



CHRIST EPISCOPAL CHURCH

BLUEFIELD, WEST VIRGINIA

200 Duhring Street, Bluefield, WV 24701

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The Sixth Sunday of Easter

May 9, 2021



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 Prayers joining with yours.

Prelude

Our Service Begins

Please stand as the Officiant and altar party move to the front

Officiant Alleluia. Christ is risen.

People The Lord is risen indeed. Alleluia.

Officiant

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

Officiant The Lord be with you.

People And also with you.

Officiant Let us pray.

O God, you have prepared for those who love you such good things as surpass our understanding: Pour into our hearts such love towards you, that we, loving you in all things and above all things, may obtain your promises, which exceed all that we can desire; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever.

People Amen.

We Hear and Respond to God's Word

The First Lesson

Acts 10:44-48

While Peter was still speaking, the Holy Spirit fell upon all who heard the word. The circumcised believers who had come with Peter were astounded that the gift of the Holy Spirit had been poured out even on the Gentiles, for they heard them speaking in tongues and extolling God. Then Peter said, "Can anyone withhold the water for baptizing these people who have received the Holy Spirit just as we have?" So he ordered them to be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ. Then they invited him to stay for several days.

Lector The Word of the Lord.

People Thank be to God!

The Psalm

Psalm 98

Cantate Domino

The Psalm will be read responsively by whole verse

1. Sing to the Lord a new song,
for he has done marvelous things.
2. With his right hand and his holy arm
has he won for himself the victory.
3. The Lord has made known his victory;
his righteousness has he openly shown in the sight of the nations.
4. He remembers his mercy and faithfulness to the house of Israel,
and all the ends of the earth have seen the victory of our God.
5. Shout with joy to the Lord, all you lands;
lift up your voice, rejoice, and sing.
6. Sing to the Lord with the harp,
with the harp and the voice of song.

7. With trumpets and the sound of the horn shout with joy before the King, the Lord.
8. Let the sea make a noise and all that is in it, the lands and those who dwell therein.
9. Let the rivers clap their hands, and let the hills ring out with joy before the Lord, when he comes to judge the earth.
10. In righteousness shall he judge the world and the peoples with equity.

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 5:1-6

Everyone who believes that Jesus is the Christ has been born of God, and everyone who loves the parent loves the child. By this we know that we love the children of God, when we love God and obey his commandments. For the love of God is this, that we obey his commandments. And his commandments are not burdensome, for whatever is born of God conquers the world. And this is the victory that conquers the world, our faith. Who is it that conquers the world but the one who believes that Jesus is the Son of God?

This is the one who came by water and blood, Jesus Christ, not with the water only but with the water and the blood. And the Spirit is the one that testifies, for the Spirit is the truth.

Lector The Word of the Lord.

People Thank be to God!

The Gospel Lesson

John 15:9-17

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

People Glory to you, Lord Christ.

Jesus said to his disciples, "As the Father has loved me, so I have loved you; abide in my love. If you keep my commandments, you will abide in my love, just as I have kept my Father's commandments and abide in his love. I have said these things to you so that my joy may be in you, and that your joy may be complete.

“This is my commandment, that you love one another as I have loved you. No one has greater love than this, to lay down one’s life for one’s friends. You are my friends if you do what I command you. I do not call you servants any longer, because the servant does not know what the master is doing; but I have called you friends, because I have made known to you everything that I have heard from my Father. You did not choose me but I chose you. And I appointed you to go and bear fruit, fruit that will last, so that the Father will give you whatever you ask him in my name. I am giving you these commands so that you may love one another.”

Officiant The Gospel of the Lord.

People Praise to you, Lord Christ.

A Homily

Dr. Teresa Paine



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.

God of goodness and mercy, of gentleness and kindness, of righteousness and faithfulness: you are the light of our salvation and you sustain our souls. You, the great Creator of the universe came to us not in power and might, but in humbleness and love, and you call us your friends. Hear us as we pray:

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

We pray for the church, for all denominations that make up your Body, that we may love one another in practice as well as in prayer, and that all may be one in you, O Lord. Bless all joint initiatives in worship, fellowship and service to the community. May the world know that there is a grace at work in us as we strive together for your Kingdom.

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

Lord, we humbly ask your assistance and blessing for the work of the worldwide church, for all bishops and other ministers, and remembering especially our ministry to those who have not yet heard the Good News of your Son, Jesus Christ.

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

We pray for the feeding of the hungry, the clothing of the destitute, the housing of the homeless, the reformation of prisoners, and the rehabilitation of those who suffer from addiction. Bless every agency, church or government, which is dedicated to the care of our disadvantaged sisters and brothers.

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

Loving God of all the nations, make your presence known to all those in civil authority in this and every land that decisions made in the halls of power may be for the benefit of all your children.

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

Lord, we pray to you for all those who are sick in body, mind, or spirit. We especially offer our prayers today for all those on our prayer list and all those whom we remember before you now, either silently or aloud...

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

How good it is to be part of your church, stretching back to those who first believed and spreading throughout the corners of the world. We remember the millions of our brothers and sisters throughout the ages who together have believed and proclaimed your love. Our hearts are encouraged by their faithful examples and we pray for them now, trusting that they are in your care.

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

All this we pray in the name of the one who calls us His friends, who loves us, and calls us to be one.

Amen.

The Confession and Absolution

The Officiant 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 Officiant assures us of God's pardon

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

A Prayer attributed to St. Francis

Said by all

Lord, make us instruments of your peace. Where there is hatred, let us sow love; where there is injury, pardon; where there is discord, union; where there is doubt, faith; where there is despair, hope; where there is darkness, light; where there is sadness, joy. Grant that we may not so much seek to be consoled as to console; to be understood as to understand; to be loved as to love. For it is in giving that we receive; it is in pardoning that we are pardoned; and it is in dying that we are born to eternal life. Amen.

The Peace

Officiant 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.

Announcements

The Lord's Prayer

Officiant The Lord be with you.

People And also with you.

Officiant Let us pray.

Officiant and People

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 General Thanksgiving

Said by all

Almighty God, Father of all mercies,
we your unworthy servants give you humble thanks
for all your goodness and loving-kindness
to us and to all whom you have made.
We bless you for our creation, preservation,
and all the blessings of this life;
but above all for your immeasurable love
in the redemption of the world by our Lord Jesus Christ;
for the means of grace, and for the hope of glory.
And, we pray, give us such an awareness of your mercies,
that with truly thankful hearts we may show forth your praise,
not only with our lips, but in our lives,
by giving up our selves to your service,
and by walking before you
in holiness and righteousness all our days;
through Jesus Christ our Lord,
to whom, with you and the Holy Spirit,
be honor and glory throughout all ages. 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 Dr. And Mrs. James Paine

Participants in Today's Liturgy

<u>Officiant</u>	Dr. Teresa Paine
<u>Organist & Choirmaster</u>	Terry E. Whittington, Jr.
<u>Lector</u>	Alyson Bowling
<u>Altar Guild</u>	Patty Richardson Becky Beckett

Attendance Last Sunday:

35

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, Kathleen Nieman, Alan Riggins, Brenda Payne, and Buck and Louisa Sowers

Birthdays This Week: Parker Anderson and Joyce Morgan

Calendar of Events

Wednesday – May 12	Serve Dinner at Union Mission 3:00pm
Thursday – May 13	Ascension Day Service 7:00pm
Wednesday – May 19	Vestry 7:00pm
Thursday – May 20	Food Pantry 9:00am—11:00am
Wednesday – May 26	Serve Dinner at Union Mission 4:00pm

Announcements:

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 2nd and 4th Wednesdays of each month

beginning in May. In the month of April, we resumed our 2nd Wednesday service with success. On the 2nd Wednesday we will start preparing dinner at 3:00 pm and on the 4th Wednesday at 4:00 pm. Thank you to all our volunteers!

Christ Church Parish Survey 2021: *Who We Are & Where We Want to Go*

Christ Church is undertaking the process to survey the parish for the needs and hopes for our future as a community of faith. 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.

This Survey should take you approximately 20 minutes to complete. Please take your time and answer each question as honestly as you can. Some questions require only one answer while others may ask you to rank choices or select all that you feel are applicable. Paper copies can be made available for those who prefer. All answers are anonymous. The survey can be found at the following web address: <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/7F2CBN5>



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