

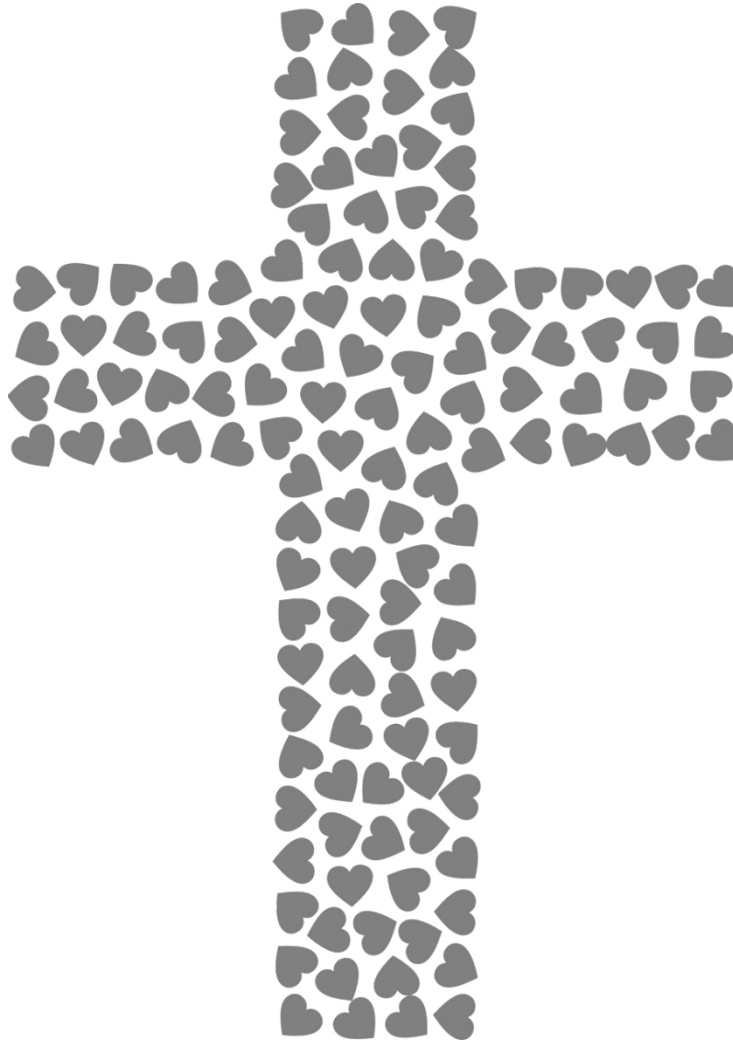
Christ Episcopal Church

Extending the Love and Embrace of Christ

Fourth Sunday after Pentecost

The Holy Eucharist, Rite II

Sunday, June 25, 2023 | 8:00 a.m. and 10:30 a.m.



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 | Priere a Notre-Dame, from Suite Gothique, Opus 25

Leon Boellmann
Ola Oladipupo, *Organist*

Descant

4 Praise to the Lord! O let all that is in me a -

1 Praise to the Lord, the Al - might - y, the King of cre -
 2 Praise to the Lord; o - ver all things he glo - rious - ly
 3 Praise to the Lord, who doth pros - per thy way and de -
 4 Praise to the Lord! O let all that is in me a -

dore him! All that hath life and breath come now with

a - tion; O my soul, praise him, for he is thy
 reign - eth; borne as on ea - gle - wings, safe - ly his
 fend thee; sure - ly his good - ness and mer - cy shall
 dore him! All that hath life and breath come now with

prais - es be - fore him! Let the a - men sound from his

health and sal - va - tion: join the great throng, psal - ter - y,
 saints he sus - tain - eth. Hast thou not seen how all thou
 ev - er at - tend thee; pon - der a - new what the Al -
 prais - es be - fore him! Let the a - men sound from his

peo - ple a - gain; glad - ly for ev - er a - dore him.

or - gan, and song, sound - ing in glad ad - o - ra - tion.
 need - est hath been grant - ed in what he or - dain - eth?
 might - y can do, who with his love doth be - friend thee.
 peo - ple a - gain; glad - ly for ev - er a - dore him.

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 Lord, make us have perpetual love and reverence for your holy Name, for you never fail to help and govern those whom you have set upon the sure foundation of your loving-kindness; 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 Genesis 21:8-21 |

Reader: A reading from Genesis.

The child grew, and was weaned; and Abraham made a great feast on the day that Isaac was weaned. But Sarah saw the son of Hagar the Egyptian, whom she had borne to Abraham, playing with her son Isaac. So she said to Abraham, "Cast out this slave woman with her son; for the son of this slave woman shall not inherit along with my son Isaac." The matter was very distressing to Abraham on account of his son. But God said to Abraham, "Do not be distressed because of the boy and because of your slave woman; whatever Sarah says to you, do as she tells you, for it is through Isaac that offspring shall be named for you. As for the son of the slave woman, I will make a nation of him also, because he is your offspring." So Abraham rose early in the morning, and took bread and a skin of water, and gave it to Hagar, putting it on her shoulder, along with the child, and sent her away. And she departed, and wandered about in the wilderness of Beer-sheba.

When the water in the skin was gone, she cast the child under one of the bushes. Then she went and sat down opposite him a good way off, about the distance of a bowshot; for she said, "Do not let me look on the death of the child." And as she sat opposite him, she lifted up her voice and wept. And God heard the voice of the boy; and the angel of God called to Hagar from heaven, and said to her, "What troubles you, Hagar? Do not be afraid; for God has heard the voice of the boy where he is. Come, lift up the boy and hold him fast with your hand, for I will make a great nation of him." Then God opened her eyes and she saw a well of water. She went, and filled the skin with water, and gave the boy a drink.

God was with the boy, and he grew up; he lived in the wilderness, and became an expert with the bow. He lived in the wilderness of Paran; and his mother got a wife for him from the land of Egypt.

Reader: The word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

The following Psalm is read responsively by half-verse.

Psalm 86:1-10, 16-17 | *Inclina, Domine*

Bow down your ear, O LORD, and answer me, *
for I am poor and in misery.
Keep watch over my life, for I am faithful; *
save your servant who puts his trust in you.
Be merciful to me, O LORD, for you are my God; *
I call upon you all the day long.
Gladden the soul of your servant, *
for to you, O LORD, I lift up my soul.
For you, O LORD, are good and forgiving, *
and great is your love toward all who call upon you.
Give ear, O LORD, to my prayer, *
and attend to the voice of my supplications.
In the time of my trouble I will call upon you, *
for you will answer me.
Among the gods there is none like you, O LORD, *
nor anything like your works.
All nations you have made will come and worship you, O LORD, *
and glorify your Name.
For you are great;
you do wondrous things; *
and you alone are God.
Turn to me and have mercy upon me; *
**give your strength to your servant;
and save the child of your handmaid.**
Show me a sign of your favor,
so that those who hate me may see it and be ashamed; *
because you, O LORD, have helped me and comforted me.

A Reading from Romans 6:1b-11 |

Reader: a reading from the Epistle to the Romans.

Should we continue in sin in order that grace may abound? By no means! How can we who died to sin go on living in it? Do you not know that all of us who have been baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into his death? Therefore we have been buried with him by baptism into death, so that, just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, so we too might walk in newness of life.

For if we have been united with him in a death like his, we will certainly be united with him in a resurrection like his. We know that our old self was crucified with him so that the body of sin might be destroyed, and we might no longer be enslaved to sin. For whoever has died is freed from sin. But if we have died with Christ, we believe that we will also live with him. We know that Christ, being raised from the dead, will never die again; death no longer has dominion over him. The death he died, he died to sin, once for all; but the life he lives, he lives to God. So you also must consider yourselves dead to sin and alive to God in Christ Jesus.

Reader: The word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

1 Where cross the crowd - ed ways of life, where sound the
2 In haunts of wretch - ed - ness and need, on sha - dowed
3 The cup of wa - ter given for thee still holds the
4 O Mas - ter, from the moun - tain side, make haste to
5 till all the world shall learn thy love, and fol - low

1 cries of race and clan, a - bove the noise of
2 thresh - olds dark with fears, from paths where hide the
3 fresh - ness of thy grace; yet long these mul - ti -
4 heal these hearts of pain; a - mong these rest - less
5 where thy feet have trod; till glo - rious from thy

1 self - ish strife, we hear thy voice, O Son of Man.
2 lures of greed, we catch the vi - sion of thy tears.
3 tudes to see the true com - pas - sion of thy face.
4 throngs a - bide, O tread the ci - ty's streets a - gain;
5 heaven a - bove, shall come the ci - ty of our God.

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

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

Jesus said to the twelve disciples, “A disciple is not above the teacher, nor a slave above the master; it is enough for the disciple to be like the teacher, and the slave like the master. If they have called the master of the house Beelzebul, how much more will they malign those of his household!

“So have no fear of them; for nothing is covered up that will not be uncovered, and nothing secret that will not become known. What I say to you in the dark, tell in the light; and what you hear whispered, proclaim from the housetops. Do not fear those who kill the body but cannot kill the soul; rather fear him who can destroy both soul and body in hell. Are not two sparrows sold for a penny? Yet not one of them will fall to the ground apart from your Father. And even the hairs of your head are all counted. So do not be afraid; you are of more value than many sparrows.

“Everyone therefore who acknowledges me before others, I also will acknowledge before my Father in heaven; but whoever denies me before others, I also will deny before my Father in heaven.

“Do not think that I have come to bring peace to the earth; I have not come to bring peace, but a sword.

For I have come to set a man against his father,
and a daughter against her mother,
and a daughter-in-law against her mother-in-law;
and one’s foes will be members of one’s own household.

Whoever loves father or mother more than me is not worthy of me; and whoever loves son or daughter more than me is not worthy of me; and whoever does not take up the cross and follow me is not worthy of me. Those who find their life will lose it, and those who lose their life for my sake will find it.”

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 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 |

The Psalmist sings of God's love, faithfulness, and righteousness, which light the way for us and give us joy and strength. Paul goes a step further to remind us we've been freed from enslavement to sin and given the gift of eternal life in Christ Jesus. As people of faith, let us continue to walk together in the light of God's presence, saying, **We rejoice daily in Your Name.**

As we enjoy these summer days with family and friends, we also lift up in prayer those who are experiencing food and housing insecurity, abuse, addiction, imprisonment, oppression, and those ill in mind, body, or spirit, especially Mtr. Marcia, Tim, Fran, Doris, Patricia, Elizabeth, Patricia, Emily, Beth, Kellene, Richard, Shirley, Louise, Danny, Cindy, Roberta, Francis, Fr. Ginnever, Samuel, Catherine, Caroline, Alfred, Ashley, Alta, Farris, Mildred, Sherry, Nell & Kathleen, and those you now name. We ask for our Lord's care and protection for those in military service, especially Kevin DeBossiere and Conner Warlow. Hold them close, O Lord, and give them hope as we pray, **Your love, O Lord, forever will I sing.**

We pray for all those in positions of authority throughout the world, that they may be Spirit-led in their decisions and minister with wisdom, equity, and justice. In the Anglican cycle of prayer, we pray for The Church of Bangladesh. In our diocese, we pray for Resurrection, Baltimore; St. Bartholomew's, Baltimore; and St. James', Lafayette Square. We ask God's blessing and guidance for our Church leaders: Michael, our Presiding Bishop; Eugene, our Diocesan Bishop; Carrie, our Bishop Coadjutor; Emmanuel, our Rector; Denise, our Deacon; Mike, our Seminarian Associate and priest postulant; Rebecca, our deacon postulant; and Richard, our Rector Emeritus. We ask Your blessing on all newcomers and visitors to Christ Church. We give thanks for the willing hands of our church staff and every member of this congregation who in ways, large and small, do Your work here and in the world. We pray, **We rejoice daily in Your Name.**

Our faith tells us we have been freed from sin and sanctified, and that the end is eternal life. We remember those who have left this earthly life for the eternal one in the light of God's presence, especially those you now name. Comfort those who grieve and strengthen our spirits as we pray, **Your love is established forever.**

With joy and thanksgiving, we lift up those in our congregation who are celebrating anniversaries of their wedding – especially Jennifer & Phillip Bray and Lamere Hennessee & Bob Foreman, birth, especially Michon & Nancy, baptism, especially Suzanne & Janelee, or other joyous occasions. We give thanks for each other, saying, **We rejoice daily in Your Name.**

O Lord, as we begin this week, help us to carry Your welcoming words in our hearts in every encounter, this day and every day: "Whoever welcomes you, welcomes me, and whoever welcomes me, welcomes the one who sent me." **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 |

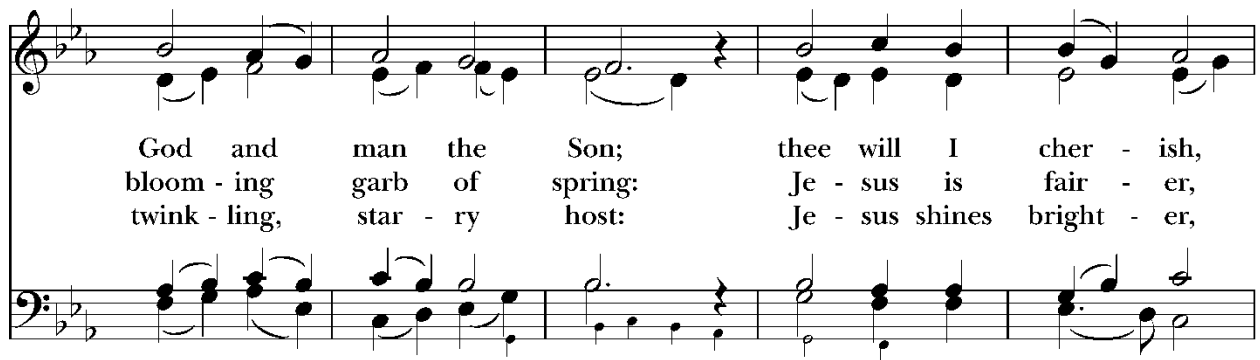
THE HOLY COMMUNION

Offertory Hymn 383 | Fairest Lord Jesus

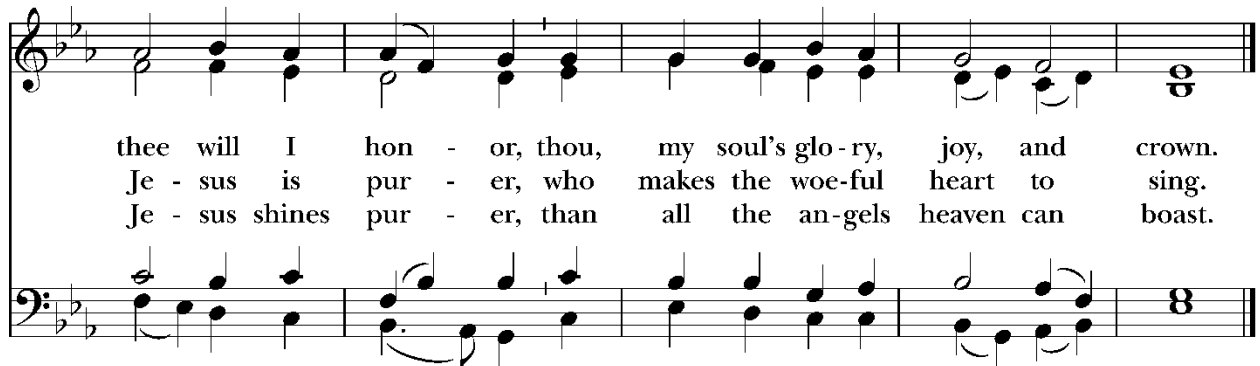
St Elizabeth



1 Fair - est Lord Je - sus, Ru - ler of all na - ture, O thou of
 2 Fair are the mea - dows, fair - er still the wood - lands, robed in the
 3 Fair is the sun - shine, fair - er still the moon - light, and all the



God and man the Son; thee will I cher - ish,
 bloom - ing garb of spring: Je - sus is fair - er,
 twink - ling, star - ry host: Je - sus shines bright - er,



thee will I hon - or, thou, my soul's glo - ry, joy, and crown.
 Je - sus is pur - er, who makes the woe - ful heart to sing.
 Je - sus shines pur - er, than all the an - gels heaven can boast.

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:

Holy, holy, holy, holy, holy Lord God of hosts.

Heaven and earth are filled with your glory.

Hosanna in the highest.

Blessed is He who comes in the name of the Lord, of the Lord.

Hosanna in the highest, hosanna in the highest.

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.**

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 ur 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

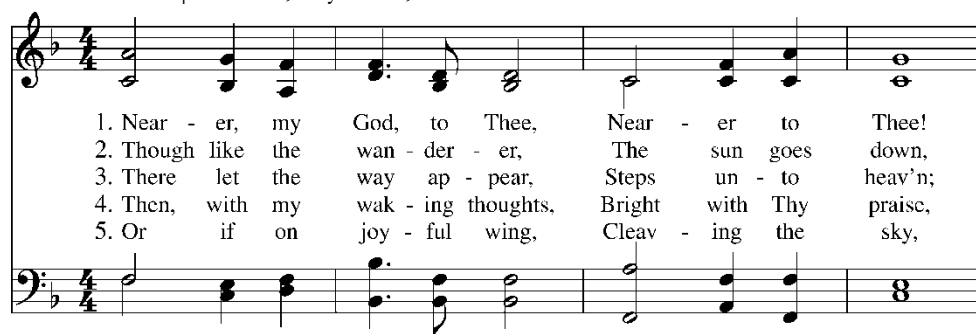
Marjorie Landsmark-DeLewis

The musical score is written for organ and voice. It begins with an organ introduction in D major (three sharps). The organ part consists of a series of eighth and sixteenth notes, creating a gentle, flowing melody. The vocal part enters with the lyrics "Lamb of God, you take a - way the sins of the world: have mer - cy on us." The melody is simple and hymn-like, with a mix of quarter and eighth notes. The organ accompaniment continues throughout, providing a harmonic foundation for the vocal line. The piece concludes with the organ playing a final chord and the vocal line ending on a sustained note.

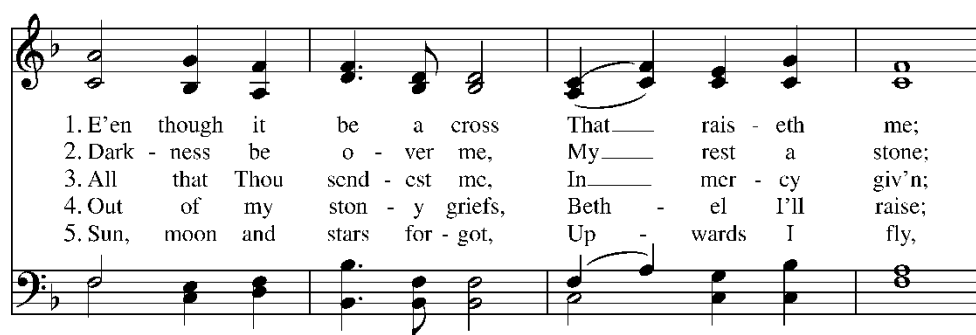
organ

Lamb of God, you take a - way the sins of the world: have mer - cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a - way the sins of the world: have mer - cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a - way the sins of the world: grant us peace.

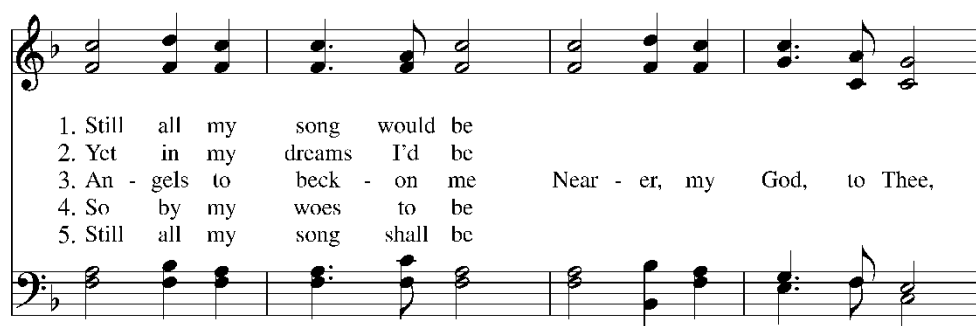
Celebrant: The Gifts of God for the People of God.



1. Near - er, my God, to Thee, Near - er to Thee!
 2. Though like the wan - der - er, The sun goes down,
 3. There let the way ap - pear, Steps un - to heav'n;
 4. Then, with my wak - ing thoughts, Bright with Thy praise,
 5. Or if on joy - ful wing, Cleav - ing the sky,



1. E'en though it be a cross That rais - eth me;
 2. Dark - ness be o - ver me, My rest a stone;
 3. All that Thou send - est me, In mer - cy giv'n;
 4. Out of my ston - y griefs, Beth - el I'll raise;
 5. Sun, moon and stars for - got, Up - wards I fly,



1. Still all my song would be
 2. Yet in my dreams I'd be
 3. An - gels to beck - on me Near - er, my God, to Thee,
 4. So by my woes to be
 5. Still all my song shall be



Near - er my God, to Thee, Near - er to Thee.

The people stand as able.

Post-Communion Prayer |

Celebrant: Let us pray.

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

The Celebrant offers a blessing and the People respond Amen.

Closing Hymn LEVAS 64 | I Love to Tell the Story

A. Katherine Hankey/William G. Fischer

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Postlude | Voluntary No. 5

Arlen Clarke

*Today's altar flowers were donated by the Solomon family
in loving memory of Adam Solomon.*

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ASSISTING IN WORSHIP TODAY

8:00 a.m. Service

Lector/Reader: Theo Jones-Quartey
Ushers: Diane Phillips-LaGuerre, Yetti Lipede
Chalicerist: Theo Jones-Quartey

10:30 a.m. Service

Lector/Reader: Steve Alpern
Ushers: Isaac Olajide, Yetti Lipede, Jane Adams, JB Hanson, Cherry Williams
Acolytes and Crucifer: Ava Kelso, Everett Kelso, Ainsley Couch
Chalicerist: Steve Alpern

Altar Guild

Jan DeBoissiere, Virginia Jarrett

PARISH CALENDAR JUNE 25 – JULY 1

Sunday, June 25

8:00 am	Holy Eucharist – New Brick, upper level
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

Monday, June 26

7:00 – 7:30 am	Morning Prayer Livestream
9:30 am – 12:30 pm	Vacation Bible School
5:00 – 7:30 pm	Crab Kickers Soccer – Field
7:00 – 8:00 pm	Centering Prayer – Old Brick & Zoom

Tuesday, June 27

7:00 – 7:30 am	Morning Prayer Livestream
9:30 am – 12:30 pm	Vacation Bible School
11:00 am – 12:00 pm	Weekly Staff Meeting – Zoom
12:00 – 1:00 pm	Virtual Coffee Hour – Zoom
6:30 – 8:30 pm	Vestry Meeting – Old Brick & Zoom

Wednesday, June 28

7:00 – 7:30 am	Morning Prayer Livestream
9:30 am – 12:30 pm	Vacation Bible School
10:00 – 11:00 am	Take Off Pounds Sensibly – Parish Hall, lower level
8:00 – 9:00 pm	AA Meeting – Parish Hall, lower level

Thursday, June 29

8:00 – 8:30 am	Morning Prayer Livestream
9:30 am – 12:30 pm	Vacation Bible School
12:00 – 1:00 pm	Virtual Coffee Hour – Zoom
7:30 – 8:30 pm	AA Women Only – Parish Hall, lower level
7:30 – 9:00 pm	Boy Scouts – New Brick, lower level

Friday, June 30

7:00 – 7:30 am	Morning Prayer Livestream
9:30 am – 12:30 pm	Vacation Bible School
7:00 – 7:30 pm	Evening Prayer Livestream
8:00 pm – 12:00 am	Tabernacle of David Church – Old Brick

Saturday, July 1

2:00 – 3:00 pm	AA Meeting – Parish Hall, lower level
8:00 – 9:00 pm	NA Meeting – Parish Hall, 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.

This Sunday at Christ Church

Christ Church has its summer worship schedule, with services in the New Brick Sanctuary. The 8 a.m. worship is without music, and the 10:30 Holy Eucharist has musical accompaniment.

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 your home, or made available for pickup at the Church Office. If you would like 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.

Next Week is Vacation Bible School Time!

VBS begins next Monday, June 26th, and gathers each weekday from 9:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. that week. At VBS, children will enjoy Bible stories, music, science, crafts, games, and friends! Registration is closed, but if you still need to process your tuition, the cost is \$30 per child or \$70 per family, and **you can do so via Realm**. Scholarships are available for those in need. Volunteers are also very much needed - whether for a day or two, or all week - so come and have fun with us! **Email us** if you want to help with the program, or if you have any questions about the registration process.

Thank You, Todd!

Next week, we will be welcoming our new Youth and Family Ministry Director, Kiona, to the Christ Church family, but we now wish to thank our outgoing Youth Minister, Todd, for everything he has done for Christ Church. The Youth Group is thriving thanks to his leadership, and we wish him all the best in his future opportunities.

Outdoor Game Night - First Wednesday Fellowship - July 5

You won't want to miss the next First Wednesday Fellowship. Come out and enjoy a delicious fried chicken dinner and play outdoor games such as cornhole and can jam. You can bring your own outdoor games, as well. Fun for all ages. It will be on July 5th from 6 - 8 p.m., starting in the lower level of New Brick.

Centering Prayer - Mondays

Gather with us on Mondays in Old Brick at 7:00 p.m. for Centering Prayer, a unique method of prayer 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 Password is **Centering!** For more info, email Kathy Lyon at rklyon@cablespeed.com.

Office Closure Days - July 3 & 4

In observance of Independence Day, the Church Office will be closed on Monday, July 3rd, and Tuesday, July 4th. It will reopen on the morning of Wednesday, July 5th.

Theology on Tap - July 19

Get out of the summer heat and gather with friends to discuss interesting religious news of today with Theology on Tap! ToT is a get-together where you can have a nice chat about interesting religious articles of the day, grab a cool beverage of your choice, and enjoy informal, structure-free conversation with other parishioners. ToT takes place Wednesday, July 19th at **Frisco and the Reckless Shepherd** at 8895 McGaw Road in Columbia, so at 7 p.m. that night, gather with us for a great time!

WOCC Summer Events

- **NEW DATE:** Friday, August 18th, 5:30 p.m. at Toby's Dinner Theater's "Margaritaville" - Join us with your family and friends at the theater for dinner and the musical. The sign-up sheet is in the Tower Room.
- Our next meeting is on Tuesday, September 5th at 1:00 p.m. It will be a hybrid event, in New Brick and on Zoom.
- Saturday, September 16th – Annual Flea Market (Rain date: Sept. 23rd)

The WOCC calendar is posted in the Narthex in New Brick **and on our website** and contains all the fun events planned for this year. We have as many events as we could schedule on Saturdays so that more women can attend who are not able to come on weekdays. Come and join us for these events, speak to any WOCC member, or email us at WOCC@christchurchcolumbia.org.

Help Us Plan Christ Church's 300th Birthday

We have begun gathering and planning for Christ Church's 300th year, but we're 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 would like more information, please speak with Father Manny or email 300@christchurchcolumbia.org.

UNICEF Gets Help for Its Humanitarian Aid in Ukraine, Sudan, and Chad

After a natural disaster or devastation caused by war, children worldwide become the victims. That's true in two war-torn countries where humanitarian aid is desperately needed. This month, Christ Church responded to children's needs by donating funds to **UNICEF** for aid in Ukraine and Sudan.

On June 6, an attack on a hydroelectric dam in southern Ukraine caused disastrous flooding in an area already suffering in the war with Russia. By the next day, thousands were fleeing for their lives, many of them children. **UNICEF helped families** in coordination with the Ukrainian government.

One 6-year-old girl named Masha escaped with her mother, bringing little more than the child's teddy bear. "Today, for the first time in my life, I went in a boat," Masha told UNICEF. "I was afraid of drowning at first, but I didn't."

Residents who were evacuated from about 40 towns and villages lacked safe drinking water and were threatened by waterborne diseases. UNICEF distributed bottled water, purification tablets, and hygiene kits, among other aid.

In Sudan, intense fighting in a civil conflict has injured 1,700 children and increased the risk of malnutrition among many more. UNICEF is also on the ground **in neighboring Chad**, where conditions for more than 600,000 refugees are perilous.

UNICEF's response has focused on securing critical medicines, sustaining health services, and addressing water and nutrition needs. During one crisis in Sudan, UNICEF helped rescue nearly 300 orphans, according to **a June 9 report** on NPR.

The overview of how wars have harmed children worldwide, as described in a UNICEF report, was the topic of a **PBS Newshour interview on Thursday, June 8**.

At the Christ Church Outreach Commission meeting on June 12, members voted to contribute \$400 to UNICEF to assist in humanitarian relief in Sudan and \$400 for efforts in Ukraine. This is in keeping with our mission to support organizations – local, national, and international – that enhance the lives of people in need. These were derived from parishioner donations to Outreach and a Vestry-approved budget drawn from your pledges and contributions. Heartfelt thanks go out to one and all who make this possible.

CCC Informs Users of Students' Access to Free HCPSS Summer Meals

Columbia Community Care (CCC) has posted information on the **CCC Group on Facebook** to make its recipients and supporters aware of school efforts to address food insecurity. Please spread the word.

Lake Elkhorn Middle School Supplies

Our parish enjoys an ongoing partnership with Lake Elkhorn Middle School (LEMS). Just over a mile away, LEMS is truly our neighboring school, and at Christ Episcopal Church we believe we should love our neighbors. We established this partnership because many LEMS families are financially stressed.

One measure of whether a student lives in a family that is financially challenged is if they meet the federal guidelines for free and reduced meals (FARMS). In Howard County overall, about 14% of students qualify for free and reduced meals. However, at LEMS over 48.5% of LEMS students qualify for FARMS, the highest percentage amongst the middle schools in the county.

To help alleviate the financial hardship of parents having to buy school-required supplies (at a cost of \$50 per child), Christ Church will once again provide school supplies for 125 children for the 2023-2024 school year. The school will distribute the supplies the week of Aug 21st, so we are requesting your generous financial support now to reach this important goal. We also will need your help delivering the supplies that week.

Contributions can be made via check, online, or via text. If you'd like to write a check, please make sure you indicate "LEMS School Supplies" on the memo line. If you'd like to give online, please also write "School Supplies" in the Memo line. If you have questions about our LEMS partnership or would like to help, please contact Cathy Whittaker (**catharinewhittaker@gmail.com**) or Mary Vail (**mevail@verizon.net**). Thank you for your support!

The **Free Summer Meal Program of the Howard County Public School System (HCPSS)** provides lunch at no charge to HCPSS students on weekdays from June 21 through Aug. 4. The meals are being served at eight schools and the Howard County Library System East Columbia Branch, 6600 Cradlerock Way in Columbia. The meals will not be served on the July 4 holiday. Meanwhile, CCC continues the distribution of free groceries, produce, baby supplies, and essentials at three sites: Wilde Lake Interfaith Center, 10431 Twin Rivers Rd.; Long Reach Village Center, Suite 9, 8775 Cloudleap Ct., and Oakland Mills Middle School, 9540 Kilimanjaro Rd., all in Columbia.

Recipients are welcomed on Saturdays from 10 a.m. to noon, or when supplies run out, and volunteers are encouraged to register for their slots at each location. Those shifts last from 9 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. At Christ Church, Leigh Smith is our representative who takes parishioners' donated items to CCC. Please collect diapers, baby wipes, sanitary and personal care items, and adult diapers. Put them in the yellow bin, marked "CCC," inside the Parish Hall.

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

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

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

WE ARE ALL STEWARDS OF CHRIST CHURCH

Because of your genuine and overwhelming acts of selflessness, kindness, grace, compassion, and love, you continue to give immensely to support and build our common life at Christ Church. You inject life into Christ Church so that we may be able to serve the world. It is your giving that has made it possible for us to accomplish some of the work that God has given us. The truth is that we have been able to minister and serve countless people because of your faithfulness, and for that, we thank God for each one of you and thank God for what God is doing in your lives.

We also 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**

Pledge for 2023

At Christ Church, we are so blessed to have a community of dedicated parishioners who continually support our ministry of faithful service, and we pray that each of you will prayerfully consider your contribution to Christ Church for this calendar year. You can pick up and complete a pledge card in the Narthex, or **pledge online** (choose "Pledge for 2023" in the *FUND* dropdown menu).

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



Christ Episcopal Church

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The Rev'd Emmanuel Ato Mercer, *Rector*

The Rev'd Denise Schiavone, *Deacon*

Kiona Lookingbill, *Director of Youth and Family Ministries*

Michael Looney, *Seminarian Associate*

Larissa Sanders, *Music Director*

Yetti Lipede, *Ministry Coordinator*

Christopher Pouch, *Communications Administrator*

Aisha White, *Parish Administrator*

Jefferson Cuarezma Flores, *Sexton*

Sean Wallace, *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