CHRIST EPISCOPAL CHURCH

EXTENDING THE LOVE AND EMBRACE OF CHRIST

THE HOLY EUCHARIST, RITE II

8:00 & 10:30 A.M.

Sunday, November 29, 2026 | First Sunday of Advent



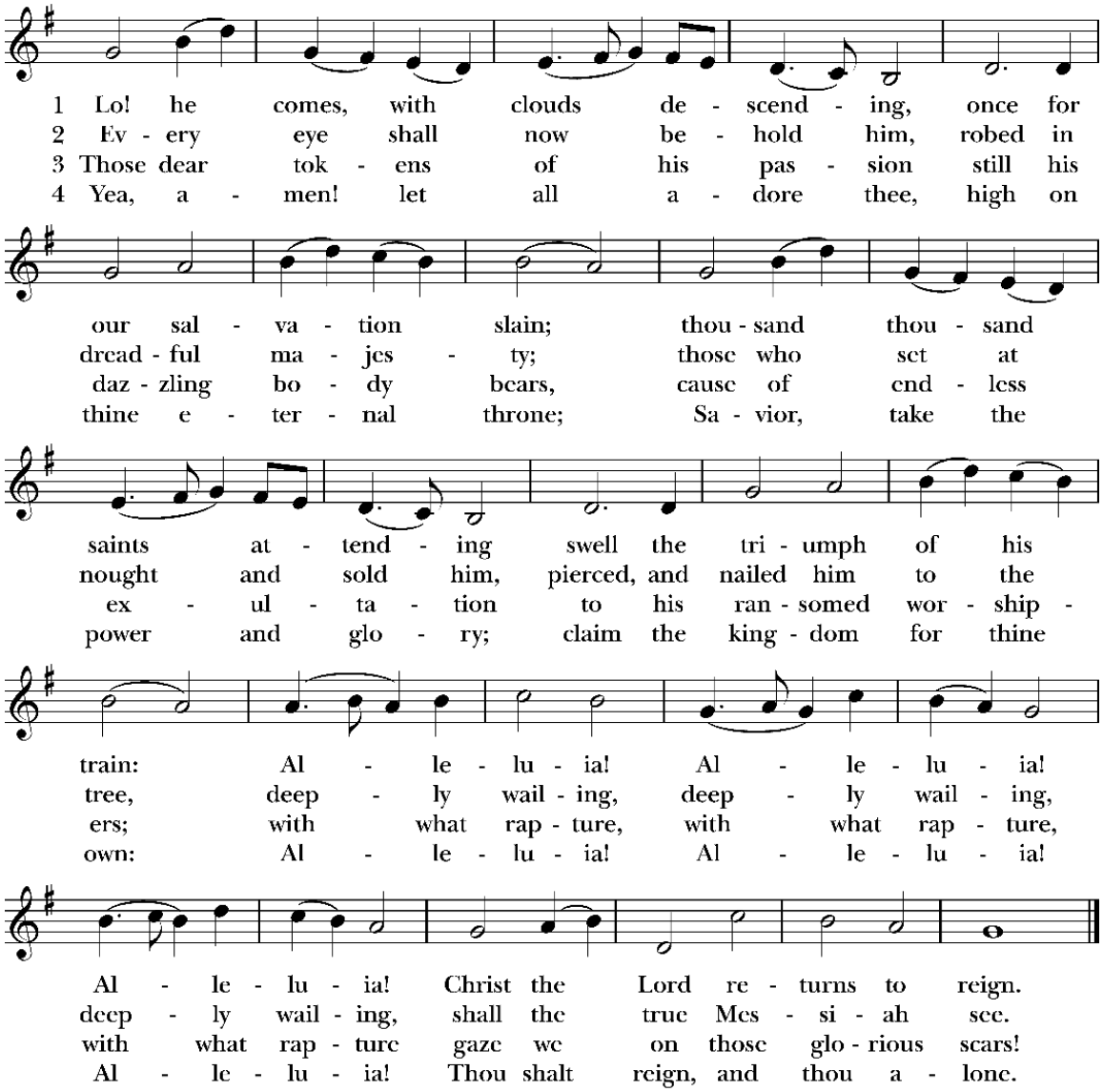
Welcome Home!

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 57| Lo! he comes, with clouds descending *Helmsley*



LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT CANDLE |
First Candle | The Candle of Hope

Celebrant: Light and peace, in Jesus Christ our Lord.

People: Thanks be to God

Celebrant: Today is the First Sunday of Advent, in which we recall the hope we have in Christ. God told Abraham that through him all the nations of the world would be blessed, because he trusted and put his hope in God. The Old Testament spoke of the coming of Christ, of how a Savior would be born, a king in the line of King David. He would rule the world wisely and bless all the nations. We too believe in God's promise to send Jesus again to this world to establish his kingdom upon the earth.

The First Candle is lit here
8:00 - Toni Summerell
10:30 - Faustina & Jesus Hernandez, Javier, Lucas, and Christina

Hope is like a light shining in a dark place. As we look at the light of this candle, we celebrate the hope we have in Jesus Christ.

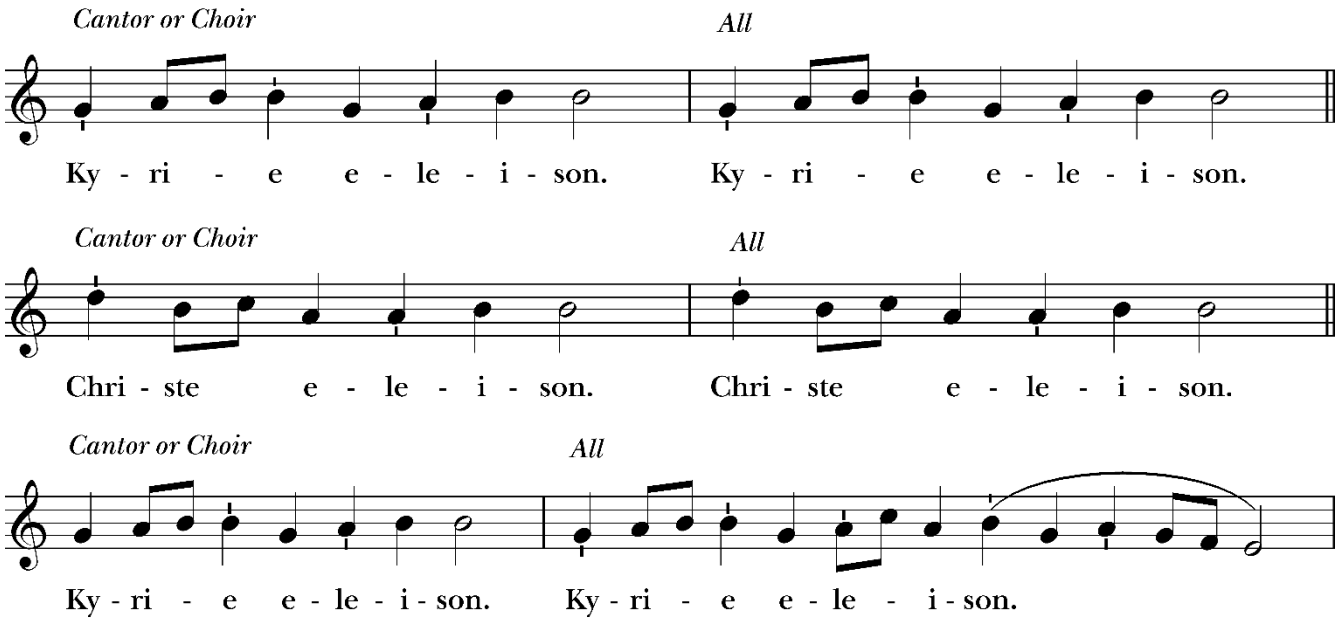
Celebrant: Let us pray.

People: God of Abraham and Sarah and all the Patriarchs of old, you are our Father too. Your love is revealed to us in Jesus Christ, Son of David. Help us in preparing to celebrate his birth, to make our hearts ready and to place our hope in you. Help us today and every day to worship you, to hear your word, and to do your will by sharing your hope with others. We ask it in the name of the one who was born in Bethlehem. **Amen.**

OPENING ACCLAMATION|

Celebrant: Blessed by God: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.
People: **And blessed be his kingdom, now and for ever. Amen.**

KYRIE ELEISON| *Plainsong*



THE COLLECT OF THE DAY|

Celebrant: The Lord be with you.
People: **And also with you.**
Celebrant: Let us pray.

Almighty God, give us grace to cast away the works of darkness, and put on the armor of light, now in the time of this mortal life in which your Son Jesus Christ came to visit us in great humility; that in the last day, when he shall come again in his glorious majesty to judge both the living and the dead, we may rise to the life immortal; through him who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

The people may be seated.

THE FIRST LESSON | Isaiah 64:1-9

Reader: *A reading from Isaiah.*

O that you would tear open the heavens and come down, so that the mountains would quake at your presence--

as when fire kindles brushwood and the fire causes water to boil--to make your name known to your adversaries, so that the nations might tremble at your presence!

When you did awesome deeds that we did not expect, you came down, the mountains quaked at your presence. From ages past no one has heard, no ear has perceived, no eye has seen any God besides you, who works for those who wait for him. You meet those who gladly do right, those who remember you in your ways. But you were angry, and we sinned; because you hid yourself we transgressed.

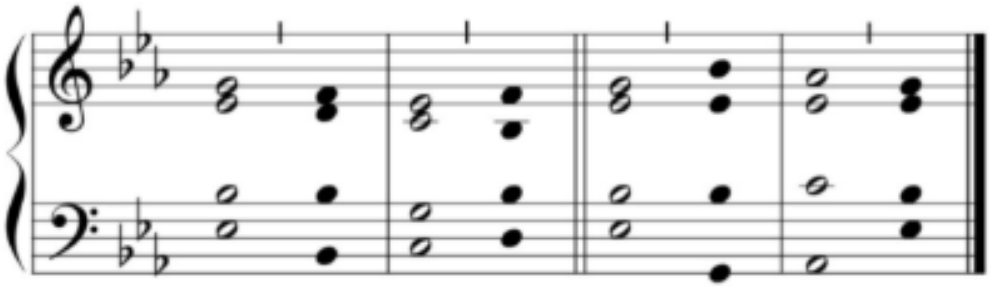
We have all become like one who is unclean, and all our righteous deeds are like a filthy cloth. We all fade like a leaf, and our iniquities, like the wind, take us away. There is no one who calls on your name, or attempts to take hold of you; for you have hidden your face from us, and have delivered us into the hand of our iniquity.

Yet, O Lord, you are our Father; we are the clay, and you are our potter; we are all the work of your hand. Do not be exceedingly angry, O Lord, and do not remember iniquity forever. Now consider, we are all your people.

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

THE PSALM

Psalm 80:1-7, 16-18| *Prayer for Israel's Restoration*



Hear, O Shepherd of Israel, leading Joseph like a |flock; *
shine forth, you that are enthroned upon the |cherubim.

In the presence of Ephraim, Benjamin, and Ma-|nasseh, *
stir up your strength and come to |help us.

Restore us, O God of |hosts; *
show the light of your countenance, and we shall be |saved.

O Lord God of |hosts, *
how long will you be angered
despite the prayers of your |people?

You have fed them with the bread of |tears; *
you have given them bowls of tears to |drink.

You have made us the derision of our |neighbors, *
and our enemies laugh us to |scorn.

Restore us, O God of |hosts; *
show the light of your countenance, and we shall be |saved.

Let your hand be upon the man of your right |hand, *
the son of man you have made so strong for your-|self.

And so will we never turn away from |you; *
give us life, that we may call upon your |Name.

Restore us, O Lord God of |hosts; *
show the light of your countenance, and we shall be |saved.

THE EPISTLE | 1 Corinthians 1:3-9
Reader: *A reading from 1st Corinthians.*

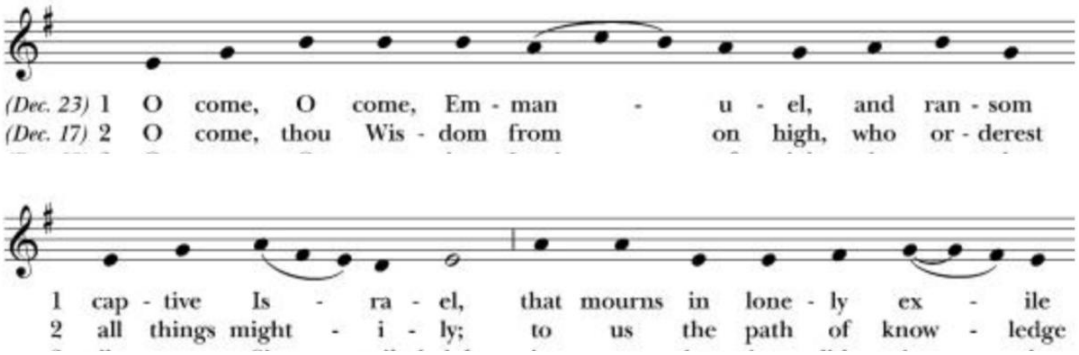
Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

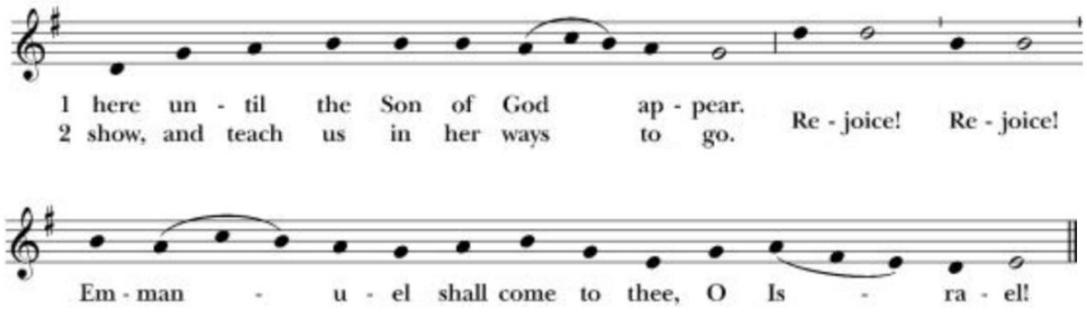
I give thanks to my God always for you because of the grace of God that has been given you in Christ Jesus, for in every way you have been enriched in him, in speech and knowledge of every kind-- just as the testimony of Christ has been strengthened among you-- so that you are not lacking in any spiritual gift as you wait for the revealing of our Lord Jesus Christ. He will also strengthen you to the end, so that you may be blameless on the day of our Lord Jesus Christ. God is faithful; by him you were called into the fellowship of his Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

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

The people stand as able.

SEQUENCE HYMN 56| O Come, O Come, Emmanuel v 1-2 *Veni Emmanuel*





THE GOSPEL | Mark 13:24-37

Celebrant: The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Mark.
People: **Glory to you, Lord Christ.**

Jesus said, "In those days, after that suffering,

the sun will be darkened,
and the moon will not give its light,
and the stars will be falling from heaven,
and the powers in the heavens will be shaken.

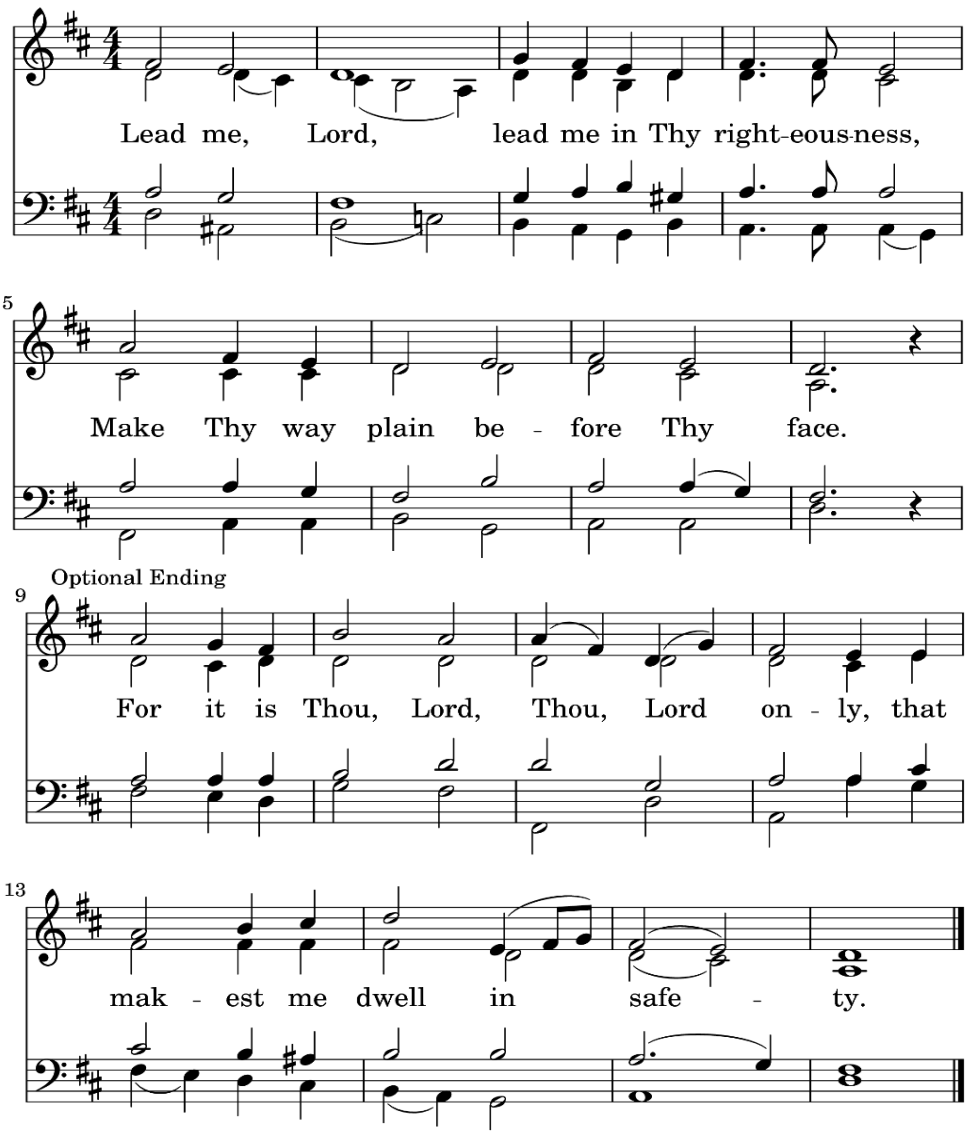
Then they will see 'the Son of Man coming in clouds' with great power and glory. Then he will send out the angels, and gather his elect from the four winds, from the ends of the earth to the ends of heaven.

"From the fig tree learn its lesson: as soon as its branch becomes tender and puts forth its leaves, you know that summer is near. So also, when you see these things taking place, you know that he is near, at the very gates. Truly I tell you, this generation will not pass away until all these things have taken place. Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will not pass away.

"But about that day or hour no one knows, neither the angels in heaven, nor the Son, but only the Father. Beware, keep alert; for you do not know when the time will come. It is like a man going on a journey, when he leaves home and puts his slaves in charge, each with his work, and commands the doorkeeper to be on the watch. Therefore, keep awake—for you do not know when the master of the house will come, in the evening, or at midnight, or at cockcrow, or at dawn, or else he may find you asleep when he comes suddenly. And what I say to you I say to all: Keep awake."

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

HYMN | Lead Me, Lord *Samuel Sebastian Wesley*



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 |

Gladly we gather in the house of the Lord. In unity, we praise His holy name. May we seek to do good and serve others. May the Lord teach us His ways and help us to walk in His path. We pray for peace and prosperity in our nation and throughout the Earth. **We walk in the Light of God**

We ask Christ to bless the work of His Church in our needy world. We pray for an end to armed conflict in the Holy Land. We ask the Lord for an end to war and violence between nations, in our communities and in our homes. May we be strengthened and encouraged to pursue Christ's truth and love. **We abide in God's healing Presence**

We pray for the Anglican Communion, especially for the churches in Hong Kong Sheng Kung Hui. In the Episcopal Diocese of Maryland, we lift up , Good Shepherd, Towson, Grace Memorial, Darlington and Holy Comforter, Lutherville. For our spiritual leaders, we ask for our Lord's wisdom and guidance, especially our Presiding Bishop, Sean; our Diocesan Bishop Carrie; our rector, Emmanuel; Clergy; Richard, Marcia & Natalie. We welcome all visitors and newcomers to Christ Church on this first Sunday in Advent and hope that our time in worship and praise has fed your Spirit. **We are enriched by your participation. We look for the coming of Christ**

We pray for those who are ill, especially Mike, Paula, Nancy, Shannon, Ally, Sean, Maggie, Liam, Ashley, Kimberly, Lisa, Rita, Kaci, MaryAnn, Mark, Brandon, Clarence, Jim, Mildred, Kayode, Rachan & Sherry, and those you now name. May they be wrapped in God's love and feel the healing presence of Christ at their side. We give thanks for the caring individuals who minister to those in need. We hold up in prayer all those in military service. We also pray for those who have died and entered eternal life, especially Joi James. Please comfort those who grieve. **We turn to Our Lord for help in time of trouble**

Our thanks are extended to Christ for the incredible blessings in our lives. This week our Parish celebrates the birthdays of Randolph, Kayode, Emily, Ginger, Gavin, Rosa & Chizoba; and baptismal anniversaries of Grace, Rosa, Virginia & Ellen. As a community of Faith, we share occasions of joy in our church family. **In Christ we live and move and have our Being**

Lord, grant that we may enter into Advent, with great anticipation and hope of new life through the love of Jesus in each other and in the world.- **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 | Zion Hears the Watchmen Singing *JS Bach*

Please scan to give.

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



EUCHARISTIC PRAYER B |

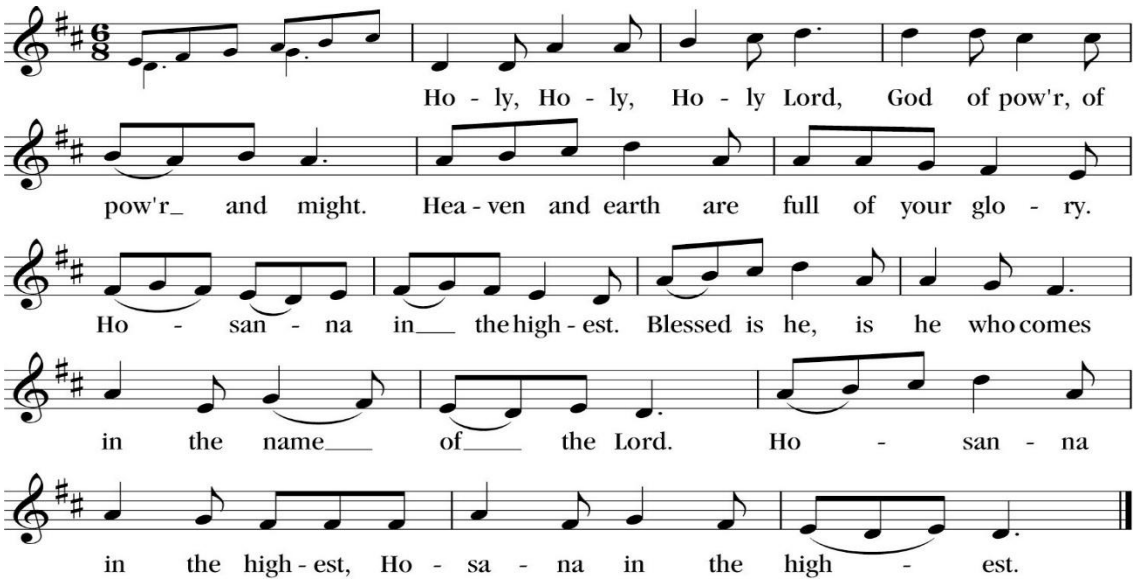
Celebrant: The Lord be with you.
People: **And also with you.**

Celebrant: Lift up your hearts.
People: **We lift them to the Lord.**

Celebrant: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.
People: **It is right to give him thanks and praise.**

Celebrant: It is right, and a good and joyful thing, always and everywhere to give thanks to you, Father Almighty, Creator of heaven and earth. Almighty God, give us grace to cast away the works of darkness, and put on the armor of light, now in the time of this mortal life in which your Son Jesus Christ came to visit us in great humility; that in the last day, when he shall come again in his glorious majesty to judge both the living and the dead, we may rise to the life immortal; through him who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever.

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.

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,

All: **We remember his death,**
We proclaim his resurrection
We await his coming in glory.

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

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

THE LORD'S PRAYER |

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

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

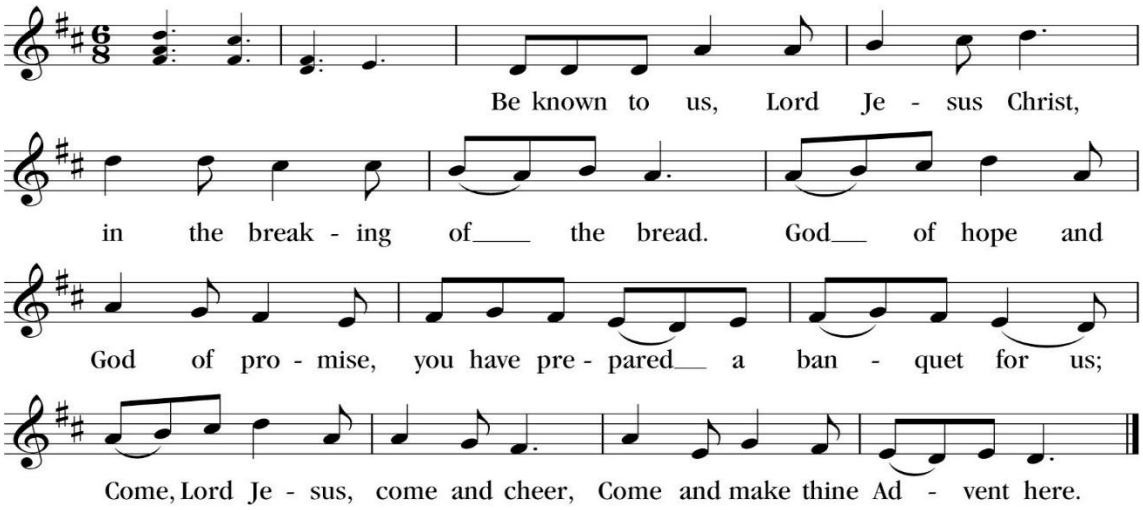
THE BREAKING OF THE BREAD |

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



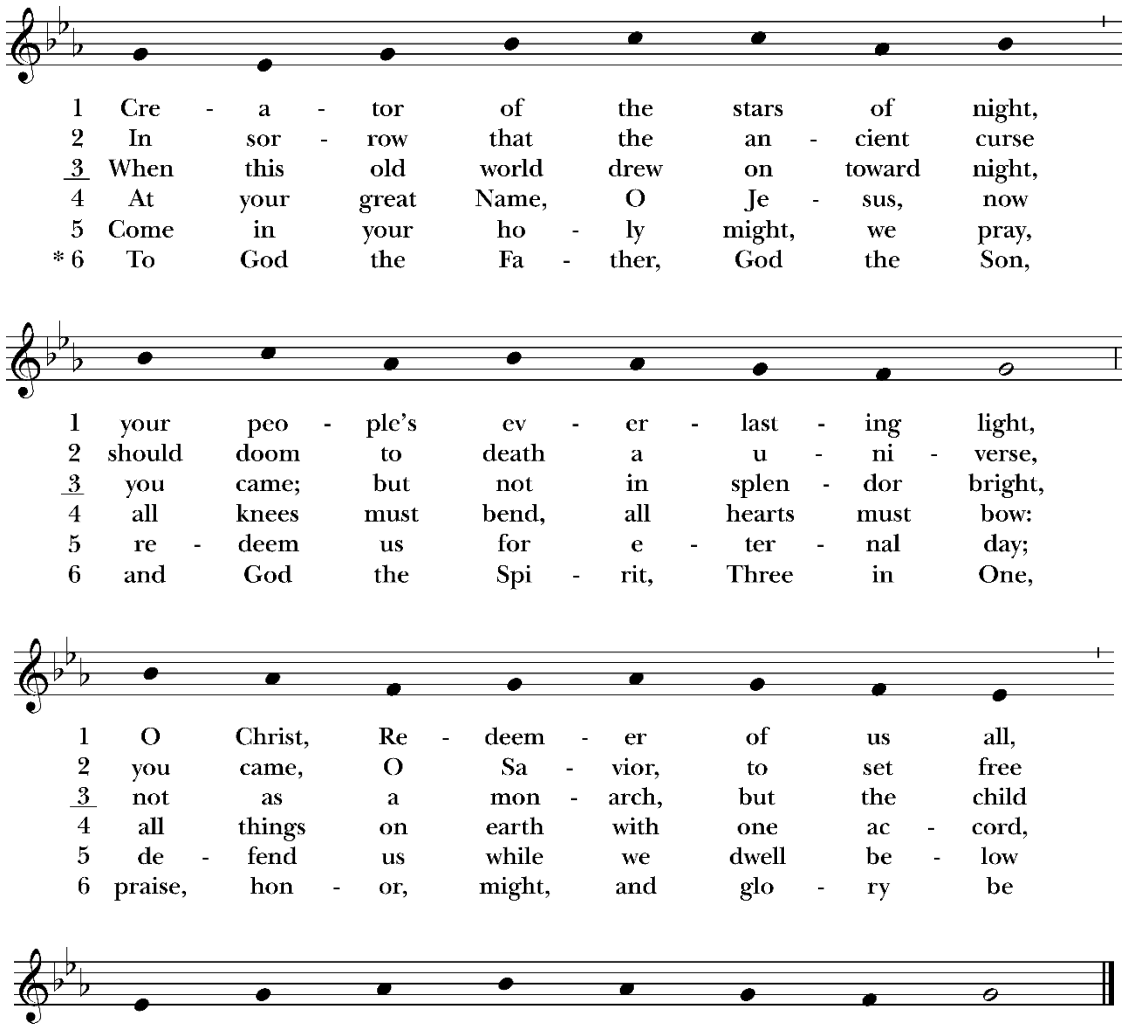
FRACTION ANTHEM |

St James Advent Service
arr. Richard Shepard



COMMUNION HYMN 60 | Creator of the Stars of Night

Conditor alme siderum



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.**

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

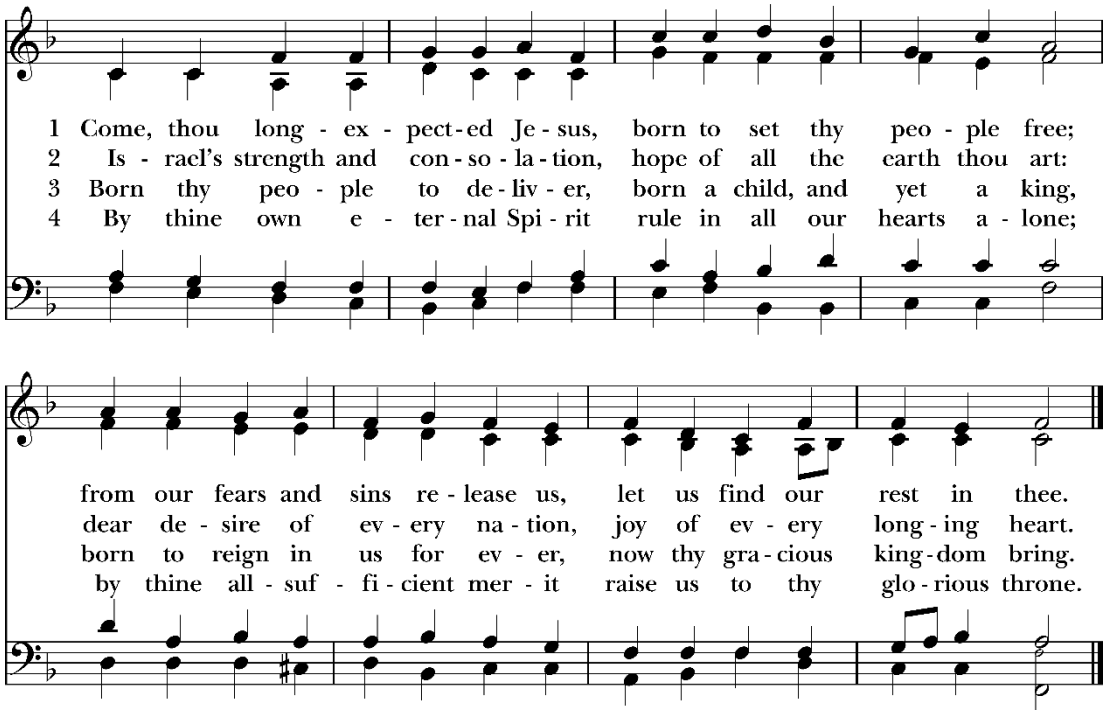
Celebrant: In the name of this congregation, we send you forth bearing these gifts that those to whom you go may share with us in the communion of Christ's Body and Blood.

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 66 | Come, thou long-expected Jesus *Stuttgart*



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

Ivy Amponsah, Jai Jones, Kathy Simms, Sonni Aribiah

8:00 a.m. Service

Chalicist: Dione Mahoney

Lector/Reader: Ron Baran

Ushers: Michon Semon, Nancy Winchester

10:30 a.m. Service

Acolytes: Abby Boyer, Eli Wasula, Lucas Hernandez

Chalicist: Ivy Amponsah

Lector/Reader: Diane Forbes Berthoud

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

Tellers

Jenny Cecil, Cherry Williams

PARISH CALENDAR
NOVEMBER 29 – DECEMBER 5, 2026

Sunday, November 29

8:00 am	Holy Eucharist
9:00 am	Family Service
10:30 am	Holy Eucharist w/music – New Brick, UL
11:00 – 11:30 am	Coffee Hour - Zoom
2:00 – 3:00 pm	Confirmation Class - Zoom

Monday, November 30

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	Columbia Conjurers – Parish Hall, LL

Tuesday, December 1

7:00 am	Morning Prayer Livestream
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 Zoom
3:00 – 5:00 pm	Lumen Christi Practice – New Brick, UL
7:00 – 9:00 pm	MS Support Group – New Brick, LL
7:30 – 8:30 pm	300 Yr Race & Slavery Comm Meeting - Zoom
7:30 – 9:00 pm	CEC Book Club – Zoom

Wednesday, December 2

7:00 am	Morning Prayer Livestream
8:00 – 4:00 pm	Bridges to Housing Staff Retreat – New Brick, LL
3:30 – 4:30 pm	Exercise Class – Parish Hall, LL
6:00 – 800 pm	First Wednesday Fellowship (FWF) – New Brick, LL

Thursday, December 3

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	EfM: Fast Track – Zoom
7:30 – 9:00 pm	Boy Scouts – New Brick, LL

Friday, December 4

7:00 am	Morning Prayer Livestream
7:00 pm	Evening Prayer Livestream

Saturday, December 5

8:00 – 10:00 am	Altar Guild prep
8:30 am – 12:00 pm	Advent Quiet Day – Old Brick
2:00 – 4:00 pm	AA Meeting – Parish Hall
2:00 – 4:30 pm	Solo Flight Fellowship: Painting Galore – New Brick, LL
2:30 – 6:30 pm	Youth Wreath Making – New Brick, LL
3:30 – 4:30 pm	Altar Guild prep

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

No Sunday School or Formation Today

Please make a note that there will be no Sunday School or Youth Formation on Sunday, November 30th but be sure to gather with us for Bishop Carrie's visit to Christ Church during the 9:00 Family Worship or the 10:30 Choral Eucharist. Sunday School will resume the following Sunday, December 7.

Christ Church's 2026 Advent and Christmas Schedule

The season is upon us! Christ Church's Advent and Christmas page provides an overview of upcoming services and gatherings throughout the season; visit **christchurchcolumbia.org/advent-and-christmas-2026** for many wonderful worship and fellowship opportunities. Also, be sure to check back starting next Monday, November 30, for Mother Marcia's Weeknight Vespers, Pam Pruitt's Advent Poems. You can also view our Parish Calendar **here**, which includes all upcoming gatherings for the parish and the community. Check back often for updates and new events.

WOCC Christmas Feast - Sign Up by Next Sunday, November 29

Join the Women of Christ Church's Christmas Feast, taking place on **Sunday, December 6 at 1:00 p.m. at the Kings Contrivance Restaurant**. The cost is $66 per person for a delicious 3-course meal and non-alcoholic drinks, all-inclusive (fancy drinks can be purchased from the cash bar). Sign up in the Narthex **or online** by Sunday, November 29. Subsidies are available, should you need them - please speak to Father Manny. We'll also be collecting unwrapped gifts for Springfield Hospital again this year, and **you can find their wish list on our website**. We really hope to see you there!

The Youth Group Christmas Wreath Sale is On Now!

Christ Church is holding a Christmas Wreath Sale, with all proceeds benefiting the Christ Church Youth Group. The cost of each wreath is $25, and you can sign up in the Narthex, **or you can sign up online here**. Remember to let us know how many wreaths you would like on the sign-up form. The order deadline is November 30th, so be sure to sign up soon! The wreaths will then be delivered at church on Sunday, December 6th, and payment is due upon pickup. You'll then have a wreath that provides beauty throughout the entire Christmas season.

Giving Tuesday - December 1

Music is such a vital element of our worship experience. It uplifts us, comforts us, and helps us to pray and praise God. We are incredibly blessed to have so many musically gifted members at Christ Church and in our community who selflessly share their time and talents with us. Throughout the year at Christ Church - and especially during the upcoming festive season of Advent and Christmas - our Music Ministry incorporates many beautiful voices and instruments into each liturgy, enriching the experience of everyone who joins us in worship and celebration.

#GivingTuesday2026, a global call to radical generosity that invites us to give to a charity of choice, is today. We at Christ Church hope that you will consider sharing your generosity through kind support for our always-growing Music Ministry. Please visit **cecevents.org/GivingTuesday**, donate what you can, and help us continue to make a joyful sound. Every gesture - no matter what size - will help us deepen and strengthen our parish and community.

It's an Ugly Christmas First Wednesday Fellowship! - December 2

Get your "ugly" Christmas sweaters out of storage and get ready for a fun First Wednesday Fellowship to cap off the year. At our FWF on December 2, we'll have a special **Pie Contest** - make or bring your favorite sweet or savory pie, and the best one wins a prize! We'll provide hearty soups, bread, and refreshments to go with your pies, and we'll all enjoy a fun, flavorful, final FWF of 2026.

Of course, this event wouldn't be complete without our traditional **Ugly Sweater Party**, but you'll definitely have to get creative - we've seen some AMAZING sweaters in past years, so bring your funniest, your silliest, your ugliest! It's a night of hearty laughs, full bellies, and huge smiles - be sure to join us!

Advent Quiet Day - December 5

Everyone is welcome and encouraged to join us for Advent Quiet Day on Saturday, December 5. This important Christ Church tradition, presented by the Spiritual Life Commission, marks the start of the Advent season and helps us focus and maintain perspective during these hectic weeks leading up to Christmas.

We'll gather in Old Brick for an informal breakfast and conversation at 8:30 a.m., then the Rev. Randy Callender, Canon for Mission at the Diocese of Maryland, will lead us through a morning of readings, spirited discussion, shared community, and quiet meditation. Our retreat then concludes around 12 noon with an informal Eucharist. It's a memorable gathering each year, and we hope that you'll join us as we let the Light enter our feelings and actions to help make this a remarkable and joyous Christmas season. Stay tuned for more details in the coming weeks, but mark your calendars for this special morning of reflection now.

MOCC's Annual Christmas Dinner - December 12

Mark your calendars and join us as we close out the year in warmth and fellowship! Celebrate the joy of the season with good food and good friends at the MOCC's annual Christmas Dinner. Whether you're a regular or joining us for the first time, we'd love to share a festive evening together ahead of the holiday rush.

We'll gather at The King's Contrivance Restaurant on Saturday, December 12 at 6:00 p.m. for a fantastic menu of holiday favorites. The cost is $75. per person, and you can pay via check payable to Christ Church ("MOCC Christmas Dinner" in memo) or **by using Realm** (choose *Men of Christ Church* in the fund dropdown and write "Christmas Dinner" in the memo line).

Sign up in the Narthex or by emailing **MOCC@christchurchcolumbia.org,** but RSVP soon - the deadline is December 6, so reserve your spot now!

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**.

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**.

We Need Your Photo!

As our church community continues to grow and flourish, staying connected is more important than ever. Christ Church is creating a new to make it easier for everyone to reach out, connect, and care for one another, put faces to names, welcome newcomers, and help long-time members stay in touch across our services and ministries. The "faces to names" part of that is where you come in - we need your individual or family photo so we can add it to the Directory. Please email them to **office@christchurchcolumbia.org**, and we'll add them.

A directory helps our clergy, staff, and lay leaders easily recognize, reach, and support parishioners when they need pastoral care or community outreach. Knowing one another also better builds a tightly knit, supportive spiritual home where everyone is truly seen and appreciated, so thank you in advance for helping make this Directory a reality.

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, so 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 will ensure that Communion gets there.

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. And with the holidays coming, we need more help than ever. You can help your church by volunteering as a Greeter, Reader, Chalicist, or Teller, serving in the Inreach Ministry, or assisting the Christ Church Altar Guild.

None of these requires weekly assistance - 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. For those interested in assisting as a Greeter, Reader, Chalicist, Inreach, or Teller, please call the Church Office at **office@christchurchcolumbia.org** or speak with Yetti. Thank you.


JOIN US FOR A VERY SPECIAL GATHERING
ADVENT QUIET DAY
SATURDAY, DECEMBER 5
8:30 AM - 12 NOON
OLD BRICK AT CHRIST CHURCH
Music, prayers, reflections, and discussions
that help us to prepare to better focus
and retain our perspective during the
hectic weeks leading up to Christmas.
Gather with us for an inspiring start
to this most holy season.



Christ Episcopal Church
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The Rev. Emmanuel Ato Mercer, *Rector*
The Rev. Marcia Davenport, *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*) • Ronald Baran • George Toth • Sara Kirkpatrick
• Ed Chrzanowski • Jay Abbott• David James • Katie Adams • Jim Berkson • Jan DeBoissiere • Alfred Titus-Glover