

Christ Episcopal Church

Extending the Love and Embrace of Christ

Sixteenth Sunday after Pentecost

The Holy Eucharist, Rite II

Sunday, September 17, 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 | Melody

Samuel Coleridge-Taylor



1 We gath - er to - geth - er to ask the Lord's bless - ing;
 2 Be - side us to guide us, our God with us join - ing,
 3 We all do ex - tol thee, thou lead - er tri - um - phant,

he chas - tens and has - tens his will to make known;
 or - dain - ing, main - tain - ing his king - dom di - vine;
 and pray that thou still our de - fend - er wilt be.

the wick - ed op - press - ing now cease from dis - tress - ing;
 so from the be - gin - ning the fight we were win - ning;
 Let thy con - gre - ga - tion es - cape trib - u - la - tion:

sing prais - es to his Name; he for - gets not his own.
 thou, Lord, wast at our side: all glo - ry be thine!
 thy Name be ev - er praised! O Lord, make us free!

Opening Acclamation |

Celebrant: Blessed be God: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

People: And blessed be his kingdom, now and forever. Amen.

The Collect for Purity |

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

People: Amen.

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

setting: Robert Powell

1. Glo - ry to God in the high - est, and
peace to his peo - ple on earth. 2. Lord God, heaven - ly
King, al - might - y God and Fa - ther, we wor - ship you, we
give you thanks, we praise you for your glo - ry. 3. Lord Je - sus
Christ, on - ly Son of the Fa - ther, Lord God, Lamb of God, 4. you
take a - way the sin of the world: have mer - cy
on us; 5. you are seat - ed at the right hand of the Fa - ther: re -
ceive our prayer. 6. For you a - lone are the Ho - ly One,
you a - lone are the Lord, 7. you a - lone are the Most
High, Je - sus Christ, with the Ho - ly Spi - rit, in the
glo - ry of God the Fa - ther. A - men.

Celebrant: The Lord be with you.

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

Celebrant: Let us pray.

O God, because without you we are not able to please you, mercifully grant that your Holy Spirit may in all things direct and rule our hearts; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

***People:* Amen.**

The people may be seated.

A Reading from Exodus 14:19-31 |

Reader: A Reading from Exodus.

The angel of God who was going before the Israelite army moved and went behind them; and the pillar of cloud moved from in front of them and took its place behind them. It came between the army of Egypt and the army of Israel. And so the cloud was there with the darkness, and it lit up the night; one did not come near the other all night.

Then Moses stretched out his hand over the sea. The LORD drove the sea back by a strong east wind all night, and turned the sea into dry land; and the waters were divided. The Israelites went into the sea on dry ground, the waters forming a wall for them on their right and on their left. The Egyptians pursued, and went into the sea after them, all of Pharaoh's horses, chariots, and chariot drivers. At the morning watch the LORD in the pillar of fire and cloud looked down upon the Egyptian army, and threw the Egyptian army into panic. He clogged their chariot wheels so that they turned with difficulty. The Egyptians said, "Let us flee from the Israelites, for the LORD is fighting for them against Egypt."

Then the LORD said to Moses, "Stretch out your hand over the sea, so that the water may come back upon the Egyptians, upon their chariots and chariot drivers." So Moses stretched out his hand over the sea, and at dawn the sea returned to its normal depth. As the Egyptians fled before it, the LORD tossed the Egyptians into the sea. The waters returned and covered the chariots and the chariot drivers, the entire army of Pharaoh that had followed them into the sea; not one of them remained. But the Israelites walked on dry ground through the sea, the waters forming a wall for them on their right and on their left.

Thus the LORD saved Israel that day from the Egyptians; and Israel saw the Egyptians dead on the seashore. Israel saw the great work that the LORD did against the Egyptians. So the people feared the LORD and believed in the LORD and in his servant Moses.

Reader: The word of the Lord.

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



Hallelujah!

When Israel came out of Egypt, *

the house of Jacob from a people of strange speech,

Judah became God's sanctuary *

and Israel his dominion.

The sea beheld it and fled; *

Jordan turned and went back.

The mountains skipped like rams, *

and the little hills like young sheep.

Antiphon

What ailed you, O sea, that you fled? *

O Jordan, that you turned back?

You mountains, that you skipped like rams? *

you little hills like young sheep?

Tremble, O earth, at the presence of the Lord, *

at the presence of the God of Jacob,

Who turned the hard rock into a pool of water *

and flint-stone into a flowing spring.

Antiphon

A Reading from Romans 14:1-12 |

Reader: A Reading from the Epistle to the Romans.

Welcome those who are weak in faith, but not for the purpose of quarreling over opinions. Some believe in eating anything, while the weak eat only vegetables. Those who eat must not despise those who abstain, and those who abstain must not pass judgment on those who eat; for God has welcomed them. Who are you to pass judgment on servants of another? It is before their own lord that they stand or fall. And they will be upheld, for the Lord is able to make them stand.

Some judge one day to be better than another, while others judge all days to be alike. Let all be fully convinced in their own minds. Those who observe the day, observe it in honor of the Lord. Also those who eat, eat in honor of the Lord, since they give thanks to God; while those who abstain, abstain in honor of the Lord and give thanks to God.

We do not live to ourselves, and we do not die to ourselves. If we live, we live to the Lord, and if we die, we die to the Lord; so then, whether we live or whether we die, we are the Lord's. For to this end Christ died and lived again, so that he might be Lord of both the dead and the living.

Why do you pass judgment on your brother or sister? Or you, why do you despise your brother or sister? For we will all stand before the judgment seat of God. For it is written,

"As I live, says the Lord, every knee shall bow to me,
and every tongue shall give praise to God."

So then, each of us will be accountable to God.

Reader: The word of the Lord.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

1 Be thou my vi - sion, O Lord of my heart;
2 Be thou my wis - dom, and thou my true word;
3 High King of hea - ven, when vic - tory is won,
all else be nought to me, save that thou art—
I ev - er with thee and thou with me, Lord;
may I reach hea - ven's joys, bright hea - ven's Sun!
thou my best thought,— by day or by night,
thou my great Fa - ther; thine own may I be;
Heart of my heart,— what - ev - er be - fall,
wak - ing or sleep - ing, thy pres - ence my light.
thou in me dwell - ing, and I one with thee.
still be my vis - ion, O Ru - ler of all.

The Gospel | Matthew 18:21-35

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

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

Peter came and said to Jesus, “Lord, if another member of the church sins against me, how often should I forgive? As many as seven times?” Jesus said to him, “Not seven times, but, I tell you, seventy-seven times.

“For this reason the kingdom of heaven may be compared to a king who wished to settle accounts with his slaves. When he began the reckoning, one who owed him ten thousand talents was brought to him; and, as he could not pay, his lord ordered him to be sold, together with his wife and children and all his possessions, and payment to be made. So the slave fell on his knees before him, saying, ‘Have patience with me, and I will pay you everything.’ And out of pity for him, the lord of that slave released him and forgave him the debt. But that same slave, as he went out, came upon one of his fellow slaves who owed him a hundred denarii; and seizing him by the throat, he said, ‘Pay what you owe.’ Then his fellow slave fell down and pleaded with him, ‘Have patience with me, and I will pay you.’ But he

refused; then he went and threw him into prison until he would pay the debt. When his fellow slaves saw what had happened, they were greatly distressed, and they went and reported to their lord all that had taken place. Then his lord summoned him and said to him, ‘You wicked slave! I forgave you all that debt because you pleaded with me. Should you not have had mercy on your fellow slave, as I had mercy on you?’ And in anger his lord handed him over to be tortured until he would pay his entire debt. So my heavenly Father will also do to every one of you, if you do not forgive your brother or sister from your heart.”

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 |

Forgiveness is a key principle in our relationships with all people and a requirement for Christ's individual followers and in the Church. We pray, **Lord, help us to have the courage and foresight to follow You.**

We give a warm welcome to those new to Christ Church and those visiting this morning. We thank you for sharing in our worship and we look forward to meeting you. We pray for our Church Leadership: Michael, our Presiding Bishop; Carrie, our recently consecrated Bishop Coadjutor; Eugene, our Diocesan Bishop; Emmanuel, our Rector; Denise, our Deacon; Richard, our Rector Emeritus; and for our Christ Church staff and postulants. We are so grateful for our incredibly gifted staff and our loving and dedicated congregation. In the Diocese of Maryland, we pray for Grace, New Market; St. James', Mount Airy; St. Paul's, Point of Rocks, and Transfiguration, Braddock Heights. In the Anglican Cycle of Prayer, we remember the Church of the Province of Uganda. **We pray for Your holy church and all who worship in it.**

We pray for all those who are ill in body, mind, or spirit, and those who care for them. We keep the residents and staff of Springfield Hospital in our prayers. We pray for those who are hungry and thirsty, and especially for our friends at the Dorsey Resource Center and Grassroots Shelter. We hold up in prayer all victims of natural disasters throughout the world. May they receive all the assistance and loving care that they desperately need. We ask your blessings for those in the military and in harm's way, especially Conner Warlow. We pray this week especially for Barbara, Sherry, Tim, Dinorah, Fr. Richard, Christine, Carol, Jan, Judy, Patricia, Cindy, Roberta, Samuel, Ashley, Alta, Farris, Mildred, Nell, and those you now name. We pray, **Lord, may your healing touch ease their pain and restore them.**

We ask God our Creator to accept in his loving arms all those who have departed this life, especially Betty DeBoissiere & Forrest Titcomb, and those you now name. We pray for all who mourn them, that they may heal in the warmth of your love. **Thank you, Jesus, for the gift of eternal life.**

We thank you, Lord, for the many occasions we have to celebrate. We ask your blessings on all those who participated in our annual flea market this week. We rejoice with all those members of our church family who are celebrating birthdays, anniversaries, and other milestones, especially Malcolm, Megan, David, Patience, Shirley & James, Rhonda & Michael Tomlinson, Kofi & Johanna. **Thank you, Lord, for the gifts of your creation.**

God is the source of knowledge and peace, giving to all the confidence and courage to continue, with justice and compassion. Lord, please awaken our ears to your loving word. **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 | Prayer of St. Francis

Allen Pote

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.

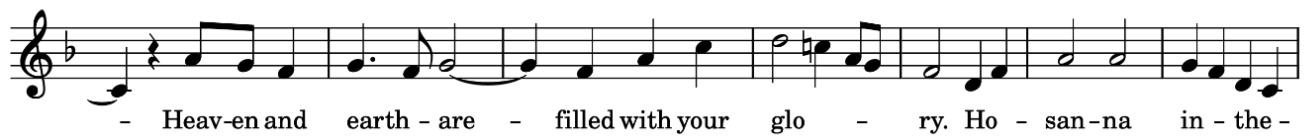
People: **We lift them to the Lord.**

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;

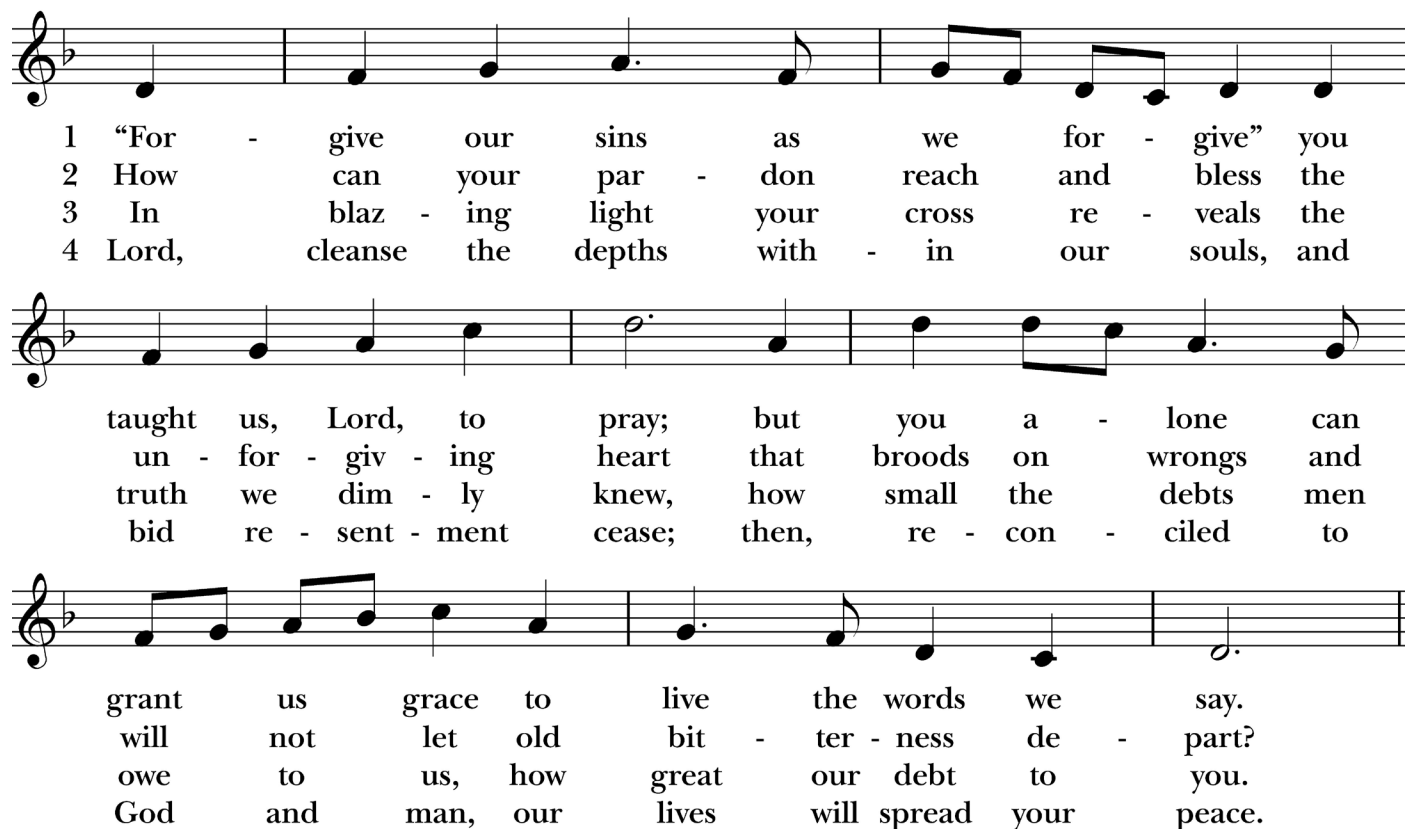
People: **Therefore let us keep the feast. Alleluia.**

Fraction Anthem LEVAS 270 | Lamb of God

Marjorie Landsmark-DeLewis

The musical score is written for organ and voice. It consists of four staves of music in the key of D major (indicated by two sharps) and 4/4 time. The organ part is marked 'organ' and the vocal part is marked '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.' The organ part provides a harmonic accompaniment to the vocal line. The vocal line is a simple melody that repeats the words of the Fraction Anthem. The organ part begins with a short introduction and then continues with the main melody. The vocal part enters on the second staff and continues through the fourth staff. The organ part continues throughout, providing a steady accompaniment. The piece concludes with a final chord on the fourth staff.

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



1 "For - give our sins as we for - give" you
 2 How can your par - don reach and bless the
 3 In blaz - ing light your cross re - veals the
 4 Lord, cleanse the depths with - in our souls, and

taught us, Lord, to pray; but you a - lone can
 un - for - giv - ing heart that broods on wrongs and
 truth we dim - ly knew, how small the debts men
 bid re - sent - ment cease; then, re - con - ciled to

grant us grace to live the words we say.
 will not let old bit - ter - ness de - part?
 owe to us, how great our debt to you.
 God and man, our lives will spread your peace.

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.

Eucharistic Visitors' Prayer | 8:00 a.m. service

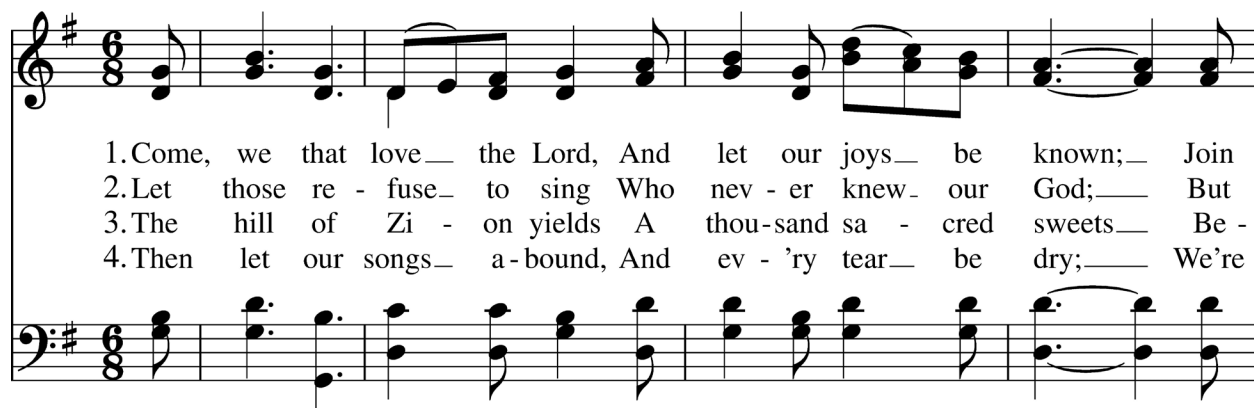
Celebrant: In the name of this congregation, we send you forth bearing these gifts that those to whom you go may share with us in the communion of Christ's Body and Blood.

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

The Celebrant offers a blessing and the People respond Amen.

Closing Hymn LEVAS 12 | We're Marching to Zion

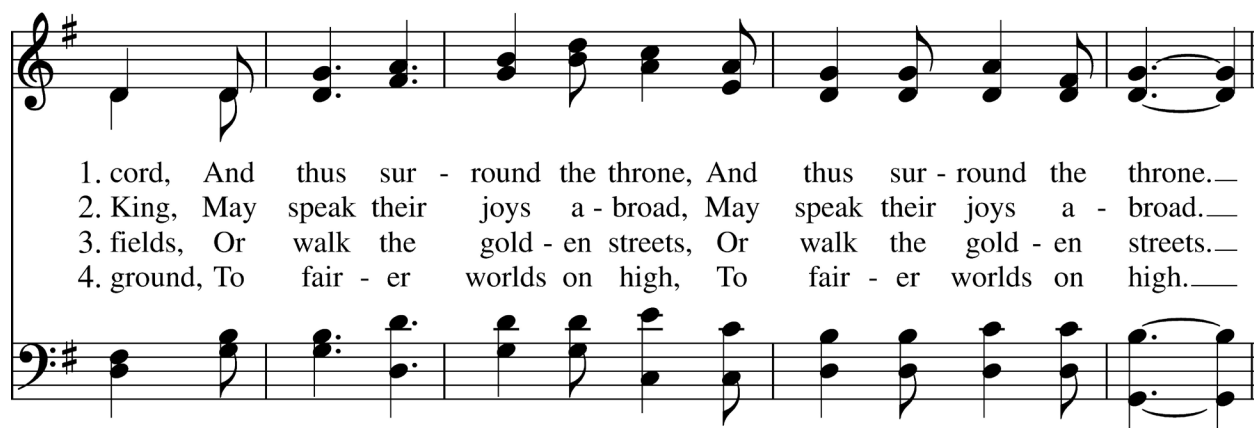
Isaac Watts/Robert S. Lowry



1. Come, we that love the Lord, And let our joys be known; Join
 2. Let those refuse to sing Who never knew our God; But
 3. The hill of Zion yields A thousand sacred sweets Be
 4. Then let our songs abound, And every tear be dry; We're



1. in a song with sweet accord, Join in a song with sweet ac -
 2. children of the heav'n - ly King, But children of the heav'n - ly
 3. fore we reach the heav'n - ly fields, Be - fore we reach the heav'n - ly
 4. march-ing through Im - man - uel's ground, We're march-ing thro' Im - man - uel's



1. cord, And thus sur - round the throne, And thus sur - round the throne.
 2. King, May speak their joys a - broad, May speak their joys a - broad.
 3. fields, Or walk the gold - en streets, Or walk the gold - en streets.
 4. ground, To fair - er worlds on high, To fair - er worlds on high.



We're march - ing to Zi - on, Beau - ti-ful, beau - ti-ful
 We're march - ing on to Zi - on,

Zi - on; We're march - ing up - ward to Zi - on,
 Zi - on, Zi - on,
 The beau - ti - ful cit - y of God.

The Dismissal |

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

Postlude | Introduction-Choral, Opus 25

Leon Boellmann

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ASSISTING IN WORSHIP TODAY

8:00 a.m. Service

Lector/Reader: Joan Harvey

Ushers: Michon Semon, Diane Phillips-LaGuerre

Chalicer: Joan Harvey

10:30 a.m. Service

Lector/Reader: Greg Schuckman

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

Acolytes & Crucifer: Setutsi Abdallah, Jasmine Opiri, Luke Aribiah

Chalicer: Ivy Amponsah

Altar Guild: Jan DeBoissiere, Virginia Jarrett, Gail Braatelein, Cindy Read

PARISH CALENDAR

SEPTEMBER 17 – SEPTEMBER 23

Sunday, September 17

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

Monday, September 18

7:00 – 7:30 am	Morning Prayer Livestream
7:00 – 8:00 pm	Centering Prayer – Old Brick & Zoom

Tuesday, September 19

7:00 am	Morning Prayer Livestream
9:00 am – 3:00 pm	Howard County Homeschool – New Brick, lower level
11:00 am – 12:00 pm	Weekly Staff Meeting – Zoom
12:00 – 1:00 pm	Virtual Coffee Hour – Zoom
7:00 – 8:00 pm	Theology on Tap- Frisco and the Reckless Shepherd

Wednesday, September 20

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

Thursday, September 21

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

Friday, September 22

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, September 23

2:00 – 3:00 pm	AA Meeting – Parish Hall, lower level
8:00 – 9:00 pm	NA Meeting – Parish Hall, lower level
8:00 pm – 1:00 am	Event Rental – New Brick, lower level

ANNOUNCEMENTS

To submit announcements for publication, email 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.

Vestry Candidates Update

The Vestry has approved the following candidates for election (in alphabetical order): Ron Baran, Diane Philips LaGuerre, Greg Schuckman, and Cherrylynn Williams. Backgrounds about these candidates will be published on our website soon. There's still time to submit nominations. This year, there are four (4) slots open for election, and if you are a baptized Christian who is 16 years or older and are a giving member of record at Christ Episcopal Church, you are qualified to become a candidate. To offer to stand for election, contact our Vestry Nomination Committee by emailing nominations@christchurchcolumbia.org and they will let you know what's needed for this process. The election will be held at our Annual Meeting which is scheduled for Sunday, October 15th.

Annual Report Submissions

For our Annual Meeting, we publish and distribute the Christ Church Annual Report, which outlines the activities of the parish and each of its ministries, as well as share plans for the coming year. In order to do this, we ask that every leader or representative please write a few sentences or paragraphs about your ministry/group's past and coming years, and send them to Chris at communications@christchurchcolumbia.org so he can include them. If you have photos you'd like to include, send those, as well. The deadline for submissions is Friday, October 6. Thank you.

Centering Prayer - September 18

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!**

Theology on Tap - NEW DAY - September 19

Want a gathering where you can relax and informally chat about recent religious topics of today? Theology on Tap is just that sort of event, an opportunity for casual conversation with other parishioners at Frisco & the Reckless Shepherd, 8895 McGaw Road in Columbia. We are meeting on a new day this month, Tuesday at 7:15 p.m., so come and join us for a fun evening! Email **Mike Looney** for more information.

Thursday Healing Eucharist - September 21

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.

CEC Book Club – September 22

The fall season of Christ Church Book Club takes place virtually on Fridays at 7:30 p.m. and we're always welcoming new readers to join us, so how about you? Our current book is *Faith - A Journey for All* by Jimmy Carter, the 39th President of the United States and Nobel Peace Prize winner. The current section being discussed can be found **here**, so check it out and log in for a lively discussion with a friendly bunch that appreciates everyone's input and thoughts. **The Zoom link is here**, the Meeting ID is **817 9855 4366**, and the Passcode is **CECbooks**.

Howard County Walk to End Alzheimer's - September 23

The Walk to End Alzheimer's is on Saturday, September 23rd and your help to raise funds and awareness for Alzheimer's care, support, and research is needed and appreciated. **You can still register to participate here**, or **learn more on our website**. Whichever way you choose, it helps to remember those who have been lost to this disease, and bring attention to the critical research needed to eradicate Alzheimer's and mental deterioration.

CEC Health and Wellness Fair - September 30

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

First Wednesday Fellowship - October 4

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

Christ Church's Annual Auction - November 4

Take this short quiz about the 2023 Christ Church Auction:

1. What is the single largest Christ Church fundraiser?
2. Where is a great place to do some fun holiday shopping?
3. When does the online auction begin this year?
4. What is a great thing to do on the first Saturday night in November?
5. What is the date for this year's Live Auction?
6. Where will the Auction be held?

Visit page 23 of this service leaflet for these answers, or go to our website and all the latest details on Christ Church's 34th Annual Auction, the largest fundraiser of the year - tinyurl.com/CECauction2023update

Education for Ministry

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

Cycling for Health and Fellowship

The Cycling for Health and Fellowship has concluded their Sunday trips for the season and will return soon. Thanks to all who joined us on this new adventure. We hope to ride with you again someday soon!

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.

Altar Flowers and Gifts

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

Please Help A Young Man to Hear by Donating to a Fundraiser for Emilio, a Somos Amigos' Patient Since Boyhood

Since the founding of [Somos Amigos Medical Missions](#) more than 25 years ago, it has conducted more than 21,000 medical and dental visits at its clinic in the Dominican Republic, most recently in July (see photos). Sometimes its patients need advanced care or their condition involves medical expenses beyond what Somos Amigos can provide.

That's the case with Emilio, 23, who has been a patient since 2009, when he was an 8-year-old boy (see photos). Emilio has congenital hearing loss that greatly limits his prospects for a fulfilling life. Somos Amigos has sent him to specialists to see what could be done, said Somos Amigos Executive Director Frank Brightwell, who observed that "services, equipment and personnel in the Dominican Republic, at least in the cities, have progressed a lot since 2009, and so now we feel we can really make a difference with him.

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

Because of the nature of Emilio's disability and his age, he is not a suitable candidate for a cochlear implant. Instead, specialists recommended hearing aids for both ears that with accessories and fittings would cost approximately \$3,500. Of that amount, the Outreach Commission is seeking to raise \$750 in parishioners' donations.

After learning of Emilio's plight in mid-summer, the Outreach Commission voted to contribute \$1,000 that it had previously set aside as annual support for Somos Amigos. Those are vestry-approved budget funds in keeping with the Outreach mission of supporting worthy nonprofit organizations that are local, national and international. In addition, Somos Amigos supporters at Christ Church donated \$1,750, leaving a balance of \$750.

Please help. You can put cash in an envelope marked "Somos Amigos" into the collection plate. Write a check to Christ Church with "Somos Amigos" on the memo line; put it in the plate or mail it to the office. Or [go online to Realm](#), click "Outreach" in the drop-down menu, and put "Somos Amigos" in the comment line.

Some responded last Sunday when Outreach Commission member and Somos Amigos volunteer Dione Mahoney launched the effort. Thank You! She'll make an announcement at both services on Sunday, Sept. 17, for those who might have missed her personal remarks.

(continued)

Both Dione and Jim Mahoney travel to the Dominican Republic to volunteer at one of the clinics that Somos Amigos holds four times a year in the rural village of Naranjito. The Mahoneys plan to depart Saturday, Oct. 7 for the Fall clinic. With your help, they will be able to bring with them a check from Christ Church to pay for Emilio's hearing aids and audiology care.

Last October, the Mahoneys were able to witness the success of a similar case in which Christ Church played a part. Franci, a boy who needed heart surgery, has fully recovered and is thriving in middle school. In 2017, parishioners raised funds to help Franci after he had been diagnosed at age 6 by Somos Amigos doctors with a congenital heart defect. He had to go to Santo Domingo for treatment, a case that Brightwell recalled with gratitude when he last visited Christ Church and delivered the sermon on Oct. 30, 2022.

To learn more about Somos Amigos, read its [annual report](#) and speak to the Mahoneys or to parishioners Shahra Toth, Preethi Jackson and Ellen Hoke, all former volunteers.

Enter a Golf Tournament on Friday, Sept. 22, to Help Bridges to Housing Stability

Advocating for affordable housing and helping individuals and families who struggle to keep a roof over their heads is the mission of [Bridges to Housing Stability](#). It's a daunting task, but the nonprofit organization offers golfers a way to support the cause on Friday, Sept. 22.

Bridges will hold the second annual [Sheehy Toyota Bridges for Birdies Golf Tournament](#) at The Timbers of Troy, 6100 Marshalee Dr., Elkridge, MD. The tournament begins with a shotgun start at 9 a.m. and features a full day of golf, food, and awards. The cost for a single golfer is \$200, or \$800 for a foursome, which covers greens fees, unlimited range balls, food, and beverages.

The event raises crucial operating funds, says Bridges Executive Director Jen Broderick. Christ Church has been a supporter of Bridges since participating in a countywide chili cook-off in 2019. At a Chili & Challenge virtual fundraiser in 2020, Christ Church won a Silver Ladle Award. Then, at the 2021 Chili & Challenge, [we won gold](#).

Columbia Community Care Seeks Baby Care Items, More Volunteers

Please continue supporting [Columbia Community Care](#) (CCC) by giving essentials and with your time and talent. People can choose tasks such as translating to enable home deliveries or stocking the shelves at the pantry building, 10750 Little Patuxent Parkway in Columbia. Check the [CCC Facebook Group](#) for updates or go to the ["I Can Help" portion of its website](#).

Please keep collecting diapers, baby wipes, sanitary and personal care items and adult diapers. Put any of these in the yellow bin, marked "CCC," inside the Parish Hall. Drop off items on weekdays when the church office is open or on Sunday. The Christ Church point of contact is Leigh Smith, who monitors the bins and delivers their contents.

Save the Date for the DreamBuilders Spaghetti Dinner

Please support DreamBuilders' annual dinner and fundraising event on October 14th at Temple Isaiah. Bid on a wonderful selection of auction items at the silent auction and purchase tickets for their iPhone 14 raffle! All proceeds directly support DreamBuilders mission trips and projects. For more information, be sure to check out their flyer at <https://ibb.co/CWdTBbb>. Speak with Cathy Gold at church if you'd like more info.

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

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



Sunday School and Youth Formation

We are looking forward to our program year! Children and Youth Formation is open to all ages pre-k through 12th grade and is designed to develop and enrich their spiritual lives and deepen their relationship with God. Visit our website for more details and registration form links - www.christchurchcolumbia.org/youth-formation - or email kiona@christchurchcolumbia.org. You can also scan the appropriate QR code below.

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

And mark your calendars - we will not hold any classes on October 15 (Annual Meeting), November 26 (Thanksgiving weekend), December 17 (Pageant Rehearsal), December 24 (Christmas Eve), and December 31 (New Year's Eve). We'll also have more information about the annual Christmas Pageant soon, so stay tuned!

CHILDREN'S SUNDAY SCHOOL (pre-k through 5th grade)



YOUTH FORMATION (6th through 12th grade)





STEWARDSHIP

SHARING THE GIFTS WE HAVE

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

We want to 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**

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

Christ Church's Annual Auction

Saturday, November 4

Take this short quiz about the 2023 Christ Church Auction:

1. What is the single largest Christ Church fundraiser?
2. Where is a great place to do some fun holiday shopping?
3. When does the online auction begin this year?
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5. What is the date for this year's Live Auction?
6. Where will the Auction be held?

(answers are below)

How many questions did you get right?

If you got them all, you win free entrance to the Live Auction.

JUST KIDDING!

Even if you didn't get all (or any) of them correct, entrance to the auction is free for everyone!



MARK YOUR CALENDARS!

Enter donations on the Auction website by Sunday, October 8th

Silent online auction begins October 28th

Silent, in-person and live auctions on Saturday night, November 4th

The official auction website is up and running, and QR code and links taking you there are at www.christchurchcolumbia.org/auction. You can also go directly to the auction website and enter your donations by visiting <https://christepiscopalchurch.schoolauction.net/cec2023auction>. You can also email the Christ Church Auction Committee at auction@christchurchcolumbia.org with a description and pictures of your donated item(s), or if you have any questions.

Your DONATIONS are needed! The auction is not even two months away - that is fewer than 60 shopping days, folks! Once again, we will hold Christ Church's Annual Auction online for a week, ending in a fun- and fellowship-filled evening with a silent and in-person, live auction. Start thinking about great gifts and ideas that you can donate in order to help raise funds to support many of our ministries.

Answers:

1. *The Annual Auction*
2. *The Christ Church 34th Annual Auction*
3. *October 28*
4. *Attend the Annual Auction*
5. *November 4*
6. *New Brick, lower level*



Christ Episcopal Church

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office@christchurchcolumbia.org

The Rev'd Emmanuel Ato Mercer, *Rector*

The Rev'd Denise Schiavone, *Deacon*

Kiona Lookingbill, *Director of Youth and Family Ministries*

Michael Looney, *Seminarian Associate*

Larissa Sanders, *Music Director*

Yetti Lipede, *Ministry Coordinator*

Christopher Pouch, *Communications Administrator*

Aisha White, *Parish Administrator*

Jefferson Cuarezma Flores, *Sexton*

Vestry

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

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

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