



CHRIST EPISCOPAL CHURCH

EXTENDING THE LOVE AND EMBRACE OF CHRIST

THE HOLY EUCHARIST, RITE II

8:00 & 10:30 A.M.

Sunday, October 4, 2026 | Nineteenth Sunday after Pentecost

*I Press On
toward the goal
for the prize of
the upward call of God
in Christ Jesus.*

Philippians 3:14

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.

PRELUDE |

OPENING HYMN 595 | God of Grace and God of Glory

Mannheim



1 God of grace and God of glo - ry, on thy peo - ple
 2 Lo! the hosts of e - vil round us scorn thy Christ, as -
 3 Cure thy chil - dren's war - ring mad - ness, bend our pride to
 4 Save us from weak res - ig - na - tion to the e - vils

pour thy power; crown thine an - cient Church's sto - ry;
 sail his ways! From the fears that long have bound us
 thy con - trol; shame our wan - ton, self - ish glad - ness,
 we de - plore; let the gift of thy sal - va - tion

bring her bud to glo - rious flower. Grant us wis - dom,
 free our hearts to faith and praise: grant us wis - dom,
 rich in things and poor in soul. Grant us wis - dom,
 be our glo - ry ev - er - more. Grant us wis - dom,

grant us cour - age, for the fac - ing of this hour.
 grant us cour - age, for the liv - ing of these days.
 grant us cour - age, lest we miss thy king - dom's goal.
 grant us cour - age, serv - ing thee whom we a - dore.

OPENING ACCLAMATION |

Celebrant: Blessed by God: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.
People: And blessed be his kingdom, now and for ever. 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. **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
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 are always more ready to hear than we to pray, and to give more than we either desire or deserve: Pour upon us the abundance of your mercy, forgiving us those things of which our conscience is afraid, and giving us those good things for which we are not worthy to ask, except through the merits and mediation of Jesus Christ our Savior; who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. **Amen.**

The people may be seated.

THE FIRST LESSON | Isaiah 5:1-7

Reader: *A reading from Isaiah.*

Let me sing for my beloved
my love-song concerning his vineyard:

My beloved had a vineyard
on a very fertile hill.

He dug it and cleared it of stones,
and planted it with choice vines;

he built a watchtower in the midst of it,
and hewed out a wine vat in it;

he expected it to yield grapes,
but it yielded wild grapes.

And now, inhabitants of Jerusalem
and people of Judah,

judge between me
and my vineyard.

What more was there to do for my vineyard
that I have not done in it?

When I expected it to yield grapes,
why did it yield wild grapes?

And now I will tell you
what I will do to my vineyard.

I will remove its hedge,
and it shall be devoured;

I will break down its wall,
and it shall be trampled down.

I will make it a waste;
it shall not be pruned or hoed,
and it shall be overgrown with briars and thorns;

I will also command the clouds
that they rain no rain upon it.

For the vineyard of the Lord of hosts
is the house of Israel,

and the people of Judah
are his pleasant planting;

he expected justice,
but saw bloodshed;

righteousness,
but heard a cry!

Reader: The word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

The following psalm is read responsively by half-verse.

THE PSALM

Psalms 80:7-14 | *Prayer for Israel's Restoration*



Restore us, O God of I hosts; *

show the light of your countenance, and we shall be I saved.

You have brought a vine out of I Egypt; *

you cast out the nations and I planted it.

You prepared the ground for I it; *

it took root and filled the I land.

The mountains were covered by its I shadow *

and the towering cedar trees by its I boughs.

You stretched out its tendrils to the I Sea *

and its branches to the I River.

Why have you broken down its I wall, *

so that all who pass by pluck off its I grapes?

The wild boar of the forest has I ravaged it, *

and the beasts of the field have grazed up-I on it.

Turn now, O God of hosts, look down from heaven;
behold and tend this | vine; *
preserve what your right hand has | planted.

THE EPISTLE | Philippians 3:4b-14

Reader: *A reading from Philippians.*

If anyone else has reason to be confident in the flesh, I have more: circumcised on the eighth day, a member of the people of Israel, of the tribe of Benjamin, a Hebrew born of Hebrews; as to the law, a Pharisee; as to zeal, a persecutor of the church; as to righteousness under the law, blameless.

Yet whatever gains I had, these I have come to regard as loss because of Christ. More than that, I regard everything as loss because of the surpassing value of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord. For his sake I have suffered the loss of all things, and I regard them as rubbish, in order that I may gain Christ and be found in him, not having a righteousness of my own that comes from the law, but one that comes through faith in Christ, the righteousness from God based on faith. I want to know Christ and the power of his resurrection and the sharing of his sufferings by becoming like him in his death, if somehow I may attain the resurrection from the dead.

Not that I have already obtained this or have already reached the goal; but I press on to make it my own, because Christ Jesus has made me his own. Beloved, I do not consider that I have made it my own; but this one thing I do: forgetting what lies behind and straining forward to what lies ahead, I press on toward the goal for the prize of the heavenly call of God in Christ Jesus.

Reader: The word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

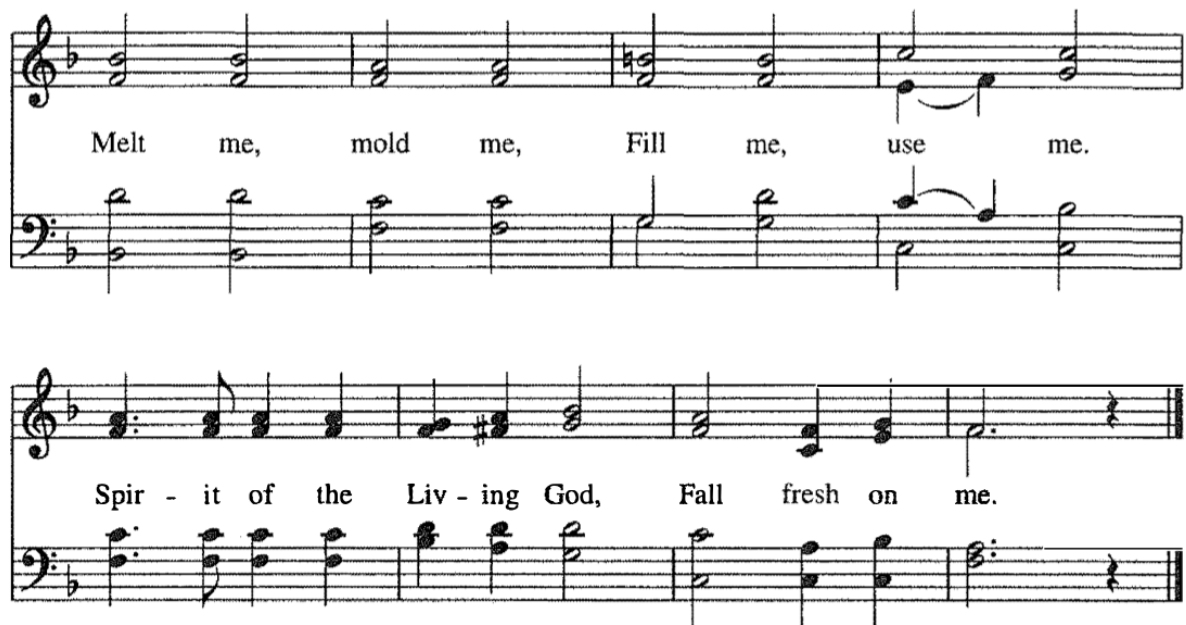
The people stand as able.

SEQUENCE HYMN LEVAS 115 | Spirit of the Living God

Daniel Iverson

Spir - it of the Liv - ing God, Fall fresh on me,

Spir - it of the Liv - ing God, Fall fresh on me.



THE GOSPEL | Matthew 21:33-46

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

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

Jesus said, "Listen to another parable. There was a landowner who planted a vineyard, put a fence around it, dug a wine press in it, and built a watchtower. Then he leased it to tenants and went to another country. When the harvest time had come, he sent his slaves to the tenants to collect his produce. But the tenants seized his slaves and beat one, killed another, and stoned another. Again he sent other slaves, more than the first; and they treated them in the same way. Finally he sent his son to them, saying, 'They will respect my son.' But when the tenants saw the son, they said to themselves, 'This is the heir; come, let us kill him and get his inheritance.' So they seized him, threw him out of the vineyard, and killed him. Now when the owner of the vineyard comes, what will he do to those tenants?" They said to him, "He will put those wretches to a miserable death, and lease the vineyard to other tenants who will give him the produce at the harvest time."

Jesus said to them, "Have you never read in the scriptures:

"The stone that the builders rejected
has become the cornerstone;

this was the Lord's doing,
and it is amazing in our eyes?"

"Therefore I tell you, the kingdom of God will be taken away from you and given to a people that produces the fruits of the kingdom. The one who falls on this stone will be broken to pieces; and it will crush anyone on whom it falls."

When the chief priests and the Pharisees heard his parables, they realized that he was speaking about them. They wanted to arrest him, but they feared the crowds, because they regarded him as a prophet.

Celebrant: The Gospel of the Lord.

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

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

Make Thy way plain be - fore Thy face.

Optional Ending

For it is Thou, Lord, Thou, Lord on - ly, that

mak - est me dwell in safe - ty.

THE SERMON | The Rev. Emmanuel Ato Mercer, *Rector*

The people stand as able.

THE NICENE CREED |

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

We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only Son of God, eternally begotten of the Father, God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God, begotten, not made, of one Being with the Father. Through him all things were made.

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

We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son. With the Father and the Son he is 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 |

Dear Lord, we gather together as a community of love and peace. We praise you for your wonderful works, and we thank you for our many blessings. **Lord, we sing the glory of your Name.**

Today we remember our brothers and sisters in the Ukraine, in Gaza, in Lebanon and in other war-torn places. We lift in prayer those in refugee camps and those in prisons throughout the world. May they come to know your presence in their lives that it may give them hope for a better future. We give thanks for the compassion and self-sacrifice of aid givers and peacekeepers, for the work of Episcopal Relief and Development, and for the efforts of our parish Outreach Committee. Guide us as we try to fulfill the Diocese's mission of encountering Christ everywhere and engaging in your mission of reconciliation in the world. **Lord, have mercy on all your children.**

In the Anglican Cycle of Prayer, we lift up Igreja Episcopal Anglicana do Brasil. We pray for emigrants and refugees from the lands of their birth and pray that the Lord watches over the family and friends they left behind. In the Diocese of Maryland, we pray for: Ascension, Westminster, All Saints', Frederick and Christ Church, Columbia. In our own parish, we give thanks for our Presiding Bishop, Sean; our Diocesan Bishop Carrie; our rector, Emmanuel; Clergy; Richard, Marcia & Natalie, staff, and families. We welcome those who are new or visiting with us today. **May they feel our love. Lord, hear our prayers.**

We pray for healing for those who suffer in body, mind, or spirit. We pray for Bill, Nancy, Shannon, Mareli, Ally, Sean, Maggie, Liam, Ashley, Kimberly, Lisa, Rita, Kaci, MaryAnn, Mark, Brandon, Clarence, Diane, Mildred, Kayode, Rachan & Sherry and those you now name. Lead them and those who care for them to a place of refreshment. **Lord, hear our prayers.**

We pray for the souls of those who have departed this life, especially Ernest Okoh and those you name. May the departed rest in peace and may those who grieve be comforted by your presence. **Lord, hear our prayers.**

We give thanks for the happy occasions that members of our Christ Church family celebrate this week especially birthdays of Kevin, Karen, Stacey, Patricia, Amy, Ron & Chester, wedding anniversaries Jeannette & Randolph Wild, Melanie & Nick Yaksich, Erin & Jason Whong and Stacey & Patrick Frith, and baptismal anniversary of Judith. **Lord, we praise you for our blessings.**

Lord, we know that your love for us never falters even as we think, say and do things that are contrary to your will. In the week ahead, may we remember to give you thanks for our lives and to share with others the love that comes from you. **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.

Please scan to give.

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS |

OFFERTORY ANTHEM | Demos Gracias

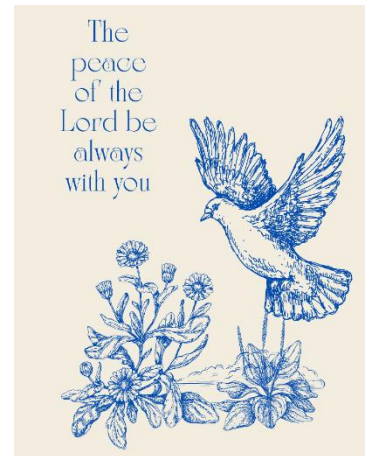


Traditional Mexican folk song

Translation:

Let us give thanks to the Lord,
Let us give thanks for his love.
Let us give thanks to the Lord,
Let us give thanks for his love.

In the morning the birds sing the praises of Christ, the Savior?
And you, friend, why don't you sing praises to Christ, the Savior?
In the morning the birds sing the praises of Christ, the Savior?
And you, friend, why don't you sing praises to God, the Creator?



PRESENTATION HYMN 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 A |

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. Through Jesus Christ our Lord. In fulfillment of his true promise, the Holy Spirit came down from heaven, lighting upon the disciples, to teach them and to lead them into all truth; uniting peoples of many tongues in the confession of one faith, and giving to your Church the power to serve you as a royal priesthood, and to preach the Gospel to all nations.

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:



Holy and gracious Father: In your infinite love you made us for yourself, and, when we had fallen into sin and become subject to evil and death, you, in your mercy, sent Jesus Christ, your only and eternal Son, to share our human nature, to live and die as one of us, to reconcile us to you, the God and Father of all.

He stretched out his arms upon the cross, and offered himself, in obedience to your will, a perfect sacrifice for the whole world.

On the night he was handed over to suffering and death, 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 we proclaim the mystery of faith:

**All: Christ has died.
Christ is risen.
Christ will come again.**

We celebrate the memorial of our redemption, O Father, in this sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving. Recalling his death, resurrection, and ascension, we offer you these gifts.

Sanctify them by your Holy Spirit to be for your people the Body and Blood of your Son, the holy food and drink of new and unending life in him. Sanctify us also that we may faithfully receive this holy Sacrament, and serve you in unity, constancy, and peace; and at the last day bring us with all your saints into the joy of your eternal kingdom.

All this we ask through your Son Jesus Christ: By him, and with him, and in him, in the unity of the Holy Spirit all honor and glory is yours, Almighty Father, now and forever. **AMEN.**

THE LORD'S PRAYER |

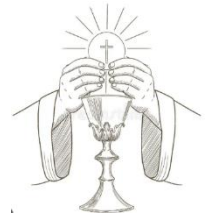
Celebrant: And now, as our Savior Christ has taught us, we are bold to say,

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

THE BREAKING OF THE BREAD |

Celebrant: Alleluia. Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us;

People: Therefore, let us keep the feast. Alleluia.



FRACTION ANTHEM LEVAS 270 | Lamb of God

Marjorie Landsmark-DeLewis

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.

1 The Church's one foun - da - tion is Je - sus Christ her Lord;
 2 E - lect from ev - ery na - tion, yet one o'er all the earth,
 3 Though with a scorn - ful won - der men see her sore op - pressed,
 4 Mid toil and tri - bu - la - tion, and tu - mult of her war
 5 Yet she on earth hath un - ion with God, the Three in One,

1 she is his new cre - a - tion by wa - ter and the word:
 2 her char - ter of sal - va - tion, one Lord, one faith, one birth;
 3 by schi - sms rent a - sun - der, by her - e - sies dis - tressed;
 4 she waits the con - sum - ma - tion of peace for ev - er - more;
 5 and mys - tic sweet com - mun - ion with those whose rest is won.

1 from heaven he came and sought her to be his ho - ly bride;
 2 one ho - ly Name she bless - es, par - takes one ho - ly food,
 3 yet saints their watch are keep - ing, their cry goes up, "How long?"
 4 till with the vi - sion glo - rious her long - ing eyes are blessed,
 5 O hap - py ones and ho - ly! Lord, give us grace that we

1 with his own blood he bought her, and for her life he died.
 2 and to one hope she press - es, with ev - ery grace en - dued.
 3 and soon the night of weep - ing shall be the morn of song.
 4 and the great Church vic - to - rious shall be the Church at rest.
 5 like them, the meek and low - ly, on high may dwell with thee.

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.

CLOSING HYMN 300 | Glory, Love, and Praise, and Honor

Benifold

1 Glo - ry, love, and praise, and hon - or for our food
2 Thank - ful for our ev - ery bless - ing, let us sing
3 He dis - pels our sin and sad - ness, life im - parts,

now be - stowed ren - der we the Do - nor.
Christ the Spring, nev - er, nev - er ceas - ing.
cheers our hearts, fills with food and glad - ness.

Boun - teous God, we now con - fess thee: God, who thus
Source of all our gifts and gra - ces, Christ we own;
Who him - self for all hath giv - en, us he feeds,

bless - est us, right it is to bless thee.
Christ a - lone calls for all our prais - es.
us he leads to a feast in hea - ven.

THE DISMISSAL |

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

POSTLUDE |

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Assisting in Worship Today

Altar Guild

Cheryl Lucente, Leigh Smith, Pamela Foreman, Sandra Griffin

8:00 a.m. Service

Chalicerist: Sonni Aribiah

Lector/Reader: Sonni Aribiah

Usher: Kayode Fatodu

10:30 a.m. Service

Acolytes: Shreya Chrzanowski, Aston Fox, Ava Fox

Chalicerists: Ivy Amponsah, Kathy Lyon

Lector/Reader: Kathy Lyon

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

Tellers

Cathy Gold, Cherry Williams

PARISH CALENDAR

OCTOBER 4 – 10, 2026

Sunday, October 4

8:00 am	Holy Eucharist – Old Brick
8:45 – 9:30 am	Coffee Hour – Old Brick
9:00 am	Family Service
9:30 – 10:20 am	Sunday School, Sunday Circle
10:30 am	Holy Eucharist w/music – New Brick, UL
11:00 – 11:30 am	Coffee Hour - Zoom
4:30 – 7:30 pm	Total Restoration Church – Old Brick & Parish Hall, LL
6:00 – 7:00 pm	Taizé Service – New Brick, UL

Monday, October 5

7:00 am	Morning Prayer Livestream
6:00 – 8:30 pm	Food Addicts Anonymous – Parish Hall, LL
7:00 – 8:00 pm	Centering Prayer – Old Brick & Zoom
7:30 – 10:00 pm	WOCC Monthly Meeting – Zoom

Tuesday, October 6

7:00 am	Morning Prayer Livestream
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11:00 am– 12:00 pm	Weekly Staff Meeting
12:00 – 1:00 pm	Coffee Hour – Zoom
1:00 – 10:00 pm	IRC Prep – Parish Hall, LL
4:30 – 6:00 pm	Larissa Recital Practice – New Brick, UL
6:30 – 9:00 pm	Vestry Meeting – Zoom
7:00 – 9:00 pm	MS Support Group – New Brick, LL
7:30 – 9:00 pm	CEC Book Club – Zoom
7:30 – 9:30 pm	300 Yr Race & Slavery Committee Meeting – Zoom

Wednesday, October 7

7:00 am	Morning Prayer Livestream
4:00 – 5:00 pm	Exercise Group – Parish Hall, LL
6:00 – 8:00 pm	First Wednesday Fellowship – New Brick, LL

Thursday, October 8

7:00 am	Morning Prayer Livestream
12:00 – 1:00 pm	Healing Eucharist – Old Brick
12:00 – 1:00 pm	Coffee Hour – Zoom
6:30 – 9:00 pm	Choir Rehearsal – New Brick, UL
6:30 – 9:00 pm	EfM: Fast Track – Zoom
7:30 – 9:00 pm	Boy Scouts – New Brick, LL

Friday, October 9

7:00 am	Morning Prayer Livestream
7:00 pm	Evening Prayer Livestream
7:00 – 10:00 pm	Friday Faith Film: 12 Mighty Orphans – Parish Hall, LL

Saturday, October 10

8:30 am – 12:00 pm	Center for Spiritual Nourishment (CSN)
8:00 – 10:00 am	Altar Guild prep
1:00 – 6:00 pm	Hamilton Event – New Brick, LL
2:00 – 4:00 pm	AA Meeting – Parish Hall
3:30 – 4:30 pm	Altar Guild prep

Gather with us this evening at 6 p.m. in New Brick for...





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

Taizé Vespers: STEWARDSHIP - October 4

Seek a moment of deep peace and spiritual reflection this season - on Sunday, October 4 at 6:00 p.m., we invite you to Taizé Vespers. Taizé is a liturgy of Evening Prayer that combines scripture readings, prayer, silent meditation, and rich music. Offered on the first Sunday evening of each month this fall, this contemplative liturgy in the tradition of France's Taizé community weaves together scripture readings, rich music, silent meditation, and holy words. We also focus on one word each month; in October, that word is *Stewardship*.

Taizé Vespers provide a wonderful space to quiet the mind, reflect on God's presence, and share in fellowship with fellow neighbors on life's journey. We hope that you'll join us for this special, one-hour service.

We Have New Name Tags - Get Yours!

We are excited to introduce our brand-new, reusable name tags! These durable tags feature a clean design and can be easily reused, making them a great sustainable choice for our church community. You'll find them in the Narthex and on the rear table of Old Brick, and you can leave them there after worship. Please grab one, write your name using the supplied dry-erase markers, and help us make everyone feel welcome.

We Have a New Full-Time Associate Rector at Christ Church!

We are happy to share that Christ Church, in partnership with the Diocese of Maryland, has called The Reverend Natalie Tinner as Associate Rector. This Sunday, October 4, we will replace our usual Sunday Circle gathering with a meet-and-greet with Rev. Natalie, so join us in Old Brick at 9:30 that day and come say, "Hello!" The Reverend Marcia Davenport, who has faithfully served as our Associate Rector, will now be the Senior Associate Rector.

WOCC Has the October Meeting at Famous Dave's - Next Monday, October 5

Please join us for the WOCC October meeting, dinner, and fellowship this coming week. We will gather on Monday, October 5, starting at 6:30 p.m. Our destination for the evening is Famous Dave's Barbeque, conveniently located in Columbia Crossing near Target. This is a wonderful opportunity to enjoy a great meal and connect with others in our community. We look forward to seeing you there for a wonderful time together!

Centering Prayer - Monday Evenings

Centering Prayer is a special evening prayer gathering that can help lead to a more intimate union with God. This active presence heals, transforms, and offers freedom and peace. Be with us in Old Brick or online via Zoom at 7:00 p.m. on Monday evenings. You can also ask for more information by speaking with Kathy Lyon at church or by emailing centering@christchurchcolumbia.org.

First Wednesday Fellowship is Back! - October 7

After a well-deserved summer break, Christ Church's popular First Wednesday fellowship series picks up again in October. Join us to share a meal with fellow parishioners, meet new ones, and enjoy a fun activity or two. It's the perfect way to connect and spend a few hours with friends, both old and new - and have someone else do most of the cooking! The first FWF of

this season, on Wednesday, October 7, will feature a Chili Cook-Off to welcome back the program year. The church will provide salad, chips, and cornbread for the competition, and you can bring your favorite chili recipe to share. The winner earns bragging rights for the entire year! **Donations** to help cover costs are always appreciated (write "FWF" in the memo line), but the most important part is having you there, so we hope to see you!

Noonday Healing Eucharist - Thursdays

Throughout the year, Christ Church offers a midday Healing Eucharist on Thursdays in Old Brick. A member of our clergy 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.

Join the Christ Church Choir - Thursday Evenings

Get ready, all you singers and music lovers! The choir has resumed rehearsals in New Brick on Thursday evenings - Handbell Choir at 6:45 and Adult Choir at 7:30 - and all adults are welcome to join us.

Whether you read music or not, have previous experience or not, and whether you are ready to commit full-time or not, there's a place for you to give it a shot in our handbell &/or vocal choirs. If you're interested, please speak with Larissa at church on Sundays or email her at [**music@christchurchcolumbia.org**](mailto:music@christchurchcolumbia.org).

Three Films in Two Days - October 9 & 10

The second weekend in October brings three films. First, on Friday evening, October 9, gather to watch *12 Mighty Orphans* ([**trailer**](#)) at 7:00 in the lower level of the Office Building. Then, during the Center for Spiritual Nourishment (CSN), two more films from the *Miracle* series are being shown. You can view those trailers [**here**](#) and [**here**](#), and the first film begins in the same location at 9:10 a.m. on Saturday morning, October 10.

Come to the Center for Spiritual Nourishment - October 10

With autumn in full swing, the days become shorter. This month, we reflect on the waning light and the seasons of transition in our lives that this may represent. As we accept the ever-changing nature of our lives, we also lean into God's continual presence, guiding love, and light. Join us for times of teaching and sharing, spiritual direction, meditation, inspirational films, and Fr. Mike's healing space for trauma, grief, and hope.

The 2nd Saturday Center for Spiritual Nourishment (CSN) offers opportunities to be in closer relationship with God through an array of experiences that engage the mind, body, and spirit. Learn about the 2nd Saturday CSN on our website: [**www.christchurchcolumbia.org/spiritual-nourishment**](http://www.christchurchcolumbia.org/spiritual-nourishment).

ALL MINISTRIES: Your Annual Report Submissions are Due By Sunday, October 11

At each year's Annual Meeting, we publish and distribute the Christ Church Annual Report, which outlines the parish's activities and ministries from the past year and shares plans for the coming year. It's the one place where every parishioner can read and catch up on all of our groups' and ministries' latest activities, and share plans for the future.

We ask that each ministry submit a brief description of its activities and achievements, as well as its upcoming plans, to Chris at [**communications@christchurchcolumbia.org**](mailto:communications@christchurchcolumbia.org) so he can include them in the report. If you have a special photo or photos you'd like us to include, send those, too. Email him if you'd like a copy of last year's Annual Report, to see what we are looking for. The submission deadline is Sunday, October 11, so please don't delay. Thank you.

Ministry Calendar Meeting - Saturday, October 17

It's time for Christ Church's next calendar planning meeting, where we'll cover events scheduled for the remainder of the 2026-2027 program year. We'd like to ask one representative from each ministry to attend, and we encourage everyone to attend in person. However, the office will send a Zoom link for those who cannot attend in person. We'll serve breakfast to those meeting on-site. Gather with us in the New Brick Narthex or on Zoom on Saturday, October 17, at 10:00 a.m. If you have any questions, please email the Church Office.

MOCC Breakfast - Saturday, October 17

Join us for French toast and fellowship - the MOCC breakfast is a monthly tradition, and in October, it will take place on Saturday, the 17th. Set your GPS to **Silver Diner at 8250 Gateway Overlook Drive in Columbia**. We'll meet at 9:30 a.m., and all ages are welcome.

Christ Church's Annual Meeting - Sunday, October 18

Everyone is encouraged to join us at Christ Church for our Annual Meeting and Vestry Elections on Sunday, October 18. We have only one service at 10:00 a.m. in New Brick, followed by a brief lunch. At the Annual Meeting, we'll review our ministries and activities from the past year while planning for our leadership in the coming year.

We will also hold the Vestry Elections that day, so please read about all of our candidates at **cecevents.org/VestryCandidates**. We will also thank those Vestry members concluding their terms, thank our ministries and staff, and learn about our future direction as a parish. With so much happening that day, this is certainly one of the most important gatherings of the year. Don't miss it.

This Halloween, Join Us for Trunk or Treat! - October 24

Get ready for some family-friendly Halloween fun! Join us on Sunday, October 24 at 4:00 p.m. for our new Trunk or Treat event right here at Christ Church. Bring your little ones dressed in their favorite costumes to trick-or-treat safely from decorated car trunks in a welcoming community environment.

The church parking lot will be completely transformed into a safe, festive staging ground lined with creatively decorated vehicle trunks. Kids of all ages can fill their bags with plenty of sweet treats while showing off their most creative, spooky, and fun costumes. All in all, it's a fantastic, worry-free way for families to enjoy the Halloween season together right here in our community. Fellowship, fun, and treats for all ages—we can't wait to see you there!

Learn More About Your Parish - Read the Monthly Vestry Meeting Minutes

To provide complete transparency with our parish family, we share the minutes from each monthly Christ Church Vestry meeting. These minutes provide the parish family with full transparency into church leadership, decisions, and governance. They may include official updates, financial and stewardship updates, reviews of plans from ministries, groups, and programs, and information on upcoming parish events and strategic plans.

We recently had our monthly Vestry meeting, **and a PDF of the latest Vestry meeting minutes is available [here](#)**. If you have any questions or wish to discuss something specific with a Vestry member, please stop by the Vestry Table at church on any Sunday morning.

Provide Eucharist to Those Unable to Travel to Church as a Lay Eucharistic Visitor

This year, we have had more people request **Communion to You**, a service Christ Church provides to bring Eucharist to homebound parishioners. To fulfill this need, we require a few more Lay Eucharistic Visitors (LEV). If you're interested in helping with this vital ministry, please speak with Kathy Lyon at church or contact the Church Office. And if you require this service for yourself or someone you know, **please fill out this [brief form](#)**, or call the Church Office.

We Always Need More Help at Christ Church

There are many roles in the church that most people don't think of regularly – or at all. However, many people do a great deal of work to keep Christ Church the well-run parish it is. You can help your church by volunteering as a Greeter, Reader, Chalcist, or Teller, serving in the Inreach Ministry, or assisting the Christ Church Altar Guild.

None of these requires weekly assistance - both 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 specifically interested in the Altar Guild, email altarguild@christchurchcolumbia.org or speak with Pam Foreman or any other Altar Guild member setting up on Sunday mornings. To learn more about the Inreach Ministry, speak with Michon Semon at church, complete the brief form at cecevents.org/Inreach, or email us at inreach@christchurchcolumbia.org, and we will get you started. For those interested in assisting as a Greeter, Reader, Chalcist, or Teller, please call the Church Office at office@christchurchcolumbia.org or speak with Yetti.

Welcome Back to Sunday School!

From Autumn through Spring, Faith Formation is thriving at Christ Church, and anyone from pre-K to 12th grade is invited to gather with us next fall. It's a program of age-appropriate classes that's relevant and engaging, and we're looking forward to an exciting year! The Sunday School details are on [our website's Sunday School page](#).

Christ Church's Sunday School and Youth Formation 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 basic truths of God's Word and how we can apply those in our daily lives. Our dedicated and trained Sunday School team provides age-appropriate groups where the kids can connect and learn with one another.

Registration is now open, so [complete our registration form here](#) (one form per child, please), so we can reserve space for your children. If you have any questions or need assistance, please email sundayschool@christchurchcolumbia.org

Enjoy an Outing at Topgolf, Baltimore on Nov. 6 from 3 to 5 p.m. to Benefit the Baltimore International Seafarers' Center

Pick up a golf club, have fun, and help mariners from around the world whose ships call at the Port of Baltimore on Friday, Nov. 6. The **Baltimore International Seafarers' Center** (BISC) will hold its annual golf event from 3 to 5 p.m. at Topgolf, Baltimore, 1411 Warner St., Baltimore, Md., 21230. Parking is in the nearby Horseshoe Casino garage.

Go [here](#) to see if you or your company would like to become a sponsor or to sign up as an individual player. For \$100, a one-player ticket covers general admission, food, water, tea, soda, and one drink ticket.

Topgolf is a sports entertainment complex offering a high-tech golf game that everyone can enjoy. Players can experience the thrill of hitting golf balls at giant targets, with Toptracer technology tracking their drives for real-time feedback and scoring.

The outing is for a good cause. BISC provides spiritual care and hospitality to mariners working far from their homes and loved ones. You can get a feel for the ministry on the donation page of its [Support Catalog](#), which lists services such as a month of Wifi and “snacks for one crew stuck on their ship.”

BISC is a program of the [Episcopal Diocese of Maryland](#), supported by the Bishop's Appeal.

Donations for Seafarers

Please join us in supporting the **International Seafarers' Center's** annual Christmas at Sea program by donating items through November 8. WOCC representatives will deliver all collected goods in mid-November, and we will announce the exact delivery date once it is confirmed.

Donation bins marked "Seafarers" are ready to receive your contributions. The Center is especially in need of the following items:

- **Warm Clothing:** Watch caps (warm hats) and scarves without fringe or other trim.
- **Comfort & Care:** Hand warmers and cookies (homemade if close to the delivery date, or store-bought

otherwise).

- **Souvenirs & Reading Materials:** Flat Baltimore souvenirs like postcards, magnets, or stickers, along with 2027 calendars and magazines such as *Sports Illustrated*, *National Geographic*, and *Smithsonian*.

If you have any questions, please reach out to Carolann Sawyer or Cindy Read. And thank you for your generosity!

Free Bikes 4 Kidz Calls for Donations of Used Bikes at Howard County Fire Stations on Saturday, Oct. 3 from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m.

Please help **Free Bikes 4 Kidz Maryland** (FB4K) get ready for its 2026 drive to gather, refurbish, and give away bikes to families who cannot afford to buy new ones. Many children will see Christmas wishes come true after FB4K's holiday distribution. Find updates on **its Facebook page**.

Donate your used child- or adult-sized bikes during FB4K's annual collection day: Saturday, Oct. 3, from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. at any Howard County fire station. Spread the word among friends and neighbors. Go **online to sign up** to help on collection day as a bike unloader. After that, consider volunteering **to help fix the bikes** in time for the holidays.

This year Prologis, a supporting company, has provided warehouse space at 6680 Business Parkway, Elkridge, Md., where FB4K has already begun to refurbish about 2,200 used bikes that were collected earlier in the year. FB4K hopes to gather 1,000 more at firehouses on Oct. 3.

FB4K will give them away to local children in need by responding to applications from nonprofit organizations. Since 2019, FB4K has distributed 15,408 bikes. FB4K posted: "Help a child ride into a happier, healthier, more independent life!"

Please Fill the Altar Basket and Parish Hall Bin with Goods for FISH/CCC

Since 1976, **FISH**, an all-volunteer organization has aided tens of thousands of Howard County residents facing hard times. Delivery of food, staples and hygiene supplies are handled by **Columbia Community Care** (CCC), which merged pantries with FISH last year. CCC delivers food to Howard County residents and distributes it at three sites on Saturday mornings, except on holiday weekends. For information, go online to **Get Help**.

FISH picks up donated goods from Christ Church and others. Please put non-perishable food and personal care products in the altar baskets 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 support because the personal touch matters when people are in crisis. For information, ask parishioner and FISH treasurer Andy DeLong or email **andydelong.fish@gmail.com**. You could 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 assist those who could benefit from financial assistance from FISH. Training is provided. Thank you!

How Do We Encourage?

By The Rev. Natalie Tinner

“Therefore encourage one another and build up each other, as indeed you are doing.”

1 Thessalonians 5:11



As I chose this scripture theme to share with you today, I remembered a road trip my family took many years ago. We traveled by car across the country to visit relatives along the way. When we reached California, our cousin joined us, and we drove to San Francisco. There, we sat at the top of a hill named Lombard Street, known at the time as the ‘crookedest street.’ We were in awe to be there. As we drove down the hill the first time, the amazement was overwhelming. For those who were afraid or nervous, they couldn’t wait to get to the bottom of the hill. The family had different views as we stood at the top of the hill, gazing. Some were afraid to walk down, others were excited to walk down, and I recall one person wanted to run down the hill. We had to encourage each other when we began the walk down the hill. There were some who ran downhill, others took a slow stroll, and others stopped to admire the views along the way. No matter how we chose to descend the hill, we encouraged each other to complete the task.

Throughout life, we will encounter curves and obstacles that can overwhelm us. As we encounter these obstacles, we have to learn to support one another. Encouragement can take many forms. In this scripture, it is a word in action. The Greek New Testament word for **comfort** literally means “to come alongside and provide assistance or support.”

Encourage means to inspire with courage, love, or hope. We must take responsibility for caring for one another. The people around us are gifts. Gifts of encouragement. Gifts to hold us accountable.

What are we encouraging each other in? The gospel truth. By encouraging each other in gospel truth, we are reminding one another that Jesus took our place. Encouragement grows us and those around us, and it challenges us to be faithful.

We all go through times when we’re discouraged and need encouragement. When we are going through a difficult time, we encourage one another. How often has this happened for you? When has someone come alongside and given you a word of encouragement to urge you on? This is important to build each other. Think of a building being built. Brick by brick, the building gets stronger; it’s being prepared for someone to come and live in it. We lay bricks in the lives of others by helping them grow spiritually, and we become stronger and stronger.

What's the opposite of building someone up? Our words can build up, or our words can tear down. Scripture tells us to build people up, and I love the line *“as indeed you are doing.”* We must keep doing it. And doing it, and doing it — don't stop. Keep strengthening one another, keep coming alongside one another and building each other up. Don't stop until Christ returns. We have to come alongside each other and build up with the Gospel truth. God goes with us wherever we go.

When we see a need in someone's life, let us not dismiss it and think someone else will do it. As a family of brothers and sisters in Christ, we continue infusing confidence and encouraging one another to continue living the life we have been called to.

Have you spoken words of encouragement to someone today?

Let us think of ways to encourage one another, to show acts of love, and to do good works.

I pray we encourage one another and support one another in Jesus’ name. Amen.

Blessings,

Rev. Natalie+



Get Your Donations Ready for the Christ Church Auction!

The countdown to the best Christ Church social event of the year has begun! To make this the best event ever, though, we need your donations, so please tell us by Sunday, October 11, what you plan to donate. **Then click here to access the auction's donation page**, where you can enter all the info yourself, or email **auktion@christchurchcolumbia.org** to tell us what you plan to donate.

Here are some ideas for donations:

Gift baskets, filled with all kinds of goodies
Baked goods - think pies, cakes, baklava...
Hosted dinners
Holiday decorations
Monthly meal delivery
Concerts, theatre, & sports event tickets
Services like car washes & yard clean-up
Wine by the bottle or the basket
Vacation home/condo stay
Fitness lessons
Language lessons
Memorabilia and collectibles
Lottery tickets

Let your imagination run wild!



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The Rev. Emmanuel Ato Mercer, *Rector*
The Rev. Marcia Davenport, *Senior Associate Rector*
The Rev. Natalie Tinner, *Associate Rector*
The Rev. Richard Ginnever, *Rector Emeritus*
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*
Shereen Benka-Coker, *Nursery Care Assistant*
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