



CHRIST EPISCOPAL CHURCH

BLUEFIELD, WEST VIRGINIA

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A Service of Evening Worship
for the Feast of the Confession of St. Peter
& the Ending of a Pastoral Relationship

January 18, 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.

Opening Sentences

All stand, and the Officiant greets the people with these words.

Light and peace, in Jesus Christ our Lord.

People Thanks be to God.

The Officiant then reads a short lesson from Scripture

Jesus said, "You are the light of the world. A city built on a hill cannot be hid. No one lights a lamp to put it under a bucket, but on a lamp-stand where it gives light for everyone in the house. And you, like the lamp, must shed light among your fellow men, so that they may see the deed you do, and give glory to your Father in heaven."

Matthew 5:14-16

Officiant There is one Body and one Spirit;

People There is one hope in God's call to us;

Officiant One Lord, one Faith, one Baptism;

People One God and Father of all.

Officiant Let us pray.

Grant us, Lord, the lamp of charity which never fails, that it may burn in us and shed its light on those around us, and that by its brightness we may have a vision of that holy City, where dwells the true and never-failing Light, Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

The Collect of the Day

Officiant The Lord be with you.

People And also with you.

Officiant Let us pray.

Almighty Father, who inspired Simon Peter, first among the apostles, to confess Jesus as Messiah and Son of the living God: Keep your Church steadfast upon the rock of this faith, so that in unity and peace we may proclaim the one truth and follow the one Lord, our Savior Jesus Christ; who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. *Amen.*

Our collective prayer for the day



Hymn of Praise

O Gracious Light

Phos hilaron

Said together

O gracious light,
pure brightness of the everliving Father in heaven,
O Jesus Christ, holy and blessed!
Now as we come to the setting of the sun,
and our eyes behold the vesper light,
we sing your praises, O God: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.
You are worthy at all times to be praised by happy voices,
O Son of God, O Giver of Life,
and to be glorified through all the worlds.

The Lessons

A Reading from the First Peter

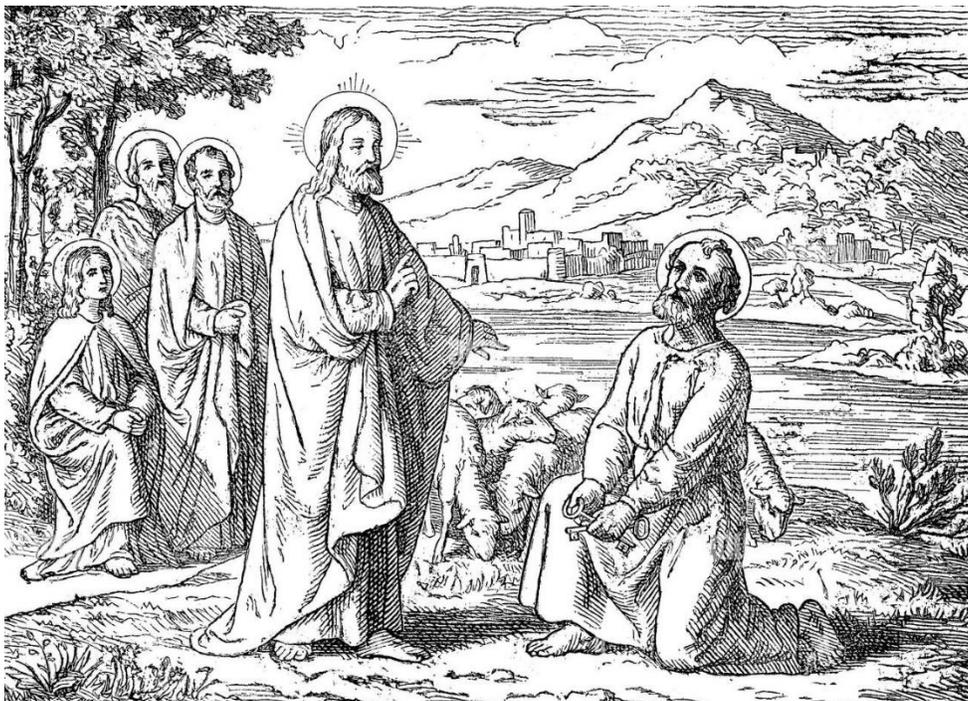
1 Peter 5:1-4

As an elder myself and a witness of the sufferings of Christ, as well as one who shares in the glory to be revealed, I exhort the elders among you to tend the flock of God that is in your charge, exercising the oversight, not under compulsion but willingly, as God would have you do it-- not for sordid gain but eagerly. Do not lord it over those in your charge, but be examples to the flock. And when the chief shepherd appears, you will win the crown of glory that never fades away.

The word of the Lord.

People

Thanks be to God.



The Gospel Lesson

Matthew 16:13-19

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

People Glory to you, Lord Christ.

When Jesus came into the district of Caesarea Philippi, he asked his disciples, "Who do people say that the Son of Man is?" And they said, "Some say John the Baptist, but others Elijah, and still others Jeremiah or one of the prophets." He said to them, "But who do you say that I am?" Simon Peter answered, "You are the Messiah, the Son of the living God." And Jesus answered him, "Blessed are you, Simon son of Jonah! For flesh and blood has not revealed this to you, but my Father in heaven. And I tell you, you are Peter, and on this rock I will build my church, and the gates of Hades will not prevail against it. I will give you the keys of the kingdom of heaven, and whatever you bind on earth will be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth will be loosed in heaven."

Officiant The Gospel of the Lord.

People Praise to you, Lord Christ.

A Time of Reflection

At this time members of the Congregation and representatives from parish organizations are invited to briefly reflect on the ministry of Fr. Chad and his family.

The Ending of a Pastoral Relationship

A reading from the Book of Ecclesiastes

Ecclesiastes 3:1-7;7:8, 10, 13-14

For everything there is a season, and a time for every matter under heaven:

- a time to be born, and a time to die;
- a time to plant, and a time to pluck up what is planted;
- a time to kill, and a time to heal;
- a time to break down, and a time to build up;
- a time to weep, and a time to laugh;
- a time to mourn, and a time to dance;
- a time to throw away stones, and a time to gather stones together;
- a time to embrace, and a time to refrain from embracing;
- a time to seek, and a time to lose;
- a time to keep, and a time to throw away;
- a time to tear, and a time to sew;
- a time to keep silence, and a time to speak;

Better is the end of a thing than its beginning;

the patient in spirit are better than the proud in spirit.

Do not say, ‘Why were the former days better than these?’

For it is not from wisdom that you ask this.

Consider the work of God;

who can make straight what he has made crooked?

On the day of prosperity be joyful, and on the day of adversity consider; God has made the one as well as the other, so that mortals may not find out anything that will come after them.

Lector The Word of the Lord.

People Thanks be to God!

The Declaration of the End of Tenure

The departing Minister then addresses the congregation

On the 1st day of July, 2013, I was appointed Priest-in-Charge of Christ Episcopal Church, Bluefield, and on the 28th day of June, 2014, I was inducted by Bishop Mike Klusmeyer as rector of this parish. I have, with God’s help and to the best of my abilities, exercised this trust, accepting its privileges and responsibilities.

It has been a privilege to serve this parish and community and it has been my joy and honor to labor with you in the building up of God’s Kingdom.

After prayer and careful consideration, guided by the Holy Spirit, I now leave this charge, and I publicly state that my tenure as rector of Christ Church, Bluefield, as your priest, and as your pastor, has ended.

The Senior Warden then says in these or similar words

Do we, the people of Christ Church, recognize and accept the conclusion of this pastoral relationship?

People: We do.

The Minister then returns to the Vestry the signs and vestiges of his office. These signs include the keys to the church, the Parish Register, the Parish Service Book, and the silver Rector’s Cross.

A reading from Paul's First Letter to the Church at Corinth *I Corinthians 3:4-11*

For when one says, 'I belong to Paul', and another, 'I belong to Apollos', are you not merely human?

What then is Apollos? What is Paul? Servants through whom you came to believe, as the Lord assigned to each. I planted, Apollos watered, but God gave the growth. So neither the one who plants nor the one who waters is anything, but only God who gives the growth. The one who plants and the one who waters have a common purpose, and each will receive wages according to the labor of each. For we are God's servants, working together; you are God's field, God's building.

According to the grace of God given to me, like a skilled master builder I laid a foundation, and someone else is building on it. Each builder must choose with care how to build on it. For no one can lay any foundation other than the one that has been laid; that foundation is Jesus Christ.

Lector The Word of the Lord.

People Thanks be to God!

The Prayer for Thanksgiving of Ministry

The departing minister and the congregation then say together the following prayer

O God, you have bound us together for a time as priest and people to work for the advancement of your kingdom in this place: We give you humble and hearty thanks for the ministry which we have shared in these years now past. We thank you for your patience with us despite our blindness and slowness of heart. We thank you for your forgiveness and mercy in the face of our many failures.

Especially we thank you for your never-failing presence with us through these years, and for the deeper knowledge of you and of each other which we have attained.

We thank you for those who have been joined to this part of Christ's family through baptism. We thank you for opening our hearts and minds again and again to your Word, and for feeding us abundantly with the Sacrament of the Body and Blood of your Son.

Now, we pray, be with those who leave and with us who stay; and grant that all of us, by drawing ever nearer to you, may always be close to each other in the communion of your saints. All this we ask for the sake of Jesus Christ, your Son, our Lord. Amen.

The Apostles' Creed

Officiant and People together, all standing

I believe in God, the Father almighty,
creator of heaven and earth.

I believe in Jesus Christ, his only son, our Lord.

He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit
and born of the Virgin Mary.

He suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, died, and was buried.

He descended to the dead.

On the third day he rose again.

He ascended into heaven,
and is seated at the right hand of the Father.

He will come again to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the holy catholic Church,
the communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body,
and the life everlasting. Amen.

The Prayers

The People may kneel or be seated for the Prayers that follow

The Lord's Prayer

Said together

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 Evening Suffrages

That this evening may be holy, good, and peaceful,

We entreat you, O Lord.

That your holy angels may lead us in paths of peace and goodwill,

We entreat you, O Lord.

That we may be pardoned and forgiven for our sins and offenses,

We entreat you, O Lord.

That there may be peace to your Church and to the whole world,

We entreat you, O Lord.

That we may depart this life in your faith and fear, and not be condemned before the great judgment seat of Christ,

We entreat you, O Lord.

That we may be bound together by your Holy Spirit in the communion of St. Mary, St. Margaret, St. Peter, and all your saints, entrusting one another and all our life to Christ,

We entreat you, O Lord.

The Collects

The Collects are then read

Everliving God, whose will it is that all should come to you through your Son Jesus Christ: Inspire our witness to him, that all may know the power of his forgiveness and the hope of his resurrection; who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. *Amen.*

Almighty and everlasting God, from whom cometh every good and perfect gift: Send down upon our bishops, and other clergy, and upon the congregations committed to their charge, the healthful Spirit of thy grace: and, that they may truly please thee, pour upon them the continual dew of thy blessing. Grant this, O Lord, for the honor of our Advocate and Mediator, Jesus Christ. *Amen.*

Almighty and everliving God, ruler of all things in heaven and earth, hear our prayers for this parish family. Strengthen the faithful, arouse the careless, and restore the penitent. Grant us all things necessary for our common life, and bring us all to be of one heart and mind within your holy Church; through Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

Most holy God, the source of all good desires, all right judgements, and all just works: Give to us, your servants, that peace which the world cannot give, so that our minds may be fixed on the doing of your will, and that we, being delivered from the fear of all enemies, may live in peace and quietness; through the mercies of Christ Jesus our Savior. *Amen.*

O God, you manifest in your servants the signs of your presence: Send forth upon us the spirit of love, that in companionship with one another your abounding grace may increase among us; through Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

The Concluding Lesson

A reading from Paul's Letter to the Church at Philippi.

I thank my God every time I remember you, constantly praying with joy in every one of my prayers for all of you, because of your sharing in the gospel from the first day until now. I am confident of this, that the one who began a good work among you will bring it to completion by the day of Jesus Christ. It is right for me to think this way about all of you, because you hold me in your heart, for all of you share in God's grace with me, both in my imprisonment and in the defense and confirmation of the gospel. For God is my witness, how I long for all of you with the compassion of Christ Jesus. And this is my prayer, that your love may overflow more and more with knowledge and full insight to help you to determine what is best, so that in the day of Christ you may be pure and blameless, having produced the harvest of righteousness that comes through Jesus Christ for the glory and praise of God.

The word of the Lord.

People Thanks be to God.

The Blessing

The Officiant then pronounces a blessing over the people one final time

People Amen!

The Dismissal

Officiant

Glory to God whose power, working in us, can do infinitely more than we can ask or imagine: Glory to him from generation to generation in the Church, and in Christ Jesus for ever and ever. Amen. *Ephesians 3:20,21*

Officiant Let us go forth to love and serve the Lord!

People Thanks be to God!

Participants in the Liturgy

<u>Officiant</u>	the Rev. Cn. Chad Slater
<u>Organist</u>	Terry E. Whittington, Jr.
<u>Musicians</u>	Tim and Maggie Mainland
<u>Lectors</u>	from the Congregation
<u>Altar Guild</u>	Patty Richardson Becky Beckett



The Altar Flowers are given today for the greater Glory of God
by Tom Coughlan in memory of loved ones.

The Chancel Rail Flowers are given today for the greater Glory of God in
honor of the Slater family by the Altar Guild.



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.



From the Slater Family

Words cannot express the deep love and admiration our family has for the people of Christ Church. You have walked with us in times of joy and sadness and we have been honored to do the same with you. We feel blessed that Benjamin and Emma will always remember that Bluefield was their hometown and that Christ Church was where they learned to pray. While we are sad to leave, we do so in knowing that we are following the Holy Spirit. Pray for us as we move into this new ministry. We will never cease praying for you. We cannot wait to see what God has in store next for this wonderful and holy place!



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

