



CHRIST EPISCOPAL CHURCH

EXTENDING THE LOVE AND EMBRACE OF CHRIST

THE HOLY EUCHARIST, RITE II

8:00 & 10:30 A.M.

Sunday, July 26, 2026 | Ninth Sunday after Pentecost

The unfolding of your
words gives light; it
gives understanding
to the simple.
- Psalm 119:130 -

Welcome Home!

Welcome to worship at Christ Episcopal Church. If this is your first time with us, we invite you to complete a visitor's form. Our website provides up to date information about our vibrant church:

www.christchurchcolumbia.org.

This bulletin contains all you need to join us in worship, everyone is welcome to receive communion at God's table, and the clergy are happy to speak with you at any time.

PRELUDE |

OPENING HYMN LEVAS 178 | Sweet Hour of Prayer

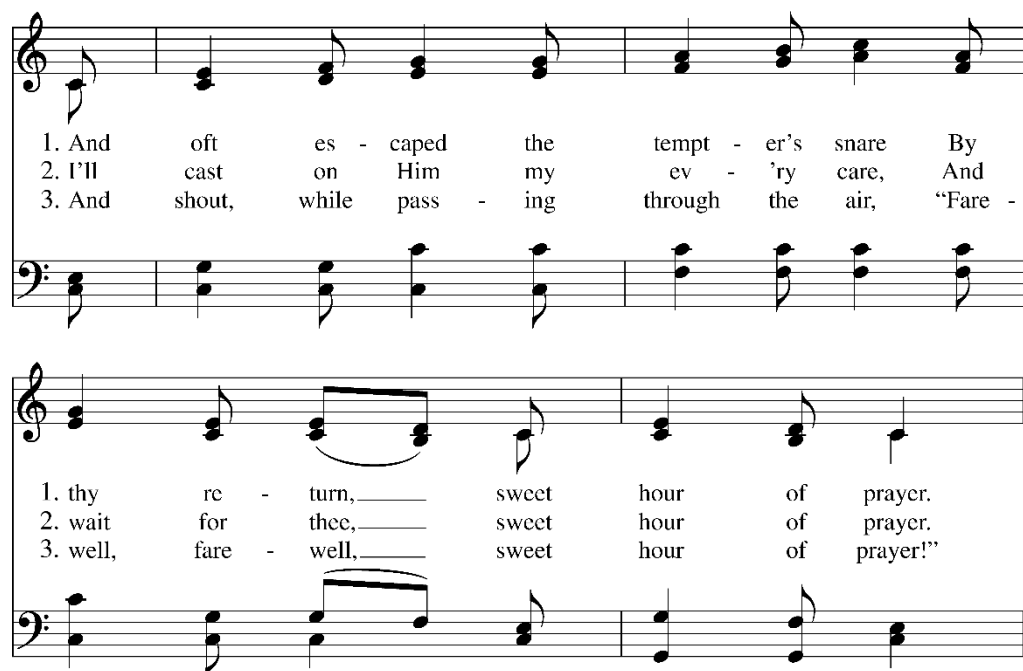
William Walford/William Bradbury

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

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

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

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



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

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

OPENING ACCLAMATION |

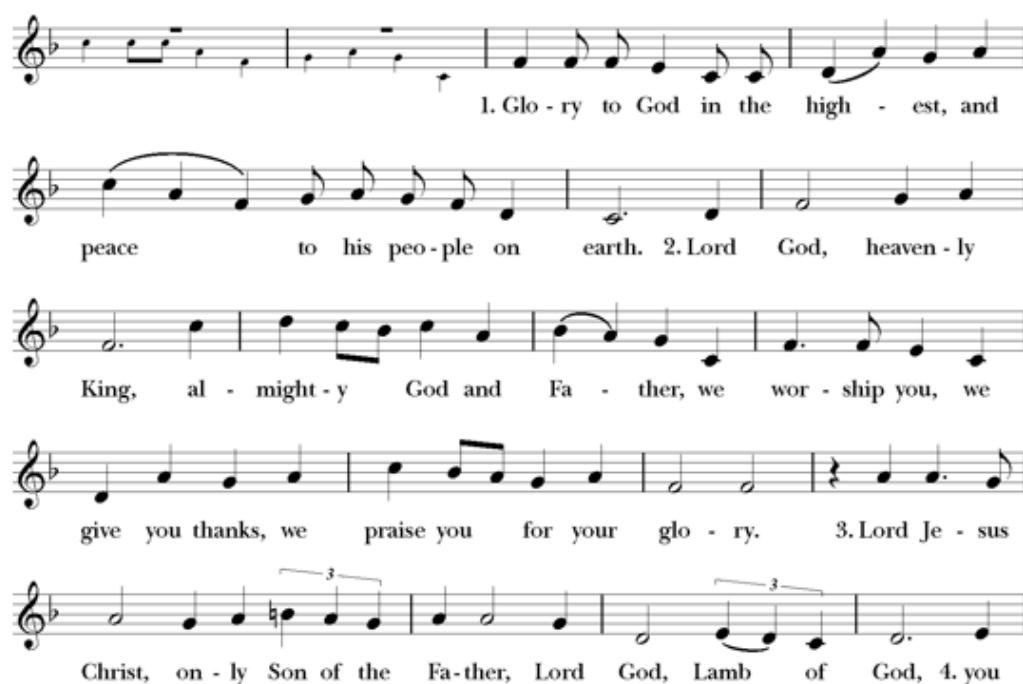
Celebrant: Blessed by God: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.
People: And blessed be his kingdom, now and for ever. Amen.

THE COLLECT FOR PURITY |

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

GLORIA S280 | Glory to God

Robert Powell



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



THE COLLECT OF THE DAY|

Celebrant: The Lord be with you.

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

Celebrant: Let us pray.

O God, the protector of all who trust in you, without whom nothing is strong, nothing is holy: Increase and multiply upon us your mercy; that, with you as our ruler and guide, we may so pass through things temporal, that we lose not the things eternal; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever.. **Amen.**

The people may be seated.

THE FIRST LESSON | 1 Kings 3:5-12

Reader: *A reading from 1st Kings.*

At Gibeon the Lord appeared to Solomon in a dream by night; and God said, “Ask what I should give you.” And Solomon said, “You have shown great and steadfast love to your servant my father David, because he walked before you in faithfulness, in righteousness, and in uprightness of heart toward you; and you have kept for him this great and steadfast love, and have given him a son to sit on his throne today. And now, O Lord my God, you have made your servant king in place of my father David, although I am only a little child; I do not know how to go out or come in. And your servant is in the midst of the people whom you have chosen, a great people, so numerous they cannot be numbered or counted. Give your servant therefore an understanding mind to govern your people, able to discern between good and evil; for who can govern this your great people?”

It pleased the Lord that Solomon had asked this. God said to him, “Because you have asked this, and have not asked for yourself long life or riches, or for the life of your enemies, but have asked for yourself understanding to discern what is right, I now do according to your word. Indeed I give you a wise and discerning mind; no one like you has been before you and no one like you shall arise after you.”

Reader: The word of the Lord.

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

The following psalm is read responsively by half-verse.

THE PSALM

Psalm 119:129-136 | *Mirabilia*

Your decrees are wonderful; *
therefore I obey them with all my heart.

When your word goes forth it gives light; *
it gives understanding to the simple.

I open my mouth and pant; *
I long for your commandments.

Turn to me in mercy, *
as you always do to those who love your Name.

Steady my footsteps in your word; *
let no iniquity have dominion over me.

Rescue me from those who oppress me, *
and I will keep your commandments.

Let your countenance shine upon your servant *
and teach me your statutes.

My eyes shed streams of tears, *
because people do not keep your law.

THE EPISTLE | Romans 8:26-39

Reader: A reading from Romans.

The Spirit helps us in our weakness; for we do not know how to pray as we ought, but that very Spirit intercedes with sighs too deep for words. And God, who searches the heart, knows what is the mind of the Spirit, because the Spirit intercedes for the saints according to the will of God.

We know that all things work together for good for those who love God, who are called according to his purpose. For those whom he foreknew he also predestined to be conformed to the image of his Son, in order that he might be the firstborn within a large family. And those whom he predestined he also called; and those whom he called he also justified; and those whom he justified he also glorified.

What then are we to say about these things? If God is for us, who is against us? He who did not withhold his own Son, but gave him up for all of us, will he not with him also give us everything else? Who will bring any charge against God's elect? It is God who justifies. Who is to condemn? It is Christ Jesus, who died, yes, who was raised, who is at the right hand of God, who indeed intercedes for us. Who will separate us from the love of Christ? Will hardship, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or peril, or sword? As it is written,

“For your sake we are being killed all day long;
we are accounted as sheep to be slaughtered.”

No, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him who loved us. For I am convinced that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor rulers, nor things present, nor things to come, nor powers, nor height, nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord.

Reader: The word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

The people stand as able.

SEQUENCE HYMN 488 | Be Thou My Vision

Slane

1 Be thou my vi - sion, O Lord of my heart;
2 Be thou my wis - dom, and thou my true word;
3 High King of hea - ven, when vic - tory is won,
all else be nought to me, save that thou art—
I ev - er with thee and thou with me, Lord;
may I reach hea - ven's joys, bright hea - ven's Sun!
thou my best thought,— by day or by night,
thou my great Fa - ther; thine own may I be;
Heart of my heart,— what - ev - er be - fall,
wak - ing or sleep - ing, thy pres - ence my light.
thou in me dwell - ing, and I one with thee.
still be my vis - ion, O Ru - ler of all.

THE GOSPEL | Matthew 13:31-33,44-52

Celebrant: The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Matthew.

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

Jesus put before the crowds another parable: “The kingdom of heaven is like a mustard seed that someone took and sowed in his field; it is the smallest of all the seeds, but when it has grown it is the greatest of shrubs and becomes a tree, so that the birds of the air come and make nests in its branches.”

He told them another parable: “The kingdom of heaven is like yeast that a woman took and mixed in with three measures of flour until all of it was leavened.”

“The kingdom of heaven is like treasure hidden in a field, which someone found and hid; then in his joy he goes and sells all that he has and buys that field.

“Again, the kingdom of heaven is like a merchant in search of fine pearls; on finding one pearl of great value, he went and sold all that he had and bought it.

“Again, the kingdom of heaven is like a net that was thrown into the sea and caught fish of every kind; when it was full, they drew it ashore, sat down, and put the good into baskets but threw out the bad. So it will be at the end of the age. The angels will come out and separate the evil from the righteous and throw them into the furnace of fire, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.

“Have you understood all this?” They answered, “Yes.” And he said to them, “Therefore every scribe who has been trained for the kingdom of heaven is like the master of a household who brings out of his treasure what is new and what is old.”

Celebrant: The Gospel of the Lord.

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

HYMN | Lead Me, Lord

Samuel Sebastian Wesley

Lead me, Lord, lead me in Thy right-eous-ness,

5 Make Thy way plain be - fore Thy face.

Optional Ending

For it is Thou, Lord, Thou, Lord on - ly, that
mak - est me dwell in safe - ty.

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

THE SERMON | The Rev. 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 worshipped 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 |

Faith is the antidote to fear and uncertainty, and that despite our weakness, the love of Christ empowers us to accomplish things beyond our imagining. Fear, uncertainty, and feelings of inadequacy can rule our lives if we forget the messages contained in the Gospels. We pray that we may increase our understanding and be strengthened through the Spirit, saying: **"Fill us with the fullness of God."**

We pray for all those throughout the world who are bowed down by unbearable burdens and who despair of receiving help and solace. Lord, be near to them and hear the silent prayers of their hearts, as we say: **"Fill us with the fullness of God."**

We pray for our church leaders, that they may be guided by the wisdom of Your Holy Spirit and always be rooted and grounded in love. In our church, we pray for our Presiding Bishop, Sean; our Diocesan Bishop Carrie; our rector, Emmanuel; Clergy; Richard & Marcia. In the Anglican Cycle of Prayer, we pray for The

Anglican Church of Tanzania. In the Diocesan Cycle of Prayer, we lift up our sister Parishes. Hear us, O Lord, as we say: **"Help us to know the love of Christ that surpasses all knowledge."**

We lift up all those who suffer from any illness of mind, body, or spirit. We pray especially for Roger, Ashley, Kimberly, Lisa, Rita, Kaci, MaryAnn, Alta, Mark, Brandon, Clarence, Diane, Mildred, Kayode, Rachan & Sherry, and those you now name. Fill them and their caregivers with Your strength and nourish them with Your love, as we say: **"Lord, be near to those who call upon You."**

We remember those who have gone home to their heavenly Father and are in the company of all the saints, especially Roger Vail, Yvonne Forbes and those you now name. Give comfort and fortitude to those who mourn as they continue to walk in Your light and love. We pray: **"Lord, be near to all who call upon You."**

We rejoice in the blessings of family and friends, and are grateful for the opportunity to celebrate birthdays, baptismal or wedding anniversaries, especially for Errick, Marjorie, Levi, Janeene, Phillip & Joshua, Carol & Jay Abbott, and Angela. We give thanks and ask Your blessing on all those who are new or visiting our church. We ask that they may be refreshed and renewed by their worship today as they continue their faith journey. We pray: **"Lord, we praise You, we bless You, and we glorify You."**

Father of all, You have given us roots and grounded us in the love of Your Son. Guide us by Your Holy Spirit, that each of us may persevere in the work you have given us to do, with Jesus' words ever present in our hearts and minds: **"It is I; do not be afraid." AMEN**

CONFESSION & ABSOLUTION |

Celebrant: 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.

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 |

OFFERTORY ANTHEM | The Difference Is in Me

*Bill & Gloria Gaither
Phil Bray, soloist*

Please scan to give.



PRESENTATION HYMN 380 vs 3 |

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. AMEN.



THE HOLY COMMUNION



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. Through Jesus Christ our Lord. In fulfillment of his true promise, the Holy Spirit came down from heaven, lighting upon the disciples, to teach them and to lead them into all truth; uniting peoples of many tongues in the confession of one faith, and giving to your Church the power to serve you as a royal priesthood, and to preach the Gospel to all nations.

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



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 has risen.
Christ will come again.**

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. **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, forever 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 270 | Lamb of God

Marjorie Landmark-DeLewis

organ

Lamb of God, you take a - way the sins of the
world: have mer - cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a - way the
sins of the world: have mer - cy on us. Lamb of God, you
take a - way the sins of the world: grant us peace.

COMMUNION HYMN LEVAS 60 | How Great Thou Art

Stuart Hine

1. O Lord my God, when I in awe - some won - der Con - sid - er
2. When through the woods and for - est glades I wan - der And hear the
3. And when I think that God, his Son not spar - ing, Sent him to
4. When Christ shall come with shout of ac - cla - ma - tion And take me

1. all the worlds* thy hands have made, I see the stars I hear the roll - ing*
2. birds sing sweet - ly in the trees, When I look down from loft - y moun - tain
3. die, I scarce can take it in, That on the cross, my bur - den glad - ly
4. home, what joy shall fill my heart! Then I shall bow in hum - ble ad - o -

1. thun - der, Thy pow'r through - out the u - ni - verse dis - played. —
2. gran - deur, And hear the brook and feel the gen - tle breeze. —
3. bear - ing, He bled and died to take a - way my sin. —
4. ra - tion, And there pro - claim, my God how great thou art. —

Then sings my soul, my Sav - ior, God, to Thee: How great Thou

* The translator's original words are "works" and "mighty."

art, how great Thou art! Then sings my soul, my Sav - ior, God, to

Thee: How great Thou art, how great Thou art!

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.

EUCHARISTIC VISITORS' PRAYER | 8 & 10:30 a.m. service

Celebrant: In the name of this congregation, we send you forth bearing these gifts that those to whom you go may share with us in the communion of Christ's Body and Blood.

People: We who are many are one body because we all share one bread, one cup.

THE BLESSING |

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

CLOSING HYMN LEVAS 42 | He Lives!

Alfred H. Ackley

1. I serve a ris - en Sav - ior, He's in the world to - day; —
 2. In all the world a - round me I see His lov - ing care, —
 3. Re - joice, re - joice. O Chris - tian, lift up your voice and sing. —

1. I know that He is liv - ing, what - ev - er oth - ers say; —
 2. And though my heart grows wea - ry I nev - er will de - spair; —
 3. E - ter - nal hal - le - lu - jahs to Je - sus Christ, the King! —



1. I see His hand of mer - cy, I hear His voice of cheer,____
 2. I know that He is lead - ing through all the storm - y blast,____
 3. The hope of all who seek Him, the help of all who find,____



1. And just the time I need Him____ He's al - ways near.____
 2. The day of His ap - pear - ing____ will come at last.____
 3. None oth - er is so lov - ing,____ so good and kind.____



He lives,____ He lives,____ Christ Je - sus lives - to - day!____

He lives, He lives,



He walks with me and talks with me a - long life's nar - row way.____



He lives,____ He lives,____ sal - va - tion to im - part!____

He lives, He lives,



You ask me how I know He lives? He lives with-in my heart.____

THE DISMISSAL |

The Celebrant dismisses the people who respond.
Thanks be to God! Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia!

POSTLUDE |

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Assisting in Worship Today

Altar Guild

Ivy Amponsah, Kathy Simms, Sonni Aribiah, Jai Fatodu

8:00 a.m. Service

Chalicerist: Dione Mahoney

Lector/Reader: Dione Mahoney

Usher: Kayode Fatodu

10:30 a.m. Service

Acolytes: Wynstan Eguakun, James Mercer, Danny Jackson

Chalicerists: Ivy Amponsah, Cheryl Lucente

Lector/Reader: Oby Okeke

Ushers: Cherry Williams, Isaac Olajide, Yetti Lipede, Jane Adams,
Betty Dagne, Alex Amponsah

Tellers

Brian Farnandis, Kenny Okeke



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PARISH CALENDAR

JULY 26 – AUGUST 1, 2026

Sunday, July 26

8:00 am	Holy Eucharist – New Brick
9:00 am	Family Worship – New Brick
9:30 – 10:20 am	Sunday School, Sunday Circle
10:30 am	Holy Eucharist w/music – New Brick, UL
4:30 – 7:30 pm	Total Restoration Church – Old Brick & Parish Hall, LL

Monday, July 27

7:00 am	Morning Prayer Livestream
5:00 pm – 12:00 am	Kubi Event – Old Brick & Zoom
6:00 – 8:30 pm	Food Addicts Anonymous – New Brick, LL
7:00 – 8:00 pm	Centering Prayer – Old Brick & Zoom
7:00 – 8:00 pm	Refugee Ministry Meeting – Zoom

Tuesday, July 28

7:00 am	Morning Prayer Livestream
11:00 am – 12:00 pm	Weekly Staff Meeting – Zoom

Wednesday, July 29

7:00 am	Morning Prayer Livestream
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Thursday, July 30

7:00 am	Morning Prayer Livestream
12:00 – 1:00 pm	Healing Eucharist – Old Brick
7:30 – 9:00 pm	Boy Scouts – New Brick, LL

Friday, July 31

7:00 am	Morning Prayer Livestream
7:00 pm	Evening Prayer Livestream

Saturday, August 1

8:00 – 10:00 am	Altar Guild Prep – New Brick, UL
2:00 pm	AA Meeting – Parish Hall, LL
3:30 – 4:30 pm	Altar Guild Prep



ANNOUNCEMENTS



If you have an announcement to share with the church,
Please send to communications@christchurchcolumbia.org by Tuesday evening.

SCAN THE QR CODE FOR ALL OF THIS WEEK'S ANNOUNCEMENTS & LINKS

The Discussion about a Path Forward for Christ Church Continues

Thank you to everyone who attended and participated in last Sunday's presentation. **A PDF of the consultant's presentation is available [here](#)**, and we invite you to view it in detail. If you have any questions, comments, or concerns, please send them to the Vision/Strategy Committee at vision@christchurchcolumbia.org, and they will share them with the entire committee. A path forward is only possible with the input of our broader community, and we look forward to yours.

Lay Preaching Webinar - Next Tuesday, July 28

Join staff from the Episcopal Preaching Foundation, licensed lay preachers, and current trainers for an informational webinar about EPF's Lay Preacher Training Program on Tuesday, July 28, at 2 p.m. Over the last three years, EPF has trained over 100 lay preachers across the US, Canada, and Europe. During the webinar, they'll cover the scope of EPF's Lay Preacher Training Program, the diocesan commitment, and hear from trainers and lay preachers who have been part of the program. Whether you are a parish priest, serve on diocesan staff, or are interested in lay preaching yourself, we hope you'll register for this webinar. **[Visit their website for all of the details and information.](#)**

Roger Vail Memorial Service - Sunday, August 2

We sent an email the other day telling you that one of our beloved parishioners, Roger Vail, passed away earlier this week. To celebrate Roger's life, we will have a memorial service on the afternoon of Sunday, August 2nd. Gather with us at 2:00 p.m. that day for the service. Following the service, there will be a repast in the Great Hall, and we invite you to bring your favorite dessert to celebrate Roger, who loved all kinds of desserts. Thank you.

Friday Faith Film – August 7

In early August, George Toth presents a film in the lower level of the church office building, so bring some shareable treats on Friday evening, August 7, and join us in watching *Show Me the Father* (**[trailer](#)**), a film that explores the lives of five fathers and how their lives are each guided by forming a relationship with God. A discussion will follow, and all are welcome to join us.

MOCC Breakfast - Saturday Morning, August 15

Join us for French toast and fellowship - the MOCC breakfast is a monthly tradition, and in July, it will take place on Saturday, August 15. Set your GPS to **[Silver Diner at 8250 Gateway Overlook Drive in Columbia](#)**. We'll meet at 9:30 a.m., and all ages are welcome. You can also set a calendar reminder on your phone for every third Saturday of the month, for that's when we always meet up for this tasty start to our weekend.

Theology on Tap - Wednesday, August 19

Join us for brew and banter, suds and spoken word, lager and laughs... no matter what you call it, Theology on Tap is a fun, informal get-together where we can chat about interesting religious, spiritual, or social articles of the day, grab a beverage or snack, and enjoy fun, engaging, structure-free conversation with other parishioners and friends. We like to use this time to speak about things that might be considered a bit casual or light for a Sunday morning at church, but that matter to us, and we want to hear others' perspectives on them. If this sounds interesting to you, it's your kind of gathering! Join us at 7:00 p.m. on Wednesday, August 19 at **[Frisco and the Reckless Shepherd](#)** at 8895 McGaw Road in Columbia.

Parish Festival and Ministry Fair - August 30

The Christ Church Parish Festival & Ministry Fair, an annual tradition, is back! There's only one worship service that day, August 30, so join us in the New Brick sanctuary at 10:00 a.m., followed by a fantastic festival of faith, food, fellowship, and FUN! We'll have BBQ goodies, fun for all ages, and an opportunity to learn about the many ministries that make Christ

Church a very special place. Ministry leaders, this is your opportunity to speak with every parishioner about your beloved ministry and get them to join and assist your group in the coming year. If you have had a ministry trifold or flyer in the past, please prepare any new information to send to Chris by Sunday, August 16, so that he can get you an updated document in time for the Fair. And if your ministry would like a flyer or trifold but hasn't had one before, please email him at communications@christchurchcolumbia.org so he can arrange a time to discuss it with you.

The 2026 Flea Market - September 19

Soon, it'll be time for that wonderful Columbia summertime tradition, the Christ Church Flea Market and Craft Fair, presented by the WOCC. This year, it's on Saturday, September 19, from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. (rain date 9/26), and takes place on the Christ Church campus. And vendors - **you can reserve your spaces now!** This community event is open to the public, so come see what your neighbors have to offer. There will be housewares, jewelry, books, clothing, tasty baked treats, grilled goodies, and so much more! Whether you're a vendor or a participant, you can learn more on our website, which goes live today - www.christchurchcolumbia.org/flea-market

Centering Prayer - Monday Evenings

Centering Prayer is a special evening prayer gathering that can help lead to a more intimate union with God. This active presence heals, transforms, and offers freedom and peace. Be with us in Old Brick or online via Zoom at 7:00 p.m. on Monday evenings. You can also ask for more information by speaking with Kathy Lyon at church or by emailing centering@christchurchcolumbia.org.

Noonday Healing Eucharist - Thursdays

Throughout the year, Christ Church offers a midday Healing Eucharist on Thursdays in Old Brick. A member of our clergy leads this service of readings, prayers, a litany for healing, and the Holy Eucharist. Parishioners and community members are all welcome to join in a prayerful time in the presence of God, and to share in the wonderful mystery of God's love whilst we seek healing for ourselves and our loved ones. Please come in to reflect, pray, and participate in a service held in our beautiful, historic chapel.

Let Love Lead You to Consider Joining the Christ Church Vestry

The nomination of candidates from our flock to stand for election to the Christ Church Vestry has begun! This year, four (4) slots are open, and if you are a baptized Christian who is 16 years or older and a giving member of record at Christ Church, you are qualified to become a candidate. We need your unique gifts to help us, so we hope you'll consider submitting your name. The election will be held at our Annual Meeting, which is scheduled for Sunday, October 18. To offer to stand for election, contact our Vestry Nomination Committee by emailing nominations@christchurchcolumbia.org, and they will let you know what's needed for this process. You can also pick up a special ***Let Love Lead*** flyer in the Narthex, **or download a copy here**. It outlines the responsibilities and commitments of a Vestry member to help you guide your decision. Thank you for your consideration.

Let Your Love for Christ Church Show! Get a Few of Our New Magnets

Bring a part of Christ Church into your home with our beautiful new custom magnets! We are offering two unique 3" x 5" designs: our classic CEC shield, and the vibrant 300th Anniversary *Learning from Our History, Living into Our Future* tree. Perfect for your refrigerator, filing cabinet, car, or any magnetic surface, these heavy-duty magnets are a wonderful way to show your parish pride and support our community. Each magnet is yours for only \$6, or you can get one of each for just ten dollars! Speak with Yetti at church, or stop by the office to pick yours up. You can pay in advance - **simply go to Realm** and write "Magnet" in the memo line - or pay by cash or check when you get yours. Thank you for helping promote our amazing church while supporting the 300th Anniversary celebration!

Help Shape Our Littlest Hearts!

Our Youth and Family Ministry is growing—an amazing blessing—but it also means we need a little help. Right now, we are looking for three enthusiastic volunteers to step into our preschool Sunday School classrooms for the next program year, beginning in September. You don't need a degree in theology, of course, just a warm heart and a willingness to share God's love with our littlest ones.

The curriculum and all supplies are provided for you, and we have a team of clergy and leaders to help you get started and support you along the way. If you can help us fill one of these three spots, please speak with Mother Marcia Davenport at church or email revmarcia@christchurchcolumbia.org. You can also call the Church Office to see when she is in her office.

An Organ Donation is Needed for a Member of Our Vestry

Parishioner Jim Berkson, who was baptized here at Christ Church last year, requires a kidney transplant. He is on the transplant list for a deceased donor, but a living donor has many advantages, including a longer lifespan, being able to avoid dialysis, and being guaranteed a transplant. Please consider giving the gift of life. If you are interested in or curious about Jim's case, please speak with Jim at church, with Father Manny, or with a vestry member. **You can also download a PDF of Jim's here.** Thank you very much.

Interested in Learning About EfM? This Might Be Your Chance to Join this Rewarding Program

Education for Ministry at Christ Church (EfM) is a rewarding long-term program, a unique, small-group series based on study and practice in theological reflection, helping participants discover and nurture their call to Christian service. The first few years of EfM at Christ Church have been extremely insightful for its participants, many of whom have experienced unexpected yet beautifully transformative experiences while gaining friendships with others in the study group.

Starting now, they're opening a few extra participant spots for next season for both sessions, which begin towards the end of this summer. Even if you're currently unsure whether it's the right fit for you, now is the time to ask questions and learn as much as you can from its current participants, so you can make an informed and prayerful decision. Learn more by visiting www.christchurchcolumbia.org/efm, and by speaking with Mother Marcia Davenport at church.

We Always Need More Help at Christ Church

There are many roles in the church that most people don't think of regularly – or at all. However, it requires a great deal of work by many people to keep Christ Church the well-run parish it is. You can help your church by volunteering as a Reader, Chalcist, or Teller, serving in the Inreach Ministry, or assisting the Christ Church Altar Guild.

None of these requires weekly assistance - both only require a short amount of time every few weeks or so, but the impact you have on the entire parish is significant. For those specifically interested in the Altar Guild, email altarguild@christchurchcolumbia.org or speak with Pam Foreman or any other Altar Guild member setting up on Sunday mornings. If you want to know more about the Inreach Ministry, please speak with Michon Semon at church, complete the brief form at cecevents.org/Inreach, or email us at inreach@christchurchcolumbia.org, and we will get you started. For those interested in assisting as a Reader, Chalcist, or Teller, please call the Church Office at office@christchurchcolumbia.org or speak with Yetti.

SLYC Invites Us to its Camp Imagination Showcase in Linthicum; Consider Joining the Outreach Carpool Departing at 4:15 p.m. on Thursday, July 30

Several weeks ago, we heard from Engagement Coordinator Darlene “Grandma” Clark of St. Luke’s Youth Center (**SLYC**), who described how much its young people enjoy **Camp Imagination**. Once again this summer, the day camp is being held at a cooperating parish in Linthicum, Md. And once again, we are invited to **St. John Lutheran (& Episcopal) Church**, 300 Maple Ave., Linthicum, Md., to see youth perform in the camp showcase from 5:00 to 6:00 p.m. on Thursday, July 30. Outreach is organizing a carpool to depart Christ Church at 4:15 p.m. For information, email outreach@christchurchcolumbia.org.

SLYC is a collaborative of West Baltimore families who together provide youth with life-enriching experiences. Every summer, SLYC youngsters engage in arts and literacy activities during five weeks of day camp followed by one week of sleepaway camp at the Claggett Center. To support the effort, Christ Church donated \$3,600 to cover the cost of two children for all six weeks. These are Vestry-approved funds derived from your pledges and contributions. Thank you!

Clark expressed gratitude during her visit on May 31. Go to [this link](#) for her remarks during announcements at the 10:30 worship service. Her remarks during a Sunday Circle discussion about working with youth can be viewed [here](#).



Christ Episcopal Church

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office@christchurchcolumbia.org

The Rev. Emmanuel Ato Mercer, *Rector*
The Rev. Marcia Davenport, *Associate Rector for Children and Family Ministries*
The Rev. Richard Ginnever, *Rector Emeritus*
Larissa Sanders, *Director of Music Ministry*
Ola Oladipupo, *Assistant Organist*
Yetti Lipede, *Parish Administrator & Ministry Coordinator*
Diya Jackson, *Office & Youth Ministry Coordinator*
Christopher Pouch, *Communications Administrator*
Amanda Kirkpatrick, *Nursery Care Coordinator*
Shereen Benka-Coker, *Nursery Care Assistant*
John Prempeh Sencherey, *Sexton*

Vestry

- Denisa Abdallah (*Senior Warden*) • Greg Schuckman (*Junior Warden*) • Andrew Eaton (*Treasurer*) • Ron Couch (*Registrar*)
- Shreya Chrzanowski (*Youth Liaison*) • Diane Phillips-LaGuerre • Ronald Baran • George Toth • Sara Kirkpatrick
- Ed Chrzanowski • Kathy Simms • Jay Abbott • David James • Katie Adams • Jim Berkson