

CHRIST EPISCOPAL CHURCH

Extending the Love and Embrace of Christ

A SERVICE OF LESSONS AND CAROLS FOR CHRISTMAS

December 18, 2022 | 6:00 PM

You may stream this service from Christ Church's [web site](#), [Facebook page](#), or [YouTube channel](#).

FESTIVAL OF NINE LESSONS & CAROLS

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 18TH
6:00 P.M.

NEW BRICK AT CHRIST EPISCOPAL CHURCH
6800 OAKLAND MILLS ROAD, COLUMBIA

WWW.CHRISTCHURCHCOLUMBIA.ORG

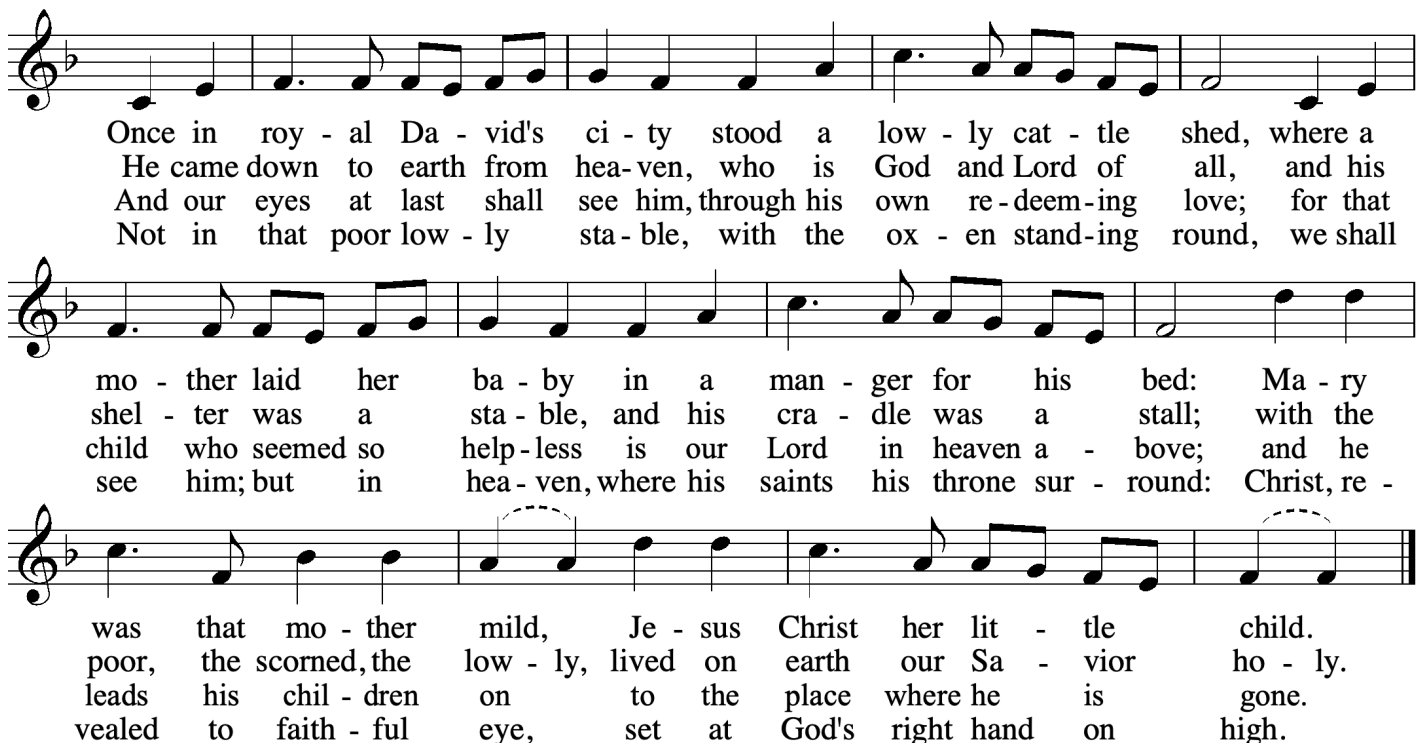
Prelude | Prelude on "Morning Song"

Robert J. Powell (organ)

The people stand as able.

Entrance Hymn | Carol 102 | Once in Royal David's city

(solo, choir, congregation, brass)



Once in roy - al Da - vid's ci - ty stood a low - ly cat - tle shed, where a
He came down to earth from hea - ven, who is God and Lord of all, and his
And our eyes at last shall see him, through his own re - deem - ing love; for that
Not in that poor low - ly sta - ble, with the ox - en stand - ing round, we shall
mo - ther laid her ba - by in a man - ger for his bed: Ma - ry
shel - ter was a sta - ble, and his cra - dle was a stall; with the
child who seemed so help - less is our Lord in heaven a - bove; and he
see him; but in hea - ven, where his saints his throne sur - round: Christ, re -
was that mo - ther mild, Je - sus Christ her lit - tle child.
poor, the scorned, the low - ly, lived on earth our Sa - vior ho - ly.
leads his chil - dren on to the place where he is gone.
vealed to faith - ful eye, set at God's right hand on high.

Officiant: Beloved in Christ, in this Christmastide, let it be our care and delight to hear again the message of the Angels, and in heart and mind to go even unto Bethlehem, and see this thing which is come to pass, and the Babe lying in a manger.

Let us read and mark in Holy Scripture the tale of the loving purposes of God from the first days of our disobedience unto the glorious Redemption brought us by this holy Child; and let us make this place glad with our carols of praise.

But first, let us pray for the needs of his whole world; for peace and goodwill over all the earth; for the mission and unity of the Church for which he died, and especially in this country and within Columbia.

Officiant: And because this of all things would rejoice his heart, let us at this time remember in his name the poor and the helpless, the hungry and the oppressed; the sick and those who mourn; the lonely and the unloved; the aged and the little children; and all those who know not the Lord Jesus, or who love him not, or who by sin have grieved his heart of love.

Lastly, let us remember before God his pure and lowly Mother, and all those who rejoice with us, but upon another shore and in a greater light, that multitude which no one can number, whose hope was in the Word made flesh, and with whom, in this Lord Jesus, we forevermore are one.

These prayers and praises let us humbly offer up to the throne of heaven, in the words which Christ himself hath taught us:

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,
 for ever and ever. Amen.**

Officiant: May the Almighty God bless us with his grace; Christ give us the joys of everlasting life; and unto the fellowship of the citizens above may the King of Angels bring us all.

People: **Amen.**

The people may be seated.

God tells sinful Adam and Eve that they have lost the light of Paradise.

The man and his wife heard the sound of the LORD God walking in the garden at the time of the evening breeze, and they hid themselves from the presence of the LORD God among the trees of the garden. But the LORD God called to the man, and said to him, "Where are you?" He said, "I heard the sound of you in the garden, and I was afraid, because I was naked; and I hid myself." He said, "Who told you that you were naked? Have you eaten from the tree of which I commanded you not to eat?" The man said, "The woman whom you gave to be with me, she gave me fruit from the tree, and I ate." Then the LORD God said to the woman, "What is this that you have done?" The woman said, "The serpent tricked me, and I ate." The LORD God said to the serpent,

"Because you have done this,
 cursed are you among all animals
 and among all wild creatures;
 upon your belly you shall go,
 and dust you shall eat
 all the days of your life.
 I will put enmity between you and the woman,
 and between your offspring and hers;
 he will strike your head,
 and you will strike his heel."

And to the man he said,

"Because you have listened to the voice of your wife,
 and have eaten of the tree
 about which I commanded you,
 You shall not eat of it",
 cursed is the ground because of you;
 in toil you shall eat of it all the days of your life;
 thorns and thistles it shall bring forth for you;
 and you shall eat the plants of the field.
 By the sweat of your face
 you shall eat bread
 until you return to the ground,
 for out of it you were taken;
 you are dust,
 and to dust you shall return."

Reader: The Word of the Lord.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

God promises to faithful Abraham that in his seed shall all the nations of the earth be blessed.

The angel of the LORD called to Abraham a second time from heaven, and said, "By myself I have sworn, says the LORD: Because you have done this, and have not withheld your son, your only son, I will indeed bless you, and I will make your offspring as numerous as the stars of heaven and as the sand that is on the seashore. And your offspring shall possess the gate of their enemies, and by your offspring shall all the nations of the earth gain blessing for themselves, because you have obeyed my voice."

Reader: The Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

The people stand as able.

Anthem | Carol 65 | Prepare the Way, O Zion

(choir, brass, congregation)



1 Pre - pare the way, O Zi - on, your Christ is draw - ing near!
 2 He brings God's rule, O Zi - on; he comes from heaven a - bove.
 3 Fling wide your gates, O Zi - on; your Sa - vior's rule em - brace.



Let ev - ery hill and val - ley a lev - el way ap - pear.
 His rule is peace and free - dom, and jus - tice, truth, and love.
 His tid - ings of sal - va - tion pro - claim in ev - ery place.



Greet One who comes in glo - ry, fore - told in sa - cred sto - ry.
 Lift high your praise re - sound - ing, for grace and joy a - bound - ing.
 All lands will bow be - fore him, their voic - es will a - dore him.



Oh, blest is Christ that came in God's most ho - ly name.

The people may be seated.

The prophet foretells the coming of the Savior.

The people who walked in darkness
 have seen a great light;
 those who lived in a land of deep darkness -
 on them light has shined.
 For a child has been born for us,
 a son given to us;
 authority rests upon his shoulders;
 and he is named
 Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God,
 Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.
 His authority shall grow continually,
 and there shall be endless peace
 for the throne of David and his kingdom.
 He will establish and uphold it
 with justice and with righteousness
 from this time onward and forevermore.
 The zeal of the LORD of hosts will do this.

Reader: The Word of the Lord.

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

Anthem | Lo How a Rose E'er Blooming

Michael Praetorius (choir)

The Fourth Lesson | Isaiah 11:1-3a, 4a, 6-9

Sonni Aribiah

The peace that Christ will bring is foreshown.

A shoot shall come out from the stump of Jesse,
 and a branch shall grow out of his roots.
 The spirit of the LORD shall rest on him,
 the spirit of wisdom and understanding,
 the spirit of counsel and might,
 the spirit of knowledge and the fear of the LORD.
 His delight shall be in the fear of the LORD.
 With righteousness he shall judge the poor,
 and decide with equity for the meek of the earth;
 The wolf shall live with the lamb,
 the leopard shall lie down with the kid,
 the calf and the lion and the fatling together,
 and a little child shall lead them.
 The cow and the bear shall graze,
 their young shall lie down together;
 and the lion shall eat straw like the ox.
 The nursing child shall play over the hole of the asp,
 and the weaned child shall put its hand on the adder's den.
 They will not hurt or destroy
 on all my holy mountain;
 for the earth will be full of the knowledge of the LORD
 as the waters cover the sea.

Reader: The Word of the Lord.

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

Congregational Hymn | Carol 79 | O Little Town of Bethlehem

(choir, brass, congregation)

1 O lit - tle town of Beth - le - hem, how still we see thee lie!
2 For Christ is born of Ma - ry; and gath - ered all a - bove,
3 How si - lent - ly, how si - lent - ly, the won - drous gift is given!
*4 Where child - ren pure and hap - py pray to the bless - ed Child,
5 O ho - ly Child of Beth - le - hem, de - scend to us, we pray;

1 A - bove thy deep and dream - less sleep the si - lent stars go by;
2 while mor - tals sleep, the an - gels keep their watch of won - dering love.
3 So God im - parts to hu - man hearts the bless - ings of his heaven.
4 where mis - er - y cries out to thee, Son of the mo - ther mild;
5 cast out our sin and en - ter in, be born in us to - day.

1 yet in thy dark streets shin - eth the ev - er - last - ing Light;
2 O morn - ing stars, to - geth - er pro - claim the ho - ly birth!
3 No ear may hear his com - ing, but in this world of sin,
4 where char - i - ty stands watch - ing and faith holds wide the door,
5 We hear the Christ - mas an - gels the great glad tid - ings tell;

1 the hopes and fears of all the years are met in thee to - night.
2 and prais - es sing to God the King, and peace to men on earth.
3 where meek souls will re - ceive him, still the dear Christ en - ters in.
4 the dark night wakes, the glo - ry breaks, and Christ - mas comes once more.
5 O come to us, a - bide with us, our Lord Em - man - u - el!

The people may be seated.

The Fifth Lesson | Luke 1:26-35, 38

Diane Azu

The angel Gabriel salutes the Blessed Virgin Mary.

In the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent by God to a town in Galilee called Nazareth, to a virgin engaged to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David. The virgin's name was Mary. And he came to her and said, "Greetings, favored one! The Lord is with you." But she was much perplexed by his words and pondered what sort of greeting this might be. The angel said to her, "Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favor with God. And now, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you will name him Jesus. He will be great, and will be called the Son of the Most High, and the Lord God will give to him the throne of his ancestor David. He will reign over the house of Jacob forever, and of his kingdom there will be no end." Mary said to the angel, "How can this be, since I am a virgin?" The angel said to her, "The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you; therefore the child to be born will be holy; he will be called Son of God." Then Mary said, "Here am I, the servant of the Lord; let it be with me according to your word." Then the angel departed from her.

Reader: The Word of the Lord.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

Anthem | Ave Maria | Caccini

Catherine Hinton, soprano





1 Of the Fa-ther's love be-got-ten, ere the worlds be-
 2 O that birth for ev-er bless-ed, when the Vir-gin,
 3 Let the heights of heaven a-dore him; an-gel hosts, his
 4 Christ, to thee with God the Fa-ther, and, O Ho-ly

gan to be, he is Al-pha and O-me-ga,
 full of grace, by the Ho-ly Ghost con-ceiv-ing,
 prais-es sing; powers, do-min-ions, bow be-fore him,
 Ghost, to thee, hymn and chant and high thanks-giv-ing,

he the source, the end-ing he, of the things that
 bore the Sa-vior of our race; and the Babe, the
 and ex-tol our God and King; let no tongue on
 and un-wea-ried prais-es be; hon-or, glo-ry

are, that have been, and that fu-ture
 world's Re-deem-er, first re-vealed his
 earth be-si-lent, ev-ery voice in
 and do-min-ion, and c-ter-nal

years shall see, ev-er-more and ev-er-more!
 sa-cred face, ev-er-more and ev-er-more!
 con-cert ring, ev-er-more and ev-er-more!
 vic-to-ry, ev-er-more and ev-er-more!

The Sixth Lesson | Luke 2:1, 3-7

James Mercer

St Luke tells of the birth of Jesus.

In those days a decree went out from Emperor Augustus that all the world should be registered. All went to their own towns to be registered. Joseph also went from the town of Nazareth in Galilee to Judea, to the city of David called Bethlehem, because he was descended from the house and family of David. He went to be registered with Mary, to whom he was engaged and who was expecting a child. While they were there, the time came for her to deliver her child. And she gave birth to her firstborn son and wrapped him in bands of cloth, and laid him in a manger, because there was no place for them in the inn.

Reader: The Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

The people stand as able.

Anthem | Carol 111 | Silent Night

(choir, brass, congregation)

Si - lent night, ho - ly night, all is calm,
Si - lent night, ho - ly night, shep - herds quake
Si - lent night, ho - ly night, Son of God,

all is bright round yon vir - gin mo - ther and child.
at the sight, glo - ries stream from hea - ven a - far,
love's pure light ra - diant beams from thy ho - ly face,

Ho - ly in - fant, so ten - der and mild, sleep in hea - ven - ly
heaven - ly hosts sing al - le - lu - ia; Christ, the Sa - vior, is
with the dawn of re - deem - ing grace, Je - sus, Lord, at thy

peace. born! birth. Sleep Christ, in hea - ven - ly peace. born! birth.
Je - sus, the Sa - vior, is born! birth. Lord, at thy birth.

The people may be seated.

The shepherds go to the manger.

In that region there were shepherds living in the fields, keeping watch over their flock by night. Then an angel of the Lord stood before them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. But the angel said to them, "Do not be afraid; for see-- I am bringing you good news of great joy for all the people: to you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is the Messiah, the Lord. This will be a sign for you: you will find a child wrapped in bands of cloth and lying in a manger." And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host, praising God and saying,

"Glory to God in the highest heaven,
and on earth peace among those whom he favors!"

When the angels had left them and gone into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, "Let us go now to Bethlehem and see this thing that has taken place, which the Lord has made known to us." So they went with haste and found Mary and Joseph, and the child lying in the manger.

Reader: The Word of the Lord.

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

Anthem | Rise Up, Shepherd, and Follow

arr. Nathaniel Berle Garris (choir)

The Eighth Lesson | Matthew 2:1-12

Larissa Sanders

The wise men are led by the star to Jesus.

In the time of King Herod, after Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea, wise men from the East came to Jerusalem, asking, "Where is the child who has been born king of the Jews? For we observed his star at its rising, and have come to pay him homage." When King Herod heard this, he was frightened, and all Jerusalem with him; and calling together all the chief priests and scribes of the people, he inquired of them where the Messiah was to be born. They told him, "In Bethlehem of Judea; for so it has been written by the prophet:

"And you, Bethlehem, in the land of Judah,
are by no means least among the rulers of Judah;
for from you shall come a ruler
who is to shepherd my people Israel."

Then Herod secretly called for the wise men and learned from them the exact time when the star had appeared. Then he sent them to Bethlehem, saying, "Go and search diligently for the child; and when you have found him, bring me word so that I may also go and pay him homage." When they had heard the king, they set out; and there, ahead of them, went the star that they had seen at its rising, until it stopped over the place where the child was. When they saw that the star had stopped, they were overwhelmed with joy. On entering the house, they saw the child with Mary his mother; and they knelt down and paid him homage. Then, opening their treasure chests, they offered him gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh. And having been warned in a dream not to return to Herod, they left for their own country by another road.

Reader: The Word of the Lord.

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

The people stand as able.

1 As with glad - ness men of old did the guid - ing star be - hold;
2 As with joy - ful steps they sped to that low - ly man - ger - bed;
3 As they of - fered gifts most rare at that man - ger rude and bare;

1 as with joy they hailed its light, lead - ing on - ward, beam - ing bright;
2 there to bend the knee be - fore him whom heaven and earth a - dore;
3 so may we with ho - ly joy, pure and free from sin's al - loy,

1 so, most gra - cious Lord, may we ev - er - more be led to thee.
2 so may we with will - ing feet ev - er seek the mer - cy - seat.
3 all our cost - liest trea - sures bring, Christ! to thee, our heaven - ly King.



The people remain standing for the reading from John.

The Ninth Lesson | John 1:1-14

The Rev'd Emmanuel Ato Mercer, *Rector*

St John unfolds the great mystery of the Incarnation.

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was in the beginning with God. All things came into being through him, and without him not one thing came into being. What has come into being in him was life, and the life was the light of all people. The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overcome it.

There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. He came as a witness to testify to the light, so that all might believe through him. He himself was not the light, but he came to testify to the light. The true light, which enlightens everyone, was coming into the world.

He was in the world, and the world came into being through him; yet the world did not know him. He came to what was his own, and his own people did not accept him. But to all who received him, who believed in his name, he gave power to become children of God, who were born, not of blood or of the will of the flesh or of the will of man, but of God.

And the Word became flesh and lived among us, and we have seen his glory, the glory as of a father's only son, full of grace and truth.

Officiant: The word of the Lord.

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

1 O come, all ye faith - ful, joy - ful and tri - um - phant, O
 2 God from God, Light from Light e - ter - nal,
 3 Sing, choirs of an - gels, sing in ex - ul - ta - tion,
 *4 See how the shep - herds, sum - moned to his cra - dle,
 *5 Child, for us sin - ners poor and in the man - ger,

1 come ye, O come ye to Beth - le - hem;
 2 lo! he ab - hors not the Vir - gin's womb;
 3 sing, all ye ci - ti - zens of heaven a - bove;
 4 leav - ing their flocks, draw nigh to gaze;
 5 we would em - brace thee, with love and awe;

1 come, and be - hold him, born the King of an - gels;
 2 on - ly - be - got - ten Son of the Fa - ther;
 3 glo - ry to God, glo - ry in the high - est;
 4 we too will thith - er bend our joy - ful foot - steps;
 5 who would not love thee, lov - ing us so dear - ly?

Refrain

O come, let us a - dore him, O come, let us a -
 dore him, O come, let us a - dore him, Christ the Lord.

6 Yea, Lord, we greet thee,
 born this happy morning;
 Jesus, to thee be glory given;
 Word of the Father,
 now in flesh appearing;

Refrain

The people may be seated.

Greeting and Welcome | Fr. Manny

Offertory | Will We Know Him

(Choir)

The people stand as able.

Collect and Blessing |

Officiant: The Lord be with you.

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

Officiant: Let us pray.

O God, you make us glad by the yearly festival of the birth of your only Son Jesus Christ: Grant that we, who joyfully receive him as our Redeemer, may with sure confidence behold him when he comes to be our Judge; who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. ***Amen.***

Officiant: May Christ, who by his Incarnation gathered into one things earthly and heavenly, fill you with his joy and peace; and the blessing of God Almighty, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, be among you, and remain with you always. ***Amen.***



1 Hark! the her-ald an - gels sing glo - ry to the new-born King!
 2 Christ, by high-est heaven a - dored; Christ, the ev - er - last - ing Lord;
 3 Mild he lays his glo - ry by, born that we no more may die,

Peace on earth and mer - cy mild, God and sin - ners rec - on - ciled!
 late in time be - hold him come, off - spring of the Vir - gin's womb.
 born to raise us from the earth, born to give us sec - ond birth.

Joy - ful, all ye na - tions, rise, join the tri-umph of the skies;
 Veiled in flesh the God-head see; hail the in-car-nate De - i - ty.
 Risen with heal-ing in his wings, light and life to all he brings,

with the an-gel - ic host pro - claim Christ is born in Beth - le - hem!
 Pleased as man with us to dwell; Je - sus, our Em - man - u - el!
 hail, the Sun of Right-eous-ness! hail, the heaven-born Prince of Peace!

Refrain
 Hark! the her - ald an - gels sing glo - ry to the new-born King!



Morning and Evening Prayer Livestreams

Monday - Friday at 7:00 a.m.

Fridays at 7:00 p.m.

via our website and Facebook

Our virtual tradition continues as wonderfully dedicated and faithful members of the Christ Church family lead us in a brief prayer service livestream to carry us through the Advent season.

Noonday Devotionals

Monday - Friday at 12 noon on Facebook

Throughout Advent

In addition to our daily Morning Prayer, Christ Church parishioners will present a daily Advent Noonday Prayer.

This is a brief (5-10 minutes) service that you can take part in during your lunch break, or when you have a few moments and want to reflect on the day (these are available for the remainder of each day after they are broadcast at 12:00 noon). A personal moment of worship consisting of a Bible verse, prayer, and a daily meditation concludes with a piece of inspirational music to carry you through the remainder of your day. You can join us here.

Centering Prayer

Monday evenings at 7:00 p.m. on Zoom

December 19

Bishop Sutton recently led a day-long retreat at Christ Church that focused on Centering Prayer and how it can help manage life's crises and stresses. Centering Prayer is a unique method of prayer that helps us be present and open to God, moving us beyond conversation with Christ and towards communion with Him. Everyone is welcome to join us for this special gathering on Mondays at 7:00 p.m., so if you'd like the Zoom details, let us know and we'll send them to you.

Advent Compline

Thursday evenings at 7:00 p.m. in Old Brick

December 22

The quiet and meditative service of Compline will be offered at Christ Church on four Thursday evenings during Advent, each at 7:00 p.m. in Old Brick. Please join us for an opportunity to be together in prayer and music during one of the busiest times of the year. The restful nature of Compline is perfect for helping you to focus on the love of God, and the coming of God's perfect gift, Jesus.

The Jesse Tree

*Each day throughout December
on our website's Jesse Tree page*

Last year during Advent at Christ Church, we began to invite parishioners and families to observe the tradition of a Jesse Tree celebration in their homes. This tradition honors the genealogy of Jesus Christ, tracing his Old and New Testament ancestors and telling the history of God's act of salvation.

Our own Jesse Tree, complete with beautiful hand-made ornaments by artist Jenn Lavanish, will be shown in the Narthex, along with a second wall display of Jesse Tree characters and tree. Materials for families and parish members who wish to honor this daily Jesse Tree tradition of reading Scripture, a short meditation, and the creation of an ornament to display on a Jesse Tree of their own will be provided. You'll also be able to find a complete set of ornament and tree patterns, as well as daily meditations, on our website during Advent.

Taizé

*Friday evenings at 6:00 p.m. in Old Brick
December 23*

This service offers quiet meditation, music, Scripture, and prayer in an intimate setting, offering us each a chance to remember and honor those in our own lives and the life of the community through the lighting of candles as well as prayers for healing and peace. Please join us at 6 p.m. in Old Brick to share in a peaceful end to each week.

Christ Church on Christmas Eve

*Saturday, December 24th
at 4:00, 8:00, and 11:00 p.m. in the New Brick Sanctuary
and via the CEC website, Facebook, and YouTube
Music begins 30 minutes prior to the 8 and 11 p.m. services*

Our youth are an integral part of the 4:00 Christmas Eve gathering at Christ Church, a family service that includes a live Nativity. All kids from pre-school - 5th grade are invited to have a role, so email us at info@christchurchcolumbia.org or call the Church Office to participate.

That evening, our excellent choir and instrumentalists will lead the seasonal music presentation prior to both uplifting Festal Eucharist services, so arrive at 7:30 and 10:30 p.m. to grab great seats and join us as we celebrate in joyous song!

Christmas Day Worship

*Sunday, December 25th
at 10:00 a.m. in the New Brick Sanctuary
and livestreamed on the CEC website, Facebook, and YouTube*

Christmas Day Eucharist is a truly wonderful service, and in 2022 it takes place in the Sanctuary of New Brick. And so, as the hymnist suggested... "*Come and worship... worship Christ, the new-born King!*"

New Year's Day Eucharist

*Sunday, January 1st
at 8:00 and 10:30 a.m. in the New Brick Sanctuary
and via website, Facebook, and YouTube*

We will gather together for this first Sunday morning of 2023, and collectively begin the New Year with Holy Eucharist and prayers for a healthier, safer, and more peaceful year-to-come.





CHRISTMAS FLOWERS & MUSIC

*in honor or memory
of
loved ones*

tinyurl.com/christmasflowersandmusic

Christmas Flowers and Music donations in memory or dedication of a loved one are being gratefully accepted. These will help fund the wonderful greenery, flowers, and musicians that assist in bringing the seasons of Advent and Christmas to life for everyone.

There are two ways you can donate - you can do so digitally using our Online Giving Form or by visiting tinyurl.com/christmasflowersandmusic, and simply select "Christmas Flowers & Music" or "Christmas General Offering" from the *FUND* dropdown menu and write the dedication name(s) on the *MEMO* line. If you prefer doing so by check, you'll find both Christmas envelopes in the Narthex and in Old Brick. When using either method, please be sure to submit yours no later than Wednesday, December 21st.

Thank you.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

To submit announcements for publication,
email to communications@christchurchcolumbia.org by Tuesday evening

For a digital copy of this service leaflet with website links, etc., visit the main page of our website.

Advent IV: Youth Sunday at Christ Church

Join us at any of our three services this Sunday morning. The first is at 8 a.m. in Old Brick. Then at 9, our Family Worship gathers in the New Brick Sanctuary, followed by Sunday School (Great Hall) for our youth and several Adult Formation gatherings around the campus. We then conclude the morning in the New Brick Sanctuary with our 10:30 Holy Eucharist, complete with music and choir.

Also on this special Sunday, the extraordinary youth of Christ Church will lead us in worship, using their exceptional gifts to serve as ushers, musicians, and lectors, as well as deliver the sermon of the day. It is one of our favorite Sundays on the calendar and we hope you'll join us.

Nursery services are available in New Brick for those who need them. We continue to follow the Green Post-Omicron Phase Guidelines, which means that mask use is optional, though still recommended. As always, we'll livestream our 10:30 worship, which you can watch on our [website](#), [YouTube](#), or [Facebook](#) pages.

Youth and Adult Formation

Youth Formation begins with breakfast around 8:30, followed by Family Worship and Sunday School. Every child is welcome, and you can find the details on [our website's Youth Formation page](#). Sunday School is also looking for a few more helpers in our classes. We are so blessed with the many young children in our program! In order to be in compliance with church regulations, we need at least 2 adults in each class, and they will help supervise the children and assist the teachers, so please contact Jennifer Atkins (dandjatkins@verizon.net) if you are able to assist or have any questions. At Adult formation, our Parenting Group and Sunday Bible Study meet in New Brick and the Parish Hall Conference Room, respectively, and Sunday Circle meets in Old Brick for the presentation centered around Advent and Prayer. Feel free to take part in any of these gatherings. Also, please note that this is the final Formation Sunday of the year; all Formation gatherings return on Sunday, January 8th.

Christmas Pageant Rehearsal

The Christ Church children will take place in a beloved tradition this Christmas Eve - the Christmas Pageant! We'll have one rehearsal this Sunday, December 18th, during Formation time. Then we'll gather at 3 p.m. on Christmas Eve and present the Pageant at 4:00. If you're interested in having your young loved one(s) participate, email Greta Barnes at gretapi@gmail.com and she'll give you the details.

The Greening of the Church - Sunday Afternoon

Christmas decorating of Christ Church will begin this Sunday after the 10:30 a.m. service, so stick around and lend a hand at making our Sanctuary look its finest for the season. Help is needed to hang wreaths, polish brass, and prepare the altar, among other tasks.

Festival of Nine Lessons and Carols - Sunday Evening

Christ Church will hold our Festival of Nine Lessons and Carols in New Brick this Sunday evening, a truly wonderful gathering whose origins date back to late 19th century England. All are most welcome to join us in this celebration of glorious carols, anthems, and hymns led by our wonderful choir, interspersed with Bible passages. This is an evening of joyful expression, in word and song, of the greatest story that has ever been told.

Christmas Flowers and Music

Christmas Flowers and Music donations in memory or dedication of a loved one are being gratefully accepted. These help fund the wonderful greenery, flowers, and musicians that assist in bringing the seasons of Advent and Christmas to life for everyone. There are two ways you can donate - **you can do so digitally using our Online Giving Form** and simply select "Christmas Flowers & Music" or "Christmas General Offering" from the *FUND* dropdown menu and write the dedication name(s) on the *MEMO* line. If doing so by check, you'll find both Christmas envelopes in the Narthex and in Old Brick. When using either method, please be sure to submit yours no later than Wednesday, December 21st. Thank you.

The Jesse Tree

The Jesse Tree continues! This tradition honors the genealogy of Jesus Christ, tracing his Old and New Testament ancestors and telling the history of God's act of salvation. Our own Jesse Tree - complete with beautiful hand-made ornaments by artist Jenn Lavanish - is displayed in the New Brick Narthex, along with a second wall display of Jesse Tree characters. Those who wish to honor this wonderful, daily tradition will find a brief Scripture reading and an ornament template to print, decorate, and display on a Jesse Tree of their own **on our website** throughout Advent.

Youth Ice Skating - This Saturday

Our Ice Skating Gathering is this Saturday, December 17th. Join us from 7 to 9:00 p.m. at the **Color Burst Ice Rink** at Merriweather in Columbia. The price is \$15 a person and that covers skate rental and our time on the ice. We strongly recommend people **buy their tickets directly beforehand**.

Centering Prayer - Mondays

Centering Prayer is a unique method of prayer that helps us be present and open to God, moving us beyond conversation with Christ and towards communion with Him. Everyone is welcome to join us for this special gathering on Mondays at 7:00 p.m. The Zoom link is **here**, Meeting ID is **859 2522 4340** and Password is **Centering!**

Advent Compline – Thursday

Please join us for an opportunity to be together in prayer and music during one of the busiest times of the year. The restful nature of Compline – our final Compline for Advent - is perfect for helping you to focus on the love of God, and the coming of God's perfect gift, Jesus.

Christ Church Choir - Thursdays

Make a joyful sound! Whether you read music or not, whether you have previous experience or not, and whether you are ready to commit or not, there's a place for you in our choir! **You can find links to the registration forms for both the Adult and Children's Choirs on our website's Music Ministry page**. If you're interested, please speak with Larissa or email her at **music@christchurchcolumbia.org**.

Theology on Tap - December 21

Want to take a break from the hectic pace of holiday craziness, and unwind with fellow parishioners for a few hours? Looking for a gathering where you can have a nice chat about interesting religious articles of the day? Theology on Tap is that event, an opportunity for informal, structure-free conversation with other parishioners each month. ToT takes place Wednesday, December 21st at **The Ale House in Columbia**, so come and join us at 7 p.m. for a fun evening! The address is 6480 Dobbin Way. Questions? Email Sarah at **sbtrunandsing@gmail.com**. Hope to see you there!

MOCC Holiday Dinner - December 23

The Men of Christ Church's 2022 Holiday Dinner will be at the Columbia Ale House on Friday, December 23rd at 6:00 p.m. This is a chance for all the men of Christ Church to gather for food, fellowship, and celebration of the holiday season. During the event, we will also brainstorm ways in which we can stay connected moving forward, and how the MOCC can make an impact in our local community and beyond. The cost of the dinner is \$48 per/person and includes unlimited non-alcoholic beverages (water, juice, soda, tea, coffee), and an all-you-can-eat, buffet-style meal. **More details are on our website.** Payment can be made online using **our Online Giving portal**, or via check. If paying online, select "Men of Christ Church" from the FUND dropdown menu, and write "Holiday Dinner" in the memo line. If paying by check, make them payable to Christ Church, and in the memo line write "MOCC Holiday Dinner." If you have any questions, you can contact Duane Smith at **cduanesmith@verizon.net**. We look forward to seeing all of our Christ Church brothers there.

Taizé during Advent - Friday

This service offers quiet meditation, music, Scripture, and prayer in an intimate setting, offering us each a chance to remember and honor those in our own lives and the life of the community through the lighting of candles as well as prayers for healing and peace. Join us at 6 p.m. in Old Brick to share in a peaceful end to this final Advent week.

WOCC December News

Many thanks to all the women who brought Christmas gifts for Springfield Hospital to the holiday luncheon (**and be sure to see all of the wonderful photos on our WOCC December blog!**) but there's still time to donate - you will have until this Sunday, December 18th to drop them off in the Springfield bin in the Tower Room. Please do not wrap your gifts, and do not include glass containers, manual razors, or medications. Thank you for your support of Springfield Hospital! And be sure to save the date - the next WOCC Meeting is Monday, January 2nd at 1:00 p.m. We'll be setting up our calendar of activities for the year, and we can use your good ideas! We will be meeting via Zoom and will send out the link towards the end of the month.

Leftover Rosemary Available

We have a bunch of leftover rosemary sprigs from our *Rosemary for Remembrance* service last weekend. This Sunday, feel free to grab a few from the Narthex and take them home with you.

Coffee Hour

We are always looking for Coffee Hour hosts for the 8:30 a.m. (in Old Brick) and the 9:30 a.m. (in New Brick) gatherings. **The sign-up sheet is online** and you are welcome to sign up for one, or for both! This is a great opportunity for fellowship and fun, and a great way to get to know your fellow parishioners. You can work by yourself, in couples, or with another family. Ministries are also encouraged to sign up. All you need to do is provide snacks, brew the coffee, stay for the coffee hour, and help tidy up. Training will be provided. Questions? Please contact the church office at **office@christchurchcolumbia.org** or 410-381-9365.

Your Church Needs You!

We are in need of more ushers, chalicists, and lectors for the 8 and 10:30 a.m. Sunday services. You will serve on rotational schedules (not every week) and during select events. There are no age requirements or limits, and TRAINING WILL BE PROVIDED, so please consider helping out!

- **Ushers:** welcome, seat, and direct parishioners during the service
- **Chalicists (Lay Eucharistic Minister):** assist the clergy in the distribution of the Eucharist
- **Lector (Lay Reader):** read aloud to the congregation throughout the year.

Please contact Yetti Lipede at **ministry@christchurchcolumbia.org** for more information.

Pledge for 2023

At Christ Church, we are so blessed to have a community of dedicated parishioners who support our ministry of faithful service, and we pray that each of you will prayerfully consider your contribution to Christ Church for the coming calendar year. Our in-gathering service was earlier this month, but you can bring your pledge cards to church with you at any time. You may also pick up 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.

Immense Gratitude for a Memorable 2022 Angel Tree Drive

The Angel Tree drive will be memorable for each of the 12 children whose Christmas wishes are being fulfilled, for their families, and for all the helpers who have made it happen. We focused our support on a group of 10-, 11- and 12-year-olds to meet a need identified by the Howard County (Central Maryland) division of [The Salvation Army](#). It sponsors the Angel Tree in Howard County and elsewhere.

Generous parishioners granted many of the children's wishes, either by purchasing new items or by donating more than \$200 for specific purposes such as a scooter. Please accept this hearty "Thank You!"

During the [hybrid sign-up process](#), parishioners chose to help six girls and six boys whose families had requested items. These were arranged by category in 48 slots. For example, one wish for electronics in the "educational" category was for a tablet and headphones.

All of the "Angels" will have new clothing to wear when they return to school next month, as their needs for outfits, coats, and shoes were apparent. Several of these pre-teens likely had outgrown their old favorites or may have had few options in their closets, based on their parents' requests to the Salvation Army. How welcome our gifts will be!

The logistics of matching parishioners to their "Angels" went smoothly thanks to Matt Gately and Sarah Rich, who set up the hybrid signup with added artistic touches, to tree-decorators Diane Phillips LaGuerre and Patricia Fanning, and to fulfillment volunteer Angela Braham. Once again, Outreach Commission member Melanie Yaksich led the drive at every step from launch to a shopping odyssey to fill gaps. Outreach used nearly \$500 in Vestry-approved funds to pay for these purchases, so thanks to all who contribute to Christ Church during the year.

(continued)

Sorting took place on Dec. 10 in the Parish Hall, with Fr. Manny pausing to cheer on Melanie and Angela during the process. The pair delivered the gifts to a warehouse space set up by the Salvation Army so that families in need can receive and wrap the gifts in plenty of time. From the Outreach Commission to all who took part, thanks on behalf of our dozen "Angels."

SLYC Completes the Quilt Raffle at Its Christmas Cafe

You'll recall seeing the beautiful quilt that was handcrafted by parishioner Nancy Winchester to benefit St. Luke's Youth Center ([SLYC](#)). The Baltimore nonprofit completed its quilt raffle on Saturday, Dec. 10, raising more than \$1,500 on the sale of tickets. Thanks to all at Christ Church who participated! The raffle took place at the Church of the Good Shepherd in Towson, Md., with Nancy and three members of the Christ Church Outreach Commission looking on as a child drew the winning ticket. The quilt went to Jackie and Jordan Franklin, who are among SLYC's parent leaders. The occasion was SLYC's annual Christmas Cafe for kids, families, and supporters. West Baltimore families collaborate in SLYC's leadership and offerings, which include "Moms on a Mission" and an after-school program. We heard about its founding on Sunday, Aug. 7, when Executive Director Amanda Gardner Talbot delivered the sermon at both services during a visit to Christ Church. The [Episcopal Diocese of Maryland](#) is among SLYC partners, and its reparations task force [awarded a grant](#) to SYLC and five other organizations.

Columbia Community Care Holds Successful Holiday Drive, Plans a Christmas Break

From children's books to arts and crafts, the items donated by parishioners to the 2022 holiday drive were distributed on Dec. 11 by **Columbia Community Care** (CCC). Our Christ Church volunteer contact, Leigh Smith, took items from the yellow bin to CCC to be added to a trove of treats and gifts for children ages 2 to 12. A long line of parents and siblings waited in chilly, damp weather outside Oakland Mills High School for the chance to obtain kids' gifts. Inside they found tables piled high, as seen on the **CCC Facebook Group**. Organizer Sue Sharff Castonguay posted: "THANK YOU!! Wow, we had a very successful Holiday Toy Drive today thanks to all of you!"

The all-volunteer organization is taking a holiday break. All sites and the pantry will be closed on Saturday, Dec. 24. But there's no need to take a break from your participation. At Christ Church, members of R.A.G.E and the Outreach Commission ask parishioners to support CCC by collecting diapers, baby wipes, sanitary and personal care items, and adult diapers. Please put any of these items in the yellow bin, marked "CCC," inside the Parish Hall. You can drop off items on weekdays when the church office is open or on Sunday.

FISH Continues to Request Snacks and Cookies in Its Yellow Bin

Our representative from **FISH of Howard County** had surgery earlier this year. Paul Wisniewski is recovering; please pray for his good health. A substitute is expected to make pickups from our yellow bin between Old Brick and the Parish Hall. Please continue donating cookies, crackers, and snacks to fulfill the shopping lists. 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.





Fired Up

Two Sundays ago, Bishop Ilhoff visited Christ Church and led three services, one of which was a confirmation service, where he confirmed eight of our youth. It was a beautiful service. The candidates had been through Confirmation classes beginning in March of this year. We then took the summer off and resumed in September, meeting on Zoom almost every Sunday afternoon at 2:00 p.m. These confirmation classes were led by Mike, Denise, Marcia, and me.

Prior to the Confirmation service, we held a two-day retreat for the candidates. It was beautiful spending time with them, and it was heartwarming seeing young minds with so much ahead of them, with life waiting to be explored, with zeal in need of direction and nurturing, with hope bursting at the seams, and with a faith that, like yours and mine, needed to be fired up.

Bishop Ilhoff's sermon that Sunday hit home with me, and I have been thinking about it quite a bit ever since. It, in fact, reminded me of a story about an elderly African American woman, Edith Childs. Edith - during the 2007 primaries as former U.S. President Barack Obama was campaigning in Greenwood, SC - shouted from the back of a room, "***Fired up! Ready to go!***" As if it was by design, everyone began to shout, "***Fired up! Ready to go!***" That became a slogan for a successful presidential campaign.

What stuck with me about the sermon was the idea that we are fired up by the spirit and so have been made free to burn with a particular zeal that lends itself to sacrificial love.

A prayerful reflection on being fired up led me to a stanza in a hymn "*On This Day The First Of Days.*" It reads thus:

***Holy Jesus may I be
Dead and buried here with thee
And, by love inflamed arise,
Unto thee a sacrifice***

(continued)

The joy, for me, is the gift of knowing that an awakened love is fired up at the prospect of offering itself as a sacrifice. The joy, for me, is that it is only an inflamed love that can awaken thoughts of sacrifice in us.

It is this sacrifice that I see every day at Christ Church. This past Monday, I joined our Outreach Ministry meeting as they narrated all the work that they have done and are doing. At the meeting, I learned that Nancy Winchester, who took over the monthly Christ Church ministry to Dorsey Center/Route 1 back in April of 2011, and after sacrificially serving all these years, she decided to step down so another person who is also fired up for service can lead this important ministry. I am thankful that Shahra Toth will now be leading this ministry. This is also evidence of a love freed to be sacrificial.

Over the past several weeks, we have been soliciting your support for our various parish initiatives - pledges, reparations, handbells, Angel Tree, Christmas flowers and music, among others. Sometimes it can be a little too much, and I understand that. The truth, however, is that you are our only source of support, and every single ministry to which we are committed is evidence of a love inflamed to be a sacrifice. Your generosity is evidence of that sacrificial love.

I am always amazed by the extent of work we do - marvelous work by many different people, including you. In ways both small and large, all of you chip in to make sure that our ministry is ongoing, our common life is rich, and that each of us feels God's touch in a way that not only supports the idea that we are fired up, but that we are fired up enough to bring that same fire to the many places of darkness.

I read elsewhere that when one is in love, a cliff becomes a meadow. That is the love I feel here at Christ Church, and that is the love that comes alive, especially at this time of the year when each is reminded of the abundant love which makes it possible for us to offer ourselves as sacrifices.

We are a few days away from the climax of our Christmas celebrations. If you ask me, Christmas is about being fired up. It is about being set free to be, to be born anew, to be the person who is unchained in expressing boundless compassion, unlimited in choosing love over fear, uninhibited by the desire to grow in their relationship with God and neighbor, touched by grace so unrelenting in its desire for the common good, and excited about being fired up.

One more thing before I conclude... this Christmas, I am reminded of the amazing gift of YOU. I give thanks for your ministry and life here at Christ Church. I honor the many and varied ways in which, while being fired up, you bring that divine energy into this community of faith. I cherish the way in which you hold your own selves and families together with an awakened love.

My only ask of you this Christmastide, my beloved, is to keep the fire burning in you. **Are you ready for Christmas?**

I am fired up.

Manny+

I can do **ALL THINGS** through him who gives me **STRENGTH**
— Philippians 4:13 —



WE ARE ALL STEWARDS OF OUR BELOVED 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 Christ Church to embrace, with courage, the task that God has for us. We need to remember that Christ Church is completely dependent on this faithfulness.

TEXT GIVING: You can now 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 towards 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.



Christ Episcopal Church

6800 Oakland Mills Road

Columbia, MD 21045

(410) 381-9365

www.christchurchcolumbia.org

office@christchurchcolumbia.org

The Rev'd Emmanuel Ato Mercer, *Rector*

The Rev'd Marcia Davenport, *Associate Priest*

The Rev'd Denise Schiavone, *Deacon*

Aisha White, *Parish Administrator*

Christopher Pouch, *Communications Administrator*

Yetti Lipede, *Ministry Coordinator*

Todd Domer, *Youth Minister*

Len Langrick, *Interim Music Director*

Vestry

Sara Kirkpatrick (*Senior Warden*) • Isaac Olajide (*Junior Warden*) • Andrew Eaton (*Treasurer*) Ron Couch (*Registrar*)

Tim Beaty • Jan DeBoissiere • Alfred Titus-Glover • Lynn Foor • Greta Pike-Barnes •

Jason Whong • Jane Adams • Diane Phillips-Laguerre • Beth Johnson • Andrea Leeman