



CHRIST EPISCOPAL CHURCH

BLUEFIELD, WEST VIRGINIA

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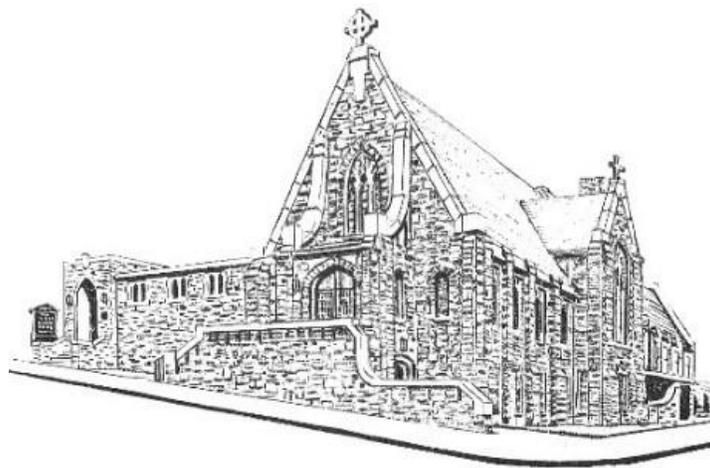
www.christchurchbluefield.org



The Sixth Sunday after Pentecost

and being Proper IX of the Church Year

July 4, 2021



Welcome to this Place of Prayer

This bulletin contains our liturgy today.

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.

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 as the Altar Party processes 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 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 - might - y 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, you have taught us to keep all your commandments by loving you and our neighbor: Grant us the grace of your Holy Spirit, that we may be devoted to you with our whole heart, and united to one another with pure affection; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. *Amen.*

We Hear and Respond to God's Word

The First Lesson

Ezekiel 2:1-5

The Lord said to me: O mortal, stand up on your feet, and I will speak with you. And when he spoke to me, a spirit entered into me and set me on my feet; and I heard him speaking to me. He said to me, Mortal, I am sending you to the people of Israel, to a nation of rebels who have rebelled against me; they and their ancestors have transgressed against me to this very day. The descendants are impudent and stubborn. I am sending you to them, and you shall say to them, "Thus says the Lord God." Whether they hear or refuse to hear (for they are a rebellious house), they shall know that there has been a prophet among them.

Lector The Word of the Lord.

People Thanks be to God!

The Psalm

Psalm 123

Ad te levavi oculos meos

The Psalm will be read responsively by whole verse

1. To you I lift up my eyes,
to you enthroned in the heavens.
2. As the eyes of servants look to the hand of their masters,
and the eyes of a maid to the hand of her mistress,
3. So our eyes look to the Lord our God,
until he show us his mercy.
4. Have mercy upon us, O Lord, have mercy,
for we have had more than enough of contempt,
5. Too much of the scorn of the indolent rich,
and of the derision of the proud.

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

II Corinthians 12:2-10

I know a person in Christ who fourteen years ago was caught up to the third heaven—whether in the body or out of the body I do not know; God knows. And I know that such a person—whether in the body or out of the body I do not know; God knows— was caught up into Paradise and heard things that are not to be told, that no mortal is permitted to repeat. On behalf of such a one I will boast, but on my own behalf I will not boast, except of my weaknesses. But if I wish to boast, I will not be a fool, for I will be speaking the truth. But I refrain from it, so that no one may think better of me than what is seen in me or heard from me, even considering the exceptional character of the revelations. Therefore, to keep me from being too elated, a thorn was given me in the flesh, a messenger of Satan to torment me, to keep me from being too elated. Three times I appealed to the Lord about this, that it would leave me, but he said to me, “My grace is sufficient for you, for power is made perfect in weakness.” So, I will boast all the more gladly of my weaknesses, so that the power of Christ may dwell in me. Therefore, I am content with weaknesses, insults, hardships, persecutions, and calamities for the sake of Christ; for whenever I am weak, then I am strong.

Lector The Word of the Lord.

People Thank be to God!

The Gospel Lesson

Mark 6:1-13

Please stand for the Gospel Lesson

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

People Glory to you, Lord Christ.

Jesus came to his hometown, and his disciples followed him. On the sabbath he began to teach in the synagogue, and many who heard him were astounded. They said, “Where did this man get all this? What is this wisdom that has been given to him? What deeds of power are being done by his hands! Is not this the carpenter, the son of Mary and brother of James and Joses and Judas and Simon, and are not his sisters here with us?” And they took offense at him. Then Jesus said to them, “Prophets are not without honor, except in their hometown, and among their own kin, and in their own house.” And he could do no deed of power there, except that he laid his hands on a few sick people and cured them. And he was amazed at their unbelief.

Then he went about among the villages teaching. He called the twelve and began to send them out two by two, and gave them authority over the unclean spirits. He ordered them to take nothing for their journey except a staff; no bread, no bag, no money in their belts; but to wear sandals and not to put on two tunics. He said to them, “Wherever you enter a house, stay there until you leave the place. If any place will not welcome you and they refuse to hear you, as you leave, shake off the dust that is on your feet as a testimony against them.” So they went out and proclaimed that all should repent. They cast out many demons and anointed with oil many who were sick and cured them.

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. The people respond with those words in italics.

In peace, we pray to you, Lord God.

For all people in their daily life and work, especially Louisa Sowers and Catherine Wimmer-Anderson who celebrate birthdays this week;

For our families, friends, and neighbors, and for those who are alone.

For this community, the nation, and the world;

For all who work for justice, freedom, and peace.

For the just and proper use of your creation;

For the victims of hunger, fear, injustice, and oppression.

For all who are in danger, sorrow, or any kind of trouble;

For those who minister to the sick, the friendless, and the needy.

For the peace and unity of the Church of God;

For all who proclaim the Gospel, and all who seek the Truth.

For Michael, our Presiding Bishop, Mike, our Bishop, Fr. Chad, our priest; and for all bishops and other ministers;

For all who serve God in his Church.

For the special needs and concerns of this congregation.

The People may add their own petitions

Hear us, Lord;

For your mercy is great.

We thank you, Lord, for all the blessings of this life.

The People may add their own thanksgivings

We will exalt you, O God our King;

And praise your Name for ever and ever.

We pray for all who have died, especially the loved ones of John and Delia Kersey, that they may have a place in your eternal kingdom. Lord, let your loving-kindness be upon them;

Who put their trust in you.

The Celebrant then offers the concluding collect for the prayers

Lord, hear the prayers of your people; and what we have asked faithfully, grant that we may obtain effectually, to the glory of your Name; through Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

The Prayers for Independence Day

The Litany for the Nation

The people respond with the words in italics.

Almighty God, giver of all good things:

We thank you for the natural majesty and beauty of this land. They restore us, though we often destroy them.

Heal us.

We thank you for the great resources of this nation. They make us rich, though we often exploit them.

Forgive us.

We thank you for the men and women who have made this country strong. They are models for us, though we often fall short of them.

Inspire us.

We thank you for the torch of liberty which has been lit in this land. It has drawn people from every nation, though we have often hidden from its light.

Enlighten us.

We thank you for the faith we have inherited in all its rich variety. It sustains our life, though we have been faithless again and again.

Renew us.

Help us, O Lord, to finish the good work here begun. Strengthen our efforts to blot out ignorance and prejudice, and to abolish poverty and crime. And hasten the day when all our people, with many voices in one united chorus, will glorify your holy Name. *Amen.*

The Collects for our Country

Almighty God, who hast given us this good land for our heritage: We humbly beseech thee that we may always prove ourselves a people mindful of thy favor and glad to do thy will. Bless our land with honorable industry, sound learning, and pure manners. Save us from violence, discord, and confusion; from pride and arrogance, and from every evil way. Defend our liberties, and fashion into one united people the multitudes brought hither out of many kindreds and tongues. Endue with the spirit of wisdom those to whom in thy Name we entrust the authority of government, that there may be justice and peace at home, and that, through obedience to thy law, we may show forth thy praise



among the nations of the earth. In the time of prosperity, fill our hearts with thankfulness, and in the day of trouble, suffer not our trust in thee to fail; all which we ask through Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

O Lord our Governor, whose glory is in all the world: We commend this nation to your merciful care, that, being guided by your Providence, we may dwell secure in your peace. Grant to Joe Biden, the President of the United States, Jim Justice, the Governor of the State of West Virginia, and Ralph Northam, the Governor of the Commonwealth of Virginia, and to all in authority, wisdom and strength to know and to do your will. Fill them with the love of truth and righteousness, and make them ever mindful of their calling to serve this people in your fear; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, world without end. *Amen.*

O God, the fountain of wisdom, whose will is good and gracious, and whose law is truth: We beseech you so to guide and bless our Senators and Representatives in Congress assembled, and in the Legislature of our states, that they may enact such laws as shall please you, to the glory of your Name and the welfare of this people; through Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

Almighty God, you sit in the throne judging right: We humbly beseech you to bless the courts of justice and the magistrates in all this land; and give unto them the spirit of wisdom and understanding, that they may discern the truth, and impartially administer the law in the fear of you alone; through him who shall come to be our Judge, your Son our Savior Jesus Christ. *Amen.*

The Celebrant then concludes the Prayers with the following, the Collect for Independence Day.

Lord God Almighty, in whose Name the founders of this country won liberty for themselves and for us and lit the torch of freedom for nations then unborn: Grant that we and all the people of this land may have grace to maintain our liberties in righteousness and peace; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. *Amen.*



Washington at Prayer, Valley Forge. Engraving by John C. McRae. 1880.

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.

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*

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 you are the source of light and life, you made us in your image, and called us to new life in Jesus Christ our Lord. 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

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.

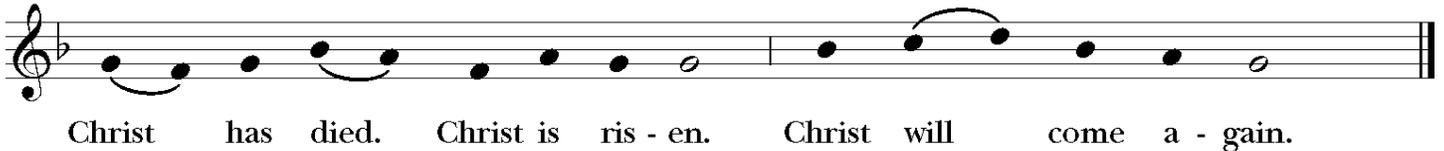
He stretched out his arms upon the cross, and offered himself, in obedience to your will, a perfect sacrifice for the whole world.

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



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

The Celebrant then pronounces the following blessing over the people

My Brothers and Sisters, as our Lord sent his disciples out into the villages of Galilee, so he now sends you to preach and teach in all the places you will go. Be of good courage for God goes with you. Do not fear your weakness for Christ is our strength. Do not worry what you will say, the Spirit will guide you, and remember that your actions demonstrate the love and power of God better than your words ever could. Travel lightly, live simply, honor those who welcome the Gospel, and love generously all whom you meet.

And may the blessing of God Almighty, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, be amongst you and remain with you always.

People Amen!

Please stand as the Altar Party leaves the front.

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

The Altar Flowers are given today for the greater Glory of God and in memory of loved ones by John and Delia Kersey.

Following our service will be Coffee Hour, hosted by the Lewis Family. This is a time for us to have fellowship, share our joys and sorrows, and get to know one another. It is very much an extension of the communal feast we share in the Holy Eucharist. You may remove your mask to eat or drink.

Please join us.

Participants in Today's Liturgy

Celebrant

the Very Rev. Chad Slater

Organist & Choirmaster

Terry E. Whittington, Jr.

Acolyte

Benjamin Slater

Lector

Delia Kersey

Altar Guild

Linda Thomas and Chris Justice

Attendance Last Sunday:

Please Keep the Following in Your Prayers: Dorene Dimes, Bonnie Taylor, Joe Sanders, Lee Puckett, Sr., Mabeline Robinson, Bea Paine, Lynn Burney, 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, Margarete 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, Kathleen Nieman, Alan Riggins, Brenda Payne, Buck and Louisa Sowers, Elizabeth Kane, Betty, Matt, Eric, the Denney Family

Birthdays This Week: Louisa Sowers and Catherine Wimmer-Anderson

Calendar of Events

Sunday – July 11	Building and Grounds Committee meeting after church
Thursday – July 15	Food Pantry 9:00 – 11:00am
Sunday – August 29	Church Picnic at Lotito Park

Announcements:

Coffee Hour: If you are interested in signing up for a Sunday Coffee Hour, please let Linda Ammar know. Thank you!

Church Committees: Sign-ups for Parish Committees are in the Narthex.

Confirmation Class: Bishop Klusmeyer will be joining us on Sunday, October 24 to help us celebrate the 100th anniversary of the dedication of our church building. Fr. Chad will be holding classes for those interested in confirmation at that time. Please see him for more information.

Clergy, Staff, and Wardens of this Parish

the Very Rev. Chad Slater	Rector
Mr. Terry E. Whittington, Jr.	Organist & Choirmaster
Ms. Emma Bennett	Parish Administrator
Mrs. Vanessa Hall	Sexton
Mr. David Kersey	Senior Warden
Mr. Peter Richardson	Junior Warden