

# CHRIST EPISCOPAL CHURCH

COLUMBIA, MD

## THE HOLY EUCHARIST, RITE II

### The Third Sunday of Advent

December 12, 2021 | 8:00 a.m. and 10:30 a.m.

You may stream this service from Christ Church's website, YouTube, or Facebook pages

#### THE WORD OF GOD

PRELUDE – *Trumpet Voluntary*

John Stanley

INTROIT – *Prepare the Way of the Lord*

Taizé/Jacques Berthier

*Prepare the way of the Lord, Prepare the way of the Lord, And all people will see the salvation of our God.*

OPENING HYMN – 59

Merton

*Descant*

2 Wak - ened by the sol - emn warn - ing, from earth's bond - age let us rise;  
5 Hon - or, glo - ry, might, and bless - ing to the Fa - ther and the Son,  
1 Hark! a thrill - ing voice is sound - ing: "Christ is nigh," it seems to say;  
2 Wak - ened by the sol - emn warn - ing, from earth's bond - age let us rise;  
3 Lo! the Lamb, so long ex - pect - ed, comes with par - don down from heaven;  
4 so when next he comes with glo - ry, and the world is wrapped in fear,  
5 Hon - or, glo - ry, might, and bless - ing to the Fa - ther and the Son,

2 Christ, our sun, all sloth dis - pel - ling, shines up - on the morn - ing skies.  
5 with the ev - er - last - ing Spi - rit while un - end - ing a - ges run.  
1 "Cast a - way the works of dark - ness, O ye child - ren of the day."  
2 Christ, our sun, all sloth dis - pel - ling, shines up - on the morn - ing skies.  
3 let us haste, with tears of sor - row, one and all to be for - given;  
4 may he with his mer - cy shield us, and with words of love draw near.  
5 with the ev - er - last - ing Spi - rit while un - end - ing a - ges run.

## LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT WREATH

*Celebrant:* Last Sunday we lit the Candle of Peace. We light it and the Candle of Hope as we remember that Jesus, born in Bethlehem, will come again to fulfill all of God's promises and bring us everlasting peace and hope.

*Candle Lighting: 10:30 a.m. – Darlene Pometto lights the Candles of Hope and Peace.*

Today we light the Third Candle of Advent, the Candle of Joy. When the angel Gabriel told Mary that a special child would be born to her she was filled with joy. She sang a song that began with the words: "My soul magnifies the Lord, my spirit rejoices in God my Savior."

*Celebrant:* Just as the birth of Jesus gave great joy to his mother, so his presence in the world gave joy to those who had none before. He healed them and gave them hope and peace when they believed in him.

From hope and peace grows joy.

We light the Candle of Joy to remind us that when Jesus is born in us we have joy and that through him there will be everlasting joy on earth.

*Candle Lighting: 10:30 a.m. – Darlene Pometto lights the Third Candle, the Candle of Joy.*

*Celebrant:* Joy is like a light shining in a dark place. As we look at this candle we celebrate the joy we find in Jesus Christ.

Let us pray:

***All:*** Thank you God for the joy you give us. We ask that as we wait for all your promises to come true, and for Christ to come again, that you would remain present with us. Help us today, and every day to worship you, to hear your word, and to do your will by sharing your joy with each other. We ask it in the name of the one who was born in Bethlehem. Amen.

## RESPONSE

Ana Hernandez

*First time: Cantor/Choir; Second time: All*

If in your heart you make a manger for his birth then God will once a -  
gain become a child on earth. If in your heart you make a manger for his birth  
then God will once a - gain be - come a child on earth.

## OPENING ACCLAMATION

*Celebrant:* Blessed be God: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

***People:*** And blessed be his kingdom, now and forever. Amen.

## THE COLLECT FOR PURITY

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

## TRISAGION (*Said 3 times*)

*Celebrant:* Holy God,  
Holy and Mighty,  
Holy Immortal One,  
***People:* Have mercy upon us.**

## THE COLLECT OF THE DAY

*Celebrant:* The Lord be with you.  
***People:* And also with you.**  
*Celebrant:* 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 for ever. **Amen.**

*The people may be seated.*

## THE FIRST LESSON

Zephaniah 3:14-20

Sing aloud, O daughter Zion;  
shout, O Israel!  
Rejoice and exult with all your heart,  
O daughter Jerusalem!  
The LORD has taken away the judgments against you,  
he has turned away your enemies.  
The king of Israel, the LORD, is in your midst;  
you shall fear disaster no more.  
On that day it shall be said to Jerusalem:  
Do not fear, O Zion;  
do not let your hands grow weak.  
The LORD, your God, is in your midst,  
a warrior who gives victory;  
he will rejoice over you with gladness,  
he will renew you in his love;  
he will exult over you with loud singing  
as on a day of festival.  
I will remove disaster from you,  
so that you will not bear reproach for it.

I will deal with all your oppressors  
 at that time.  
 And I will save the lame  
 and gather the outcast,  
 and I will change their shame into praise  
 and renown in all the earth.  
 At that time I will bring you home,  
 at the time when I gather you;  
 for I will make you renowned and praised  
 among all the peoples of the earth,  
 when I restore your fortunes  
 before your eyes, says the LORD.

*Reader:* The word of the Lord.

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

# CANTICLE 16 – Isaiah 12:2-6

*Ecce Deus*

*First time: Cantor/Choir Following times: All*



*The following Canticle is read responsively by half-verse.*

Surely, it is God who saves me; \*

**I will trust in him and not be afraid.**

For the Lord is my stronghold and my sure defense, \*

**and he will be my Savior.**

Therefore you shall draw water with rejoicing \*

**from the springs of salvation.**

And on that day you shall say, \*

**Give thanks to the Lord and call upon his Name; Refrain**

Make his deeds known among the peoples; \*

**see that they remember that his Name is exalted.**

Sing the praises of the Lord, for he has done great things, \*

**and this is known in all the world.**

Cry aloud, inhabitants of Zion, ring out your joy, \*

**for the great one in the midst of you is the Holy One of Israel.**

**Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit:**

**as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be for ever. Amen. Refrain**

## THE EPISTLE

Philippians 4:4-7

Rejoice in the Lord always; again I will say, Rejoice. Let your gentleness be known to everyone. The Lord is near. Do not worry about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.

**Reader:** The word of the Lord.

**People:** Thanks be to God.

*The people stand as able for the singing of the hymn and remain standing for the reading of the Gospel and the prayers.*

## SEQUENCE HYMN 56 (V. 5, 6)

Veni Emmanuel

*The first verse is sung as the Gospel is processed into the midst of the community; the second verse is sung as it is processed back to the altar.*

(Dec. 20) 5 O come, thou Key of Da - vid, come, and o - pen  
 (Dec. 21) 6 O come, thou Day - spring from on high, and cheer us

5 wide our heaven - ly home; make safe the way that leads on  
 6 by thy draw - ing nigh; dis - perse the gloom - y clouds of

5 high, and close the path to mis - er - y. Re - joice! Re - joice!  
 6 night, and death's dark shad - ow put to flight.

Em - man - u - el shall come to thee, O Is - ra - el!

## THE GOSPEL

Luke 3:7-18

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

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

John said to the crowds that came out to be baptized by him, "You brood of vipers! Who warned you to flee from the wrath to come? Bear fruits worthy of repentance. Do not begin to say to yourselves, 'We have Abraham as our ancestor'; for I tell you, God is able from these stones to raise up children to

Abraham. Even now the ax is lying at the root of the trees; every tree therefore that does not bear good fruit is cut down and thrown into the fire."

And the crowds asked him, "What then should we do?" In reply he said to them, "Whoever has two coats must share with anyone who has none; and whoever has food must do likewise." Even tax collectors came to be baptized, and they asked him, "Teacher, what should we do?" He said to them, "Collect no more than the amount prescribed for you." Soldiers also asked him, "And we, what should we do?" He said to them, "Do not extort money from anyone by threats or false accusation, and be satisfied with your wages."

As the people were filled with expectation, and all were questioning in their hearts concerning John, whether he might be the Messiah, John answered all of them by saying, "I baptize you with water; but one who is more powerful than I is coming; I am not worthy to untie the thong of his sandals. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire. His winnowing fork is in his hand, to clear his threshing floor and to gather the wheat into his granary; but the chaff he will burn with unquenchable fire."

So, with many other exhortations, he proclaimed the good news to the people.

*Celebrant:* The Gospel of the Lord.

*People:* Praise to you, Lord Christ.

*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 NICENE CREED

*All:* We believe in one God,  
the Father, the Almighty,  
maker of heaven and earth,  
of all that is, seen and unseen.  
We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ,  
the only Son of God,  
eternally begotten of the Father,  
God from God, Light from Light,  
true God from true God,  
begotten, not made,  
of one Being with the Father.  
Through him all things were made.  
For us and for our salvation  
he came down from heaven:  
by the power of the Holy Spirit  
he became incarnate from the Virgin Mary,  
and was made man.  
For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate;  
he suffered death and was buried.  
On the third day he rose again  
in accordance with the Scriptures;

he ascended into heaven  
 and is seated at the right hand of the Father.  
 He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead,  
 and his kingdom will have no end.  
 We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life,  
 who proceeds from the Father and the Son.  
 With the Father and the Son he is worshiped and glorified.  
 He has spoken through the Prophets.  
 We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic Church.  
 We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins.  
 We look for the resurrection of the dead,  
 and the life of the world to come. Amen.

## THE PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

Today is Rose Sunday, the rose-colored candle for Advent, as a sign of joy and hope. A day dawns with a glow of sunrise. We prepare for Jesus's arrival and the dawn of a new life through Him. We look for ways to rejoice in the anticipation of the coming of Christ, and to share our joy with those around us. We decorate with lights and candles, we bake cookies to share with friends and family, and we share our joy with our community. We pray, ***Prepare our hearts to receive the gift of Your Son.***

Welcome to all who are worshiping with us this morning. We are grateful for your participation. We thank all those supporting this service today. We pray for Michael, our Presiding Bishop; for Eugene and Robert, our Bishops; for Father Manny, Reverend Marcia and Deacon Denise; and for our Rector Emeritus, Richard. In the Anglican Communion, we pray for the Anglican Church of Canada. In our diocese, we pray for St. Barnabas, Sykesville; St. Christopher's, Linthicum Heights; and St. John's, Ellicott City. We pray, ***Prepare our hearts to receive the gift of Your Son.***

This is a difficult time for many who live in poverty, who also would like to give. Help us to generously give of ourselves to help our neighbors. We lift up in prayer our friends and staff at the Leola Dorsey Shelter and the Grassroots Crisis Center. We pray for the good people of Bridges to Housing Stability. We ask your blessings for the children sponsored through The Angel Tree project. We thank all those contributing to underserved and pray that our gifts may help us to grow in your love. We pray, ***Prepare our hearts to receive the gift of Your Son.***

We pray for all those ill in body, mind or spirit, especially Sherry, Bunmi, Frantz, Sam, Chad, Alta, Alfred, Kathleen, Ashley & Jeanette, and those you now name. We ask your blessing for those who care for them. We pray for those suffering from the COVID virus around the world. We keep the residents and staff of Springfield Hospital in our prayers. We pray, ***Prepare our hearts to receive the gift of Your Son.***

We ask God to accept in his loving arms all those who have departed this life, especially Robert White, Stuart Cracraft, Carolyn Schlanger, Alma Carter & Sarah Mercer, and those you now name. We pray for all who mourn them, that they may heal in the warmth of your love. We pray, ***Prepare our hearts to receive the gift of Your Son.***

We rejoice with all members of our church family who are celebrating birthdays especially Cheryl, Theo, Jordan, Maggie, & Cathy, and the anniversary of Nii & Theo Jones-Quartey. We pray, ***Prepare our hearts to receive the gift of Your Son.***

We rejoice in the closeness of the Lord's coming. We look daily for joy: the dawn of a new day; sharing time with a friends or family; and giving and receiving kind words. Let us not keep these joys to ourselves, but rather, spread joy, as we look forward to the coming of Christ. ***Amen.***

## CONFESSION OF SIN

*Deacon:* 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 PEACE

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

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

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

## WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

### THE HOLY COMMUNION

ANTHEM AT THE OFFERING — *Rejoice in the Lord Always*

Henry Purcell

Trio: Catherine Hinton, Doug Jimerson, and Tristan Latchford

*Rejoice in the Lord alway, and again I say rejoice.*

*Let your moderation be known unto all men. The Lord is at hand.*

*Be careful for nothing; but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving,  
let your requests be made known unto God.*

*And the peace of God, which passeth all understanding,  
shall keep your hearts and minds through Jesus Christ our Lord.*

DOXOLOGY 380, V.3

Old 100<sup>th</sup>

**Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;  
Praise him, all creatures here below;  
Praise him above, ye heavenly host:  
Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.**

*The people stand as able.*



## EUCCHARISTIC PRAYER B

*Celebrant:* The Lord be with you.

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

*Celebrant:* Lift up your hearts.

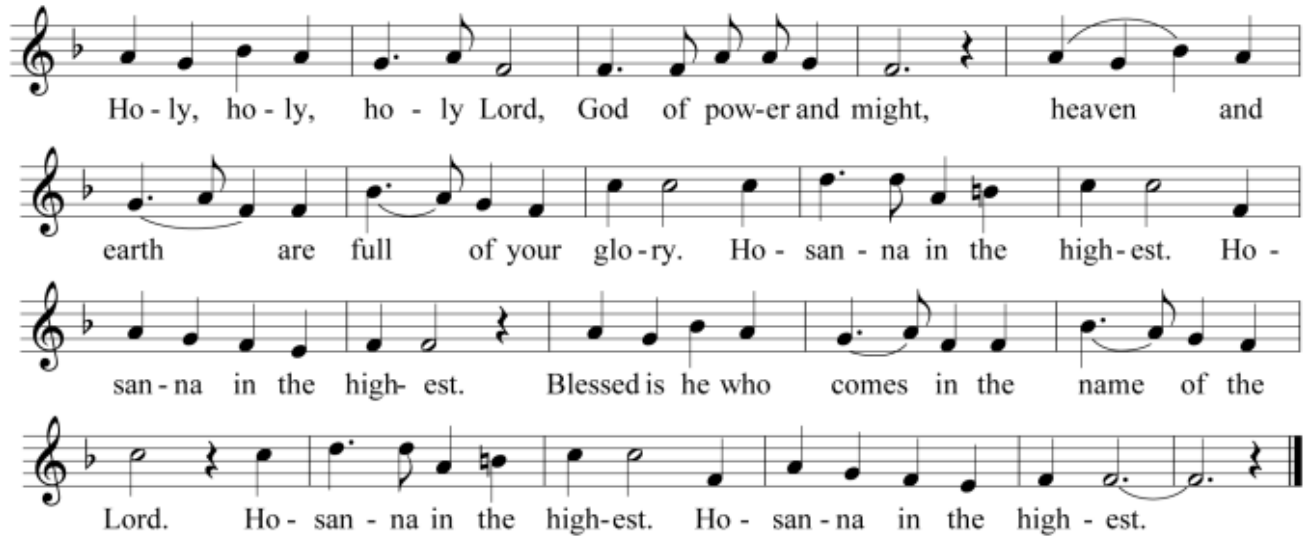
*People:* **We lift them to the Lord.**

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

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

*Celebrant:* It is right, and a good and joyful thing, always and everywhere to give thanks to you, Father Almighty, Creator of heaven and earth.

Therefore we praise you, joining our voices with Angels and Archangels and with all the company of heaven, who forever sing this hymn to proclaim the glory of your Name:



We give thanks to you, O God, for the goodness and love which you have made known to us in creation; in the calling of Israel to be your people; in your Word spoken through the prophets; and above all in the Word made flesh, Jesus, your Son. For in these last days you sent him to be incarnate from the Virgin Mary, to be the Savior and Redeemer of the world. In him, you have delivered us from evil, and made us worthy to stand before you. In him, you have brought us out of error into truth, out of sin into righteousness, out of death into life.

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

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

Therefore, according to his command, O Father,

*Celebrant and People:* **We remember his death,  
We proclaim his resurrection,  
We await his coming in glory.**

*The Celebrant continues*

And we offer our sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving to you, O Lord of all; presenting to you, from your creation, this bread and this wine.

We pray you, gracious God, to send your Holy Spirit upon these gifts that they may be the Sacrament of the Body of Christ and his Blood of the new Covenant. Unite us to your Son in his sacrifice, that we may be acceptable through him, being sanctified by the Holy Spirit. In the fullness of time, put all things in subjection under your Christ, and bring us to that heavenly country where all your saints, we may enter the everlasting heritage of your sons and daughters; through Jesus Christ our Lord, the firstborn of all creation, the head of the Church, and the author of our salvation.

By him, and with him, and in him, in the unity of the Holy Spirit all honor and glory is yours, Almighty Father, now and forever. *AMEN.*

## THE LORD'S PRAYER

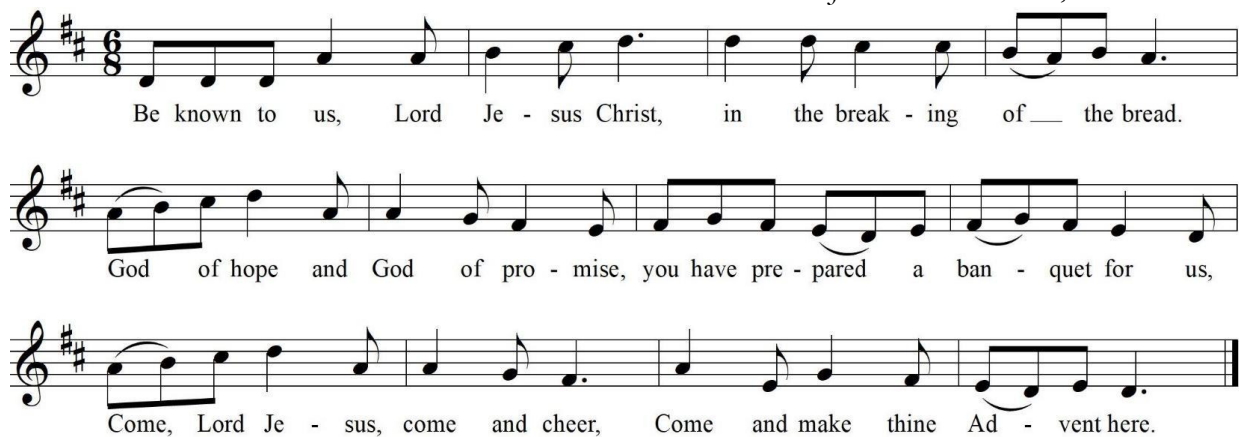
*Celebrant:* And now, as our Savior Christ has taught us, we are bold to say,  
**All:** **Our Father,**  
**who art in heaven,**  
**hallowed be thy Name,**  
**thy kingdom come,**  
**thy will be done,**  
**on earth as it is in heaven.**  
**Give us this day our daily bread.**  
**And forgive us our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

## THE BREAKING OF THE BREAD

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

## FRACTION ANTHEM – Be known to us

*St. James Advent Service, arr. Richard Shephard*



Be known to us, Lord Je - sus Christ, in the break - ing of — the bread.

God of hope and God of pro - mise, you have pre - pared a ban - quet for us,

Come, Lord Je - sus, come and cheer, Come and make thine Ad - vent here.



1 Sure - ly it is God who saves me; trust-ing him, I shall not  
2 Make his deeds known to the peo - ples; tell out his ex - alt - ed

fear. For the Lord de - fends and shields me and his sav - ing  
Name. Praise the Lord, who has done great things; all his works his

help is near. So re - jice as you draw wa - ter from sal -  
might pro - claim. Zi-on, lift your voice in sing-ing; for with

va - tion's liv - ing spring; in the day of your de -  
you has come to dwell, in your ve - ry midst, the

liv - erance thank the Lord, his mer - cies sing.  
great and Ho - ly One of Is - ra - el.

## POST-COMMUNION PRAYER

*Celebrant:* Let us pray.

*All:* Eternal God, heavenly Father,  
you have graciously accepted us as living members  
of your Son our Savior Jesus Christ,  
and you have fed us with spiritual food  
in the Sacrament of his Body and Blood.  
Send us now into the world in peace,  
and grant us strength and courage  
to love and serve you  
with gladness and singleness of heart;  
through Christ our Lord. Amen.

## THE BLESSING

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

1 Lift up your heads, ye might - y gates; be - hold the  
 2 O blest the land, the ci - ty blest, where Christ the  
 3 Fling wide the por - tals of your heart; make it a  
 \*4 Re - deem - er, come! I o - pen wide my heart to  
 5 So come, my Sov - ereign; en - ter in! Let new and

1 King of glo - ry waits! The King of kings is  
 2 ru - ler is con - fessed! O hap - py hearts and  
 3 tem - ple, set a - part from earth - ly use for  
 4 thee: here, Lord, a - bide! Let me thy in - ner  
 5 no - bler life be - gin; thy Ho - ly Spi - rit

1 draw - ing near; the Sa - vior of the world is here.  
 2 hap - py homes to whom this King of tri - umph comes!  
 3 heaven's em - ploy, a - dorned with prayer and love and joy.  
 4 pres - ence feel: thy grace and love in me re - veal.  
 5 guide us on, un - til the glo - rious crown be won.

## DISMISSAL

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

POSTLUDE – *Introduction and Toccata on Veni Emmanuel*

arr. Langrick

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## ANNOUNCEMENTS

Send announcements to [communications@christchurchcolumbia.org](mailto:communications@christchurchcolumbia.org)

**Celebrate Advent and Christmas at Christ Church** | [On our website](#), you'll find our entire schedule for the 2021 Advent and Christmas season. We will also have an Advent and Christmas trifold that provides a brief outline of upcoming gatherings, and you can grab one in the Narthex on Sunday. We hope that you'll join us often.

**Advent III - This Sunday** | Join us on Sunday morning, the Third Sunday of Advent, as we celebrate Holy Eucharist at 8:00 and 10:30 a.m. Our 10:30 service will be livestreamed on our [Christ Church website](#), [YouTube](#), and [Facebook](#) pages for those who are joining us remotely. If you choose to worship in New Brick, please wear your mask at all times while indoors.

**Sunday School** | Join us for Sunday School this weekend. The registration form is located [here](#), and you can send them to [ministry@christchurchcolumbia.org](mailto:ministry@christchurchcolumbia.org) to enroll your child(ren). Elementary school sessions begin at 9:15 a.m. and you can receive the Zoom link by emailing Jennifer Atkins at [dandjatkings@verizon.net](mailto:dandjatkings@verizon.net). The older youth session begins at 9:30 a.m. and is run by our Youth Minister, Todd Domer. You can reach Todd at [youthministry@christchurchcolumbia.org](mailto:youthministry@christchurchcolumbia.org) for Zoom details. Also, please note that there will be no Sunday School on December 26th.

**Adult Forum: Sunday Circle** | **Sunday Circle** is an in-person, community-circle gathering that meets between worship services from 9:30-10:15 a.m. each Sunday and is located in Old Brick during the winter months. Each month, there is a new theme of lessons with opportunities for discussion, sharing, fellowship, and prayers. Throughout December, we will focus on the History of Advent Season Hymns and this Sunday we'll look at *Angels We Have Heard on High*. We hope that you'll join us for these gatherings. For more information, please contact Jenn Todd Lavanish at [jtlavanish@gmail.com](mailto:jtlavanish@gmail.com). Also, please note that there will be no Sunday Circle on December 26th.

**Festival of Nine Lessons and Carols - Sunday Evening** | 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.

**Adult and Children's Choir - Tuesdays and Thursdays** | This week, Children's Choir meets next Tuesday from 5:00-6:00 p.m. and Adult Choir meets next Thursday 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! Handbells and chimes will also be included in our rehearsals. Please email Len Langrick, our Director of Music, at [music@christchurchcolumbia.org](mailto:music@christchurchcolumbia.org) to learn more, or to RSVP for rehearsals.

**Bible Study – Wednesdays** | Bible Study gathers in person next Wednesday at 10:30 a.m. and will be a discussion on the readings for that coming Sunday. [Next week's gathering focuses on these readings](#). You do not have to know much about the Bible; just join in and let's all study together. If you're interested, simply gather with us on Wednesday morning in the Great Hall.

**CEC Book Club – Fridays** | We'll gather virtually this Friday from 7:30 to 9 p.m. and continue to discuss *What Did Jesus Ask?*, a collection of essays by theologians and notable people on questions asked by Jesus in the New Testament. You can find this book at the usual retailers. We hope that you'll find time to join us for this engaging and enlightening group discussion. The Zoom link is [here](#), Meeting ID is 894 0227 6226 and the Password is CECbooks. We will soon begin discussing our next book, *The Dream of God* by Verna Dozier.

**Be a Part of Christ Church's Sundays - We Need More Ushers and Lectors!** | Your church needs you! We need ushers and lectors for both services, especially during the 8 a.m. service. You will serve at specified scheduled services and select events, 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](mailto:ministry@christchurchcolumbia.org) for more information.

**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 sign-up sheet online at <https://tinyurl.com/CECaltargifts>. You can also sign up 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. Any questions, please call the Church Office.

**Garden Tribute for Seiko Shields** | As a tribute to Seiko Shields, we are collecting spring and summer bulbs for flowering plants to be planted in the near future. These flowers around the church grounds will become a living memorial called *Seiko's Garden*. You are invited to drop bulbs off at the Church Office.

**Diocese of Maryland's COVID Info** | Howard County remains in the Yellow Phase at this time. The entire breakdown of Yellow Phase (Delta variant) guidelines is located [here](#). The Bishops of our Diocese have also released a COVID-19 Vaccination Directive that you can view [on this page](#). Please note that masks are still required indoors at Christ Church as we continue our dialogue with the appropriate organizations and ease restrictions with care and consideration as conditions warrant.

**Be Aware of Email Phishing Scams, Especially During this Holiday Season** | We want to make you aware of [email and text message scams that are targeting individuals and leaders of religious institutions around the country](#). There are also recent reports of Maryland and Howard County churches having been affected by this issue, including Christ Church. [You can learn about these phishing scams, and what you can do to help stop them, on our website's blog.](#)

**The Jesse Tree Project** | This Advent season, Christ Church launched a new Advent activity for all ages called [The Jesse Tree Project](#). The Jesse Tree is a Scriptural depiction of Jesus Christ's Old Testament genealogy, connecting the salvation history of the Hebrew and Christian testaments. We also invite you to follow the daily video presentations each weekday throughout Advent, as Mother Marcia presents a new Bible story and Scripture passage along with a reflection and short prayer. [You can find these on our website](#) every day. You'll also find a paper ornament pattern to cut out, decorate, and hang on your Jesse Tree at home. Ornaments from home can also join our handcrafted Jesse Tree ornaments in the Narthex to make a lasting display for years to come, so bring yours on Sunday! We hope that many of you will take part in what we hope will become a new tradition at Christ Church. [Email Mother Marcia](#) if you have any questions.

**It's Time for Your Annual Christmas Videos!** | It's that time of year again, a time for you to turn in fun videos with families and friends. These videos will celebrate the Twelve Days of Christmas and are shared on Facebook and our website. You can upload as many videos as you like, so start planning yours and help spread Christmas joy! Submissions are due by December 20th [and you can upload them here](#). For more details, please contact Yetti Lipede at [ministry@christchurchcolumbia.org](mailto:ministry@christchurchcolumbia.org).

**Be a Part of Our Christmas Pageant** | It is Christmas Pageant time! This year's pageant will take place on Christmas Eve at 4 p.m. and we will present a live Nativity. There will be no speaking parts. Children from preschool through 5th grade are invited to have a role. If your child would like to participate, please plan on attending our one rehearsal/costume time on December 19th at 9:15 a.m. (Sunday School time). We are looking forward to a fun event! Please sign up using this [link](#)!

**Youth Choir Reunion** | Did you ever sing in the Christ Church Youth Choir? If so, you are invited to sing one song at the conclusion of the Christmas Pageant on Christmas Eve. There will be two opportunities to rehearse: December 19th from 11:45 a.m. – noon AND December 21st at 5 p.m. If you have any questions, please contact Jennifer Atkins at [dandjatkins@verizon.net](mailto:dandjatkins@verizon.net).

**Grassroots Meal Drop-Offs to Occur on the Same Day: Monday, December 13** | In a consolidated approach to feeding the hungry on Monday, December 13th, parishioners are invited to participate for the first time or to double their recipes. As usual, Christ Church will purchase fried chicken at Weis and depend upon your bringing side dishes to make the meal. But what is different is that we will be cooking on that day for two groups of diners.

The first group to be fed is the 40 to 80 friends at the Dorsey Center's Day Resource Center (DRC), which is operated by [Grassroots Crisis Intervention Center](#). When Grassroots suspended operations at the start of the pandemic, Christ Church put its duties at the DRC on hold until last month, when the center reopened on a modified basis. A reduced number of Christ Church volunteers served the midday meal in person on our usual day –the second Monday of the month.

The second group to be fed is at Grassroots' Live-in Facility on Freetown Rd., where the staff serves the food. We have been providing the evening meal menu – fried chicken and side dishes cooked by parishioners – on the third Monday of the month during the pandemic. Last month there were separate drop-off dates to feed each of the two groups. This month there is only one date, and it falls on the second Monday this time.

If you're cooking only for the evening meal at the Live-In Facility, plan to arrive between 3:15 and 3:30 p.m. at the parking lot outside Old Brick. Bring a side dish, a dessert, or items for the pantry to be enjoyed round-the-clock by the 50 residents at the Freetown Rd. facility. Click on the [Christ Church Grassroots Meal link on SignUpGenius](#) to view a suggested menu and to tell coordinators what you'll bring.

If you're cooking or volunteering for the midday meal at the DRC, plan to arrive between 12:45 and 1 p.m. at the parking lot outside Old Brick. Bring a side dish, a dessert, or items for the DRC pantry. Click on a different link, called the [Christ Church Dorsey/DRC Meal link on SignUpGenius](#) to view requested items and to tell coordinators what you'll bring.

If you're cooking or bringing pantry items for both meals, plan to arrive between 12:45 and 1 p.m. at the parking lot outside Old Brick. The dish and supplementals for the evening meal can be left in the Parish Hall kitchen. Or, depending on the dish or the supplemental item, such as brownies or fruit, you can put it in the kitchen on Sunday. Please sign in on both of the above links to enter your information.

If you plan to volunteer in-person to serve the midday meal, please be fully vaccinated against COVID-19 and have a flu shot. You'll find the four categories of volunteer duties on the [Christ Church Dorsey/DRC Meal link on SignUpGenius](#), which is the same form as for menu items.

One of the duties is to depart the DRC when the shift ends at 4 p.m. to transport any excess fried chicken, side dishes, and desserts from one Grassroots site to the other. We've always taken the leftovers to the Freetown Rd. Live-In Facility. This time, we'll literally be consolidating our food and our efforts.

Please sign up online at one or both of the sites no later than noon on the Sunday prior to the meal on Monday. For questions about meals for either of the Grassroots facilities, please email [outreach@christchurchcolumbia.org](mailto:outreach@christchurchcolumbia.org) so we can put you in touch with co-coordinator Nancy Winchester.

**Not Too Late: Columbia Community Care Holds a Holiday Toy Drive Dec. 11** | To help families celebrate the holidays, [Columbia Community Care](#) (CCC) is holding its annual [Holiday Toy Drive](#) to gather gifts and treats for children from 2 to 12 years old. Items such as crafts, books, puzzles, gloves, mittens, hats, and after-school snacks will be distributed on Saturday, Dec. 11. Please drop off new and unwrapped items by Friday, December 10th.

This is in addition to the typical collection at Christ Church, which consists of diapers, baby wipes, sanitary and personal care items, and adult diapers. Please put the holiday items along with the usual ones in the yellow bin, marked “CCC,” inside the Parish Hall. You can drop off items on weekdays when the church office is open.

As an alternative, CCC offers a couple of other collection drop-offs and a wish list on its [Facebook group](#). Or go directly to either of the two CCC sites where gifts will be distributed: Wilde Lake High School, [5460 Trumpeter Rd, Columbia](#), and Oakland Mills Middle School, [9540 Kilimanjaro Road](#), both in Columbia. To drop off gifts, please arrive between 9 and 10 a.m.; to receive gifts, arrive between 10:30 a.m. and 12:30 p.m., or while supplies last.

**Inviting One and All to Get Involved in Christ Church Outreach** | What better time than the holidays to get more fully involved in helping others! The Outreach Commission invites you to join in during our next meeting to learn more about opportunities this month and in 2022. It will be held virtually at 7:30 p.m. on Monday, Dec. 13. Information on how to join the meeting by Zoom or by phone will be provided in the Church notices about online activities next week.

**FISH Has an Updated Request: Cookies, Crackers, and Snacks** | As the holidays begin, organizers for [FISH of Howard County](#) are making a more festive request than the previous one. Cookies, crackers, and snacks are what’s needed at the pantry to fulfill shopping lists. They also say thanks to Christ Church for its response to their earlier needs, which produced an adequate inventory of household cleaning supplies and personal items. The bin is on the breezeway near the door to the Parish Hall.

**Look for a Recap Next Week of Our Successful Angel Tree Drive** | All the slots were taken by last Sunday to brighten Christmas for 12 children on the 2021 Christ Church Angel Tree list. Friday, Dec. 10, is the deadline for turning in gifts for the group of 11- and 12-year-olds, whose names can be found on the [Christ Church Angel Tree SignUp page](#) and on the easel near the Angel Tree in the Narthex. We are focusing our support on children in this age range to meet a need identified by the Howard County (Central Maryland) division of [The Salvation Army](#), the Angel Tree sponsor.

**Springfield Hospital Donations** | The Women of Christ Church will once again be collecting Christmas gifts for our friends at Springfield Hospital. Though we haven’t been able to make our usual visits due to the pandemic, we will be gathering gifts for them to bring a little Christmas joy. If you would like to contribute, we have placed a large container in the Tower Room to accept your unwrapped donations. We will need them by December 15th, in order to meet their deadline. If you want to donate gifts but can’t get them to church, please contact Cathy Gold or email [info@christchurchcolumbia.org](mailto:info@christchurchcolumbia.org), and we will find a way. [Here is the current wish list from Springfield Hospital, in case you would like suggestions.](#)

**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](mailto:outreach@christchurchcolumbia.org). Your help is greatly welcomed and appreciated. Thank you.**



## Be Part of The Long Welcome: Donations Needed for Our Refugee Family

Under our Good Neighbor Partnership with Lutheran Social Services, Christ Church's Refugee Ministry will soon be settling an Afghan refugee family into their own residence. Items needed for setting up and maintaining the home can be found in this [Signup Genius link](#), where you can sign up to donate items and gift cards. You may also scan this QR code, or scan the one that's in the Narthex:

Once you've purchased items, you can drop them at the church on Sunday mornings (in the New Brick nursery) or at the church office (we will place a bin in the entryway, marked "RESETTLE") during normal office hours. **NOTE:** All donated items must be in *new or like-new* condition. Additionally, we are not currently accepting donations other than those on the sign-up list. Please stay tuned for additional needs as they arise.

If you prefer to make a financial contribution to help support the family, you may send a check to Christ Church marked "Refugee Ministry," or donate online. Thank you for being part of this important ministry!



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## THANK YOU for Supporting Our Common Life.

As we all know, the past couple of years have been terribly difficult for everyone, but through it all, each one of you has been very generous to your beloved Christ Church. You can pledge online at [www.christchurchcolumbia.org](http://www.christchurchcolumbia.org), and we also have pledge cards in the narthex. It is our hope that you will prayerfully consider your support to Christ Church throughout the coming year.

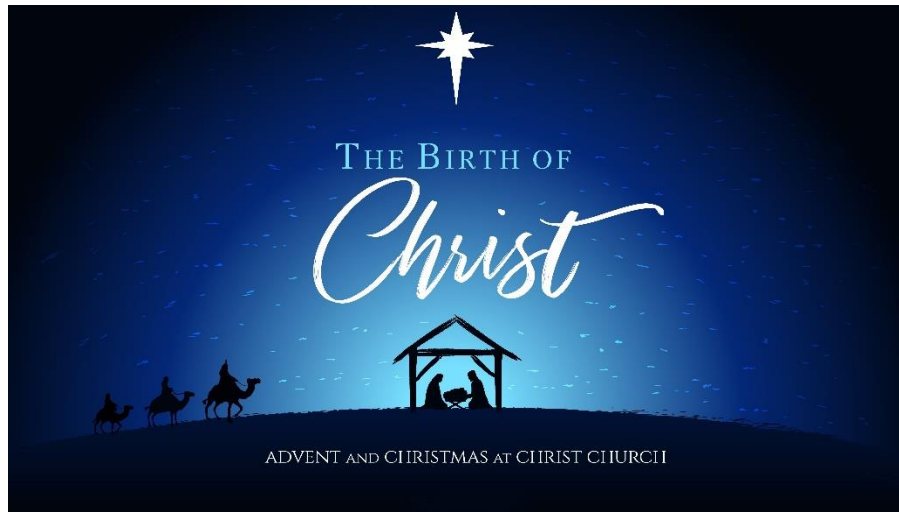
The most recent monthly CEC Financial Report can be read [here](#).

### 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)



**Morning and Evening Prayer livestreams**

**Monday - Friday at 7:00 a.m.**

**Monday, Wednesday, and Friday at 7:00 p.m.**

**via [our website](#) and [Facebook](#)**

Our virtual tradition continues as Father Manny, Deacon Denise, and wonderfully dedicated members of the Christ Church family lead us in a brief prayer service livestream to begin and end our days throughout the Advent season.

**Festival of Nine Lessons and Carols**

**Sunday, December 12th**

**at 7:00 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.

**Workshop on Grieving**

**Saturday, December 18th**

**at 2:00 p.m. via Zoom**

Christ Church presents a new Zoom gathering, Grieving Through the Holidays. All those who have lost a loved one are encouraged to attend, and to take some time to learn new strategies and receive support from others who may be spending this Christmas without someone special in their lives. The Zoom link will be in our upcoming weekly emails, so let us know if you'd like to receive these - [info@christchurchcolumbia.org](mailto:info@christchurchcolumbia.org)

**Advent IV**

**Sunday, December 19th**

**at 8:00 and 10:30 a.m. in the New Brick Sanctuary**

**and 10:30 a.m. via [the CEC website](#), [Facebook](#), and [YouTube](#)**

This is the final Sunday prior to Christmas Eve, 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.

**Christ Church's Annual  
Community Caroling and Cookie Exchange  
Sunday, December 19th  
at 7:00 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.

**Christ Church on Christmas Eve  
Friday, 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's followed by a live Nativity. Kids from pre-school - 5th grade are invited to have a role (they are all non-speaking parts), so email us at [info@christchurchcolumbia.org](mailto:info@christchurchcolumbia.org) or call the Church Office to participate.

This Christmas Eve service concludes with a Youth Choir reunion, so if you ever sang in the Christ Church Youth Choir, you're invited to join us! Email [info@christchurchcolumbia.org](mailto:info@christchurchcolumbia.org) for details.

That evening, our excellent choir and instrumentalists will lead the extraordinary musical 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  
Saturday, 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 2021 it takes place in the Sanctuary of New Brick. And so, as the hymnist suggested... *"Come and worship... worship Christ, the new-born King!"*

**First Sunday After Christmas  
Sunday, December 26th  
at 8:00 and 10:30 a.m. in the New Brick Sanctuary  
and via [the CEC website](#), [Facebook](#), and [YouTube](#)**

On this final Sunday of the calendar year, we'll worship with Holy Eucharist at our usual time.

**New Year's Day Eucharist  
Saturday, January 1st  
at 10:00 a.m. in the New Brick Sanctuary  
and via [website](#), [Facebook](#), and [YouTube](#)**

We will gather online for this first morning of 2022, and collectively begin this New Year with a Holy Eucharist and prayers for a healthier and more peaceful year-to-come.



**Christ Episcopal Church**

6800 Oakland Mills Road

Columbia, MD 21045

(410) 381-9365

[www.christchurchcolumbia.org](http://www.christchurchcolumbia.org)

[office@christchurchcolumbia.org](mailto:office@christchurchcolumbia.org)

The Rev'd Emmanuel Ato Mercer, *Rector*

The Rev'd Marcia Davenport, *Associate Priest*

The Rev'd Denise Schiavone, *Deacon*

Aisha White, *Parish Administrator*

Christopher Pouch, *Communications Administrator*

Yetti Lipede, *Ministry Coordinator*

Todd Domer, *Youth Minister*

Len Langrick, *Interim Music Director*

**Vestry**

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

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

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