

CHRIST EPISCOPAL CHURCH

COLUMBIA, MD

THE HOLY EUCHARIST, RITE II

Second Sunday after Christmas

January 2, 2022 | 8:00 a.m. and 10:30 a.m.

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

THE WORD OF GOD

PRELUDE

Nelda Clelland, guest organist

OPENING HYMN 107 – Good Christian friends, rejoice

In dulci jubilo

1 Good Chris - tian friends, re - joice with heart and soul and voice;
2 Good Chris - tian friends, re - joice with heart and soul and voice;
3 Good Chris - tian friends, re - joice with heart and soul and voice;

give ye heed to what we say: Je - sus Christ is born to - day;
now ye hear of end - less bliss; Je - sus Christ was born for this!
now ye need not fear the grave: Je - sus Christ was born to save!

ox and ass be - fore him bow, and he is in the man - ger now.
He hath o - pened hea - ven's door, and we are blest for ev - er - more.
Calls you one and calls you all to gain his ev - er - last - ing hall.

Christ is born to - day!
Christ was born for this!
Christ was born to save!

Christ is born to - day!
Christ was born for this!
Christ was born to save!

OPENING ACCLAMATION

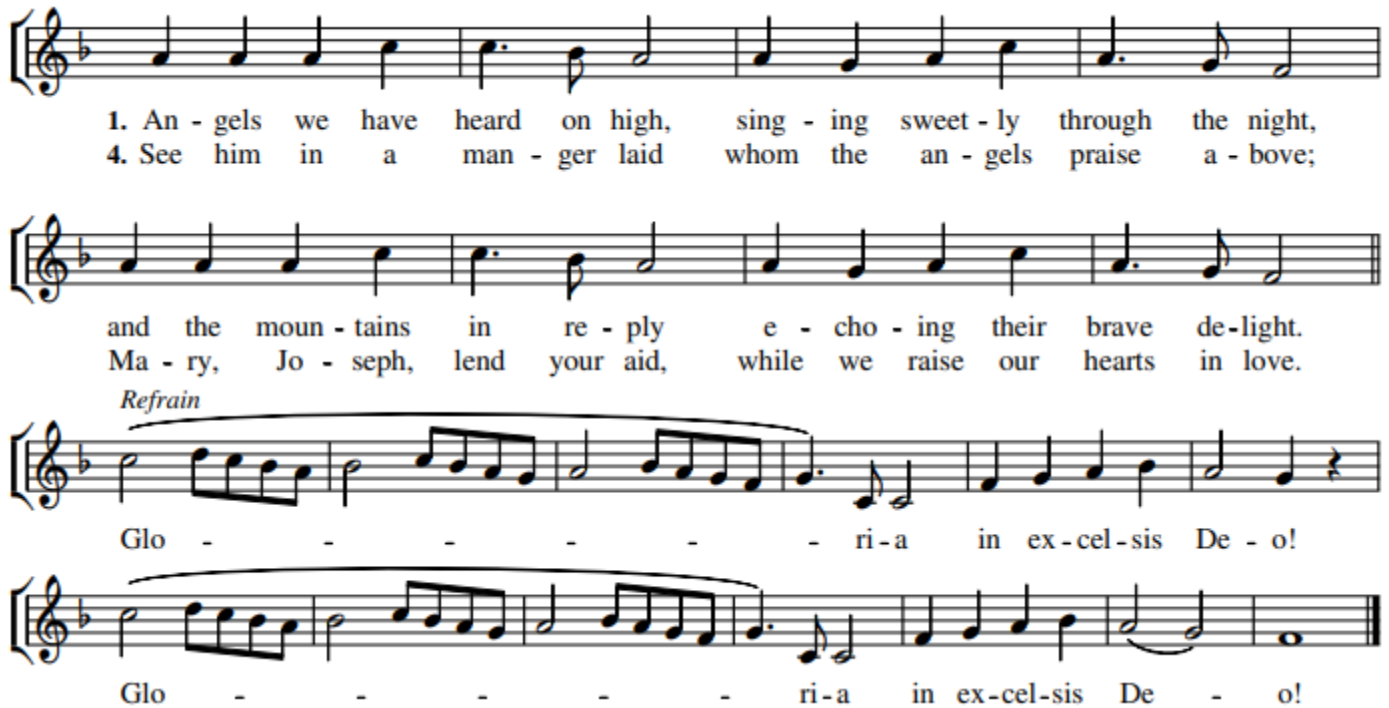
Celebrant: Blessed be God: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.
People: **And blessed be his kingdom, now and forever. Amen.**

THE COLLECT FOR PURITY

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

HYMN OF PRAISE 96 – Angels we have heard on high

Gloria



1. An - gels we have heard on high, sing - ing sweet - ly through the night,
4. See him in a man - ger laid whom the an - gels praise a - bove;

and the moun - tains in re - ply e - cho - ing their brave de - light.
Ma - ry, Jo - seph, lend your aid, while we raise our hearts in love.

Refrain

Glo - - - - - ri - a in ex - cel - sis De - o!

Glo - - - - - ri - a in ex - cel - sis De - o!

THE COLLECT OF THE DAY

Celebrant: The Lord be with you.
People: **And also with you.**
Celebrant: Let us pray.

O God, who wonderfully created, and yet more wonderfully restored, the dignity of human nature: Grant that we may share the divine life of him who humbled himself to share our humanity, your Son Jesus Christ; who lives and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. **Amen.**

The people may be seated.

Thus says the LORD:

Sing aloud with gladness for Jacob,
and raise shouts for the chief of the nations;
proclaim, give praise, and say,
"Save, O LORD, your people,
the remnant of Israel."
See, I am going to bring them from the land of the north,
and gather them from the farthest parts of the earth,
among them the blind and the lame, those with child and
those in labor, together;
a great company, they shall return here.
With weeping they shall come,
and with consolations I will lead them back,
I will let them walk by brooks of water,
in a straight path in which they shall not stumble;
for I have become a father to Israel,
and Ephraim is my firstborn.
Hear the word of the LORD, O nations,
and declare it in the coastlands far away;
say, "He who scattered Israel will gather him,
and will keep him as a shepherd a flock."
For the LORD has ransomed Jacob,
and has redeemed him from hands too strong for him.
They shall come and sing aloud on the height of Zion,
and they shall be radiant over the goodness of the LORD,
over the grain, the wine, and the oil,
and over the young of the flock and the herd;
their life shall become like a watered garden,
and they shall never languish again.
Then shall the young women rejoice in the dance,
and the young men and the old shall be merry.
I will turn their mourning into joy,
I will comfort them, and give them gladness for sorrow.
I will give the priests their fill of fatness,
and my people shall be satisfied with my bounty,

says the LORD.

Reader: The word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

The following Psalm is read responsively by half-verse.

How dear to me is your dwelling, O LORD of hosts! *

**My soul has a desire and longing for the courts of the LORD;
my heart and my flesh rejoice in the living God.**

The sparrow has found her a house
and the swallow a nest where she may lay her young; *
**by the side of your altars, O LORD of hosts,
my King and my God.**

Happy are they who dwell in your house! *
they will always be praising you.

Happy are the people whose strength is in you! *
whose hearts are set on the pilgrims' way.

Those who go through the desolate valley will find it a place of springs, *
for the early rains have covered it with pools of water.

They will climb from height to height, *
and the God of gods will reveal himself in Zion.

LORD God of hosts, hear my prayer; *
hearken, O God of Jacob.

Behold our defender, O God; *
and look upon the face of your Anointed.

THE EPISTLE

Ephesians 1:3-6,15-19a

Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us in Christ with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places, just as he chose us in Christ before the foundation of the world to be holy and blameless before him in love. He destined us for adoption as his children through Jesus Christ, according to the good pleasure of his will, to the praise of his glorious grace that he freely bestowed on us in the Beloved.

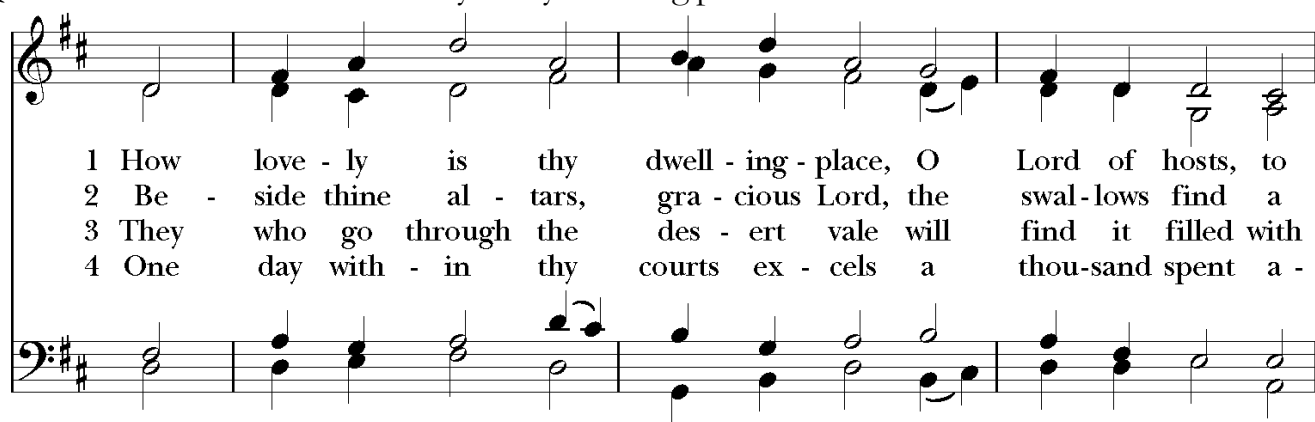
I have heard of your faith in the Lord Jesus and your love toward all the saints, and for this reason I do not cease to give thanks for you as I remember you in my prayers. I pray that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, may give you a spirit of wisdom and revelation as you come to know him, so that, with the eyes of your heart enlightened, you may know what is the hope to which he has called you, what are the riches of his glorious inheritance among the saints, and what is the immeasurable greatness of his power for us who believe.

Reader: The word of the Lord.

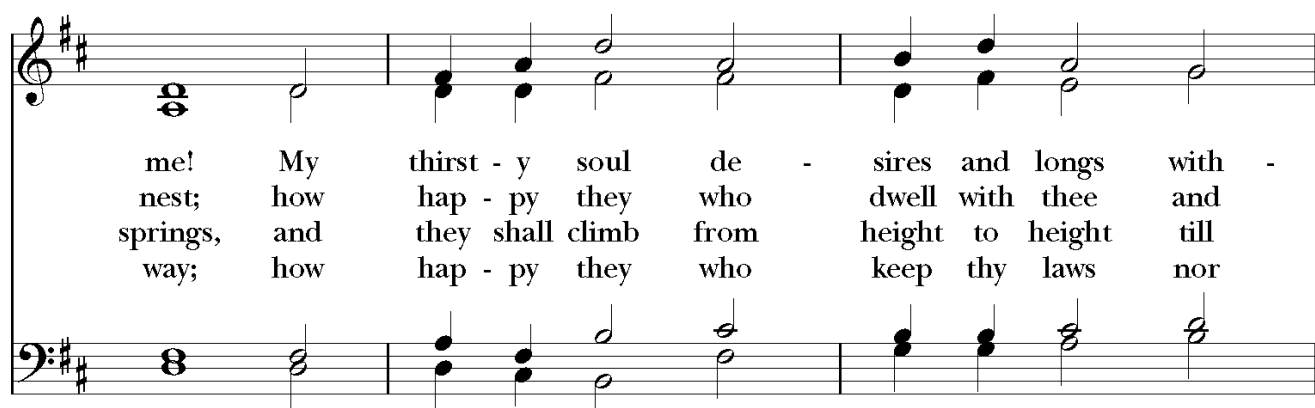
***People:* Thanks be to God.**

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

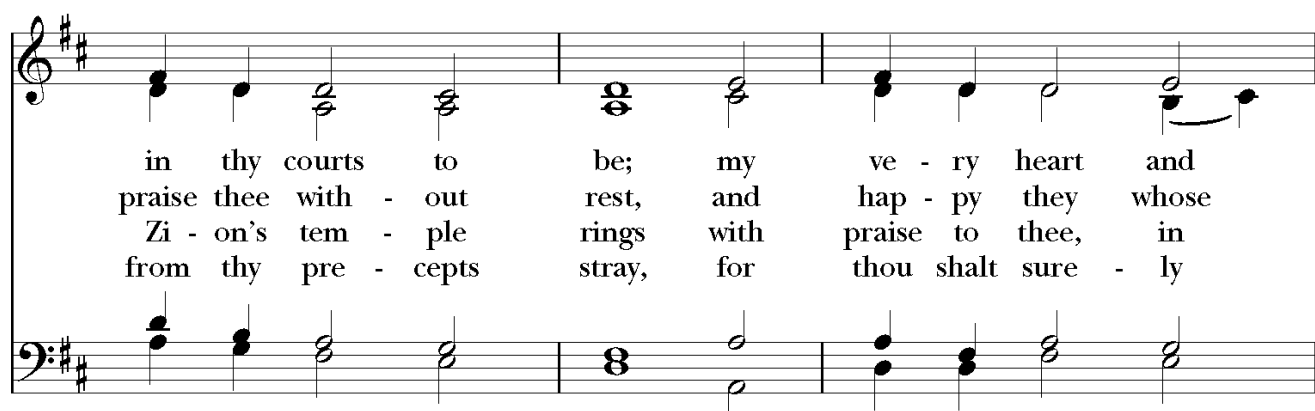
SEQUENCE HYMN 517 – How lovely is thy dwelling place



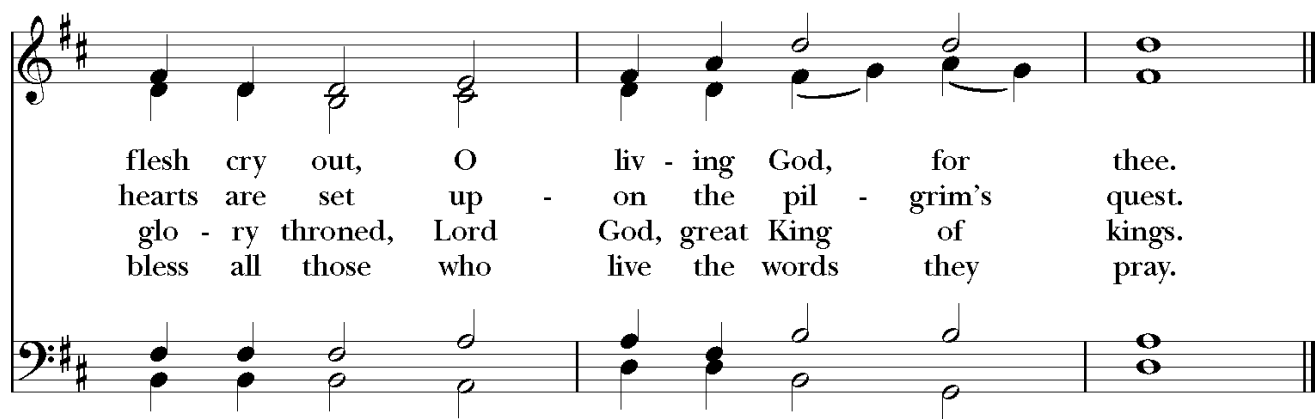
1 How love - ly is thy dwell - ing - place, O Lord of hosts, to
 2 Be - side thine al - tars, gra - cious Lord, the swal - lows find a
 3 They who go through the des - ert vale will find it filled with
 4 One day with - in thy courts ex - cels a thou-sand spent a -



me! My thirst - y soul de - sires and longs with -
 nest; how hap - py they who dwell with thee and
 springs, and they shall climb from height to height till
 way; how hap - py they who keep thy laws nor



in thy courts to be; my ve - ry heart and
 praise thee with - out rest, and hap - py they whose
 Zi - on's tem - ple rings with praise to thee, in
 from thy pre - cepts stray, for thou shalt sure - ly



flesh cry out, O liv - ing God, for thee.
 hearts are set up - on the pil - grim's quest.
 glo - ry throned, Lord God, great King of kings.
 bless all those who live the words they pray.

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

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

The parents of Jesus went to Jerusalem every year for the festival of the Passover. And when he was twelve years old, they went up as usual for the festival. When the festival was ended and they started to return, the boy Jesus stayed behind in Jerusalem, but his parents did not know it. Assuming that he was in the group of travelers, they went a day's journey. Then they started to look for him among their relatives and friends. When they did not find him, they returned to Jerusalem to search for him. After three days they found him in the temple, sitting among the teachers, listening to them and asking them questions. And all who heard him were amazed at his understanding and his answers. When his parents saw him they were astonished; and his mother said to him, "Child, why have you treated us like this? Look, your father and I have been searching for you in great anxiety." He said to them, "Why were you searching for me? Did you not know that I must be in my Father's house?" But they did not understand what he said to them. Then he went down with them and came to Nazareth, and was obedient to them. His mother treasured all these things in her heart.

And Jesus increased in wisdom and in years, and in divine and human favor.

Celebrant: The Gospel of the Lord.

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

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

SERMON

The Rev'd 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

Lord, many of us enter this new year with worries about the pandemic, our health, families, jobs, nation, and world. We ask your help to overcome these issues and inspire us to do our part to make our world new.

Lord, against all odds, Mary gave birth to Your Son. Against all odds, Mary, Joseph, and baby Jesus fled violent and vengeful rulers, becoming refugees, again and again. Christ Church now opens our arms to welcome a refugee family who fled Afghanistan; help us, against all odds, to ensure this family has a chance at a new life. ***Lord God of hosts, hear our prayer.***

Lord, against all odds, You care for the lonely, the poor, the sick, the dying, the discouraged. In our parish, we pray especially for Jim, Erin, Kathy, Cassidy, Chuck, Shahra, Sherry, Bunmi, Frantz, Sam, Chad, Alta, Alfred, Kathleen, Ashley & Jeanette, and those we each hold in our hearts. Against all odds, You opened to us the way to eternal life. Be with those who have died and with those who love them. We pray especially for John Pasco, Mark Kramer and those we hold in our hearts. ***Lord God of hosts, hear our prayer.***

As the people in Your churches throughout the world work to make our world a better place, help us do more, be better, and overcome any obstacles to bring about Your kingdom here on earth. Today we especially pray for the parishioners and leaders of Province de L'Eglise Anglicane du Congo, of All Saints, Sunderland; of Christ Church, Port Republic; and of Middleham and St. Peter's, Lusby. We welcome all visitors and newcomers here, as your presence enriches us. We humbly pray for ourselves, our clergy, and our leaders that in 2022, against all odds, we may rise up to do Your will. ***Lord God of hosts, hear our prayer.***

Lord, we are grateful for the many happy occasions in our lives. This week we celebrate the birthdays of Miles, Angela, Frances & Don and the anniversaries of Emily & Ron Aubin and Preethi & Samuel Jackson. May their new year be joyous. ***Lord God of hosts, hear our prayer.***

Lord, today we heard the story of when you were a boy, of Mary and Joseph frantically looking for you and finally finding you in the temple, Your Father's house. Help us always to find You when we need You, when we feel separated from You when we need Your peace which passes all understanding when we think we cannot do what needs to be done. You give us hope and strength, and with that, even against all odds, we can do anything. ***Alleluia.***

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

MUSIC DURING THE OFFERING — In the bleak mid-winter

Harold Darke

*In the bleak mid-winter Frosty wind made moan, Earth stood hard as iron, Water like a stone;
Snow had fallen, snow on snow, Snow on snow, In the bleak mid-winter Long ago.*

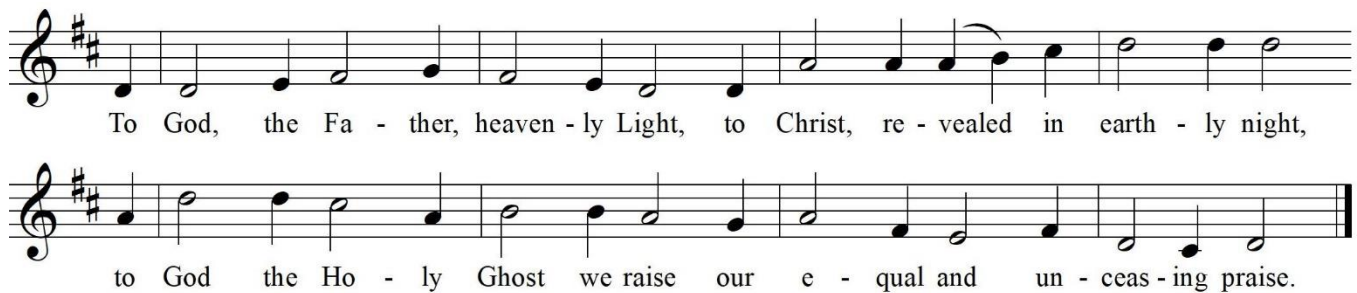
*Our God, Heaven cannot hold Him Nor earth sustain; Heaven and earth shall flee away When He comes to reign:
In the bleak mid-winter A stable-place sufficed The Lord God Almighty, Jesus Christ.*

*Enough for Him, whom cherubim Worship night and day, A breastful of milk And a mangerful of hay;
Enough for Him, whom angels Fall down before, The ox and ass and camel Which adore.*

*What can I give Him, Poor as I am? If I were a shepherd I would bring a lamb,
If I were a wise man I would do my part, Yet what I can I give Him, Give my heart.*

PRESENTATION HYMN 124, V. 5

Puer Nobis



The people stand as able.

EUCCHARISTIC PRAYER C

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: God of all power, Ruler of the Universe, you are worthy of glory and praise.

***People:* Glory to you for ever and ever.**

Celebrant: At your command all things came to be: the vast expanse of interstellar space, galaxies, suns, the planets in their courses, and this fragile earth, our island home.

***People:* By your will they were created and have their being.**

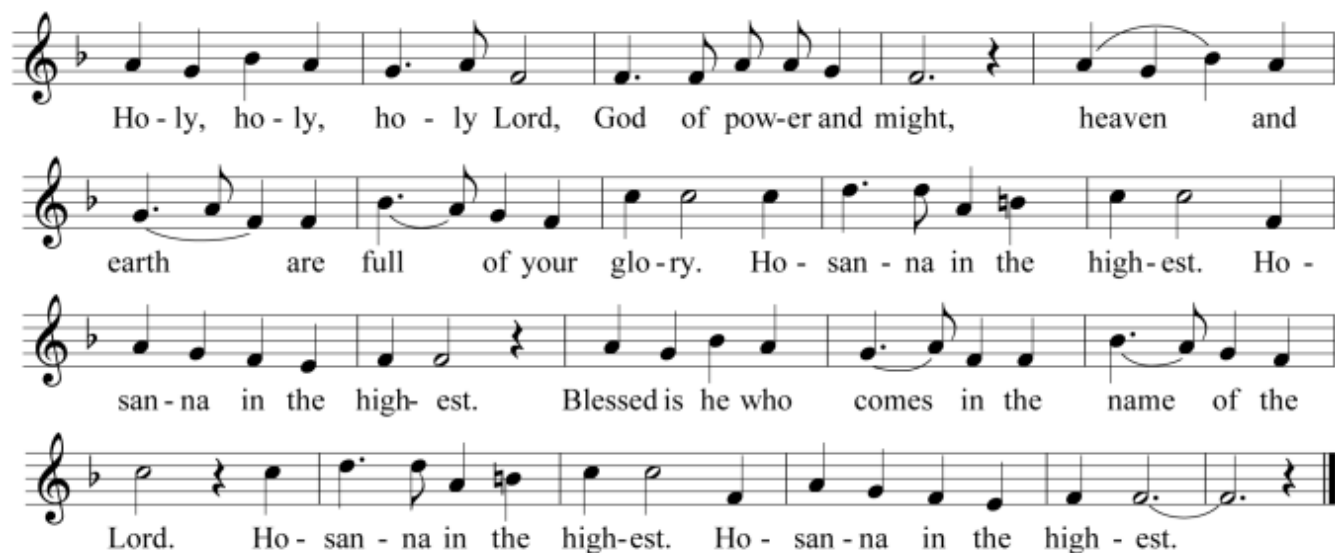
Celebrant: From the primal elements you brought forth the human race, and blessed us with memory, reason, and skill. You made us the rulers of creation. But we turned against you, and betrayed your trust; and we turned against one another.

***People:* Have mercy, Lord, for we are sinners in your sight.**

Celebrant: Again and again, you called us to return. Through prophets and sages you revealed your righteous Law. And in the fullness of time you sent your only Son, born of a woman, to fulfill your Law, to open for us the way of freedom and peace.

People: **By his blood, he reconciled us.
By his wounds, we are healed.**

Celebrant: And therefore we praise you, joining with the heavenly chorus, with prophets, apostles, and martyrs, and with all those in every generation who have looked to you in hope, to proclaim with them your glory, in their unending hymn:



The Celebrant continues

And so, Father, we who have been redeemed by him, and made a new people by water and the Spirit, now bring before you these gifts. Sanctify them by your Holy Spirit to be the Body and Blood of Jesus Christ our Lord.

On the night he was betrayed he took bread, said the blessing, broke the bread, and gave it to his friends, 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, gave thanks, 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."

Remembering now his work of redemption, and offering to you this sacrifice of thanksgiving,

People: ***We celebrate his death and resurrection, as we await the day of his coming.***

Celebrant: Lord God of our Fathers: God of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob; God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ: Open our eyes to see your hand at work in the world about us. Deliver us from the presumption of coming to this Table for solace only, and not for strength; for pardon only, and not for renewal. Let the grace of this Holy Communion make us one body, one spirit in Christ, that we may worthily serve the world in his name.

People: **Risen Lord, be known to us in the breaking of the Bread.**

Celebrant: Accept these prayers and praises, Father, through Jesus Christ our great High Priest, to whom, with you and the Holy Spirit, your Church gives honor, glory, and worship, from generation to generation. **AMEN.**

THE LORD'S PRAYER

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

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

THE BREAKING OF THE BREAD

Celebrant: Alleluia. Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us;

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

FRACTION ANTHEM HYMN 324, V. 2

Picardy


King of kings, yet born of Ma - ry, as of old on earth he stood,
Lord of lords in hu - man ves - ture, in the Bo - dy and the Blood
he will give to all the faith - ful his own self for heaven - ly food.

COMMUNION HYMN 490 – I want to walk as a child of the light

Houston

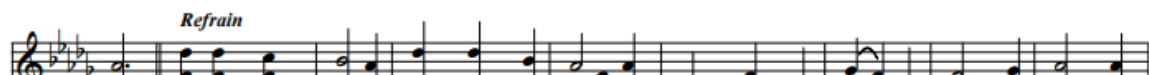


1. I want to walk as a child of the light; I want to fol - low Je - sus.
 2. I want to see the bright-ness of God; I want to look at Je - sus.
 3. I'm look - ing for the com - ing of Christ; I want to be with Je - sus.

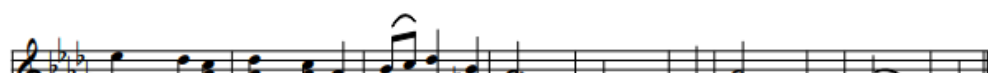


God set the stars to give light to the world; The star of my life is Je-
 Clear Sun of righteous-ness, shine on my path, And show me the way to the Fa-
 When we have run with pa - tience the race, We shall know the joy of Je-

Refrain



- sus.
 - ther. In him there is no dark-ness at all; The night and the day are both a - like. The
 - sus.



Lamb is the light of the ci - ty of God; Shine in my heart, Lord Je - sus.

POST-COMMUNION PRAYER

Celebrant: Let us pray.

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

THE BLESSING

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

CLOSING HYMN 119 – As with gladness, men of old

1 As with glad - ness men of old did the guid - ing star be - hold;
2 As with joy - ful steps they sped to that low - ly man - ger - bed;
3 As they of - fered gifts most rare at that man - ger rude and bare;

1 as with joy they hailed its light, lead - ing on - ward, beam - ing bright;
2 there to bend the knee be - fore him whom heaven and earth a - dore;
3 so may we with ho - ly joy, pure and free from sin's al - loy,

1 so, most gra - cious Lord, may we ev - er - more be led to thee.
2 so may we with will - ing feet ev - er seek the mer - cy - seat.
3 all our cost - liest trea - sures bring, Christ! to thee, our heaven - ly King.

DISMISSAL

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

POSTLUDE

Nelda Clelland, guest organist

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ANNOUNCEMENTS

Send announcements to communications@christchurchcolumbia.org

Services this Weekend | As Maryland experiences a new increase in COVID cases (more on that below), Christ Church requests that all parishioners attending services over Christmas complete our brief attendance registration form before coming to worship. One form is all you need for every service this weekend; just check the box(es) of those services you expect to attend so that we can keep tabs on the number of attendees and maintain a safe environment for all. Thank you.

Youth Formation: Sunday School | Please note that there are no Sunday School sessions this weekend, but we'll resume on January 9th. If you need to reach us, please email ministry@christchurchcolumbia.org

Adult Forum: Sunday Circle | Sunday Circle takes a break for Christmas, so we will re-gather on January 9th with a new theme of Renewal and Reconciliation. That morning will feature Fr. Manny discussing the sacramental Reconciliation rite in our Book of Common Prayer. Later this season, we will explore healing, renewal, and commitment to change. Join us each Sunday from 9:30-10:15 a.m. in Old Brick. Questions? Contact Mother Marcia or Jenn Lavanish.

Adult and Children's Choir - Tuesdays and Thursdays | Our choirs are taking the rest of 2020 off, and resume on January 6th with Adult Choir. Children's Chorus starts back up on January 11th. Everyone is welcome to join the choirs, so maybe 2022 is your year! Please email Len Langrick, our Director of Music, at music@christchurchcolumbia.org to learn more.

Bible Study – Wednesdays | Bible Study gathers in person next Wednesday at 10:30 a.m. and will be a discussion on the readings for that coming Sunday. Next week's gathering focuses on these readings. You do not have to know much about the Bible; just join in and let's all study together.

We STILL Need More Ushers and Lectors! | Your church needs you! We need ushers and lectors for both services, especially during the 8 a.m. service. You will serve at specified scheduled services and select events, will know your schedule well ahead of time, and all ushers and lectors will receive training before scheduling. Please contact Yetti Lipede at ministry@christchurchcolumbia.org for more information.

Garden Tribute for Seiko Shields | As a tribute to Seiko Shields, we are collecting spring and summer bulbs for flowering plants to be planted around the church grounds. This will become a living memorial called *Seiko's Garden*. You are invited to drop bulbs off at the Church Office or in the basket located on a Narthex table.

Diocese of Maryland's COVID Update for New Year's | With the uptick in cases around our area, we are currently back in the Orange Phase, with most of Maryland in the Red Phase. This week's Diocesan update can be read in full here. Please note that masks are still required at all times while indoors at Christ Church, and we'll continue our dialogue with the appropriate organizations and ease restrictions with care and consideration.

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

Refugee Ministry: GREAT News to Share! | As we mentioned last week, Christ Church's Refugee Ministry has been matched with a refugee family of four: a mother, age 46, with three sons, ages 20, 19, and 17. A team of people has been busy preparing their townhome in Ellicott City for a move this week. We're excited to meet and get to know this family and will be sharing more information in the coming weeks.

If you're interested in learning more or want to know how to help, please contact Jan DeBoissiere or Cherrylynn Williams. And if you'd like to donate to help support the Refugee Ministry, simply visit Realm and select "Refugee Ministry" from the *Fund* dropdown menu. Thank you.

Friends of Sabina Shares Progress Toward Meeting Urgent Sanitation Goals | The students and teachers at Sabina Primary School in Uganda have a lot to look forward to in 2022, as plans take shape for a major improvement

in water and sanitation at their campus. Leaders of the nonprofit, Friends of Sabina (FOS), have kept us up to date on their goals, most recently during a virtual fundraising program on Dec. 8.

“We are so grateful to all who have donated and shared Friends of Sabina's message. THANK YOU for helping to improve the water, sanitation, and hygiene at Sabina,” leaders Ann Marie Davis and Maria White wrote in a Dec. 29 email to supporters at Christ Church. Watch [a FOS video on YouTube](#) about 2021 progress and the need for crucial upgrades.

For more than a decade, the Outreach Commission at Christ Church has backed efforts at the school and, as you may recall, hosted FOS leaders during a Zoom coffee hour last August. The commission has routed a parishioner's donation of \$137 for Ugandan students' education to the campaign for Water, Sanitation, and Hygiene (W.A.S.H.) as other parishioners are considering their personal support.

FOS announced this week that it has raised \$48,166 of a goal of \$80,000, thanks to its donors' generosity as many consider personal support for the New Year. FOS hopes to meet its goal before students return to school in January after nationwide shutdowns due to the pandemic. Sabina teachers and staff members have taken education packets to students' homes to keep them engaged in learning during the pandemic.

Through Outreach, Christ Church also supports the Sabina library; it serves as a community center in a rural part of Uganda called the Kyotera District. Using Vestry-approved funds derived from your contributions, Christ Church pays for internet service and for the salary of the librarian, Richard Tumusiime.

Columbia Community Care Takes Off New Year's Day, Moves Indoors for Winter | Please spread the word that the all-volunteer organization, Columbia Community Care (CCC) is taking a holiday break and changing some operations as winter arrives. All sites are closed on New Year's Day: Saturday, Jan. 1.

Starting on Saturday, Jan. 8, distribution will move indoors at the Wilde Lake Interfaith Center, 10431 Twin Rivers Rd. The Oakland Mills Middle School (OMMS) site will relocate to the Barn/Teen Center indoor space in the Oakland Mills Village Center, 5851 Robert Oliver Place in Columbia.

There are no changes for Long Reach, which is already indoors at Long Reach Village Center, Suite 9, 8775 Cloudleap Ct.

Saturday hours are the same as before: 10 a.m. to noon for recipients, and volunteers and donation drop-off beginning at 9 a.m. There will be no Wednesday hours, as the Dec. 29 distribution at OMMS was the last mid-week operation until Spring ([see photos on this week's Outreach blog](#)).

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 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.

FISH Continues its Request for Cookies, Crackers, and Snacks | As the New Year begins, 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.

Lake Elkhorn Middle School Update | We have been in contact with Principal Melissa Shindel and she is so grateful for all that Christ Church has done over the last year (i.e., money for field trips and staff shirts, food for families in need, school supplies) and she welcomes our support in the future.

That support may be a bit different this year as food for families is being handled through the county. Furthermore, because of the inability to go on trips due to the pandemic, there is money left in the field trip budget for this year.

However, Melissa is hoping that we will be able to assist with parent workshops that will be held over the school year in the evenings. The school is partnering with the Council of Elders whose mission is to support the Black community. They are hoping to present workshops on specific topics relevant to families that struggle. Melissa would love it if we could provide Grab and Go dinners (due to COVID restrictions) for those meetings, and projects that there will be about 30 people attending.

We will be in touch with you once we have definite dates for these workshops after the winter break. Melissa may discover that there are other ways that we can help as the school year progresses. There is no doubt that this is a severely under-resourced school and our help is crucial to provide these children with an equitable school experience. Please let us know if you have any questions or suggestions, by emailing us at lemspc@christchurchcolumbia.org. We look forward to working with you over this school year. ~Mary Vail and Cathy Whittaker, Co-chairs of the Lake Elkhorn Middle School Committee

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.

THE BLESSING OF CHRISTMAS

The blessing of Christmas is the joy of giving and receiving gifts from loved ones and friends. Saint John reminds us of God's love for us with these words: ***For God so loved the world that he GAVE his only begotten Son, Jesus Christ, so that all who believe in Him may have eternal life.*** The operating word, according to John, is ***gave***.

And this represents the fullest manifestation of God's love for you and me. Love compels us to give - in just the same way that God gave us his Son, Jesus Christ.

On my part, I cannot thank you enough for all the many ways in which you live out the operating word - ***gave***, every single day of your life and, especially, within the life of our Christ Church family.

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.

This is the highlight for me - in spite of the individual and communal challenges that we have faced over the past several months, you continue to give, you feel compelled by love to give. 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, I thank God for each one of you and I thank God for what God is doing in your lives.

I 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, I want to highly encourage all who have not fully completed their pledge for 2021 to remember their faithfulness. I also want to appeal to all who have not as yet returned their pledge for 2022 to remember their faithfulness. Lastly, to all of you who have given so much and yet still sense God's call to give some more, may you please remember your faithfulness.

With God's blessings of peace and joy, I wish you and yours a very Merry Christmas.

Fr. Manny

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*

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