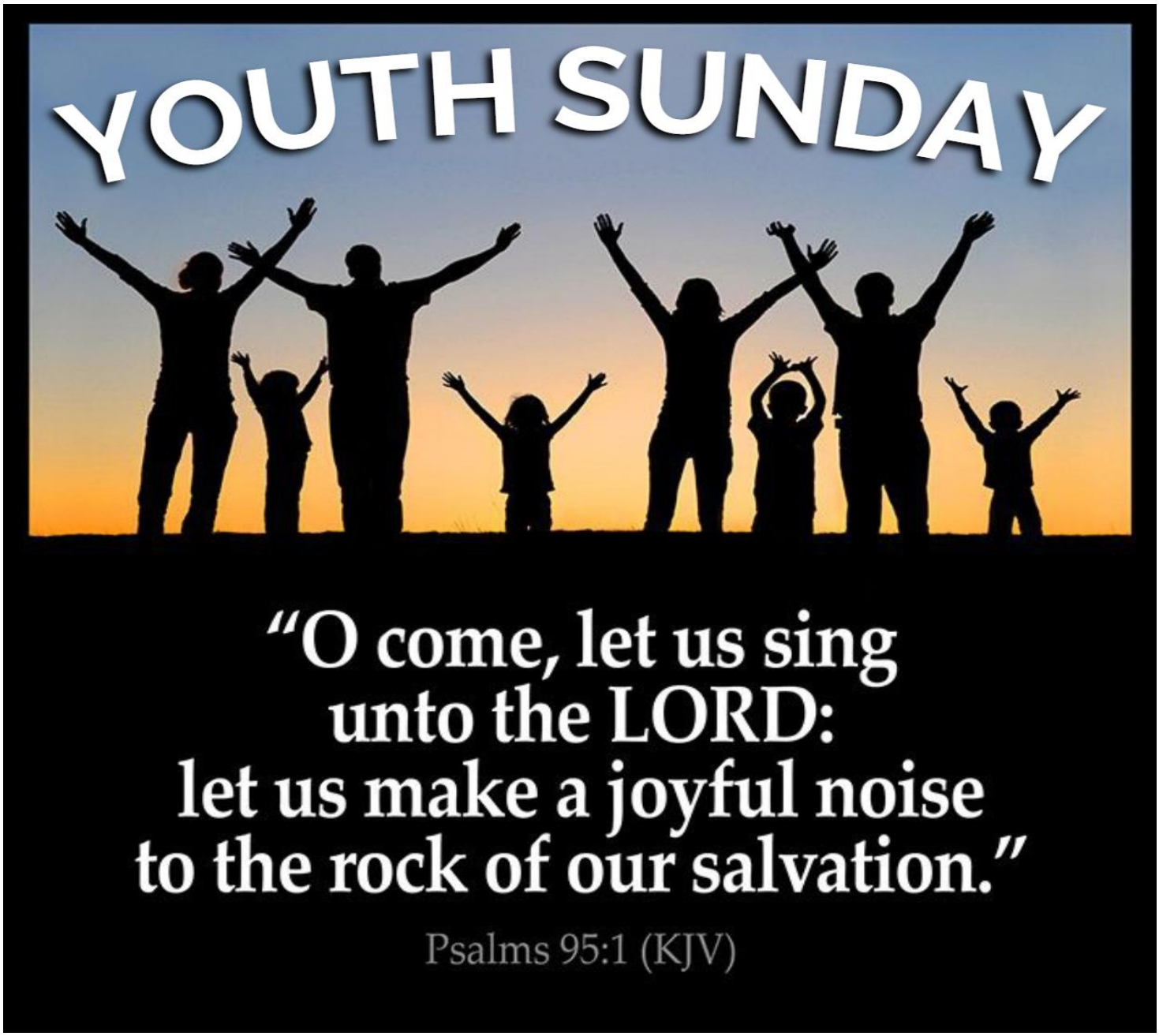
CHRIST EPISCOPAL CHURCH

EXTENDING THE LOVE AND EMBRACE OF CHRIST

THE HOLY EUCHARIST, RITE II

8:00 & 10:30 A.M.

Sunday, November 15, 2026 | Twenty-Fifth Sunday after Pentecost – YOUTH SUNDAY



Welcome Home!

Welcome to worship at Christ Episcopal Church. If this is your first time with us, we invite you to complete a visitor's form. Our website provides up to date information about our vibrant church: www.christchurchcolumbia.org.

This bulletin contains all you need to join us in worship, everyone is welcome to receive communion at God's table, and the clergy are happy to speak with you at any time.

PRELUDE|

OPENING SONG| Gather us in *Gather Us In (Haugen)*

1. Here in this place new light is streaming
   Now is the darkness vanished away
   See in this space our fears and our dreamings
   Brought here to you in the light of this day

Refrain
Gather us in, the lost and forsaken
Gather us in, the blind and the lame
Call to us now and we shall awaken
We shall arise at the sound of our name

2. We are the young, our lives are a mystery
   We are the old who yearn for your face
   We have been sung throughout all of history
   Called to be light to the whole human race

Refrain
Gather us in, the rich and the haughty
Gather us in, the proud and the strong
Give us a heart so meek and so lowly
Give us the courage to enter the song

3. Here we will take the wine and the water
   Here we will take the bread of new birth
   Here you shall call your sons and your daughters
   Call us anew to be salt for the earth

Refrain
Give us to drink the wine of compassion
Give us to eat the bread that is you
Nourish us well and teach us to fashion
Lives that are holy and hearts that are true

4. Not in the dark of buildings confining
   Not in some heaven light years away
   But here in this place the new light is shining
   Now is the kingdom, now is the day

Refrain
Gather us in and hold us forever
Gather us in and make us your own
Gather us in, all peoples together
Fire of love in our flesh and our bones
Fire of love in our flesh and our bones
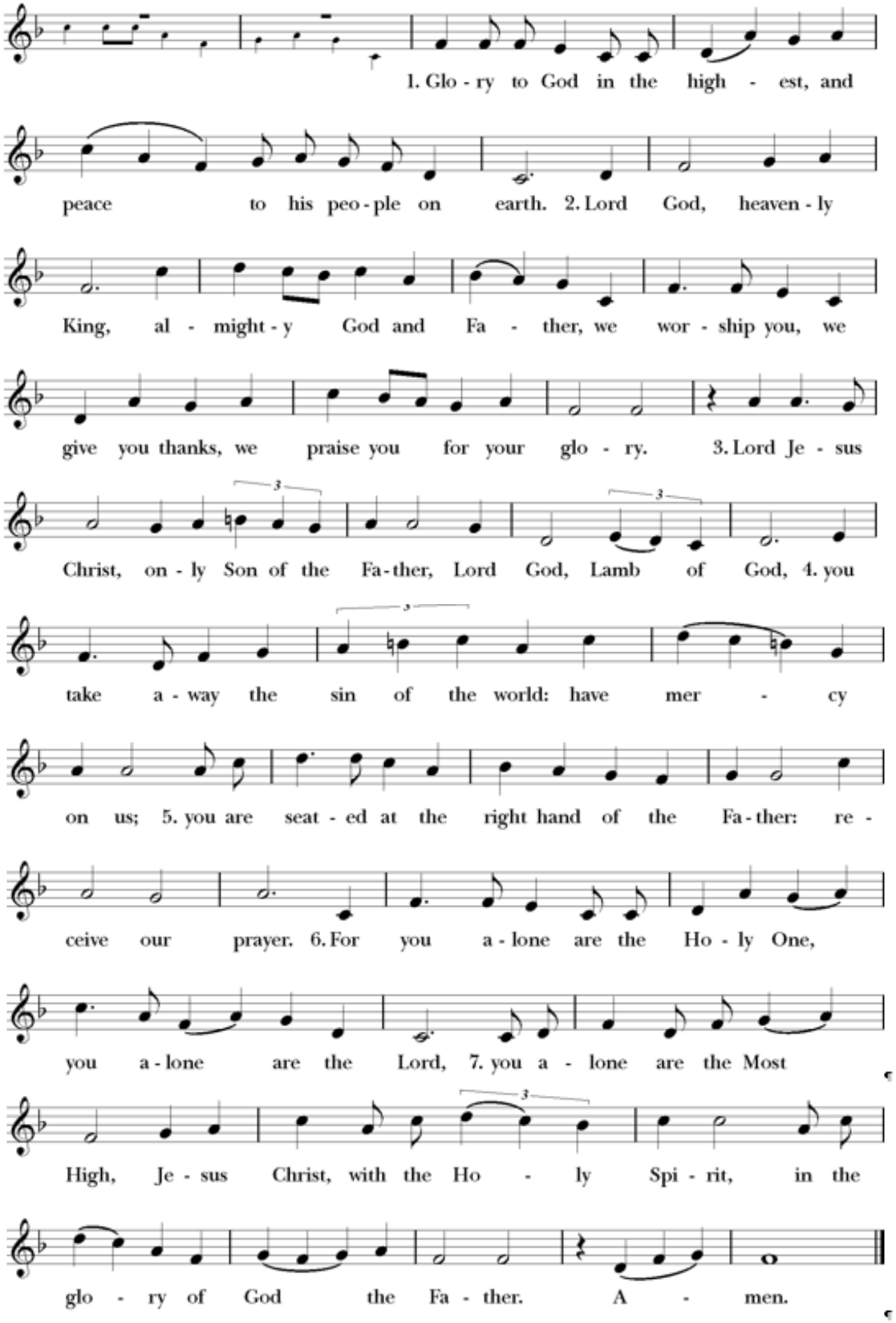
OPENING ACCLAMATION|

Celebrant: Blessed by God: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.
People: **And blessed be his kingdom, now and for ever. Amen.**

THE COLLECT FOR PURITY|

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

GLORIA S280 | Glory to God *Robert Powell*



THE COLLECT OF THE DAY|

Celebrant: The Lord be with you.
People: And also with you.
Celebrant: Let us pray.

Blessed Lord, who caused all holy Scriptures to be written for our learning: Grant us so to hear them, read, mark, learn, and inwardly digest them, that we may embrace and ever hold fast the blessed hope of everlasting life, which you have given us in our Savior Jesus Christ; who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. **Amen.**

The people may be seated.

THE FIRST LESSON | Zephaniah 1:7, 12-18
Reader: *A reading from Zephaniah.*

Be silent before the Lord God! For the day of the Lord is at hand; the Lord has prepared a sacrifice, he has consecrated his guests.

At that time I will search Jerusalem with lamps, and I will punish the people who rest complacently on their dregs, those who say in their hearts, 'The Lord will not do good, nor will he do harm.' Their wealth shall be plundered, and their houses laid waste. Though they build houses, they shall not inhabit them; though they plant vineyards, they shall not drink wine from them.

The great day of the Lord is near, near and hastening fast; the sound of the day of the Lord is bitter, the warrior cries aloud there. That day will be a day of wrath, a day of distress and anguish, a day of ruin and devastation, a day of darkness and gloom, a day of clouds and thick darkness, a day of trumpet blast and battle cry against the fortified cities and against the lofty battlements.

I will bring such distress upon people that they shall walk like the blind; because they have sinned against the Lord, their blood shall be poured out like dust, and their flesh like dung. Neither their silver nor their gold will be able to save them on the day of the Lord's wrath; in the fire of his passion the whole earth shall be consumed; for a full, a terrible end he will make of all the inhabitants of the earth.

Reader: The word of the Lord.
People: Thanks be to God.

THE PSALM
Psalm 90:1-8, 12 | *God Is Eternal, and We Are Not*

Lord, you have been our home
since the beginning.

Before the mountains were born, and before you created the earth and the world, you are God.
You have always been, and you will always be.

You turn people back into dust.
You say, "Go back into dust, human beings."

To you, a thousand years is like the passing of a day.
It passes like an hour in the night.

While people sleep, you take their lives.
They are like weeds that grow in the morning.

In the morning they are fresh and new.
But by evening they dry up and die.

We are destroyed by your anger.
We are terrified by your hot anger.

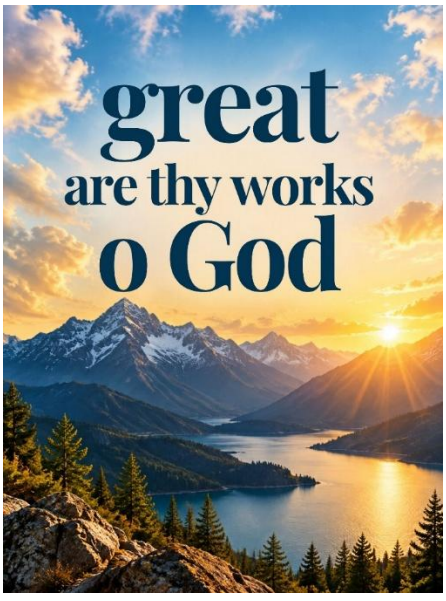
You have put the evil we have done right in front of you.
You clearly see our secret sins.

Teach us how short our lives really are
so that we may be wise.

THE EPISTLE | 1 Thessalonians 5:1-11
Reader: *A reading from 1st Thessalonians.*

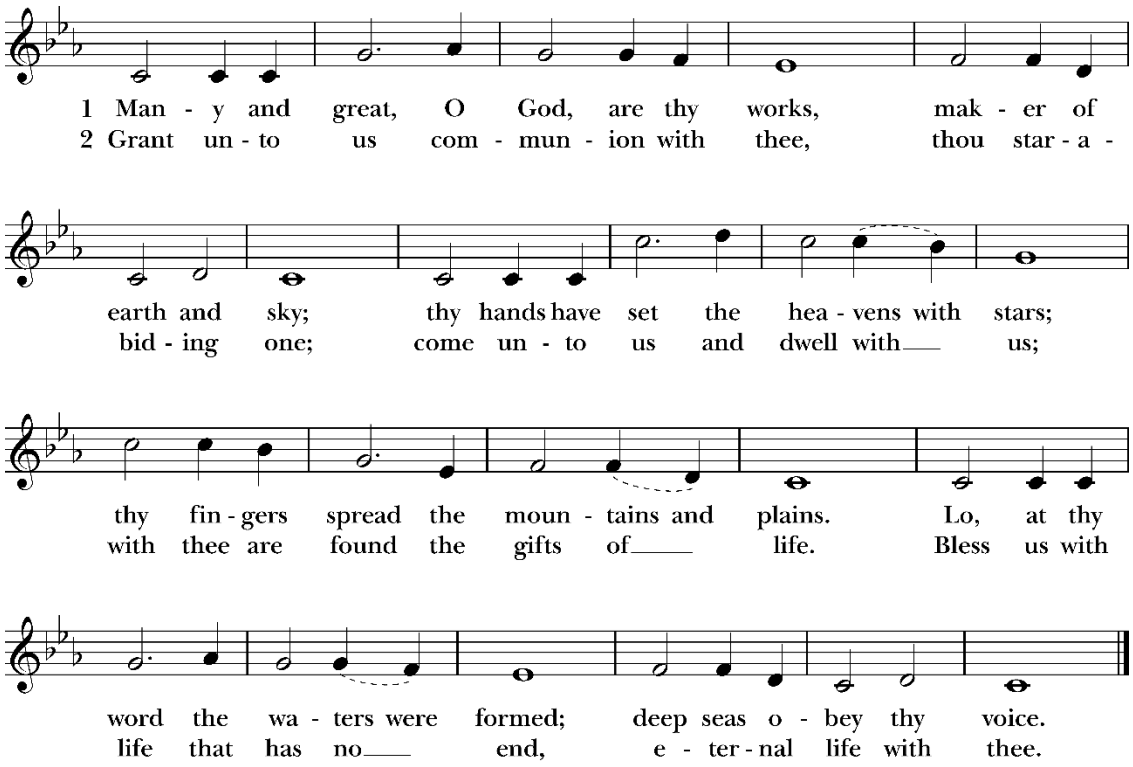
Now concerning the times and the seasons, brothers and sisters, you do not need to have anything written to you. For you yourselves know very well that the day of the Lord will come like a thief in the night. When they say, "There is peace and security," then sudden destruction will come upon them, as labor pains come upon a pregnant woman, and there will be no escape! But you, beloved, are not in darkness, for that day to surprise you like a thief; for you are all children of light and children of the day; we are not of the night or of darkness. So then let us not fall asleep as others do, but let us keep awake and be sober; for those who sleep sleep at night, and those who are drunk get drunk at night. But since we belong to the day, let us be sober, and put on the breastplate of faith and love, and for a helmet the hope of salvation. For God has destined us not for wrath but for obtaining salvation through our Lord Jesus Christ, who died for us, so that whether we are awake or asleep we may live with him. Therefore encourage one another and build up each other, as indeed you are doing.

Reader: The word of the Lord.
People: **Thanks be to God.**



The people stand as able.

SEQUENCE HYMN 385 | Many and Great, O God, Are Thy Works *Dakota Indian Chant [Lacquiparle]*
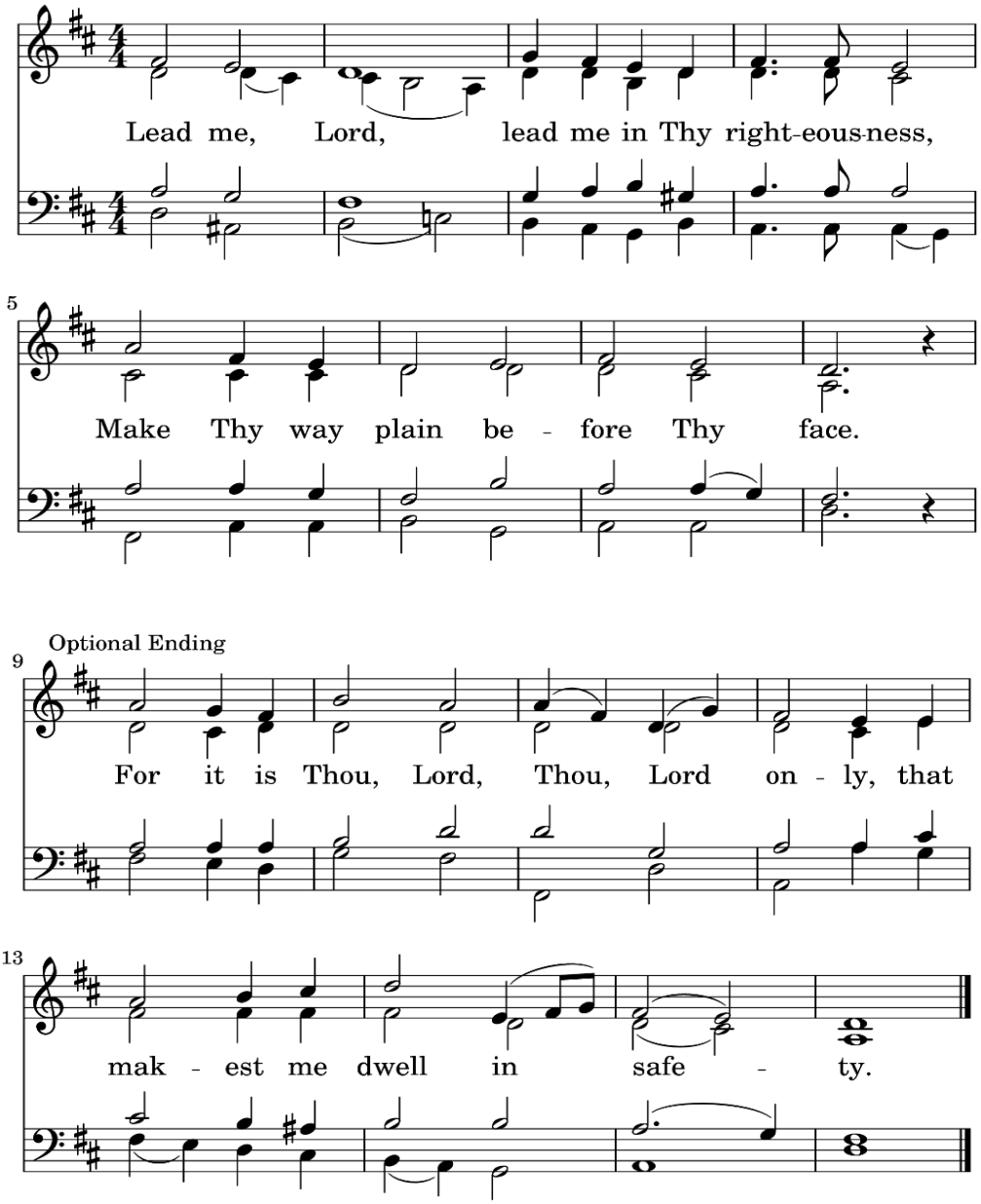


THE GOSPEL | Matthew 25:14-30

Celebrant: The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Matthew.
People: Glory to you, Lord Christ.

Jesus said, "It is as if a man, going on a journey, summoned his servants and entrusted his property to them; to one he gave five talents, to another two, to another one, to each according to his ability. Then he went away. The one who had received the five talents went off at once and traded with them, and made five more talents. In the same way, the one who had the two talents made two more talents. But the one who had received the one talent went off and dug a hole in the ground and hid his master's money. After a long time the master of those servants came and settled accounts with them. Then the one who had received the five talents came forward, bringing five more talents, saying, 'Master, you handed over to me five talents; see, I have made five more talents.' His master said to him, 'Well done, good and trustworthy servant; you have been trustworthy in a few things, I will put you in charge of many things; enter into the joy of your master.' And the one with the two talents also came forward, saying, 'Master, you handed over to me two talents; see, I have made two more talents.' His master said to him, 'Well done, good and trustworthy servant; you have been trustworthy in a few things, I will put you in charge of many things; enter into the joy of your master.' Then the one who had received the one talent also came forward, saying, 'Master, I knew that you were a harsh man, reaping where you did not sow, and gathering where you did not scatter seed; so I was afraid, and I went and hid your talent in the ground. Here you have what is yours.' But his master replied, 'You wicked and lazy servant! You knew, did you, that I reap where I did not sow, and gather where I did not scatter? Then you ought to have invested my money with the bankers, and on my return I would have received what was my own with interest. So take the talent from him, and give it to the one with the ten talents. For to all those who have, more will be given, and they will have an abundance; but from those who have nothing, even what they have will be taken away. As for this worthless servant, throw him into the outer darkness, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.'"

Celebrant: The Gospel of the Lord.
People: **Praise to you, Lord Christ.**

HYMN | Lead Me, Lord *Samuel Sebastian Wesley*



THE SERMON | Youth Group

The people stand as able.

THE NICENE CREED |

All: **We believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty, maker of heaven and earth, of all that is, seen and unseen.**

We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only Son of God, eternally begotten of the Father, God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God, begotten, not made, of one Being with the Father. Through him all things were made.
For us and for our salvation he came down from heaven: by the power of the Holy Spirit he became incarnate from the Virgin Mary, and was made man. For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate; he suffered death and was buried. On the third day he rose again in accordance with the Scriptures; he ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead, and his kingdom will have no end.

We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son. With the Father and the Son he is worshipped and glorified. He has spoken through the Prophets. We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic Church. We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins. We look for the resurrection of the dead, and the life of the world to come. Amen.

THE PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE |

Dear Lord, we come before you united in faith and love. We give thanks for your presence in our lives and for the countless ways you guide us. Give us the strength to follow your path even when the journey is difficult. **Lord, we sing the glory of your name**.

We lift up in prayer all those who are enduring hardships and facing struggles. We especially pray for the homeless, those without shelter, food, or a safe place to rest. We also pray for all refugees and immigrants who have been forced to leave their homes in search of safety and a better life. Give us the strength to bring light into the lives of those who need it the most. **Lord have mercy on your children**.

In the Anglican Cycle of Prayer, we lift up The Iglesia Anglicana de Chile. We pray for our church and all churches in the world, that they may be a place where people feel safe and cared for. In the Diocese of Maryland, we pray for our sister parishes: St. Paul's, Point of Rocks; Transfiguration, Braddock Heights, and Trinity, Elkridge. In our own congregation, we give thanks for Maryland our Presiding Bishop, Sean; our Diocesan Bishop Carrie; our rector, Emmanuel; Clergy; Richard, Marcia & Natalie; and for all in our Christ Church family. We welcome those who are new or visiting with us today. May they feel our love. **Lord, hear our prayers**.

Heavenly Father, we pray for a fulfilling and successful school year for all students. Grant them the strength and perseverance to do their best in school and remind them that their worth lies not in achievement but in your unconditional love. We remember those who have died and passed into the arms of God, especially Daniel Amponsah, and those you now name. **Lord, hear our prayers**.

We give thanks for the happy occasions that members of our Christ Church family celebrate this week. We are also grateful for the many occasions of joy in our Church family, including birthdays of Ann, De Jong, Nick, Alexander, & Mary and baptismal anniversary of Tom. May we all be thankful to God for the joy in our lives and do what we can to share that joy with others. **Lord, we praise you for our blessings**.

Loving God, you hear the prayers of all your people. Strengthen us to live as instruments of your peace and love in the world. **AMEN**

CONFESSION & ABSOLUTION |

Celebrant: Let us confess our sins against God and our neighbor.

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

THE PEACE |

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

People: **And also with you.**

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

Please scan to give.

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS |

OFFERTORY ANTHEM | I, the Lord of sea and sky *Daniel L. Schutte*

1. I, the Lord of sea and sky,
   I have heard my people cry.
   All who dwell in dark and sin
   my hand will save.
   I, who made the stars of night,
   I will make their darkness bright.
   Who will bear my light to them?
   Whom shall I send?

Refrain:
Here I am, Lord. Is it I, Lord?
I have heard you calling in the night.
I will go, Lord, if you lead me.
I will hold your people in my heart.

2. I, the Lord of snow and rain,
   I have borne my people's pain.
   I have wept for love of them.
   They turn away.
   I will break their hearts of stone,
   give them hearts for love alone.
   I will speak my words to them.
   Whom shall I send? *Refrain*

3. I, the Lord of wind and flame,
   I will send the poor and lame.
   I will set a feast for them.
   My hand will save.
   Finest bread I will provide
   till their hearts be satisfied.
   I will give my life to them.
   Whom shall I send? *Refrain*

PRESENTATION HYMN 380 vs 3 | *Old 100th*

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;
Praise Him, all creatures here below;
Praise Him above, ye heavenly host;
Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. AMEN.
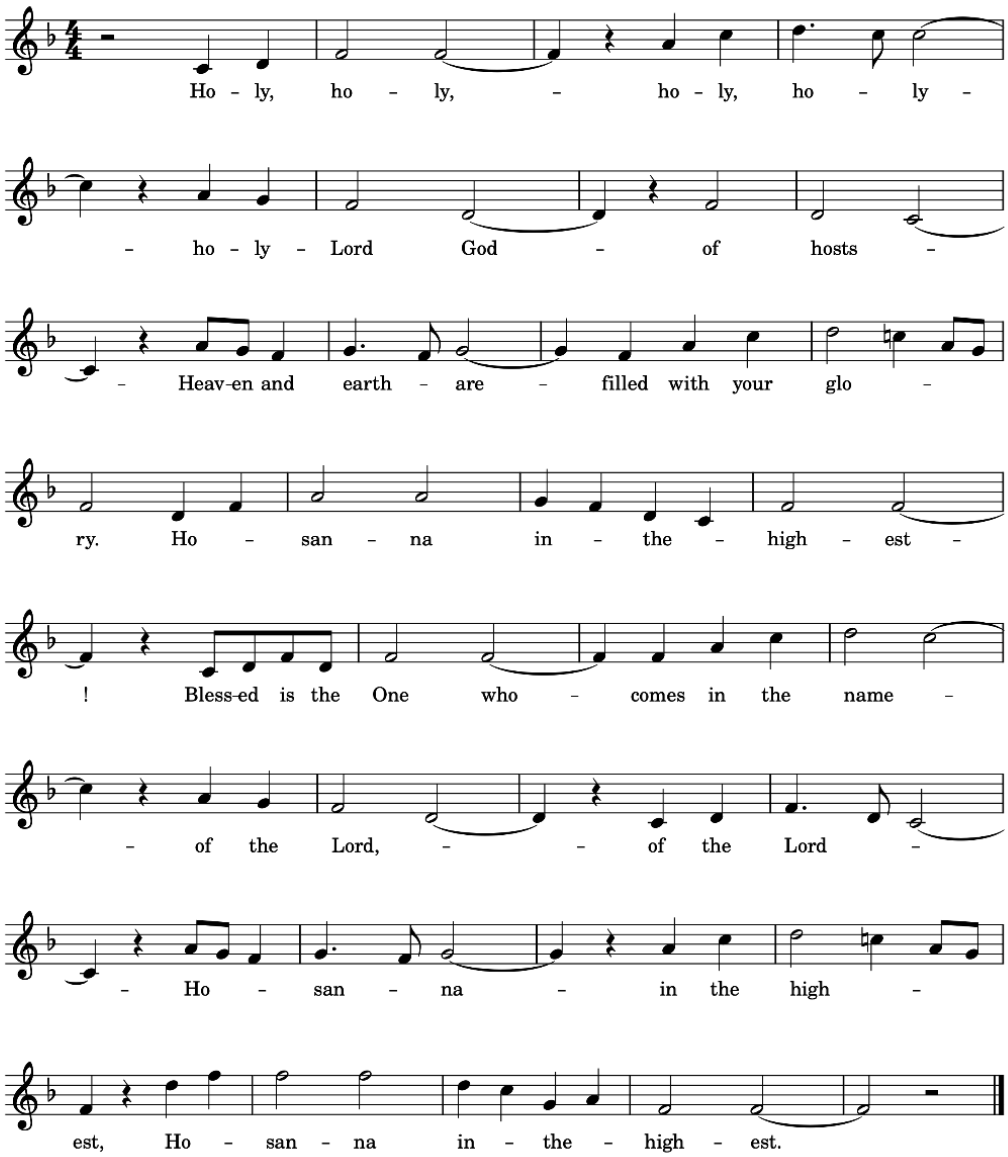
THE HOLY COMMUNION

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. Through your only begotten Son, Jesus Christ, the King of kings and Lord of lords; for you have seated him at your right hand in glory, and put all things in subjection under his feet, that he may present them to you, O Father, perfectly restored in beauty, truth and love.

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 and gracious Father: In your infinite love you made us for yourself, and, when we had fallen into sin and become subject to evil and death, you, in your mercy, sent Jesus Christ, your only and eternal Son, to share our human nature, to live and die as one of us, to reconcile us to you, the God and Father of all.

He stretched out his arms upon the cross, and offered himself, in obedience to your will, a perfect sacrifice for the whole world.

On the night he was handed over to suffering and death, our Lord Jesus Christ took bread; and when he had given thanks to you, he broke it, and gave it to his disciples, and said, "Take, eat: This is my Body, which is given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me."

After supper he took the cup of wine; and when he had given thanks, he gave it to them, and said, "Drink this, all of you: This is my Blood of the new Covenant, which is shed for you and for many for the forgiveness of sins. Whenever you drink it, do this for the remembrance of me."

Therefore we proclaim the mystery of faith:

All: **Christ has died.**
Christ is risen.
Christ will come again.

We celebrate the memorial of our redemption, O Father, in this sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving. Recalling his death, resurrection, and ascension, we offer you these gifts.

Sanctify them by your Holy Spirit to be for your people the Body and Blood of your Son, the holy food and drink of new and unending life in him. Sanctify us also that we may faithfully receive this holy Sacrament, and serve you in unity, constancy, and peace; and at the last day bring us with all your saints into the joy of your eternal kingdom.

All this we ask through your Son Jesus Christ: By him, and with him, and in him, in the unity of the Holy Spirit all honor and glory is yours, Almighty Father, now and forever. **AMEN.**

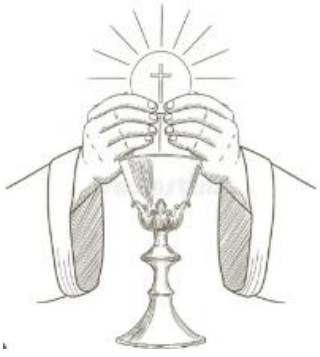
THE LORD'S PRAYER |

Celebrant: And now, as our Savior Christ has taught us, we are bold to say,

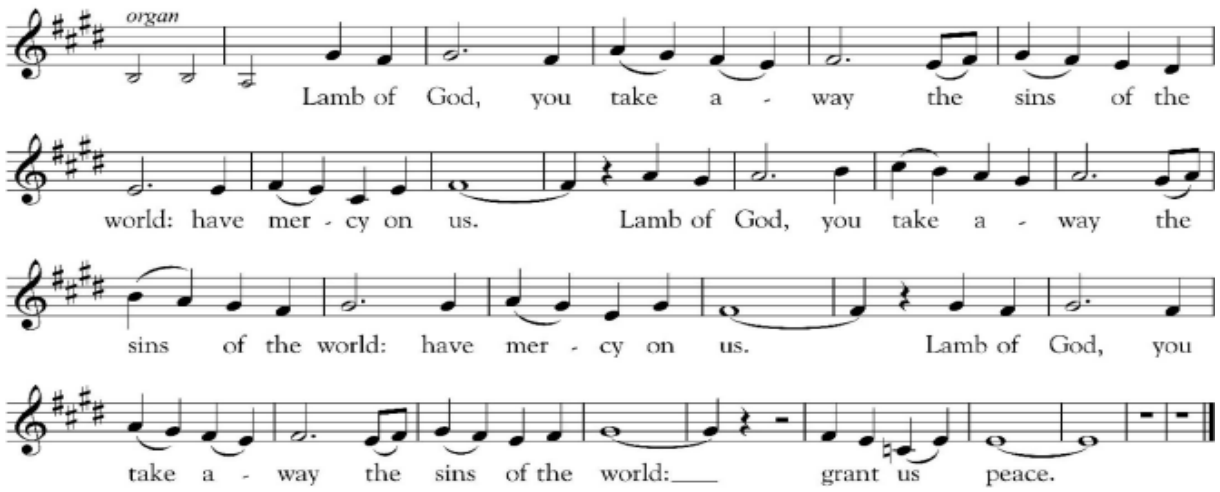
All: **Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy Name, thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread. And forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us. And lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever and ever. Amen.**

THE BREAKING OF THE BREAD |

Celebrant: Alleluia. Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us;
People: **Therefore, let us keep the feast. Alleluia.**



FRACTION ANTHEM LEVAS 270| Lamb of God *Marjorie Landsmark-DeLewis*



COMMUNION SONGS

MHSO 136| Taste and see *James E. Moore, Jr.*

Chorus:
Taste and see.
Taste and see the goodness of the Lord
O taste and see. Taste and see the goodness of the Lord, of the Lord.

1. I will bless the Lord at all times.
   His praise shall always be on my lips;
   my soul shall glory in the Lord;
   for he has been so good to me. *Chorus*

2. Glorify the Lord with me.
   Together let us all praise his name.
   I called the Lord and he answered me;
   from all my troubles he set me free. *Chorus*

3. Worship the Lord all you people.
   You'll want for nothing if you ask.
   Taste and see that God is good;
   in him we need put all our trust. *Chorus*

YOU ARE HOLY (Prince of Peace) *Michael W. Smith*

Men *Women*
You are holy *(You are holy)*
You are mighty *(You are mighty)*
You are worthy *(You are worthy)*
Worthy of praise *(Worthy of praise)*
I will follow *(I will follow)*
I will listen *(I will listen)*
I will love You *(I will love You)*
All of my days *(All of my days)*

Chorus:
I will sing to and worship
(You are Lord of Lords, You are King of Kings)
The King who is worthy
(You are Mighty God, Lord of everything)
I will love and adore Him
(You're Emmanuel, You're the Great 'I Am')
And I will bow down before Him
(You're the Prince of Peace, who is the Lamb)
And I will sing to and worship
(You're my living God, You're my saving grace)

The King who is worthy
(You will reign forever, You are ancient of days)
And I will love and adore Him
(You're the Alpha, Omega, beginning and end)
And I will bow down before Him
(You're my Savior, Messiah, Redeemer, and Friend)
You're my Prince of Peace and I will live my life for You

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 & 10:30 a.m. service*

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

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

THE BLESSING |

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

CLOSING SONG | Open your ears, O faithful people *Torah Song*

1. Open your ears, O faithful people,
open your ears and hear God's Word.
Open your hearts, O royal priesthood,
God has come to you.

Chorus:
God has spoken to the people, hallelujah!
God has spoken words of wisdom, hallelujah!
Torah ora, Torah ora, hallelujah!
Torah ora, Torah ora, hallelujah!

2. They who have ears to hear the message,
they who have ears, now let them hear.
They who would learn the way of wisdom,
let them hear God's Word. *Chorus*

THE DISMISSAL |

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

POSTLUDE |

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Assisting in Worship Today

Youth Group

Lucas Hernandez, Christina Hernandez, Shreya Chrzanowski, Danny Jackson, James Mercer, Eva Oladipupo, Praise Oladipupo, Ava Fox, Aston Fox, Luci Hart, Chloe Spencer, Hope Spencer, Abby Boyer, Margaret Bedard, Anya Sheriff, Asir Fitzgerald, Kevin Henia, Abby Marvel

Altar Guild

Cheryl Lucente, Leigh Smith, Pam Foreman, Sandra Griffin

8:00 a.m. Service

Chalicist: Nesta Henlon
Lectors/Readers: Youth Group
Ushers: Jo Emily Knox, Youth Group

10:30 a.m. Service

Acolytes: Ava Fox, Aston Fox, Wynstan Eguakun
Chalicist: Cheryl Lucente
Lectors/Readers: Youth Group
Ushers: Youth Group, Jane Adams, Isaac Olajide, Yetti Lipede, Betty Dagne, Cherry Williams, Alex Amponsah

Tellers

Jenny Cecil, Brian Farnandis

PARISH CALENDAR
NOVEMBER 15 – 21, 2026

Sunday, November 15

8:00 am	Holy Eucharist – Old Brick
8:45 – 9:30 am	Coffee Hour – Old Brick
9:00 am	Family Service
9:30 – 10:20 am	Sunday School, Sunday Circle
10:30 am	Holy Eucharist w/music – New Brick, UL
11:00 – 11:30 am	Coffee Hour - Zoom
2:00 – 3:00 pm	Confirmation Class – Zoom
2:30 – 6:00 pm	McKay Recital – New Brick, UL
4:30 – 7:30 pm	Total Restoration Church – Old Brick & Parish Hall, LL

Monday, November 16

7:00 am	Morning Prayer Livestream
6:00 – 8:30 pm	Food Addicts Anonymous – Parish Hall, LL
7:00 – 8:00 pm	Centering Prayer – Old Brick & Zoom
7:00 – 9:30 pm	300 Yr Liturgy, Worship & Music Comm Mtg – Zoom

Tuesday, November 17

7:00 am	Morning Prayer Livestream
11:00 am– 12:00 pm	Weekly Staff Meeting
12:00 – 1:00 pm	Coffee Hour – Zoom
1:00 – 10:00 pm	IRC Prep – Parish Hall, LL
6:00 – 7:00 pm	MOCC Monthly Meeting – Zoom
6:30 – 9:00 pm	Vestry Meeting – Hybrid

Wednesday, November 18

7:00 am	Morning Prayer Livestream
4:00 – 5:00 pm	Exercise Group – Parish Hall, LL
7:00 – 8:30 pm	Theology on Tap (ToT) – Frisco & Reckless Shepherd
7:00 – 9:00 pm	300 Yr Leadership Committee Meeting – Zoom

Thursday, November 19

7:00 am	Morning Prayer Livestream
12:00 – 1:00 pm	Healing Eucharist – Old Brick
12:00 – 1:00 pm	Coffee Hour – Zoom
6:30 – 9:00 pm	Choir Rehearsal – New Brick, UL
6:30 – 9:00 pm	EfM: Fast Track – Zoom
7:30 – 9:00 pm	Boy Scouts – New Brick, LL

Friday, November 20

7:00 am	Morning Prayer Livestream
6:30 – 9:00 pm	Sabrio/Columbia Orchestra Concert Rehearsal – New Brick, UL
7:00 pm	Evening Prayer Livestream

Saturday, November 21

8:00 – 10:00 am	Altar Guild prep
9:30 – 11:00 pm	MOCC Breakfast – Silver Diner, Elkridge
2:00 – 4:00 pm	AA Meeting – Parish Hall, LL
3:30 – 4:30 pm	Altar Guild prep
6:00 – 9:00 pm	Sabrio/Columbia Orchestra Concert – New Brick, UL
8:00 – 10:00 pm	Sabrio/Columbia Orchestra Concert Reception – New Brick, LL



ANNOUNCEMENTS

If you have an announcement to share with the church,
Please send to communications@christchurchcolumbia.org by Tuesday evening.

SCAN THE QR CODE FOR ALL OF THIS WEEK'S ANNOUNCEMENTS & LINKS

V&S Workshops – STEWARDSHIP : this Sunday at 9:30 in Old Brick

The Vision & Strategies committee completed its planning work by delivering the V&S Report at the recent Annual Meeting. To support that transition, Vision & Strategies committee members are holding workshops on the four presented ministry areas so existing groups can plan and begin the needed work together. This week, we discuss the many facets of how STEWARDSHIP impacts our common life. We hope that you'll read **the V&S Report** and come to these sessions with any and all questions, concerns, thoughts, and ideas, so that we can build a better Christ Church for the next three hundred years of parishioners - including us.

Prayerfully Consider Your Pledge to Christ Church for 2027

We are deeply blessed to be surrounded by such a dedicated and generous parish family whose continued support sustains our ongoing ministry of faithful service. As we look ahead to what God is calling us to do in the coming year, we invite each of you to spend time in prayerful reflection about how you might contribute your time, talent, and financial resources to Christ Church for 2027. To make your commitment, you can pick up printed pledge cards and return envelopes in the Narthex and complete them in person. If you prefer to submit your information online, you can securely fill out your pledge form at **christchurchcolumbia.org/2027-pledge**. From the bottom of our hearts, thank you for your continued generosity. Your faithful partnership enriches our vibrant worship, strengthens our community outreach, nurtures our children and youth programs, enlivens our music, and supports every other essential aspect of our shared common life.

Monday Night Football Family Fellowship Dinner! 🏈

Come hang out with us on **Monday, November 16** at 7:00 in the lower level of New Brick as we watch the Ravens take on the Chargers! MOCC is catering the night with all your football favorites: pizza, chili, wings, salad, and plenty of soft drinks (Feel free to BYOB, too). The cost is $15 per person or $30 per family, and you can pay at the door or online via Realm (just select MOCC or note MOCC in the memo). Questions? Email **mocc@christchurchcolumbia.org** or catch a MOCC member after church. Then grab the family and come ready for some great food, football, and fellowship! 🍕

Please Pitch In! Bring Holiday Sides and Year-Round Staples by Thursday, Nov. 19, for our Thanksgiving Drive for the Howard County Food Bank

You can make Thanksgiving and the upcoming holidays special for those who depend on the Howard County Food Bank to feed their families. The staff of the food bank provides the makings of festive meals for 1,000 people for Thanksgiving and another 1,000 by Christmas.

Christ Church contributes to this effort by collecting non-perishables prior to Thanksgiving and by sending funds to CAC. The Outreach Commission approved a donation of $1,000, which goes in part to broaden options beyond a whole turkey. Some people prefer a hen, turkey breast, or plant-based proteins.

It's up to you to complete the menu! Bring stuffing mix, gravy, cranberry sauce, olives, pickles, and canned fruits and vegetables. Because household pantries may be bare, please add staples such as bags of rice, tuna, hearty soups, pasta and sauce, peanut butter, and spices. Put items in the marked boxes upstairs in New Brick or on the Parish Hall breezeway in a bin labeled "Thanksgiving Food Drive". **NOTE:** No produce, pies, other desserts or rolls due to perishability. Deadline: Thursday, Nov. 19. The monetary donation went to the **Community Action Council of Howard County** (CAC), which operates the Howard County Food Bank. These are Vestry-approved funds derived from parishioners' pledges and contributions. Thank you!

Your Help is Needed to Provide Support for Comfort Cases, a Long-Standing Outreach Group for the MOCC - November 19

The Men of Christ Church needs volunteers to help pack bags in support of Comfort Cases. If you are interested in helping out, please speak with Duane Smith at church or email **MOCC@christchurchcolumbia.org**. You can also find flyers around the campus with more information.

Multicultural Sunday - Next Sunday, November 22

Christ Church is a church for all nations, cultures, traditions, people, and languages. Although we celebrate the diversity of our community every day of the year, on **Multicultural Sunday, November 22**, we intentionally take time to acknowledge and appreciate the ones that our church and community represent. Parishioners of all ages help us with the liturgy by speaking the readings in their native tongue. Everyone is encouraged to attend church in clothing that represents their history and culture, or you can wear clothing of a culture you respect. After worship, we will gather for Coffee Hour, and ask that you bring a snack with cultural significance to share. It's an important Sunday, one when we want to show the world that **praising the Lord has strength, devotion, and meaning in every language**.

Advent Formation Celebration! - Sunday, November 22

Kick off the holiday season with fellowship and joy at Christ Church's **Advent Formation Celebration**! Join us on **Sunday, November 22, at 9:30 a.m. in the Great Hall** for an uplifting morning that prepares our hearts and homes for a very special season. This festive gathering is for all ages and brings the whole parish family together to share in community and the spirit of Advent. That Sunday, we will take a break from Formation classes and instead enjoy a variety of hands-on activities. Everyone can create Advent wreaths, craft meaningful Jesse Tree ornaments, Christmas Sock project, Advent Chain-making, and much more. Whether you are creating keepsakes for your home, creating items to give to those in need, or simply enjoying time with friends and meeting new ones, there is something for everyone to celebrate. We hope to see you there!

Thanksgiving Day at Christ Church - November 26

Come join us at 10 a.m. for the **Thanksgiving Day Eucharist in New Brick**. We welcome everyone to gather with us, but we will also livestream the service on **our website**, **YouTube**, and **Facebook** pages to worship from wherever you are.

Church Office is Closed on November 26 & 27

The church office will be closed on Thursday and Friday, November 27 and 28, and it will reopen on Monday, Nov. 30.

WOCC Christmas Feast - Sign Up by November 29

Come Join Us For The **Women of Christ Church's Christmas Feast: Sunday, December 6 at 1:00 p.m. at the Kings Contrivance Restaurant**. The cost is $66 per person for a delicious 3-course meal and non-alcoholic drinks, all-inclusive (fancy drinks can be purchased from the cash bar). Sign up in the Narthex **or online** by Sunday, November 29. Subsidies are available, should you need them - please speak to Father Manny. We'll also be collecting unwrapped gifts for Springfield Hospital again this year, and **you can find their wish list on our website**. We really hope to see you there!

It's an Ugly Christmas First Wednesday Fellowship! - December 2

Get your "ugly" Christmas sweaters out of storage and get ready for a fun First Wednesday Fellowship to cap off the year. **At our FWF on December 2**, we'll have a special **Pie Contest** - make or bring your favorite sweet or savory pie, and the best one wins a prize! We'll provide hearty soups, bread, and refreshments to go with your pies, and we'll all enjoy a fun, flavorful, final FWF of 2026. Of course, this event wouldn't be complete without our traditional **Ugly Sweater Party**, but

you'll definitely have to get creative - we've seen some AMAZING sweaters in past years, so bring your funniest, your silliest, your ugliest! It's a night of hearty laughs, full bellies, and huge smiles - be sure to join us!

Advent Quiet Day - December 5

Everyone is welcome and encouraged to join us for Advent Quiet Day on Saturday, December 5. This important Christ Church tradition, presented by the Spiritual Life Commission, marks the start of the Advent season and helps us focus and maintain perspective during these hectic weeks leading up to Christmas.

We'll gather in Old Brick for an informal breakfast and conversation at 8:30 a.m. and then take part in a morning of readings, spirited discussions, shared community, and periods for quiet meditation. Our retreat then concludes around 12 noon with an informal Eucharist. It's a memorable gathering each year, and we hope that you'll join us as we let the Light enter our feelings and actions to help make this a remarkable and joyous Christmas season. Stay tuned for more details in the coming weeks, but mark your calendars for this special morning of reflection now.

Centering Prayer - Monday Evenings

Centering Prayer is a special evening prayer gathering that can help lead to a more intimate union with God. This active presence heals, transforms, and offers freedom and peace. Be with us in Old Brick or online via Zoom at 7:00 p.m. on Monday evenings. You can also ask for more information by speaking with Kathy Lyon at church or by emailing **centering@christchurchcolumbia.org**.

Noonday Healing Eucharist - Thursdays

Throughout the year, Christ Church offers a midday Healing Eucharist on Thursdays in Old Brick. A member of our clergy leads this service of readings, prayers, a litany for healing, and the Holy Eucharist. Parishioners and community members are all welcome to join in a prayerful time in the presence of God, and to share in the wonderful mystery of God's love whilst we seek healing for ourselves and our loved ones. Please come in to reflect, pray, and participate in a service held in our beautiful, historic chapel.

Join the Christ Church Choir - Thursday Evenings

Get ready, all you singers and music lovers! The choir has resumed rehearsals in New Brick on Thursday evenings - Handbell Choir at 6:45 and Adult Choir at 7:30 - and all adults are welcome to join us. Whether you read music or not, have previous experience or not, and whether you are ready to commit full-time or not, there's a place for you to give it a shot in our handbell &/or vocal choirs. If you're interested, please speak with Larissa at church on Sundays or email her at **music@christchurchcolumbia.org**.

We Need Your Photo!

As our church community continues to grow and flourish, staying connected is more important than ever. Christ Church is creating a new to make it easier for everyone to reach out, connect, and care for one another, put faces to names, welcome newcomers, and help long-time members stay in touch across our services and ministries. The "faces to names" part of that is where you come in - we need your individual or family photo so we can add it to the Directory. Please email them to **office@christchurchcolumbia.org**, and we'll add them. A directory helps our clergy, staff, and lay leaders easily recognize, reach, and support parishioners when they need pastoral care or community outreach. Knowing one another also better builds a tightly knit, supportive spiritual home where everyone is truly seen and appreciated, so thank you in advance for helping make this Directory a reality.

We Have New Name Tags!

Soon, you'll see our new name tag wall in the Narthex, so come grab one and wear it so friends old and new can greet you by name! These durable tags feature a clean design and are easy to reuse, making them a great sustainable choice for our church community. You'll also find them on the rear table in Old Brick, and you can leave them there after the 8:00 worship. Please grab one, write your name using the supplied dry-erase markers, and help us make everyone feel welcome!

Learn More About Your Parish - Read the Monthly Vestry Meeting Minutes

To provide complete transparency with our parish family, we share the minutes from each monthly Christ Church Vestry meeting. These minutes provide the parish family with full transparency into church leadership, decisions, and governance. They may include official updates, financial and stewardship updates, reviews of plans from ministries, groups, and programs, and information on upcoming parish events and strategic plans. We recently had our monthly Vestry meeting, and **a PDF of the latest Vestry meeting minutes is available here**. If you have any questions or wish to discuss something specific with a Vestry member, please stop by the Vestry Table at church on any Sunday morning.

Provide Eucharist to Those Unable to Travel to Church as a Lay Eucharistic Visitor

This year, we have had more people request **Communion to You**, a service Christ Church provides to bring Eucharist to homebound parishioners, so we require a few more Lay Eucharistic Visitors (LEV). If you're interested in helping with this vital ministry, please speak with Kathy Lyon at church or contact the Church Office. And if you require this service for yourself or someone you know, **please fill out this brief form**, or call the Church Office. We will ensure that Communion gets there.

We Always Need More Help at Christ Church

There are many roles in the church that most people don't think of regularly – or at all. However, many people do a great deal of work to keep Christ Church the well-run parish it is. And with the holidays coming, we need more help than ever. You can help your church by volunteering as a Greeter, Reader, Chalicist, or Teller, serving in the Inreach Ministry, or assisting the Christ Church Altar Guild. None of these requires weekly assistance - a short amount of time every few weeks or so - but the impact you have on the entire parish is significant. For those specifically interested in the Altar Guild, email **altarguild@christchurchcolumbia.org** or speak with Pam Foreman or any other Altar Guild member setting up on Sunday mornings. For those interested in assisting as a Greeter, Reader, Chalicist, Inreach, or Teller, please call the Church Office at **office@christchurchcolumbia.org** or speak with Yetti. Thank you.

You Can Register for Sunday School

From Autumn through Spring, Faith Formation is thriving at Christ Church, and anyone from pre-K to 12th grade is invited to gather with us next fall. It's a program of age-appropriate classes that's relevant and engaging, and we're looking forward to an exciting year! The Sunday School details are on **our website's Sunday School page**.

Christ Church's Sunday School and Youth Formation ministry believes in growing a deep and wide faith in kids through education in the Gospel, serving our community, and fellowship with one another. From the earliest age, we want kids to know the basic truths of God's Word and how we can apply those in our daily lives. Our dedicated and trained Sunday School team provides age-appropriate groups where the kids can connect and learn with one another.

Registration is now open, so **complete our registration form here** (one form per child, please), so we can reserve space for your children. If you have any questions or need assistance, please email **sundayschool@christchurchcolumbia.org**



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The Rev. Emmanuel Ato Mercer, *Rector*
The Rev. Marcia Davenport, *Senior Associate Rector*
The Rev. Natalie Tinner, *Associate Rector*
The Rev. Richard Ginnever, *Rector Emeritus*
Larissa Sanders, *Director of Music Ministry*
Ola Oladipupo, *Assistant Organist*
Yetti Lipede, *Parish Administrator & Ministry Coordinator*
Diya Jackson, *Office & Youth Ministry Coordinator*
Christopher Pouch, *Communications Administrator*
Amanda Kirkpatrick, *Nursery Care Coordinator*
Shereen Benka-Coker, *Nursery Care Assistant*
John Prempeh Sencherey, *Sexton*

Vestry

• Denisa Abdallah (*Senior Warden*) • Greg Schuckman (*Junior Warden*) •Andrew Eaton (*Treasurer*) • Ron Couch (*Registrar*)
• Shreya Chrzanowski (*Youth Liaison*) • Ronald Baran • George Toth • Sara Kirkpatrick
• Ed Chrzanowski • Jay Abbott• David James • Katie Adams • Jim Berkson • Jan DeBoissiere • Alfred Titus-Glover