



CHRIST EPISCOPAL CHURCH

EXTENDING THE LOVE AND EMBRACE OF CHRIST

THE HOLY EUCHARIST, RITE II

8:00 & 10:30 A.M.

Sunday, September 27, 2026 | Eighteenth Sunday after Pentecost

IN YOU, LORD MY GOD,
I PUT MY TRUST.

PSALM 25:1

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 467 | Sing, My Soul, His Wondrous Love

St. Bees

1 Sing, my soul, his won-drous love, who, from yon bright throne a - bove,
2 Heaven and earth by him were made; all is by his scep - ter swayed;
3 God, the mer - ci - ful and good, bought us with the Sa - vior's blood,
4 Sing, my soul, a - dore his Name! Let his glo - ry be thy theme:

ev - er watch - ful o'er our race, still to us ex - tends his grace.
what are we that he should show so much love to us be - low?
and, to make sal - va - tion sure, guides us by his Spi - rit pure.
praise him till he calls thee home; trust his love for all to come.

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**

GLORY TO GOD
in the highest

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 scat - 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, for ever and ever.

Amen.

The people may be seated.

THE FIRST LESSON | Ezekiel 18:1-4,25-32

Reader: A reading from Ezekiel.

The word of the Lord came to me: What do you mean by repeating this proverb concerning the land of Israel, “The parents have eaten sour grapes, and the children’s teeth are set on edge”? As I live, says the Lord God, this proverb shall no more be used by you in Israel. Know that all lives are mine; the life of the parent as well as the life of the child is mine: it is only the person who sins that shall die.

Yet you say, “The way of the Lord is unfair.” Hear now, O house of Israel: Is my way unfair? Is it not your ways that are unfair? When the righteous turn away from their righteousness and commit iniquity, they shall die for it; for the iniquity that they have committed they shall die. Again, when the wicked turn away from the wickedness they have committed and do what is lawful and right, they shall save their life. Because they considered and turned away from all the transgressions that they had committed, they shall surely live; they shall not die. Yet the house of Israel says, “The way of the Lord is unfair.” O house of Israel, are my ways unfair? Is it not your ways that are unfair?

Therefore I will judge you, O house of Israel, all of you according to your ways, says the Lord God. Repent and turn from all your transgressions; otherwise iniquity will be your ruin. Cast away from you all the transgressions that you have committed against me, and get yourselves a new heart and a new spirit! Why will you die, O house of Israel? For I have no pleasure in the death of anyone, says the Lord God. Turn, then, and live.

Reader: The word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

THE PSALM

Psalm 25:1-8 | *Prayer for Guidance and for Deliverance*



To you, O Lord, I lift up my soul; my God, I put my trust in I you; *
let me not be humiliated, nor let my enemies triumph I over me.

Let none who look to you be put to I shame; *
let the treacherous be disappointed in their I schemes.

Show me your ways, O I Lord, *
and teach me your I paths.

Lead me in your truth and I teach me, *
for you are the God of my salvation; in you have I trusted all the day I long.

Remember, O Lord, your compassion and I love, *
for they are from ever-I lasting.

Remember not the sins of my youth and my trans-I gressions; *
remember me according to your love and for the sake of your goodness, O I Lord.

Gracious and upright is the I Lord; *
therefore he teaches sinners in his I way.

He guides the humble in doing I right *
and teaches his way to the I lowly.

THE EPISTLE | Philippians 2:1-13

Reader: *A reading from 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.

SEQUENCE HYMN | He Is Lord

attributed to Steve Vest

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He Is Lord

He is Lord, He is Lord! He is risen from the dead and He is

The first system of musical notation for the hymn 'He Is Lord'. It consists of a treble and a bass staff in 4/4 time, with a key signature of one flat (Bb). The melody is in the treble staff, and the bass staff provides a harmonic accompaniment. The lyrics 'He is Lord, He is Lord! He is risen from the dead and He is' are written below the notes.

Lord! Ev-'ry knee shall bow, ev-'ry tongue con - fess

The second system of musical notation. It continues the melody and accompaniment from the first system. The lyrics 'Lord! Ev-'ry knee shall bow, ev-'ry tongue con - fess' are written below the notes. A small '4' is written above the first measure of the treble staff.

That Je - sus Christ is Lord.

The third system of musical notation, which concludes the hymn. It features a final cadence in both the treble and bass staves. The lyrics 'That Je - sus Christ is Lord.' are written below the notes.

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.**

HYMN | Lead Me, Lord

Samuel Sebastian Wesley

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

5 Make Thy way plain be - fore Thy face.

Optional Ending

9

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

13

mak - est me dwell in safe - ty.

THE 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 |

Lord, You continually guide Your people through very difficult times where Your grace abounds. Generosity and provision are ever present in Your Love. We each encounter times of doubt in our own personal wilderness. Let us place our faith and trust in You. **Search for the Lord and His Strength**

The worldwide Church welcomes all as workers in God's vineyard: the new, the established, the unpolished, the overzealous, the introverted, the doubtful, the givers, the needy, the prepared and the unprepared. Jesus modeled inclusiveness in an age of very separate cultures. None were turned away. We encourage all visitors and newcomers to be a part of our Christ Church community in Columbia. We would love to share our worship, praise and opportunities to minister to others. **We are enriched by your presence. Lord, we praise you for your faithfulness**

In the Anglican Communion, we pray today for the Church of Bangladesh. Following natural disasters worldwide, we ask for restoration of services, medical intervention, and remediation of health care facilities, homes, schools, workplaces., roads and bridges. We pray that people's hearts will be opened to bring help and hope to those people affected by these disasters. In the Diocese of Maryland, we ask special blessings for the Parishes of: St. John's, Frostburg, St. Thomas', Hancock, and St. Luke's, Brownsville. We ask for the Lord's guidance for our spiritual leaders: the Presiding Bishop, Sean: the Diocesan Bishop, Carrie, our Rector, Emmanuel, our Youth and Family Minister and Associate Rector Emeritus, Marcia, our retired Rector, Richard, our Seminarian, Yehi and all our dedicated staff. We also ask that our governmental leaders receive insight and strength to find solutions to many problems facing our nation and the world. **Let our hearts rejoice in the Lord**

We pray for those who are suffering in body, mind or spirit, that they may be restored to health and wholeness, especially Ally, Sean, Maggie, Liam, Bill, Mary, Shannon, Mareli, Ashley, Kimberly, Lisa, Rita, Kaci, MaryAnn, Mark, Brandon, Clarence, Diane, Mildred, Kayode, Rachan & Sherry. We give thanks for the love and care of family and friends, who bring happiness to those in need. We pray for those serving in the military and in harm's way. We pray for those who have entered the Kingdom of Heaven, especially those you now name. May the light of God shine forever in their hearts. **May the presence of Christ comfort those who mourn. Glory in His Holy Name**

We give thanks for the occasions of joy in our Church family. Today we celebrate the birthdays of Gavin, Ian, Alicia, Dominic, George, Harrington & Emily, and the baptismal anniversary of Brian. We are blessed with these gifts of God throughout our lives. **Our Lord is gracious and full of compassion**

Let us stand firm in one spirit, striving side by side with one mind for the faith. **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 | Ode to Joy

Ludwig van Beethoven, arr. Dan R. Edward
Handbell Choir

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:

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.

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

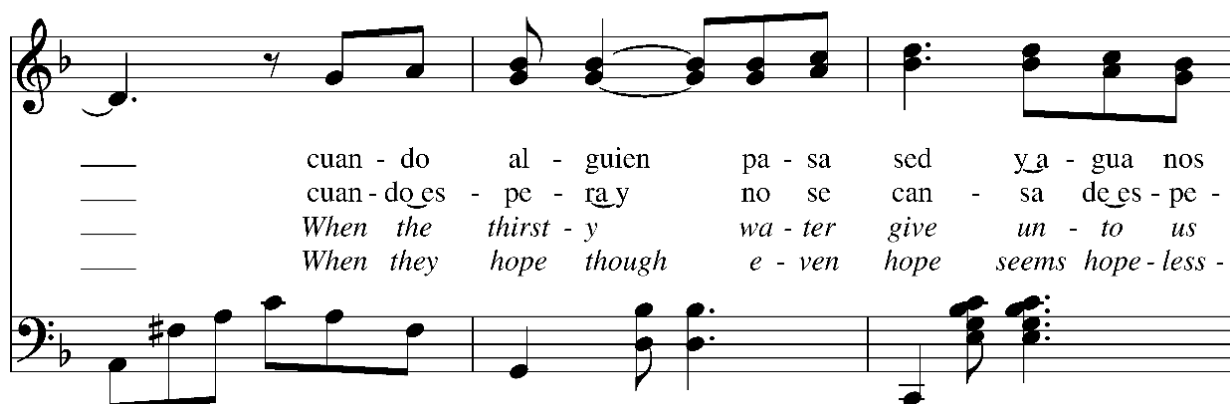
Marjorie Landsmark-DeLewis

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. Cuan - do el po - bre na - da tie - ne y aún re - par - te, _____
 2. Cuan - do al - guien su - fre y lo - gra su con - sue - lo, _____
 1. When a poor one who has noth - ing shares with strang - ers, _____
 2. When at last all those who suf - fer find their com - fort, _____

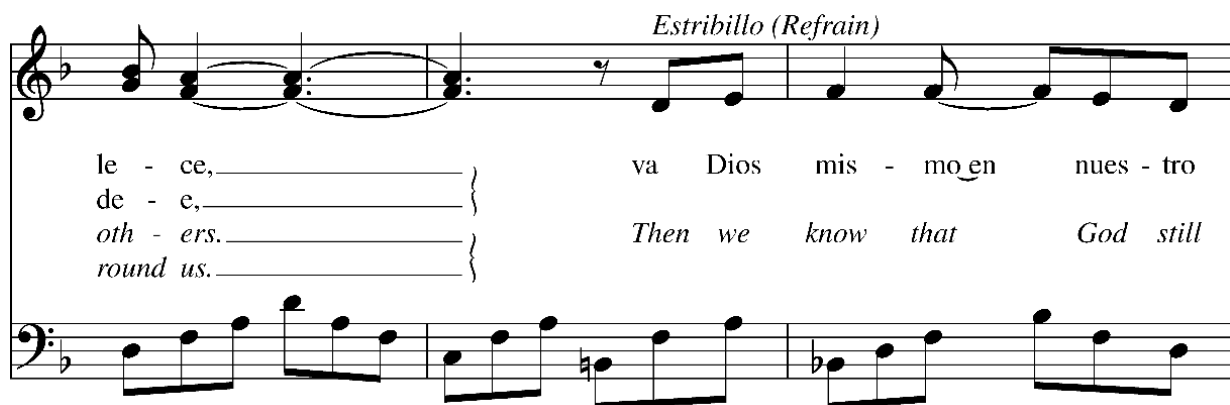


_____ cuan - do al - guien pa - sa sed ya - gua nos
 _____ cuan - do es - pe - ra y no se can - sa de es - pe -
 _____ When the thirst - y wa - ter give un - to us
 _____ When they hope though e - ven hope seems hope - less -



da, cuan - do el dé - bil a su her - ma - no for - ta -
 rar, cuan - do a - ma - mos, aun - que el o - dio nos ro -
 all, When the crip - pled in their weak - ness strength - en
 ness, When we love though hate at times seems all a -

Estribillo (Refrain)



le - ce, _____ } va Dios mis - mo en nues - tro
 de - e, _____ }
 oth - ers. _____ } Then we know that God still
 round us. _____ }

mis - mo ca - mi - nar. Va Dios
goes that road with us. Then we

mis - mo en nues - tro mis - mo ca - mi - nar.
know that God still goes that road with us.

3. Cuando crece la alegría y nos inunda,
cuando dicen nuestros labios la verdad,
cuando do a mamos el sentirde los sencillos, *Estribillo*
4. Cuando abunda el bien y llena los hogares,
cuando alguien donde hay guerra pone paz,
cuando "hermano" le llamamos al extraño, *Estribillo*
3. When our joy fills up our cup to overflowing,
When our lips can speak no words other than true,
When we know that love for simple things is better. Refrain
4. When our homes are filled with goodness in abundance.
When we learn how to make peace instead of war.
When each stranger that we meet is called a neighbor. Refrain

POST COMMUNION PRAYER |

Celebrant: Let us pray.

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

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

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

People: We who are many are one body because we all share one bread, one cup.

THE BLESSING |

The Celebrant offers a blessing, and the People respond Amen.

1. 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 DISMISSAL |

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

POSTLUDE |

Assisting in Worship Today

Altar Guild

Ivy Amponsah, Sonni Aribiah, Kathy Simms, Jai Fatodu

8:00 a.m. Service

Chalicerist: Dione Mahoney

Lector/Reader: Dione Mahoney

Ushers: Kayode Fatodu

10:30 a.m. Service

Acolytes: Abby Boyer, Lucas Hernandez, Christine Hernandez

Chalicerist: Ivy Amponsah

Lector/Reader: Oby Okeke

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

Tellers

Brian Farnandis, Kenny Okeke

All Solos, join us this afternoon for our first...



PARISH CALENDAR

SEPTEMBER 27 – OCTOBER 3, 2026

Sunday, September 27

8:00 am	Holy Eucharist
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
5:30 – 7:00 pm	Solo Flight Fellowship – New Brick, LL

Monday, September 28

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
7:00 – 8:00 pm	Refugee Ministry Meeting – Zoom

Tuesday, September 29

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
7:30 – 9:30 pm	300 Yr Communications Committee Meeting – Zoom

Wednesday, September 30

7:00 am	Morning Prayer Livestream
4:00 – 5:00 pm	Exercise Class – Parish Hall, LL

Thursday, October 1

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 2

6:00 am – 5:00 pm	Ride4Refuge Bike/Walk Fundraiser
7:00 am	Morning Prayer Livestream
7:00 pm	Evening Prayer Livestream

Saturday, October 3

All Day	Food Drive - Giant
8:00 – 10:00 am	Altar Guild prep
10:00 am – 12:00 pm	Vision & Strategy Committee Meeting – New Brick, LL & Zoom
2:00 – 4:00 pm	AA Meeting – Parish Hall
3:30 – 4:30 pm	Altar Guild prep
5:30 – 6:30 pm	Blessing of the Pets – Old Brick



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

We Have New Name Tags!

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.

Solo in Flight Potluck Supper – This Afternoon

Cooking for one can be a drag: you get tired of the same old meals you prepare too often and don't enjoy eating the 4th-day leftovers of your favorite dishes. Why not join us for a simple soup/salad/rolls-and-cookie supper prepared by the church, and bring a potluck dish of your choosing to share with others? After sharing supper and conversation at tables and getting to know one another through table talk, we will all sample two or three potluck dishes provided by Soloers, with small portion containers to take home. If you don't cook or dislike making potluck offerings, feel free to bring a store-bought item, whether a casserole, dessert, or salad. Solo in Flight welcomes all singles - age is only a number - come and join us in an evening of lively connection, conversation, and culinary treats!

We'll Soon 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. Natalie begins her ministry with us next Thursday, October 1. During Sunday Circle on Sunday, October 4, we will have 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.

Blessing of the Animals – Next Weekend, October 3 & 4

October 4th, our church celebrates the Feast of St. Francis of Assisi, the patron saint of ecology and animals, and during this first weekend in October, we will have The Blessing of the Animals - and we mean ALL animals! On Saturday, October 3rd at 5 p.m., we invite you to gather in front of Old Brick with your beloved pets - dogs, cats, birds, fish, reptiles, and all other furry, scaly, or slinky creatures - or a picture of your pet, if you prefer. We will read from the story of creation and offer individual blessings for each of our beautiful pets. Then at 9 a.m. Family Worship on Sunday morning, October 4th, we will have The Blessing of the Plushies, so this is your chance to bring your favorite stuffed friend with you to church, and they can be blessed, too!

Taizé Vespers: STEWARDSHIP – Next Sunday, 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.

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!

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.

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 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.

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 show gratitude for those Vestry members concluding their terms, give thanks to our ministries and staff, and learn about our future direction as a parish, so this is certainly one of the most important gatherings of the year.

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. Fellowship, fun, and treats for all ages—we can't wait to see you there!



Christ Episcopal Church

6800 Oakland Mills Road

Columbia, MD 21045

(410) 381-9365

www.christchurchcolumbia.org

office@christchurchcolumbia.org

The Rev. Emmanuel Ato Mercer, *Rector*

The Rev. Marcia Davenport, *Associate Rector for Children and Family Ministries*

The Rev. Richard Ginnever, *Rector Emeritus*

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