

CHRIST EPISCOPAL CHURCH

Extending the Love and Embrace of Christ

THE HOLY EUCHARIST, RITE I

April 3, 2022: The Fifth Sunday in Lent

8:00 and 10:30 a.m.

The wearing of face masks is currently optional at Christ Church

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

PRELUDE – Selections from the Mass for the Parishes

Francois Couperin

CHORAL INTROIT – Crux Fidelis (Faithful Cross)

Steven Warner

Crux fidelis; cross of gladness, tree on which our hope is hung;

Let my arms be as your branches! Yours, the song that must be sung.

OPENING HYMN LEVAS 1 – Lift Every Voice and Sing

J. Rosamond Johnson



1. Lift ev - 'ry voice and sing, Till earth and heav - en
2. Sto - ny the road we trod, Bit - ter the chast - 'ning
3. God of our wea - ry years, God of our si - lent



1. ring, Ring with the har - mo - nies of lib - er -
2. rod, Felt in the days when hope un - born had
3. tears, Thou who hast brought us thus far on the



1. ty; Let our re - joic - ing rise High as the list - 'ning
2. died; Yet with a stead - y beat, Have not our wear - y
3. way; Thou who hast by thy might, Led us in - to the



1. skies, Let it re - sound loud as the roll - ing sea.
2. feet Come to the place for which our fa - thers sighed?
3. light, Keep us for - ev - er in the path, we pray.

(continued)



1. Sing a song full of the faith that the dark past has taught us;
2. We have come o - ver a - way that with tears has been wa - tered;
3. Lest our feet stray from the pla - ces, our God, where we met thee;



1. Sing a song full of the hope that the pres - ent has
2. We have come, tread - ing our path through the blood of the
3. Lest our hearts, drunk with the wine of the world, we for -



1. brought us; Fac - ing the ris - ing sun Of our new
2. slaugh - tered; Out from the gloom - y past, Till now we
3. get thee, Shad - owed be - neath Thy hand, May we for -



1. day be - gun, Let us march on till vic - to - ry is won.
2. stand at last Where the white gleam of our bright star is cast.
3. ev - er stand, True to our God, true to our na - tive land.

OPENING ACCLAMATION

Celebrant: Bless the Lord who forgiveth all our sins;

People: **His mercy endureth forever.**

THE COLLECT FOR PURITY

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

KYRIE

American Folk Melody, arr. Richard Proulx



Lord, have mer - cy; Christ, have mer-cy; Lord, have mer-cy up - on us.



Lord, have mer - cy; Christ, have mer-cy; Lord, have mer-cy up - on us.

THE COLLECT OF THE DAY

Celebrant: The Lord be with you.

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

Celebrant: Let us pray.

Almighty God, you alone can bring into order the unruly wills and affections of sinners: Grant your people grace to love what you command and desire what you promise; that, among the swift and varied changes of the world, our hearts may surely there be fixed where true joys are to be found; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. ***Amen.***

The people may be seated.

A READING FROM Isaiah 43:16-21

Thus says the LORD,
 who makes a way in the sea,
 a path in the mighty waters,
 who brings out chariot and horse,
 army and warrior;
 they lie down, they cannot rise,
 they are extinguished, quenched like a wick:
 Do not remember the former things,
 or consider the things of old.
 I am about to do a new thing;
 now it springs forth, do you not perceive it?
 I will make a way in the wilderness
 and rivers in the desert.
 The wild animals will honor me,
 the jackals and the ostriches;
 for I give water in the wilderness,
 rivers in the desert,
 to give drink to my chosen people,
 the people whom I formed for myself
 so that they might declare my praise.

Reader: The word of the Lord.

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

At 8:00 a.m., the Psalm is read responsively by half-verse

At 10:30 a.m., the Psalm is sung, one measure per half verse, changing notes on the underlined syllable



When the LORD turned again the captivity of Sion, *
then were we like unto them that dream.

Then was our mouth filled with laughter, *
and our tongue with joy.

Then said they among the heathen, *
The LORD hath done great things for them.

Yea, the LORD hath done great things for us already; *
whereof we rejoice.

Turn our captivity, O LORD, *
as the rivers in the south.

They that sow in tears *
shall reap in joy.

He that now goeth on his way weeping, and beareth forth good seed, *
shall doubtless come again with joy, and bring his sheaves with him.

THE EPISTLE

Philippians 3:4b-14

If anyone else has reason to be confident in the flesh, I have more: circumcised on the eighth day, a member of the people of Israel, of the tribe of Benjamin, a Hebrew born of Hebrews; as to the law, a Pharisee; as to zeal, a persecutor of the church; as to righteousness under the law, blameless.

Yet whatever gains I had, these I have come to regard as loss because of Christ. More than that, I regard everything as loss because of the surpassing value of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord. For his sake I have suffered the loss of all things, and I regard them as rubbish, in order that I may gain Christ and be found in him, not having a righteousness of my own that comes from the law, but one that comes through faith in Christ, the righteousness from God based on faith. I want to know Christ and the power of his resurrection and the sharing of his sufferings by becoming like him in his death, if somehow I may attain the resurrection from the dead.

Not that I have already obtained this or have already reached the goal; but I press on to make it my own, because Christ Jesus has made me his own. Beloved, I do not consider that I have made it my own; but this one thing I do: forgetting what lies behind and straining forward to what lies ahead, I press on toward the goal for the prize of the heavenly call of God 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 the reading of the Gospel.

SEQUENCE HYMN 701 – Jesus, All My Gladness

Jesu, meine Freude

1 Je - sus, all my glad - ness, my re - pose in sad - ness,
 2 Hence with earth - ly trea - sure: thou art all my plea - sure,
 3 Flee, dark clouds that low - er, for my joy be - stow - er,

Je - sus, heaven to me, ah, my heart long plain - eth, ah, my spi - rit
 Je - sus, my de - sire! Hence, for pomps I care not, e'en as though they
 Je - sus, en - ters in! Joy from tri - bu - la - tion, hope from des - o -

strain - eth, long - eth af - ter thee! Thine I am, O ho - ly Lamb;
 were not rank and for - tune's hire. Want and gloom, cross, death and tomb;
 la - tion, they who love God win. Be it blame or scorn or shame,

on - ly where thou art is plea - sure, thee a - lone I trea - sure.
 nought that I may suf - fer ev - er shall from Je - sus sev - er.
 thou art with me in earth's sad - ness, Je - sus, all my glad - ness!

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

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

Six days before the Passover Jesus came to Bethany, the home of Lazarus, whom he had raised from the dead. There they gave a dinner for him. Martha served, and Lazarus was one of those at the table with him. Mary took a pound of costly perfume made of pure nard, anointed Jesus' feet, and wiped them with her hair. The house was filled with the fragrance of the perfume. But Judas Iscariot, one of his disciples (the one who was about to betray him), said, "Why was this perfume not sold for three hundred denarii and the money given to the poor?" (He said this not because he cared about the poor, but because he was a thief; he kept the common purse and used to steal what was put into it.) Jesus said, "Leave her alone. She bought it so that she might keep it for the day of my burial. You always have the poor with you, but you do not always have me."

Deacon: The Gospel of the Lord.

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

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

SERMON

The Rev'd Marcia Davenport, *Associate Priest*

The people stand as able.

THE NICENE CREED

All: I believe in one God,
 the Father Almighty,
 maker of heaven and earth,
 and of all things visible and invisible;
 And in one Lord Jesus Christ,
 the only-begotten Son of God,
 begotten of his Father before all worlds,
 God of God, Light of Light,
 very God of very God,
 begotten, not made,
 being of one substance with the Father;
 by whom all things were made;
 who for us men and for our salvation
 came down from heaven,
 and was incarnate by the Holy Ghost of the Virgin Mary,
 and was made man;
 and was crucified also for us under Pontius Pilate;
 he suffered and was buried;
 and the third day he rose again according to the Scriptures,
 and ascended into heaven,

and sitteth on the right hand of the Father;
and he shall come again, with glory,
to judge both the quick and the dead;
whose kingdom shall have no end.

And I believe in the Holy Ghost, The Lord, and Giver of Life,
who proceedeth from the Father and the Son;
who with the Father and the Son together is worshipped and glorified;
who spake by the Prophets.
And I believe one holy Catholic and Apostolic Church;
I acknowledge one Baptism for the remission of sins;
and I look for the resurrection of the dead:
and the Life of the world to come. Amen.

THE PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

Intervessor: Let us pray for the whole state of Christ's Church and the world.

Almighty and everliving God, who in thy holy Word hast taught us to make prayers, and supplications, and to give thanks for all men: Receive these our prayers which we offer unto thy divine Majesty, beseeching thee to inspire continually the Universal Church with the spirit of truth, unity, and concord; and grant that all those who do confess thy holy Name may agree in the truth of thy holy Word, and live in unity and godly love.

Give grace, O heavenly Father, to all bishops and other ministers, especially Michael, our Presiding Bishop; Eugene and Robert, our Diocesan Bishops; Emmanuel, our Rector; Marcia, our Associate Priest; and Denise our Deacon; that they may, both by their life and doctrine, set forth thy true and lively Word, and rightly and duly administer thy holy Sacraments.

And to all thy people give thy heavenly grace, and especially to this congregation here present; that, with meek heart and due reverence, they may hear and receive thy holy Word, truly serving thee in holiness and righteousness all the days of their life.

We beseech thee also so to rule the hearts of those who bear the authority of government in this and every land, especially Joseph, our President; Lawrence, our Governor; and Calvin, our County Executive; that they may be led to wise decisions and right actions for the welfare and peace of the world.

And we most humbly beseech thee, of thy goodness, O Lord, to comfort and succor Shahra, Nell, Daniel, Susana, Rena, Linda, Kandi, Bradley, Jim, Kathleen, Chad, Caroline, Tinny, Mary Ann, Alta, Alfred, & Ashley, and all those who in this transitory life, are in trouble, sorrow, need, sickness, or any other adversity.

The People may add additional petitions and thanksgivings.

Intervessor: And we also bless thy holy Name for all thy servants departed this life in thy faith and fear, especially Delonta Hill, beseeching thee to grant them continual growth in thy love and service; and to grant us grace so to follow the good examples of all thy saints, that with them we may be partakers of thy heavenly kingdom.

Grant these our prayers, O Father, for Jesus Christ's sake, our only Mediator and Advocate.

People: Amen.

CONFESSION OF SIN

Celebrant: Let us humbly confess our sins unto Almighty God.

All: **Most merciful God,
we confess that we have sinned against thee
in thought, word, and deed,
by what we have done,
and by what we have left undone.
We have not loved thee with our whole heart;
we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves.
We are truly sorry and we humbly repent.
For the sake of thy Son Jesus Christ,
have mercy on us and forgive us;
that we may delight in thy will,
and walk in thy ways,
to the glory of thy Name. Amen.**

Celebrant: Almighty God, our heavenly Father, who of his great mercy hath promised forgiveness of sins to all those who with hearty repentance and true faith turn unto him, have mercy upon you, pardon and deliver you from all your sins, confirm and strengthen you in all goodness, and bring you to everlasting life; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

BLESSING OF PRAYER SHAWLS

INTRODUCTION

The prayer shawl ministry has been hard at work these past months knitting and crocheting shawls and prayer squares to be sent out to those who are ill in mind, body, or spirit, those suffering and those in need of comfort.

BLESSING

Oh God of healing and hope, we ask that you bless these prayer shawls and prayer squares, made faithfully and lovingly by your servants at Christ Church. Infuse these shawls with the power of your presence, so they may they serve as a salving relief from suffering and pain. May those who receive them be wrapped in comfort, mercy and peace. May they feel renewed and restored in the warmth of your unceasing love. May those we send out to deliver these gifts be a blessing and a comfort to the recipients. In the name of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit. *Amen.*

THE PEACE

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

People: **And with thy spirit.**

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

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

THE HOLY COMMUNION

MUSIC DURING THE OFFERING — Jesus, the Very Thought of Thee

Glenn Rudolph

*Jesus, the very thought of thee with sweetness fills the breast;
but sweeter far thy face to see, and in thy presence rest.*

*O hope of every contrite heart, O joy of all the meek,
to those who fall, how kind thou art! How good to those who seek!*

*But what to those who find? Ah, this nor tongue nor pen can show;
the love of Jesus, what it is, none but his loved ones know.*

*Jesus, our only joy be thou, as thou our prize wilt be;
Jesus, be thou our glory now, and through eternity.*

PRESENTATION HYMN 321, V. 1

Rockingham



EUCCHARISTIC PRAYER I

Celebrant: The Lord be with you.

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

Celebrant: Lift up your hearts.

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

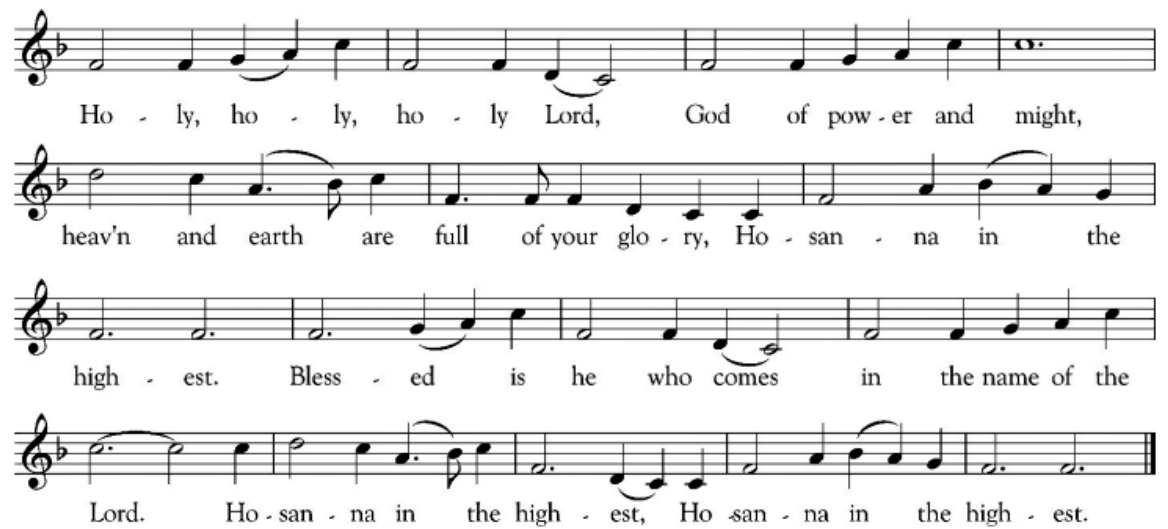
Celebrant: Let us give thanks unto our Lord our God.

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

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

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

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



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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

People: Amen.

THE LORD'S PRAYER

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

Spoken at the 8:00 a.m. service:

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,
forever and ever. Amen.

Sung at the 10:30 a.m. service:

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

THE BREAKING OF THE BREAD

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

AGNUS DEI

Celebrant: O Lamb of God, that takest away the sins of the world,
All: **have mercy upon us.**
Celebrant: O Lamb of God, that takest away the sins of the world,
All: **have mercy upon us.**
Celebrant: O Lamb of God, that takest away the sins of the world,
All: **grant us thy peace.**

PRAYER OF HUMBLE ACCESS

All: We do not presume to come to this thy Table, O merciful Lord, trusting in our own righteousness, but in thy manifold and great mercies. We are not worthy so much as to gather up the crumbs under thy Table. But thou art the same Lord whose property is always to have mercy. Grant us therefore, gracious Lord, so to eat the flesh of thy dear Son Jesus Christ, and to drink his blood, that we may evermore dwell in him, and he in us. Amen.

COMMUNION HYMN 581 – Where Charity and Love Prevail

Cheshire

1 Where char - i - ty and love pre - vail there God is ev - er found;
2 With grate-ful joy and ho - ly fear his char - i - ty we learn;
3 For - give we now each o - ther's faults as we our faults con - fess;
4 Let strife a - mong us be un - known, let all con - ten - tion cease;
5 Let us re - call that in our midst dwells God's be - got - ten Son;

1 brought here to - geth - er by Christ's love by love are we thus bound.
2 let us with heart and mind and strength now love him in re - turn.
3 and let us love each o - ther well in Chris-tian ho - li - ness.
4 be his the glo - ry that we seek, be ours his ho - ly peace.
5 as mem-bers of his Bo - dy joined we are in him made one.

6 Love can exclude no race or creed if honored be God's Name;
our common life embraces all whose Father is the same.

*Drop, drop, slow tears, and bathe those beauteous feet, which brought from heaven the news and Prince of Peace.
Cease not, wet eyes, his mercies to entreat; to cry for vengeance, sin doth never cease.
In your deep floods, drown all my faults and fears; nor let his eye see sin, but through my tears.*

POST-COMMUNION PRAYER

Celebrant: Let us pray.

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

THE BLESSING

*The Celebrant blesses the People, who respond **Amen**.*

1 How firm a foun - da - tion, ye saints of the Lord,
 2 "Fear not, I am with thee; O be not dis - mayed!
 3 "When through the deep wa - ters I call thee to go,
 4 "When through fier - y tri - als thy path - way shall lie,
 5 "The soul that to Je - sus hath fled for re - pose,

1 is laid for your faith in his ex - cel - lent word!
 2 For I am thy God, and will still give thee aid;
 3 the riv - ers of woe shall not thee o - ver - flow;
 4 my grace, all suf - fi - cient, shall be thy sup - ply;
 5 I will not, I will not de - sert to its foes;

1 What more can he say than to you he hath said,
 2 I'll strength - en thee, help thee, and cause thee to stand,
 3 for I will be with thee, thy trou - bles to bless,
 4 the flame shall not hurt thee; I on - ly de - sign
 5 that soul, though all hell shall en - deav - or to shake,

1 to you that for ref - uge to Je - sus have fled?
 2 up - held by my right - eous, om - ni - po - tent hand.
 3 and sanc - ti - fy to thee thy deep - est dis - tress.
 4 thy dross to con - sume, and thy gold to re - fine.
 5 I'll nev - er, no, nev - er, no, nev - er for - sake."

THE DISMISSAL

The Deacon dismisses the People, who respond:

Thanks be to God!

(The Alleluias are omitted in Lent)

POSTLUDE – Tuba Tune in D Major, Opus 15

Craig Sellar Lang

Ola Oladipupo, organ

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ANNOUNCEMENTS

Send announcements to communications@christchurchcolumbia.org

Lent V: This Sunday | Join us as Father Manny leads us in worship for the Fifth Sunday in Lent at 8:00 and 10:30 a.m. You are welcome to join either in person or online. If you want to join us in New Brick, please **complete our brief attendance registration form**, and with **every county in the Diocese of Maryland currently in the Green Omicron phase**, masks are now optional for all parishioners while on campus. We will also livestream on all of our usual platforms. **See you on Sunday!**

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

Adult Forum: Sunday Circle | Our Sunday morning Adult Forum continues its series on *Women in the Church* this Sunday, so gather at 9:30 a.m. in the Great Hall (lower level) of New Brick. You can also join us virtually; **the Zoom link is here**, Meeting ID is **830 0680 9158**, and Password is **AFSC**.

Coffee Hour is Back! | According to the Diocese of Maryland guidelines for the Green Omicron phase, we are now permitted to resume those activities where we serve food. This includes our Coffee Hour, and so we hope you'll join us for refreshments and fellowship time between services this Sunday, from 9:00 to 10:30 a.m. in the Parish Hall. We are all set for this Sunday, but if you'd like to help by providing light refreshments for a future Coffee Hour, **please sign up at this link**.

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

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

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

Adult and Children's Choir - Tuesdays and Thursdays | Children's Choir meets on Tuesdays from 5:00-6:00 p.m. and Adult Choir meets Thursdays at 7:30 p.m. If you've ever been interested in joining our choir, now's that time... and this invitation is open to every parishioner. No experience is necessary. Please email Len Langrick, our Director of Music, at music@christchurchcolumbia.org to learn more.

Lectionary Bible Study – Wednesdays | Bible Study takes place on Zoom each Wednesday at 10:30 a.m., discussing and reflecting on the readings for the coming Sunday. Our next gathering's readings are located **here**.

You do not have to know much about the Bible; just join in and we'll all study and learn together. The Zoom link is here, Meeting ID is **885 9287 2661** and the Password is **CECBible**.

Christ Church's Wednesday Evenings in Lent Supper Series - Week Five | The Spiritual Life Commission welcomes everyone to take part in our Wednesday Evening Lenten Supper Series, meeting in the Great Hall of New Brick at 6:30 p.m. African cuisine is the menu this week, and although there is no cost for this evening, you can donate to help cover the catered dinner expenses by choosing "Spiritual Life Commission" from the *Fund* dropdown menu **on our online giving form** or bring a donation to the event.

This popular series centers on our 2022 theme, *Be One Body in Christ, Belonging to Each Other*, and every week we'll host a different presenter who gives their perspective on this theme. **For our final evening, we are very blessed to have our own Father Manny lead us.** This series is a hybrid event so for those who prefer to join us virtually, you are welcome to do so via YouTube, Facebook, or Zoom; those details will be in Monday's email. **If you want to join us in person, please RSVP here** or notify the Church Office by **email** or phone.

CEC Book Club - Fridays | The CEC Book Club continues this Friday evening at 7:30 p.m., as we begin our discussion of the book *Why I Believe in a Personal God: The Credibility of Faith in a Doubting Culture* by George Carey, former Archbishop of Canterbury. We're always welcoming new members to join our virtual gathering. For about an hour each Friday, we discuss a specified section of the current book and plan future readings and ideas. The Zoom link is here, the Meeting ID is **894 0227 6226**, the Password is **CECbooks** and we hope that you'll find time to join us for this engaging and enlightening group discussion. Email Ellen Hoke at **efboudreau1@gmail.com** if you're interested or have any questions.

Women of Christ Church News | The next WOCC meeting takes place via Zoom on Monday, April 4th at 1 p.m. If you're a woman aged 18 or older, you're already a member of the WOCC so join us and see what's happening! The Zoom link is **HERE**, Meeting ID is **843 0204 4790** and Password is **cecWOCC**

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

We visited the Maryland Women's Heritage Center on March 21st and were given a wonderful tour by the Director, Diana Bailey. They have just moved into their new location on Charles Street, and have created exhibits on many current topics and local interests. **You can check out some pictures of the visit in last week's WOCC blog post.**

The guided Labyrinth walks continue every Saturday in Lent between 3:00 and 5:00 pm at St. John's in Ellicott City. If you want to follow your meditative walk with a service, there is a 5:00 pm service in their Historic Chapel. We visited the site last fall; you can see our report about that experience **here**.

Let's Prepare our Parish Home for Easter... Together! | In preparation for Easter, we'll host a big Parish Beautification Day on Saturday, April 9th, and everyone's invited to take part! Whether it's for a few hours or all day, your input will help make lighter work. From 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. we'll gather to get our beautiful buildings and grounds ready for the very special week ahead, so bring your work clothes, water bottle, and work gloves, and meet us on campus. Even if you only have a little time to spare, it will help. Refreshments will be available.

Contact Jan Deboissiere if you have any questions or need more information.

Christ Church's Grief Support Group | If you are grieving a loss and would like to occasionally join a group of others for mutual support and learning, please let us know. Christ Church is planning on creating a Zoom gathering, led by Mother Marcia, for those who might find comfort in sharing &/or listening to experiences of processing loss. This group would meet on a schedule that's most convenient for all participants. Mother Marcia is also happy to meet

individually to offer pastoral care and counseling, so if you're interested in taking part in either gathering, **please email** or speak to her at any time.

Looking Back on a Warm Welcome as Christ Church Learns about Bridges to Housing Stability During Worship Services and at the Adult Forum | Thanks to all who helped welcome Nancy Fenton, Director of Development & Marketing at **Bridges to Housing Stability** to Christ Church on Sunday, March 27th. She gave the sermon, “Could Joseph and Mary Afford to Live in Howard County?” and referenced 2 Corinthians 5:20, exhorting us to be ambassadors for Christ.

In her remarks at Sunday Circle, Fenton outlined the latest ways that Bridges makes it possible for people to find and keep affordable housing. It’s a challenge. Of Howard County’s 30,000 renter households, 43 percent are cost-burdened (spending a third of monthly income on rent) and another 33 percent of households are severely cost-burdened (spending more than half of monthly income on rent).

During one part of her presentation at the adult forum, Fenton told everyone about county resident **Carmen Jones**, who benefited from Bridges’ Alliance program. It provides rental homes at below-market rents for one year to qualifying individuals and families.

“A load of bad decisions,” as Jones described her predicament, forced her into three years of homelessness. A waitressing job was low-paying, and she often lived in her car. With the help of Bridges’ Alliance, she and her 22-year-old son were able to get an apartment. “The day we moved in, I got another breath of life,” Jones says. “It was like the sun came out.”

To promote self-sufficiency, Alliance offers Circle of Support – regular education sessions related to financial capability, budgeting, saving, credit repair, investing for retirement, and buying a home.

Christ Church has a warm relationship as a supporter of Bridges, starting with our participation in a countywide chili cook-off in 2019. At the Chili & Challenge virtual fundraiser held in 2020, Christ Church won a Silver Ladle Award. Then, at the 2021 Chili & Challenge, **we won gold**.

The relationship began at the urging of parishioner Jim Collins (*above photo*), who is among those to be honored by Bridges at its 2022 **Heroes For Housing Celebration**. The fundraising event will take place in person, rather than virtually, on Sunday, April 24th from 5:30 to 8 p.m. at Busboys and Poets, 6251 Mango Tree Rd, Columbia, MD 21044.

CCC Schedules a Painting Day on April 9 to Finish Preparation of Its New Pantry | The all-volunteer organization, **Columbia Community Care** (CCC) is recruiting volunteers to help finish painting its new pantry during a one-day effort on Saturday, April 9th, from 11 a.m. until completion. This is a continuation of a task begun on March 19-20 with community-wide volunteers, including parishioners Diana Hall and Dave Lanczynski (see photos).

In a post on the **CCC Facebook Group**, one of the CCC leaders wrote: “10 - 15 volunteers needed, and in the interest of time and efficiency, we prefer people who have painted before. If other volunteer opportunities present themselves for that day, I will repost the need and add them to the signup list. Thank you for your continued support and enthusiasm!!!”

The pantry is being re-established in a county-owned building that was once home to the *Columbia Flier*. CCC is selling a **new CCC t-shirt** as a fundraiser to help prep and stock the pantry. The refurbished space, in turn, will allow the resumption of home delivery to households who lack transportation. CCC also hopes people will wear the shirts when volunteering at its three distribution sites.

Sites are located at the Wilde Lake Interfaith Center, 10431 Twin Rivers Rd., the Barn/Teen Center indoor space in the Oakland Mills Village Center, 5851 Robert Oliver Place, and Long Reach Village Center, Suite 9, 8775 Cloudleap Ct., all in Columbia.

Recipients are welcomed from 10 a.m. to noon. For volunteers, donations and drop-offs begin at 9 a.m.

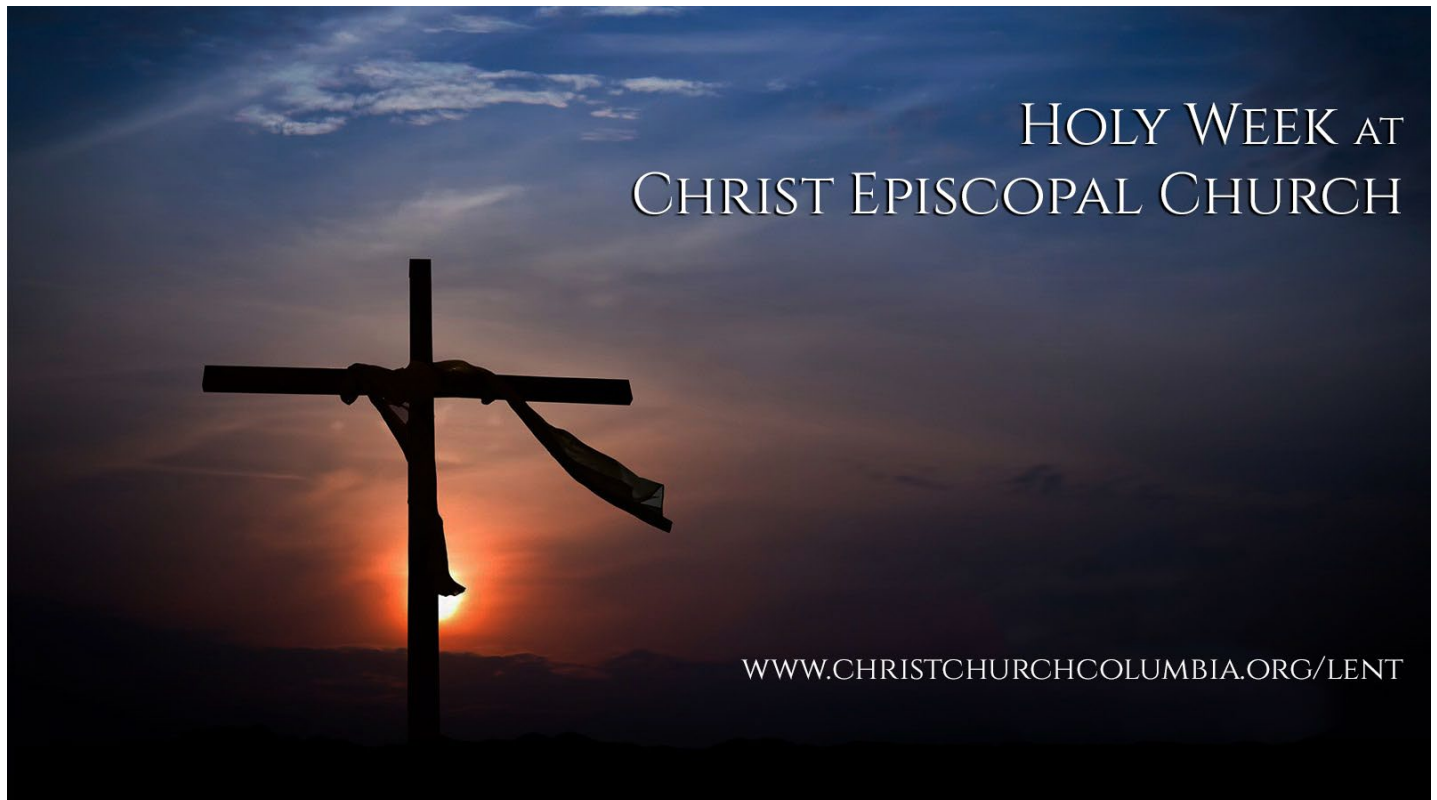
At Christ Church, members of R.A.G.E and the Outreach Commission ask parishioners to continue supporting CCC by collecting diapers, baby wipes, sanitary and personal care items, and adult diapers. Please put them in the yellow bin, marked "CCC," inside the Parish Hall.

More Opportunities to Meet "Our" Afghan Refugee Family Coming Up | Join us on the Sundays of May 8th and May 22th as we'll be hosting receptions for the family here at Christ Church, between the 8:00 and 10:30 a.m. services. The dates come at the end of Ramadan, an important period of fasting for Muslims, and so will be celebratory for many reasons. If you can help with either or both of these receptions, please contact Cherrylynn Williams, Jan Deboissiere, or Deacon Denise.

Baltimore Seafarers News | As a reminder, the Women of Christ Church gather donations for Seafarers throughout the year. We'll be bringing the next batch of donations to Seafarers on April 7th, so if you have any items, please bring them to the church before then. At this time, they are looking for magazines, cards, calendars, stationery, notebooks, gloves, hats, socks, men's shirts, and scarves, and you can leave them in the "Seafarers" box under the table in the Tower Room of New Brick.

FISH Continues its Request for Cookies, Crackers, and Snacks | As winter continues, organizers for **FISH of Howard County** continue to ask for cookies, crackers, and snacks 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.

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





WE ARE ALL STEWARDS OF OUR BELOVED CHRIST CHURCH

Because of your genuine and overwhelming acts of selflessness, kindness, grace, compassion, and love, you continue to give immensely to support and build our common life at Christ Church. You inject life into Christ Church so that we may be able to serve the world. It is your giving that has made it possible for us to accomplish some of the work that God has given us. The truth is that we have been able to minister and serve countless people because of your faithfulness, and for that, we thank God for each one of you and thank God for what God is doing in your lives.

We also want to thank **YOU**. Your faithfulness is what makes life happen at Christ Church. Your faithfulness makes Christ Church stronger. Your faithfulness enables Christ Church to embrace, with courage, the task that God has for us.

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

TEXT GIVING: You can now give securely and conveniently by using your mobile phone! Simply text **CECGIVING** to **73256**, and you'll receive a secure link to our page where you can set up a one-time or recurring gift.

ONLINE GIVING: You can also continue to pledge and give to Christ Church online. It's a safe and secure method of contributing towards your annual pledge or another offering. Whether it's a one-time donation or a recurring gift, you can go to our overview page for instructions and links. Signing up is fast and easy; if you need assistance doing so, or if you have any Stewardship-related questions, please contact us at info@christchurchcolumbia.org



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The Rev'd Emmanuel Ato Mercer, *Rector*

The Rev'd Marcia Davenport, *Associate Priest*

The Rev'd Denise Schiavone, *Deacon*

Todd Domer, *Youth Minister*

Len Langrick, *Interim Music Director*

Kathleen Lyon, *Pastoral Care Coordinator*

Yetti Lipede, *Ministry Coordinator*

Christopher Pouch, *Communications Administrator*

Aisha White, *Parish Administrator*

Vestry

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

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

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