

CHRIST EPISCOPAL CHURCH

COLUMBIA, MD

HOLY EUCHARIST, RITE II

All Saints Sunday

Sunday, November 7, 2021 | 8:00 and 10:30 a.m.

You may stream this service from Christ Church's [website](#), [YouTube](#), or [Facebook](#) pages

THE WORD OF GOD

PRELUDE - *Elegy*

G.T. Thalben-Ball

OPENING HYMN - 618

Laast uns erfreuen

Unison



1 Ye watch - ers and ye ho - ly ones, bright ser - a - phs, cher - u -
2 O high - er than the cher - u - bim, more glo - rious than the
3 Re - spond, ye souls in end - less rest, ye pa - tri - archs and
4 O friends, in glad - ness let us sing, su - per - nal an - thems

Harmony *Unison*



bim, and thrones, raise the glad strain, Al - le - lu - ia! Cry
ser - a - phim, lead their prais - es, Al - le - lu - ia! Thou
pro - phets blest, Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia! Ye
ech - o - ing, Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia! To



out, do - min - ions, prince - doms, powers, vir - tues, arch - an - gels, an - gels'
bear - er of the e - ter - nal Word, most gra - cious, mag - ni - fy the
ho - ly twelve, ye mar - tyrs strong, all saints tri - um - phant, raise the
God the Fa - ther, God the Son, and God the Spi - rit, Three in

Harmony



choirs, Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le -
Lord, Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le -
song, Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le -
One, Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le -

Unison



lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia!
lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia!
lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia!
lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia!

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.

People: **Amen.**

GLORIA

Robert Powell (1932-)



1. Glo - ry to God in the high - est, and
peace to his peo - ple on earth. 2. Lord God, heaven - ly
King, al - might - y God and Fa - ther, we wor - ship you, we
give you thanks, we praise you for your glo - ry. 3. Lord Je - sus
Christ, on - ly Son of the Fa - ther, Lord God, Lamb of God, 4. you
take a - way the sin of the world: have mer - cy
on us; 5. you are seat - ed at the right hand of the Fa - ther: re -
ceive our prayer. 6. For you a - lone are the Ho - ly One,
you a - lone are the Lord, 7. you a - lone are the Most



THE COLLECT OF THE DAY

Celebrant: The Lord be with you.

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

Celebrant: Let us pray.

Almighty God, you have knit together your elect in one communion and fellowship in the mystical body of your Son Christ our Lord: Give us grace so to follow your blessed saints in all virtuous and godly living, that we may come to those ineffable joys that you have prepared for those who truly love you; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who with you and the Holy Spirit lives and reigns, one God, in glory everlasting. *Amen.*

***People:* Amen.**

The people may be seated.

THE FIRST LESSON

Isaiah 25:6-9

On this mountain the LORD of hosts will make for all peoples
a feast of rich food, a feast of well-aged wines,
of rich food filled with marrow, of well-aged wines strained clear.

And he will destroy on this mountain
the shroud that is cast over all peoples,
the sheet that is spread over all nations;
he will swallow up death forever.

Then the Lord GOD will wipe away the tears from all faces,
and the disgrace of his people he will take away from all the earth,
for the LORD has spoken.

It will be said on that day,
Lo, this is our God; we have waited for him, so that he might save us.
This is the LORD for whom we have waited;
let us be glad and rejoice in his salvation.

Reader: The word of the Lord.

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

The following Psalm is read responsively by half-verse.

PSALM 24

Domini est terra

The earth is the LORD's and all that is in it, *
the world and all who dwell therein.
For it is he who founded it upon the seas *
and made it firm upon the rivers of the deep.
"Who can ascend the hill of the LORD? " *
and who can stand in his holy place?"
"Those who have clean hands and a pure heart, *
who have not pledged themselves to falsehood,
nor sworn by what is a fraud.
They shall receive a blessing from the LORD *
and a just reward from the God of their salvation."
Such is the generation of those who seek him, *
of those who seek your face, O God of Jacob.
Lift up your heads, O gates;
lift them high, O everlasting doors; *
and the King of glory shall come in.
"Who is this King of glory?" *
"The LORD, strong and mighty,
the LORD, mighty in battle."
Lift up your heads, O gates;
lift them high, O everlasting doors; *
and the King of glory shall come in.
"Who is he, this King of glory?" *
"The LORD of hosts,
he is the King of glory."

THE EPISTLE

Revelation 21:1-6a

I saw a new heaven and a new earth; for the first heaven and the first earth had passed away, and the sea was no more. And I saw the holy city, the new Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband. And I heard a loud voice from the throne saying,

"See, the home of God is among mortals.
He will dwell with them as their God;
they will be his peoples,
and God himself will be with them;
he will wipe every tear from their eyes.
Death will be no more;
mourning and crying and pain will be no more,
for the first things have passed away."

And the one who was seated on the throne said, "See, I am making all things new." Also he said, "Write this, for these words are trustworthy and true." Then he said to me, "It is done! I am the Alpha and the Omega, the beginning and the end."

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

SEQUENCE HYMN – LEVAS 91

Spiritual

1. In the morn - ing when I rise, In the morn - ing when I
2. Dark mid - night was my cry, Dark mid - night was my
3. O when I come to die, O when I come to

1. rise, In the morn - ing when I rise, Give me Je - sus.
2. cry, Dark mid - night was my cry, Give me Je - sus.
3. die, O when I come to die, Give me Je - sus.

Give me Je - sus, Give me Je - sus, You may

have all this world, Give me Je - sus.

Deacon: The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to John.
People: **Glory to you, Lord Christ.**

When Mary came where Jesus was and saw him, she knelt at his feet and said to him, "Lord, if you had been here, my brother would not have died." When Jesus saw her weeping, and the Jews who came with her also weeping, he was greatly disturbed in spirit and deeply moved. He said, "Where have you laid him?" They said to him, "Lord, come and see." Jesus began to weep. So the Jews said, "See how he loved him!" But some of them said, "Could not he who opened the eyes of the blind man have kept this man from dying?"

Then Jesus, again greatly disturbed, came to the tomb. It was a cave, and a stone was lying against it. Jesus said, "Take away the stone." Martha, the sister of the dead man, said to him, "Lord, already there is a stench because he has been dead four days." Jesus said to her, "Did I not tell you that if you believed, you would see the glory of God?" So they took away the stone. And Jesus looked upward and said, "Father, I thank you for having heard me. I knew that you always hear me, but I have said this for the sake of the crowd standing here, so that they may believe that you sent me." When he had said this, he cried with a loud voice, "Lazarus, come out!" The dead man came out, his hands and feet bound with strips of cloth, and his face wrapped in a cloth. Jesus said to them, "Unbind him, and let him go."

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 Emmanuel Ato Mercer, Rector

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

Almighty God, on this All Saints' Sunday, we remember those who have gone before us, those on whose shoulders we stand, those whose blessings we reap. We thank You for the presence of Your saints in our world, those doing mighty deeds, those whose work is known to You alone, and all whose work is in between. Help us find in ourselves the knowledge that we, too, are Your saints, and that like the widow in today's Gospel, we each have much to give when we open our hearts. *Hear us, Lord.*

Today we remember those we love who have died, especially Margaret Arl, Ana Phillips, Eric Lewis, Howard Luehrs, Sarah Mercer, and Elizabeth Mercer-Ricketts, and all those whose memory remains alive in our hearts. Enfold them in Your loving arms. Send Your solace to those who mourn. Help us find in the memories of those we have loved the strength and courage to live our lives in Your service. *Hear us, Lord.*

Today at Christ Church is Covenant (Pledge) Sunday, when we offer back to You part of our treasure to support the work of this parish in the coming year, and when we assess anew how we will also offer our time and talents. Help us to open our hearts and minds to give generously of ourselves. We thank You for the ordained and lay leadership of our parish, for our congregation, and for all newcomers and visitors. We thank you for the larger church of which Christ Church is a part and for our diocese, specifically the churches of Ascension, Scarboro; Christ Church, Rock Spring; and Emmanuel, Bel Air, and for the worldwide Anglican Communion, especially the Anglican Church in Aotearoa, New Zealand and Polynesia. *Hear us, Lord.*

As we approach the holidays, we remember especially our neighbors in need. We pray for all who are poor or oppressed or who have fled their homes searching for safety and a better life. Lead us to give with gladness to better the lives of others. *Hear us, Lord.*

We pray for the sick and the dying, for the chronically ill, for all people suffering in mind or body. We ask that Your healing presence be upon them and those who care for them. In our Christ Church family, we pray today especially for Sherry, Ritta, Mindy, Bunmi, Frantz, Sam, Chad, Alta, Alfred, Theresa, Nell, Victoria, Jim, Roberta, Kathleen, Ashley & Jeanette. **Hear us, Lord.**

For all that is good and joyous in our lives, we give You thanks, especially this week for the birthdays of Ryan, Krista, Kim, William, Paula, Paul, Francis, Maurice, Karikari, Evelyn & Jeannette, and the wedding anniversary of Stephen & Linda Alpern. May they greet the coming year as Your saints in our world. **Hear us, Lord.**

Send us out, Almighty God, to do the work you have given us to do, inspired by those who came before us, grateful for the gifts You have given us, renewed in our determination to use our time, talents, and treasure to make Your world – our world – a better place. **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.**

A PRAYER FOR STEWARDSHIP

Thomas Merton (1915-1968)

All: **Almighty God, we thank you for all the gifts You have given us:
our lives, our loved ones, all that we have and all that we are. Most of
all, we thank You for Jesus, your Son and our Redeemer, who came among
us to show us the way to eternal life. Jesus was the perfect steward of
your gifts, showing that complete trust in You is necessary, and that
giving of self is a most important part of following Him. May the
offerings of our time, our talents, and our++ material resources be made
in the same spirit of sacrifice that Jesus taught us by His life and
death for us. 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 — *O Thou, Whose All-redeeming Might*

plainsong, arr. David Blackwell

*O Thou, whose all-redeeming might crowns every saint in glory bright,
on this commemoration day hear us, good Jesu, while we pray.*

*Contending for thy holy name thy servants earned their saintly fame,
which pious hearts with praise revere in constant memory year by year.*

*Earth's fleeting joys they counted naught, for higher, truer joys they sought,
and now with angels round the throne unfading treasures are their own.*

*O grant that we, most gracious God, may follow in the steps they trod;
and, freed from every stain of sin, as they have won may also win.*

*To thee, O Christ, our loving King, all glory, praise and thanks we bring;
whom with the Father we adore, and Holy Ghost for evermore. Amen.*

DOXOLOGY

Old 100th

Praise God, from whom all bles - sings flow; praise him, all crea - tures here be - low; praise
him a - bove, ye heaven - ly host: praise Fa - ther, Son and Ho - ly Ghost. A - men.

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."

Celebrant: 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.

Celebrant: 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 forever.

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 – LEVAS 154

James E. Moore

The musical score is written for a two-part setting (Soprano and Bass) in 3/4 time, with a key signature of one flat (B-flat). The lyrics are: "Taste and see. Taste and see the good - ness of the Lord. O taste and see. Taste and see the good - ness of the Lord, of the Lord." The score is divided into three systems. The first system contains the first line of the anthem. The second system contains the second line. The third system contains the third line, which ends with a "Fine" marking. The melody is simple and hymn-like, with a focus on the words "Taste and see".

Taste and see. Taste and see the good - ness

of the Lord. O taste and see. Taste and

see the good - ness of the Lord, of the Lord. **Fine**



1. You're called by name, for - ev - er loved, a -
 2. Marked as Christ's own, signed by the cross where
 3. Raised to new life, a life of grace, set
 4. Sealed by the Spi - rit, Lord of life, sus -



dopt - ed as a child of God. Now one with us, the
 Je - sus for our sins once died. with Je - sus bur - ied
 free from sin, in Christ to grow; his res - ur - rec - tion
 tained and strength - ened by his might. Joined to the church to



fam - i - ly of those who know and love the Lord.
 in his death, called to con - fess Christ cru - ci - fied.
 to pro - claim, his love in all of life to know.
 share, with us, the in - her - i - tance of saints in light.

Refrain

Lord, in your hands we place your own. Lord,
 In your hands we place your own. Lord,
 Lord, in your hands we place your own. Lord,



in their lives make your love known.

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 - 287 (V. 1, 2, 3, 4, 8)

Sine Nomine



1 For all the saints, who from their labors rest, who
2 Thou wast their rock, their fortress, and their might:
3 O may thy soldiers, faithful, true, and bold,
4 O blest communion, fellowship divine!
thee by faith before the world confessed, thy
thou, Lord, their Captain in the well-fought fight;
fight as the saints who nobly fought of old, and
We feebly struggle, they in glory shine; yet
Name, O Jesus, be for ever blessed.
thou, in the darkness drear, the one true Light.
win, with them, the victor's crown of gold.
all are one in thee, for all are thine.
Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia!

8. From earth's wide bounds, from ocean's farthest coast,
through gates of pearl streams in the countless host
singing to Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Alleluia, alleluia!

DISMISSAL

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

POSTLUDE - *Highland Cathedral*

Ulrich Roever/Michael Korb
Jim Schempp, bagpipes

TODAY'S EUCHARIST IS OFFERED IN THANKSGIVING FOR THE LIVES OF

Fannella Johnson
Kelmie Snider
Cyril Paumier
Ana Phillips
Elizabeth Mercer-Ricketts
Sarah Mercer
Douglas Miyamoto
Eric Lewis
John Mitchell
Kitty and George Barnes
Margaret Arl
Howard Luehrs
Adebowale B. Lipede
Joseph I. Adams
Rosemary Gbemudu
Olufunke Lipede
Adedoyin O. Lipede
The Rev'd James & Seiko Shields

and all others from our community who have joined the saints in heaven.

*Today's altar flowers are donated by Pamela and Shannon Pruitt in loving memory of
Margaret Arl & Howard Luehrs.*

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ANNOUNCEMENTS

Send announcements to communications@christchurchcolumbia.org

Pentecost XXIV at Christ Church | Join us this Sunday morning, the Twenty-Fourth Sunday after Pentecost, as we will 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'd like to attend in person, just [complete the brief attendance form on our website](#), and please wear your mask at all times while indoors.

Sunday School | Sunday School takes place each week this fall. The registration form is located [here](#), and you can send them to 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 dandjatkins@verizon.net. The older youth session begins at 9:30 a.m. and is run by our new Youth Minister, Todd Domer. You can reach Todd at youthministry@christchurchcolumbia.org for Zoom details.

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.

In November, we discuss Cultural Religious Influences:

- Nov. 7: Native American - [lesson link](#)
- Nov. 14: Hispanic
- Nov. 21: Celtic
- Nov. 28: No Sunday Circle (Thanksgiving weekend)

We hope that you'll join us for these gatherings, but if you can't [you can find the lesson links on the Christ Church website](#). For more information, please contact Jenn Todd Lavanish at jtlavanish@gmail.com

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.

Children's Choir – Tuesdays | Children's Choir meets weekly on Tuesdays from 5:00-6:00 p.m. New singers are always welcome! Handbells and chimes will also be included in our rehearsals. Please email our Director of Music, Len, to learn more or to RSVP for rehearsals – music@christchurchcolumbia.org

Bible Study – Wednesdays | Bible Study is back to gathering in person each 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](#) (we are using Track 1 this season). 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.

Adult Choir – Thursdays | Choral singing and hymn leadership are back for the 10:30 a.m. Sunday service and ringing bells to embellish hymns are a new staple for this fall! If you've ever been interested in joining our choir, now's that time... and this invitation is open to any adult parishioner. No experience is necessary! Socially distanced and masked rehearsals now take place on Thursday evenings. Please email Len Langrick, our Director of Music, at music@christchurchcolumbia.org to learn more, or to RSVP for rehearsals.

Christ Church Book Club – Fridays | Our Book Club is gathering virtually this Friday from 7:30 to 9 p.m. We're continuing 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. After this book, we will discuss [The Dream of God](#) by Verna Dozier. We hope that you'll find time to join us for this engaging and enlightening group discussion. Please email Ellen Hoke at efboudreau1@gmail.com if you have any questions.

Centering Prayer – Saturdays | So.... what *is* Centering Prayer? Centering Prayer is a form of contemplation, a method of prayer that helps us be present and open to God. We invite you to log in on any given Saturday for our brief gathering and 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 812 7402 2854 and Password is Centering! Please email us at info@christchurchcolumbia.org and we'll answer any questions you might have. We'd love to have you join us and be a part of this special virtual gathering.

Shields Memorial - November 20th | The memorial Eucharist and burial service of James and Seiko Shields has been scheduled at Christ Church on Saturday, November 20th at 3:00 p.m. If you wish, Parishioners are invited to make a kind donation in celebration of the life of our beloved Rector and his wife via check made to Christ Church, and on the memo line please write *Shields Memorial*.

Youth and Children News | Christmas Pageant information - It's Christmas Pageant time! The pageant will take place on Christmas Eve at 4:00 p.m. This year, 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! Look for a sign-up soon!

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. Look for more information soon!

Women of Christ Church News | Lots of WOCC News! First, our next regular meeting will be on the 2nd Monday in January - January 10th - at which time we will create our calendar of events for 2022. For December, we will be holding our Annual WOCC Christmas Gathering. WOCC has voted to hold a virtual party on Sunday, December 5th, with more details to follow. We've also elected our 2022 WOCC Officers: President, Rhonda Tomlinson; Vice-President, Cathy Gold; Secretary, Cindy Read; Financial Secretary, Suzanne Ziobro; and Chaplain, Mary Vail.

We also have lots of other news, including information on our 2021 Holiday Gift Drive for Springfield Hospital. [You can see all of the November WOCC News on our website.](#)

Christ Church's Vestry | These are the name of the Vestry Members of Christ Church for the next year: Jane Adams, Tim Beaty, Ron Couch, Jan DeBoissiere, Andrew Eaton, Lynn Foor, Sara Kirkpatrick, Andrea Leeman, Isaac Olajide, Diane Philips-Laguerre, Greta Pike-Barnes, Alfred Titus-Glover, and Jason Whong. The Vestry Officers are Sara Kirkpatrick - Sr. Warden, Isaac Olajide - Junior Warden, Ron Couch - Secretary, and Andrew Eaton - Treasurer. Please keep our Vestry in your prayers as they lead us into, and through, the upcoming year.

Diocese of Maryland News | [You can read the latest Diocesan message about COVID-19 protocols here.](#) 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.

Thanksgiving Food Drive (non-perishables only) for the Howard County Food Bank: November 7-18 | In 2021, the [Howard County Food Bank](#) expects to feed 1,200 people at Thanksgiving and another 1,200 at Christmas. Its staff began giving out "Holiday Meal Kits" on November 1st and will continue through the month of December. You can support this effort by bringing non-perishable food items that complete the menu with the usual sides: boxed mashed potatoes, stuffing mix, gravy, cranberry sauce, olives, pickles, and cans of vegetables and fruits.

Place these items on the Thanksgiving-decorated table in our Narthex. Or, if you wish to remain outdoors, put them in the latest yellow bin that's found on the breezeway. Marked "Thanksgiving Food Drive," this one is near the door to Old Brick. Given cold weather, it's best if any items stored in glass jars could go in the Narthex collection.

The drive begins Sunday, November 7th, and ends on Thursday, November 18th, so that all items can be delivered by November 19th.

Once again, due to the pandemic, Christ Church will exclude turkeys from the collection. Last year, we raised funds to order turkeys but had fewer requests than expected for the main course. As a result, thanks to your support in 2020, Christ Church is able to donate the remaining \$650 to the food bank for its purchase this Thanksgiving of alternatives to whole turkeys. The food bank will obtain partial or whole chicken roasters, vegetarian options, and options with the proper protein for those on dialysis. These will be delivered to those who are homebound and would not cook a 16-to-19 pound turkey (the usual food bank size) for themselves. A portion of the Christ Church funds also may be used to provide clients of limited means with aluminum pans, making it possible to cook the chicken and other items in their homes.

NOTE: The food bank is not collecting pies, other desserts, or rolls this year, because of perishability. Its staff tells us they have adequate supplies of brownie mix, which will be distributed in meal kits instead. Thanks so much for your generosity in planning to shop for items that are on the wish list of the food bank, which is among the services of the Community Action Council of Howard County (CAC). These traditional sides will brighten the holidays in many Howard County households.

Inviting One and All to Get Involved in Christ Church Outreach | The Outreach Commission is making an effort to better spread the word about what we do and, in turn, persuade more volunteers to participate. Now that it's time for holiday outreach, consider joining us at our next meeting to learn more about opportunities during the remainder of 2021. It will be held virtually at 7:30 p.m. on Monday, November 8th. Information on how to join the meeting by Zoom or by phone will be provided in the Church notices about online activities next week. To become active in other ways, email outreach@christchurchcolumbia.org. Keep in mind the scripture that underpins our mission: *And the King will answer them, "Truly, I say to you, as you did it to one of the least of these my brethren, you did it to me."* Matthew 25: 40

Spread the Word: Nov. 8 Food Giveaway at Howard Community College | Public-health students at Howard Community College (HCC) are planning to hand out groceries to the less fortunate on Monday, November 8th from 1 to 3 p.m. As a part of a collaboration with the Maryland Food Bank, students in the Health Sciences Division plan to distribute 300 free boxes of food to those in need. The event is drive-through only (no walk-ups) at HCC's Parking Lot B, 10901 Little Patuxent Parkway, Columbia, MD, 21044. Please spread the word among yourselves and any others who would benefit from free food. No eligibility is required. In these pandemic times, families and individuals struggle to make ends meet. The HCC effort is among several that recognize it's tough to be in the "have-not" category in Howard County, where there's a great contrast between haves and have-nots, especially as the holidays approach.

Collection Drive Continues to Provide Diapers, Personal Care Items for CCC | At Christ Church, members of R.A.G.E. and the Outreach Commission ask parishioners to support Columbia Community Care(CCC) by collecting diapers, baby wipes, sanitary and personal care items, and adult diapers. Please put any of these items in the yellow bin, marked "CCC," inside the Parish Hall. You can drop off items on weekdays when the church office is open or on Sunday.

Donate Personal Care and Cleaning Supplies for FISH in Bin on our Breezeway | Organizers for FISH of Howard County request household cleaning supplies such as liquid dish soap, bleach, and cleanser as well as personal items such as deodorant, shampoo, and bath soaps. The bin is on the breezeway near the door to the Parish Hall.

Registration Now Open for DreamBuilders trip to Puerto Rico - January 9-15, 2022 | Hurricane Maria devastated Puerto Rico in September of 2017. Now, four years later, thousands of Puerto Ricans are still living in damaged homes or crowded in with family members waiting for the day when their homes can be made livable again. DreamBuilders will be making its second trip to the island this January to work with SBP-Puerto Rico to repair damaged homes.

We are opening registration for this trip now and will keep it open for a few days more. The cost of the trip is \$1300 per volunteer, which covers the flights, housing, food, and rental vehicles. Daily temperatures in San Juan for January average between 80-83 degrees. SBP has COVID protocols in place to protect its staff, the homeowners, and the volunteers. All volunteers must be vaccinated. Team size will be limited to allow for distancing, and cleaning stations are established at all project sites. More information about SBP's efforts in Puerto Rico and their COVID protocols can be found on their website: sbpusa.org. You can register as a volunteer on our website: <https://dreambuildersmd.org/2022-puerto-rico-details-sign-up>. You will pay half the fee upon registration (\$650) so DreamBuilders can reserve the flights, housing, and rental vehicles. If you have any questions, please contact Cathy Gold at heycathy@verizon.net.

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, and we will find a way. [Here is the current wish list from Springfield Hospital, in case you would like suggestions.](#)

Baltimore Seafarer Ministry | Our next delivery date by the WOCC to the Seafarers Center is Tuesday, December 7th. Find the drop-off bin marked "Seafarers" in the Tower Room of New Brick. Each year, the WOCC helps prepare those Seafarers that come to the Baltimore Harbor with 'Warmth and The Holidays'. These are people who are often away at sea for very long periods of time. Please help by contributing any of these needed items:

Calendars

Current magazines (especially National Geographic & Smithsonian)

Toiletries for their "Christmas shoe boxes" that are handed out to each Seafarer, such as: toothbrushes, small and medium-size toothpastes, travel-size shaving cream, disposable razors, etc

Warm socks, warm hats, and gloves.

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.

2022 Stewardship Campaign Pledge Cards are Now Available

Thank you for supporting our campaign!

We are very excited about Christ Church's 2022 Stewardship Campaign. 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. We mailed out our Annual Stewardship Pledge Cards to you this month and we hope that you will join us on November 7th for our Pledge Sunday celebration. In addition to that, you can also pledge online at www.christchurchcolumbia.org. We will 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.

Our most recent Monthly Budget 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

THANK YOU.

Flying In V-Formation

This Sunday is All Saints Sunday. It is also our Stewardship Sunday, where we gather as a community and bless our unified pledge commitment. As much as I like the stewardship tag, I prefer *Covenant*. This Sunday will be our Covenant Sunday because that is one of the moments when we express, in a tangible way, the depth of our relationship with God - when we commit to flying in a V-formation.

As I reflected on our covenant with God, I was reminded of Jesus' words from the gospel of John: *"If the Son sets you free, you must be free indeed."* It is telling that our relationship with God has never been contractual because contracts invite enforcement. But our relationship with God has never been about enforcement; it has always been about an outstretched hand inviting you to a dance. That, to me, explains why the Book of Revelations reminds us with these words: *"Here I am! I stand at the door and knock. If anyone hears my voice and opens the door, I will come in and eat with that person, and they with me."* The message from this reading is that the onus is squarely on each of us to respond to the invitation from God to be in a covenantal relationship with Him.

The reality is that Covenant with God is not only rooted and grounded in love, but it generates this powerful sense of obligation on God and all those who are part of the covenant.

Through the covenant with Noah, God promised not to curse the ground because of human action, nor will he ever destroy every living creature. And so when we see the rainbow over the horizon, we are reminded of God's covenant with us.

Through the covenant with Abraham, we came to know that the Lord will provide, and the Lord provides for all who trust in his providential covenant. During good times and not-so-good times, we offer praise because we believe that the Lord provides, and we believe that the Lord is good.

Through the covenant with Moses, we came to know that our security came only from God. On Sinai, God revealed to us why we were created, why we were saved, why we are borne up on eagle's wings, and what our purpose was - on the mountain, we discovered our destiny - we are covenant-keepers. More than that, we are God's covenant partners who radiate this huge sense of obligation to each other, our community, and ourselves, quite similar to geese flying south in V-formation.

The story goes like this: the next time you see geese flying south in V-formation, you might be interested to know that as each bird flaps its wings, it creates an uplift for the bird immediately following them. By flying in a V-formation, the whole flock adds at least 71% more flying range than if each bird flew on its own. Christians who share a common direction and sense of community can also get where they are going quicker and easier because they are traveling on the uplift of one another.

Whenever a goose falls out of formation, it suddenly feels the drag and resistance of trying to go it alone, and quickly gets back into formation. If we have at least as much sense as a goose, we'll stay in formation with those who have headed in the same direction as us. When the lead goose gets tired, it rotates to the back of the V, and another goose flies upfront. It pays to take turns doing hard jobs - with other people at church, or with geese flying south.

The geese honk from behind to encourage those up front to keep up their speed. What do we say when we honk from behind? Finally, when a goose gets sick or is wounded and falls out, two geese fall out of formation and follow it down to help protect it. They stay with it until it is able to fly or perishes, and then they launch out on their own or with another formation to catch up with their original group. The geese who help one another, share. Sharing is both serving and giving. It is the essence of our obligation. It is a part of "stewardship."

Each year, I try as much as possible to send a handwritten thank-you note to all those who commit themselves to upholding their sacred part of their covenantal relationship with God. This year will be no different. In fact, I have already started sending thank you notes to those who have returned their pledge cards. It gives me great joy to reach out to you and thank you individually. But I want to share with you part of an email that I recently received from our treasurer. The treasurer believes that, based on the level at which we are redeeming our pledges, we may fall short of our overall goal. I, therefore, pray you to consider helping us meet our goal.

Jesus seldom told us what to believe, He told us what to do. I am eternally grateful to each of you for all that you have given to Christ Church. I thank God for your lives and for being in a relationship with you. I thank you for making Christ Church a part of your life, and I want to invite you to prayerfully reflect on the covenant you have with God.

And so, on this All Saints Sunday - on our Covenant Sunday - if we are to fly in V-formation to the place where God wants us to be, we will need you as a part of God's flock. **Thank you for being a part of the formation.**

~Manny



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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