

Christ Episcopal Church

Extending the Love and Embrace of Christ

Eighteenth Sunday after Pentecost

The Holy Eucharist, Rite II

Sunday, October 1, 2023 | 8:00 am & 10:30 am



Welcome Home!

Welcome to worship at Christ Episcopal Church. If this is your first time with us, we invite you to complete a visitor's form. Our website provides up to date information about our vibrant church community: christchurchcolumbia.org. This bulletin contains all you need to join us in worship, everyone is welcome to receive communion at God's table, and the clergy are happy to speak with you at any time.

We are delighted you're here - welcome home!

Prelude | Pastorate

Don Michael Dicie

Unison or harmony

1 As those of old their first fruits brought of vine - yard, flock, and
 *2 A world in need now sum - mons us to la - bor, love, and
 3 With grat - i - tude and hum - ble trust we bring our best to

field to God, the giv - er of all good, the
 give; to make our life an of - fer - ing to
 thee to serve thy cause and share thy love with

source of bount-eous yield; so we to - day our
 God that all may live; the Church of Christ is
 all hu - man - i - ty. O thou who gav - est

first fruits bring, the wealth of this good land, of
 call - ing us to make the dream come true: a
 us thys - elf in Je - sus Christ thy Son, help

farm and mar - ket, shop and home, of mind, and heart, and hand.
 world re - deemed by Christ - like love; all life in Christ made new.
 us to give our - selves each day un - til life's work is done.

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.

Glory to God | S280 Canticle 20 | *Gloria in excelsis*

setting: 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.

O God, you declare your almighty power chiefly in showing mercy and pity: Grant us the fullness of your grace, that we, running to obtain your promises, may become partakers of your heavenly treasure; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, forever and ever.

People: ***Amen.***

The people may be seated.

A Reading from Exodus 17:1-7 |

Reader: A Reading from Exodus.

From the wilderness of Sin the whole congregation of the Israelites journeyed by stages, as the Lord commanded. They camped at Rephidim, but there was no water for the people to drink. The people quarreled with Moses, and said, "Give us water to drink." Moses said to them, "Why do you quarrel with me? Why do you test the Lord?" But the people thirsted there for water; and the people complained against Moses and said, "Why did you bring us out of Egypt, to kill us and our children and livestock with thirst?" So Moses cried out to the Lord, "What shall I do with this people? They are almost ready to stone me." The Lord said to Moses, "Go on ahead of the people, and take some of the elders of Israel with you; take in your hand the staff with which you struck the Nile, and go. I will be standing there in front of you on the rock at Horeb. Strike the rock, and water will come out of it, so that the people may drink." Moses did so, in the sight of the elders of Israel. He called the place Massah and Meribah, because the Israelites quarreled and tested the Lord, saying, "Is the Lord among us or not?"

Reader: The word of the Lord.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

Psalms 78:1-4, 12-16 | *Attendite, popule*



Hear my teaching, O my people; *
incline your ears to the words of my mouth.

I will open my mouth in a parable; *
I will declare the mysteries of ancient times.

That which we have heard and known,
and what our forefathers have told us, *
we will not hide from their children.

We will recount to generations to come
the praiseworthy deeds and the power of the LORD, *
and the wonderful works he has done.

Antiphon

He worked marvels in the sight of their forefathers, *
in the land of Egypt, in the field of Zoan.
He split open the sea and let them pass through; *
he made the waters stand up like walls.
He led them with a cloud by day, *
and all the night through with a glow of fire.
He split the hard rocks in the wilderness *
and gave them drink as from the great deep.
He brought streams out of the cliff, *
and the waters gushed out like rivers.

Antiphon

A Reading from Philippians 2:1-13 |

Reader: A Reading from the Epistle to the Philippians.

If then there is any encouragement in Christ, any consolation from love, any sharing in the Spirit, any compassion and sympathy, make my joy complete: be of the same mind, having the same love, being in full accord and of one mind. Do nothing from selfish ambition or conceit, but in humility regard others as better than yourselves. Let each of you look not to your own interests, but to the interests of others. Let the same mind be in you that was in Christ Jesus,

who, though he was in the form of God,
did not regard equality with God
as something to be exploited,
but emptied himself,
taking the form of a slave,
being born in human likeness.
And being found in human form,
he humbled himself
and became obedient to the point of death--
even death on a cross.
Therefore God also highly exalted him
and gave him the name
that is above every name,
so that at the name of Jesus
every knee should bend,
in heaven and on earth and under the earth,
and every tongue should confess
that Jesus Christ is Lord,
to the glory of God the Father.

Therefore, my beloved, just as you have always obeyed me, not only in my presence, but much more now in my absence, work out your own salvation with fear and trembling; for it is God who is at work in you, enabling you both to will and to work for his good pleasure.

Reader: The word of the Lord.

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

The people stand as able for the singing of the hymn and the reading of the Gospel.

Sequence Hymn LEVAS 145 | Have Thine Own Way, Lord

Adelaide A. Pollard/ George C. Stebbins

1. Have thine own way, Lord! Have thine own way!_____
2. Have thine own way, Lord! Have thine own way!_____
3. Have thine own way, Lord! Have thine own way!_____
4. Have thine own way, Lord! Have thine own way!_____

1. Thou art the pot - ter, I am the clay!_____
2. Search me and try me, Mas - ter, to - day!_____
3. Wound - ed and wea - ry, Help me, I pray!_____
4. Hold o'er my be - ing Ab - so - lute sway!_____

1. Mold me and make me Aft - er thy will,_____
2. Pur - er than snow, Lord, Wash me just now,_____
3. Pow - er all pow - er Sure - ly is thine!_____
4. Fill with thy Spir - it 'Til all shall see_____

1. While I am wait - ing, Yield - ed and still._____
2. As in thy pres - ence Hum - bly I bow._____
3. Touch me and heal me, Sav - ior di - vine!_____
4. Christ on - ly, al - ways, Liv - ing in me!_____

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

When Jesus entered the temple, the chief priests and the elders of the people came to him as he was teaching, and said, “By what authority are you doing these things, and who gave you this authority?” Jesus said to them, “I will also ask you one question; if you tell me the answer, then I will also tell you by what authority I do these things. Did the baptism of John come from heaven, or was it of human origin?” And they argued with one another, “If we say, ‘From heaven,’ he will say to us, ‘Why then did you not believe him?’ But if we say, ‘Of human origin,’ we are afraid of the crowd; for all regard John as a prophet.” So they answered Jesus, “We do not know.” And he said to them, “Neither will I tell you by what authority I am doing these things.

“What do you think? A man had two sons; he went to the first and said, ‘Son, go and work in the vineyard today.’ He answered, ‘I will not’; but later he changed his mind and went. The father went to the second and said the same; and he answered, ‘I go, sir’; but he did not go. Which of the two did the will of his father?” They said, “The first.” Jesus said to them, “Truly I tell you, the tax collectors and the prostitutes are going into the kingdom of God ahead of you. For John came to you in the way of righteousness and you did not believe him, but the tax collectors and the prostitutes believed him; and even after you saw it, you did not change your minds and believe him.

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

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

Sermon | Kathleen Lyon, *Lay Preacher*

The people stand as able.

The Nicene Creed |

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

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

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

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

The Prayers of the People |

Lord, let us pray for the Church and for the World.

Grant, Almighty God, that all who confess your Name may be united in your truth, live together in your love, and reveal your glory in the world. **Lord, in your mercy. Hear our prayer.**

Guide the people of this land, and all of the nations, in the ways of justice and peace; that we may honor one another and serve the common good. In the Anglican Communion, we pray today for The Nippon Sei Ko Kai. In the Diocese of Maryland, we pray for the Grace Memorial, Darlington; Holy Cross, The Rocks; and St. John's, Havre de Grace. Give guidance to our governmental leaders and spiritual leaders especially our Presiding Bishop, Michael; our Diocesan Bishops, Eugene, and Carrie; our Rector, Emmanuel; our Deacon, Denise, our postulants, and staff. **Lord, in your mercy. Hear our prayer.**

Give us all a reverence for the earth as your own creation, that we may use its resources rightly in the service of others and to your honor and glory. **Lord, in your mercy. Hear our prayer.**

Bless all whose lives are closely linked with ours, and grant that we may serve Christ in them, and love one another as he loves us. **Lord, in your mercy. Hear our prayer.**

Comfort and heal all those who suffer in body, mind, or spirit especially Barbara, Sherry, Tim, Dinorah, Fr. Richard, Christine, Carol, Jan, Judy, Patricia, Cindy, Roberta, Samuel, Ashley, Alta, Farris, Mildred, Nell, and those you now name; give them courage and hope in their troubles and bring them the joy of your salvation. **Lord, in your mercy. Hear our prayer.**

We commend to your mercy all who have died especially Bill Russell, Charles Hoke, and Betty DeBoissiere, that your will for them may be fulfilled; and we pray that we may share with all your saints in your eternal kingdom. **Lord, in your mercy. Hear our prayer.**

We rejoice with our Christ Church family who celebrate moments of joy including birthdays of Benjamin, Kevin, Tele, Teddy, Jane, Barbara, Stacey, Jesse, Patricia, Melissa, Michael & Karen, anniversaries of Beth & Will Johnson, Jena & Sean Peay and Jeannette & Randolph Wild, and the baptismal anniversary of Judith.
Lord, in your mercy. Hear our prayer.

Confession of Sin |

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.**

Celebrant: Almighty God have mercy on you, forgive you all your sins through our Lord Jesus Christ, strengthen you in all goodness, and by the power of the Holy Spirit keep you in eternal life.
Amen.

The Peace |

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

***People:* And also with you.**

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

Welcome and Announcements |

THE HOLY COMMUNION

Offertory Choral Anthem | Savior, Like a Shepherd Lead Us

James Dausch

Please scan to give.



The people stand as able.

Presentation Hymn 380 (v. 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 GREAT THANKSGIVING

Eucharistic 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...

Therefore we praise you, joining our voices with Angels and Archangels and with all the company of heaven, who forever sing this hymn to proclaim the glory of your Name:

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

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

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

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

in - the - high - est. -

Celebrant: 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."

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

Therefore we proclaim the mystery of faith:

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

Celebrant: 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.

All: **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 |

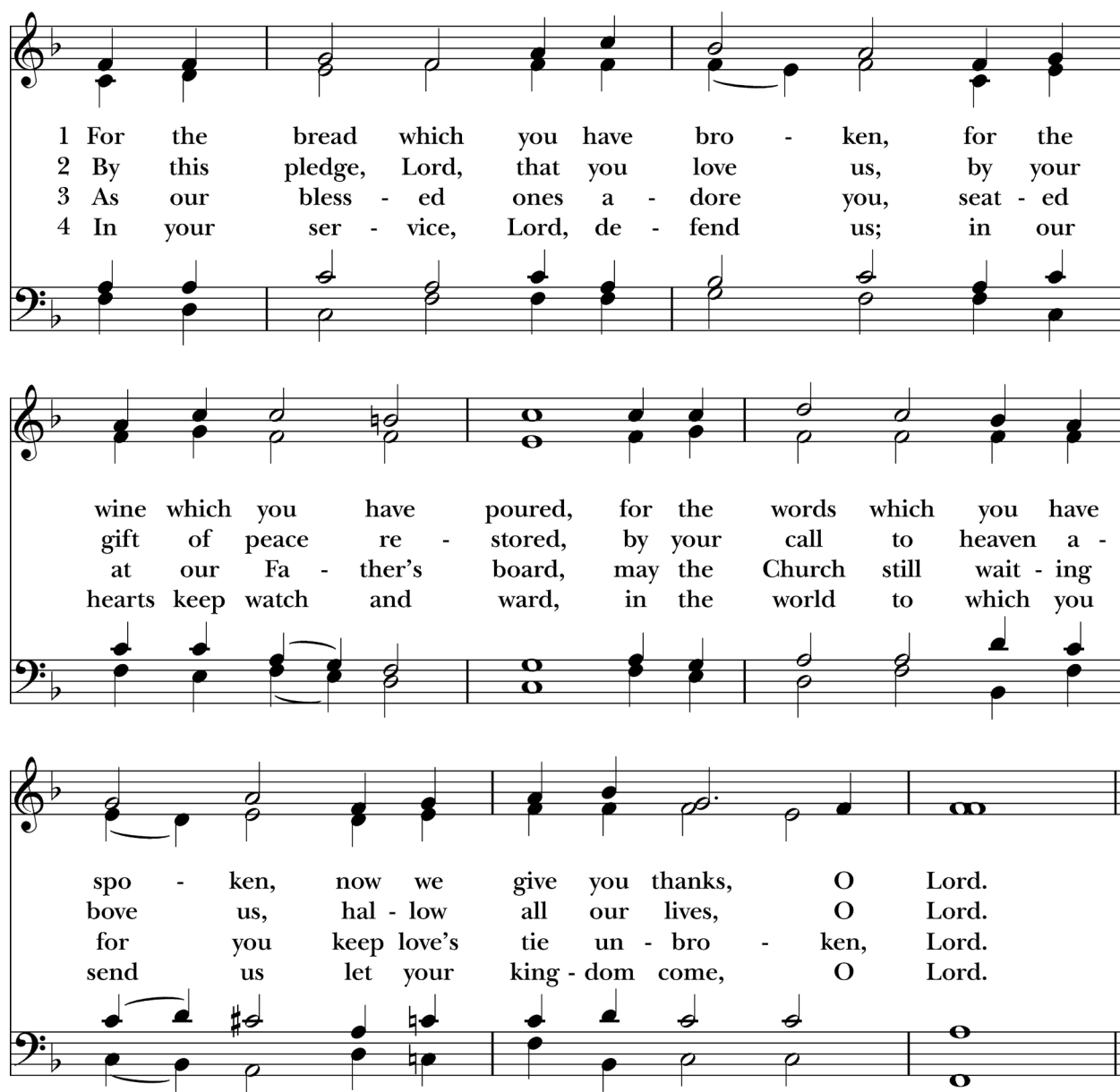
Celebrant: Alleluia. Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us;
People: **Therefore let us keep the feast. Alleluia.**

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.

Celebrant: The Gifts of God for the People of God.





1 For the bread which you have bro - ken, for the
 2 By this pledge, Lord, that you love us, by your
 3 As our bless - ed ones a - dore you, seat - ed
 4 In your ser - vice, Lord, de - fend us; in our

wine which you have poured, for the words which you have
 gift of peace re - stored, by your call to heaven a -
 at our Fa - ther's board, may the Church still wait - ing
 hearts keep watch and ward, in the world to which you

spo - ken, now we give you thanks, O Lord.
 bove us, hal - low all our lives, O Lord.
 for you keep love's tie un - bro - ken, Lord.
 send us let your king - dom come, O Lord.

The people stand as able.

Post-Communion Prayer |

Celebrant: Let us pray.

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

The Celebrant offers a blessing and the People respond Amen.

Closing Hymn LEVAS 64 | I Love to Tell the Story

A. Katherine Hankey/ William G. Fisher

1. I love to tell the sto - ry Of un - seen things a - bove,
 2. I love to tell the sto - ry, For those who know it best

1. Of Je - sus and His glo - ry, Of Je - sus and His love.
 2. Seem hun - ger - ing and thirst - ing To hear it, like the rest.

1. I love to tell the sto - ry, Be - cause I know it's true;
 2. And when, in scenes of glo - ry, I sing the new, new song,

1. It sat - is - fies my long - ings As noth - ing else would do.
 2. 'Twill be the old, old sto - ry That I have loved so long.

I love to tell the sto - ry; 'Twill be my theme in glo - ry.

To tell the old, old sto - ry Of Je - sus and His love.

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

Postlude | War March of the Priests, Athalie Op. 74

Felix Mendelssohn-Bartholdy
Ola Oladipupo

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ASSISTING IN WORSHIP TODAY

8:00 a.m. Service

Lector/Reader: Kayode Fatodu

Ushers: Michon Semon, Diane Phillips-LaGuerre

Chalicerist: Kayode Fatodu

10:30 a.m. Service

Lector/Reader:

Ushers: Isaac Olajide, Yetti Lipede, Jane Adams, JB Hanson, Cherry Williams, Beth Dagne, Alex Amponsah

Acolytes & Crucifer: Setutsi Abdallah

Chalicerist:

Altar Guild: Pam Foreman, Cheryl Lucente

PARISH CALENDAR OCTOBER 1 – OCTOBER 7

Sunday, October 1

8:00 – 8:45 am	Holy Eucharist – Old Brick
8:30 – 9:00 am	Breakfast – New Brick, lower level
8:45 – 9:30 am	Coffee Hour – Old Brick
9:00 – 9:30 am	Family Service – New Brick, upper level
9:30 – 10:15 am	Sunday School – Parish Hall & New Brick, lower levels
9:30 – 10:30 am	Bible Study – Parish Hall, conference room
9:30 – 10:30 am	Sunday Circle – Old Brick
10:30 – 11:30 am	Holy Eucharist w/music – New Brick, upper level
11:30 am – 12:30 pm	Virtual Coffee Hour – Zoom
12:30 – 5:30 pm	Tabernacle of David Church – Old Brick
12:30 – 1:30 pm	Cycling for Health and Fellowship

Monday, October 2

7:00 am	Morning Prayer Livestream
6:30 – 8:30 pm	WOCC Meeting – Corner Stable, Columbia
7:00 – 8:00 pm	Centering Prayer – Old Brick & Zoom

Tuesday, October 3

7:00 am	Morning Prayer Livestream
9:00 am – 3:00 pm	Howard County Homeschool – New Brick, lower level
11:00 am – 12:00 pm	Weekly Staff Meeting – Zoom
12:00 – 1:00 pm	Virtual Coffee Hour – Zoom
7:00 – 9:00 pm	MS Support Group – New Brick, lower level

Wednesday, October 4

7:00 am	Morning Prayer Livestream
6:00 – 8:00 pm	First Wednesday Fellowship – New Brick, lower level
7:00 – 8:00 pm	Adult Children of Alcoholics – Parish Hall, lower level

Thursday, October 5

8:00 am	Morning Prayer Livestream
9:00 am – 3:00 pm	Howard County Homeschool – Parish Hall, lower level
12:00 pm	Healing Eucharist – Old Brick
12:00 – 1:00 pm	Virtual Coffee Hour – Zoom
12:30 – 4:00 pm	Diocese Patapsco Valley Meeting – New Brick, lower level
6:00 – 7:00 pm	Children's Choir Rehearsal – New Brick, upper level
7:00 – 7:30 pm	Handbell Choir Rehearsal – New Brick, upper level
7:30 – 9:00 pm	Adult Choir Rehearsal – New Brick, upper level
7:30 – 8:30 pm	AA Women Only – Parish Hall, lower level
7:30 – 9:00 pm	Boy Scouts – New Brick, lower level

Friday, October 6

7:00 am	Morning Prayer Livestream
5:00 pm	Gir Scouts Bonfire – Field
7:00 pm	Evening Prayer Livestream
7:30 – 9:00 pm	Christ Church Book Club – Zoom
8:00 pm – 12:00 am	Tabernacle of David Church – Old Brick

Saturday, October 7

12:00 – 4:00 pm	Food Drive at Giant – 6020 Marshalee Dr, Elkridge, MD 21075
1:00 – 3:00 pm	Memorial Service – New Brick, upper level
2:00 – 3:00 pm	AA Meeting – Parish Hall, lower level
3:00 pm	Taste of Ghana Auction Winner Meal – Rectory
8:00 – 9:00 pm	NA Meeting – Parish Hall, lower level

ANNOUNCEMENTS

To submit announcements, email to communications@christchurchcolumbia.org by Tuesday evening.
For a digital copy of this service leaflet with working links, etc., visit the main page of our website,
or visit www.christchurchcolumbia.org/worship-archive

Sunday School and Youth Formation

Children and Youth Formation is open to all ages pre-k through 12th grade and is designed to develop and enrich their spiritual lives and deepen their relationship with God. Visit our website for more details and registration form links - www.christchurchcolumbia.org/youth-formation - or email kiona@christchurchcolumbia.org.

Adults and parents - there are many volunteer opportunities available to help teach Sunday School, and no experience is necessary! Even if you can only volunteer once every few weeks, it is very helpful. If you would like more information, please contact Jennifer Atkins by emailing sundayschool@christchurchcolumbia.org

Cycling for Health and Fellowship - Friday Afternoon

With the cooler weather upon us, Diane Phillips LaGuerre and Kevin Osborn are coordinating autumn cycling trips that depart from CEC at a new time on Sundays. We'll gather this Friday at 5 p.m. in the lower New Brick parking lot for a ten-mile journey, so join us with your bike and helmet to ride safely through our beautiful community. Please email Diane Phillips-LaGuerre and Kevin Osborn at cycling@christchurchcolumbia.org for more information.

CEC Book Club - Friday Evening

Join us on Zoom for the Christ Church Book Club this Friday at 7:30 p.m. We always welcome new readers to join us, so how about you? We are discussing the final chapter of *Faith - A Journey for All* by Jimmy Carter, the 39th President of the United States and Nobel Peace Prize winner. We'll also prepare for our next book, so be sure to join us. **The Zoom link is here**, the Meeting ID is **817 9855 4366**, and the Passcode is **CECbooks**.

Join Us for Our Community Health & Wellness Fair - This Saturday

The Christ Church Health Ministry is hosting a Community Health and Wellness Fair this Saturday, September 30th, in the Great Hall. From 11 a.m. to 3 p.m., many health-related booths and presentations will be available, and everyone's invited to come and learn about how you can live a healthier life. Some vendors and participants include specialists in Fitness, Massage, Yoga, Nutrition, Dental Hygiene, Physical Therapy, Holistic Natural Stem Cell Technology, CPR Training, Health Screening, and Mental Health. Invite friends, families, and colleagues to learn more about how they can live well - and have a chance to win great gifts, too!

Centering Prayer - October 2

Join us in Old Brick at 7:00 p.m. Monday evenings for Centering Prayer, a special evening prayer gathering that helps us be present and open to God. You can also take part virtually from wherever you are; **The Zoom link is here**, the Meeting ID is **859 2522 4340**, and the Passcode is **Centering!**

First Wednesday Fellowship - October 4

First Wednesday Fellowship continues through the fall and winter, and we hope you'll spend each gathering with us! Join in the food, fun, and fellowship on the first Wednesday of each month. The next FWF is our Fall Festival on October 4th, so join us for delicious chili and take part in the making of caramel apples. Dinner begins at 6 p.m., and we would appreciate it if you would help defray the cost if you can; each meal costs about \$15 per person, and you can pay online using **<https://onrealm.org/christchurchcolumbia/give/parishlife>** and writing "FWF" in the MEMO line. The entire FWF calendar is set for the remainder of 2023, and you can visit it on our website - **<https://tinyurl.com/CEC-fwfschedule2023>**

Thursday Healing Eucharist - October 5

Each Thursday at 12 noon, Christ Church offers midday worship in historic Old Brick. This service includes readings, prayers, a litany for healing, and the Holy Eucharist. Everyone is welcome to join in a prayerful time as we seek healing for ourselves and our loved ones. Please come in to reflect, pray, and participate in a service in our beautiful chapel, the oldest building of worship still in regular use in Howard County.

Annual Report Submissions Due - October 6

We publish and distribute the Christ Church Annual Report at our meeting on October 15th, and it outlines our activities and ministries, and shares plans for the coming year. In order to do this, we ask that every leader or representative please write a few sentences or paragraphs about your ministry/group's past year and future plans and send this to Chris at **communications@christchurchcolumbia.org** so he can include them. If you have a special photo or photos you'd like us to include, send them, too. The deadline for submissions is next Friday, October 6. Thank you!

Church Beautification Days for our Single Parishioners!

On consecutive Fridays - October 6th and October 13th - we will have special projects from 6-9 p.m. each evening! This time, our plan is to clean and paint the Sacristy in New Brick. On the 6th, we'll clear and prepare the Sacristy and then go out to Frisco's and the Reckless Shepherd Restaurant/Brewery to break bread together - and our Buildings & Grounds Committee will pay for dinner! We will gather again to finish the project on October 13th,

also from 6-9 p.m. Please wear clothes you can comfortably paint in. All other supplies will be provided. And hey - why not invite your friends to make it even more fun!

Also, please note that the Work Day that was scheduled for October 7th is canceled due to other parish events.

Saint Francis Sunday - October 8

The annual Christ Church Blessing of the Animals marks the Feast of Saint Francis. On Sunday, October 8th, bring your furry, feathered, or fuzzy friends - and your scaly or stuffed ones, too! Mother Marcia will bless all of the plushie pets at the 9 a.m. Family Worship, and we'll gather outside at 6 p.m. that evening for the blessing of our live creatures and critters, so be sure to bring them!

Christ Church's Annual Meeting, Vestry Elections, & Potluck Lunch - October 15

We will host our Annual Meeting and Vestry Elections on Sunday, October 15th. On this day, we will have only one service at 10:00 a.m. in New Brick, with a potluck lunch and Annual Meeting and Vestry Elections to follow. As has been our practice, we invite parishioners to donate meals for brunch on this day; there's a sign-up sheet in the Narthex. Please be sure to join us on this day; since it's the day that we review our past year's ministries and activities while making plans for our leadership in the coming year, it's one of the most important gatherings of the year.

The Vestry has approved the following candidates for election (in alphabetical order): Ron Baran, Diane Philips LaGuerre, Greg Schuckman, and Cherrylynn Williams. Backgrounds about these candidates will be published on our website soon.

WOCC October Events

- **Monday, October 2nd at 6:30 p.m. at The Corner Stable** - Join us for dinner and our monthly meeting.
- **Saturday, October 21st at 12 noon at Robinson Nature Center** - Come and walk with us on the trails and enjoy the beautiful fall colors!

The WOCC calendar is posted in the Narthex in New Brick **and on our website** and contains all the fun events planned for the year. We have as many events as we can scheduled on Saturdays so that more women can attend. Speak to any WOCC member or email **WOCC@christchurchcolumbia.org** if you need more info.

Education for Ministry

Mother Marcia, a long-time mentor and teacher for Education For Ministry, is forming a new EFM group at CEC. Participants commit to the program on a yearly basis. EFM groups are lively, exciting places for new discovery and personal spiritual growth, so if you are interested in exploring and deepening your call to ministry in Christ's Body - the Church - then Education for Ministry provides a very strong foundation. The Diocese of Maryland is a sponsoring Diocese of EFM. You can also learn a bit more by **visiting the EFM website**, and by speaking to Mother Marcia in church on Sundays. You can also email her at **revmarcia@christchurchcolumbia.org** and she'll answer any questions you may have. Scholarship support is available.

Please Support the Rector's Discretionary Fund

We want to thank those of you who have helped replenish the Rector's Discretionary Fund. The RDF typically helps fund - among many other things - rental assistance, gas and electric bill aid, financial support, mortgage assistance, and transportation needs. As you know, the needs of those in our community are always present - there are real people with real needs that we support on a consistent basis, so we appeal to you to consider supporting the RDF in order for us to help our neighbors. **Visit our main Online Giving Form** and select "Rector's Discretionary Fund" from the *FUND* dropdown menu if you'd like to help.

Help Us Plan Christ Church's 300th Birthday

We are gathering and planning for Christ Church's 300th year, but are always looking for more input, so join us! This celebration is such an important milestone for our church, and we want participation and ideas from as many of us as possible. There are a variety of committees that you can serve on and so we would like to encourage everyone to consider being a part of this historic occasion. If you have ideas, are interested in assisting, or need more information, please speak with Father Manny or email 300@christchurchcolumbia.org.

Communion to You

In an effort to connect more directly with those of you who are local and worship virtually, Christ Church offers Communion to You, an opportunity to have altar gifts delivered to you or made available for pickup at the Church Office. If you want more information, **please complete this form** or **email** the Church Office.

Altar Flowers and Gifts

If you would like to present altar flowers and gifts in dedication or celebration of a loved one on any upcoming Sunday, you can find the details and 2023 sign-up sheet at <https://tinyurl.com/CECaltarflowers>. You can also sign up and reserve a slot by using our **Realm Online Giving Form**; just choose "Altar Flowers and Gifts" from the *FUND* drop-down menu, and place the dedication name(s) and service date in the *MEMO* line. **Email the Church Office** with any questions.

Please Tell Us How You'll Help: Sign Up for a One-Hour Shift, 12-4 PM, on Saturday, Oct. 7, at Elkridge Giant Supermarket to Aid Two Food Pantries

On Saturday, Oct. 7, Christ Church will hold a food drive at a local Giant supermarket, engaging shoppers to collect hundreds of pounds of non-perishable groceries for the Howard County Food Bank and for its partner, **SAFE Food Pantry** (SAFE).

Several of you have already signed the clipboard to take a shift of an hour, or more. Choose a time between noon and 4 p.m. at Elkridge Giant, 6020 Marshalee Drive, Elkridge, Md., 21075, located off MD Rt. 103 and MD Rt 100. Walk-ins and children are welcome as Christ Church continues a hands-on, family-friendly activity that resumed last April after a pandemic hiatus (see photos). For information, email outreach@christchurchcolumbia.org.

Groceries collected during the drive will go to the food bank, which is operated by the **Community Action Council of Howard County** (CAC) and to SAFE, which provides free gluten-free and allergy-safe foods to low-income families and individuals. The need is great among struggling households, due to inflation and to issues with federal assistance in the form of past cuts and future uncertainty.

You Did It! We Exceeded the \$750 Target to Help Obtain Hearing Aids for Emilio, a Young Man Who Has Been a Somos Amigos Patient Since Boyhood

During a fund-raising effort conducted from Sept. 10 to Sept. 24, Christ Church parishioners generously responded to an appeal by the Outreach Commission to help a hearing-impaired patient of **Somos Amigos Medical Missions**. Emilio, 23, has been a patient since 2009 (see photos), when he was an 8-year-old boy diagnosed with congenital hearing loss.

Specialists earlier this year recommended hearing aids for both ears that with accessories and fittings would cost approximately \$3,500. Of that amount, the Outreach Commission sought to raise \$750 in parishioners' donations. In an outpouring of selflessness, you gave \$945, exceeding our goal by nearly \$200. Thank You!

Somos Amigos volunteer, Dione Mahoney, launched the fundraising drive effort with her personal remarks at worship services. Both Dione and Jim Mahoney plan to depart Saturday, Oct. 7 for the Dominican Republic, where they'll

volunteer once more at Somos Amigos' fall clinic. The Mahoneys will bring with them a check from Christ Church for \$3,695. The balance of expenses for Emilo's aids and audiology care comes from \$1,000 in vestry-approved Outreach budget funds and \$1,750 donated by Somos Amigos supporters at Christ Church.

"We learned from the audiologist that high-quality hearing aids could make a huge difference in the young man's life, allowing him to socialize in ways he has never experienced, and perhaps even more importantly, with corrected hearing, he might be able to find work to eventually support himself and a family," said Somos Amigos Executive Director Frank Brightwell.

Thanks to you, Emilio can expect a far brighter future, and Christ Church will continue its long-term support for the clinic in rural Naranjito (*above photo*). That includes care for patients who sometimes require advanced treatment, such as Emilio and, before him, Franci, a boy diagnosed with a heart defect. Franci has grown into a thriving teenager after surgery made possible by Christ Church contributions.

Donate a Used Bike on Saturday, September 30 from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. during Free Bikes 4 Kids Annual Collection Day at Howard County Fire Stations

Please help **Free Bikes 4 Kidz Maryland** (FB4K) on its annual collection day, Saturday, Sept. 30, from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. at every fire station in Howard County. No matter how dusty –or rusty – FB4K wants your used child- or adult-sized bikes. As the organization says on **its Facebook page**, "We take bikes in any condition--even if your bike can't be fixed, we'll take usable parts off of it and correctly recycle the rest." Volunteers for FB4K will refurbish the bikes and give them away to local children in need and nonprofit organizations in December. Since 2019, FB4K has given away 6,321 bikes, including one in 2022 to a college-bound youth with St. Luke's Youth Center (SLYC) as described in the **Outreach Blog of Sept. 22, 2022**.

Columbia Community Care Seeks Baby Care Items, More Volunteers

Please continue supporting **Columbia Community Care** (CCC) by donating items or volunteering. Choose tasks such as translating to enable home deliveries or sorting at the pantry. Check the **CCC Facebook Group** or go to the **"I Can Help" portion of its website**. Please keep collecting diapers, baby wipes, sanitary and personal care items and adult diapers. Put any of these in the yellow bin, marked "CCC," inside the Parish Hall. Drop off items on weekdays when the church office is open or on Sunday. The Christ Church point of contact is Leigh Smith, who monitors the bins and delivers their contents.

DreamBuilders Spaghetti Dinner & Auction is Back!

After three years without DreamBuilders spaghetti, we know you are eager to get a plate full! Spaghetti is back on the menu at Temple Isaiah on Saturday, October 14th, from 5-8 p.m. We'll be hosting our silent auction at the same time, and we could use your participation. We've got two mission trips to fund, including blitz builds, and local projects, too. This is DB's biggest fundraiser, and we're looking for both donations and help at the auction. And our favorite Christ Church band, Small Delusions, will perform the dinner music! Visit **DreamBuildersmd.org** for more information, or talk to Stacey Frith and Cathy Gold. See you at the dinner!

Donate Snacks, Crackers, and Cookies to FISH in Bin on our Breezeway

Organizers for **FISH of Howard County** continue to ask for cookies, crackers, and snacks to fulfill their shopping lists. Please put items in a basket that has been returned to the altar. Or drop them in the yellow bin on the breezeway between Old Brick and the Parish Hall. Thanks for your contributions to our neighbors in need.

In general, if you have suggestions about ways to help the community, if you want to get involved, or if you need assistance, please email Christ Church Outreach at **outreach@christchurchcolumbia.org**. Your help is greatly welcomed and appreciated. Thank you.

Seeds Of Hope

Yesterday, I arrived at Claggett Center early in the morning to participate in a Leadership Howard County retreat. This is a leadership program for those who live and/or work in Howard County. It is a 10-

month leadership program where participants are assigned to different organizations within Howard County. There are 40 participants, and each participant is placed in a group. That group is then to work with their assigned organization to address some of the organization's systemic issues. My group was assigned to Bridges to Housing Stability, an organization which is very familiar to us at Christ Church because we help support its mission.



Later in the evening, an activity was one of being grouped in pairs. The task was to spend four minutes getting to know each other - to introduce ourselves. After those few minutes, we rotated and began the process of introducing ourselves all over again. One of the partners in my group was someone named Janee. Although we were both in the same group in the morning session and had worked together on a previous project, we hadn't said much to each other up to this point.

The moment we started chatting, she told me that she Googled me in the morning and found out that I was the Rector of the church where she sings with the Columbia Pro Cantare. She really appreciated the fact that they could sing for the community with Christ Church as their base. She shared that her deepest sense of gratitude was knowing that Christ Church was available for the group.

She then asked me this interesting question: "What, in your ministry, gives you the most joy?"

I paused for a moment and then responded by telling her, "That which gives me the most joy is transforming the lives and circumstances of people. That which gives me the great joy is the opportunity to tend, nurture, comfort, and generate an enthusiastic faith in people. That which gives me the most joy is the smile that I bring to people. There are obviously dark, dark times but even in the darkest times, if I can sow a seed of hope which can grow a smile, not today but tomorrow, that gives me great joy."

She looked at me and said, "I least expected that."

The idea of the seed of hope reminded me of the Parable of the Mustard Seed. "It is the smallest of all seeds," Jesus said. "But once it has grown fully, it's the greatest of shrubs and becomes a tree, so that the birds of the air come and make nests in its branches." (Matthew 13:31-32) The smallest of all seeds generates homes for all kinds of birds. That seed eventually provides more than its size.

The idea of the seed also reminded me of the story of Shaq O'Neal, a basketball star. Whenever he goes to Walmart, he transforms the life of another person by sowing a seed of hope. He sows this seed by simply buying gifts for strangers. "Every day I leave my house, I got to bless somebody," he once said. "I can't keep all this."

Your beloved Christ Church, with the blessings of your talents and treasures, also sows seeds of hope, We are helping transform lives, making meaning for countless people, nurturing faith, comforting and lifting spirits up, and tending to you, your family, and many others. This is the work that we do; it isn't specifically measurable, but the impact is indeed felt beyond the four corners of our sanctuary.

This week, we begin our annual Stewardship season when we invite you, each parishioner, to prayerfully consider sowing seeds of hope within this Christ Church community of faith.

Our joy is that Columbia Pro Cantare can bless the wider community with their gift of music because you have been generous to Christ Church. The Boy Scouts can meet at Christ Church because of your generosity. The AA and MS Support Groups can meet at Christ Church because of your support. There is nothing that can happen at Christ Church without the blessings that you have received from God.

Christ Church can only do the work that God has given us to do because we can count on your generosity and kindness.

A tiny seed is a powerful engine, one which generates a miracle when we plant it, water it, and tend it. And so long as we tend it, that seed can indeed do marvelous work. Our task is to sow the seeds of hope.

Stewardship is a faithful act of giving, nurturing, and tending. It is only through this process that real transformation occurs for both the giver and the recipient.

And so, this Stewardship season, I invite you to sow seeds of hope at Christ Church. I have no doubt that even the smallest of all the seeds generates homes for all kinds of birds, and heaven knows there are more birds that count on your beloved Christ Church.

“What, in your ministry, gives you the most joy?” Janee asked. The hope that is made possible because of the kindness which abounds in this place.

I thank God for you, and for the seeds of hope we continually sow here together at Christ Church.

Manny+

**To pledge to Christ Church for 2024, please visit
www.christchurchcolumbia.org/2024-pledge**

Text Giving

You can give securely and conveniently by using your mobile phone! Simply text **CECGIVING** to **73256**, and you'll receive a secure link to our page where you can set up a one-time or recurring gift.

Online Giving

You can also continue to pledge and give to Christ Church online. It's a safe and secure method of contributing toward your annual pledge or another offering. Whether it's a one-time donation or a recurring gift, you can go to our **overview page** for instructions and links. Signing up is fast and easy; if you need assistance doing so, or if you have any Stewardship-related questions, please contact us at **info@christchurchcolumbia.org**

Stewardship is our personal response to God's generosity in the way we share our resources of time, talent, and treasure. Stewardship reflects our commitment to making God's love known through the realities of human life and our use of all that God has given us. It is also our service to God's world and our care of creation.

**Thank you very much for your support
of our vital common life.**



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The Rev'd Emmanuel Ato Mercer, *Rector*

The Rev'd Denise Schiavone, *Deacon*

Kiona Lookingbill, *Director of Youth and Family Ministries*

Michael Looney, *Seminarian Associate*

Larissa Sanders, *Music Director*

Yetti Lipede, *Ministry Coordinator*

Christopher Pouch, *Communications Administrator*

Aisha White, *Parish Administrator*

Jefferson Cuarezma Flores, *Sexton*

Vestry

Jan DeBoissiere (*Senior Warden*) • Isaac Olajide (*Junior Warden*) • Andrew Eaton (*Treasurer*) Ron Couch (*Registrar*)

Denisa Abdallah • Jane Adams • Tim Beaty • John Curley • Sara Kirkpatrick

Andrea Leeman • Ray Lyon • Diane Phillips-LaGuerre • Alfred Titus-Glover