

CHRIST EPISCOPAL CHURCH

Extending the Love and Embrace of Christ

ASH WEDNESDAY – HOLY EUCHARIST, RITE I

March 2, 2022

7:00 AM | 12:00 Noon | 7:30 PM

At the 7:00 AM and 12:00 Noon services, all music is omitted.

You may stream the 10:30 a.m. service from Christ Church's [website](#), [YouTube](#), or [Facebook](#) pages

THE ASH WEDNESDAY LITURGY

THE LITURGY OF THE WORD

CHORAL INTROIT – Crux Fidelis (Faithful Cross)

Steven Warner

*Crux fidelis; cross of gladness, tree on which our hope is hung;
Let my arms be as your branches! Yours, the song that must be sung.*

The people stand as able.

SALUTATION AND COLLECT OF THE DAY

Celebrant: The Lord be with you.

***People:* And with thy spirit.**

Celebrant: Let us pray.

Almighty and everlasting God, who hatest nothing that thou hast made and dost forgive the sins of all those who are penitent: Create and make in us new and contrite hearts, that we, worthily lamenting our sins and acknowledging our wretchedness, may obtain of thee, the God of all mercy, perfect remission and forgiveness; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who liveth and reigneth with thee and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. **Amen.**

The people may be seated.

THE FIRST READING

Isaiah 58:1-12

Shout out, do not hold back!

Lift up your voice like a trumpet!

Announce to my people their rebellion,
to the house of Jacob their sins.

Yet day after day they seek me

and delight to know my ways,

as if they were a nation that practiced righteousness

and did not forsake the ordinance of their God;

they ask of me righteous judgments,

they delight to draw near to God.

"Why do we fast, but you do not see?

Why humble ourselves, but you do not notice?"

Look, you serve your own interest on your fast day,
and oppress all your workers.
Look, you fast only to quarrel and to fight
and to strike with a wicked fist.
Such fasting as you do today
will not make your voice heard on high.
Is such the fast that I choose,
a day to humble oneself?
Is it to bow down the head like a bulrush,
and to lie in sackcloth and ashes?
Will you call this a fast,
a day acceptable to the Lord?
Is not this the fast that I choose:
to loose the bonds of injustice,
to undo the thongs of the yoke,
to let the oppressed go free,
and to break every yoke?
Is it not to share your bread with the hungry,
and bring the homeless poor into your house;
when you see the naked, to cover them,
and not to hide yourself from your own kin?
Then your light shall break forth like the dawn,
and your healing shall spring up quickly;
your vindicator shall go before you,
the glory of the LORD shall be your rear guard.
Then you shall call, and the LORD will answer;
you shall cry for help, and he will say, Here I am.

If you remove the yoke from among you,
the pointing of the finger, the speaking of evil,
if you offer your food to the hungry
and satisfy the needs of the afflicted,
then your light shall rise in the darkness
and your gloom be like the noonday.
The LORD will guide you continually,
and satisfy your needs in parched places,
and make your bones strong;
and you shall be like a watered garden,
like a spring of water,
whose waters never fail.
Your ancient ruins shall be rebuilt;
you shall raise up the foundations of many generations;
you shall be called the repairer of the breach,
the restorer of streets to live in.

Reader: The Word of the Lord.

All: Thanks be to God.

The following Psalm is read responsively by half-verse.

The LORD is full of compassion and mercy, *
long-suffering, and of great goodness.

He will not alway be chiding; *
neither keepeth he his anger for ever.

He hath not dealt with us after our sins; *
nor rewarded us according to our wickednesses.

For look how high the heaven is in comparison of the earth; *
so great is his mercy also toward them that fear him.

Look how wide also the east is from the west; *
so far hath he set our sins from us.

Yea, like as a father pitieth his own children; *
even so is the LORD merciful unto them that fear him.

For he knoweth whereof we are made; *
he remembereth that we are but dust.

THE EPISTLE

2 Corinthians 5:20b-6:10

We entreat you on behalf of Christ, be reconciled to God. For our sake he made him to be sin who knew no sin, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God.

As we work together with him, we urge you also not to accept the grace of God in vain. For he says,

"At an acceptable time I have listened to you,
 and on a day of salvation I have helped you."

See, now is the acceptable time; see, now is the day of salvation! We are putting no obstacle in anyone's way, so that no fault may be found with our ministry, but as servants of God we have commended ourselves in every way: through great endurance, in afflictions, hardships, calamities, beatings, imprisonments, riots, labors, sleepless nights, hunger; by purity, knowledge, patience, kindness, holiness of spirit, genuine love, truthful speech, and the power of God; with the weapons of righteousness for the right hand and for the left; in honor and dishonor, in ill repute and good repute. We are treated as impostors, and yet are true; as unknown, and yet are well known; as dying, and see-- we are alive; as punished, and yet not killed; as sorrowful, yet always rejoicing; as poor, yet making many rich; as having nothing, and yet possessing everything.

Reader: The Word of the Lord.
All: **Thanks be to God.**

The people stand as able and remain standing for the reading of the Gospel.

SEQUENCE HYMN 149 – Eternal Lord of Love, Behold Your Church

Old 124th

1 E - ter - nal Lord of love, be - hold your Church
2 So dai - ly dy - ing to the way of self,
3 If dead in you, so in you we a - rise,
walk - ing once more the pil - grim way of Lent,
so dai - ly liv - ing to your way of love,
you the first - born of all the faith - ful dead;
led by your cloud by day, by night your fire,
we walk the road, Lord Je - sus, that you trod,
and as through ston - y ground the green shoots break,
moved by your love and toward your pres - ence bent:
know - ing our - selves bap - tized in - to your death:
glo - rious in spring - time dress of leaf and flower,
far off yet here— the goal of all de - sire.
so we are dead and live with you in God.
so in the Fa - ther's glo - ry shall we wake.

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

People: **Glory be to thee, O Lord.**

Jesus said, "Beware of practicing your piety before others in order to be seen by them; for then you have no reward from your Father in heaven.

"So whenever you give alms, do not sound a trumpet before you, as the hypocrites do in the synagogues and in the streets, so that they may be praised by others. Truly I tell you, they have received their reward. But when you give alms, do not let your left hand know what your right hand is doing, so that your alms may be done in secret; and your Father who sees in secret will reward you.

"And whenever you pray, do not be like the hypocrites; for they love to stand and pray in the synagogues and at the street corners, so that they may be seen by others. Truly I tell you, they have received their reward. But whenever you pray, go into your room and shut the door and pray to your Father who is in secret; and your Father who sees in secret will reward you.

"And whenever you fast, do not look dismal, like the hypocrites, for they disfigure their faces so as to show others that they are fasting. Truly I tell you, they have received their reward. But when you fast, put oil on your head and wash your face, so that your fasting may be seen not by others but by your Father who is in secret; and your Father who sees in secret will reward you.

"Do not store up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust consume and where thieves break in and steal; but store up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust consumes and where thieves do not break in and steal. For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also."

Celebrant: The Gospel of the Lord.

People: **Praise be to thee, O Christ.**

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

SERMON

The Rev'd Marcia Davenport, *Associate Priest*, 7:00 a.m.

The Rev'd Denise Schiavone, *Deacon*, 12 Noon & 7:30 p.m.

The people stand as able.

THE INVITATION TO THE OBSERVANCE OF A HOLY LENT

Celebrant: Dear People of God: The first Christians observed with great devotion the days of our Lord's passion and resurrection, and it became the custom of the Church to prepare for them by a season of penitence and fasting. This season of Lent provided a time in which converts to the faith were prepared for Holy Baptism. It was also a time when those who, because of notorious sins, had been separated from the body of the faithful were reconciled by penitence and forgiveness, and restored to the fellowship of the Church. Thereby, the whole congregation was put in mind of the message of pardon and absolution set forth in the Gospel of our Savior, and of the need which all Christians continually have to renew their repentance and faith.

I invite you, therefore, in the name of the Church, to the observance of a holy Lent, by self-examination and repentance; by prayer, fasting, and self-denial; and by reading and meditating on God's holy Word. And, to make a right beginning of repentance, and as a mark of our mortal nature, let us now kneel before the Lord, our maker and redeemer.

Silence is kept for a time, all kneeling as able.

THE IMPOSITION OF ASHES

Celebrant: Almighty God, you have created us out of the dust of the earth: Grant that these ashes may be to us a sign of our mortality and penitence, that we may remember that it is only by your gracious gift that we are given everlasting life; through Jesus Christ our Savior.

People: **Amen.**

If you are imposing ashes at home, you are invited to do so with the following words:

Remember that you are dust, and to dust you shall return.

PSALM 51

Miserere mei, Deus

The following Psalm is read responsively by half-verse.

Have mercy upon me, O God, after thy great goodness; *
according to the multitude of thy mercies do away mine offences.

Wash me thoroughly from my wickedness, *
and cleanse me from my sin.

For I acknowledge my faults, *
and my sin is ever before me.

Against thee only have I sinned, and done this evil in thy sight; *
that thou mightest be justified in thy saying, and clear when thou shalt judge.

Behold, I was shapen in wickedness, *
and in sin hath my mother conceived me.

But lo, thou requirest truth in the inward parts, *
and shalt make me to understand wisdom secretly.

Thou shalt purge me with hyssop, and I shall be clean; *
thou shalt wash me, and I shall be whiter than snow.

Thou shalt make me hear of joy and gladness, *
that the bones which thou hast broken may rejoice.

Turn thy face from my sins, *
and put out all my misdeeds.

Make me a clean heart, O God, *
and renew a right spirit within me.

Cast me not away from thy presence, *
and take not thy holy Spirit from me.

O give me the comfort of thy help again, *
and stablish me with thy free Spirit.

Then shall I teach thy ways unto the wicked, *
and sinners shall be converted unto thee.

Deliver me from blood-guiltiness, O God, thou that art the God of my health; *
and my tongue shall sing of thy righteousness.

Thou shalt open my lips, O Lord, *
and my mouth shall show thy praise.

For thou desirest no sacrifice, else would I give it thee; *
but thou delightest not in burnt-offerings.

The sacrifice of God is a troubled spirit: *
a broken and contrite heart, O God, shalt thou not despise.

O be favourable and gracious unto Sion; *
build thou the walls of Jerusalem.

Then shalt thou be pleased with the sacrifice of righteousness, with the burnt-offerings and oblations; *
then shall they offer young bullocks upon thine altar.

LITANY OF PENITENCE

All: Most holy and merciful Father:
We confess to you and to one another,
and to the whole communion of saints
in heaven and on earth,
that we have sinned by our own fault
in thought, word, and deed;
by what we have done, and by what we have left undone.

Celebrant: We have not loved you with our whole heart, and mind, and strength. We have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. We have not forgiven others, as we have been forgiven.

People: Have mercy on us, Lord.

Celebrant: We have been deaf to your call to serve, as Christ served us. We have not been true to the mind of Christ. We have grieved your Holy Spirit.

People: Have mercy on us, Lord.

Celebrant: We confess to you, Lord, all our past unfaithfulness:
the pride, hypocrisy, and impatience of our lives,

People: We confess to you, Lord.

Celebrant: Our self-indulgent appetites and ways, and our exploitation of other people,

People: We confess to you, Lord.

Celebrant: Our anger at our own frustration, and our envy of those more fortunate than ourselves,

People: We confess to you, Lord.

Celebrant: Our intemperate love of worldly goods and comforts, and our dishonesty in daily life and work,

People: We confess to you, Lord.

Celebrant: Our negligence in prayer and worship, and our failure to commend the faith that is in us,

People: We confess to you, Lord.

Celebrant: Accept our repentance, Lord, for the wrongs we have done:
for our blindness to human need and suffering, and our indifference to injustice and cruelty,

***People:* Accept our repentance, Lord.**

Celebrant: For all false judgments, for uncharitable thoughts toward our neighbors, and for our
prejudice and contempt toward those who differ from us,

***People:* Accept our repentance, Lord.**

Celebrant: For our waste and pollution of your creation, and our lack of concern for those who come
after us,

***People:* Accept our repentance, Lord.**

Celebrant: Restore us, good Lord, and let your anger depart from us;

***People:* Favorably hear us, for your mercy is great.**

Celebrant: Accomplish in us the work of your salvation,

***People:* That we may show forth your glory in the world.**

Celebrant: By the cross and passion of your Son our Lord,

***People:* Bring us with all your saints to the joy of his resurrection.**

Celebrant: Almighty God, the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who desires not the death of sinners, but
rather that they may turn from their wickedness and live, has given power and
commandment to his ministers to declare and pronounce to his people, being penitent, the
absolution and remission of their sins. He pardons and absolves all those who truly repent,
and with sincere hearts believe his holy Gospel.

Therefore we beseech him to grant us true repentance and his Holy Spirit, that those things
may please him which we do on this day, and that the rest of our life hereafter may be pure
and holy, so that at the last we may come to his eternal joy; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

***People:* Amen.**

THE PEACE

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

***People:* And with thy spirit.**

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

THE CELEBRATION OF THE HOLY EUCHARIST

MUSIC DURING THE OFFERING – Lord, For Thy Tender Mercy's Sake

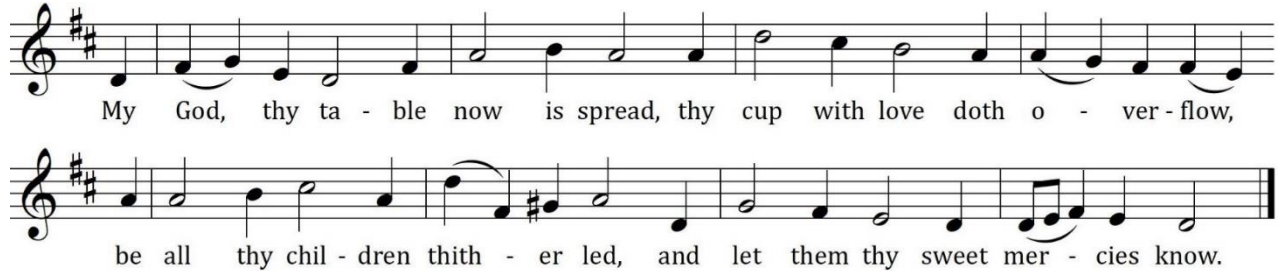
Richard Farrant

*Lord, for thy tender mercy's sake lay not our sins to our charge,
But forgive that is past, and give us grace to amend our sinful lives:
To decline from sin and incline to virtue, that we may walk in a perfect heart,
Before thee now and evermore. Amen.*

The people stand as able.

PRESENTATION HYMN 321, V.1

Rockingham



EUCCHARISTIC PRAYER I

Celebrant: The Lord be with you.

***People:* And with thy spirit.**

Celebrant: Lift up your hearts.

***People:* We lift them up unto the Lord.**

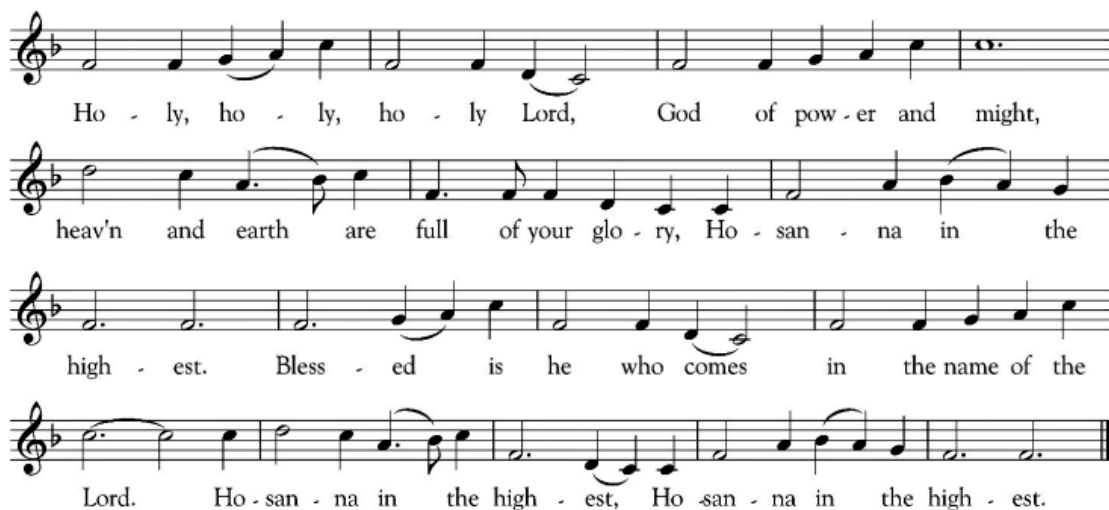
Celebrant: Let us give thanks unto our Lord our God.

***People:* It is meet and right so to do.**

Celebrant: It is very meet, right, and our bounden duty, that we should at all times, and in all places, give thanks unto thee, O Lord, holy Father, almighty, everlasting God.

Through Jesus Christ our Lord; who was in every way tempted as we are, yet did not sin; by whose grace we are able to triumph over every evil, and to live no longer unto ourselves, but unto him who died for us and rose again.

Therefore with Angels and Archangels, and with all the company of heaven, we laud and magnify thy glorious Name; evermore praising thee, and saying,



Celebrant:

All glory be to thee, Almighty God, our heavenly Father, for that thou, of thy tender mercy, didst give thine only Son Jesus Christ to suffer death upon the cross for our redemption; who made there, by his one oblation of himself once offered, a full, perfect, and sufficient sacrifice, oblation, and satisfaction, for the sins of the whole world; and did institute, and in his holy Gospel command us to continue, a perpetual memory of that his precious death and sacrifice, until his coming again.

For in the night in which he was betrayed, he took bread; and when he had given thanks, he brake it, and gave it to his disciples, saying, "Take, eat, this is my Body, which is given for you. Do this in remembrance of me."

Likewise, after supper, he took the cup; and when he had given thanks, he gave it to them, saying, "Drink ye all of this; for this is my Blood of the New Testament, which is shed for you, and for many, for the remission of sins. Do this, as oft as ye shall drink it, in remembrance of me."

Wherefore, O Lord and heavenly Father, according to the institution of thy dearly beloved Son our Savior Jesus Christ, we, thy humble servants, do celebrate and make here before thy divine Majesty, with these thy holy gifts, which we now offer unto thee, the memorial thy Son hath commanded us to make; having in remembrance his blessed passion and precious death, his mighty resurrection and glorious ascension; rendering unto thee most hearty thanks for the innumerable benefits procured unto us by the same.

And we most humbly beseech thee, O merciful Father, to hear us; and, of thy almighty goodness, vouchsafe to bless and sanctify, with thy Word and Holy Spirit, these thy gifts and creatures of bread and wine; that we, receiving them according to thy Son our Savior Jesus Christ's holy institution, in remembrance of his death and passion, may be partakers of his most blessed Body and Blood.

And we earnestly desire thy fatherly goodness mercifully to accept this our sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving; most humbly beseeching thee to grant that, by the merits and death of thy Son Jesus Christ, and through faith in his blood, we, and all thy whole Church, may obtain remission of our sins, and all other benefits of his passion.

And here we offer and present unto thee, O Lord, our selves, our souls and bodies, to be a reasonable, holy, and living sacrifice unto thee; humbly beseeching thee that we, and all others who shall be partakers of this Holy Communion, may worthily receive the most precious Body and Blood of thy Son Jesus Christ, be filled with thy grace and heavenly benediction, and made one body with him, that he may dwell in us, and we in him.

And although we are unworthy, through our manifold sins, to offer unto thee any sacrifice, yet we beseech thee to accept this our bounden duty and service, not weighing our merits, but pardoning our offenses, through Jesus Christ our Lord;

By whom, and with whom, in the unity of the Holy Ghost, all honor and glory be unto thee, O Father Almighty, world without end.

People:

Amen.

THE LORD'S PRAYER

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

Spoken at the 7:00 a.m. and 12:00 noon services

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.

Sung at the 7:30 p.m. service

Our Fa - ther in heaven, hal - lowed be your Name. Your king - dom come,
your will be done, on earth as in heaven. Give us to - day our dai - ly bread.
For - give us our sins as we for - give those who sin a - gainst us.
Save us from the time of trial, and de - liv - er us from e - vil.
For the king - dom the power, and the glo - ry are yours, now and for - ev - er. A - men.

THE BREAKING OF THE BREAD

Celebrant: Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us;

All: Therefore let us keep the feast.



1. Just as I am, with - out one plea, But that Thy blood was shed for me,
 2. Just as I am, and wait - ing not To rid my soul of one dark blot,
 3. Just as I am, tho' tossed a - bout With many a con - flict, many a doubt,
 4. Just as I am, poor, wretched, blind; Sight, rich - es, heal - ing of the mind,
 5. Just as I am, Thou wilt re - ceive, Wilt welcome, pardon, cleanse, re - lieve,
 6. Just as I am, Thy love un - known Hath bro - ken ev - 'ry bar - rier down;

And that Thou bidd'st me come to Thee, O Lamb of God, I come! I come!
 To Thee whose blood can cleanse each spot, O Lamb of God, I come! I come!
 Fight - ings with - in and fears with - out, O Lamb of God, I come! I come!
 Yea, all I need in Thee to find, O Lamb of God, I come! I come!
 Because Thy prom - ise I be - lieve, O Lamb of God, I come! I come!
 Now to be Thine, yea, Thine a - lone, O Lamb of God, I come! I come!

Please stand as able.

POST-COMMUNION PRAYER

Celebrant: Let us pray.

All: Almighty and everliving God,
 we most heartily thank thee for that thou dost feed us,
 in these holy mysteries, with the spiritual food
 of the most precious Body and Blood of thy Son our Savior Jesus Christ;
 and dost assure us thereby of thy favor and goodness towards us;
 and that we are very members incorporate in the mystical body of thy Son,
 the blessed company of all faithful people;
 and are also heirs, through hope, of thy everlasting kingdom.
 And we humbly beseech thee, O heavenly Father,
 so to assist us with thy grace, that we may continue in that holy fellowship,
 and do all such good works as thou hast prepared for us to walk in;
 through Jesus Christ our Lord, to whom with thee and the Holy Ghost,
 be all honor and glory, world without end. Amen.

THE BLESSING

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

CLOSING HYMN 143 – The Glory of These Forty Days

Erhalt uns, Herr



1 The glo - ry of these for - ty days we
2 A - lone and fast - ing Mo - ses saw the
3 So Dan - iel trained his mys - tic sight, de -
4 Then grant us, Lord, like them to be full
* 5 O Fa - ther, Son, and Spi - rit blest, to



1 ce - le - brate with songs of praise; for Christ, through whom all
2 lov - ing God who gave the law; and to E - li - jah,
3 liv - ered from the li - ons' might; and John, the Bride - groom's
4 oft in fast and prayer with thee; our spi - rits strength - en
5 thee be ev - ery prayer ad - dressed, who art in three - fold



1 things were made, him - self has fast - ed and has prayed.
2 fast - ing, came the steeds and char - i - ots of flame.
3 friend, be - came the her - ald of Mes - si - ah's name.
4 with thy grace, and give us joy to see thy face.
5 Name a - dored, from age to age, the on - ly Lord.

THE DISMISSAL

The Deacon dismisses the people, who respond:

Thanks be to God.

(The Alleluias are omitted during Lent)

POSTLUDE – Ich ruŕ zu dir, Herr Jesu Christ, BWV 639

Johann Sebastian Bach

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ANNOUNCEMENTS

Send announcements to communications@christchurchcolumbia.org

Lent at Christ Church | Next week brings the start of the 2022 Lenten season, and many new and traditional services and gatherings are being hosted at Christ Church. You can view the entire Lenten schedule and read service and event details on our website's *Lent at Christ Church* page. Be sure to check back regularly or bookmark the page on your browser as we'll regularly update details as needed.

Youth Formation: Sunday School | Every child is always welcome to join us virtually for Sunday School, with both sessions beginning at 9:15 a.m. If this is your first time, the registration form is located here and you can send completed ones to ministry@christchurchcolumbia.org to enroll. You can receive the elementary-age Zoom link by emailing Jennifer Atkins at dandjatkins@verizon.net. The older youth session is run by our Youth Minister, Todd Domer, and you can reach him by emailing youthministry@christchurchcolumbia.org for those Zoom details.

Adult Forum: Sunday Circle | Our popular Sunday morning Adult Forum series continues through Lent with a new cycle of topics based on the History of Women in the Church. Starting this Sunday, March 6th at 9:30 a.m. in the Great Hall (lower level) of New Brick, we will begin this series by exploring *Women of the Bible*.

Pick Up Your Pledge Envelopes This Sunday | The 2022 pledge envelopes have arrived and are available for pickup now. They are located in the Narthex, but if you need to make other arrangements, please email the Church Office.

Confirmation Class - Begins Sunday | Christ Church is offering Confirmation classes for all high school students in 2022 and will begin this Sunday, March 6th. At this time, we'll temporarily hold these classes online via Zoom and make adjustments as we go along. It is our hope that our candidates will be confirmed by one of the Bishops of Maryland later this year; we'll share that date when it becomes available. If you are interested in learning more about Confirmation and/or registering for the class, please reach out to Fr. Manny at revmanny@christchurchcolumbia.org.

The 2022 Christ Church Lenten Meditation Book | The 2022 Lenten Meditation Book is now available for you to pick up and take home beginning this Sunday. As always, daily Lenten Meditations will be posted on our website and social media pages each weekday from Ash Wednesday to Holy Saturday, with a *Saturday Song* musical selection posted each weekend. Thank you to everyone who sent us their submissions - this is the largest LMB we've ever published and that's due to the wonderful response we received from our parish family.

Centering Prayer – Mondays | Centering Prayer takes place Mondays at 7 p.m. and is a form of contemplation, a method of prayer that helps us be present and open to God. We invite you to log in, see what Centering Prayer is all about, and how it can find a unique and valuable space in your own life. The Zoom link is here, Meeting ID is 859 2522 4340 and Password is Centering! You can view last week's Centering Prayer virtual gathering here.

Adult and Children's Choir - Tuesdays and Thursdays | Our choirs are in full swing for both youth and adults, and everyone is welcome to join... so maybe 2022 is your year! Children's Choir meets on Tuesdays from 5:00-6:00 p.m. and Adult Choir meets Thursdays at 7:30 p.m. If you've ever been interested in joining our choir, now's that time... and this invitation is open to every parishioner. No experience is necessary, and the more people who join us, the better we sound! Please email Len Langrick, our Director of Music, at music@christchurchcolumbia.org to learn more.

Lectionary Bible Study – Wednesdays | Bible Study takes place on Zoom each Wednesday at 10:30 a.m., discussing and reflecting on the readings for the coming Sunday. Our next gathering's readings are located here. You do not have to know much about the Bible; just join in and we'll all study and learn together. The Zoom link is here, Meeting ID is 885 9287 2661 and the Password is CECBible.

CEC Book Club – Fridays | The CEC Book Club is back this Friday evening, as we begin our discussion of the book *Why I Believe in a Personal God: The Credibility of Faith in a Doubting Culture* by George Carey, former Archbishop of Canterbury. We're always welcoming new members to join our virtual gathering. For about an hour each Friday, we discuss a specified section of the current book and plan future readings and ideas. We hope that you'll find time to join us for this engaging and enlightening group discussion, so email Ellen Hoke at efboudreau1@gmail.com if you're interested or have any questions.

Taizé Worship Services in Lent - March 4th | Beginning this Friday, March 4th at 6 p.m. in Old Brick, CEC will offer a series of six Taizé worship services including chants, prayers, Scripture, intercessory prayer, and silence. Mother Marcia, a long-time adherent to the Taizé community and frequent visitor, will lead the service. This form of worship, based on the practice of the Taizé community in France, offers a time of quiet and intentional reflection, worship, and drawing closer to the Presence of God in Christ Jesus.

The founder of the Taizé community, Brother Roger, explains: "What we usually call 'worship' the Taizé community simply calls 'Prayer'. Taizé Prayer consists of 'short chants, repeated again and again, giving them a meditative character. Using just a few words, they express a basic reality of faith, quickly grasped by the mind. As the words are sung over many times, this reality gradually penetrates the whole being. Meditative singing thus becomes a way of listening to God."

Silence is also an important component and a welcome gift to Taizé worship. The use of lighted candles and icons offers a visual invitation to pray silently in the presence of others and God. Although chants and even prayers are sung, there is no requirement to be musically gifted to participate. For more information, [email Mother Marcia](#) or simply join us in Old Brick any Friday during Lent, beginning on March 4th.

Women of Christ Church - March 7th | The next WOCC meeting takes place via Zoom on Monday, March 7th at 1 p.m. If you're a woman aged 18 or older, you're already a member of the WOCC, so join us and see what's happening!

We've also published our calendar of events for 2022, so [please check it out](#) and join us in our activities. We've got lots of opportunities coming up in March, so mark your calendars:

- March 21st is our trip to Maryland Women's Heritage Center to celebrate Women's History Month. Carpooling will be available. [Email us for details.](#)
- We've been invited by St. John's in Ellicott City to their Saturday afternoon guided Lenten Labyrinth walks. Guides will be available between 2:30 and 5:30 each Saturday in Lent, beginning March 5th. We visited the site last fall; you can see our report about that experience [here](#).

In other news, The WOCC delivered large-print bibles, sugar-free hot cocoa mix, and a variety of snacks to our friends at Springfield Hospital Volunteer Services on February 17th ([see the photo on the WOCC blog post for March](#)). We still can't make our monthly bingo visits due to COVID-19 restrictions, but we check in with Volunteer Services to see if we can help them meet current patient needs. The snacks will be used in their Incentive Program, and the Bibles were a request from their new chaplain, on behalf of a few patients with sight challenges.

Altar Flowers and Gifts | If you would like to present Altar gifts in dedication or celebration of a loved one on an upcoming Sunday, you can find the details and 2022 sign-up sheet at <https://tinyurl.com/CECaltargifts>. You can also sign up and reserve a slot by using our [Realm Online Giving Form](#); just choose "Altar Flowers and Gifts" from the *FUND* drop-down menu, and place the dedication name(s) and service date in the *MEMO* line. [Email the Church Office](#) with any questions.

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Christ Church's Grief Support Group | If you are grieving a loss and would like to occasionally join a group of others for mutual support and learning, please let us know. Christ Church is planning on creating a Zoom gathering, led by Mother Marcia, for those who might find comfort in sharing &/or listening to experiences of processing loss. This group would meet on a schedule that's most convenient for all participants. Mother Marcia is also happy to meet individually to offer pastoral care and counseling, so if you're interested in taking part in either gathering, [please email](#) or speak to her at any time.

Knitters... We Need You! | The Christ Church Prayer Shawl Group has recently been very successful in creating prayer squares, so we are in abundance of those. We do, however, need help in knitting complete prayer shawls at this time. There are several people who are in need of one, but we don't have any to offer to them. If you are interested in knitting a prayer shawl, they can be made approximately 20" wide and 60" long and knit in a machine-washable material (cotton or acrylic are preferred). An example of a completed prayer shawl can be seen [here](#). The fun in making these is that the knitter is creating something with love to comfort someone in need and that they can be creative in choosing a design or creating their own. If you are interested or would like more information, please email Kathy Lyon at rklyon@cablespeed.com.

We Can Use a Few More Ushers and Lectors... How About You? | Several people have recently offered to help out during Christ Church services, and we are extremely grateful to each of you! We do have several spots available for more volunteers, so we encourage you to consider becoming an usher and/or lector for the occasional Sunday service. You will know your schedule well ahead of time, and all ushers and lectors will receive training before scheduling. Please contact Yetti Lipede at ministry@christchurchcolumbia.org for more information.

Youth Ministry Assistance Needed | Our Youth Minister, Todd Domer, is looking for a few volunteers to occasionally help out during youth activities and gatherings. If you're interested, please email Todd at youthministry@christchurchcolumbia.org

Diocese of Maryland's COVID Update for This Week | Howard County is currently in the Orange Phase, although the Omicron variant continues to affect the number of cases throughout the region. The most recent Diocesan update can be read in full [here](#). Please note that masks are still required at all times while indoors at Christ Church, and we encourage those with compromised immune systems to remain home on Sundays and worship virtually. As always, we'll continue our dialogue with the appropriate organizations and adjust restrictions with care and consideration. [Email us if you have any questions](#).

Columbia Community Care Makes Plans to Restore Home Delivery, Starting with a Call for Volunteers to Clean and Prepare Its Next Pantry | In late summer, the all-volunteer organization [Columbia Community Care](#) (CCC) had to suspend home delivery service after it lost access to the last of the pantries that it had arranged with faith-based partners during the pandemic. The delivery service, which benefits people who lack transportation or face other challenges, was put on hold until CCC could obtain a new pantry. There's no date yet for the resumption of deliveries, but there is news of Howard County coming through with the site for a new pantry and dates for a weekend clean-up to establish it.

"We officially have the keys to the Columbia Flier Building for a temporary home for now, and we will begin our process to re-start our home delivery service!" wrote CCC founder Erika Strauss Chavarria in a Feb. 21st announcement to the [CCC Group on Facebook](#).

"The first step of this process is to clean and decorate our new space, and we need YOUR HELP! We will have a "CCC Volunteer Clean-up and Beautify the Flier Building Weekend Extravaganza" on Saturday, March 19th, and Sunday, March 20th," she wrote.

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The building, located at 10750 Little Patuxent Parkway, had been the iconic home of the *Columbia Flier* and other community newspapers of Patuxent Publishing Co., which was acquired by the Baltimore Sun Media Group. After the building was vacated in 2011, the Howard County government bought it in 2014. CCC is asking for a community-wide effort to get the space in shape as a pantry. “Anyone looking for service hours, this is a GREAT opportunity to get those hours in! Hope to see you all there!” said Chavarria. CCC set up an online [sign-up form for volunteers](#) who are willing to perform duties during various shifts from 8:30 a.m. to 3 p.m. on March 19 and from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. on March 20.

“Can’t make it to the cleanup weekend, but still want to help?” CCC asks supporters to pitch in by lending or donating items needed to clean and paint. If you are interested, go to a separate [online sign-up form](#) that promises to provide further instructions by email as the weekend approaches.

Last year, while the organization still had access to a pantry at a partner church in Fulton, Md., CCC made more than 12,000 home deliveries to families in Howard County. Several Christ Church parishioners had volunteered to make deliveries, starting their duties by “shopping” among the supplies at the pantry to fill recipients’ grocery lists. CCC said it will not begin accumulating groceries to resume deliveries until after the new building is ready.

In the meantime, CCC still distributes items to walk-up clients at its three indoor sites during the winter. Neighbors in need can pick up necessities at three locations: Long Reach Village Center, Suite 9, 8775 Cloudleap Ct.; the Wilde Lake Interfaith Center, 10431 Twin Rivers Rd., and the Barn/Teen Center indoor space in the Oakland Mills Village Center, 5851 Robert Oliver Place in Columbia. Recipients are welcome from 10 a.m. to noon. For volunteers, donations and drop-offs begin at 9 a.m.

At Christ Church, members of R.A.G.E and the Outreach Commission ask parishioners to continue supporting 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. At Christ Church, our point of contact is Violet Smith, who transports goods in the bin to CCC for distribution.

Baltimore Seafarers News | As a reminder, the Women of Christ Church gather donations for Seafarers throughout the year. At this time, they are looking for magazines, cards, notebooks, gloves, hats, and scarves. If you’d like to donate any of these items, the "Seafarers" box is under the table in the Tower Room of New Brick.

Donate Snacks, Crackers, and Cookies to FISH in Bin on our Breezeway | Organizers for [FISH of Howard County](#) are continuing to ask for cookies, crackers, and snacks to fulfill its shopping lists. The yellow bin is between Old Brick and the Parish Hall. Thanks for your contributions to our neighbors in need.

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



View the details of Christ Church's 2022 Lenten schedule at

<https://www.christchurchcolumbia.org/lent>



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. Your beloved Christ Church counts on you and your faithful giving, and so as we celebrate the season of giving, we want to highly encourage all who have not fully completed their pledge for 2021 to remember their faithfulness. We also want to appeal to all who have not as yet returned their pledge for 2022 to remember their 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



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The Rev'd Emmanuel Ato Mercer, *Rector*

The Rev'd Marcia Davenport, *Associate Priest*

The Rev'd Denise Schiavone, *Deacon*

Todd Domer, *Youth Minister*

Len Langrick, *Interim Music Director*

Kathleen Lyon, *Pastoral Care Coordinator*

Yetti Lipede, *Ministry Coordinator*

Christopher Pouch, *Communications Administrator*

Aisha White, *Parish Administrator*

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