



CHRIST EPISCOPAL CHURCH

EXTENDING THE LOVE AND EMBRACE OF CHRIST

THE HOLY EUCHARIST, RITE II

8:00 & 10:30 A.M.

Sunday, February 8, 2026 | Fifth Sunday after Epiphany

YOU ARE THE
LIGHT *of the* **WORLD**
A CITY BUILT ON A HILL
CANNOT BE HIDDEN.

▀ MATTHEW 5:14

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.

1. There's a sweet, sweet Spir - it in this place, _____ And I
 (2. There are) bless - ings you can - not re - ceive _____ Till you
 (3. If you) say He saved you from your sin, _____ Now you're

1. know that it's the Spir - it of _____ the Lord, _____ There are
 2. know Him in His full - ness, and _____ be - lieve, _____ You're the
 3. weak, you're bound, and can - not en - ter in, _____ you can

1. sweet ex - pres - sions on each face, _____ And I
 2. one to pro - fit when you say, _____ "I am
 3. make it right if you will yield; _____ You'll en -

1. know they feel the pres - ence of _____ the Lord, _____
 2. going to walk with Je - sus all _____ the way," _____
 3. joy the Ho - ly Spir - it that _____ we feel. _____

Sweet Ho - ly Spir - it, Sweet Heav - en - ly Dove,

Stay right here with us, — fill - ing us with your love.

And for these bless - ings — we lift our hearts in

praise; With - out a doubt we'll know — that we have

been re - vived when we shall leave this place. 1.-2. 3. 2. There are 3. If you place.

OPENING ACCLAMATION|

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

THE COLLECT FOR PURITY|

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

GLORIA S280| 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.

Set us free, O God, from the bondage of our sins, and give us the liberty of that abundant life which you have made known to us in your Son our Savior Jesus Christ; who lives and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever **Amen.**

The people may be seated.

THE FIRST LESSON | Isaiah 58:1-9a, [9b-12]

Reader: *A reading from Isaiah.*

Shout out, do not hold back!

Lift up your voice like a trumpet!

Announce to my people their rebellion,
to the house of Jacob their sins.

Yet day after day they seek me
and delight to know my ways,

as if they were a nation that practiced righteousness
and did not forsake the ordinance of their God;

they ask of me righteous judgments,
they delight to draw near to God.

“Why do we fast, but you do not see?
Why humble ourselves, but you do not notice?”

Look, you serve your own interest on your fast day,
and oppress all your workers.

Look, you fast only to quarrel and to fight
and to strike with a wicked fist.

Such fasting as you do today
will not make your voice heard on high.

Is such the fast that I choose,
a day to humble oneself?

Is it to bow down the head like a bulrush,
and to lie in sackcloth and ashes?

Will you call this a fast,
a day acceptable to the Lord?

(continued)

Is not this the fast that I choose:
to loose the bonds of injustice,
to undo the thongs of the yoke,

to let the oppressed go free,
and to break every yoke?

Is it not to share your bread with the hungry,
and bring the homeless poor into your house;

when you see the naked, to cover them,
and not to hide yourself from your own kin?

Then your light shall break forth like the dawn,
and your healing shall spring up quickly;

your vindicator shall go before you,
the glory of the Lord shall be your rear guard.

Then you shall call, and the Lord will answer;
you shall cry for help, and he will say, Here I am.

[If you remove the yoke from among you,
the pointing of the finger, the speaking of evil,

if you offer your food to the hungry
and satisfy the needs of the afflicted,

then your light shall rise in the darkness
and your gloom be like the noonday.

The Lord will guide you continually,
and satisfy your needs in parched places,
and make your bones strong;

and you shall be like a watered garden,
like a spring of water,
whose waters never fail.

Your ancient ruins shall be rebuilt;
you shall raise up the foundations of many generations;

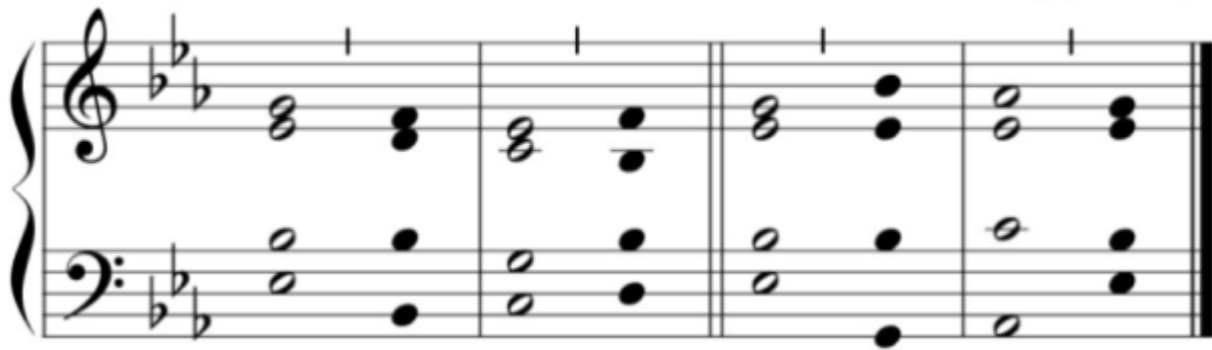
you shall be called the repairer of the breach,
the restorer of streets to live in.]

Reader: The word of the Lord.

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

THE PSALM

Psalm 112:1-9, [10] | *Beatus vir (Praise of the Upright)*



Hallelujah! ' Happy are they who fear the | Lord, |
and have great delight in his com | mandments. ||

Their descendants will be mighty in the | land; |
the generation of the upright will be | blessed. ||

Wealth and riches will be in their | house, |
and their righteousness will last for | ever. ||

Light shines in the darkness for the | upright; |
the righteous are merciful and full of com | passion. ||

It is good for them to be generous in | lending |
and to manage their affairs with | justice. ||

For they will never be | shaken, |
the righteous will be kept in everlasting re | membrance. ||

They will not be afraid of any evil | rumors, |
their heart is right; they put their trust in the | Lord. ||

Their heart is established and will not | shrink; |
until they see their desire upon their | enemies. ||

They have given freely to the | poor, |
and their righteousness stands for ever; ' they will hold up their head with | honor. ||

The wicked will see it, and be | angry; |
they will gnash their teeth and pine away; ' the desires of the wicked will | perish. ||

THE EPISTLE | 1 Corinthians 2:1-12, [13-16]

Reader: *A reading from 1st Corinthians.*

When I came to you, brothers and sisters, I did not come proclaiming the mystery of God to you in lofty words or wisdom. For I decided to know nothing among you except Jesus Christ, and him crucified. And I came to you in weakness and in fear and in much trembling. My speech and my proclamation were not with plausible words of wisdom, but with a demonstration of the Spirit and of power, so that your faith might rest not on human wisdom but on the power of God.

Yet among the mature we do speak wisdom, though it is not a wisdom of this age or of the rulers of this age, who are doomed to perish. But we speak God's wisdom, secret and hidden, which God decreed before the ages for our glory. None of the rulers of this age understood this; for if they had, they would not have crucified the Lord of glory. But, as it is written,

“What no eye has seen, nor ear heard,
nor the human heart conceived,
what God has prepared for those who love him”—

these things God has revealed to us through the Spirit; for the Spirit searches everything, even the depths of God. For what human being knows what is truly human except the human spirit that is within? So also no one comprehends what is truly God's except the Spirit of God. Now we have received not the spirit of the world, but the Spirit that is from God, so that we may understand the gifts bestowed on us by God. [And we speak of these things in words not taught by human wisdom but taught by the Spirit, interpreting spiritual things to those who are spiritual.

Those who are unspiritual do not receive the gifts of God's Spirit, for they are foolishness to them, and they are unable to understand them because they are spiritually discerned. Those who are spiritual discern all things, and they are themselves subject to no one else's scrutiny.

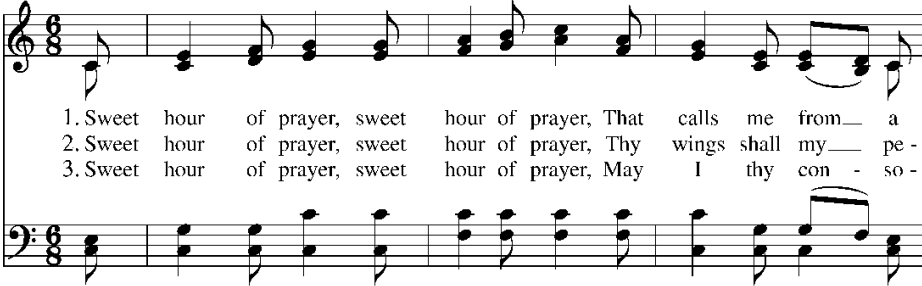
“For who has known the mind of the Lord
so as to instruct him?”

But we have the mind of Christ.]

Reader: The word of the Lord.

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

The people stand as able.



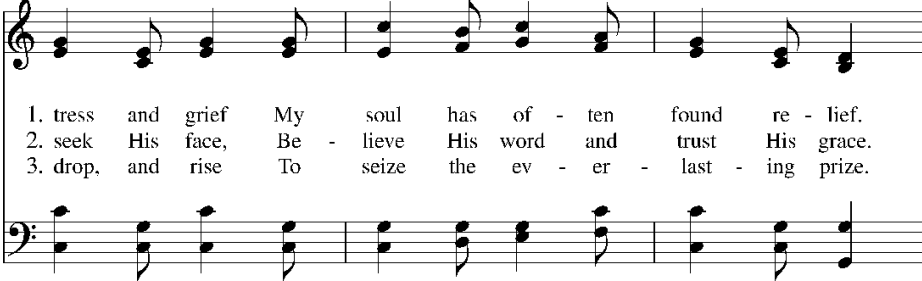
1. Sweet hour of prayer, sweet hour of prayer, That calls me from — a
 2. Sweet hour of prayer, sweet hour of prayer, Thy wings shall my — pe -
 3. Sweet hour of prayer, sweet hour of prayer, May I thy con - so -



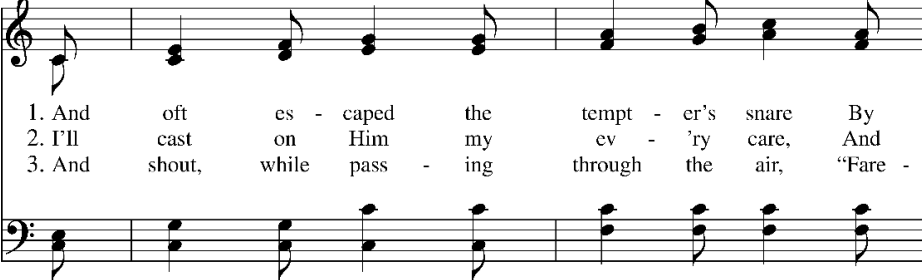
1. world of care, And bids me at my Fa - ther's throne Make
 2. ti - tion bear To Him whose truth and faith - ful - ness En -
 3. la - tion share, Till from Mount Pis - gah's loft - y height I



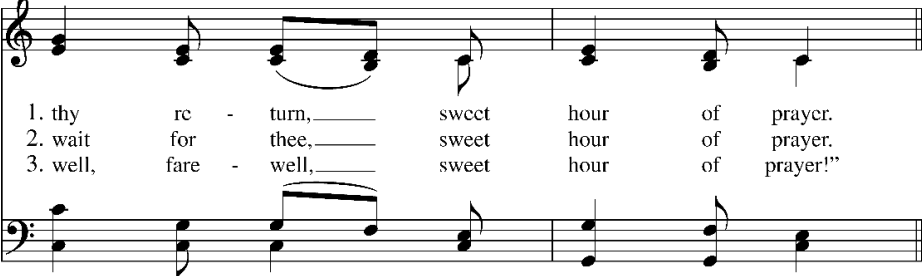
1. all my wants — and wish - es known. In sea - sons of dis -
 2. gage the wait - ing soul to bless; And since He bids me
 3. view my home — and take my flight: This robe of flesh I'll



1. tress and grief My soul has of - ten found re - lief.
 2. seek His face, Be - lieve His word and trust His grace.
 3. drop, and rise To seize the ev - er - last - ing prize.



1. And oft es - caped the tempt - er's snare By
 2. I'll cast on Him my ev - 'ry care, And
 3. And shout, while pass - ing through the air, "Fare -



1. thy re - turn, — sweet hour of prayer.
 2. wait for thee, — sweet hour of prayer.
 3. well, fare - well, — sweet hour of prayer!"

THE GOSPEL | Matthew 5:13-20

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

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

Jesus said, “You are the salt of the earth; but if salt has lost its taste, how can its saltiness be restored? It is no longer good for anything, but is thrown out and trampled under foot.

“You are the light of the world. A city built on a hill cannot be hid. No one after lighting a lamp puts it under the bushel basket, but on the lampstand, and it gives light to all in the house. In the same way, let your light shine before others, so that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father in heaven.

“Do not think that I have come to abolish the law or the prophets; I have come not to abolish but to fulfill. For truly I tell you, until heaven and earth pass away, not one letter, not one stroke of a letter, will pass from the law until all is accomplished. Therefore, whoever breaks one of the least of these commandments, and teaches others to do the same, will be called least in the kingdom of heaven; but whoever does them and teaches them will be called great in the kingdom of heaven. For I tell you, unless your righteousness exceeds that of the scribes and Pharisees, you will never enter the kingdom of heaven.”

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-eousness,

5 Make Thy way plain be - fore Thy face.

Optional Ending

9 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 | Steve Alpern

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 worshipped 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 |

The season of Epiphany is the observance of Christ made known as the true Messiah, the Son of God. Paul tells us this mystery of God is not proclaimed in lofty words or earthly wisdom, but through the Spirit, revealing God's Glory in Christ's life, death and resurrection. As we struggle with our daily lives, reaching for glimpses of God, may we know that in our weakness, His Grace is made perfect. May we find ourselves humbled in the sight of the Lord. May we stand alongside God's Infinite Truth knowing that its direction is sure. In God's name we pray: **Reveal Your Truth, dear Lord**

Lord, thank you for the blessings that surround us: for the Church, our community, our country, and for the fruitful world that You gave us in Your creation. May we unite holding Your Word in our hearts and following your leadership in our lives. Let us act justly. Let us pray for our President and leaders in our National government, for our governor, and for all international leaders to bring justice and peace to our world. We pray for our Presiding Bishop, Sean; our Diocesan Bishop Carrie; our rector, Emmanuel; Clergy; Richard & Marcia, and Seminarian, Yehinuel. In the Anglican Communion, we pray for Hong Kong Sheng Kung Hui. In the Diocese of Maryland, we pray for commitment in mission and love in action. **Reveal Your Truth, dear Lord**

We pray for all those facing injustice, infirmity, financial distress, despair, or natural disasters. The trials of life reach the extreme when we must face them. They call on us to reach out to God for his grace and mercy. May all that face these trials knowing that our Lord's power never fails and that His promise to be with us always still stands. We pray for Carol, Greg, Kimberley, MaryAnn, Alta, Mark, Clarence, Diane, Natasha, Mildred, Nancy, Patrick, Winifred, Priscilla, Kayode, Rachan & Sherry, and those you now name. May they find Your Truth, and their suffering be eased. **Reveal Your Truth, dear Lord**

We pray for those who have died, especially those you now name. May their reward in paradise soothe the loved ones left behind. **Reveal Your Truth, dear Lord**

Occasions of joy and gladness in our lives makes us remember how blessed we are. Please pray with me for the birthdays of Eddie & Laura, and baptismal anniversaries of Ben, Krista, J.B., John, Jane, Alexander & Elizabeth. May their hearts be gladdened by marking another year in the Lord's grace. **Reveal Your Truth, dear Lord**

Jesus came not to abolish, but to fulfill the law. The law gives us a signpost pointing to the power of God. May we know in our hearts that it is the Spirit that is alive in the law, that Jesus reveals to us every day anew. May we learn His Truth to fulfill our lives. **AMEN**

CONFESSION & ABSOLUTION |

Celebrant: 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.**

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 | This Little Light of Mine

Spiritual, arr. George Mabry

Please scan to give.



DOXOLOGY 380 vs 3 |

Old 100th

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



THE 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:

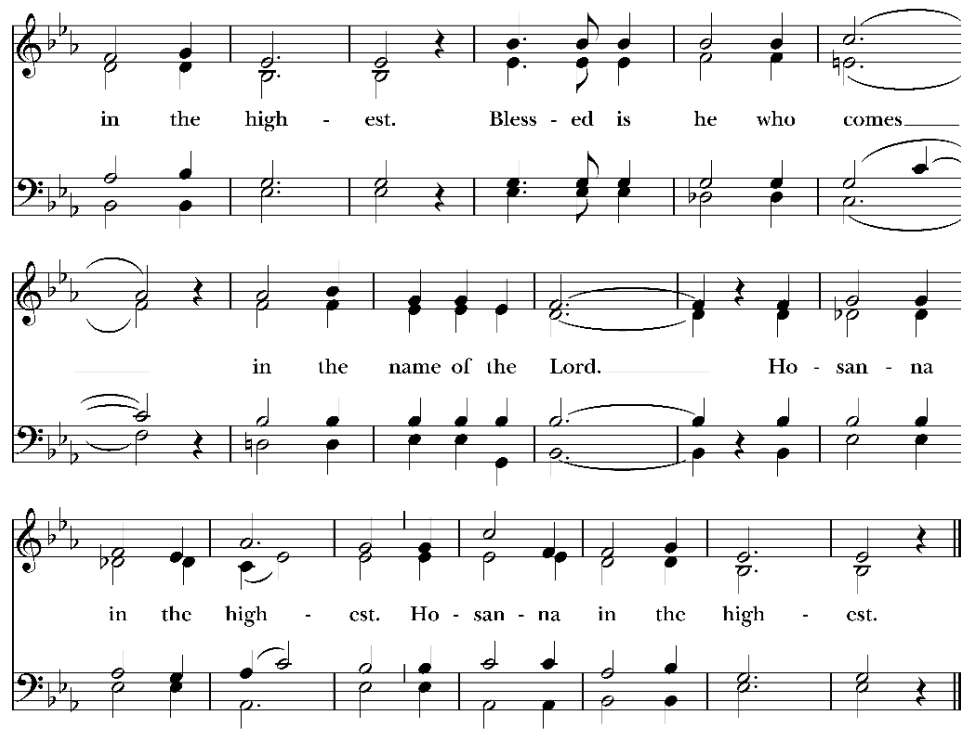
Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of power and

might, Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord,

God of power and might, hea - ven and earth are

full, full of your glo - ry. Ho -

san - na in the high - est. Ho - san - na



Then the Celebrant continues

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

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

On the night before he died for us, our Lord Jesus Christ took bread; and when he had given thanks to you, he broke it, and gave it to his disciples, and said, "Take, eat: This is my Body, which is given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me."

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

Therefore, according to his command, O Father,

Celebrant and People: **We remember his death,
We proclaim his resurrection,
We await his coming in glory.**

The Celebrant continues

And we offer our sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving to you, O Lord of all; presenting to you, from your creation, this bread and this wine.

We pray you, gracious God, to send your Holy Spirit upon these gifts that they may be the Sacrament of the Body of Christ and his Blood of the new Covenant. Unite us to your Son in his sacrifice, that we may be acceptable through him, being sanctified by the Holy Spirit. In the fullness of time, put all things in subjection under your Christ, and bring us to that heavenly country where all your saints, we may enter the everlasting heritage of your sons and daughters; through Jesus Christ our Lord, the firstborn of all creation, the head of the Church, and the author of our salvation.

By him, and with him, and in him, in the unity of the Holy Spirit all honor and glory is yours, Almighty Father, now and forever. **AMEN.**

THE LORD'S PRAYER |

Celebrant: And now, as our Savior Christ has taught us, we are bold to say,
All: **Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy Name, thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread. And forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever and ever. Amen.**

THE BREAKING OF THE BREAD |

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



Je - sus, Lamb of God: have mer - cy on us.

Je - sus, bear - er of our sins: have mer - cy on us.

Je - sus, re - deem - er, re - deem - er of the world:

give us your peace, give us your peace.

COMMUNION HYMN 325 | Let Us Break Bread Together on Our Knees

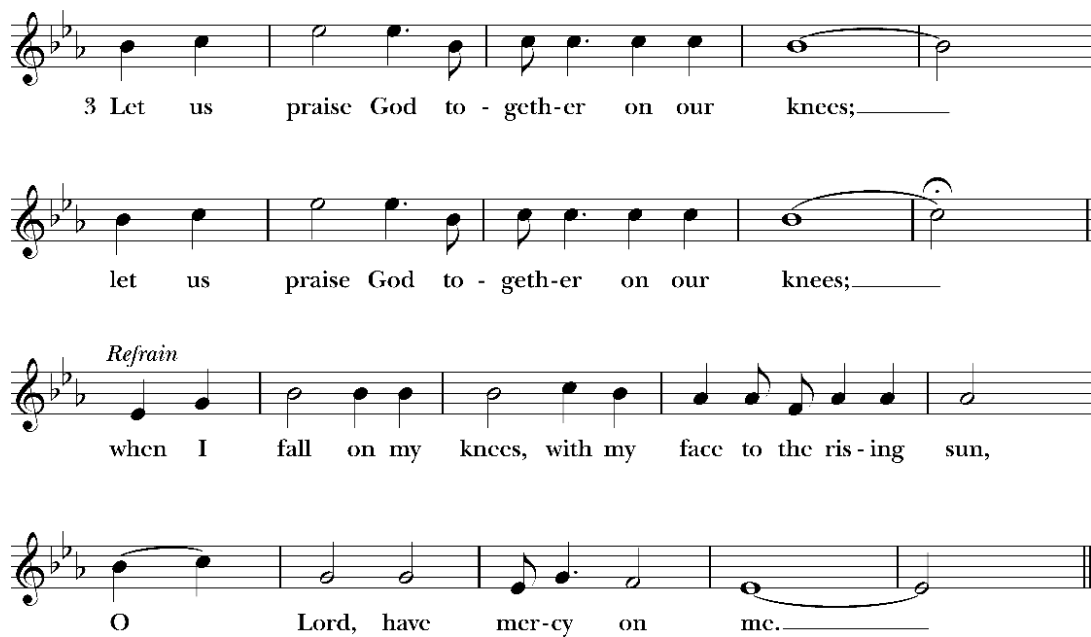
Spiritual

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

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

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

O Lord, have mer - cy on me. _____



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 Long-ing for light, we wait in dark-ness. Long-ing for
 2 Long-ing for peace, our world is trou-bled. Long-ing for
 3 Long-ing for food, man - y are hun - gry. Long-ing for
 4 Long-ing for shel - ter, man - y are home-less, long-ing for
 5 Man - y the gifts, — man - y the peo - ple, man - y the

truth, we turn to you. Make us your own,
 hope, man - y de - spair. Your word a - lone has
 wa - ter, man - y still thirst. Make us your bread,
 warmth, — man - y are cold. Make us your build - ing,
 hearts that yearn to be - long. Let us be ser - vants

your ho - ly peo - ple, light for the world to see. —
 pow - er to save us. Make us your liv - ing voice. —
 bro - ken for o - thers, shared un - til all are fed. —
 shel - ter - ing o - thers, wall made of liv - ing stone. —
 to one an - oth - er, mak - ing your king - dom come. —

Refrain

Christ, be our light! Shine in our hearts.

Shine through the dark - ness. Christ, be our light!

Shine in your church gath - ered to - day. —

THE DISMISSAL |

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

POSTLUDE |

Assisting in Worship Today

8:00 a.m. Service

Lector/Reader: Ron Baran

Ushers: Nancy Winchester, Michon Semon

10:30 a.m. Service

Acolytes : Chloe Spencer, Eli Wasula, Hope Spencer

Chalicerist: Ivy Amponsah

Lector/Reader: Greg Schuckman, Chloe Spencer

Ushers: Isaac Olajide, Yetti Lipede, Jane Adams, Betty Dagne, Alex Amponsah

Altar Guild

Ivy Amponsah, Jai Jones, Maria Rios, Sonni Aribiah

Tellers

Bill Kirkpatrick, Philip Wright

PARISH CALENDAR

FEBRUARY 8 –14, 2026

Sunday, February 8

All Day	Fr. Manny away (Day 8/14)
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	Sunday School, Sunday Circle
10:30 am	Holy Eucharist w/music – 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
4:30 – 7:30 pm	Total Restoration Church – Old Brick & Parish Hall, LL

Monday, February 9

All Day	Fr. Manny away (Day 9/14)
7:00 am	Morning Prayer Livestream
12:45 – 1:00 pm	Dorsey Center Meal Drop-off – Parish Hall, LL
1:00 – 4:00 pm	Meal for Rt. 1 – Parish Hall, parking lot
3:15 – 3:30 pm	Grassroots Drop-off – Parish Hall, LL
6:00 – 8:30 pm	Food Addicts Anonymous – New Brick, LL
7:00 – 8:00 pm	Centering Prayer – Old Brick & Zoom
7:30 – 9:00 pm	Outreach Meeting – Zoom

Tuesday, February 10

All Day	Fr. Manny away (Day 10/14)
7:00 am	Morning Prayer Livestream
11:00 am– 12:00 pm	Weekly Staff Meeting
7:30 – 9:00 pm	CEC Book Club – Zoom

Wednesday, February 11

All Day	Fr. Manny away (Day 11/14)
7:00 am	Morning Prayer Livestream
5:30 – 6:30 pm	Refugee Leadership Meeting – Zoom

Thursday, February 12

All Day	Fr. Manny away (Day 12/14)
7:00 am	Morning Prayer Livestream
6:30 – 9:30 pm	Choir Rehearsal
6:30 – 9:00 pm	Education for Ministry (EfM): Fast Track – Zoom
7:30 – 9:00 pm	Boy Scouts – New Brick, LL

Friday, February 13

All Day	Fr. Manny away (Day 13/14)
7:00 am	Morning Prayer Livestream
7:00 pm	Evening Prayer Livestream

Saturday, February 14

All Day	Fr. Manny away (Day 14/14)
8:30 am– 12:00 pm	Center for Spiritual Nourishment (CSN)
12:30 – 3:30 pm	Small Delusions Concert – New Brick, UL
2:00 pm	AA Meeting – Parish Hall, LL
3:30 – 4:30 pm	Altar Guild prep

It's Nearly Time for...

THE ULTIMATE SPRING CLEANING.



LENT
AT CHRIST CHURCH



CHRISTCHURCHCOLUMBIA.ORG/LENT



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

Our Sunday Circle Series Continues: *Spirituality of Justice*

Having just wrapped up our conversations about the 2025 pilgrimage to Alabama, we will turn our attention to other issues of justice shaping our community and the world - and there's no topic more timely than this one. Keeping compassion and respect for one another at the forefront, we will hold conversations on immigration in our country, the devastation in Gaza, and the plight of refugees around the world. Gather with us in Old Brick or on Zoom at 9:30 a.m. for this important series. The Zoom link is here, the Meeting ID is 894 6507 7361, and the Passcode is SC

Today is the FINAL DAY!!!

We decided to keep the 2026 LMB submission window open for a few extra days, and you responded - more than an extra dozen new ones have come in, so a heartfelt "thank you" to everyone. We are down to the final day now, so please prayerfully consider submitting a prayer, story, reflection, song, or other piece that speaks to you during Lent. It's likely that what speaks to you might also touch others in our community, so submit yours by tonight via email to SL@christchurchcolumbia.org or place it in the Spiritual Life mailbox in the Church Office.

Meet the Founder of Comfort Cases - the MOCC'S *Random Act of Kindness* - Today

No doubt you've seen the display in the narthex of the MOCC's ongoing R.A.K. (*Random Act of Kindness*) in support of Comfort Cases. In February, you'll be able to meet and speak with Comfort Cases founder Rob Scheer. Rob will share details about Comfort Cases with our congregation during the 10:30 service this Sunday, February 8th.

In the meantime, we invite you to learn about Rob's powerful story and learn how we can make an impact here in Howard County. In our country today, the number of kids entering the foster care system is steadily rising, and that's where Comfort Cases come in - they're a small duffel bag or backpack filled with items designed to provide a bit of comfort for youth as they enter their local foster care system. Every donation aims to provide comfort to those who are experiencing this firsthand.

Father Manny is Away This Week

Father Manny will be out of the country to attend a family funeral in Ghana. Please keep him in your prayers. He will return next weekend. Mother Marcia is here during his absence, so if you need pastoral care, please call the Church Office or email office@christchurchcolumbia.org.

Centering Prayer - Mondays

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. 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.

The 2026 WOCC Calendar is Live

The Women of Christ Church met this past week and finalized their events calendar for 2026. From fantastic dinners to theatrical productions, nature walks to movie screenings, it's all there - you can even take a peek at the planned date for our annual flea market! Take a look at it on the WOCC page of our website - cecevents.org/WOCC2026

Christ Church Book Club - Tuesdays

The Christ Church Book Club is an informal online conversation that decides on a book and discusses it as a group, offering different perspectives and experiences. The first book of the 2026 season will be *How We Learn to Be Brave* by Mariann Edgar Budde, Episcopal Bishop of Washington since 2011. It's a brief read; we'll tackle and discuss a chapter or two each week. In 2026, the CECBC will gather via Zoom on Tuesdays at 7:30 p.m., beginning this Tuesday, January 20th. [The Zoom link is here](#), the Meeting ID is 853 4359 7339, and the Passcode is CECBC.

Christ Church Choir - Thursdays

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 Vocal or Handbell Choirs! If you're interested, please email music@christchurchcolumbia.org

Nourish Your Spirit with *Divine Love* - Next Saturday, February 14

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 a closer relationship with God by offering an array of experiences that engage the mind, body, and spirit.

Programs for February center on the theme of *Divine Love* and include: Spiritual Direction, Contemplative Meditation, Prayerful Dance with Lumen Christi, Sacred Art, and discussing Love in All Its Forms. It's a month when we explore and welcome love into our lives in ways we might not have thought of.

You can read the details on every session on our website - www.christchurchcolumbia.org/spiritual-nourishment - and then come to our campus on February 14th to get Valentine's Day started the right way.

Small Delusions Returns - Next Saturday, February 14

You know 'em... now you can sing and dance to them - Christ Church's favorite supergroup, Small Delusions (Jan, JB, and Shannon), is delighted to announce their next gig in the warm confines of the New Brick sanctuary.

Next Saturday, February 14th (Valentine's Day) at 1:00 p.m. - gather as they play all the memorable classics, and maybe even take a few requests. Heck, even bring your dancing shoes if you feel like it! Definitely consider bringing a small dish or refreshments to share. Looking forward to seeing you there!

LENT at Christ Church

Our [Lent at Christ Church](#) page contains details for our worship, formation, and fellowship gatherings throughout the season. This is also where you can read our Daily Lenten Meditations, which will be published every weekday morning, both there and on our Instagram and Facebook pages. In addition to those, we'll have an inspirational *Saturday Song* posted every weekend, as well - something to enjoy, to lift your spirits, and to comfort your heart. This year, our website also has a Daily

Office page that provides links to readings for each day of the season. We hope you'll find it a useful part of your Lenten journey. Be sure to bookmark all of these, or find them all on [our main page's menu bar](#).

Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper - February 17

The incredible youth of Christ Church will once again host our annual Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper! On February 17th, 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. Grab some delicious pancakes and treats as lively music plays and kids enjoy fun and games.

It is \$15 for an individual and \$25 for a family, and you can pay in cash or via our [Online Giving Form](#) (select "Shrove Tuesday Dinner" in the dropdown menu).

Ash Wednesday - February 18

Ash Wednesday reminds us of our mortality and of what we are made of. To get our thoughts and hearts prepared for Lent, Christ Church offers three services with the Imposition of Ashes on Wednesday, February 18th. 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 day, but who desire them. We'll have clergy in the lower-level parking lot from 6:00 to 7:00 that morning - just follow the *Ashes to Go* signs on the lawn. You can also have Ashes to Go administered during the day - call or [email the Church Office](#) and let us know what time you plan to come by the campus, and we'll meet you as you drive on by.

Lenten Healing Eucharist with Father Manny - Thursdays during Lent

Beginning February 19th and gathering each Thursday during Lent, Christ Church offers a midday Healing Eucharist in Old Brick. The Rev. Emmanuel Ato Mercer leads this service of readings, prayers, a litany for healing, and the Holy Eucharist.

Parishioners and community members are all welcome to join in a prayerful time in the presence of God, and to share in the wonderful mystery of God's love whilst we seek healing for ourselves and our loved ones. Please come in to reflect, pray, and participate in a service held in our beautiful, historic chapel.

Lenten Reflection Day - February 21

Christ Church's Spiritual Life Commission presents Lenten Reflection Day on Saturday, February 21, and we hope that you'll join us for this very special start to the season. We are proud to welcome Reverend Kirk Kubicek, who will lead us as we prayerfully reflect on our 2026 theme, *Building Relationships through Love*. Lenten Reflection Day includes a light breakfast at 8:30 a.m., is followed by the day's program, and then wraps up around 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. Questions? Email Ellen Hoke and the Spiritual Life Commission at SL@christchurchcolumbia.org.

Find a Ministry that's Right for You

We can always use some more people to keep Christ Church the vibrant, active, dedicated parish that it is. You can be a Teller, Acolyte, Lay Eucharistic Visitor, or choose to assist the Christ Church Altar Guild, Inreach, or Buildings and Grounds ministries - and many others.

None of these requires weekly assistance - they only require a short amount of time every few weeks or so, but the impact you have on the entire parish is significant. For those interested in the Altar Guild, please email altarguild@christchurchcolumbia.org. For Inreach, please email inreach@christchurchcolumbia.org (or visit their website page). If you're interested in assisting elsewhere, please call the Church Office at office@christchurchcolumbia.org. Thanks!

Stay in Touch with Your Church

Maryland Episcopalian is a service that spotlights and tells the stories around our Diocese. This month, there's a little interview with our own beloved Archdeacon Denise Schiavone, and so much more! Visit marylandepiscopalian.org

Bookmark the *Diocese of Maryland's* website, which covers on the [diocesan](#), [young adult](#), and [youth](#) activities and gatherings. Visit episcopalmaryland.org

The *Episcopal News Service* (ENS) offers in-depth reporting of local, regional, national, and international news for Episcopalians and others interested in the church's mission and ministry. ENS is the official news source of the Episcopal Church. Visit episcopalnewsservice.org

And always stay in touch with your beloved *Christ Church*! We have our Lenten schedule online, which details every service, fellowship, and gathering taking place throughout the season. You can also look back at [every Sunday worship](#) this decade (and beyond), learn about our initial [300th Anniversary](#) plans, explore [our history](#), and so much more. Visit www.christchurchcolumbia.org

Nursery Care Assistant Needed

Christ Church is seeking a Nursery Care Assistant to help with our youngest members of our parish family during Sunday services and other special events. If you know of anyone who may be interested in this position, please have them contact Amanda Kirkpatrick, Christ Church's Nursery Care Coordinator, at nursery@christchurchcolumbia.org. Be sure to place "Nursery Care Assistant" in the subject line of your email. You can also call the church office and let them know. Thank you.

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; you can do it as often or as little as you wish, and it only takes ten minutes on a Sunday morning. If you are interested, don't hesitate to get in touch with Jenn Atkins at dandjatkins@verizon.net or speak with any Sunday School volunteer.

Register for Sunday School!

Christ Church's Sunday School ministry believes in growing a deep and wide faith in kids through education in the Gospel, serving our community, and fellowship with one another. From the earliest age, we want kids to know the fundamental truths of God's Word and how to apply them in their daily lives.

If you've been coming to Sunday School this fall, you don't need to register again. But if you are new to Christ Church or haven't registered before, please visit www.cecevents.org/SundaySchool-2526 to learn more and complete our registration form (one form per child) so we can reserve space for your children. And if you have any questions or need assistance, please email us at sundayschool@christchurchcolumbia.org.

Help Grassroots by Providing Food for the Homeless on Monday, Feb. 9

On the second Monday of each month, Christ Church serves a hot midday meal at the Day Resource Center (DRC) that is operated by the [Grassroots Crisis Intervention Center](#). A team led by Outreach member Shahra Toth makes side dishes and desserts that we serve in person after car-pooling to the Leola Dorsey Center in Jessup.

To help on Monday, Feb. 9, please check our [DRC online signup form](#), which describes the procedure. Drop-off time is 12:45 p.m. in the parking lot near Old Brick for DRC's side dishes. We last participated on Jan. 12 (see photos). Your donations and Vestry-approved funds pay for the fried-chicken entree. Thank you!

During the winter months, Christ Church has paused our previous delivery of an evening meal at the Grassroots Emergency Shelter. Other congregations involved in the Code Blue and Cold Weather Shelter programs are handling those duties instead. Mark your calendars: Our next date for an evening meal drop-off and delivery of dishes will be Monday, April 13. If you want to plan ahead, go to our [Grassroots online signup form](#).

Take Advantage of a Last Chance Before Valentine's Day to Buy DreamBuilders Goods, and a First Chance to Buy Raffle Tickets for a New iPhone

Look for fair-trade coffee, tea, cocoa, and chocolates being sold to benefit [DreamBuilders](#) just in time to please your Valentine, or your own sweet tooth. The goods will be available after all three worship services on Sunday, Feb. 8. You'll also have the chance to win an iPhone 17Pro worth nearly \$1,200. Buy one raffle ticket for \$20 or three for \$50. No more than 200 tickets will be sold. You do not need to be present at the March 14 drawing to win. It's all 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.

Inviting You to Join Our Monthly Outreach Meeting this Monday, Feb. 9

Learn many ways to help others by joining us remotely for the Outreach Commission meeting on Monday, Feb. 9, at 7:30 p.m. Our mission has a local, national, and international scope. Join us - [the Zoom link is HERE](#), Meeting ID is 892 6873 6183, and Passcode is Outreach! We hope to see you on Zoom!

DreamBuilders Save-the-Dates

This Sunday at 2:00 p.m. at Temple Isaiah - DreamBuilders General Meeting • Come hear about our plans for the year, and how you can get involved. We'll have descriptions of upcoming trips and local projects, too. There will be lots of pictures of projects past and lots of people who can answer any questions.

March 14th, 5 - 8 p.m. at Temple Isaiah - DreamBuilders Spaghetti Dinner and Silent Auction • Come enjoy a spaghetti dinner and bid on a wide and wonderful variety of items and activities, all in support of DreamBuilders. This is our largest fundraising event of the year. Proceeds help make our building projects possible. We will need lots of help to make this event a success, and we will be looking for donations for the auction, too.

Please Bring Diapers, Non-Perishables for CCC/FISH, And Consider Volunteering from Home to Take Phone Calls From Neighbors in Need

[FISH](#) and [Columbia Community Care](#) (CCC) partnered last 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, visit [Get Help](#) online.

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.

FISH will continue to provide telephone support to Howard County residents, offering guidance and financial assistance, because the personal touch is very important when people are in crisis. You could be the one to lend a helping hand, by lending an ear!

As a phone volunteer, you can help from your home by giving just one day a month to assisting those who could benefit from financial assistance from FISH. Training is provided. For information, ask parishioner and FISH treasurer Andy DeLong or email him at andydelong.fish@gmail.com. Thank you always for your support.

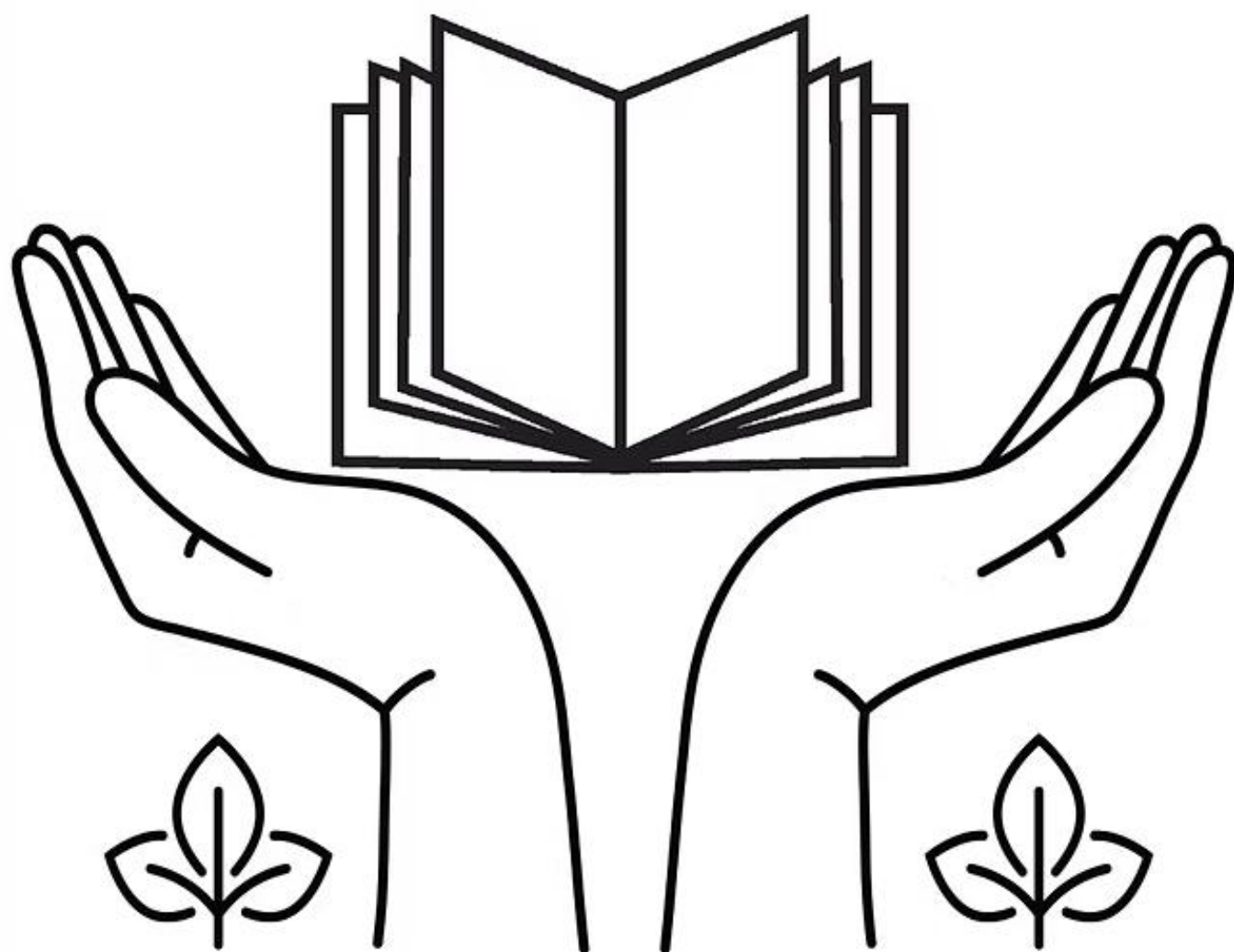
Come to Bridges to Housing Stability's *Heroes for Housing* - February 16

B2HS invites the Christ Church community to attend *Heroes for Housing*, a cocktail-style fundraiser supporting housing stability in Howard County. We will be meeting friends, both new and long-time, and celebrating our community members who are deeply committed to ending homelessness.

Gather with us on Monday, February 16, from 6:00 to 9:00 p.m. at 18th & 21st: 10980 Grantchester Way, #110, Columbia, MD 21044. More information can be found at bit.ly/h4h2026.



This Valentine's Day,
Have a Spa Day for the Soul.



The Center for
Spiritual Nourishment

cecevents.org/CSN





Christ Episcopal Church

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www.christchurchcolumbia.org

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*

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