



CHRIST EPISCOPAL CHURCH

BLUEFIELD, WEST VIRGINIA

200 Duhring Street, Bluefield, WV 24701

(304) 327-6861

www.christchurchbluefield.org



The First Sunday after Pentecost

sometimes called *Trinity Sunday*

May 30, 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 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.

Prelude

Our Service Begins

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

Celebrant Blessed be God: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

People And blessed be his kingdom, now and for ever. Amen.

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 Oxyrhynchus Hymn is then said, all standing

Let it be silent.

Let the Luminous stars not shine,

Let the winds and all the noisy rivers die down;

And as we hymn the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit,

Let all the powers add "Amen Amen."

Empire, praise always, and glory to God,

The sole giver of good things, Amen Amen.

The Oxyrhynchus Hymn is the oldest known Christian Hymn where both the words and musical notations are known (the Phos Hilaron is considered the oldest known hymn, however the original musical setting has not survived). The Oxyrhynchus Hymn, discovered in the early 1920's in a cache of papyri at the site of an ancient city by the same name, is dated to the year 260 AD. Given that this was likely a copy of another work, it is possible that the hymn is much older. The lyrics begin by invoking silence for the praise of the Holy Trinity. This "silence" is a common trope in ancient Greek hymnody and is traditionally referred to as "cosmic stillness."

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.

Almighty and everlasting God, you have given to us your servants grace, by the confession of a true faith, to acknowledge the glory of the eternal Trinity, and in the power of your divine Majesty to worship the Unity: Keep us steadfast in this faith and worship, and bring us at last to see you in your one and eternal glory, O Father; who with the Son and the Holy Spirit live and reign, one God, for ever and ever.

People Amen.

We Hear and Respond to God's Word

The First Lesson

Isaiah 6:1-8

In the year that King Uzziah died, I saw the Lord sitting on a throne, high and lofty; and the hem of his robe filled the temple. Seraphs were in attendance above him; each had six wings: with two they covered their faces, and with two they covered their feet, and with two they flew. And one called to another and said:

“Holy, holy, holy is the Lord of hosts;
the whole earth is full of his glory.”

The pivots on the thresholds shook at the voices of those who called, and the house filled with smoke. And I said: “Woe is me! I am lost, for I am a man of unclean lips, and I live among a people of unclean lips; yet my eyes have seen the King, the Lord of hosts!”

Then one of the seraphs flew to me, holding a live coal that had been taken from the altar with a pair of tongs. The seraph touched my mouth with it and said: “Now that this has touched your lips, your guilt has departed and your sin is blotted out.” Then I heard the voice of the Lord saying, “Whom shall I send, and who will go for us?” And I said, “Here am I; send me!”

Lector The Word of the Lord.

People Thanks be to God!



The Psalm

Psalm 29

Afferte Domino

The Psalm will be read responsively by whole verse

1. Ascribe to the Lord, you gods, *
ascribe to the Lord glory and strength.
2. Ascribe to the Lord the glory due his Name; *
worship the Lord in the beauty of holiness.
3. The voice of the Lord is upon the waters;
the God of glory thunders; *
the Lord is upon the mighty waters.
4. The voice of the Lord is a powerful voice; *
the voice of the Lord is a voice of splendor.
5. The voice of the Lord breaks the cedar trees; *
the Lord breaks the cedars of Lebanon;
6. He makes Lebanon skip like a calf, *
and Mount Hermon like a young wild ox.
7. The voice of the Lord splits the flames of fire;
the voice of the Lord shakes the wilderness; *
the Lord shakes the wilderness of Kadesh.
8. The voice of the Lord makes the oak trees writhe *
and strips the forests bare.
9. And in the temple of the Lord *
all are crying, "Glory!"
10. The Lord sits enthroned above the flood; *
the Lord sits enthroned as King for evermore.
11. The Lord shall give strength to his people; *
the Lord shall give his people the blessing of peace.

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

Romans 8:12-17

So then, brothers and sisters, we are debtors, not to the flesh, to live according to the flesh-- for if you live according to the flesh, you will die; but if by the Spirit you put to death the deeds of the body, you will live. For all who are led by the Spirit of God are children of God. For you did not receive a spirit of slavery to fall back into fear, but you have received a spirit of adoption. When we cry, "Abba! Father!" it is that very Spirit bearing witness with our spirit that we are children of God, and if children, then heirs, heirs of God and joint heirs with Christ-- if, in fact, we suffer with him so that we may also be glorified with him.

Lector The Word of the Lord.

People Thank be to God!

The Canticle Response

Canticle 13

A Song of Praise *Benedictus es, Domine*

The Canticle will be read in its entirety by the congregation

Glory to you, Lord God of our fathers;
you are worthy of praise; glory to you.
Glory to you for the radiance of your holy Name;
we will praise you and highly exalt you for ever.
Glory to you in the splendor of your temple;
on the throne of your majesty, glory to you.
Glory to you, seated between the Cherubim;
we will praise you and highly exalt you for ever.
Glory to you, beholding the depths;
in the high vault of heaven, glory to you.
Glory to you, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit;
we will praise you and highly exalt you for ever.

The Gospel Lesson

John 3:1-17

Please stand for the Gospel Lesson

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

People Glory to you, Lord Christ.

There was a Pharisee named Nicodemus, a leader of the Jews. He came to Jesus by night and said to him, "Rabbi, we know that you are a teacher who has come from God; for no one can do these signs that you do apart from the presence of God." Jesus answered him, "Very truly, I tell you, no one can see



the kingdom of God without being born from above.” Nicodemus said to him, “How can anyone be born after having grown old? Can one enter a second time into the mother’s womb and be born?” Jesus answered, “Very truly, I tell you, no one can enter the kingdom of God without being born of water and Spirit. What is born of the flesh is flesh, and what is born of the Spirit is spirit. Do not be astonished that I said to you, ‘You must be born from above.’ The wind blows where it chooses, and you hear the sound of it, but you do not know where it comes from or where it goes. So it is with everyone who is born of the Spirit.” Nicodemus said to him,

“How can these things be?” Jesus answered him, “Are you a teacher of Israel, and yet you do not understand these things?

“Very truly, I tell you, we speak of what we know and testify to what we have seen; yet you do not receive our testimony. If I have told you about earthly things and you do not believe, how can you believe if I tell you about heavenly things? No one has ascended into heaven except the one who descended from heaven, the Son of Man. And just as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, so must the Son of Man be lifted up, that whoever believes in him may have eternal life.

“For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him may not perish but may have eternal life.

“Indeed, God did not send the Son into the world to condemn the world, but in order that the world might be saved through him.

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.

On this Trinity Sunday we come before you Lord to offer our praise and adoration. You are God the creator, giving us richly all things to enjoy. You are Christ the Savior of the world, made flesh to set us free. You are the Spirit of truth and love, willing to dwell in us. You are holy and blessed. One god, eternal Trinity, be near to us the people formed in your image, and close to the world your love brings to life. Hear us, O most mighty and Triune God, as we join the choirs of angels to sing your praises and pray for your blessings.

Holy, holy, holy, Lord God of hosts: *Hear our prayer.*

Lord God of hosts, you are always asking, “Whom shall I send?” Give each of us the courage of Isaiah to respond, “Here am I, send me.” Give grace to all bishops and other ministers to never forsake their answer to your call.

Holy, holy, holy, Lord God of hosts: *Hear our prayer.*

Lord Jesus Christ, you speak to us of heavenly things, even when we are most interested in earthly things. Speak to us in the night-times of our lives, that we may learn the Way and the Will of your Holy Spirit. Teach us to be born again each day to the richness of your love and devotion to your service.

Holy, holy, holy, Lord God of hosts: *Hear our prayer.*

The problems of the nations, the politics of parties, the threats and fears of peoples everywhere are all known to you, Almighty God. Save us from fear, greed, revenge, and all evil things that keep us away from love.

Holy, holy, holy, Lord God of hosts: *Hear our prayer.*

The dying, the sick, the lonely and the forsaken are your special people, for you know the names of each. We pray most earnestly for all those on our prayer list and all those whom we now remember in our hearts...

Holy, holy, holy, Lord God of hosts: *Hear our prayer.*

In the choir that sings your glory night and day, O God, are not only angels, but those whose race is won. We pray for all those who we love but see longer. May we also come to share with them their endless song.

Holy, holy, holy, Lord God of hosts: *Hear our prayer.*

All this we pray to you, the Holy One; the One in Three and Three in One.

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*

Today's Holy Sacrifice of the Altar is given for the greater glory of God and in repose of the souls of all those who have laid down their lives in the last full measure of devotion to our country, especially for First Lieutenant Clyde Everett Shedd, killed in action on October 16, 1918 at the Battle of the Argonne (WW I). May their memory be a blessing.

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. For with your co-eternal Son and Holy Spirit, you are one God, one Lord, in Trinity of Persons and in Unity of Being; and we celebrate the one and equal glory of you, O Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. 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

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 for Trinity Sunday

The Celebrant then pronounces the following blessing over the people

As we go from here, remember this: As followers of Jesus Christ, we have not received a spirit of fear, but one of hope and confidence. For we are children of God, members of God's own family, and heirs with Jesus Christ himself. Do not live for the flesh, but in all things follow the Spirit for it will lead you new birth and life eternal and abundant.

May God the Holy Trinity make you strong in faith and love, defend you on every side, and guide you in truth 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!



The Altar Flowers are given today for the greater Glory of God and in memory of loved ones by Jim and Susanne Pulse.

Participants in Today's Liturgy

Celebrant

the Very Rev. Chad Slater

Organist & Choirmaster

Terry E. Whittington, Jr.

Acolyte

Emma Slater

Lector

Jennifer Slater

Altar Guild

Patty Richardson

Becky Beckett

Chris Justice

Attendance Last Sunday:

45

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, 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, 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, Buck and Louisa Sowers, Elizabeth Kane, and Betty

Birthdays This Week: Patricia Meachum

Calendar of Events

Monday – May 31

Memorial Day

June and July 2021

No CEC volunteers needed at Union Mission

Wednesday – June 16

Vestry Meeting 7:00pm

Thursday – June 17

Food Pantry 9:00am-11:00am

Announcements:

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>

Flowers at the Church: Flowers will be planted in the Columbarium in the next few weeks. If you are interested in helping with the planting and/or watering, please contact Linda Ammar. Thank you!

Weekly Emails: If you have not been seeing our weekly email please consider checking your “Spam” or “Junk Mail” folders and adding our email address (christchurchbluefield@gmail.com) to your contacts list.

If are still not receiving the Monday emails, please contact the church office and we will work diligently with you to correct the problem.

Union Mission: Visiting students from out-of-area places will be performing missionary type work through the Union Mission this summer. Therefore, Christ Church volunteers will not be needed for Wednesday afternoon services during June and July 2021 and will resume volunteering on the 2nd and 4th Wednesdays at Union Mission in August 2021.

Youth Fundraising Project: Episcopal Relief and Development is conducting a fundraising campaign entitled *1000 Days of Love* geared toward assisting children and mothers in developing countries around the world. As a part of this project we are asking all members of the parish to collect their spare change over the summer. This fall our youth will decide how to contribute this money to the ERD cause (such as an Anglican school, helping provide clean drinking water, etc.). Please help us with this exciting opportunity to make a difference in the lives of young people across the globe and help set an example of giving and serving others to our own youth. Thank you!

Christ Church Choir: Plans for restarting our music program have begun. If you are interested in joining the choir (or returning to it) please let Terry Whittington know so he can get your contact information. Thank you!

Coffee Hour: Now that our after-service fellowship has resumed we need volunteers to host our Coffee Hour. If you are interested in signing up for a Sunday Coffee Hour please let Linda Ammar know. Thank you!

Clergy, Staff, and Wardens of this Parish

the Very Rev. Chad Slater

Mr. Terry E. Whittington, Jr.

Ms. Emma Bennett

Mrs. Vanessa Hall

Mr. David Kersey

Mr. Peter Richardson

Rector

Organist & Choirmaster

Parish Administrator

Sexton

Senior Warden

Junior Warden