CHRIST EPISCOPAL CHURCH

Extending the Love and Embrace of Christ

Good Friday

April 15, 2022 | 12:00 Noon and 7:30 PM

The wearing of face masks is recommended, but optional, at Christ Church You may stream this service from Christ Church's website, Facebook page, or YouTube channel.



THE WORD OF GOD

On this day the ministers enter in silence.

All then kneel for silent prayer, after which the Celebrant stands and begins the liturgy with the acclamation and collect of the day.

CHORAL INTROIT – Saw Ye My Savior?

Lee Dengler

Catherine Hinton, soprano

Saw ye my Saviour, saw ye my Saviour, Saw ye my Saviour and God?

Oh! He died on Calvary, To atone for you and me, And to purchase our pardon with blood.

He was extended, He was extended, Painfully nailed to the cross;

Here He bowed His head and died, Thus my Lord was crucified, To atone for a world that was lost.

Jesus hung bleeding, Jesus hung bleeding Three dreadful hours in pain;

And the solid rocks were rent, Thro' creation's vast extent, When the Jews crucified the Lamb.

Darkness prevailed, darkness prevailed, Darkness prevailed o'er the land;

And the sun refused to shine When His Majesty divine Was derided, insulted, and slain.

OPENING ACCLAMATION

Celebrant: Blessed be our God.

People: Forever and ever. Amen

THE COLLECT OF THE DAY

Celebrant: Let us pray.

Almighty God, we pray you graciously to behold this your family, for whom our Lord Jesus Christ was willing to be betrayed, and given into the hands of sinners, and to suffer death upon the cross; who now lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. *Amen.*

The people may be seated.

THE FIRST LESSON Isaiah 52:13-53:12

See, my servant shall prosper;

he shall be exalted and lifted up,

and shall be very high.

Just as there were many who were astonished at him

--so marred was his appearance, beyond human semblance,

and his form beyond that of mortals--

so he shall startle many nations;

kings shall shut their mouths because of him;

for that which had not been told them they shall see,

and that which they had not heard they shall contemplate.

Who has believed what we have heard?

And to whom has the arm of the LORD been revealed?

For he grew up before him like a young plant,

and like a root out of dry ground;

he had no form or majesty that we should look at him, nothing in his appearance that we should desire him.

He was despised and rejected by others;

a man of suffering and acquainted with infirmity;

and as one from whom others hide their faces

he was despised, and we held him of no account.

Surely he has borne our infirmities

and carried our diseases;

yet we accounted him stricken,

struck down by God, and afflicted.

But he was wounded for our transgressions,

crushed for our iniquities;

upon him was the punishment that made us whole,

and by his bruises we are healed.

All we like sheep have gone astray;

we have all turned to our own way,

and the LORD has laid on him the iniquity of us all.

He was oppressed, and he was afflicted,

vet he did not open his mouth;

like a lamb that is led to the slaughter,

and like a sheep that before its shearers is silent,

so he did not open his mouth.

By a perversion of justice he was taken away.

Who could have imagined his future?

For he was cut off from the land of the living,

stricken for the transgression of my people.

They made his grave with the wicked

and his tomb with the rich,

although he had done no violence,

and there was no deceit in his mouth.

Yet it was the will of the LORD to crush him with pain.

When you make his life an offering for sin,

he shall see his offspring, and shall prolong his days;

through him the will of the LORD shall prosper.

Out of his anguish he shall see light;

he shall find satisfaction through his knowledge.

The righteous one, my servant, shall make many righteous,

and he shall bear their iniquities.

Therefore I will allot him a portion with the great,

and he shall divide the spoil with the strong;

because he poured out himself to death,

and was numbered with the transgressors;

yet he bore the sin of many,

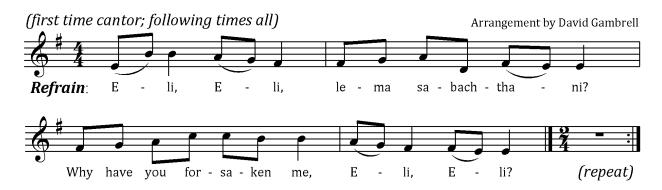
and made intercession for the transgressors.

Reader: The word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

PSALM 22:1-11

Deus, Deus meus Dorothy Lee, cantor



My God, my God, why have you forsaken me? *

and are so far from my cry and from the words of my distress?

O my God, I cry in the daytime, but you do not answer; *

by night as well, but I find no rest.

Yet you are the Holy One, *

enthroned upon the praises of Israel.

Our forefathers put their trust in you; *

they trusted, and you delivered them.

They cried out to you and were delivered; *

they trusted in you and were not put to shame. Refrain: All sing.

But as for me, I am a worm and no man, *

scorned by all and despised by the people.

All who see me laugh me to scorn; *

they curl their lips and wag their heads, saying,

"He trusted in the LORD; let him deliver him; *

let him rescue him, if he delights in him."

Yet you are he who took me out of the womb, *

and kept me safe upon my mother's breast.

I have been entrusted to you ever since I was born; *

you were my God when I was still in my mother's womb.

Be not far from me, for trouble is near, *

and there is none to help. Refrain: All sing.

Many young bulls encircle me; *

strong bulls of Bashan surround me.

They open wide their jaws at me, *

like a ravening and a roaring lion.

I am poured out like water;

all my bones are out of joint; *

my heart within my breast is melting wax.

My mouth is dried out like a pot-sherd;

my tongue sticks to the roof of my mouth; *

and you have laid me in the dust of the grave.

Packs of dogs close me in, and gangs of evildoers circle around me; *

they pierce my hands and my feet; I can count all my bones.

They stare and gloat over me; *

they divide my garments among them; they cast lots for my clothing.

Be not far away, O LORD; *

you are my strength; hasten to help me. Refrain: All sing.

Save me from the sword, *

my life from the power of the dog.

Save me from the lion's mouth, *

my wretched body from the horns of wild bulls.

I will declare your Name to my brethren; *

in the midst of the congregation I will praise you.

Praise the LORD, you that fear him; *

stand in awe of him, O offspring of Israel;

all you of Jacob's line, give glory.

For he does not despise nor abhor the poor in their poverty;

neither does he hide his face from them; *

but when they cry to him he hears them.

My praise is of him in the great assembly; *

I will perform my vows in the presence of those who worship him. *Refrain: All sing.*

The poor shall eat and be satisfied, and those who seek the LORD shall praise him: *

"May your heart live for ever!"

All the ends of the earth shall remember and turn to the LORD, *

and all the families of the nations shall bow before him.

For kingship belongs to the LORD; *

he rules over the nations.

To him alone all who sleep in the earth bow down in worship; *

all who go down to the dust fall before him.

My soul shall live for him; my descendants shall serve him; *

they shall be known as the LORD's for ever.

They shall come and make known to a people yet unborn *

the saving deeds that he has done. Refrain: All sing.

THE EPISTLE Hebrews 10:16-25

The Holy Spirit testifies saying,

"This is the covenant that I will make with them after those days, says the Lord:
I will put my laws in their hearts,
and I will write them on their minds,"

he also adds,

"I will remember their sins and their lawless deeds no more." Where there is forgiveness of these, there is no longer any offering for sin.

Therefore, my friends, since we have confidence to enter the sanctuary by the blood of Jesus, by the new and living way that he opened for us through the curtain (that is, through his flesh), and since we have a great priest over the house of God, let us approach with a true heart in full assurance of faith, with our hearts sprinkled clean from an evil conscience and our bodies washed with pure water. Let us hold fast to the confession of our hope without wavering, for he who has promised is faithful. And let us consider how to provoke one another to love and good deeds, not neglecting to meet together, as is the habit of some, but encouraging one another, and all the more as you see the Day approaching.

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

The people may be seated for the first part of the reading of the Passion.

SEQUENCE HYMN 171 – Go to Dark Gethsemane

Petra



THE GOSPEL John 18:1-19:42

Deacon: The passion of our Lord Jesus Christ according to John.

Jesus went out with his disciples across the Kidron valley to a place where there was a garden, which he and his disciples entered. Now Judas, who betrayed him, also knew the place, because Jesus often met there with his disciples. So Judas brought a detachment of soldiers together with police from the chief priests and the Pharisees, and they came there with lanterns and torches and weapons. Then Jesus, knowing all that was to happen to him, came forward and asked them, "Whom are you looking for?" They answered, "Jesus of Nazareth." Jesus replied, "I am he." Judas, who betrayed him, was standing with them. When Jesus said to them, "I am he," they stepped back and fell to the ground. Again he asked them, "Whom are you looking for?" And they said, "Jesus of Nazareth." Jesus answered, "I told you that I am he. So if you are looking for me, let these men go." This was to fulfill the word that he had spoken, "I did not lose a single one of those whom you gave me." Then Simon Peter, who had a sword, drew it, struck the high priest's slave, and cut off his right ear. The slave's name was Malchus. Jesus said to Peter, "Put your sword back into its sheath. Am I not to drink the cup that the Father has given me?"

So the soldiers, their officer, and the Jewish police arrested Jesus and bound him. First they took him to Annas, who was the father-in-law of Caiaphas, the high priest that year. Caiaphas was the one who had advised the Jews that it was better to have one person die for the people.

Simon Peter and another disciple followed Jesus. Since that disciple was known to the high priest, he went with Jesus into the courtyard of the high priest, but Peter was standing outside at the gate. So the other disciple, who was known to the high priest, went out, spoke to the woman who guarded the gate, and brought Peter in. The woman said to Peter, "You are not also one of this man's disciples, are you?" He said, "I am not." Now the slaves and the police had made a charcoal fire because it was cold, and they were standing around it and warming themselves. Peter also was standing with them and warming himself.

Then the high priest questioned Jesus about his disciples and about his teaching. Jesus answered, "I have spoken openly to the world; I have always taught in synagogues and in the temple, where all the Jews come together. I have said nothing in secret. Why do you ask me? Ask those who heard what I said to them; they know what I said." When he had said this, one of the police standing nearby struck Jesus on the face, saying, "Is that how you answer the high priest?" Jesus answered, "If I have spoken wrongly, testify to the wrong. But if I have spoken rightly, why do you strike me?" Then Annas sent him bound to Caiaphas the high priest.

Now Simon Peter was standing and warming himself. They asked him, "You are not also one of his disciples, are you?" He denied it and said, "I am not." One of the slaves of the high priest, a relative of the man whose ear Peter had cut off, asked, "Did I not see you in the garden with him?" Again Peter denied it, and at that moment the cock crowed.

Then they took Jesus from Caiaphas to Pilate's headquarters. It was early in the morning. They themselves did not enter the headquarters, so as to avoid ritual defilement and to be able to eat the Passover. So Pilate went out to them and said, "What accusation do you bring against this man?" They answered, "If this man were not a criminal, we would not have handed him over to you." Pilate said to them, "Take him yourselves and judge him according to your law." The Jews replied, "We are not permitted to put anyone to death." (This was to fulfill what Jesus had said when he indicated the kind of death he was to die.)

Then Pilate entered the headquarters again, summoned Jesus, and asked him, "Are you the King of the Jews?" Jesus answered, "Do you ask this on your own, or did others tell you about me?" Pilate replied, "I am not a Jew, am I? Your own nation and the chief priests have handed you over to me. What have you done?" Jesus answered, "My kingdom is not from this world. If my kingdom were from this world, my followers would be fighting to keep me from being handed over to the Jews. But as it is, my kingdom is not from here." Pilate asked him, "So you are a king?" Jesus answered, "You say that I am a king. For this I was born, and for this I came into the world, to testify to the truth. Everyone who belongs to the truth listens to my voice." Pilate asked him, "What is truth?"

After he had said this, he went out to the Jews again and told them, "I find no case against him. But you have a custom that I release someone for you at the Passover. Do you want me to release for you the King of the Jews?" They shouted in reply, "Not this man, but Barabbas!" Now Barabbas was a bandit.

Then Pilate took Jesus and had him flogged. And the soldiers wove a crown of thorns and put it on his head, and they dressed him in a purple robe. They kept coming up to him, saying, "Hail, King of the Jews!" and striking him on the face. Pilate went out again and said to them, "Look, I am bringing him out to you to let you know that I find no case against him." So Jesus came out, wearing the crown of thorns and the purple robe. Pilate said to them, "Here is the man!" When the chief priests and the police saw him, they shouted, "Crucify him! Crucify him!" Pilate said to them, "Take him yourselves and crucify him; I find no case against him." The Jews answered him, "We have a law, and according to that law he ought to die because he has claimed to be the Son of God."

Now when Pilate heard this, he was more afraid than ever. He entered his headquarters again and asked Jesus, "Where are you from?" But Jesus gave him no answer. Pilate therefore said to him, "Do you refuse to speak to me? Do you not know that I have power to release you, and power to crucify you?" Jesus answered him, "You would have no power over me unless it had been given you from above; therefore the one who handed me over to you is guilty of a greater sin." From then on Pilate tried to release him, but the Jews cried out, "If you release this man, you are no friend of the emperor. Everyone who claims to be a king sets himself against the emperor."

When Pilate heard these words, he brought Jesus outside and sat on the judge's bench at a place called The Stone Pavement, or in Hebrew Gabbatha. Now it was the day of Preparation for the Passover; and it was about noon. He said to the Jews, "Here is your King!" They cried out, "Away with him! Away with him! Crucify him!" Pilate asked them, "Shall I crucify your King?" The chief priests answered, "We have no king but the emperor." Then he handed him over to them to be crucified.

So they took Jesus; and carrying the cross by himself, he went out to what is called The Place of the Skull, which in Hebrew is called Golgotha. There they crucified him, and with him two others, one on either side, with Jesus between them. Pilate also had an inscription written and put on the cross. It read, "Jesus of Nazareth, the King of the Jews." Many of the Jews read this inscription, because the place where Jesus was crucified was near the city; and it was written in Hebrew, in Latin, and in Greek. Then the chief priests of the Jews said to Pilate, "Do not write, "The King of the Jews," but, "This man said, I am King of the Jews." Pilate answered, "What I have written I have written." When the soldiers had crucified Jesus, they took his clothes and divided them into four parts, one for each soldier. They also took his tunic; now the tunic was seamless, woven in one piece from the top. So they said to one another, "Let us not tear it, but cast lots for it to see who will get it." This was to fulfill what the scripture says,

"They divided my clothes among themselves, and for my clothing they cast lots."

And that is what the soldiers did.

Meanwhile, standing near the cross of Jesus were his mother, and his mother's sister, Mary the wife of Clopas, and Mary Magdalene. When Jesus saw his mother and the disciple whom he loved standing beside her, he said to his mother, "Woman, here is your son." Then he said to the disciple, "Here is your mother." And from that hour the disciple took her into his own home.

After this, when Jesus knew that all was now finished, he said (in order to fulfill the scripture), "I am thirsty." A jar full of sour wine was standing there. So they put a sponge full of the wine on a branch of hyssop and held it to his mouth. When Jesus had received the wine, he said, "It is finished." Then he bowed his head and gave up his spirit.

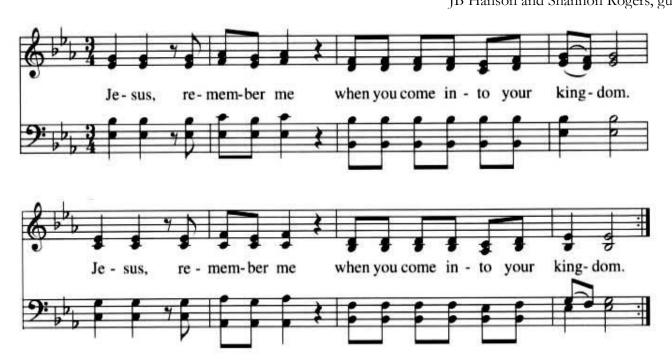
Since it was the day of Preparation, the Jews did not want the bodies left on the cross during the sabbath, especially because that sabbath was a day of great solemnity. So they asked Pilate to have the legs of the crucified men broken and the bodies removed. Then the soldiers came and broke the legs of the first and of the other who had been crucified with him. But when they came to Jesus and saw that he was already dead, they did not break his legs. Instead, one of the soldiers pierced his side with a spear, and at once blood and water came out. (He who saw this has testified so that you also may believe. His testimony is true, and he knows that he tells the truth.) These things occurred so that the scripture might be fulfilled, "None of his bones shall be broken." And again another passage of scripture says, "They will look on the one whom they have pierced."

After these things, Joseph of Arimathea, who was a disciple of Jesus, though a secret one because of his fear of the Jews, asked Pilate to let him take away the body of Jesus. Pilate gave him permission; so he came and removed his body. Nicodemus, who had at first come to Jesus by night, also came, bringing a mixture of myrrh and aloes, weighing about a hundred pounds. They took the body of Jesus and wrapped it with the spices in linen cloths, according to the burial custom of the Jews. Now there was a garden in the place where he was crucified, and in the garden there was a new tomb in which no one had ever been laid. And so, because it was the Jewish day of Preparation, and the tomb was nearby, they laid Jesus there.

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

SERMON

The Rev'd Marcia Davenport, Associate Priest



The people stand as able.

THE SOLEMN COLLECTS

Intercessor: Dear People of God: Our heavenly Father sent his Son into the world, not to condemn the world, but that the world through him might be saved; that all who believe in him might be delivered from the power of sin and death, and become heirs with him of everlasting life.

Intercessor: We pray, therefore, for people everywhere according to their needs.

Intercessor: Let us pray for the holy Catholic Church of Christ throughout the world;

For its unity in witness and service;

For all bishops and other ministers and the people whom they serve; For Eugene and Robert, our Bishops, and all the people of this diocese;

For all Christians in this community;

That God will confirm his Church in faith, increase it in love, and preserve it in peace.

Silence

Celebrant: Almighty and everlasting God, by whose Spirit the whole body of your faithful people is governed and sanctified: Receive our supplications and prayers which we offer before you for all members of your holy Church, that in their vocation and ministry they may truly and devoutly serve you; through our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.

People: Amen.

Intercessor: Let us pray for all nations and peoples of the earth, and for those in authority among them;

For Joseph, the President of the United States; For the Congress and the Supreme Court;

For the Members and Representatives of the United Nations;

For all who serve the common good;

That by God's help they may seek justice and truth, and live in peace and concord.

Silence

Celebrant: Almighty God, kindle, we pray, in every heart the true love of peace, and guide with your wisdom those who take counsel for the nations of the earth; that in tranquility your dominion may increase, until the earth is filled with the knowledge of your love; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

People: Amen.

Intercessor: Let us pray for all who suffer and are afflicted in body or in mind;

For the hungry and the homeless, the destitute and the oppressed;

For the sick, the wounded, and the crippled; For those in loneliness, fear, and anguish;

For those who face temptation, doubt, and despair;

For the sorrowful and bereaved;

For prisoners and captives, and those in mortal danger;

That God in his mercy will comfort and relieve them, and grant them the knowledge of his love, and stir up in us the will and patience to minister to their needs.

Silence

Celebrant: Gracious God, the comfort of all who sorrow, the strength of all who suffer: Let the cry of those in misery and need come to you, that they may find your mercy present with them in all their afflictions; and give us, we pray, the strength to serve them for the sake of him who suffered for us, your Son Jesus Christ our Lord.

People: Amen.

Intercessor: Let us pray for all who have not received the Gospel of Christ;

For those who have never heard the word of salvation;

For those who have lost their faith;

For those hardened by sin or indifference;

For the contemptuous and the scornful;

For those who are enemies of the cross of Christ and persecutors of his disciples;

For those who in the name of Christ have persecuted others;

That God will open their hearts to the truth, and lead them to faith and obedience.

Silence

Celebrant: Merciful God, creator of all the peoples of the earth and lover of souls: Have compassion on all who do not know you as you are revealed in your Son Jesus Christ; let your Gospel be preached with grace and power to those who have not heard it; turn the hearts of those who resist it; and bring home to your fold those who have gone astray; that there may be one flock under one shepherd, Jesus Christ our Lord.

People: Amen.

Intercessor: Let us commit ourselves to God, and pray for the grace of a holy life, that, with all who have departed this world and have died in the peace of Christ, and those whose faith is known to God alone, we may be accounted worthy to enter into the fullness of the joy of our Lord,

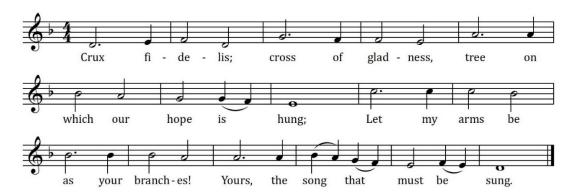
and receive the crown of life in the day of resurrection.

Celebrant: O God of unchangeable power and eternal light: Look favorably on your whole Church, that wonderful and sacred mystery; by the effectual working of your providence, carry out in tranquility the plan of salvation; let the whole world see and know that things which were cast down are being raised up, and things which had grown old are being made new, and that all things are being brought to their perfection by him through whom all things were made, your Son Jesus Christ our Lord; who lives and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever.

People: Amen.

VENERATION HYMN – Crux Fidelis

Steven Warner Jan Deboissiere and Doug Jimerson, solos



Cantor:

- 1. The Lord Jesus loved us and gave his life for us; few of us are called to do the same, Yet all of us must lay down our lives along with his: Let the cross be our companion As we daily follow him. Refrain: All sing
- 2. The Lord Jesus entered the pain and death of sin. He accepted the torment of the cross. But with the cross he gave us the blessed gift of joy: Let the cross be our companion As we daily follow him. Refrain: All sing
- 3. To strive for justice, even when stubbornness prevails to be one with the desperate of The world; To stand with those who cry out when we can't bring relief: Let that hope Be our companion as we daily follow him. Refrain: All sing
- 4. We keep before us that which our kindred had of old: all the pain and the suffering of The cross. Yet where that cross is planted, the seeds of hope endure: Let that hope Be our companion as we daily follow him. Refrain: All sing

PROCESSION OF THE CROSS TO THE SANCTUARY

The following is repeated three times.

Celebrant: We glory in your cross of Christ.

People: Because by your cross and precious death you have redeemed the world.

ANTHEMS BEFORE THE CROSS

Celebrant: We glory in your cross, O Lord,

People: and praise and glorify your holy resurrection;

for by virtue of your cross

joy has come to the whole world.

Celebrant: May God be merciful to us and bless us,

show us the light of his countenance, and come to us.

People: Let your ways be known upon earth,

your saving health among all nations.

Celebrant: Let the peoples praise you, O God;

let all the peoples praise you.

People: We glory in your cross, O Lord,

and praise and glorify your holy resurrection;

for by virtue of your cross

joy has come to the whole world.

Silence

Celebrant: We adore you, O Christ, and we bless you,

People: because by your holy cross you have redeemed the world.

Celebrant: If we have died with him, we shall also live with him;

if we endure, we shall also reign with him.

People: We adore you, O Christ, and we bless you,

because by your holy cross you have redeemed the world.

Silence

Celebrant: O Savior of the world,

who by thy cross and precious blood hast redeemed us:

People: Save us and help us, we humbly beseech thee, O Lord.

CONFESSION OF SIN

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

All: Most merciful God,

we confess that we have sinned against you

in thought, word, and deed,

by what we have done,

and by what we have left undone.

We have not loved you with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves.

We are truly sorry and we humbly repent. For the sake of your Son Jesus Christ,

have mercy on us and forgive us; that we may delight in your will,

and walk in your ways,

to the glory of your Name. Amen.

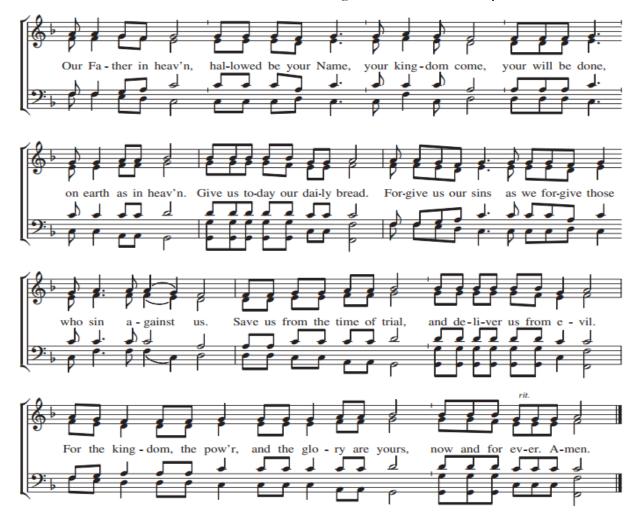
Celebrant: Almighty God have mercy on you, forgive you all your sins through our Lord Jesus Christ,

strengthen you in all goodness, and by the power of the Holy Spirit keep you in eternal life.

People: Amen.

THE LORD'S PRAYER

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



THE HOLY COMMUNION FROM THE RESERVED SACRAMENT

In keeping with ancient tradition, Holy Communion is not celebrated today.

Communion is distributed to the people from the reserved sacrament consecrated at yesterday's service of Holy Eucharist.



CONCLUDING PRAYER

Celebrant: Lord Jesus Christ, Son of the living God, we pray you to set your passion, cross, and death

between your judgment and our souls, now and in the hour of our death. Give mercy and grace to the living; pardon and rest to the dead; to your holy Church peace and concord; and to us sinners everlasting life and glory; for with the Father and the Holy Spirit you live and

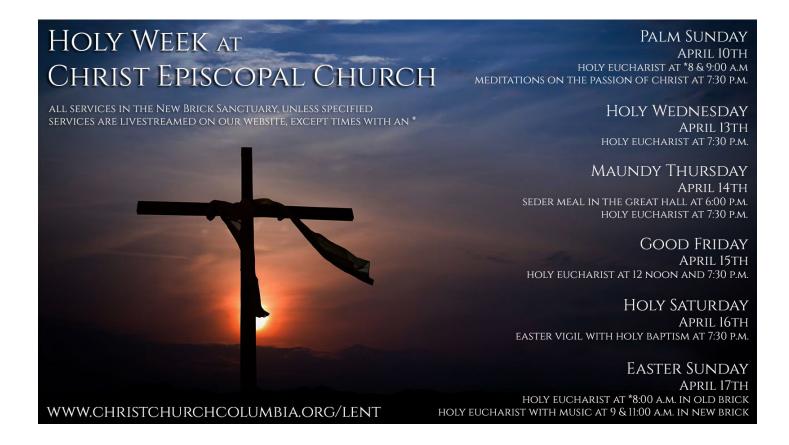
reign, one God, now and for ever.

People: Amen.

There is no blessing or dismissal on this day.

The ministers depart in silence.

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ANNOUNCEMENTS

Send announcements to communications@christchurchcolumbia.org

Easter Sunday: This Sunday | Join us in worship this Palm Sunday, as we'll have Holy Eucharist at 8:00 and 10:30 a.m. Weather permitting, we will begin the Sunday morning services in Old Brick, and process together over to the New Brick Sanctuary during the liturgy. That evening, join us for Meditations on the Passion at 7:30 p.m. in New Brick. If you want to join us for any service in person, please complete our brief attendance registration form, and with every county in the Diocese of Maryland currently in the Green Omicron phase, remember that masks are now optional for all parishioners while on campus. We will also livestream the New Brick portions of the 10:30 a.m. and 7:30 p.m. services on all of our usual platforms. See you on Sunday!

Holy Week Formation Classes | Please note that all Formation and Confirmation classes are taking a break for Holy Week and Easter. All three - Sunday School, Sunday Circle, and Confirmation Class - will resume on Sunday, April 24th.

Sign Up for Coffee Hour | Coffee Hour is back! The Green Omicron phase permits us to resume those activities where we serve food. This includes our Coffee Hour, and so we hope you'll join us for refreshments and fellowship time between services this Sunday, from 9:00 to 10:30 a.m. in the Parish Hall. If you'd like to help by providing light refreshments for a future Coffee Hour, **please sign up using this link** or scan the QR code on the Coffee Hour posters in the Narthex.

Easter Altar Flowers and Gifts | Easter Sunday is a time that we honor, remember, or give thanks for someone or a blessing in our lives by donating flowers to adorn our worship spaces as we celebrate our risen Lord. If you would like to present Altar gifts this Easter, you can find our online Easter Offering form at https://onrealm.org/christchurchcolumbia/-/form/give/lenteaster. Be sure to place the dedication name(s) in the MEMO line. You can also drop a donation on Sunday or during the week; include the same dedication information on the MEMO line of a check, please. EmailtheChurchOffice with any questions.

Church Office Closed | Please note that the Church Office will be closed for business on Friday, April 15th, and Monday, April 18th, in observance of Easter. It will resume business on the morning of Tuesday, April 19th.

Adult and Children's Choir News | There are no choir rehearsals next week. We will resume later this month, and announce the date in upcoming *Gatherings* editions. 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. Generally, the Children's Choir meets on Tuesdays from 5:00-6:00 p.m. and Adult Choir meets Thursdays at 7:30 p.m. Please email 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 <u>at LectionaryPage.net</u>. 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 takes this week off for Good Friday and resumes on April 22nd at 7:30 p.m. with our discussion of the book *Why I Believe in a Personal God: The Credibility of Faith in a Doubting Culture* by George Carey. We're always welcoming new members to join our virtual gathering. For about an hour, we discuss a specified section of the current book and plan future readings and ideas. The Zoom link is here, the Meeting ID is **894 0227 6226**, the Password is **CECbooks** and **w**e hope that you'll find time to join us for this engaging and enlightening group discussion.

Women of Christ Church News for April | Mark Your Calendars: 12:00 p.m., Saturday, April 23rd, we'll be meeting at the Robinson Nature Center to have lunch and conversation followed by a walk through their trails. We'll meet at the outside tables near the Center's front door. It's free to use the trails, and if you want to visit the exhibits, it will cost \$5. Bring your lunch, and join us for a spring walk!

Our trip to Seafarers has been changed from April 7th to April 21st, so you still have time to donate, if you'd like to. This will be our last donation trip before autumn. They are in need of men's shirts, especially flannel shirts, sizes M-L, and are also in need of warm socks, sized men's medium. As always, they are grateful for calendars, magazines, and notecards. If you'd like to donate, the Seafarer's bin is under the table in the tower room of New Brick.

There are several other WOCC news items this month, so please be sure to check the WOCC page on the Christ Church website for those.

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.

A Message of Gratitude from our Afghan Refugee Family | Each member of the Afghan refugee family who has been under Christ Church's care and support since late December is so full of gratitude for what we have done, and continue to do, to help them. Anwar, the oldest son, recently wrote this poem for us and chose the accompanying photo. You can view this in last week's blog post on the Christ Church Outreach page.

On Sundays May 8th and May 22nd, the family will be at Christ Church between the 8:00 and 10:30 a.m. services so they can meet more of us, and so more of us can meet them. Please plan to come.

And please continue to pray for this family and for refugees everywhere. Thank you for giving so generously. Thank you for your help in so many ways. To talk about what is needed to support this ministry and what you can do, please contact Deacon Denise, Jan DeBoissiere, Cherryllyn Williams, or any member of the Afghan Refugee Ministry committee.

Donate Snacks, Crackers, and Cookies to FISH in Bin on our Breezeway | Organizers for <u>FISH of Howard County</u> 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.



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



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
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
James Peters, Sexton

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