



CHRIST EPISCOPAL CHURCH

BLUEFIELD, WEST VIRGINIA

200 Duhring Street, Bluefield, WV 24701

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January 2, 2022

This bulletin contains our liturgy today.

Given the circumstances during this pandemic era our worship is somewhat different. We respectfully ask that you wear and keep a face mask on during this service. UV Light Air Sanitizers are present to help ensure a pathogen free worship space. We hope that you will feel safe in this place and leave edified by our celebration today.

The Vestry of Christ Church encourages everyone, out of love and respect to all, to get vaccinated against COVID-19. Our Parish Nurse can answer any questions you may have about the vaccine. Our ushers can direct you to a Vestry Member or the Parish Nurse for more information.

If you are new or visiting this congregation for the first time, we invite you to fill out a Visitor's Card and place it in the collection plate located in the back of the church. We are honored you have chosen to worship with us today and hope that you will continue your faith journey here.

## Prelude

### Our Service Begins

*Please stand for the procession*

### The Opening Sentences

*Celebrant* Blessed be 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.*

### The Hymn of Praise

*The Gloria is then sung, all standing*

1. Glo - ry to God in the high - est, and  
peace to his peo - ple on earth. 2. Lord God, heaven - ly  
King, al - mighty 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  
 High, Je-sus Christ, with the Ho-ly Spi-rit, in the  
 glo-ry of God the Fa-ther. A-men.

## **The Collect of the Day**

*Our collective prayer for 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.*

## **We Hear and Respond to God's Word**

### **The First Lesson**

*Jeremiah 31:7-14*

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.

*Lector*        The Word of the Lord.

*People*        Thanks be to God!

### The Psalm

Psalm 84:1-8

*Quam dilecta!*

*We will read the Psalm responsively by whole verse.*

1. 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.
2. 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.

3. Happy are they who dwell in your house!  
they will always be praising you.
4. Happy are the people whose strength is in you!  
whose hearts are set on the pilgrims' way.
5. 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.
6. They will climb from height to height,  
and the God of gods will reveal himself in Zion.
7. Lord God of hosts, hear my prayer;  
hearken, O God of Jacob.
8. Behold our defender, O God;  
and look upon the face of your Anointed.

*Said by all*

Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit:  
as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be for ever. Amen.

## The Second Lesson

*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.

*Lector*           The Word of the Lord.

*People*           Thanks be to God!

## The Gospel Lesson

*Matthew 2:13-15, 19-23*

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

*People* Glory to you, Lord Christ.

After the wise men had left, an angel of the Lord appeared to Joseph in a dream and said, "Get up, take the child and his mother, and flee to Egypt, and remain there until I tell you; for Herod is about to search for the child, to destroy him." Then Joseph got up, took the child and his mother by night, and went to Egypt, and remained there until the death of Herod. This was to fulfill what had been spoken by the Lord through the prophet, "Out of Egypt I have called my son."

When Herod died, an angel of the Lord suddenly appeared in a dream to Joseph in Egypt and said, "Get up, take the child and his mother, and go to the land of Israel, for those who were seeking the child's life are dead." Then Joseph got up, took the child and his mother, and went to the land of Israel. But when he heard that Archelaus was ruling over Judea in place of his father Herod, he was afraid to go there. And after being warned in a dream, he went away to the district of Galilee. There he made his home in a town called Nazareth, so that what had been spoken through the prophets might be fulfilled, "He will be called a Nazorean."

*Celebrant* The Gospel of the Lord.

*People* Praise to you, Lord Christ.



## The Sermon

the Rev. Cn. Chad Slater

## The Nicene Creed

*All stand as they are able*

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.

*\*meaning the church universal, that all Christians are one people regardless of denomination*

## **The Prayers of the People**

*The intercessor greets the congregation with the following words and leads us in prayer.*

With joy and gratitude for the gift of Jesus, let us draw near to our heavenly Father in prayer, asking his mercy for the Church, the world, and all who need his loving-kindness.

Gracious God, as a star rose, and drew people from great distances to Bethlehem that they might greet the Christ-child; Draw us, your Church, and all of your people to you – Justin, the Archbishop of Canterbury, Michael, our Presiding Bishop, Mike, our Bishop, Matthew, our Bishop-elect, and our Rector Search Committee –that we might be the Church and the People who you call us to be.

Lord, in your mercy, *Hear our prayer.*

As you gave Mary your Holy Spirit, filling her with the delight of your Presence; we pray for George Clement, James Dyer, Patty Wilkinson, and Buck Sowers. Fill us with your Spirit, and renew our lives.

Lord, in your mercy, *Hear our prayer.*

As Gentiles streamed to Jesus' Light, and Kings to the brightness of his rising; draw Joe, our President, Jim and Ralph, our Governors, and Ron and Donnie, our Mayors, and all in authority, to His brightness.

Lord, in your mercy, *Hear our prayer.*

As angels sang 'glorias' to you and proclaimed peace on earth, and goodwill among all peoples; Bring us your peace and bring an end to and terror and strife.

Lord, in your mercy, *Hear our prayer.*

As shepherds were drawn away from their flocks by night; draw those who do not know you yet to the knowledge and love of you.

Lord, in your mercy, *Hear our prayer.*

As Jesus was born in a manger, because there was no room for them in the inn; Be especially present with those who have nowhere to lay their head, those who are vulnerable, and those who are hungry. Be present with those who suffer, are sick, or in any kind of trouble, particularly those on our Prayer List, and all those we now name before you either silently or aloud...

Lord, in your mercy, *Hear our prayer.*

As the Holy Family fled as refugees from Herod's wrath to far off lands; Bless all families, especially the families of our parish, protect those who travel, and be with those who are forced to flee their own lands for the sake of safety.

Lord, in your mercy, *Hear our prayer.*

As your son came to proclaim the forgiveness of sins, and the gift of Life Eternal; Give to the departed eternal rest and let Light perpetual shine on them. We remember before you this day, Dr. John Mahood.

Lord, in your mercy, *Hear our prayer.*

O Lord our God, may the Light and Hope of this season, and of your Son's Incarnation, reassure our hearts that you are among us, that you hear our prayer, and that you will be with us always, even to the end of the age. In the name of Jesus, the Christ, we pray. *Amen.*

### **The Confession and Absolution**

*The Deacon or Celebrant says*

Let us confess our sins against God and our neighbor.

*Silence may be kept. Minister and People*

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 Bishop, when present, or the Priest, stands and says*

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. Amen.

## The Peace

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

*People* And also with you.

*At this time we will greet those around us in the name of the Lord. Please refrain from physical touch during this time so as to ensure proper social distancing for all members of the congregation. Thank you.*



## The Holy Eucharist, sometimes call *The Mass*

### Offertory

*After the Offertory piece has been played the People stand and sing to the familiar tune of the "Old 100<sup>th</sup>"*

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.

### Eucharistic Prayer "B"

*The people remain standing. The Celebrant, whether bishop or priest, faces them and sings or says*

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.

*Then, facing the Holy Table, the Celebrant proceeds*

It is right, and a good and joyful thing, always and every-where to give thanks to you, Father Almighty, Creator of heaven and earth. Because you gave Jesus Christ, your only Son, to be born for us; who, by the mighty power of the Holy Spirit, was made perfect Man of the flesh of the Virgin Mary his mother; so that we might be delivered from the bondage of sin, and receive power to become your children.

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:

*Celebrant and People*

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow - er and  
might, hea - ven and earth are full of your glo - ry. Ho -  
san - na in the high - est. Bless - ed is he who  
comes in the name of the Lord. Ho - san - na in the high - est.

*The people stand or kneel. Then the Celebrant continues*

We give thanks to you, O God, for the goodness and love which you have made known to us in creation; in the calling of Israel to be your people; in your Word spoken through the prophets; and above all in the Word made flesh, Jesus, your Son. For in these last days, you sent him to be incarnate from the Virgin Mary, to be the Savior and Redeemer of the world. In him, you have delivered us from evil, and made us worthy to stand before you. In him, you have brought us out of error into truth, out of sin into righteousness, out of death into life.

On the night before he died for us, 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, according to his command, O Father,

*Celebrant and People*

We remember his death,  
We proclaim his resurrection,  
We await his coming in glory;

*The Celebrant continues*

And we offer our sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving to you, O Lord of all; presenting to you, from your creation, this bread and this wine. We pray you, gracious God, to send your Holy Spirit upon these gifts that they may be the Sacrament of the Body of Christ and his Blood of the new Covenant. Unite us to your Son in his sacrifice, that we may be acceptable through him, being sanctified by the Holy Spirit. In the fullness of time, put all things in subjection under your Christ, and bring us to that heavenly country where, with St. Mary, St. Margret, and all your saints, we may enter the everlasting heritage of your sons and daughters; through Jesus Christ our Lord, the firstborn of all creation, the head of the Church, and the author of our salvation.

By him, and with him, and in him, in the unity of the Holy Spirit all honor and glory is yours, Almighty Father, now and for ever.

*The Celebrant and People together sing*



A - men.



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

*People and Celebrant*

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 Fraction

*The Celebrant then breaks the Consecrated Bread and says*

Alleluia! Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us;

*People* Therefore let us keep the feast. Alleluia.

*The Celebrant then presents the Sacrament to the People*

These are the Gifts of God, for the People of God.

Take them in remembrance that Christ died for you, and feed on him in your hearts by faith, with thanksgiving.

### The Prayer for Spiritual Communion

*Should you prefer not to receive the physical elements of the Holy Communion you are invited to read the following in silent prayer as the physical sacrament is being distributed.*

In union, O Lord, with your faithful people at every altar of your Church, where the Holy Eucharist is now being celebrated, I desire to offer to you praise and thanksgiving. I remember your death, Lord Christ; I proclaim your resurrection; I await your coming in glory. And since I cannot receive you today in the Sacrament of your Body and Blood, I beseech you to come spiritually into my heart. Cleanse and strengthen me with your grace, Lord Jesus, and let me never be separated from you. May I live in you, and you in me, in this life and in the life to come. Amen.

### The Distribution of the Holy Sacrament

All baptized Christians, of any tradition, are welcome to receive the sacrament. Everyone, regardless of faith, is welcome to receive a blessing— simply cross your arms in front of you approach the priest. Each row, beginning in the front, should come up to the chancel step to receive the Blessed Bread. The Chalice cannot be offered at this time by direction of the Bishop of West Virginia. Once the priest has dropped the Blessed Bread in your hand you should return by the side aisle to your pew. Once a row has been Communed, the next is free to come to the chancel steps.

Gluten free wafers are available to those who request them.

## Our Prayer after Communion

*After Communion, the Celebrant says*

Let us pray.

*Celebrant and People*

Almighty and everliving God,  
we thank you for feeding us with the spiritual food  
of the most precious Body and Blood  
of your Son our Savior Jesus Christ;  
and for assuring us in these holy mysteries  
that we are living members of the Body of your Son,  
and heirs of your eternal kingdom.  
And now, Father, send us out  
to do the work you have given us to do,  
to love and serve you  
as faithful witnesses of Christ our Lord.  
To him, to you, and to the Holy Spirit,  
be honor and glory, now and for ever. Amen.

## The Blessing

*The Celebrant then pronounces the following blessing over the people*

May Christ, who by his Incarnation gathered into one thing, earthly and heavenly, fill you with his joy and peace; and the blessing of God Almighty, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, be among you, and remain with you always.

*People*          Amen!

## The Dismissal

We are dismissed from this gathering to go into the world to spread the Good News and the love of Christ! We respond to this instruction with:

*Thanks be to God!*

## Postlude

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The Altar Flowers are given today for the greater Glory of God  
by Norma Mahood-Bay and family in loving memory of Dr. John Mahood.

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## **Participants in Today's Liturgy**

|                                   |                                    |
|-----------------------------------|------------------------------------|
| <u>Celebrant</u>                  | the Rev. Canon Chad Slater         |
| <u>Organist &amp; Choirmaster</u> | Terry E. Whittington, Jr.          |
| <u>Acolyte</u>                    | Rob Merritt                        |
| <u>Lector</u>                     | Linda Ammar                        |
| <u>Altar Guild</u>                | Patty Richardson and Becky Beckett |

**Birthdays This Week:** George Clement, James Dyer, Patty Wilkinson, and Buck Sowers

**Please Keep the Following in Your Prayers:** Dorene Dimes, Bonnie Taylor, Joe Sanders, Bea Paine, Bob and Peggy Walk, John Kersey, Martha Linkous, Jay Kephart, Buck and Louisa Sowers, Donna Fortune, Ed and Gladys Fortune, Sarah Irwin, Janet Slager, Dean Farmer, Haddon Lazenby, Jack Burchette, Nick, JL, Randy Snider, Margarete Joplin, David, Martin, Harry, Ben Rose, Jack, Sheri, Dan, Kensley, John, Betty, Matt, Eric, Carol, Dave, Gail, Jean, Lane, Loraine, Sherry, all Healthcare Personnel and Frontline Workers, Ivy and the Gaines Family, John, the Rev. Brian Shoda, the Patterson Family, Velma Harmon, Taylor Frazier, III, and Brian.

## **Calendar of Events**

Saturday – January 15

Farewell Reception for the Slater Family  
at David's Downtown 3-5pm

Sunday – January 16

Fr. Chad's Farewell Service 10:00 am

## **Announcements:**

**Worship Assistant Scheduling:** If you are interested in serving as an acolyte or other worship assistant, please let Fr. Chad know. He is working on a schedule for services after his departure and help is needed. Thank you!

**Farewell and God Bless Reception Invitation:** You're invited to a goodbye reception for the Slater family.

When: Saturday, January 15, 2022

Time: 3-5 p.m.

Where: David's Downtown

Come by and wish the Slaters farewell and the Lord's Blessings on their new journey. Please RSVP by January 7th to Linda Ammar: lwammar1@gmail.com or call: 304-545-9750.

## **A message from the Vestry**

We are very sorry to see Father Chad, Jennifer, Ben and Emma leave for Charleston. While we say goodbye over the next few weeks, we need to work to fill the void they will leave behind. We are in discussions with a prospective supply priest for the beginning of the year. We will need parish members to fill the acolyte and videographer roles that will be left open when the Slaters leave. We will need to assemble a search committee to seek a new permanent rector. We have three Vestry terms which expire in January and will need to be filled at the annual meeting.

All of us will need to remain active in the church and intentional with our church life. It is very important for you to complete and return your annual pledge card. As we vet prospective rectors, they will be vetting us and it is important that we fully fund the “Rector Expenses” line items in our annual budget to demonstrate our wherewithal to pay a full time priest. If you need a pledge card, one may be obtained from the church office.

Please send an email to Emma Bennett in the Parish Office to let her know which of the roles noted above that you can take on. If we all pitch in and work together, we will find that the future for our church will be bright.

## **Clergy, Staff, and Wardens of this Parish**

Mr. Terry E. Whittington, Jr.

Ms. Emma Bennett

Mrs. Vanessa Hall

Mr. David Kersey

Mr. Peter Richardson

Organist & Choirmaster

Parish Administrator

Sexton

Senior Warden

Junior Warden