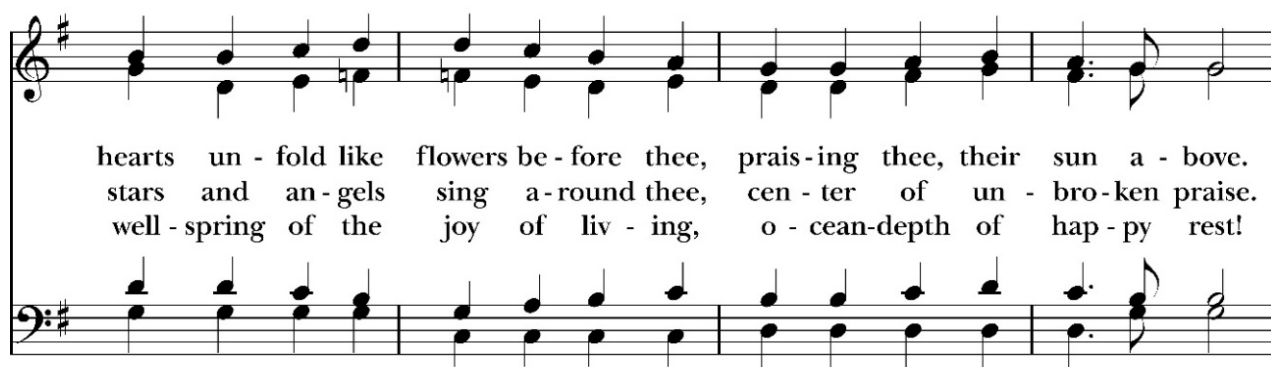
*The Celebrant blesses the People, who respond **Amen.***

Closing Hymn 376 | Joyful, Joyful, We Adore Thee

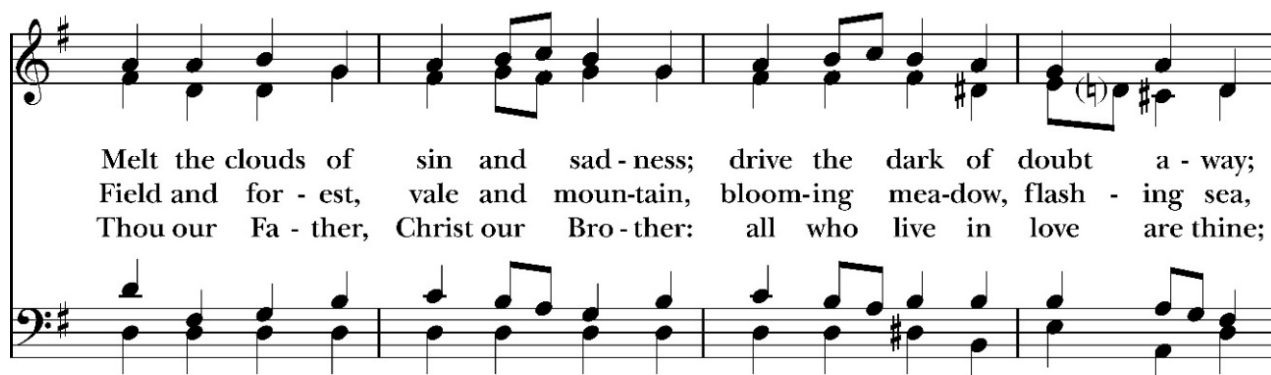
Hymn to Joy



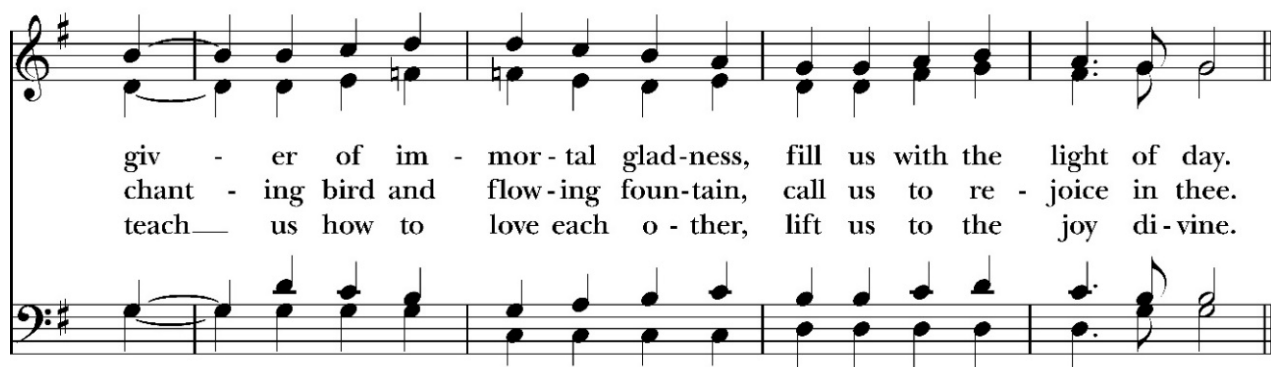
1 Joy - ful, joy - ful, we a - dore thee, God of glo - ry, Lord of love;
 2 All thy works with joy sur-round thee, earth and heaven re - flect thy rays,
 3 Thou art giv - ing and for - giv - ing, ev - er bless - ing, ev - er blest,



hearts un - fold like flowers be - fore thee, prais - ing thee, their sun a - bove.
 stars and an - gels sing a - round thee, cen - ter of un - bro - ken praise.
 well - spring of the joy of liv - ing, o - cean - depth of hap - py rest!



Melt the clouds of sin and sad - ness; drive the dark of doubt a - way;
 Field and for - est, vale and moun - tain, bloom - ing mea - dow, flash - ing sea,
 Thou our Fa - ther, Christ our Bro - ther: all who live in love are thine;



giv - er of im - mor - tal glad - ness, fill us with the light of day.
 chant - ing bird and flow - ing foun - tain, call us to re - joice in thee.
 teach — us how to love each o - ther, lift us to the joy di - vine.

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

*Today's altar flowers were donated by Rebecca Warlow.
Thanks to God for God's unending love for us.*

ASSISTING IN WORSHIP TODAY

8:00 a.m. Service

Lector/Reader: Kevin Osborn

Ushers: Diane Phillips-LaGuerre

Chalicerist: Dione Mahoney

10:30 a.m. Service

Lector/Reader: Steve Alpern/Robin Bradley

Ushers: Isaac Olajide, Yetti Lipede, Jane Adams, Cherry Williams, Beth Dagne, Alex Amponsah,
Hope & Eva Oladipupo

Acolytes & Crucifer: Setutsi Abdallah

Chalicerists: Steve Alpern/Theo Jones-Quartey

Altar Guild: Jan DeBoissiere, Virginia Jarrett

*I will give thanks
to the LORD
with my whole heart.*

PSALM 111:1

PARISH CALENDAR

JANUARY 28 TO FEBRUARY 3

Sunday, January 28

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 am	Family Service – New Brick, upper level
9:30 – 10:15 am	Sunday School – Parish Hall & New Brick, lower levels
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
12:00 pm	Nicaragua Luncheon – New Brick, lower level
12:30 – 5:30 pm	Tabernacle of David Church – Old Brick
2:00 pm	Confirmation Class – Zoom
6:00 – 10:00 pm	Ministerio Embajadores M.E.J. – Parish Hall, lower level

Monday, January 29

7:00 am	Morning Prayer Livestream
7:00 pm	Centering Prayer – Old Brick & Zoom

Tuesday, January 30

7:00 am	Morning Prayer Livestream
9:00 am – 3:00 pm	Howard County Home School – New Brick, lower level
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

Wednesday, January 31

7:00 am	Morning Prayer Livestream
7:00 – 8:00 pm	Adult Children of Alcoholics – Parish Hall, lower level

Thursday, February 1

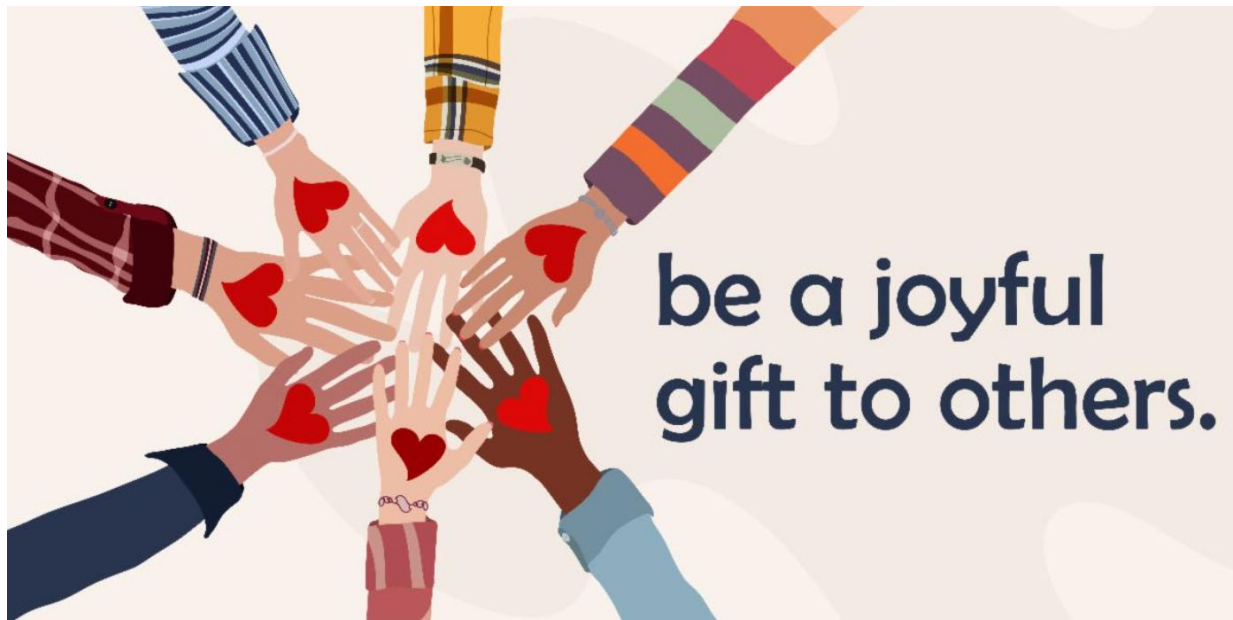
8:00 am	Morning Prayer Livestream
9:00 am – 3:00 pm	Howard County Home School – New Brick, lower level
12:00 pm	Healing Eucharist – Old Brick
12:00 – 1:00 pm	Virtual Coffee Hour – Zoom
7:00 – 7:30 pm	Handbell Choir Rehearsal – New Brick, upper level
7:00 – 11:00 pm	Ministerio Embajadores M.E.J. – Parish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

Friday, February 2

7:00 am	Morning Prayer Livestream
7:00 pm	Evening Prayer Livestream
7:30 – 9:00 pm	Book Club – Zoom
8:00 pm – 12:00 am	Tabernacle of David Church – Old Brick

Saturday, February 3

10:00 am	Calendar Planning Meeting – New Brick, lower level & Zoom
2:00 pm	AA Meeting, Parish Hall, lower level
2:00 – 11:30 pm	Event Rental – New Brick, upper level
7:00 – 11:00 pm	Ministerio Embajadores M.E.J. – Parish Hall, lower level



ONE MORE WEEK!

Send Us Your Submissions for the 2024 LMB

For decades, Christ Church has compiled a Lenten Meditation Book and distributed it to our parishioners on the Sunday preceding Ash Wednesday. The LMB is created with love and designed to assist us all in times of quiet contemplation, preparing ourselves for rebirth and renewal at Easter. Each year, our LMB centers on the Spiritual Life Theme for that year, and so ours for 2024 is ***Be a Joyful Gift to Others***, which **you can read a bit more about on our website.** Poetry, stories of reflection, images, prayers, and inspirational quotes from writers or theologians - they all come together to make up this special booklet, one that you can take home with you and use each day during the season.

To accomplish this work, **we must have all submissions in by next Sunday, February 4th** to edit and publish this work in physical and digital form, the latter of which is viewed by many thousands of individuals worldwide throughout Lent. That gives us only a 4-week timeframe for submissions, though, so please don't delay.

You can submit these by name or anonymously - your choice. If you need help getting started, visit christchurchcolumbia.org/lenten-meditations and check out previous years' reflections. Submit yours by email to SL@christchurchcolumbia.org or place it in the Spiritual Life mailbox in the Church office.

Questions? Speak with Ellen Hoke at church or email her at SL@christchurchcolumbia.org

ANNOUNCEMENTS

To submit announcements for publication,
email to communications@christchurchcolumbia.org by Tuesday evening
For a digital copy of this service leaflet with website links, etc., visit the main page of our website.

Sunday Circle: *Finding Christ's Light in Dark Places*

Rejoining Society After Incarceration: Rev. Amy Shimonkevitz of the **Baltimore Area After Care Program** will lead a discussion around the typical challenges facing those leaving prison or jail, and how faith communities can help recently released individuals transition back into society through mentoring and other assistance programs.

Lent at Christ Church

As we finalize the dates and times for the entire Lenten season, we also are about to launch our website's *Lent at Christ Church* page. Later this month, you'll be able to find details for every service, formation, and fellowship gathering taking place throughout the season at <https://www.christchurchcolumbia.org/lent>

Christ Church Connections - Deadline is TODAY

Are you interested in getting to know more of your fellow Christ Church parishioners? Here's the greatest opportunity! Sign up for Christ Church Connections (formerly Foyer Groups) and share an evening each month with others you may already know and some you might be meeting for the first time. We gather in small groups during the winter and spring and these groups then get shuffled in the fall. This way, we can meet more people, enjoy evenings at one another's homes, and strengthen the collective bond we all share. Either leave your name and email on the sign-up sheet in the Narthex or **complete this online form**, and we will provide you with more information. The deadline to sign up for this first season of Connections is this Sunday, January 28th.

Centering Prayer - January 29

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 **875 9496 3596**, and the Passcode is **Centering!**

WOCC January News

Greetings! The WOCC have lots of things planned for the coming year. First, we are asking all women to wear red for Heart Health Month to help raise awareness to all about the risks of heart disease for women. Please send pictures of yourself wearing red to WOCC@christchurchcolumbia.org by Monday, January 29th. Second, we are to kick off our collection for the Seafarers home. They are looking for hats, gloves and scarves. Please visit **the Seafarers website**, which has patterns for hats, socks, cowls, and scarves. And third, don't forget about our meeting on Monday, February 5th. **You can find all WOCC news in our January blog post.**

Christ Church Choir - February 1

C'mon, all you singers and music lovers! Choir rehearses on Thursday evenings in New Brick and everyone is welcome to take part. 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, please email Larissa at music@christchurchcolumbia.org

CEC Book Club – February 2

The CECBC continues to discuss the book *Care of the Soul* by Thomas Moore. It's never the wrong time to join the Book Club; we are always welcoming new people into our group, so if this sounds like something you might enjoy, log in and join us! **The Zoom link is here**, the Meeting ID is **817 9855 4366**, and the Password is **CECBooks**. Email Ellen Hoke at bookclub@christchurchcolumbia.org for more information.

Bible Study and Lunch - February 7

Christ Church will offer weekly Bible Study beginning on Wednesday, February 7th. Each week, this Bible Study series will explore the Lectionary Readings for that Sunday, will meet in the Conference Room in the Parish House, and then have lunch together at a local restaurant. Bible Study will begin at 10:00 a.m. and will be led by the Christ Church clergy and/or postulants.

Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper - February 13

The incredible youth of Christ Church will once again host our annual Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper! On February 13th, join us in the Great Hall of New Brick for this traditional start to the Lenten season. We begin gathering at 6:00 p.m. and seating is available until 7:30 p.m. It is \$15. for an individual and \$25. for a family, and you can pay using cash or by using our **Online Giving Form** (choose "Shrove Tuesday Dinner" in the *FUND* dropdown menu). You'll also get to view and purchase the beautiful handiwork of **African Team Ministries** at the event. This will be your opportunity to get your hands on some one-of-a-kind items created by very talented artisans.

Ash Wednesday Services - February 14

Ash Wednesday reminds us of our mortality and of what we are made of. To get our thoughts and ourselves ready and prepared for Lent, Christ Church offers three services with the imposition of Ashes on Wednesday, February 22nd. Gather with us at 7:00 a.m. in Old Brick, or in New Brick at 12:00 noon or 7:30 p.m. We'll also livestream the 12:00 noon and 7:30 p.m. services on our website, YouTube, and Facebook pages.

Ashes to Go also returns, an opportunity for working commuters, students, and early risers to stop by and receive ashes as they start their day. We will offer a short prayer and administer Ashes to those who cannot be with us in worship that morning, but who desire them. Simply stop by between 6 and 7 a.m. and follow the *Ashes to Go* signs.

Lenten Reflection Day - February 17

Christ Church's Spiritual Life Commission presents Lenten Reflection Day on Saturday, February 17th. This year, we are very blessed to have The Reverend Kirk Kubicek will lead us in prayer and meditation as we examine our 2024 theme, *Be a Joyful Gift to Others*. Lenten Reflection Day includes a light breakfast at 8:30 a.m., is followed by the day's program, and then wraps up around 12:00 noon with an informal Eucharist. We hope that you'll find time to join us for this exceptional and inspirational start to the Lenten season.

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, email Rebecca Warlow at **healingministry@christchurchcolumbia.org**.

Altar Flowers and Gifts

If you would like to present altar flowers and gifts in dedication or celebration of a loved one on any upcoming Sunday, you can do so by using our **Realm Online Giving Form**; just choose "Altar Flowers and Gifts" from the *FUND* dropdown menu, and place the dedication name(s) and service date in the *MEMO* line. Then please email or call the church office and let them know, and we'll be sure to place an acknowledgment in the Sunday service leaflet for that day.

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.

Christ Church Conversations, Episode 1: *The Seed in Us*

As you know, we've been discussing the idea of a podcast for a while, and we are excited to present ***Christ Church Conversations*** to you, our new podcast series. This series will take shape in many forms over time - audio, video, interviews, scripture-based discussions, and so much more - but as it's still in its earliest stages, we're keeping things somewhat simple. Soon, we'll be on major podcast platforms and have a page on our website, so as we grow, we hope you'll grow with us. Right now, you can listen to Episode One: The Seed in Us at <http://tinyurl.com/CCC-Ep1>

Our plan for ***Conversations*** is a multimedia collaboration of our parish's many features, talents, and interests. It's recently been gaining steam, but we would love to involve more people to help make this the best it can be. If you enjoy writing, are interested in researching the multilayered history of Christ Church, or have an interest in a particular topic you'd like to share with others, we can find a place for you! For more information, please speak with **Fr. Manny** or email communications@christchurchcolumbia.org

African Team Ministries is Here Today!

It's that time of year - African Team Ministries' beautiful handcrafts will be on display. This ministry provides East African artisans with a market for their beautiful creations. Come and see intricate wood carvings, primitive musical instruments, eye-catching soapstone décor, nativity sets, stunning necklaces, earrings, bracelets, and more!

We also need volunteers to help with set-up, selling, and pack-out. If you are interested in helping and are available after Sunday services or on Shrove Tuesday (the final ATM day), please contact Sara Kirkpatrick at atm@christchurchcolumbia.org.

How We Helped Grassroots Feed the Homeless at Jessup Despite a Recent Snowfall, and How You Can Do Your Part This Winter

In a pinch, who do you call? The answer: Christ Church! For our homeless friends at the Day Resource Center (DRC), once again our volunteers came through on Saturday, Jan. 20, as Central Maryland was digging out from Friday's snowfall. A family emergency had occurred, leaving an unexpected gap in the breakfast menu for midday.

The **Grassroots Crisis Intervention Center** operates the DRC, located at the Leola Dorsey Center in Jessup where a Christ Church team led by Shahra Toth provides a hot meal on the second Monday of each month. The DRC staff contacted her and other faith-based groups who regularly serve there. Altogether the menu lacked six pans of scrambled eggs. Shahra and George Toth responded by shopping and preparing two pans. That's 30 eggs in each pan, with added cheese and ham.

The snowstorm complicated matters, as no one knew until early Saturday if the DRC could open to welcome its homeless friends. To assist the Toths, Suzanne Ziobro accepted the role of the driver as Shahra and George made the dropoff in icy circumstances. The leaders of two other groups responded, too, and the DRC staff members cooked a mound of bacon. They – and the DRC's cold and hungry diners – were greatly pleased! In what has become a routine donation for the Toths and their neighbors, George donated warm blankets for the DRC inventory ([see photos on our website](#)).

The Outreach-led team next prepares and serves meals for two Grassroots facilities on Monday, Feb.12. You can sign up online and read about the differing procedures for the meals on our **DRC online signup form** or our **Grassroots online signup form**.

Both the DRC and the Live-In Facility have wider needs for their pantries and welcome in-kind donations to be dropped off for delivery on the second Mondays. Look for the latest needs list on bulletin boards at church or online, under the words "Related Files," on each signup form.

If you wish to do more, parishioners are encouraged to sign up individually to provide the evening meal at the Live-In Facility. Pick a date to provide an entree and side dishes, or just the entree, for the 50 adults and children. For example, a parishioner ordered more than a dozen pizzas to be delivered for the evening meal on MLK Day.

Grassroots **suggests ideas** to make choosing your menu as easy as possible. Go to Grassroots' **sign-up list**, which has multiple open slots through Feb. 29. (Leap Day is taken, but Valentine's Day is still open. And this year, Ash Wednesday falls on Feb. 14.)

Look for the FISH Bin Inside the Parish Hall During Cold Weather

FISH of Howard County needs non-perishable foods and toiletries, which we collect in the basket at the altar or in a marked yellow bin that has been moved inside the Parish Hall during cold weather. FISH provides committed support to select families in need. The neighbors you help give thanks for all you do in their support.

Columbia Community Care Seeks Baby Care Items, More Volunteers

Please continue supporting **Columbia Community Care** (CCC) by giving essentials and with your time and talent. One task is sorting at the pantry building, 10750 Little Patuxent Parkway in Columbia. Go to the **"I Can Help" portion of its website** or check the **CCC Facebook Group** for updates.

Please keep collecting diapers, baby wipes, sanitary and personal care items, and adult diapers. Put any of these in the yellow bin, marked "CCC," inside the Parish Hall. Drop off items on weekdays when the church office is open or on Sundays. The Christ Church point of contact is Leigh Smith, who monitors the bins and delivers their contents.

DreamBuilders: Save the Date!

DreamBuilders will have its General Meeting on Sunday, February 4th from 3-5 p.m. at Temple Isaiah in Fulton. We will be talking about our upcoming Kentucky trip this June, when we hope to "blitz build" THREE Houses in one week! It's going to be great fun, and we've got lots of pictures from last summer's trip to show you at the meeting, so mark your calendars - see you there!

Two Weeks Left Before "Souper Bowl" Sunday

Each year youth groups across the country participate in "Souper Bowl" Sunday, collecting canned goods and monetary donations for local charities. Last year groups brought in more than \$4 million to support local causes! We invite you to contribute this year by placing your donation in the CEC Youth Group soup pot after each service this Sunday, and please continue to until February 11th. You can also donate using **our Online Giving Form**; just choose "Souper Bowl" from the FUND dropdown menu. This year, the canned items will be donated to the FISH food pantry and monetary donations to Grassroots in Columbia.

Save-the-Date: Bridges to Housing Stability Sets Next Chili and Cornhole Event on May 5 at Centennial Park in Ellicott City

For many years, chili has been a key part of fundraising for **Bridges to Housing Stability**, an advocate for affordable housing that helps individuals and families who struggle to keep a roof over their heads. Last year, Christ Church was a supporter of Bridges' chili event and cornhole tournament, which was held in March. The cornhole competition was heated, but the word "chilly" also applied to the outdoor festivities.

This year the **Beans & Bags** event will be held on Sunday, May 5, from 12:30 to 3 p.m. at Centennial Park, Pavilion H, 4760 Woodland Rd., Ellicott City 21042. Save the date, and start practicing your cornhole skills!

The event raises crucial operating funds. Christ Church has been a supporter of Bridges since participating in a countywide chili cook-off in 2019. At a Chili & Challenge virtual fundraiser in 2020, Christ Church won a Silver Ladle Award. Then, at the 2021 Chili & Challenge, **we won gold**. The relationship began at the urging of parishioner Jim Collins, who was honored among Bridges' "Heroes for Housing" in 2022.

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.



You can read the Vestry-approved report for December 2023 at
tinyurl.com/CECfinanceDec2023

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**



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