



CHRIST EPISCOPAL CHURCH

BLUEFIELD, WEST VIRGINIA

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Bluefield, WV 24701

(304) 327-6861

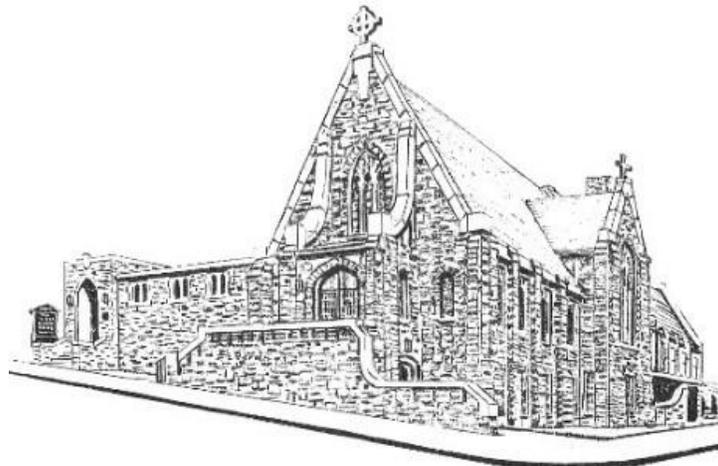
www.christchurchbluefield.org



**A Festival Service of Holy Eucharist
with Rites of Holy Baptism & Confirmation
on the 100th Anniversary of the Dedication
of the Christ Church Building**

The Twenty Second Sunday after Pentecost
being Proper XXV of the Church Year

October 24, 2021



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.

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.

Our Service Begins

Processional Anthem

How Lovely is Thy Dwelling Place

Hymnal 517

The Opening Sentences

The people standing, the Celebrant says

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

People

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

The Celebrant then continues

There is one Body and one Spirit;

People

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

Celebrant

One Lord, one Faith, one Baptism;

People

One God and Father of all.

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 - mighty 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 Collects 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, increase in us the gifts of faith, hope, and charity; and, that we may obtain what you promise, make us love what you command; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. *Amen.*

Almighty God, to whose glory we celebrate the dedication of this house of prayer: We give you thanks for the fellowship of those who have worshiped in this place, and we pray that all who seek you here may find you, and be filled with your joy and peace; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. *Amen.*



We Hear and Respond to God's Word

A Lesson From the Old Testament

Jeremiah 31:7-9

Thus says the Lord:

Sing aloud with gladness for Jacob,
 and raise shouts for the chief of the nations;
 proclaim, give praise, and say,
 "Save, O Lord, your people,
 the remnant of Israel."

See, I am going to bring them from the land of the north,
and gather them from the farthest parts of the earth,
among them the blind and the lame, those with child and
those in labor, together;
a great company, they shall return here.

With weeping they shall come,
and with consolations I will lead them back,
I will let them walk by brooks of water,
in a straight path in which they shall not stumble;
for I have become a father to Israel,
and Ephraim is my firstborn.

Lector The Word of the Lord.

People Thanks be to God!

The Psalm

Psalm 126

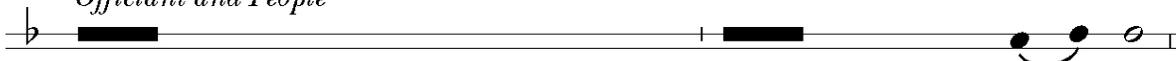
In convertendo

The Psalm will be read responsively by whole verse.

1. When the Lord restored the fortunes of Zion,
then were we like those who dream.
2. Then was our mouth filled with laughter,
and our tongue with shouts of joy.
3. Then they said among the nations,
"The Lord has done great things for them."
4. The Lord has done great things for us,
and we are glad indeed.
5. Restore our fortunes, O Lord, prayers
like the watercourses of the Negev.
6. Those who sowed with tears
will reap with songs of joy.
7. Those who go out weeping, carrying the seed,
will come again with joy, shouldering their sheaves.

Sung together

Officiant and People



Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spi - rit:



As it was in the beginning, is now, and will be for ever. A - men.

A Lesson From the New Testament

Hebrews 7:23-28

The former priests were many in number, because they were prevented by death from continuing in office; but Jesus holds his priesthood permanently, because he continues forever. Consequently he is able for all time to save those who approach God through him, since he always lives to make intercession for them.

For it was fitting that we should have such a high priest, holy, blameless, undefiled, separated from sinners, and exalted above the heavens. Unlike the other high priests, he has no need to offer sacrifices day after day, first for his own sins, and then for those of the people; this he did once for all when he offered himself. For the law appoints as high priests those who are subject to weakness, but the word of the oath, which came later than the law, appoints a Son who has been made perfect forever.

Lector The Word of the Lord.

People Thanks be to God!

Canticle at the Gospel

Canticle 2

Benedictus es, Domine

The Canticle is sung by the choir. Please stand.

Blessed art thou, O Lord God of our fathers;
praised and exalted above all for ever.
Blessed art thou for the name of thy Majesty;
praised and exalted above all for ever.
Blessed art thou in the temple of thy holiness;
praised and exalted above all for ever.
Blessed art thou that beholdest the depths,
and dwellest between the Cherubim;
praised and exalted above all for ever.
Blessed art thou on the glorious throne of thy kingdom;
praised and exalted above all for ever.
Blessed art thou in the firmament of heaven;
praised and exalted above all for ever.
Blessed art thou, O Father, Son, and Holy Spirit;
praised and exalted above all for ever.



The Gospel Lesson

Mark 10:46-52

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

People

Glory to you, Lord Christ.

Jesus and his disciples came to Jericho. As he and his disciples and a large crowd were leaving Jericho, Bartimaeus son of Timaeus, a blind beggar, was sitting by the roadside. When he heard that it was Jesus of Nazareth, he began to shout out and say, “Jesus, Son of David, have mercy on me!” Many sternly ordered him to be quiet, but he cried out even more loudly, “Son of David, have mercy on me!” Jesus stood still and said, “Call him here.” And they called the blind man, saying to him, “Take heart; get up, he is calling you.” So throwing off his cloak, he sprang up and came to Jesus. Then Jesus said to him, “What do you want me to do for you?” The blind man said to him, “My teacher, let me see again.” Jesus said to him, “Go; your faith has made you well.” Immediately he regained his sight and followed him on the way.

The Gospel of the Lord.

People

Praise to you, Lord Christ.



Healing of the blind man of Jericho, from the Ottheinrich Bible, by Matthias Gerung (1500–1570)

The Homily

the Rt. Rev. W. Michie Klusmeyer, VII Bishop of West Virginia

The Blessing and Dedication of the Altar Bell

Bishop All things come from you, O Lord;
People And from your own gifts do we give to you.
Bishop Prosper the work of our hands;
People Prosper our handiwork.
Bishop Show your servants your works;
People And your splendor to their children.
Bishop Let us pray.

Almighty God, we thank you that you have put it into the hearts of your people to make offerings for your service, and have been pleased to accept their gifts. Be with us now and bless us as we set apart this Altar Bell to your praise and glory and in memory of William Gordan Whittington; through Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

The Bishop then continues

Solomon beautified the sanctuary, and multiplied the vessels of the temple. Oh, the majesty and magnificence of God's presence!

People Oh, the power and the splendor of his sanctuary!

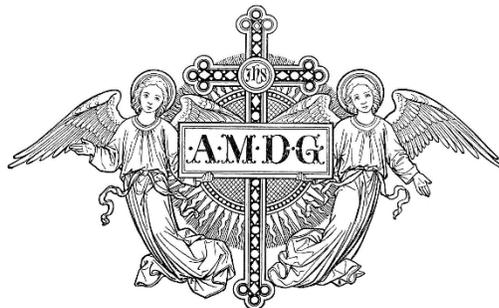
Bishop Let us pray.

O God, whose blessed Son has sanctified and transfigured the use of material things: Receive this Altar Bell which we offer, and grant that it may proclaim your love, benefit your Church, and minister grace and joy to those who use it; through Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

Almighty God, we remember before you today your faithful servant William; and we pray that, having opened to him the gates of larger life, you will receive him more and more into your joyful service, that, with all who have faithfully served you in the past, he may share in the eternal victory of Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

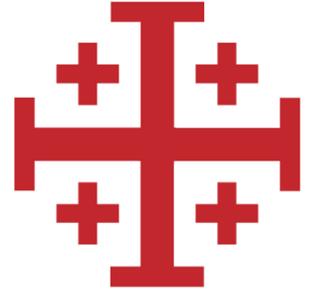
The Altar Bell is then rung three times. Applause is appropriate.

**For the
Greater
Glory of God**



**Ad Majorem
Dei Gloriam**

The Presentation and Examination of the Candidates



For the Rites of Holy Baptism

Bishop

The Candidate for Holy Baptism will now be presented.

Parents and Godparents

I present Payne Nolan Mowry to receive the Sacrament of Baptism.

Bishop

Will you be responsible for seeing that the child you present is brought up in the Christian faith and life?

Parents and Godparents

I will, with God's help.

Bishop

Will you by your prayers and witness help this child to grow into the full stature of Christ?

Parents and Godparents

I will, with God's help.

Then the Bishop asks the following questions of the candidates who can speak for themselves, and of the parents and godparents who speak on behalf of the infants and younger children

Question

Do you renounce Satan and all the spiritual forces of wickedness that rebel against God?

Answer

I renounce them.

Question

Do you renounce the evil powers of this world which corrupt and destroy the creatures of God?

Answer

I renounce them.

Question

Do you renounce all sinful desires that draw you from the love of God?

Answer

I renounce them.

Question

Do you turn to Jesus Christ and accept him as your Savior?

Answer

I do.

Question

Do you put your whole trust in his grace and love?

Answer

I do.

Question

Do you promise to follow and obey him as your Lord?

Answer

I do.

For the Rites of Confirmation

Bishop The Candidates for Confirmation will now be presented.

Presenters I present Tricia Hein-Brewster for Confirmation.
I present Benjamin Michael Slater for Confirmation.
I present Emma Catherine Slater for Confirmation.
I present Patricia Taylor for Confirmation.

The Bishop asks the candidates

Do you reaffirm your renunciation of evil?

Candidates I do.

Bishop Do you renew your commitment to Jesus Christ?

Candidates I do, and with God's grace I will follow him as my Savior and Lord.

After all have been presented, the Bishop addresses the congregation, saying

Will you who witness these vows do all in your power to support these persons in their life in Christ?

People We will.

The Bishop then says these or similar words

Let us join with those who are committing themselves to Christ and renew our own baptismal covenant.

The Baptismal Covenant

Bishop Do you believe in God the Father?

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

Bishop Do you believe in Jesus Christ, the Son of God?

People 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.

Bishop Do you believe in God the Holy Spirit?

People 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.

Bishop Will you continue in the apostles' teaching and fellowship, in the breaking of bread, and in the prayers?

People I will, with God's help.

Bishop Will you persevere in resisting evil, and, whenever you fall into sin, repent and return to the Lord?

People I will, with God's help.

Bishop Will you proclaim by word and example the Good News of God in Christ?

People I will, with God's help.

Bishop Will you seek and serve Christ in all persons, loving your neighbor as yourself?

People I will, with God's help.

Bishop Will you strive for justice and peace among all people, and respect the dignity of every human being?

People I will, with God's help.

The Prayers

The Bishop then says to the congregation

Let us now pray for these persons who are to receive the Sacrament of new birth and for those who have renewed their commitment to Christ.

Leader Deliver them, O Lord, from the way of sin and death.

People Lord, hear our prayer.

Leader Open their hearts to your grace and truth.

People Lord, hear our prayer.

Leader Fill them with your holy and life-giving Spirit.

People Lord, hear our prayer.

Leader Keep them in the faith and communion of your holy Church.

People Lord, hear our prayer.

Leader Teach them to love others in the power of the Spirit.

People Lord, hear our prayer.

Leader Send them into the world in witness to your love.

People Lord, hear our prayer.

Leader Bring them to the fullness of your peace and glory.

People Lord, hear our prayer.

Leader We pray for your holy catholic Church, that divisions may cease and unity prevail.

People Lord, hear our prayer.

Leader Guide the leaders of this land, especially Joe, our president, Jim and Ralph, our governors, and Don and Ronnie, our mayors, to promote the general welfare and uphold the dignity of all people.

People Lord, hear our prayer.

Leader Comfort and heal all those who suffer in body, mind, or spirit and bring them the joy of your salvation.

People Lord, hear our prayer.

Leader Forgive us of our sins, and fix in us the grace of your Holy Spirit to amend our lives and be faithful witnesses to your Gospel.

People Lord, hear our prayer.

Leader We pray for all who have died, that they might find rest and peace. Together, with the company of all those in heaven and on earth, let us commend ourselves, and all our life, to Christ our God.

People To you, O Lord our God.

The Bishop then says

Grant, O Lord, that all who are baptized into the death of Jesus Christ your Son may live in the power of his resurrection and look for him to come again in glory; who lives and reigns now and forever. *Amen.*

Thanksgiving over the Water

The Celebrant blesses the water, first saying

The Lord be with you.

People And also with you.

Celebrant Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

People It is right to give him thanks and praise.

Celebrant

We thank you, Almighty God, for the gift of water.

Over it the Holy Spirit moved in the beginning of creation.

Through it you led the children of Israel out of their bondage in Egypt into the land of promise.

In it your Son Jesus received the baptism of John and was anointed by the Holy Spirit as the Messiah, the Christ, to lead us, through his death and resurrection, from the bondage of sin into everlasting life.

We thank you, Father, for the water of Baptism.

In it we are buried with Christ in his death.

By it we share in his resurrection.

Through it we are reborn by the Holy Spirit.

Therefore in joyful obedience to your Son, we bring into his fellowship those who come to him in faith, baptizing them in the Name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

At the following words, the Celebrant touches the water

Now sanctify this water, we pray you, by the power of your Holy Spirit, that those who here are cleansed from sin and born again may continue for ever in the risen life of Jesus Christ our Savior. To him, to you, and to the Holy Spirit, be all honor and glory, now and for ever.

People Amen.

The Baptism

Celebrant

Payne, I baptize you in the Name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

People Amen.

The Celebrant continues

Let us pray.



Heavenly Father, we thank you that by water and the Holy Spirit you have bestowed upon these your servants the forgiveness of sin, and have raised them to the new life of grace. Sustain them, O Lord, in your Holy Spirit. Give them an inquiring and discerning heart, the courage to will and to persevere, a spirit to know and to love you, and the gift of joy and wonder in all your works.

People Amen.

Then the Celebrant places a hand on the person's head, marking the sign of the cross using Chrism and saying
Payne, you are sealed by the Holy Spirit in Baptism and marked as Christ's own for ever.

People Amen.

The Celebrant then lights a candle from the Pascal Candle and passes to one of the child's sponsors.

Payne, receive this—the light of Christ—and carry it in your heart that your life may be a light unto the world.

People Amen.

When all have been baptized, the Celebrant says

Let us welcome the newly baptized.

Celebrant and People

We receive you into the household of God. Confess the faith of Christ crucified, proclaim his resurrection, and share with us in his eternal priesthood.

Applause is appropriate. After a moment of celebration, the Altar Party returns to the chancel.

The Rite of Confirmation

The Bishop then takes his place at the chancel steps and says to the congregation

Let us now pray for these persons who have renewed their commitment to Christ.

Then the Bishop says

Almighty God, we thank you that by the death and resurrection of your Son Jesus Christ you have overcome sin and brought us to yourself, and that by the sealing of your Holy Spirit you have bound us to your service. Renew in these your servants the covenant you have made with them at their Baptism. Send them forth in the power of that Spirit to perform the service you set before them; through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever.

People Amen.



The Bishop lays hands upon each one and says

Defend, O Lord, your servant N. with your heavenly grace, that he/she may continue yours for ever, and daily increase in your Holy Spirit more and more, until he/she comes to your everlasting kingdom. Amen.

The Bishop concludes with this prayer

Almighty and everlasting God, let your fatherly hand ever be over these your servants; let your Holy Spirit ever be with them; and so lead them in the knowledge and obedience of your Word, that they may serve you in this life, and dwell with you in the life to come; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

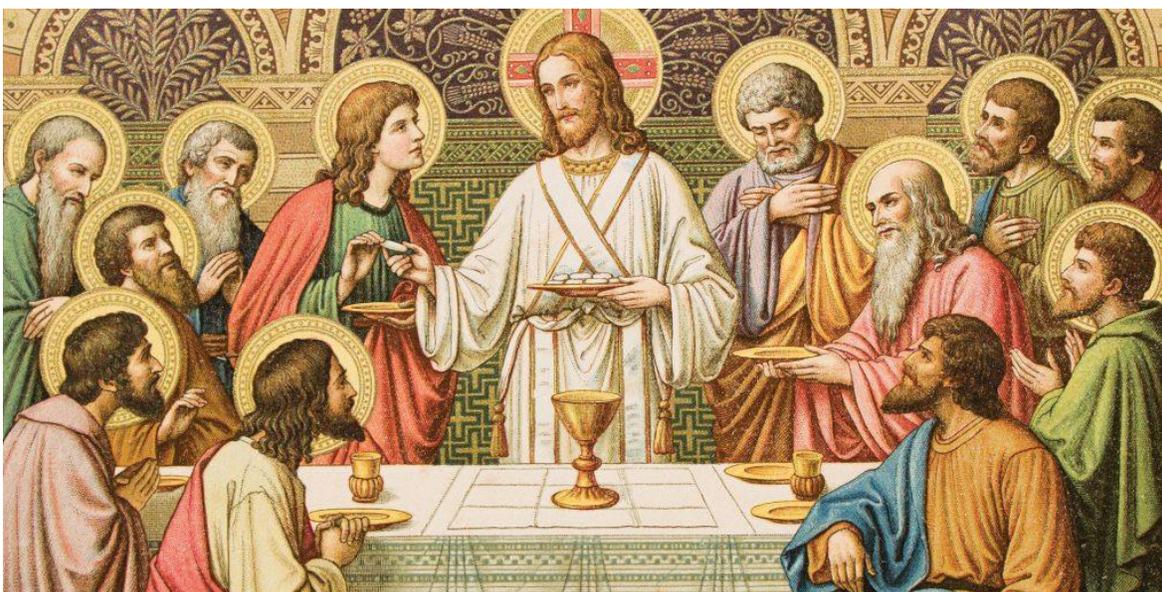
People Amen.

The Peace

Bishop 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

Let not your heart be troubled (from John XIV: 1,27) Speaks

Doxology

After the Offertory piece has been played the People stand and sing to the familiar tune of the "Old 100th"

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;

Praise Him, all creatures here below;

Praise Him above, ye heavenly host:

Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost.

Celebrant 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.

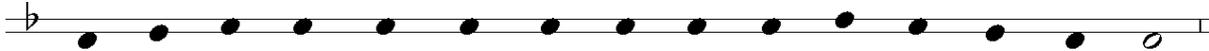
For thine is the kingdom,

and the power, and the glory,

for ever and ever. Amen.

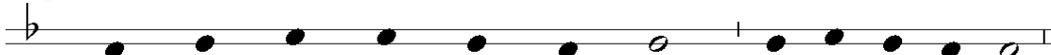
The Breaking of the Bread

Celebrant



Al - le - lu - ia. Christ our Pass - o - ver is sac - ri - ficed for us;

People



There - fore let us keep the feast. Al - le - lu - ia.

Celebrant

The Gifts of God for the People of God.

The Prayer for Spiritual Communion

Should you prefer not to receive the physical elements of the Holy Communion you are invited to read the following in silent prayer as the physical sacrament is being distributed.

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

Almighty and everliving God,
we thank you for feeding us with the spiritual food
of the most precious Body and Blood
of your Son our Savior Jesus Christ;
and for assuring us in these holy mysteries
that we are living members of the Body of your Son,
and heirs of your eternal kingdom.

And now, Father, send us out
to do the work you have given us to do,
to love and serve you
as faithful witnesses of Christ our Lord.

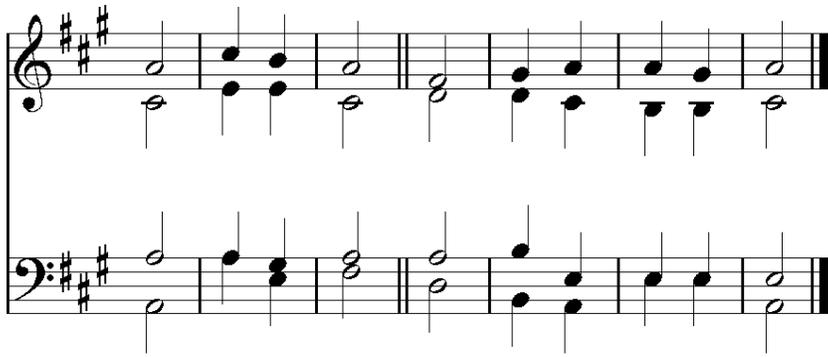
To him, to you, and to the Holy Spirit,
be honor and glory, now and for ever.

Amen.



Te Deum Laudamus

Please stand for the Solemn Te Deum, sung by the Choir

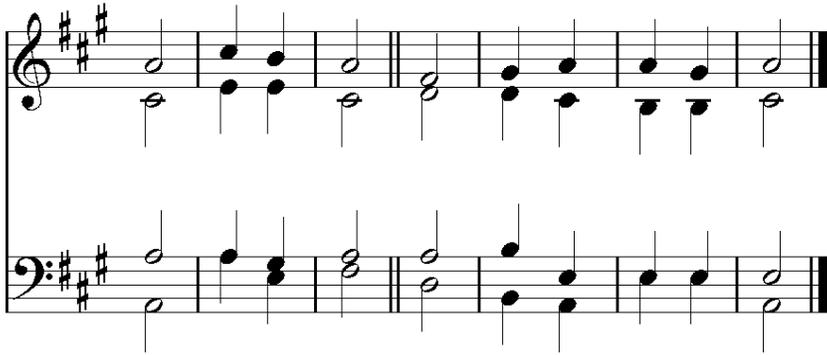


- 1 We praise thee, O God; we acknowledge¹ thee to be the¹ Lord. *
All the earth doth worship¹ thee, the¹ Father ever¹ lasting.
- 2 To thee all¹ Angels cry a¹ loud, *
the Heavens and¹ all the¹ Powers there¹ in.
- 3 To thee Cherubim and¹ Sera¹ phim *
con¹ tinual¹ ly do¹ cry:
- 4 Holy, holy, holy, Lord¹ God of¹ Sabaoth; *
Heaven and earth are full of the¹ majesty¹ of thy¹ glory.
- 5 The glorious company of the a¹ postles¹ praise thee. *
The goodly¹ fellow¹ ship of the¹ prophets¹ praise thee.
- 6 The noble army of¹ martyrs¹ praise thee. *
The holy Church throughout all the¹ world doth ac¹ knowledge¹ thee,
- 7 the Father, of an¹ infinite¹ majesty, *
thine adorable, true, and only Son,
also the¹ Holy¹ Ghost the¹ Com¹ forter.



- 8 Thou art the King of¹ glory, O¹ Christ. *
Thou art the ever¹ lasting¹ Son of the¹ Father.
- 9 When thou tookest upon thee to de¹ liver¹ man, *
thou didst humble thy¹ self to be¹ born of a¹ Virgin.

- 10 When thou hadst overcome the sharpness of death, *
 thou didst open the kingdom of heaven to all believers.
 11 Thou sittest at the right hand of God, in the glory of the Father. *
 We believe that thou shalt come to be our judge.



- 12 We therefore pray thee, help thy servants, *
 whom thou hast redeemed with thy precious blood.
 13 Make them to be numbered with thy saints, *
 in glory everlasting.

The Blessing Over the People



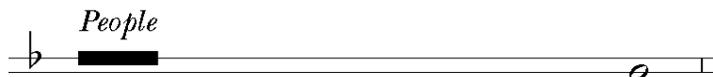
Our help is in the Name of the Lord;



The maker of heaven and earth.



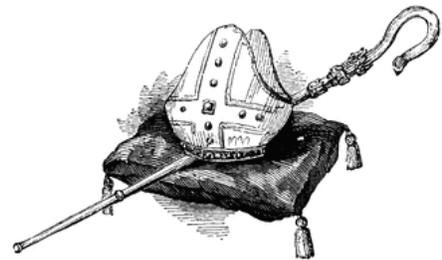
Blessed be the Name of the Lord;



From this time forth for ever-more.

The Bishop then blesses the people.

The People then respond Amen!



Recessional Anthem

Ye servants of God, your Master proclaim

Hymnal 535

The Dismissal

Priest Let us go forth into the world, rejoicing in the power of the Spirit.

People Thanks be to God.

Postlude

Ode to Joy

Beethoven



The Altar Flowers are given today by Mrs. Phyllis Walker for the glory of God and in memory of loved ones.

The Chancel Rail Flowers are given today by the Vestry in recognition of our beautiful building's 100th anniversary and in honor of our newly baptized and confirmed members.



Participants in Today's Liturgy

Celebrant

the Rt. Rev. W. Michie Klusmeyer
Bishop of West Virginia

Co-celebrants

the Very Rev. Chad Slater
Rector of Christ Church
the Rev. Russ Hatfield
Rector Emeritus of the Tazewell Cluster

Deacon

the Rev. Paul Barker
Deacon at St. Paul's Church, Mt. Lebanon, PA

Organist & Choirmaster

Terry E. Whittington, Jr.

Choir

David Hardin
Alyson Bowling

Lectors

Linda Ammar
David Kersey
Don Williams

Acolytes

Samuel Kinser
Marra McPherson

Altar Guild

Elizabeth Clement
Teresa Paine
Linda Ammar
Mimi Merritt

A Reception "to go" is provided in the Narthex to celebrate the newly baptized and confirmed.

A History of Christ Episcopal Church, Bluefield, West Virginia

In 1889 the Mercer County Mission was established—what today we would call a “cluster” or “cooperative ministry.” This mission was headed by the Rev. Charles Gauss and was comprised of three churches: Princeton, Bramwell, and Bluefield. Each parish meet in homes or businesses until they could manage buildings of their own. Although the parishes located in Princeton and Bramwell were older (having been meeting for Morning Prayer, periodic communion when a traveling minister could be found, and at least two visits by Bishop Peterkin since at the early 1880’s), Bluefield’s new congregation was the first to secure a lot for a building and the first to send a representative to Diocesan Convention. At convention in 1889, Christ Church was admitted as a mission church of the Diocese (meaning that the parish was free standing, but still relied on financial support from the Diocese). The following year, Christ Church (then known as the Church of the Incarnation) was admitted as a full parish, no longer needing Diocesan support. Bramwell and Princeton would be admitted as the same the following year, in 1891.

The Rev. William H. Burkhart was the first Rector at the church. He held his first service in Bluefield at 3:00 p.m., February 15, 1891. In June 1894, the Rev. Norman Fitzhugh Marshall took charge of Bluefield, Mr. Lightbourne had reported the name of the church as "Christ Church."

The present church was constructed 30 years after that day in 1891 when the first church was dedicated. A devastating fire on Christmas Day 1919 destroyed the original wooden church.

The cornerstone for the present building was laid on Sunday, December 26, 1920, and it was completed before the next Christmas. It was dedicated on October 23, 1921, by Episcopal Bishop W. L. Gravatt, with clergy E. W. Hughes of Graham (now Bluefield, VA) and Rector Jennings Wise Hobson assisting. The church debt was liquidated on schedule at the annual Congregational meeting in January 1944, according to the original 20-year plan, 1924-1944. The Rt. Rev. Robert E. L. Strider was bishop, and The Rev. Jennings W. Hobson was still rector. Bishop Strider visited on June 25, 1944 and consecrated the church.

Under the leadership of the Rev. Frank Rowley, the campaign for the new Parish House addition was launched in the mid-1950's. The addition, as was the 1921 church, was designed by Bluefield architect Alex B. Mahood, and was painstakingly planned to match the older church in architectural style. A beautiful new administrative wing, library, and educational addition were included in the new Parish Hall addition. The newest addition to Christ Church was completed on March 9, 1958, and was dedicated on March 30, 1958 by the Rt. Rev. Wilburn Campbell, the fourth Bishop of West Virginia. Extensive renovations of the church occurred in 2015 and 2018 which were meant to complete the vision of Alex Mahood.

In 2018 the congregation of St. Mary’s Episcopal Church in Bluefield, Virginia, decided to close its doors. The members of St. Mary’s, along with many of the items of the old church, including their handsome altar cross (which now sits on the side altar in Christ Church), were enthusiastically received into the Christ Church fellowship. The St. Mary’s Conference Room holds many of the parish’s records, photos, and history.

Eight members of Christ Episcopal Church have gone on to ordained ministry—two have become bishops. Throughout its history, the people of Christ Church, ordained or not, have been major figures in the Bluefield community and beyond. Among the church’s most prominent members has been John Forbes Nash, Jr., Nobel Laureate whose life was chronicled in the movie "A Beautiful Mind."

Information for this short history was compiled from works by the Very Rev. Chad Slater, Mr. Don Williams, and the late Mr. Clifford B. Sykes.



Dorene Dimes, Bonnie Taylor, Joe Sanders, Bea Paine, Lynn Burney, Bob and Peggy Walk, John Kersey, Martha Linkous, Jay Kephart, Buck and Louisa Sowers, Donna Fortune, Ed and Gladys Fortune, Sarah Irwin, Janet Slager, Dean Farmer, Haddon Lazenby, Jack Burchette, Nick, Randy Snider, Margarett Joplin, David, Martin, Harry, Ben Rose, Jack, Sheri, Dan, Kensley, John, Elizabeth Kane, Betty, Matt, Eric, Carol, Dave, Gail, Jean, Lane, Loraine, Sherry, all Healthcare Personnel and Frontline Workers, Ivy and the Gaines Family, John, the Rev. Brian Shoda, the Patterson Family, Velma Harmon, and Taylor Frazier, III.

Birthdays This Week: William Allen and Bernadette Dragotto



Reformation Sunday: There will be a service of Confirmation on Sunday, October 31st (Reformation Sunday) at Immanuel Lutheran Church immediately after our services that day (11:00 a.m.). Students from ILC studied with our own youth in a joint Confirmation program this year. All are welcome to attend and celebrate these young people's accomplishment.

Cole Family Welcomes New Addition: Jason & Jessica, along with their son, Liam, welcomed a new addition this past week. Lilly Mae Cole was born on Tuesday, October 19th. Baby and mother are doing well. Congratulations!

Parish History Display: In our Narthex and Gallery (Office) Hallway are items from our Parish's history. Notably included are the Consecration Certificate and newspaper spread on the dedication of the building in 1921.

Artwork at the Altar: The gilding on the lettering and other details around the altar were done by local artist, Beth Moore. The project is being paid for from the Memorial Fund at Christ Church.

Calendar of Events

Wednesday – October 27

Dinner at Union Mission 4:00 pm

Monday – November 1

Evening Prayer for All Saints 7:00 pm

Sunday – November 7

All Saints Sunday

Wednesday – November 10

Dinner at Union Mission 3:00 pm

Monday – November 22

Thanksgiving Service at ILC 6:00 pm



The Bishop's Offering

The Highland Educational Project
McDowell County, West Virginia

For more than 70 years, the Episcopal Diocese of West Virginia has ministered to those living in McDowell County. The Highland Educational Project (HEP) supports various programs including home repairs, education, addiction recovery, and family, youth, and children's programs.

Our main focus at HEP is to aid in four areas: spiritual, educational, physical/nutritional/emotional, and environmental. The ministry is designed to support programs that help the state's most underserved.

After re-opening the doors in 2019, our efforts have been focused on rebuilding relationships in McDowell County and making connections with volunteer groups. Mission teams returned to the country that year. This important ministry continues with the help of our partners and the support of the Diocese.

Please be generous with your offering today. Let us reach out our hands in love and make HEP the ray of hope that is needed to help the residents of McDowell County.

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

