

# CHRIST EPISCOPAL CHURCH

*Extending the Love and Embrace of Christ*

## ROSEMARY FOR REMEMBRANCE

A Service for when Christmas is a Difficult Time

Saturday, December 10, 2022 | 6:00 PM

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Welcome to Christ Episcopal Church.

Thank you for joining us this evening.



The herb rosemary has, for centuries, held great meaning as the symbol of remembrance.

Shakespeare referred, in this way, to rosemary in his play Hamlet, Act IV, scene V:

“There’s rosemary; that’s for remembrance.

Pray, love, remember.”

Legend says that the Virgin Mary, while resting, spread her cloak over a white flowering rosemary bush. The flowers turned the pale blue of her cloak, and from then on the bush was referred to as the “Rose of Mary.”

Rosemary, according to another tradition, will grow for thirty-three years, until it reaches the height of Christ when he was crucified, then it will die.

We hope this worship will help you “pray, love, and remember.”

Opening Prayers and Hymn |

*Officiant:* We gather together today to remember loved ones who are not with us this Christmas. We give thanks for their lives and recall what they mean to us, tell their stories, and refresh their memory by saying their names once more.

*All:* **Most loving God, as you have taught us to call the evening, the morning, and the noonday one day; and have made the sun to know its going down: Dispel the darkness of our hearts, that by your brightness we may know you to be the true God and eternal light, living and loving for ever and ever. Amen.**

Hymn 178 LEVAS | Sweet Hour of Prayer

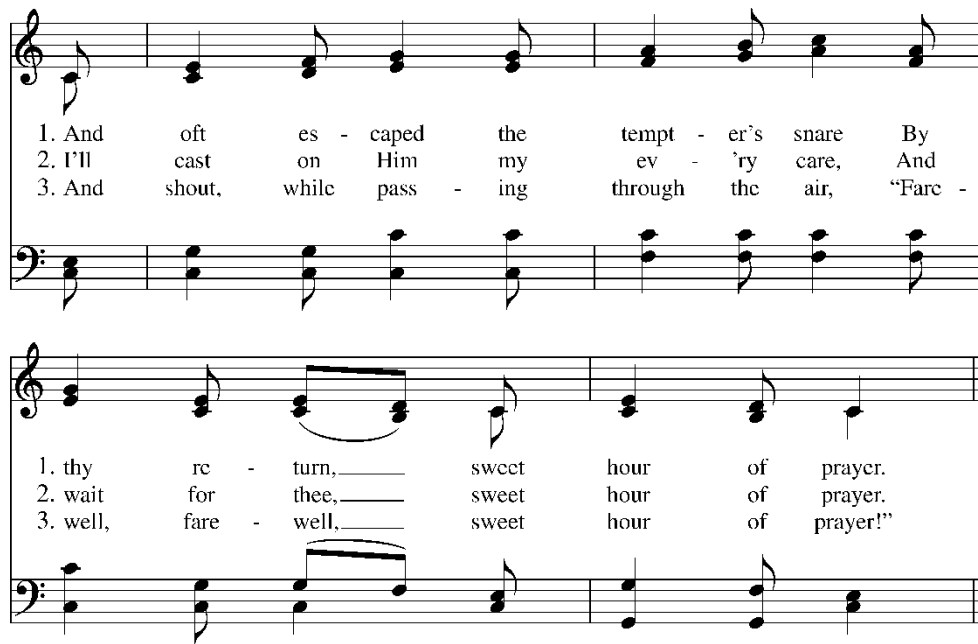
William B. Bradbury

1. Sweet hour of prayer, sweet hour of prayer, That calls me from— a  
2. Sweet hour of prayer, sweet hour of prayer, Thy wings shall my— pe -  
3. Sweet hour of prayer, sweet hour of prayer, May I thy con - so -

1. world of care, And bids me at my Fa - ther's throne Make  
2. ti - tion bear To Him whose truth and faith - ful - ness En -  
3. la - tion share, Till from Mount Pis - gah's loft - y height I

1. all my wants— and wish - es known. In sea - sons of dis -  
2. gage the wait - ing soul to bless; And since He bids me  
3. view my home— and take my flight: This robe of flesh I'll

1. tress and grief My soul has of - ten found re - lief.  
2. seek His face, Be - lieve His word and trust His grace.  
3. drop, and rise To seize the ev - er - last - ing prize.



1. And oft es - caped the tempt - er's snare By  
 2. I'll cast on Him my ev - 'ry care, And  
 3. And shout, while pass - ing through the air, "Fare -

1. thy re - turn, sweet hour of prayer.  
 2. wait for thee, sweet hour of prayer.  
 3. well, fare - well, sweet hour of prayer!"

*After a few moments of silence, the Officiant continues:*

*Officiant:* Be still...

*Officiant:* Be still and know...

*Officiant:* Be still and know that I am...

*Officiant:* Be still and know that I am God.

#### The Collect of the Day |

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

Stir up your power, O Lord, and with great might come among us; and, because we are sorely hindered by our sins, let your bountiful grace and mercy speedily help and deliver us; through Jesus Christ our Lord, to whom, with you and the Holy Spirit, be honor and glory, now and forever. Amen.

*People:* **Amen.**

#### Psalms 139:1-5 | *Read by all*

LORD, you have searched me out and known me; \*  
 you know my sitting down and my rising up;  
 you discern my thoughts from afar.

You trace my journeys and my resting-places \*  
 and are acquainted with all my ways.

Indeed, there is not a word on my lips, \*  
but you, O LORD, know it altogether.

You press upon me behind and before \*  
and lay your hand upon me.

Such knowledge is too wonderful for me; \*  
it is so high that I cannot attain to it.

Where can I go then from your Spirit? \*  
where can I flee from your presence?

Meditation | O Come, O Come, Emmanuel

*arr. Marshall McDonald & Steven Sharp Nelson*  
Eddie Sanders, bassoon

Psalm 139:6-11 | *Read by all*

Where can I go then from your Spirit? \*  
where can I flee from your presence?

If I climb up to heaven, you are there; \*  
if I make the grave my bed, you are there also.

If I take the wings of the morning \*  
and dwell in the uttermost parts of the sea,

Even there your hand will lead me \*  
and your right hand hold me fast.

If I say, "Surely the darkness will cover me, \*  
and the light around me turn to night,"

Darkness is not dark to you;  
the night is as bright as the day; \*  
darkness and light to you are both alike.

Meditation | Dido's Lament

*Henry Purcell*  
Eddie Sanders, bassoon

Psalm 139:12-17 | *Read by all*

For you yourself created my inmost parts; \*  
you knit me together in my mother's womb.

I will thank you because I am marvelously made; \*  
your works are wonderful, and I know it well.

My body was not hidden from you, \*  
while I was being made in secret  
and woven in the depths of the earth.

Your eyes beheld my limbs, yet unfinished in the womb;  
all of them were written in your book; \*  
they were fashioned day by day, when as yet there was none of them.

How deep I find your thoughts, O God! \*  
how great is the sum of them!

If I were to count them, they would be more in number than the sand; \*  
to count them all, my life span would need to be like yours.

Hymn 558 | Faith of Our Fathers

*St. Catherine*

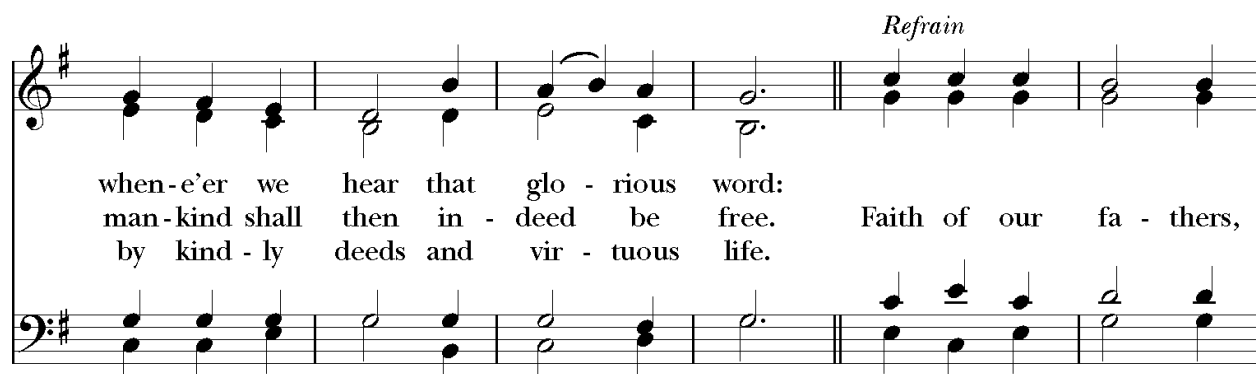


1 Faith of our fa - thers! liv - ing still in spite of dun - geon,  
2 Faith of our fa - thers! faith and prayer shall win all na - tions  
3 Faith of our fa - thers! we will love both friend and foe in



fire and sword: O how our hearts beat high with joy,  
un - to thee; and through the truth that comes from God,  
all our strife: and preach thee, too, as love knows how,

*Refrain*



when-e'er we hear that glo - rious word:  
man-kind shall then in - deed be free. Faith of our fa - thers,  
by kind - ly deeds and vir - tuous life.



ho - ly faith! We will be true to thee till death.

A Reading from The Gospel of | John 20:11-17

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

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

Mary stood weeping outside the tomb. As she wept, she bent over to look into the tomb; and she saw two angels in white, sitting where the body of Jesus had been lying, one at the head and the other at the feet. They said to her, 'Woman, why are you weeping?' She said to them, 'They have taken away my Lord, and I do not know where they have laid him.'

When she had said this, she turned round and saw Jesus standing there, but she did not know that it was Jesus. Jesus said to her, 'Woman, why are you weeping? For whom are you looking?' Supposing him to be the gardener, she said to him, 'Sir, if you have carried him away, tell me where you have laid him, and I will take him away.' Jesus said to her, 'Mary!'

She turned and said to him in Hebrew, 'Rabbouni!' (which means 'Teacher'). Jesus said to her, 'Do not hold on to me, because I have not yet ascended to the Father. But go to my brothers and say to them, "I am ascending to my Father and your Father, to my God and your God."'

Deacon: The Gospel of the Lord.

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

Meditation | *Pie Jesu (Merciful Jesus)*

Gabriel Fauré  
*Catherine Hinton, soprano*

Homily | The Rev'd Denise Schiavone, *Deacon*

Hymn 184 LEVAS | Blessed Assurance

1. Bless - ed as - sur - ance, Je - sus is mine! — O what a  
2. Per - fect sub - mis - sion, per - fect de - light, — Vi - sions of  
3. Per - fect sub - mis - sion, all is at rest, — I in my

1. fore-taste of glo - ry di - vine! — Heir of sal - va - tion, pur - chase of  
2. rap - ture now burst on my sight; — An - gels de - scend - ing, bring from a -  
3. sav - ior am hap - py and blest; — Watch - ing and wait - ing, look - ing a -

1. God, — Born of His spir - it, washed in His blood. —  
2. bove — Ech - oes of mer - cy, whis - pers of love. —  
3. bove, — Filled with His good - ness, lost in His love. —

This is my sto - ry, this is my song, — Prais - ing my

sav - ior all the day long; — This is my sto - ry, this is my

song, — Prais - ing my sav - ior all the day long. —

# Lighting of Candles for the Departed | Giving of the Bells

*Candles are lit in memory of those from our parish community who have departed this life, and those you now name.*

Owen Keath  
 Mary Lou Brittingham  
 Donald Browning  
 Azubike Chukwuna  
 Chiamaka Chukwuna  
 Troy Collins  
 Chad Foor  
 Harry Henderson  
 Alda Hicks  
 Brady Brice Johnson  
 Christian Johnson  
 Matilda Mercer  
 Willie Moore  
 Martha Nettey  
 Eric James Paey  
 Amos Claudius Sawyer  
 Joanne Stone  
 Esther Utomi  
 Cynthia Willis  
 Matthew Wilson

*Take two or three deep breaths with slow, long exhalations.*

*Imagine the breath moving through the center of your chest -- in the area of your heart.*

*Feel your energy settle into your body and into the moment.*

*If there is someone or some situation for whom you would like to light your candle, you may do so now.*

**All:** We pray for God's people throughout the world and our gathering here.

*Jesus said: "Come to me, all you that are weary and are carrying heavy burdens, and I will give you rest."*

We pray for all who are coping with loss and disappointment in this season leading up to Christmas.

*Jesus said: "Come to me, all you that are weary and are carrying heavy burdens, and I will give you rest."*

We pray for peace, for nations in conflict and the well-being of all people.

*Jesus said: "Do not let your hearts be troubled. Believe in God, believe also in me."* We pray for those whose pain goes unnoticed.

*Jesus said: "Do not let your hearts be troubled. Believe in God, believe also in me."*

We pray for all who are in danger, sorrow, or any kind of trouble.

*Jesus said: "Father, if you are willing, remove this cup from me, yet not my will but yours be done."*

We pray for those who are adrift or alone because of a lost job or relationship and whose experience of Christmas is not what it was.

*Jesus said: "Father, if you are willing, remove this cup from me, yet not my will but yours be done."*

Lord, in the midst of our difficulties and among all the changes and chances of this mortal life, help us to remember that you do not faint or grow weary.

*"but those who wait for the Lord shall renew their strength, they shall mount up with wings like eagles, they shall run and not be weary, they shall walk and not faint. Amen."*

*After a few moments of silence, the Officiant continues:*

*Officiant:* Be still...

*Officiant:* Be still and know...

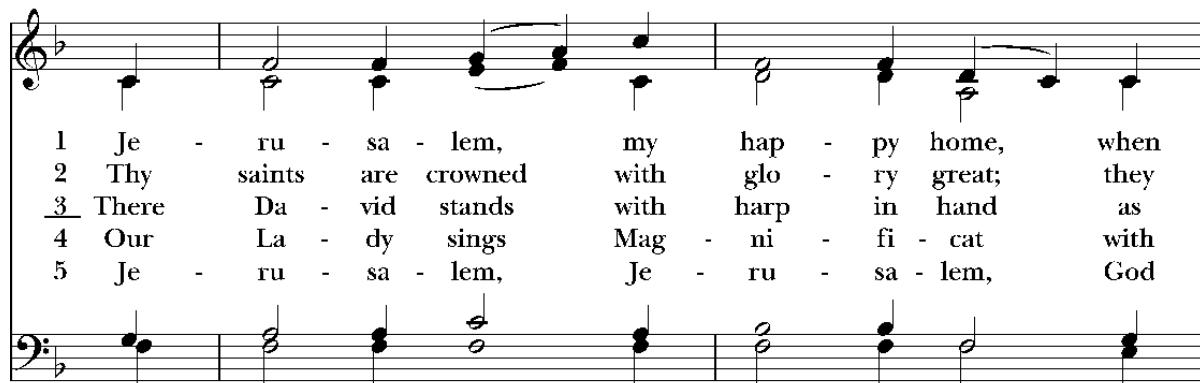
*Officiant:* Be still and know that I am...

*Officiant:* Be still and know that I am God.

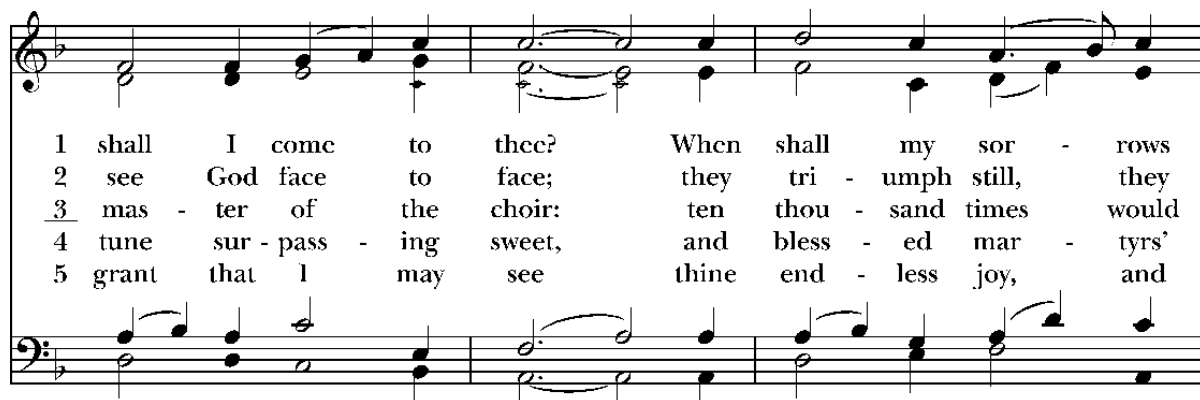
*Ring of the bells.*



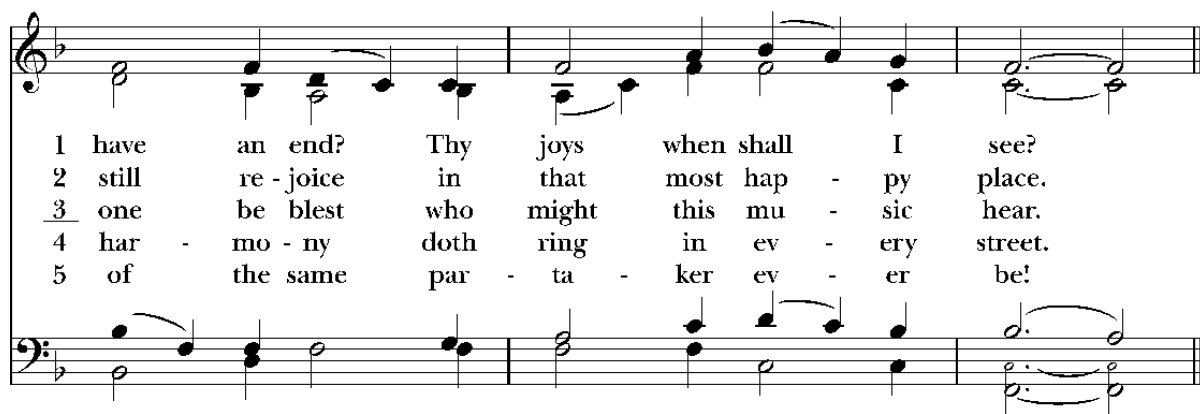
Hymn 620 | Jerusalem, My Happy Home



1 Je - ru - sa - lem, my hap - py home, when  
 2 Thy saints are crowned with glo - ry great; they  
 3 There Da - vid stands with harp in hand as  
 4 Our La - dy sings Mag - ni - fi - cat with  
 5 Je - ru - sa - lem, Je - ru - sa - lem, God



1 shall I come to thee? When shall my sor - rows  
 2 see God face to face; they tri - umph still, they  
 3 mas - ter of the choir: ten thou - sand times would  
 4 tune sur - pass - ing sweet, and bless - ed mar - tyr's  
 5 grant that I may see thine end - less joy, and



1 have an end? Thy joys when shall I see?  
 2 still re - joice in that most hap - py place.  
 3 one be blest who might this mu - sic hear.  
 4 har - mo - ny doth ring in ev - ery street.  
 5 of the same par - ta - ker ev - er be!

Greeting and Welcome |

The Blessing of the “Rose of Mary” |

*Hold in your hearts those people, places and things  
 for which you feel loss or hurt.*

Collect |

*Officiant:* The Lord be with you.

*People:* And also with you.

*Officiant:* Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

*People:* It is right to give him thanks and praise.

*All:* It is right to praise you, Almighty God, for the acts of love by which you have redeemed us through your Son Jesus Christ our Lord. Infinite God and infant God, Almighty Word and baby child unable to speak a word, lead us to the selflessness that on the cross yielded life, and to your love that wraps us round like swaddling bands. May these sprigs of Rosemary be for us signs of remembrance and communion with you and those we love. Grant that we who worship in Jesus' Name may ever adore him as our Savior and follow him in the way that leads to eternal life; who lives and reigns in glory with the divine Creator and the Holy Spirit, now and forever. Amen.

*Officiant:* Our King and Savior now draws near:

*People:* Come, let us adore him.

# Hymn 67 | Comfort, Comfort Ye My People

1 Com - fort, com - fort ye my peo - ple, speak ye peace, thus  
 2 Hark, the voice of one that cri - eth in the des - ert  
 3 Make ye straight what long was crook - ed, make the rough - er

saith our God; com - fort those who sit in dark - ness  
 far and near, call - ing us to new re - pent - ance  
 pla - ces plain; let your hearts be true and hum - ble,

mourn - ing 'neath their sor - rows' load. Speak ye to Je -  
 since the king - dom now is here. Oh, that warn - ing  
 as be - fits his ho - ly reign. For the glo - ry

ru - sa - lem of the peace that waits for them;  
 cry o - bey! Now pre - pare for God a way;  
 of the Lord now o'er earth is shed a - broad;

tell her that her sins I cov - er,  
 let the val - leys rise to meet him  
 and all flesh shall see the to - ken

and her war - fare now is o - ver.  
 and the hills bow down to greet him.  
 that the word is nev - er bro - ken.

## Dismissal |

*Officiant:* Let us go forth in peace;

*People:* In the Name of Christ. Amen.



## Advent and Christmas Services

### **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.

### **Centering Prayer**

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

*December 12, and 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 15, and 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 16, and 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.

### **Advent III**

*Sunday, December 11th*

*at 8:00 in Old Brick*

*9:00 Family Worship in New Brick*

*and 10:30 a.m. with music and choir in the New Brick Sanctuary*

*10:30 a.m. is livestreamed via the CEC website, Facebook, and YouTube*

Join us for Holy Eucharist at 8:00 and 10:30 a.m. in New Brick, as well as youth and adult formation classes and coffee hour fellowship.

### **Christ Church's Annual Community Caroling and Cookie Exchange**

*Sunday, December 11th*

*at 6:00 p.m. in New Brick*

*and via the CEC website, Facebook, and YouTube*

Christ Church will host our annual "Caroling and Cookies" amidst New Brick's beauty and candlelight. We'll sing of God's glorious presence captured in some of the most beautiful and beloved carols from around the world. We'll have our Cookie Exchange - now a cherished (and delicious!) tradition at Christ Church - following the singing, so we invite you to bring along some of your baked seasonal goods to share with others.

### **Advent IV & Youth Sunday**

*Sunday, December 18th*

*at 8:00 in Old Brick*

*9:00 Family Worship in New Brick*

*and 10:30 a.m. with music and choir in the New Brick Sanctuary*

*10:30 a.m. is livestreamed via the CEC website, Facebook, and YouTube*

This is the final Sunday prior to Christmas Day, so join us as we eagerly anticipate the coming of the Christ child. Join us for Holy Eucharist at 8:00 and 10:30 a.m. in New Brick, as well as youth and adult formation classes between services and coffee hour fellowship afterward.

Also on this special Sunday, the extraordinary youth of Christ Church will lead us in worship. They will use 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.

### **Festival of Nine Lessons and Carols**

*Sunday, December 18th*

*at 6:00 p.m. in the New Brick Sanctuary*

*and via the CEC website, Facebook, and YouTube*

Christ Church will hold a Festival of Nine Lessons and Carols in New Brick, 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. Please join us - in person or online - for an evening of joyful expression, in word and song, of the greatest story that has ever been told.

## 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](mailto: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.



## 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](mailto:info@christchurchcolumbia.org)

**THANK YOU.**



# CHRIST EPISCOPAL CHURCH

COLUMBIA, MARYLAND

WWW.CHRISTCHURCHCOLUMBIA.ORG

## **Christ Episcopal Church**

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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*

Larissa Sanders, *Music Director*

Michael Looney, *Seminarian Associate*

Yetti Lipede, *Ministry Coordinator*

Christopher Pouch, *Communications Administrator*

Aisha White, *Parish Administrator*

## **Vestry**

Jan DeBoissiere (*Senior Warden*) • Isaac Olajide (*Junior Warden*) • Andrew Eaton (*Treasurer*) Ron Couch (*Registrar*)

Denisa Abdallah • Jane Adams • Tim Beaty • John Curley • Beth Johnson • Sara Kirkpatrick

Andrea Leeman • Ray Lyon • Diane Phillips-Laguerre • Alfred Titus-Glover