

CHRIST EPISCOPAL CHURCH

COLUMBIA, MD

HOLY EUCHARIST, RITE II

The Fifth Sunday of Easter

Sunday, May 2, 2021 | 8:00 AM and 10:30 AM

You may stream this service from Christ Church's [Facebook Page](#).



THE EPISCOPAL DIOCESE
OF MARYLAND

Covenant for Regathering

In response to the current COVID-19 pandemic, I promise, with God's help and to the best of my ability, to abide by the guidelines of the Diocese of Maryland for participation in the life of my congregation according to the regathering phase in which my congregation is authorized to carry out its mission and ministry.

In fulfillment of the Baptismal Covenant (*BCP* p. 304-305), I will strive to:

Love my neighbor as myself, I will...

- Wear a mask or scarf over my nose and mouth at all times in church buildings, except momentarily to receive the sacrament or lead worship through an assigned speaking part, and follow public health guidelines for hand sanitizing and disinfecting
- Only attend worship and receive communion if I am non-symptomatic for the COVID-19 virus or any other transmittable disease that could compromise the health of another congregant
- Will abstain from attending if doing so would put me at greater risk due to my own health status

Respecting the dignity of every human being, I will...

- Make no physical contact with people beyond the members of my own household
- Maintain a six foot or more distance from other members of the congregation
- Respect any requests for distance, masking, and cleaning, to ensure the safety and comfort level of others

Seek and serve Christ in all people...

- Trust and support the decisions of both my diocesan and congregational leaders
- Stay connected with others in my community by telephone, video chat, or mail

May 2020

THE WORD OF GOD

OPENING HYMN

Please hum or mouth the words only.

Finnian

Sing, ye faithful, sing with gladness,
wake your noblest, sweetest strain,
with the praises of your Savior
let his house resound again;
him let all your music honor,
and your songs exalt his reign.

Sing how he came forth from heaven,
bowed himself to Bethlehem's cave,
stooped to wear the servant's vesture,
bore the pain, the cross, the grave,
passed within the gates of darkness,
thence his banished ones to save.

So, he tasted death for mortals,
he, of humankind the head,
sinless one, among the sinful,
Prince of life, among the dead;
thus he wrought the full redemption,
and the captor captive led.

Now on high, yet ever with us,
from his Father's throne the Son
rules and guides the world he ransomed,
till the appointed work be done,
till he see, renewed and perfect,
all things gathered into one.

OPENING ACCLAMATION

Celebrant: Alleluia. Christ is risen.

***People:* The Lord is risen indeed. Alleluia.**

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.

***People:* Amen.**

Glory to God in the highest,
and peace to his people on earth.

Lord God, heavenly King,
almighty God and Father,
we worship you, we give you thanks,
we praise you for your glory.

Lord Jesus Christ, only Son of the Father,
Lord God, Lamb of God,
you take away the sin of the world:
have mercy on us;
you are seated at the right hand of the Father:
receive our prayer.

For you alone are the Holy One,
you alone are the Lord,
you alone are the Most High,
Jesus Christ,
with the Holy Spirit,
in the glory of God the Father. Amen.

OPENING COLLECT

Celebrant: The Lord be with you.

People: And also with you.

Celebrant: Let us pray.

Almighty God, whom truly to know is everlasting life: Grant us so perfectly to know your Son Jesus Christ to be the way, the truth, and the life, that we may steadfastly follow his steps in the way that leads to eternal life; through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord, who lives and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever.

People: Amen.

The people may be seated.

THE FIRST LESSON

Acts 8:26-40

An angel of the Lord said to Philip, "Get up and go toward the south to the road that goes down from Jerusalem to Gaza." (This is a wilderness road.) So he got up and went. Now there was an Ethiopian eunuch, a court official of the Candace, queen of the Ethiopians, in charge of her entire treasury. He had come to Jerusalem to worship and was returning home; seated in his chariot, he was reading the prophet Isaiah. Then the Spirit said to Philip, "Go over to this chariot and join it." So Philip ran up to it and heard him reading the prophet Isaiah. He asked, "Do you understand what you are reading?" He replied, "How can I, unless someone guides me?" And he invited Philip to get in and sit beside him. Now the passage of the scripture that he was reading was this:

"Like a sheep he was led to the slaughter,
and like a lamb silent before its shearer,
so he does not open his mouth.

In his humiliation justice was denied him.
Who can describe his generation?
For his life is taken away from the earth.”

The eunuch asked Philip, “About whom, may I ask you, does the prophet say this, about himself or about someone else?” Then Philip began to speak, and starting with this scripture, he proclaimed to him the good news about Jesus. As they were going along the road, they came to some water; and the eunuch said, “Look, here is water! What is to prevent me from being baptized?” He commanded the chariot to stop, and both of them, Philip and the eunuch, went down into the water, and Philip baptized him. When they came up out of the water, the Spirit of the Lord snatched Philip away; the eunuch saw him no more, and went on his way rejoicing. But Philip found himself at Azotus, and as he was passing through the region, he proclaimed the good news to all the towns until he came to Caesarea.

Reader: The word of the Lord.

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

The following Psalm is chanted by the choir.

PSALM 22:24-30

Deus, Deus meus

Chant: Joseph Harris (1743-1814)

My praise is of him in the great assembly; *
I will perform my vows in the presence of those who worship him.

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.

THE EPISTLE

1 John 4:7-21

Beloved, let us love one another, because love is from God; everyone who loves is born of God and knows God. Whoever does not love does not know God, for God is love. God's love was revealed among us in this way: God sent his only Son into the world so that we might live through him. In this is love, not that we loved God but that he loved us and sent his Son to be the atoning sacrifice for our sins. Beloved, since God loved us so much, we also ought to love one another. No one has ever seen God; if we love one another, God lives in us, and his love is perfected in us.

By this we know that we abide in him and he in us, because he has given us of his Spirit. And we have seen and do testify that the Father has sent his Son as the Savior of the world. God abides in those who confess

that Jesus is the Son of God, and they abide in God. So we have known and believe the love that God has for us.

God is love, and those who abide in love abide in God, and God abides in them. Love has been perfected among us in this: that we may have boldness on the day of judgment, because as he is, so are we in this world. There is no fear in love, but perfect love casts out fear; for fear has to do with punishment, and whoever fears has not reached perfection in love. We love because he first loved us. Those who say, "I love God," and hate their brothers or sisters, are liars; for those who do not love a brother or sister whom they have seen, cannot love God whom they have not seen. The commandment we have from him is this: those who love God must love their brothers and sisters also.

Reader: The word of the Lord.

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

The people stand as able.

SEQUENCE HYMN

Please hum or mouth the words only.

Tallis Ordinal

The great Creator of the worlds,
the sovereign God of heaven,
his holy and immortal truth
to all on earth hath given.

He sent no angel of his host
to bear this mighty word,
but him through whom the worlds were made,
the everlasting Lord.

He sent him not in wrath and power,
but grace and peace to bring;
in kindness, as a king might send
his son, himself a king.

He sent him down as sending God;
in flesh to us he came;
as one with us he dwelt with us,
and bore a human name.

He came as Savior to his own,
the way of love he trod;
he came to win us by good will,
for force is not of God.

Not to oppress, but summon all
their truest life to find,
in love God sent his Son to save,
not to condemn mankind.

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

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

Jesus said to his disciples, "I am the true vine, and my Father is the vinegrower. He removes every branch in me that bears no fruit. Every branch that bears fruit he prunes to make it bear more fruit. You have already been cleansed by the word that I have spoken to you. Abide in me as I abide in you. Just as the branch cannot bear fruit by itself unless it abides in the vine, neither can you unless you abide in me. I am the vine, you are the branches. Those who abide in me and I in them bear much fruit, because apart from me you can do nothing. Whoever does not abide in me is thrown away like a branch and withers; such branches are gathered, thrown into the fire, and burned. If you abide in me, and my words abide in you, ask for whatever you wish, and it will be done for you. My Father is glorified by this, that you bear much fruit and become my disciples."

Deacon: 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 Denise Schiavone, *Deacon*

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

Dear Lord, we gather to worship you and to give thanks for your boundless love. Because of your love, our sins have been forgiven through the sacrifice of your Son, our savior Jesus Christ. May we always be aware of this love and sacrifice. ***Hear our prayer, Lord.***

Your love has given us a beautiful planet with abundant natural resources. Forgive us for our wasteful and careless ways. We seek to preserve our resources and ensure everyone has sufficient food, water and shelter. ***Hear our prayer, Lord.***

Your love has given us the ability to make the world a more just and peaceful place. Help us to recognize and make use of those abilities. May we always stand up against hatred and persecution. We especially pray for an end to the gun violence in our country. ***Hear our prayer, Lord.***

We give thanks for the intelligence and dedication to prevent further spread of COVID-19 and to find cures for it and other diseases. We are grateful to the medical care communities that have saved so many lives. May we never forget the compassion they have shown for their fellow beings. ***Hear our prayer, Lord.***

We give thanks for those who work to keep our country secure and functioning. We pray for the health and safety of our President Joe, our Vice-President Kamala, our Governor Larry, members of state and federal legislatures, and the armed services. We also give thanks for the people who identify problems in our systems and work to correct them and so improve the lives of others. ***Hear our prayer, Lord.***

We lift in prayer the Diocese of British Columbia in The Anglican Church of Canada. Within the Diocese of Maryland, we pray for St. Mary's, Woodlawn; St. Paul's, Mt. Airy; and St. Peter's, Ellicott City. We pray for our church leaders, Presiding Bishop Michael, Bishops Eugene and Robert, our Rector Emmanuel, and Deacon Denise. We give thanks for the beautiful contributions to our service by our Music Director Adam and the choristers. ***Hear our prayer, Lord.***

We pray for comfort and healing of those who are ill or hurting in some way, especially Farris, Chad, Alta, Alfred, Ana, Theresa, Nell, Dave, Victoria, Jim, Roberta, Kathleen, Meghan, Caleb, Ashley, Ron, Patrick, and Jeanette, and those you name. We pray for the souls of those departed, and lift in prayer those who mourn. We give thanks for the celebrations of birthdays or anniversaries of members of our parish, especially Mary, Cathy, Lorraine, Jane, Beth, Thomas, Rebecca, and Ayub. We pray all of these individuals feel the love of their Christ Church family. May those who have been alone during this past year know that we love them and look forward to the day when we can celebrate or bear sorrows together. ***Hear our prayer, Lord.***

Let us give thanks for this day of worship and contemplation. May we never stop feeling your love, dear Lord, or giving and receiving the love we have for one another. ***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

OFFERTORY HYMN

Please hum or mouth the words only.

Hyfrydol

Love divine, all loves excelling,
joy of heaven, to earth come down,
fix in us thy humble dwelling,
all thy faithful mercies crown.
Jesus, thou art all compassion,
pure, unbounded love thou art;
visit us with thy salvation,
enter every trembling heart.

Come, almighty to deliver,
let us all thy life receive;
suddenly return, and never,
nevermore thy temples leave.
Thee we would be always blessing,
serve thee as thy hosts above,
pray, and praise thee without ceasing,
glory in thy perfect love.

Finish then thy new creation;
pure and spotless let us be;
let us see thy great salvation
perfectly restored in thee:
changed from glory into glory,
till in heaven we take our place,
till we cast our crowns before thee,
lost in wonder, love, and praise.

DOXOLOGY

Please hum or mouth the words only.

Old 100th

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.

EUCCHARISTIC PRAYER A

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 for ever sing this hymn to proclaim the glory of your Name:

***All:* Holy, Holy, Holy Lord, God of power and might,
heaven and earth are full of your glory.**

Hosanna in the highest.

Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.

Hosanna in the highest.

Celebrant: Holy and gracious Father: In your infinite love you made us for yourself, and, when we had fallen into sin and become subject to evil and death, you, in your mercy, sent Jesus Christ, your only and eternal Son, to share our human nature, to live and die as one of us, to reconcile us to you, the God and Father of all.

He stretched out his arms upon the cross, and offered himself, in obedience to your will, a perfect sacrifice for the whole world.

On the night he was handed over to suffering and death, 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 we proclaim the mystery of faith:

***All:* Christ has died.**

Christ is risen.

Christ will come again.

Celebrant: We celebrate the memorial of our redemption, O Father, in this sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving. Recalling his death, resurrection, and ascension, we offer you these gifts.

Sanctify them by your Holy Spirit to be for your people the Body and Blood of your Son, the holy food and drink of new and unending life in him. Sanctify us also that we may faithfully receive this holy Sacrament, and serve you in unity, constancy, and peace; and at the last day bring us with all your saints into the joy of your eternal kingdom.

All this we ask through your Son Jesus Christ: 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 for ever.

***All:* 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;
People: **Therefore let us keep the feast. Alleluia.**

FRACTION ANTHEM

Mode 6 melody; adapt. Mason Martens (1933-1991)

Cantor: Be known to us, Lord Jesus, in the breaking of the bread.
Choir: **Be known to us, Lord Jesus, in the breaking of the bread.**

Cantor: The bread which we break, alleluia, is the communion of the body of Christ.
Choir: **Be known to us, Lord Jesus, in the breaking of the bread.**

Cantor: One body are we, alleluia, for though many we share one bread.
Choir: **Be known to us, Lord Jesus, in the breaking of the bread.**

COMMUNION HYMN

Please hum or mouth the words only.

The Call

Come, my Way, my Truth, my Life:
such a way as gives us breath;
such a truth as ends all strife;
such a life as killeth death.

Come, my Light, my Feast, my Strength:
such a light as shows a feast;
such a feast as mends in length;
such a strength as makes his guest.

Come, my Joy, my Love, my Heart:
such a joy as none can move;
such a love as none can part;
such a heart as joys in love.

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 blesses the People, who respond Amen.

CLOSING HYMN

Please hum or mouth the words only.

Land of Rest

I come with joy to meet my Lord,
forgiven, loved, and free,
in awe and wonder to recall
his life laid down for me.

I come with Christians far and near
to find, as all are fed,
the new community of love
in Christ's communion bread.

As Christ breaks bread and bids us share,
each proud division ends.
That love that made us makes us one,
and strangers now are friends.

And thus with joy we meet our Lord.
His presence, always near,
is in such friendship better known:
we see, and praise him here.

Together met, together bound,
we'll go our different ways,
and as his people in the world,
we'll live and speak his praise.

DISMISSAL

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

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ANNOUNCEMENTS

Send announcements to communications@christchurchcolumbia.org

This Sunday at Christ Episcopal Church | Join us this Sunday morning as we worship at 8 a.m. in Old Brick and at 10:30 a.m. in New Brick. We are blessed to have the return of Father Manny as our Celebrant for this Sunday's services. The 10:30 a.m. worship will be broadcast on our [Christ Church website](#), [YouTube](#), and [Facebook](#) pages for those who are doing so remotely. We'll also have Virtual Coffee Hour on Zoom after the 10:30 service. If you'd like to worship in person, just [complete the brief form on our website](#), and please wear your mask while on campus. See you on Sunday!

Christ Church Sunday School | Online Sunday School classes for preschoolers and elementary school children take place from 9:15 to 9:45 a.m. [Please fill out a registration form](#) so that we are able to provide you with the Zoom codes. Our curriculum is "*Weaving God's Promises*" and we are in *Year 3: Weaving God's Community*. To learn more about our Sunday School offerings, [please visit our website](#), and if you have any questions or are able to help facilitate classes, please contact Jennifer Atkins at dandjatkins@verizon.net. We also host weekly Sunday School classes for middle & high schoolers on Zoom from 11 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. [Please fill out the registration form](#) so that we can provide you with the Zoom codes. If you have any questions, please contact Yetti Lipede at theodociayl@gmail.com.

Confirmation Class - Sunday Afternoons | Confirmation classes are held each Sunday, and we invite all parishioners who are interested in being Confirmed, Reaffirmed, or Received into the Episcopal Church or have the desire to deepen their faith, to join us on Sunday afternoons for Confirmation and Adult Inquirers class on Zoom. The Confirmation and Inquirers classes are an opportunity that we have to explore the varied and rich components that shape and inform our faith. Confirmation will take place on May 23rd with Father Manny, Deacon Denise, and Bishop Sutton. For information, contact Yetti -ministry@christchurchcolumbia.org or Fr. Manny -revmanny@christchurchcolumbia.org.

Morning and Evening Prayer – Weekdays | Each week, we host morning prayer Monday through Friday at 7:00 a.m., and evening prayer is offered on Monday, Wednesday, and Friday at 7:00 p.m. We invite you to worship via [Facebook](#) or the [main page of our website](#), and join in the centering and healing Anglican practice of observing daily offices. And if you're interested in helping us lead a virtual prayer gathering in the future, please [email us](#).

WOCC Meeting - Monday Afternoon | The WOCC's next monthly meeting will take place this Monday, May 3rd, at 1:00 p.m. Once again, we will be meeting via the Zoom meeting app, which is free and available for sign up on www.Zoom.us. Please go to their site and sign up prior to the meeting. Feel free to join us! The Zoom link is [here](#), the meeting ID is 843 0204 4790 and the password is cecWOCC. Every woman at Christ Church over the age of 18 is already a member of the WOCC, so be sure to visit us at a monthly meeting any time. If you have any questions, please contact the WOCC officers by emailing wocc@christchurchcolumbia.org: Gail Braatelian, President; Rhonda Tomlinson, Vice President; Cathy Gold, Financial Secretary; Joan Harvey, Secretary; and Pamela Brown, Chaplain.

Conversations on Race: R.A.G.E. Ministry - Tuesday Evening | Christ Church's own Racially Aware Group of Episcopalians—or RAGE—will meet again on Tuesday, May 4th at 7:30 p.m. on Zoom. We will spend time discussing a mission statement around intentional work in areas such as reconciliation and healing, community peace and justice, advocacy, and education and awareness. This mission statement will serve as the foundation for how we invest our time and energy as a Christ Church ministry.

Meetings will continue every Tuesday at 7:30 p.m. throughout May and June, with the exceptions of May 25th and June 22nd. Future meetings will feature guest speakers and discussions of short video or a short reading, along with planning for ministry activities. Please join us in engaging in this important work, as shaped by our Baptismal Covenant. All are welcome and encouraged to join us for this virtual gathering. Email us if you have any questions - info@christchurchcolumbia.org. Join us on Tuesday at 7:30 p.m. Our Zoom link is [here](#), the meeting ID is 814 3122 0554 and the password is CECcor.

Lectionary Bible Study - Wednesday Morning | Bible Study takes place on Zoom each Wednesday at 10:30 a.m. and is a discussion on the readings for that coming Sunday. [The readings for our next gathering can be found here.](#) You do not have to know much about the Bible; just join us online and let's all study together. If you're interested, simply gather with us online next Wednesday; the Zoom link is [here](#), the meeting ID is 854 7191 2087, and the password is BibleStudy.

Prayer Shawl Ministry - Wednesday Afternoon | Christ Church has created a Prayer Shawl Ministry, so grab your knitting needles and yarn, and join us. Don't have time to knit a whole shawl? Think about knitting some Prayer Squares, with each measuring 5" x 5". These are easily and quickly made and will be appreciated by those who are ill or grieving. If you are interested in making shawls or squares, contact Pastoral Care Commissioner Kathy Lyon at rklyon@cablespeed.com. Links to this virtual gathering are in our Monday *This Week on Zoom* email.

Centering Prayer - Thursday Evening | Come join Kathy and Adrian in Old Brick on Thursday evenings at 6:00 p.m. for this contemplative prayer gathering. Each session begins with a reading from scripture or from the writings of spiritual leaders and teachers. After the reading, the group sits for periods of ten minutes of silence in which each individual meditates on a word, phrase, or thought from the reading. The silence in a group setting allows for a shared energy and connectedness that fosters an openness to God's presence. Centering Prayer can move us beyond conversation to communion with God. All attendees wear masks and sit at an appropriate distance from each other. You are welcome to participate as their schedule permits, whether it's every week or once in a while.

Christ Church Book Club - Friday Evening | The CEC Book Club continues our discussion of C.S. Lewis' *Mere Christianity* through the month of May. These are conducted via Zoom each week from 7:30 to 9:00 p.m. and you'll find the Zoom link [here](#), with the meeting ID 858 3414 8580 and password CECbooks. As always, we welcome newcomers at any time, so come and join us if we're covering a book that interests you. If there are any questions, please contact Ellen Hoke by calling or texting her at 301-452-7115, or by emailing her at efboudreau1@gmail.com.

VBS is Back! | Vacation Bible School is back for 2021! Christ Church is delighted to be able to provide this popular children's program for this summer, and we'll launch our website's VBS page this Thursday. Links, program information, and registration documents will be provided in our *Christ Church Gatherings* email. In the meantime, you can download our registration form PDF at <https://tinyurl.com/CECvbs2021>.

African Team Ministries Sale - This Sunday | African Team Ministries is back to Christ Church just in time for Mother's Day! We missed our originally scheduled sale in 2020 since we could not gather in person at the time, so we expect to now offer wonderful ATM goods this Sunday, May 2nd, after each service. Hand-crafted jewelry, wooden and soapstone carvings, nativity sets, and other fashion accessories will be on display and for sale. African Team Ministries is a Christian ministry working as an intermediary between African and American churches. With help from Episcopal, Methodist, Presbyterian, Lutheran, and Anglican denominations, we provide funding for orphan and refugee relief missions and evangelism in East Africa.

Christ Church Donates New Sheets as Grassroots Residents Obtain Housing | Thanks to parishioners at Christ Church, 10 new households in Howard County soon will be sleeping soundly on brand new sheets. That's in response to a request from the staff of [Grassroots Crisis Intervention Center](#), which has begun arranging for some of the families and individuals at its live-in facility to move to permanent housing.

To equip the residents' kitchens and linen closets, Grassroots turned to some of its faith-based partners, including the Outreach Commission at Christ Church. Grassroots asked for the new bedding by early May, in time for the largest group of individuals to move in response to assistance tied to the pandemic.

So, at its April meeting, the commission approved a purchase drawing from parishioners' donations as the source of the funds. When many of you so graciously donate for the purpose of "General Outreach," the funds are ready when needs arise in the community. And what better example than the chance to help those who were once homeless go from congregate living at Grassroots to a place of their own!

Commission member Dione Mahoney volunteered to take on the shopping and spent \$215 of "General Outreach" funds to buy 18 full-size sets, which include microfiber sheets and pillowcases in an array of colors. A Christ Church parishioner had earlier purchased and donated two sets when the Grassroots move was still in the planning stage, which means that in total we are able to accommodate 10 households.

"That would be a huge help," said Volunteer Coordinator Monteith Mitchell, who along with Jane Solberg, RN, of the Grassroots staff took delivery at the Freetown Road facility on April 27. Outreach Commission members Michon Semon and Patricia Fanning handed over the sheets. Mitchell called the relocation effort of multiple residents "a historic move." So thanks, Christ Church, for being a part of history!

Save the Dates: May 17 and June 21 to Help Feed the Hungry at Grassroots | For the individuals who remain at the Grassroots live-in facility as well as any new arrivals, we'll plan to bring the same menu of chicken, side dishes, and desserts at our next meal drop-offs. They take place on May 17th and June 21st. Plan to arrive between 3:15 p.m. to 3:30 p.m. outside Old Brick, bringing with you a side dish or dessert for 50 residents. You can also bring pantry items such as granola bars.

Please sign up online no later than noon on Sunday, May 16th, so coordinators will know your plans. Click on the [Christ Church Grassroots Meal link on SignUpGenius](#) to learn which items are still open on our menu. You'll find lots of information at the sign-up link, but for questions contact Nancy or co-coordinator Shahra Toth or email outreach@christchurchcolumbia.org.

To further help our neighbors in need, some parishioners take it upon themselves to provide the evening meal for the 50 adults and children. Here is [a link to the sign-up list](#) which has openings through June 30th. It's your choice to provide an entree and side dishes, or just the entree. You can cook in your own kitchen, or order out. Grassroots encourages an order of 12 pizzas -- four with cheese and the rest with meat (any kind), or rotisserie chickens (12 to make a meal), but discourages lasagna or other pasta entrees.

Collection Drive Continues to Provide Diapers, Personal Care Items for CCC | At Christ Church, our Racially Aware Group of Episcopalians (R.A.G.E.) and the Outreach Commission ask parishioners to support Columbia Community Care (CCC). We collect diapers, baby wipes, sanitary and personal care items as well as adult diapers such as Depends. Please put any of these items in the yellow bin, marked “CCC,” just inside the Parish Hall door. You can drop off items on weekdays until 2 p.m., but we ask that you call the church office (410) 381-9365 ahead of time.

Donate Spring Cleaning Supplies for FISH in its Yellow Bin | Organizers for FISH of Howard County request household cleaning supplies such as liquid dish soap, bleach, and cleanser. Also, the families who call on FISH during times of crisis could use personal items such as deodorant, shampoo, and bath soaps. At the present time, the pantry has an adequate supply of groceries.

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.

Please Consider a Contribution to Christ Church

Recent world events have been challenging for us all. It has also affected how we are able to continue to help others. Our Stewardship Committee would like to thank you all for your wonderful and generous support to our beloved Christ Church. Your generosity sustains life and ministry. In as much as we give thanks for your pledges - especially during these difficult times - we also want you to know that we are still quite far from our targeted goal for 2021. We, therefore, appeal to all who have not as yet turned in their pledges to kindly consider submitting a pledge online. We are still carrying out an amazing ministry for a moderate-sized church - even through this very challenging time - but it does require everyone's assistance. Each contribution helps greatly.

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

Our 2021 Pledge Form is Online

The 2021 Pledge Form is on our website, for your convenience. You can complete the form by clicking here or use the Realm form located here, and if you have any questions, please email stewardship@christchurchcolumbia.org

THANK YOU.



Christ Episcopal Church

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The Rev'd Emmanuel Ato Mercer, *Rector*
The Rev'd Denise Schiavone, *Deacon*
Adam Detzner, *Director of Music*
Yetti Lipede, *Interim Parish Administrator*
Kareem Mack, *Staff Bass*
Simone Brown, *Staff Soprano*
Rebecca Warlow, *Licensed Lay Preacher*

Vestry

Sara Kirkpatrick (*Senior Warden*) • Jan DeBoissiere (*Junior Warden*) • Andrew Eaton (*Treasurer*) Ron Couch (*Registrar*)
Tim Beaty • Alfred Titus-Glover • Lynn Foor • W. Ben Jackson III • Greta Pike-Barnes •
Jason Whong • Jane Adams • Diane Phillips-Laguerre • Beth Johnson • Andrea Leeman