

Christ Episcopal Church

Extending the Love and Embrace of Christ

Twenty-First Sunday after Pentecost

The Holy Eucharist, Rite II

Sunday, October 22, 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 | 'Thou Wilt Keep Him in Perfect Peace

Samuel Sebastian Wesley

Opening Hymn 408 | Sing Praise to God

Mit Freuden zart



1 Sing praise to God who reigns a - bove, the God of all cre -
2 What God's al-might - y power hath made, his gra - cious mer - cy
3 Let all who name Christ's ho - ly Name give God all praise and



a - tion, the God of power, the God of love, the God of
keep - eth; by morn - ing glow or eve - ning shade his watch - ful
glo - ry; let all who know his power pro - claim a - loud the



our sal - va - tion; with heal - ing balm my soul he fills, and
eye ne'er sleep - eth. With - in the king - dom of his might, lo!
won - drous sto - ry! Cast each false i - dol from its throne, the



ev - ery faith - less mur - mur stills: to God all praise and glo - ry.
All is just and all is right: to God all praise and glo - ry.
Lord is God, and he a - lone: to God all praise and glo - ry.

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



The Collect of the Day |

Celebrant: The Lord be with you.

People: **And also with you.**

Celebrant: Let us pray.

Almighty and everlasting God, in Christ you have revealed your glory among the nations: Preserve the works of your mercy, that your Church throughout the world may persevere with steadfast faith in the confession of your Name; 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 33:12-23 |

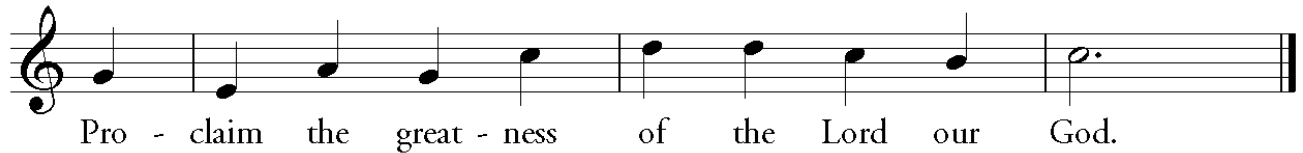
Reader: A Reading from Exodus.

Moses said to the LORD, “See, you have said to me, ‘Bring up this people’; but you have not let me know whom you will send with me. Yet you have said, ‘I know you by name, and you have also found favor in my sight.’ Now if I have found favor in your sight, show me your ways, so that I may know you and find favor in your sight. Consider too that this nation is your people.” He said, “My presence will go with you, and I will give you rest.” And he said to him, “If your presence will not go, do not carry us up from here. For how shall it be known that I have found favor in your sight, I and your people, unless you go with us? In this way, we shall be distinct, I and your people, from every people on the face of the earth.”

The LORD said to Moses, “I will do the very thing that you have asked; for you have found favor in my sight, and I know you by name.” Moses said, “Show me your glory, I pray.” And he said, “I will make all my goodness pass before you, and will proclaim before you the name, ‘The LORD’; and I will be gracious to whom I will be gracious, and will show mercy on whom I will show mercy. But,” he said, “you cannot see my face; for no one shall see me and live.” And the LORD continued, “See, there is a place by me where you shall stand on the rock; and while my glory passes by I will put you in a cleft of the rock, and I will cover you with my hand until I have passed by; then I will take away my hand, and you shall see my back; but my face shall not be seen.”

Reader: The word of the Lord.

People: **Thanks be to God.**



The LORD is King;
let the people tremble; *
he is enthroned upon the cherubim;
let the earth shake.

The LORD is great in Zion; *
he is high above all peoples.

Let them confess his Name, which is great and awesome; *
he is the Holy One.

"O mighty King, lover of justice,
you have established equity; *
you have executed justice and righteousness in Jacob."

Antiphon

Proclaim the greatness of the LORD our God
and fall down before his footstool; *
he is the Holy One.

Moses and Aaron among his priests,
and Samuel among those who call upon his Name, *
they called upon the LORD, and he answered them.

He spoke to them out of the pillar of cloud; *
they kept his testimonies and the decree that he gave them.

O LORD our God, you answered them indeed; *
you were a God who forgave them,
yet punished them for their evil deeds.

Proclaim the greatness of the LORD our God
and worship him upon his holy hill; *
for the LORD our God is the Holy One.

Antiphon

Reader: A Reading from The First Epistle to the Thessalonians.

Paul, Silvanus, and Timothy, To the church of the Thessalonians in God the Father and the Lord Jesus Christ:

Grace to you and peace.

We always give thanks to God for all of you and mention you in our prayers, constantly remembering before our God and Father your work of faith and labor of love and steadfastness of hope in our Lord Jesus Christ. For we know, brothers and sisters beloved by God, that he has chosen you, because our message of the gospel came to you not in word only, but also in power and in the Holy Spirit and with full conviction; just as you know what kind of persons we proved to be among you for your sake. And you became imitators of us and of the Lord, for in spite of persecution you received the word with joy inspired by the Holy Spirit, so that you became an example to all the believers in Macedonia and in Achaia. For the word of the Lord has sounded forth from you not only in Macedonia and Achaia, but in every place your faith in God has become known, so that we have no need to speak about it. For the people of those regions report about us what kind of welcome we had among you, and how you turned to God from idols, to serve a living and true God, and to wait for his Son from heaven, whom he raised from the dead-- Jesus, who rescues us from the wrath that is coming.

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 74 | Jesu, Jesu

Ghana Folk Song; adapt. Tom Colvin

Je - su, Je - su, fill us with your love, show

us how to serve the neigh - bors we have from you. **Fine**

1. Kneels at the feet of his friends, si - lent - ly wash - es their
2. Neigh - bors are rich and poor, neigh - bors are black and
3. These are the ones we should serve, these are the ones we should
4. Lov - ing puts us on our knees, serv - ing as though we are
5. Kneel at the feet of our friends, si - lent - ly wash - ing their

1. feet, Mas - ter who acts as a slave to them.
2. white, neigh - bors are near and far a - way.
3. love; all these are neigh - bors to us and you.
4. slaves, this is the way we should live with you.
5. feet, this is the way we should live with you. **D.C.**

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

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

The Pharisees went and plotted to entrap Jesus in what he said. So they sent their disciples to him, along with the Herodians, saying, “Teacher, we know that you are sincere, and teach the way of God in accordance with truth, and show deference to no one; for you do not regard people with partiality. Tell us, then, what you think. Is it lawful to pay taxes to the emperor, or not?” But Jesus, aware of their malice, said, “Why are you putting me to the test, you hypocrites? Show me the coin used for the tax.” And they brought him a denarius. Then he said to them, “Whose head is this, and whose title?” They answered, “The emperor’s.” Then he said to them, “Give therefore to the emperor the things that are the emperor’s, and to God the things that are God’s.” When they heard this, they were amazed; and they left him and went away.

Deacon: The Gospel of the Lord.

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

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

Sermon | The Rev’d 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 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, help us to remember You are in our midst always and that we are a people of Your promise and covenant, who live in hope. **Lord, hear our prayer!**

We focus our prayers on peace in the Holy Land: for an end to the violence, for healing and reconciliation, and for the rebuilding of trust. We pray for the leaders of this community, our country, and the world, that they lead with love for their people. In particular, we pray for Michael, our Presiding Bishop; Eugene and Carrie, our Diocesan Bishops; Emmanuel, our Rector; Denise, our Deacon; Richard, our Rector Emeritus; and Christ Church's postulants and staff. We ask our Lord's blessing on the parishes in our diocese, especially Christ the King, Woodlawn; St. Andrew's, Glenwood; and St. Barnabas', Sykesville. In the Anglican cycle of Prayer, we remember The Anglican Church of Korea. We ask our Lord's care for those serving in the military, especially Conner Warlow. We warmly welcome those new to Christ Church and those visiting this morning. We thank you for sharing in our worship and look forward to meeting you. **Lord, hear our prayer!**

Send your loving spirit to uplift those most in need of your comfort. To those suffering from illness of mind, body, or spirit, we remember Altra, Barbara, Sherry, Tim, Fr. Richard, Christine, Carol, Jan, Judy, Patricia, Cindy, Roberta, Samuel, Ashley, Alta, Farris, Mildred, Nell, and those we now name. Grant them peace and the knowledge that in Your body there is no death, but rather completeness and perfection. We profess our faith to you. **Lord, hear our prayer!**

With joy we remember the birthdays of Amisha, Gavin, Derek, Nicholas, Ellen, Brian, Fran & Nancy and the baptismal anniversaries of Andrew, Stacey & Diana. We celebrate the births of Jane Marie Weber to Jonathan & Alyssa Weber and Liam McDonnell, grandson of Greg Schuckman. For those who touch our lives and reveal the image of Christ and those we love unconditionally as Christ loves us, we give thanks. Let us fervently pray, to remember we are united by Christ Jesus. We are not alone. We are all 'children of God through faith.' May each of us continue to grow in faith, hearing the words of Jesus and living them every day. **Lord, hear our prayer!**

As we grow in our spiritual journey to be closer to You, may we guard against being a person who sets himself up as being superior to others. Help us to show humility. Help us to be open to your Holy Spirit so we may be refreshed, nurtured, and strengthened to go out into the world to love and serve. **May the Spirit always be around you and within you, bringing you peace and joy all your days!**

Good and gracious God, you call us to be disciples carrying out your mission. Transform us through the power of Your Spirit. Open our hearts to acknowledge Your many blessings, to use Your gifts wisely, to share generously, to serve joyfully, to live responsibly, to be a gift to others. Help us nurture a stewardship way of life, which connects, serves, and impacts our communities. Guide us as we prayerfully discern how to give of our time, talents, and treasures, to further your kingdom on earth. **Amen.**

Confession of Sin |

Deacon: 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 | 'There's Something About That Name

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.

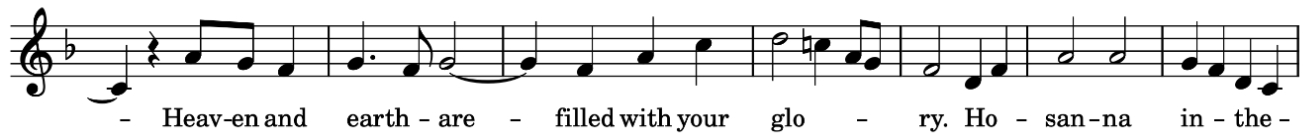
***People:* We lift them to the Lord.**

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:



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.

Communion Hymn LEVAS 30 | At the Cross

Isaac Watts/ Ralph E. Hudson

1. A - las! and did my Sav - ior bleed, and
2. Was it for crimes that I have done, He
3. Well might the sun in dark - ness hide, and
4. Thus might I hide my blush - ing face while
5. But drops of tears can ne'er re - pay the
1. did my Sov' - reign die? Would He de - vote that
2. groaned up - on the tree? A - maz - ing pit - y!
3. shut its glo - ries in; when God, the might - y
4. His dear cross ap - pears; dis - solve my heart in
5. debt of love I owe; Here, Lord, I give my -
1. sa - cred head for sin - ners such as I?
2. Grace un - known! And love be - yond de - gree!
3. mak - er, died for His own crea - ture's sin.
4. thank - ful - ness, and melt mine eyes to tears.
5. self a - way; 'tis all that I can do.

At the cross, at the cross, where I first saw the light, and the

bur - den of my heart rolled a - way; it was there by faith I re -

ceived my sight, and now I am hap - py all the day.

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 Blessing |

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

1 Je - sus shall reign wher - e'er the sun doth his suc -
 2 To him shall end - less prayer be made, and prais - es
 3 Peo - ple and realms of ev - ery tongue dwell on his
 4 Bless - ings a - bound wher - e'er he reigns: the pris - oners
 5 Let ev - ery crea - ture rise and bring pe - cu - liar

1 ces - sive jour - neys run; his king - dom stretch from
 2 throng to crown his head; his Name like sweet per -
 3 love with sweet - est song; and in - fant voic - es
 4 leap to lose their chains, the wea - ry find e -
 5 hon - ors to our King; an - gels de - scend with

1 shore to shore, till moons shall wax and wane no more.
 2 fume shall rise with ev - ery morn - ing sac - ri - fice.
 3 shall pro - claim their ear - ly bless - ings on his Name.
 4 ter - nal rest, and all who suf - fer want are blest.
 5 songs a - gain, and earth re - peat the loud a - men.

The Dismissal |

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

Postlude | Postlude on *Duke Street*

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ASSISTING IN WORSHIP TODAY

8:00 a.m. Service

Lector/Reader: Theo Jones-Quartey

Ushers: Kayode & Onyx Williams

Chalicerist: Theo Jones-Quartey

10:30 a.m. Service

Lector/Reader: Steve Alpern

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

Acolytes & Crucifer: Hannah Boyer

Chalicerist: Steve Alpern

Altar Guild: Pam Foreman, Cheryl Lucente

PARISH CALENDAR

OCTOBER 22 – OCTOBER 28

Sunday, October 22

8:00 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 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
6:00 – 10:00 pm	Ministerio Embajadores M.E.J. – Parish Hall, lower level

Monday, October 23

7:00 am	Morning Prayer Livestream
7:00 – 8:00 pm	Centering Prayer – Old Brick & Zoom

Tuesday, October 24

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
1:00 pm	Envelope Stuffing – Parish Hall, conference room
7:00 – 11:00 pm	Ministerio Embajadores M.E.J. – Parish Hall, lower level

Wednesday, October 25

7:00 am	Morning Prayer Livestream
7:00 – 8:00 pm	Adult Children of Alcoholics – Parish Hall, lower level

Thursday, October 26

8:00 am	Morning Prayer Livestream
9:00 am – 3:00 pm	Howard County Homeschool – New Brick, lower level
12:00 pm	Healing Eucharist – Old Brick

12:00 – 1:00 pm	Virtual Coffee Hour – Zoom
5:00 – 7:30 pm	Youth Group – Old Brick
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
7:00 – 11:00 pm	Ministerio Embajadores M.E.J. – Parish Hall, lower level
7:30 – 9:00 pm	Adult Choir Rehearsal – New Brick, upper level
7:30 – 9:00 pm	Boy Scouts – New Brick, lower level

Friday, October 27

7:00 am	Morning Prayer Livestream
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 28

10:00 – 12:00 pm	Calendar Planning Meeting – New Brick, lower level & Zoom
12:00 pm	WOCC Robinson Nature Center Walk – Robinson Nature Center
2:00 – 3:00 pm	AA Meeting – Parish Hall, lower level
8:00 – 9:00 pm	NA Meeting – Old Brick

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

Healing Stations

Christ Church used to offer healing stations during the Eucharist at the back of the sanctuary, and we plan to resume this most important part of our worshipping experience. If you need prayer, we invite you to visit the healing station after receiving Communion. We also invite those who are interested in joining a group of parishioners who offer healing prayer to reach out to Rebecca Warlow by emailing rwarlow131@gmail.com

Stewardship 2024

We are so blessed to have a community of dedicated parishioners who support our ministry of faithful service, and we hope that each parishioner will prayerfully consider their contribution to Christ Church. You may pick up a pledge card in the Narthex to complete, or you can complete one electronically on our website - www.christchurchcolumbia.org/2024-pledge

Centering Prayer - October 23

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!**

Office Volunteers - October 24

We could use a couple of volunteers to help stuff envelopes with the quarterly statements next Tuesday, October 24th. If you have a few hours to spare, please come to the Parish Office building at 1 p.m. that day. Thank you in advance.

Thursday Healing Eucharist - October 26

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.

Christ Church Choirs - October 26

Thursday's a busy night of music! Children's Choir rehearses from 6-7 p.m., Handbell Choir gathers from 7-7:30, and Adult Choir rehearses from 7:30-9 p.m. **You can find links to the registration forms on our website's Music Ministry page.** 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 choir! If you're interested, or if you have any questions, please speak with Larissa or email her at [**music@christchurchcolumbia.org**](mailto:music@christchurchcolumbia.org).

CEC Book Club - October 27

The Christ Church Book Club took this past Friday off, but join us next week at 7:30 p.m. We always welcome new readers to join us, so how about you? Email [**bookclub@christchurchcolumbia.org**](mailto:bookclub@christchurchcolumbia.org) if you'd like more information.

WOCC Nature Walk - October 28

Come walk through the colorful autumn leaves at the Robinson Nature Center on Saturday, October 28th, beginning at 12 noon. The leaves should be "peaking" in color by then, and it's a beautiful setting. The trails are short and friendly, with lots of signs and small creeks. Bring your lunch and we'll enjoy some conversation before setting out. Lots of other events coming up, too! The WOCC calendar is posted in the Narthex in New Brick **and on our website** and contains all the fun events planned. Speak to any WOCC member or email [**WOCC@christchurchcolumbia.org**](mailto:WOCC@christchurchcolumbia.org) if you need more info.

Christ Church's Online Auction begins on October 28

Get your bidding skills ready, because we're only a little more than one week away! The online portion of the week-long Christ Church Auction commences on Saturday, October 28th, so be sure to **register ahead of time**, and then bid, bid, BID! The catalog can be viewed at [**tinyurl.com/CEC-AuctionCatalog**](http://tinyurl.com/CEC-AuctionCatalog) so you can start planning how you're going to win those items you find special.

First Wednesday Fellowship - November 1

This month's FWF will be a costume party that celebrates Halloween / All Saints Day, so come in your Halloween best! There will, of course, be a prize for the best costume, and the catering that night will be from Olive Garden. We ask that you bring their leftover Halloween candy to share with others. There are sign-up sheets in New Brick and Old Brick.

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.

Christ Church Sends Aid to Earthquake, Flood Survivors

On Sept. 8, a catastrophic earthquake struck Morocco, killing more than 2,000 people and displacing hundreds. Christ Church responded on behalf of parishioners. Outreach Commission members voted at the Sept. 11 meeting to contribute \$500 to [UNICEF](#), which says in [an online post](#) that it had resources in place for the most timely help.

On Sept. 10, Storm Daniel hit Libya with wind, rain, and flash flooding that caused the collapse of two dams. More than 4,000 people were killed, many having been swept into the sea. It was not immediately clear who could deliver humanitarian aid. Eventually, a [description of efforts](#) posted by [Episcopal Relief and Development](#) (ERD) showed that ERD was partnering with [DanChurchAid](#) to assist survivors. At the Oct. 9 Outreach Commission, members approved sending \$400 to ERD.

These are the latest in a series of disaster-relief donations, including ones earlier this year to help wildfire victims in Maui, HI; tornado victims in Mississippi and Arkansas, and earthquake victims in Syria and Türkiye. These are Vestry-approved funds derived from your pledges and contributions. Heartfelt thanks go out to all who make it possible.

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 office is open or on Sundays. The Christ Church point of contact is Leigh Smith, who monitors the bins and delivers the contents.

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

[FISH of Howard County](#) needs non-perishable foods and toiletries. FISH provides committed support to select families in need. Please put your donations in the basket at the altar or drop them into the marked black and yellow bin on the breezeway between Old Brick and Parish Hall. The neighbors you help give thanks for all you do in their support.

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.



Somos Amigos Gets Our Check, Hastening Emilio's New Hearing Aids Made Possible by Christ Church Funds and Your Generous Donations

After a successful fund-raising effort conducted in September at Christ Church, parishioners Dione and Jim Mahoney presented a check for \$3,695 to Frank Brightwell, executive director of **Somos Amigos Medical Missions** on the opening day of its fall clinic in the Dominican Republic. The funds will help Emilio, 23, a patient of Somos Amigos since boyhood who suffers from congenital hearing loss.

Specialists earlier this year recommended that Emilio receive 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! The balance of expenses for Emilio'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," said Brightwell. Meanwhile, Emilio's mother expressed happiness that the hearing aids for Emilio would soon be a reality.

Thanks to you, Emilio becomes the second patient who is able to receive advanced care to secure a brighter future. Before him, Franci, a boy diagnosed with a heart defect, had complex surgery that has allowed him to grow into a thriving teenager.

Christ Church continues its long-term support for the clinic in rural Naranjito. The Mahoneys traveled on Oct. 7 to volunteer for the week-long clinic, presented the check the next day, and were able to meet Emilio on Oct. 10. They posed for a picture with him and two of the clinic's key staff members, Odalis and his wife Daritza. He is the clinic coordinator and she is in charge of patient appointments and follow-up care. Somos Amigos conducted its fall clinic with eight volunteer physicians (one was Dominican) and four dentists (three were Dominican). Among other volunteers, Dominican participation is encouraged and has increased significantly, Dione said.

To learn more about Somos Amigos, which holds clinics four times each year, please read its **annual report** and speak to the Mahoneys or to parishioners Shahra Toth, Preethi Jackson and Ellen Boudreau Hoke, who are former volunteers.

PERFECT for the Holidays



Christ Church Auction ONLINE begins Oct. 28 IN-PERSON on Nov. 4

It's Almost AUCTION Time!

**DON'T MISS OUR LARGEST
FUNDRAISER OF THE YEAR!**

The 34th Annual Christ Church Auction, beginning later this month, is THE fundraising gala that promises to be a fun and enjoyable time for all, so don't miss it!

Bidding will be open starting Saturday, October 28th, and [you can register now](https://tinyurl.com/CEC-AuctionCatalog) to view all of the wonderful items in our online catalog - tinyurl.com/CEC-AuctionCatalog.

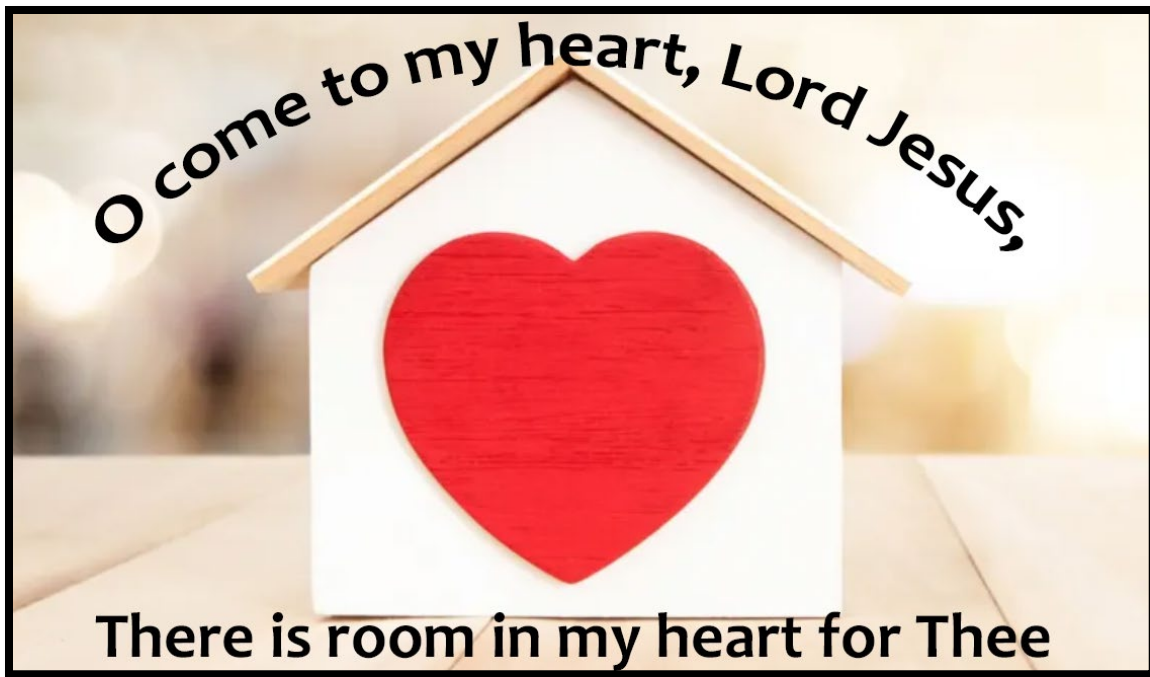
In there, you'll find everything you need or want for gifts, for celebrating... and even for a little self-indulgence. Gift ideas, home and professional services, works of art, incredible culinary experiences - so many great items await! All proceeds go towards Christ Church activities, ministries, and programs, so the more you bid, the more we are able to do as a parish family - **we all win!**

This week-long event culminates in a vibrant live auction and raffle drawing on Saturday, November 4th, and everyone is invited to join us in the Great Hall of New Brick for an exciting night that you surely don't want to miss!

We look forward to your participation in the 2023 Christ Church Auction, and we encourage you to invite your friends to log in and bid, as well.

Sincerely,
The CEC Auction Committee

If you have any questions, please email us at auction@christchurchcolumbia.org



Many Rooms in My Heart

The above phrase reminds me of Jesus' most unique promise in John's gospel: *My Father's house has many rooms; if that were not so, would I have told you that I am going there to prepare a place for you? And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come back and take you to be with me so that you also may be where I am.* There's never been a time when I feel more assured about my faith than when I read this particular text.

This is a promise that provides me with so much hope - not only for a future life in God and with God, but also in the human story - that if there are many rooms in God's house, then I surely bet that I would have a next-door neighbor. Even if the rooms are so distant from one another, which I believe they wouldn't be, I would still have a neighbor and you would have a neighbor. But as to who our neighbors would be, we may never know until we finally get our keys to our individual rooms.

I am sure each one of you has spent a night or two at a hotel. The good thing about a hotel room is that each has a neighbor, either to the left, right, or across the way. You may never get to meet your neighbor; you may hear sounds coming from your neighbor's room, but you may not meet that neighbor. And nine times out of ten, we really don't care who our neighbor is.

There's a story of a Rabbi who when he was a student at a Rabbinic school, his wife got a deal to spend a night at the Ritz Carlton - one of the fancy hotels. That was his first time at a Ritz-Carlton hotel. When they arrived, they were met with a red carpet and a host of people who were all ready to help them. They took their luggage and helped them to the lobby, where he saw a lot of people who looked so beautiful. Everything in the lobby was beautiful, including the flowers and the pianist who serenaded guests with beautiful music.

The Rabbi was so gripped by the beauty of this hotel that he didn't have the courage to cross the lobby to check in, so he asked his wife to check them both in. After checking in, they went into their room, located on the club floor. When they arrived in their room, they were greeted with a bunch of beautiful, big strawberries coated in chocolate.

After a long day, they eventually retired to bed. But at 2:00 a.m. that night, the hotel fire alarm sounded. The first thought that came to mind was what to wear to a fire alarm at the Ritz Carlton. He opened a closet and saw a big

puffy white bathrobe with a big lion on the lapel which said *Ritz Carlton*. After putting on the bathrobe, he hurriedly descended the 12 floors down towards the lobby.

It was at the lobby where he had his *aha!* moment, a learning moment - he saw hundreds of guests who didn't have their make-up on but were all wearing the white *Ritz Carlton* robes. He then turned to his wife and said, "Look honey, all these people are just like me-all wearing white bathrobes. What a great equalizer."

His point was that we walk around daily wearing make-up, all dressed up, and hiding our persona. We want others to believe what we want them to believe about us. But at our core, who are we? What's at our core? Are we the sort of people who can provide a room in our hearts for others? Do we look at our lives through the prism of scarcity or the abundance of a Ritz Carlton hotel?

I can only picture that scene in the lobby where all residents, whether on the club floor or any other floor, wore their white bathrobes and hurriedly descended to the lobby. A fire alarm that summoned everyone obscured any kind of allegiances that separated those on the club floor from those on regular floors.

For those of us who have been watching TV and hearing stories of all the turmoil that is going on in the Middle East, nothing breaks my heart more than the violence that we inflict on another. It is as if we all wear different robes or that because we are on different floors at the same hotel, we don't respond to the same fire alarm blaring from the hotel. There's something about the human story that always seeks to create in the heart a room for others because when all is said and done, we come to realize that it is the same alarm bell that summons us, and it is the same bathrobe that we all wear.

Hundreds have been kidnapped. Thousands have died, and thousands more may die. Thousands have been injured, and thousands more will be injured. The question isn't why. We all know why. The question is, how can we stop all these atrocities from happening? How can we assure all those on each side of the conflict that we will all wear the same white robe, or at least, each has a room in the father's house?

We may not be dealing with these sorts of violence on our own streets or in our neighborhoods, but that doesn't make our task any easier. Our job is to always serve as the constant reminder to everyone that in so far as we all have rooms in the father's house, we can also create rooms in our hearts for everyone. We can argue that in so far as we all have rooms in the father's house, we will have next-door neighbors and those next-door neighbors could be anyone.

How big is your heart? How many rooms can we create in our hearts to accommodate as many people as possible? We may ask ourselves. The reality is that just as the father's house isn't measurable, so are the hearts of each one of us. For that reason, we can dare to create as many rooms as we can to accommodate all who need us in their lives, and even those who may pretend to have no need for us.

One of my greatest joys in serving you has been the pleasure of encouraging each of us to create a room in the heart. Through our many ministries, we create that room in our hearts. Through our many ministries, we create rooms in our community. Indeed, our hearts may not be big, but yet it can hold many lives. And we can hold all these lives together in our lives because we believe in God's eternal promise.

Emily Elliot's poem *There's Room In My Heart For Thee* which has been turned into a hymn has this refrain:

***O come to my heart, Lord Jesus,
There is room in my heart for Thee***

If there's ever a room in our hearts for the Lord Jesus, then there's a room in our hearts for anyone.

Manny+

STEWARDSHIP

SHARING THE GIFTS WE HAVE



Thank YOU.

Your faithfulness is what makes life happen at Christ Church. Your faithfulness makes Christ Church stronger. Your faithfulness enables our parish to embrace, with courage, the task that God has for us. We need to remember that Christ Church is completely dependent on this faithfulness. Your beloved Christ Church counts on you and your faithful giving.

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

You can read the latest Vestry-approved monthly report [here](#).

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





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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*

Amanda Kirkpatrick, *Nursery Care Coordinator*

Nytia Perry, *Nursery Care*

Jefferson Cuarezma Flores, *Sexton*

Vestry

Jan DeBoissiere (*Senior Warden*) • Isaac Olajide (*Junior Warden*) •

Andrew Eaton (*Treasurer*) Ron Couch (*Registrar*)

Denisa Abdallah • Ronald Baran • Tim Beaty • John Curley • Simone Kolnik • Ray Lyon • Diane Phillips-LaGuerre

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