



CHRIST EPISCOPAL CHURCH

EXTENDING THE LOVE AND EMBRACE OF CHRIST

THE HOLY EUCHARIST, RITE I

8:00 & 10:30 A.M.

Sunday, March 15, 2026 | Fourth Sunday in Lent

PSALM 23

The **LORD** is my shepherd, I lack nothing.
He makes me lie down in green pastures,
he leads me beside quiet waters,
he refreshes my soul.
He guides me along the right paths for his name's sake.
Even though I walk through the darkest valley,
I will fear no evil, for you are with me;
your rod and your staff, they comfort me.
You prepare a table before me in the presence of my enemies.
You anoint my head with oil; my cup overflows.
Surely your goodness and love will follow me all the days of my life,
and I will dwell in the house of the **LORD** forever.



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 142 | Lord, Who Throughout These Forty Days

St Flavian

1 Lord, who through-out these for - ty days for us didst fast and pray,
2 As thou with Sa - tan didst con - tend, and didst the vic - tory win,
3 As thou didst hun - ger bear and thirst, so teach us, gra - cious Lord,
4 And through these days of pen - i - tence, and through thy Pas - sion - tide,
5 A - bid with us, that so, this life of suf - fering o - ver - past,

1 teach us with thee to mourn our sins, and close by thee to stay.
2 O give us strength in thee to fight, in thee to con - quer sin.
3 to die to self, and chief - ly live by thy most ho - ly word.
4 yea, ev - er - more, in life and death, Je - sus! with us a - bid.
5 an Eas - ter of un - end - ing joy we may at - tain at last!

OPENING ACCLAMATION |

Celebrant: Bless the Lord who forgiveth all our sins.
People: His mercy endureth for ever.

THE COLLECT FOR PURITY |

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

Hear what our Lord Jesus Christ saith:

Thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy mind. This is the first and great commandment. And the second is like unto it: Thou shalt love thy neighbor as thyself. On these two commandments hang all the Law and the Prophets.

People: Lord, have mercy upon us.
Christ, have mercy upon us.
Lord, have mercy upon us

THE COLLECT OF THE DAY |

Celebrant: The Lord be with you.

***People:* And with thy spirit**

Celebrant: Let us pray.

Gracious Father, whose blessed Son Jesus Christ came down from heaven to be the true bread which gives life to the world: Evermore give us this bread, that he may live in us, and we in 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 | 1 Samuel 16:1-13

Reader: A reading from 1st Samuel.

The Lord said to Samuel, “How long will you grieve over Saul? I have rejected him from being king over Israel. Fill your horn with oil and set out; I will send you to Jesse the Bethlehemite, for I have provided for myself a king among his sons.” Samuel said, “How can I go? If Saul hears of it, he will kill me.” And the Lord said, “Take a heifer with you, and say, ‘I have come to sacrifice to the Lord.’ Invite Jesse to the sacrifice, and I will show you what you shall do; and you shall anoint for me the one whom I name to you.” Samuel did what the Lord commanded, and came to Bethlehem. The elders of the city came to meet him trembling, and said, “Do you come peaceably?” He said, “Peaceably; I have come to sacrifice to the Lord; sanctify yourselves and come with me to the sacrifice.” And he sanctified Jesse and his sons and invited them to the sacrifice.

When they came, he looked on Eliab and thought, “Surely the Lord’s anointed is now before the Lord.” But the Lord said to Samuel, “Do not look on his appearance or on the height of his stature, because I have rejected him; for the Lord does not see as mortals see; they look on the outward appearance, but the Lord looks on the heart.” Then Jesse called Abinadab, and made him pass before Samuel. He said, “Neither has the Lord chosen this one.” Then Jesse made Shammah pass by. And he said, “Neither has the Lord chosen this one.” Jesse made seven of his sons pass before Samuel, and Samuel said to Jesse, “The Lord has not chosen any of these.” Samuel said to Jesse, “Are all your sons here?” And he said, “There remains yet the youngest, but he is keeping the sheep.” And Samuel said to Jesse, “Send and bring him; for we will not sit down until he comes here.” He sent and brought him in. Now he was ruddy, and had beautiful eyes, and was handsome. The Lord said, “Rise and anoint him; for this is the one.” Then Samuel took the horn of oil, and anointed him in the presence of his brothers; and the spirit of the Lord came mightily upon David from that day forward. Samuel then set out and went to Ramah.

Reader: The word of the Lord.

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

THE PSALM

Psalm 23 - LEVAS 279 | *Dominus regit me*

The musical score is presented in three systems. The first system contains the vocal line and piano accompaniment for the first two phrases: "The Lord is my shep - herd;" and "there is noth - ing I shall want." The piano accompaniment consists of a right-hand part with chords and a left-hand part with a steady eighth-note bass line. The second system continues the piano accompaniment for the first two phrases. The third system shows the piano accompaniment for the final phrase, which ends with a double bar line.

Psalm 23

1. The Lord is my **shepherd**;^{*}
I shall not **want**.
2. He maketh me to lie down in green **pastures**;^{*}
He leadeth me beside the still **waters**. *Refrain*
3. He restoreth my **soul**;^{*}
he leadeth me in the paths of righteousness for His Name's **sake**.
4. Yea, though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death,
I will fear no **evil**;^{*}
for thou art with me; thy rod and thy staff they **comfort** me. *Refrain*
5. Thou preparest a table before me in the presence of mine **enemies**;^{*}
thou anointest my head with oil; my cup runneth **over**.
6. Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my **life**,^{*}
and I will dwell in the house of the Lord **forever**. *Refrain*

THE EPISTLE | Ephesians 5:8-14

Reader: *A reading from Ephesians.*

Once you were darkness, but now in the Lord you are light. Live as children of light— for the fruit of the light is found in all that is good and right and true. Try to find out what is pleasing to the Lord. Take no part in the unfruitful works of darkness, but instead expose them. For it is shameful even to mention what such people do secretly; but everything exposed by the light becomes visible, for everything that becomes visible is light. Therefore it says,

“Sleeper, awake!
Rise from the dead,
and Christ will shine on you.”

Reader: The word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

The people stand as able.

SEQUENCE HYMN 664 | My Shepherd Will Supply My Need

Resignation



1 My Shep - herd will sup - ply my need, Je - ho - vah
2 When I walk through the shades of death, thy pres - ence
3 The sure pro - vi - sions of my God at - tend me



is his Name; _____ in pas - tures fresh he
is my stay; _____ one word of thy sup -
all my days; _____ oh, may thy house be



makes me feed be - side the liv - ing stream.____
port - ing breath drives all my fears a - way.____
mine a - bode and all my work be praise.____



He brings my wan - dering spi - rit back when I for -
Thy hand, in sight of all my foes, doth still my
There would I find a sett - led rest, while o - thers



sake his ways, _____ and leads me, for his
ta - ble spread; _____ my cup with bless - ings
go and come; _____ no more a stran - ger



mer - cy's sake, in paths of truth and grace.____
o - ver - flows, thy oil a - noints my head.____
or a guest, but like a child at home.____

THE GOSPEL | John 9:1-41

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

People: **Glory be to thee, O Christ.**

As Jesus walked along, he saw a man blind from birth. His disciples asked him, “Rabbi, who sinned, this man or his parents, that he was born blind?” Jesus answered, “Neither this man nor his parents sinned; he was born blind so that God’s works might be revealed in him. We must work the works of him who sent me while it is day; night is coming when no one can work. As long as I am in the world, I am the light of the world.” When he had said this, he spat on the ground and made mud with the saliva and spread the mud on the man’s eyes, saying to him, “Go, wash in the pool of Siloam” (which means Sent). Then he went and washed and came back able to see. The neighbors and those who had seen him before as a beggar began to ask, “Is this not the man who used to sit and beg?” Some were saying, “It is he.” Others were saying, “No, but it is someone like him.” He kept saying, “I am the man.” But they kept asking him, “Then how were your eyes opened?” He answered, “The man called Jesus made mud, spread it on my eyes, and said to me, ‘Go to Siloam and wash.’ Then I went and washed and received my sight.” They said to him, “Where is he?” He said, “I do not know.”

They brought to the Pharisees the man who had formerly been blind. Now it was a sabbath day when Jesus made the mud and opened his eyes. Then the Pharisees also began to ask him how he had received his sight. He said to them, “He put mud on my eyes. Then I washed, and now I see.” Some of the Pharisees said, “This man is not from God, for he does not observe the sabbath.” But others said, “How can a man who is a sinner perform such signs?” And they were divided. So they said again to the blind man, “What do you say about him? It was your eyes he opened.” He said, “He is a prophet.”

The Jews did not believe that he had been blind and had received his sight until they called the parents of the man who had received his sight and asked them, “Is this your son, who you say was born blind? How then does he now see?” His parents answered, “We know that this is our son, and that he was born blind; but we do not know how it is that now he sees, nor do we know who opened his eyes. Ask him; he is of age. He will speak for himself.” His parents said this because they were afraid of the Jews; for the Jews had already agreed that anyone who confessed Jesus to be the Messiah would be put out of the synagogue. Therefore his parents said, “He is of age; ask him.”

So for the second time they called the man who had been blind, and they said to him, “Give glory to God! We know that this man is a sinner.” He answered, “I do not know whether he is a sinner. One thing I do know, that though I was blind, now I see.” They said to him, “What did he do to you? How did he open your eyes?” He answered them, “I have told you already, and you would not listen. Why do you want to hear it again? Do you also want to become his disciples?” Then they reviled him, saying, “You are his disciple, but we are disciples of Moses. We know that God has spoken to Moses, but as for this man, we do not know where he comes from.” The man answered, “Here is an astonishing thing! You do not know where he comes from, and yet he opened my eyes. We know that God does not listen to sinners, but he does listen to one who worships him and obeys his will. Never since the world began has it been heard that anyone opened the eyes of a person born blind. If this man were not from God, he could do nothing.” They answered him, “You were born entirely in sins, and are you trying to teach us?” And they drove him out.

Jesus heard that they had driven him out, and when he found him, he said, “Do you believe in the Son of Man?” He answered, “And who is he, sir? Tell me, so that I may believe in him.” Jesus said to him, “You have seen him, and the one speaking with you is he.” He said, “Lord, I believe.” And he worshiped him. Jesus said, “I came into this world for judgment so that those who do not see may see, and those who do see may become blind.” Some of the Pharisees near him heard this and said to him, “Surely we are not blind, are we?” Jesus said to them, “If you were blind, you would not have sin. But now that you say, ‘We see,’ your sin remains.”

Celebrant: The Gospel of the Lord.
People: Praise be to thee, O 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.
9 For it is Thou, Lord, Thou, Lord on-ly, that
13 mak-est me dwell in safe-ty.

THE SERMON | The Rev. Yehinuel Odidi, *Seminarian Associate*

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 |

Intercessor: Let us pray for the whole state of Christ's Church and the world.

Almighty and ever living God, who in thy holy Word hast taught us to make prayers, and supplications, and to give thanks for all men: Receive these our prayers which we offer unto thy divine Majesty, beseeching thee to inspire continually the Universal Church with the spirit of truth, unity, and concord; and grant that all those who do confess thy holy Name may agree in the truth of thy holy Word, and live in unity and godly love.

Give grace, O heavenly Father, to all bishops and other ministers, especially Presiding Bishop, Sean; our Diocesan Bishop Carrie; our rector, Emmanuel; Clergy; Richard & Marcia, and Seminarian, Yehinuel. that they may, both by their life and doctrine, set forth thy true and lively Word, and rightly and duly administer thy holy Sacraments.

And to all thy people give thy heavenly grace, and especially to this congregation here present; that, with meek heart and due reverence, they may hear and receive thy holy Word, truly serving thee in holiness and righteousness all the days of their life.

We beseech thee also so to rule the hearts of those who bear the authority of government in this and every land, especially our leaders; that they may be led to wise decisions and right actions for the welfare and peace of the world.

Open, O Lord, the eyes of all people to behold thy gracious hand in all thy works, that, rejoicing in thy whole creation, they may honor thee with their substance, and be faithful stewards of thy bounty.

And we most humbly beseech thee, of thy goodness, O Lord, to comfort and succor Brayden, Roger, Kristin, Carol, Greg, Kimberley, MaryAnn, Alta, Mark, Clarence, Diane, Mildred, Nancy, Patrick, Winifred, Kayode, Rachan & Sherry, and those who care for them.

The People may add additional petitions and thanksgivings.

Intercessor: And we also bless thy holy Name for all thy servants departed this life in thy faith and fear especially Priscilla Pitts and those you now name, beseeching thee to grant them continual growth in thy love and service; and to grant us grace so to follow the good examples of all thy saints, that with them we may be partakers of thy heavenly kingdom.

Grant these our prayers, O Father, for Jesus Christ's sake, our only Mediator and Advocate. **AMEN**

CONFESSION OF SIN |

You may step forward to the altar for a blessing from the Celebrant.

Celebrant: Let us humbly confess our sins unto Almighty God.

All: **Most merciful God, we confess that we have sinned against thee in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done, and by what we have left undone. We have not loved thee with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. We are truly sorry and we humbly repent. For the sake of thy Son Jesus Christ, have mercy on us and forgive us; that we may delight in thy will, and walk in thy ways, to the glory of thy Name. Amen.**

Celebrant: Almighty God, our heavenly Father, who of his great mercy hath promised forgiveness of sins to all those who with hearty repentance and true faith turn unto him, have mercy upon you, pardon and deliver you from all your sins, confirm and strengthen you in all goodness, and bring you to everlasting life; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Hear the Word of God to all who truly turn to him.

If any man sin, we have an Advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous; and he is the perfect offering for our sins, and not for ours only, but for the sins of the whole world.

1 John 2:1-2

THE PEACE |

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

People: **And with thy spirit.**

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

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS |

OFFERTORY ANTHEM | Solemn Melody

John S. Dixon

Please scan to give.



DOXOLOGY 380 vs 3 |

Old 100th

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



THE HOLY COMMUNION



EUCCHARISTIC PRAYER I |

Celebrant: The Lord be with you.

***People:* And with thy spirit.**

Celebrant: Lift up your hearts.

***People:* We lift them up onto the Lord.**

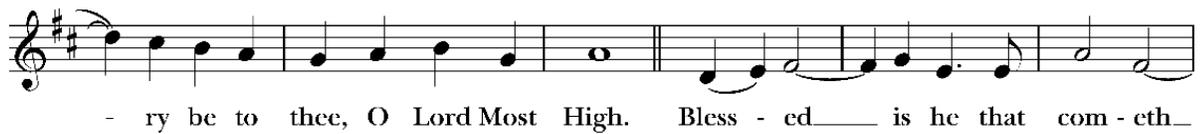
Celebrant: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

***People:* It is meet and right so to do.**

Celebrant: It is very meet, right, and our bounden duty, that we should at all times, and in all places, give thanks unto thee, O Lord, holy Father, almighty, everlasting God. ...

Who dost bid thy faithful people cleanse their hearts, and prepare with joy for the Paschal feast; that, fervent in prayer and in works of mercy, and renewed by thy Word and Sacraments, they may come to the fullness of grace which thou hast prepared for those who love thee.

Therefore with Angels and Archangels, and with all the company of heaven, we laud and magnify thy glorious Name; evermore praising thee, and saying,



Celebrant: All glory be to thee, Almighty God, our heavenly Father, for that thou, of thy tender mercy, didst give thine only Son Jesus Christ to suffer death upon the cross for our redemption; who made there, by his one oblation of himself once offered, a full, perfect, and sufficient sacrifice, oblation, and satisfaction, for the sins of the whole world; and did institute, and in his holy Gospel command us to continue, a perpetual memory of that his precious death and sacrifice, until his coming again.

For in the night in which he was betrayed, he took bread; and when he had given thanks, he brake it, and gave it to his disciples, saying, "Take, eat, this is my Body, which is given for you. Do this in remembrance of me."

Likewise, after supper, he took the cup; and when he had given thanks, he gave it to them, saying, "Drink ye all of this; for this is my Blood of the New Testament, which is shed for you, and for many, for the remission of sins. Do this, as oft as ye shall drink it, in remembrance of me."

Wherefore, O Lord and heavenly Father, according to the institution of thy dearly beloved Son our Savior Jesus Christ, we, thy humble servants, do celebrate and make here before thy divine Majesty, with these thy holy gifts, which we now offer unto thee, the memorial thy Son hath commanded us to make; having in remembrance his blessed passion and precious death, his mighty resurrection and glorious ascension; rendering unto thee most hearty thanks for the innumerable benefits procured unto us by the same.

And we most humbly beseech thee, O merciful Father, to hear us; and, of thy almighty goodness, vouchsafe to bless and sanctify, with thy Word and Holy Spirit, these thy gifts and creatures of bread and wine; that we, receiving them according to thy Son our Savior Jesus Christ's holy institution, in remembrance of his death and passion, may be partakers of his most blessed Body and Blood.

And we earnestly desire thy fatherly goodness mercifully to accept this our sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving; most humbly beseeching thee to grant that, by the merits and death of thy Son Jesus Christ, and through faith in his blood, we, and all thy whole Church, may obtain remission of our sins, and all other benefits of his passion.

And here we offer and present unto thee, O Lord, ourselves, our souls and bodies, to be a reasonable, holy, and living sacrifice unto thee; humbly beseeching thee that we, and all others who shall be partakers of this Holy Communion, may worthily receive the most precious Body and Blood of thy Son Jesus Christ, be filled with thy grace and heavenly benediction, and made one body with him, that he may dwell in us, and we in him.

And although we are unworthy, through our manifold sins, to offer unto thee any sacrifice, yet we beseech thee to accept this our bounden duty and service, not weighing our merits, but pardoning our offenses, through Jesus Christ our Lord;

By whom, and with whom, in the unity of the Holy Ghost, all honor and glory be unto thee, O Father Almighty, world without end. **AMEN.**

THE LORD'S PRAYER |

Celebrant: And now, as our Savior Christ hath 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: Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us;
People: Therefore, let us keep the feast.

FRACTION ANTHEM S158 | Lamb of God

from Missa de Sancta Maria Magdalena, Healey Willan

O Lamb of God, that ta - kest a -
way the sins of the world, have mer - cy up -
on us. O Lamb of God, that
ta - kest a - way the sins of the world, have
mer - cy up - on us. O Lamb of
God, that ta - kest a - way the sins of the
world, grant us thy peace.

PRAYER OF HUMBLE ACCESS |

All: We do not presume to come to this thy Table, O merciful Lord, trusting in our own righteousness, but in thy manifold and great mercies. We are not worthy so much as to gather up the crumbs under thy Table. But thou art the same Lord whose property is always to have mercy. Grant us, therefore, gracious Lord, so to eat the flesh of thy dear Son Jesus Christ, and to drink his blood, that we may evermore dwell in him, and he in us. Amen.





1 The King of love my shep-herd is, whose good-ness
 2 Where streams of liv-ing wa-ter flow, my ran-somed
 * 3 Per-verse and fool-ish oft I strayed, but yet in
 * 4 In death's dark vale I fear no ill with thee, dear
 5 Thou spread'st a ta-ble in my sight; thy unc-tion
 6 And so through all the length of days thy good-ness



1 fail-eth nev-er; I noth-ing lack if
 2 soul he lead-eth, and where the ver-dant
 3 love he sought me, and on his shoul-der
 4 Lord, be-side me; thy rod and staff my
 5 grace be-stow-eth; and oh, what trans-port
 6 fail-eth nev-er: Good Shep-herd, may I



1 I am his, and he is mine for ev-er.
 2 pas-tures grow, with food ce-les-tial feed-eth.
 3 gent-ly laid, and home, re-joic-ing, brought me.
 4 com-fort still, thy cross be-fore to guide me.
 5 of de-light from thy pure chal-ice flow-eth!
 6 sing thy praise with-in thy house for ev-er.

POST COMMUNION PRAYER |

Celebrant: Let us pray.

All: Almighty and everliving God, we most heartily thank thee for that thou dost feed us, in these holy mysteries, with the spiritual food of the most precious Body and Blood of thy Son our Savior Jesus Christ; and dost assure us thereby of thy favor and goodness towards us; and that we are very members incorporate in the mystical body of thy Son, the blessed company of all faithful people; and are also heirs, through hope, of thy everlasting kingdom. And we humbly beseech thee, O heavenly Father, so to assist us with thy grace, that we may continue in that holy fellowship, and do all such good works as thou hast prepared for us to walk in; through Jesus Christ our Lord, to whom with thee and the Holy Ghost, be all honor and glory, world without end. 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 Sa - vior, like a shep - herd lead us; much we need thy
2 Ear - ly let us seek thy fa - vor, ear - ly let us

ten - der care; in thy plea - sant pas - tures feed us;
learn thy will; do thou, Lord, our on - ly Sa - vior,

for our use thy folds pre - pare. Bless - ed Je - sus!
with thy love our bos - oms fill. Bless - ed Je - sus!

Bless - ed Je - sus! Thou hast bought us, thine we are.
Bless - ed Je - sus! Thou hast loved us: love us still.

THE DISMISSAL |

The Celebrant dismisses the people who respond.
Thanks be to God!
(The Alleluías are omitted in Lent)

POSTLUDE |

PERMISSIONS | *New Revised Standard Version Bible, copyright 1989, Division of Christian Education of the National Council of the Churches of Christ in the United States of America. All rights reserved. Used by permission.* | *Book of Common Prayer, 1928 and 1979, Church Publishing. Public Domain* | *Music and texts under copyright are reprinted and broadcast by permission under OneLicense.net #A-701378* |

Assisting in Worship Today

8:00 a.m. Service

Chalicerist: Joan Harvey

Lector/Reader: Joan Harvey

Ushers: Jo Emily Knox

10:30 a.m. Service

Acolytes : Chloe Spencer, Hope Spencer, Eli Wasula

Chalicerist: Cheryl Lucente, Ivy Amponsah

Lector/Reader: Alex Amponsah, Lukas Hernandez

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

Altar Guild: Cara Ocampo, Jan DeBoissiere, Maria Rios, Virginia Jarrett

Tellers: Jenny Cecil



**LENTEN
TAIZÉ VESPERS**

**SUNDAYS AT 6 P.M.
IN NEW BRICK**

**JOIN US AND
MEDITATE AND REFLECT
ON GOD'S LOVE AND PRESENCE**

Lenten Taizé Vespers

Sunday Evening

Vespers is a liturgy of Evening Prayer that combines scripture readings, prayer, silent meditation, and rich music. Each Sunday evening, Christ Church offers a service of contemplative prayer and music in the tradition of the Taizé community of France. It offers this special service on Sunday evening at 6:00 p.m. in New Brick, offering different opportunities for prayer, music, and reflection. This worship of reflection offers a chance to meditate on God's love and presence in one's life, to offer prayer for oneself and others, and to share in a supportive community of fellow pilgrims on the way.

PARISH CALENDAR

MARCH 15 – 21, 2026

Sunday, March 15

8:00 am Holy Eucharist – Old Brick
8:45 am – 9:30 am Coffee Hour
9:00 am– 9:30 am Family Worship – New Brick, UL
9:30 am – 10:30 am Sunday School, Sunday Circle
10:30 am Holy Eucharist w/music – New Brick, UL
12:30 – 5:30 pm Tabernacle of David Church – Old Brick & Parish Hall, LL
1:00 – 5:00 pm Education for Ministry (EfM) – Zoom & Parish Hall, CR
1:15 – 5:00 pm Sundays @ 3 – New Brick, UL
4:30 – 7:30 pm Total Restoration Church – Old Brick & Parish Hall, LL
6:00 – 7:30 pm Lenten Vespers – New Brick, UL

Monday, March 16

7:00 am Morning Prayer Livestream
6:00 – 8:30 pm Food Addicts Anonymous – New Brick, LL
7:00 – 8:00 pm Centering Prayer – Old Brick & Zoom
8:00 – 8:30 pm Lenten Compline with Mtr. Marcia – Facebook, YouTube, Website

Tuesday, March 17

7:00 am Morning Prayer Livestream
11:00 am– 12:00 pm Weekly Staff Meeting
7:30 – 9:00 pm CEC Book Club – Zoom
7:30 – 9:30 pm 300 Yr Communications Committee Meeting – Zoom

Wednesday, March 18

7:00 am Morning Prayer Livestream
6:00 – 9:00 pm Wednesday Evening Lenten Supper Series – New Brick, LL

Thursday, March 19

7:00 am Morning Prayer Livestream
12:00 – 1:00 pm Lenten Healing Eucharist – Old Brick
6:30 – 9:30 pm Choir Rehearsal
6:30 – 9:00 pm Education for Ministry (EfM): Fast Track – Zoom
7:30 – 9:00 pm Boy Scouts – New Brick, LL

Friday, March 20

7:00 am Morning Prayer Livestream
7:00 pm Evening Prayer Livestream
8:00 – 8:30 pm Lenten Compline with Mtr. Marcia – Facebook, YouTube, Website

Saturday, March 21

9:00 am– 11:30 pm MOCC Breakfast – Silver Diner in Elkridge
10:30 – 12:30 pm Winter Exercise Group – New Brick, LL
10:00 – 12:00 pm Calendar Meeting – New Brick, Narthex
2:00 pm AA Meeting – Parish Hall, 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

Sunday Circle: *Unmasking Your False Self*

How well do you know yourself? What stories do you tell yourself *about* yourself? This Lenten discussion series will help us uncover the mask that so often hides our true selves, even from ourselves. The gift of being yourself is a spiritual movement towards self-discovery. The gift of our self-discovery blesses us with the grace to be our true, authentic selves. Gather with us in Old Brick or online at 9:30 a.m. for this important series, led by Father Manny. **The Zoom link is here**, the Meeting ID is **894 6507 7361**, and the Passcode is **SC**

Coffee Hour Returns This Sunday!

Starting this Sunday in the Narthex of New Brick, we will have Coffee Hour for everyone. Gather with us after the 10:30 worship, catch up with fellow parishioners, and then head home after enjoying a warm beverage and pastry. This Sunday, the Vestry of Christ Church supplies Coffee Hour, followed by the MOCC next Sunday, March 22; other ministries will follow. In the spring, we'll ask a few parishioners to sign up for each Sunday, and provide a sign-up link soon. For now, please join us in a new place to share in fellowship as we conclude a morning of worship together.

Holy Week at Christ Church

Holy Week is when the foundational story of Christianity – Jesus' suffering, death, and resurrection – is remembered and retold, both in words and in ritual actions, at services throughout the week. We gather together as a community of faith to journey with Jesus to Jerusalem, to stand with him before his accusers, to walk to Golgotha, and to stand at the foot of his cross. Finally, on Easter Sunday, we will joyously celebrate the resurrection of Christ, lifting our voices in praise of the hope that is ours and the world's. Visit our website for the details - www.christchurchcolumbia.org/holyweek - and join us for all of it, if you can, remembering that without the journey of Holy Week, Easter loses its deep meaning.

Easter Altar Flowers, Music, and Offerings

Easter Sunday is a special time when we honor, remember, or give thanks for someone or a blessing in our lives by donating flowers or requesting hymns to adorn our worship spaces as we celebrate our risen Lord. **You can present gifts to support our Easter flowers and music here**; be sure to place the dedication name(s) in the *MEMO* line. If you wish to give a general Easter Offering, **you can do so here**. For those wishing to submit a check, you can drop your donation in the plate on Sunday or at the Church Office during the week; please include the same dedication information on the memo line of your check. Whichever way you choose, we thank you for helping support the beautiful Easter services at Christ Church.

WOCC at Toby's Dinner Theatre - Deadline is Sunday

Everyone is welcome to join us for *The Wizard of Oz* on Friday, April 17th, at 6:00 p.m., a night of food and fun. The cost is \$85. for adults and \$81. for children, and **you can pay via Realm** (choose "Women of Christ Church" in the *FUND* box, and write "Toby's" in the *MEMO* line). You can sign up in the Narthex, and must do so by **THIS SUNDAY, March 15**.

Centering Prayer - Mondays

Centering Prayer is a special evening prayer gathering that can help lead to a more intimate union with God, a gathering that takes place every Monday. This active presence heals, transforms, and offers freedom and peace. Be with us in Old Brick or online via Zoom at 7 p.m. on Monday evenings. **The Zoom link is here**, the Meeting ID is **817 6254 3177**, and the Passcode is **CP**. You can also ask for more information by speaking with Kathy Lyon at church or by emailing **centering@christchurchcolumbia.org**.

Christ Church Book Club - Tuesdays

The Christ Church Book Club is an informal online conversation that decides on a book and discusses it as a group, offering different perspectives and experiences. We've just begun a new book for Lent, called ***God's Joyful Surprise: Finding Yourself Loved*** by Sue Monk Kidd, so how about you experience it with us? We read a chapter or two each week and discuss on Tuesdays at 7:30 p.m. on Zoom. Email **bookclub@christchurchcolumbia.org** and let us know that you're interested, or just log on next Tuesday. **The Zoom link is here**, the Meeting ID is **853 4359 7339**, and the Passcode is **CECBC**.

Father Manny Leads the Next WELS - March 18

Each year, the Wednesday Evening Lenten Supper Series is one of the most enriching experiences of the season. Next Wednesday, we are pleased to have Father Manny present his perspective on our 2026 Spiritual Life Theme, ***Building Relationships through LOVE***, with the meal being provided by the Christ Church Vestry. We begin at 6:30 p.m. with a communal supper in the Great Hall, followed by our guest presenter. The evening then concludes with a brief, informal Eucharist. There's no other series like this at Christ Church throughout the year, and we highly encourage you to gather with us for this unique discussion and fellowship.

Lenten Healing Eucharist - Thursdays

Each Thursday during Lent, Christ Church offers a midday Healing Eucharist in Old Brick. 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.

Christ Church Choir - Thursdays

C'mon, all you singers and music lovers! Choir rehearses on Thursday evenings in New Brick, and everyone is welcome to take part. Whether you read music or not, whether you have previous experience or not, and whether you are ready to commit or not, there's a place for you in our Vocal or Handbell Choirs. Go from "singing in the shower" to "singing in the sanctuary!" If you're interested or want to learn more, please speak with Larissa or any choir member, or send an email to **music@christchurchcolumbia.org**.

MOCC Monthly Breakfast - Saturday, March 21

The MOCC Breakfast is a monthly tradition, so join us for French toast and fellowship. This month, it will take place on Saturday, March 21 at Silver Diner - **8250 Gateway Overlook Dr, Elkridge, MD 20175**. We'll gather at 9:30 a.m., and all ages are welcome.

Ministry Calendar Meeting - Saturday Morning, March 21

It's time for Christ Church's next calendar planning meeting. We'd like to ask one representative from each ministry to attend; a Zoom link will be sent from the office for those who cannot attend. Breakfast will be served to those meeting on-site. Gather with us in the New Brick Narthex or on Zoom on Saturday, March 21, at 10:00 a.m. If you have any questions, please email the [Church Office](#).

WOCC Upcoming Events - Begin March 21

The WOCC has a ton of upcoming events and gatherings, so be sure to join us for as many as you wish!

- **March 21 at 1:00 p.m.** – Women's History Month event: Maryland Day at Clara Barton Historic House, 5801 Oxford Rd., Glen Echo, MD, Free; carpool meets at the church at noon.
- **March 28 at 11:00 a.m.** – Labyrinth Walk at St. John's Episcopal Church & lunch at Touche Touchet Café
- **March 29 at 6:00 p.m.** – Lumen Christi at the Meditations on the Passion service, Palm Sunday
- **April 1** – Springfield Bingo; time TBD
- **April 6 at 6:30 p.m.** – WOCC dinner meeting at the Corner Stable restaurant

If you have any questions, please speak with Shahra, Jan, Emily, Amanda, Carol, or any WOCC member. You can also email WOCC@ChristChurchColumbia.org, and they will get back to you.

Beautify Our Campus for Easter - Next Sunday, March 22

This is a callout to all who love our campus and have expressed interest or involvement with Building & Grounds. Next Sunday, March 22, we'll gather a half hour after the close of the Sunday service and begin beautifying the campus for the spring. We'll be picking up trash, branches, and other sundries, cleaning windows, doors, and sidewalks, and readying the inside of both "Bricks" for the Passion Week and Easter celebrations. Snacks and drinks will be served to keep you refreshed. This is a great time to get kids involved and teach them that the important items we love also need to be cared for. We hope that you'll help us spread the message. Thank you!

Family Night Out! - Friday, March 27

Gather the crew and lace up those bowling shoes - it's time for a night of fellowship, strikes, and spares! Whether you're a pro or just here for the snacks, we want to see you there on Friday, March 27, at 7:00 p.m. Bring your family! Bring your friends! Just bring yourself! Everyone is welcome. Meet us at Lucky Strike Columbia - 7100 Carved Stone Rd. Columbia, MD 21045. Let us know by emailing MOCC@christchurchcolumbia.org, or speak with Duane at church, so he can reserve the right amount of bowling space.

Palm Sunday and Meditations on the Passion - March 29

Palm Sunday has three worship services - the 8:00 worship takes place in Old Brick. Then, the 9:00 service will begin by gathering in the Great Hall (lower level) of New Brick and process up to the Sanctuary from there. Our final morning service at 10:30 a.m. will meet and begin worship in Old Brick, then collectively process across the campus during the service (if the weather is inclement, we will begin in the Great Hall).

And on that Sunday evening, Christ Church will host Meditations on the Passion, a special service of poems, readings, dance (with our [Lumen Christi liturgical dance ministry](#)), song, and prayer. Join us at 6:00 p.m. in the New Brick Sanctuary as we contemplate the Passion of Our Lord Jesus Christ in a way that makes us realize the immense love He has for each of us, a love capable of suffering and death to free us from our sins.

Find a Ministry that's Right for You

We can always use some more people to keep Christ Church the vibrant, active, dedicated parish that it is. You can be a Teller, Acolyte, Lay Eucharistic Visitor, or choose to assist the Christ Church Altar Guild, Inreach, or Buildings and Grounds ministries - and many others. None of these requires weekly assistance - they only require a short amount of time every few weeks or so, but the impact you have on the entire parish is significant. For those interested in the Altar Guild, please email altarguild@christchurchcolumbia.org. For Inreach, please email inreach@christchurchcolumbia.org (or [visit their website page](#)). If you're interested in assisting elsewhere, please call the Church Office at office@christchurchcolumbia.org. Thanks!

Runners Will Raise Awareness of Suicide Prevention and Support Grassroots at 'Light the Night' 5K and Community Event on March 27

Put on your running shoes or turn out to cheer the athletes who enter the fifth annual **"Light the Night" 5K**, a public awareness event to be held Friday, March 27. It is intended as a "county-wide acknowledgement that we support and care for those impacted by suicide."

Sponsors are the Howard County Department of Health, the Howard County Department of Recreation and Parks, and Bullseye Running. Proceeds go to the **Grassroots Crisis Intervention Center** and the **American Foundation for Suicide Prevention Maryland** (AFSP Maryland).

Christ Church is a long-time supporter of Grassroots, which in addition to helping the homeless, provides 24-hour crisis intervention that includes a **supportive counseling hotline**.

"Light the Night" takes place at Oakland Mills High School, 9410 Kilimanjaro Rd., in Columbia, where speakers active in suicide prevention will deliver remarks at 6:30 p.m. The race begins at 7 p.m. There will be activities for non-runners, fun take-home items such as bracelets and keychains, and resource packets on suicide prevention.

In addition to raising awareness to save lives, the organizers will accept donations that will go to Grassroots and AFSP Maryland. AFSP is the largest private funder of suicide prevention research; it also creates and hosts education programs, leads public policy efforts on mental health, and supports suicide-loss survivors.

Runners are encouraged to sign up [here](#). Registration is \$36 plus online processing fees. Runners' regular packet and shirt pickup is on Thursday, March 26, from 5:45 to 7 p.m. at Feet First, 5305 Village Center Drive, #110, Columbia, MD 21044. On race day, runners' late packet and shirt pickup begins at 6 p.m.

Christ Church Supports Eye Care at Future Somos Amigos' Clinics

For the first time in its nearly 30-year history of delivering basic health care in the Dominican Republic, **Somos Amigos Medical Missions** has begun providing eye care. At its clinic in January, a Dominican optometrist evaluated 28 patients. They received prescriptions for glasses and were screened for conditions such as cataracts and glaucoma.

The plan is to continue offering optometry on-site in addition to the medical, dental, and pharmaceutical services that people have come to depend upon in this rural, mountainous area. Previously, a supply of reading glasses or referrals to more distant care were the only options.

To support Somos Amigos' new vision component, the Outreach Commission at its March meeting approved a donation of \$750. These are Vestry-approved funds derived from your pledges and contributions. In addition, we are conveying a parishioner's designated donation to Somos Amigos for the same cause. Thank you!

When Founder and Executive Director Frank Brightwell made his annual visit to Christ Church on March 1, he thanked the congregation while delivering **the sermon** during worship services. At Sunday Circle, his remarks included a recap of the

January clinic, one of four held in Naranjito each year. For its residents, the nearest health care is more than two hours away.

Volunteers in January included Dione and Jim Mahoney and Dione's sister and brother-in-law, Desiree and Jorge Arce, as well as the Arce's nephew, Ivan. All are in a video about Somos Amigos' plans for the future. You can view the video, "Opening New Doors," on [the Somos Amigos portion](#) of the church website.

Dates of future clinics are April 11-18, July 11-18, and Oct. 10-17, 2026. Go [here](#) for volunteer information. Or ask parishioners who have volunteered, including Outreach member Shahra Toth and physicians Ellen Boudreau and Preethi Jackson.

A Kindness Pantry Update, and Words of Thanks

First, I want to thank Jenny Cecil, Jan DeBoissiere, Sara Kirkpatrick, and all of you who supplied our Kindness Pantry in February. I am so grateful for a team of such dedicated parishioners who know the importance of fulfilling our partnership with Lake Elkhorn.

Yesterday was a very special yearly event at LEMS - the Black History Month Celebration (*see photo*). This year the theme was "Celebrating 100 Years of Black History: Because of Them We Can." One hundred years ago, Carter G. Woodson put forth the concept of Negro History Week and it has become a whole month of celebrations that emphasize the fact that Black history is American history.

As attendees entered they were greeted by the flavorful aroma of collard greens cooked by Harlem's Sylvia Woods, the Queen of Soul Food. Students invited everyone to taste this classic dish. On the way out, we were given tickets for an ice cream treat since Augustus Jackson, a White House chef and businessperson in Philadelphia, developed the modern way of manufacturing ice cream.

We walked to the Learning Center through the hallways past student statues of some of the many influential figures of Black American history: Huey Newton, Judge Thurgood Marshall, Rosa Parks, Barak Obama, Michelle Obama, Mae Jameison, Louis Armstrong and Madame C. J. Walker. These were impressive tableaus of culturally and historically important people and events that the students studied during February. In addition, each classroom door was decorated to reflect the content area connection to Black Americans and their contributions to our country.

During the program the LEMS Chorus, Band, Chamber Orchestra, Invisible Changemakers Dance Group, and individual student poets shared their impressive talents with the audience. These performances were interspersed with explanations of important historical events and trends such as the history of Black dance, the Harlem Renaissance and the development of the Latino Black community.

The students were extraordinarily proud of all that they had learned and with good reason. This is a not to be missed event at LEMS. I hope you will come and experience it for yourself next year.

Bring Items for FISH/CCC, and Consider Volunteering to Take Calls from Home

FISH and **Columbia Community Care** (CCC) partnered last year and merged their pantries. CCC continues to hand out food at three sites on Saturday mornings and deliver it to Howard County residents. For information, go online to [Get Help](#). Find CCC updates, including [an anniversary celebration](#) on March 14, on its [Facebook page](#).

FISH continues to pick up donated goods from Christ Church and others. Please put non-perishable food and personal care products in the altar basket or in a bin just inside the Parish Hall. Look for a combo label "FISH/CCC". Please bring baby wipes and diapers, especially large sizes.

FISH will continue to provide telephone support to Howard County residents, offering guidance and financial assistance, because the personal touch is very important when people are in crisis. For information, ask parishioner and FISH treasurer

Andy DeLong (see photo) or email him at andydelong.fish@gmail.com.

You could be the one to lend a helping hand by lending an ear! As a phone volunteer, you can help from your home by giving just one day a month to assist those who could benefit from FISH's financial assistance. Training is provided. Thank you always for your support.

Kenya Connect 5k Run - March 28

Kenya Connect, an outreach partner of St. John's in Ellicott City, is holding its 12th annual 5K Run/Walk on Saturday, March 28th, at St. John's. The 5K builds community while supporting the work of **Kenya Connect** to provide children with options and new pathways in rural Kenya.

We welcome individual participants or a team from Christ Church. We will have post-race goodies, including a Kenyan crafts market with items made by women and men in our village. We also provide hand-carved medallions from Wamunyu to the top three women and men in all age categories.

PLEASE REMEMBER:

Silence your phones
before entering the
Sanctuary.

Thanks!





Learning from Our History **BUILDING FOR OUR FUTURE**

Help us plan our next 300 years.
300@ChristChurchColumbia.org





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*
 The Rev. Yehinuel Odidi, *Seminarian Associate*
 Larissa Sanders, *Director of Music Ministry*
 Ola Oladipupo, *Assistant Organist*
 Yetti Lipede, *Parish Administrator & Ministry Coordinator*
 Diya Jackson, *Office & Youth Ministry Coordinator*
 Christopher Pouch, *Communications Administrator*
 Amanda Kirkpatrick, *Nursery Care Coordinator*
 John Prempeh Sencherey, *Sexton*

Vestry

- Denisa Abdallah (*Senior Warden*) • Greg Schuckman (*Junior Warden*) • Andrew Eaton (*Treasurer*) • Ron Couch (*Registrar*)
- Shreya Chrzanowski (*Youth Liaison*) • Diane Phillips-LaGuerre • Ronald Baran • George Toth • Sara Kirkpatrick
- Ed Chrzanowski • Kathy Simms • Jay Abbott • David James • Katie Adams • Jim Berkson