



CHRIST EPISCOPAL CHURCH

BLUEFIELD, WEST VIRGINIA

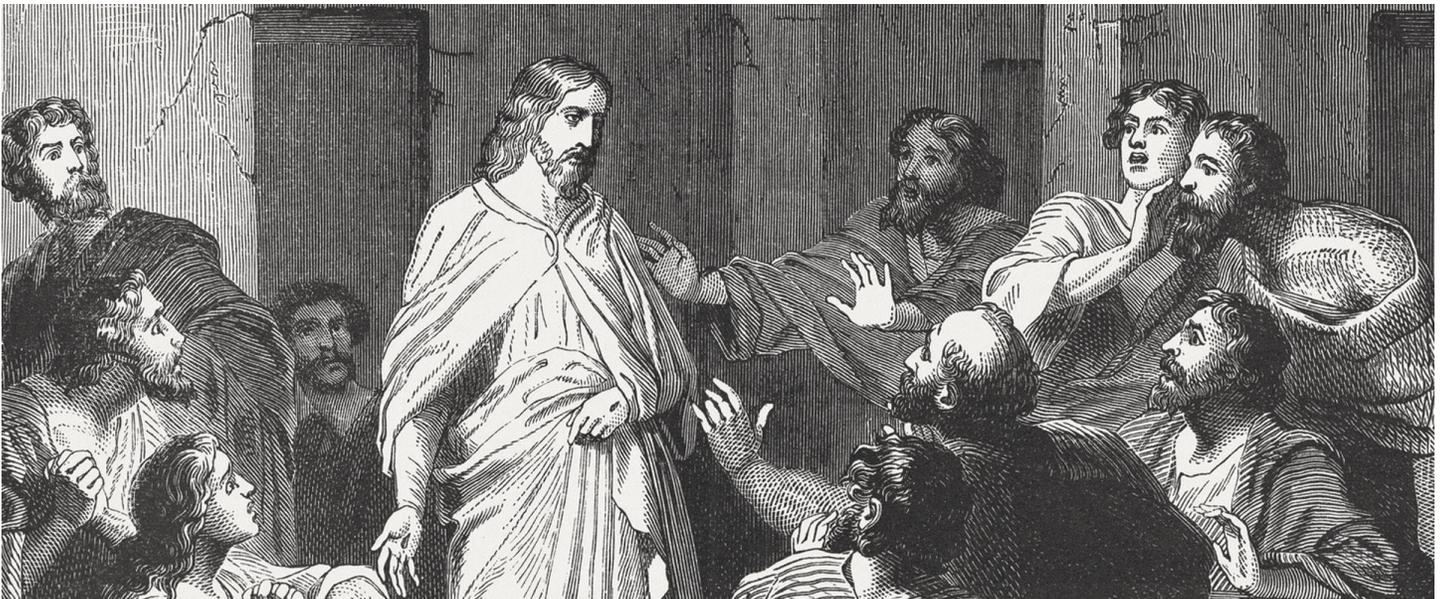
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## The Third Sunday of Easter



### Welcome to this Place of Prayer

This bulletin contains our liturgy today. If you are new or visiting this congregation for the first time, we invite you to fill out a Visitor's Card (from the usher) 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.

As a sign of love and respect during this pandemic era our worship is somewhat different. We are observing social distancing, mask wearing, and enhanced cleaning protocols. As time and circumstances permit these changes to our worship will be amended. We hope that you will feel safe in this place and leave edified by our celebration of Word and Sacrament.

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## Prelude

### **Our Service Begins**

*Please stand as the Celebrant and altar party move to the front*

*Celebrant* Alleluia. Christ is risen.

*People* The Lord is risen indeed. Alleluia.

*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 Gloria is then said, all standing*

Glory to God in the highest,  
and peace to his people on earth.

Lord God, heavenly King,  
almighty God and Father,  
we worship you, we give you thanks,  
we praise you for your glory.

Lord Jesus Christ, only Son of the Father,  
Lord God, Lamb of God,  
you take away the sin of the world:  
have mercy on us;  
you are seated at the right hand of the Father:  
receive our prayer.

For you alone are the Holy One,  
you alone are the Lord,  
you alone are the Most High,  
Jesus Christ,  
with the Holy Spirit,  
in the glory of God the Father. Amen.

### **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, whose blessed Son made himself known to his disciples in the breaking of bread: Open the eyes of our faith, that we may behold him in all his redeeming work; who lives and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. *Amen.*

*People Amen.*

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

### **The First Lesson**

*Acts 3:12-19*

Peter addressed the people, "You Israelites, why do you wonder at this, or why do you stare at us, as though by our own power or piety we had made him walk? The God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob, the God of our ancestors has glorified his servant Jesus, whom you handed over and rejected in the presence of Pilate, though he had decided to release him. But you rejected the Holy and Righteous One and asked to have a murderer given to you, and you killed the Author of life, whom God raised from the dead. To this we are witnesses. And by faith in his name, his name itself has made this man strong, whom you see and know; and the faith that is through Jesus has given him this perfect health in the presence of all of you.

"And now, friends, I know that you acted in ignorance, as did also your rulers. In this way God fulfilled what he had foretold through all the prophets, that his Messiah would suffer. Repent therefore and turn to God so that your sins may be wiped out."

*Lector*        The Word of the Lord.

*People*        Thank be to God!

### **The Psalm**

Psalm 4

*Cum invocarem*

*The Psalm will be read responsively by whole verse*

1. Answer me when I call, O God, defender of my cause;  
you set me free when I am hard-pressed;  
have mercy on me and hear my prayer.
2. "You mortals, how long will you dishonor my glory;  
how long will you worship dumb idols  
and run after false gods?"
3. Know that the Lord does wonders for the faithful;  
when I call upon the Lord, he will hear me.

4. Tremble, then, and do not sin;  
speak to your heart in silence upon your bed.
5. Offer the appointed sacrifices  
and put your trust in the Lord.
6. Many are saying, "Oh, that we might see better times!"  
Lift up the light of your countenance upon us, O Lord.
7. You have put gladness in my heart,  
more than when grain and wine and oil increase.
8. I lie down in peace; at once I fall asleep;  
for only you, Lord, make me dwell in safety.

*Said together*

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

*1 John 3:1-7*

See what love the Father has given us, that we should be called children of God; and that is what we are. The reason the world does not know us is that it did not know him. Beloved, we are God's children now; what we will be has not yet been revealed. What we do know is this: when he is revealed, we will be like him, for we will see him as he is. And all who have this hope in him purify themselves, just as he is pure.

Everyone who commits sin is guilty of lawlessness; sin is lawlessness. You know that he was revealed to take away sins, and in him there is no sin. No one who abides in him sins; no one who sins has either seen him or known him. Little children, let no one deceive you. Everyone who does what is right is righteous, just as he is righteous.

*Lector*       The Word of the Lord.

*People*        Thank be to God!

### The Gospel Lesson

*Luke 24:36b-48*

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

*People*        Glory to you, Lord Christ.

Jesus himself stood among the disciples and said to them, "Peace be with you." They were startled and terrified and thought that they were seeing a ghost. He said to them, "Why are you frightened, and why do doubts arise in

your hearts? Look at my hands and my feet; see that it is I myself. Touch me and see; for a ghost does not have flesh and bones as you see that I have.” And when he had said this, he showed them his hands and his feet. While in their joy they were disbelieving and still wondering, he said to them, “Have you anything here to eat?” They gave him a piece of broiled fish, and he took it and ate in their presence.

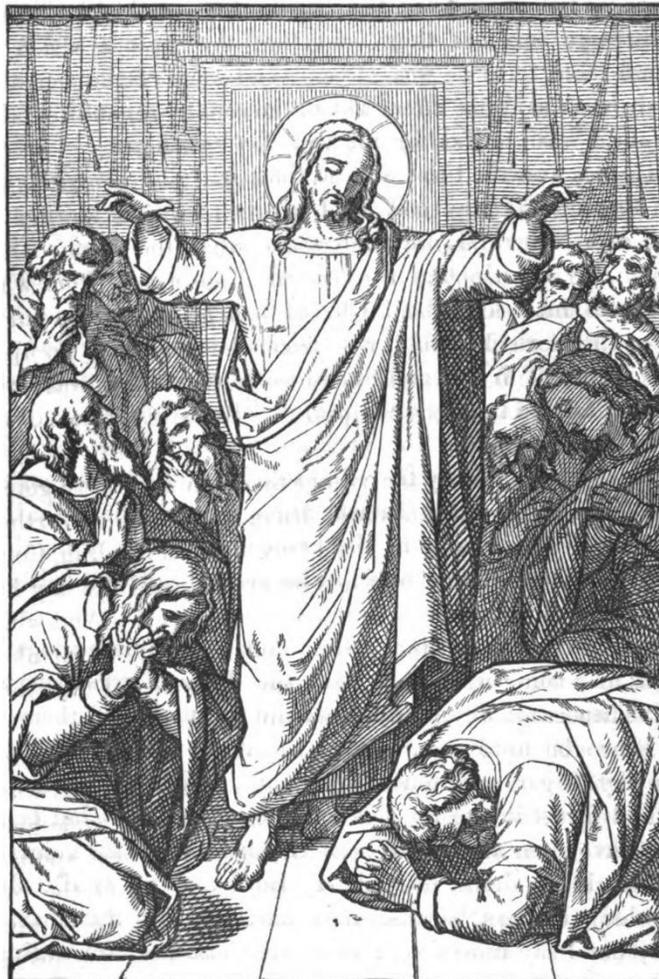
Then he said to them, “These are my words that I spoke to you while I was still with you—that everything written about me in the law of Moses, the prophets, and the psalms must be fulfilled.” Then he opened their minds to understand the scriptures, and he said to them, “Thus it is written, that the Messiah is to suffer and to rise from the dead on the third day, and that repentance and forgiveness of sins is to be proclaimed in his name to all nations, beginning from Jerusalem. You are witnesses of these things.

*Celebrant*     The Gospel of the Lord.

*People*         Praise to you, Lord Christ.

The Sermon

the Very Rev. 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.*

Lord Jesus Christ, the light of your love shines on, illuminating the places where you are present. As the bewildered disciples pondered the stories of your appearance, you penetrated the darkness of their fear and doubt with your word of peace. You showed them the appalling marks of evil pierced on your hands and feet. You opened their minds to understand why you had to die to defeat such evil and death. Increase our understanding and open our minds and hearts to receive you, Lord, and speak your word of peace to us as we pray.

Lord Jesus Christ, Author of life, help us believe Peter's bold proclamation of your resurrection, your healing presence, and the suffering forgiver of our many sins. May such proclamation embolden us to live as true members of the church.

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

Heavenly Father, when we are in distress, remind us of your Son, who makes room for us in this world and the next.

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

Holy Spirit, help us love being a child of God, for there is no higher calling.

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

When we are startled and terrified by your unexpected presence, Lord Jesus Christ, help us hear your word of peace. Touch us as we seek to touch you and help us to touch the lives of those around us.

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

Come to us Lord Jesus, be at our table. As you visited with your disciples after your resurrection, and ate with them, come, Lord Jesus, be our guest this day and every day and teach us to bring all your children to our table.

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

Open, O Lord, the minds of the leaders of the earth, that they may work for the justice and peace and always serve the common good of all your children.

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

We pray for those who are hungry for your touch, ready for your healing, or nearing the new life, especially those on our prayer list and all those we now name before you either silently or aloud.

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

We pray for those forebearers in the faith whom we love but seen no longer and for whom your glory has now been fully revealed. Give them peace in your eternal light.

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

Help us listen closely to your Word, even as you listen closely to our prayers. **Amen.**

### **The Confession and Absolution**

*The Celebrant then calls the people to confess their sins to God*

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*

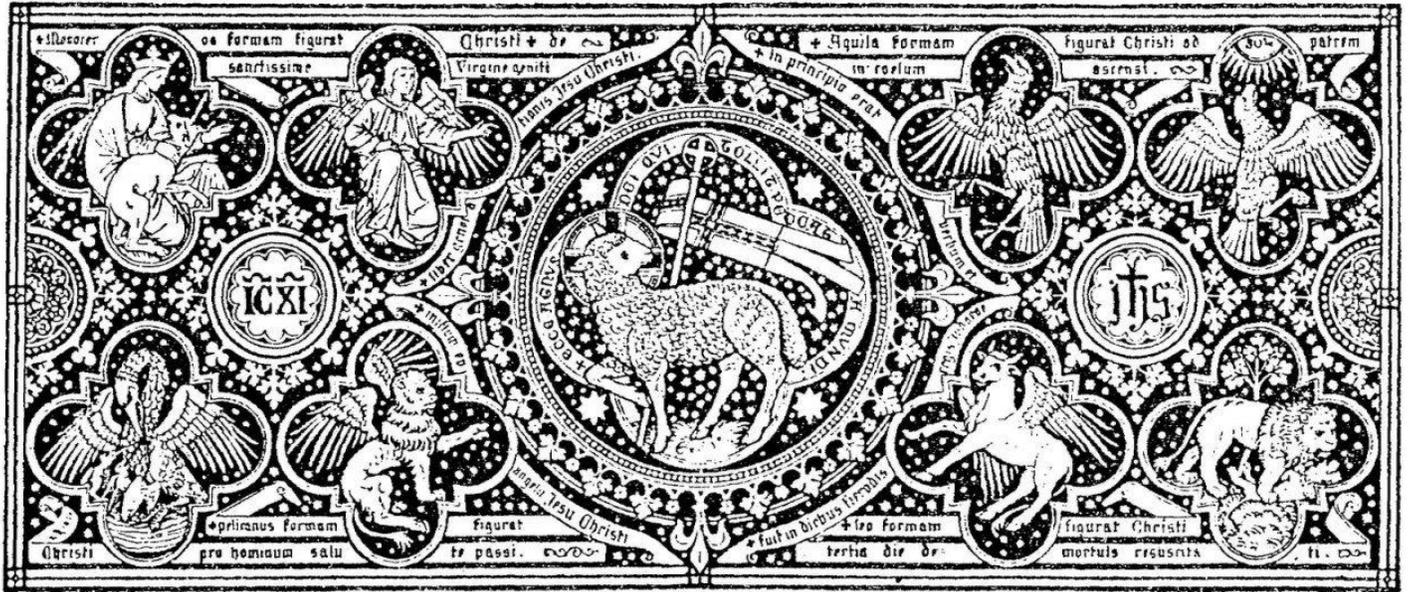
Almighty God have mercy on you, forgive you all your sins through our Lord Jesus Christ, strengthen you in all goodness, and by the power of the Holy Spirit keep you in eternal life. Amen.

## 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

### The Eucharistic Prayer

*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.

*The Celebrant continues*

It is right, and a good and joyful thing, always and everywhere to give thanks to you, Father Almighty, Creator of heaven and earth. But chiefly are we bound to praise you for the glorious resurrection of your Son Jesus Christ our Lord; for he is the true Paschal Lamb, who was sacrificed for us, and has taken away the sin of the world. By his death he has destroyed death, and by his rising to life again he has won for us everlasting life.

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*

Holy, Holy, Holy Lord, God of power and might,  
heaven and earth are full of your glory.

Hosanna in the highest.

Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.

Hosanna in the highest.

*The people stand or kneel.*

*Then the Celebrant continues*

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:

*Celebrant and People*

Christ has died.

Christ is risen.

Christ will come again.

*The Celebrant continues*

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 for ever. AMEN.

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

*Celebrant* Behold the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world!

*The Celebrant then breaks the Consecrated Bread*

*Celebrant* 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 Invitation to Spiritual Communion

*Celebrant*

The receipt of the bread and wine, which is the body and the blood of our Lord Jesus Christ, in the sacrament of the Holy Eucharist, is an outward and visible sign of an inward and spiritual grace. In as much as you would like to partake of this holy food, the spiritual grace provided by the same is supplied to you.

*Reader*

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*

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 of the Easter Season

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

May the Lord show you his hands, so you may reach out to mend the broken;  
show you his feet, so you may walk with those the world passes by; show you  
his face, so that you may know what your sisters and brothers look like. And  
the blessing of God Almighty, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, be  
upon you and remain with you for ever.

*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! Alleluia! Alleluia!*

## Postlude

The Altar Flowers are given today for the greater Glory of God and in memory of loved ones by Tripper and Staci Thomas



**Participants in Today's Liturgy**

<u>Celebrant</u>	the Very Rev. Chad Slater
<u>Organist &amp; Choirmaster</u>	Terry E. Whittington, Jr.
<u>Acolyte</u>	Emma Slater
<u>Lector</u>	Don Williams
<u>Altar Guild</u>	Betty Nash Delia Kersey

**Attendance Last Sunday:**

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**Please Keep the Following in Your Prayers:** Dorene Dimes, Bonnie Taylor, Joe Sanders, Lee Puckett, Sr., Mabeline Robinson, Bea Paine, Lynn Burney, Marilyn Denney, Donna Fortune, Bob and Peggy Walk, Susan Jewell, John Kersey, Martha Linkous, Sarah Irwin, Janet Slager, Kelly Cox, Dean Farmer, Haddon Lazenby, Jack Burchette, Nick, JL, Cis Barrett, Kathy, Randy Snider, Lane, Loraine, Sherry, Margarette Joplin, Emily Broome, David, Cady, Martin, Marion Lowe, Margaret Westfall, Harry, Ben Rose, Jay Kephart, Rick Longworth, all Healthcare Personnel and Frontline Workers, Jack, Sheri, Dan, Kathy, Hamilton Jones, Kensley, John, Emily, and Kathleen Nieman Alan Riggins, and Brenda Payne.

**Birthdays This Week:** Macon Clement, Will Puckett, Tom Coughlan, Ed Fortune, and Staci Thomas.

**Calendar of Events**

Wednesdays in April	Bible Study 10:30am
Wednesday – April 21	Vestry Meeting 7:30pm
Wednesday – May 12	Serve Dinner at Union Mission 3:00pm
Thursday – May 20	Food Pantry 9:00am—11:00am
Wednesday –May 26	Serve Dinner at Union Mission 4:00pm

## **Announcements:**

**Online Bible Study:** Join us on Wednesday's at 10:30 am for Bible study via Zoom. A link to the Zoom meeting is included in each week's email. A link to a tutorial on how to use Zoom, if you are new to it, is available in the email as well. For more information, please see Fr. Chad.

**Food Pantry Donations:** We will be collecting personal hygiene items for our May Food Pantry. A basket will be located in the Narthex to collect the items. Toothbrushes, toothpaste, soap, lotion, shampoo, hand sanitizer, body wash, mouthwash, razors, feminine products, and the like are much appreciated. Thank you!

**Bluefield Union Mission:** We will resume serving the evening meal at the Bluefield Union Mission on both the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Wednesdays of each month beginning in May. In the month of April we resumed our 2<sup>nd</sup> Wednesday service with success. Thank you to all our volunteers!

**Volunteers to Assist with In-Person Worship Needed:** Now that we have returned to in-person worship we need volunteers to help enrich our services and make them operate well. If you would like to serve as an usher, lector, acolyte, or even as a musician at any of our in-person services please let Fr. Chad know. You may call, text, or email him at [chad@cecbf.org](mailto:chad@cecbf.org). Other worship ministry opportunities will be opening up as circumstances permit. We hope that you will consider this opportunity to serve our worshipping community!

**Parish Survey:** Christ Church is undertaking the process to survey the parish for the needs and hopes for our future as a community of faith. In the next week or two a link to a survey will be emailed out to all members and friends of Christ Church and posted to social media. If you do not regularly get our emails, the web address will be posted in our bulletins. If you do not use a computer, a paper copy can be mailed to you. Everyone at the parish is encouraged to participate so that we can best understand where we are as a group and what direction the Spirit is calling us to move in.



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

the Rev. Chad Slater  
Mr. Terry E. Whittington, Jr.  
Ms. Emma Bennett  
Mrs. Vanessa Hall  
Mr. David Kersey  
Mr. Tom Coughlan

Rector  
Organist & Choirmaster  
Parish Administrator  
Sexton  
Senior Warden  
Junior Warden