



CHRIST EPISCOPAL CHURCH

BLUEFIELD, WEST VIRGINIA

200 Duhring Street, Bluefield, WV 24701

(304) 327-6861

[www.christchurchbluefield.org](http://www.christchurchbluefield.org)



FOURTH SUNDAY  
OF  
*Advent*

December 19, 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.

## Prelude

### Our Service Begins

#### The Opening Sentences

*Please stand for the procession*

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

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

#### The Collect for Purity

*Celebrant*

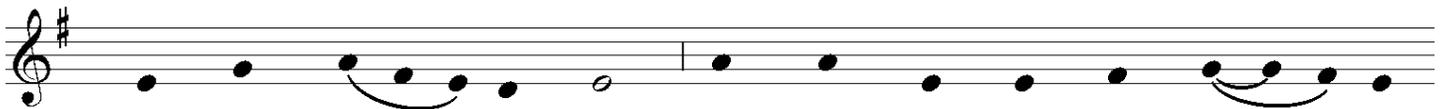
Almighty God, to you all hearts are open, all desires known, and from you no secrets are hid: Cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love you, and worthily magnify your holy Name; through Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

#### The Hymn of Praise

*O come, O come, Emmanuel*



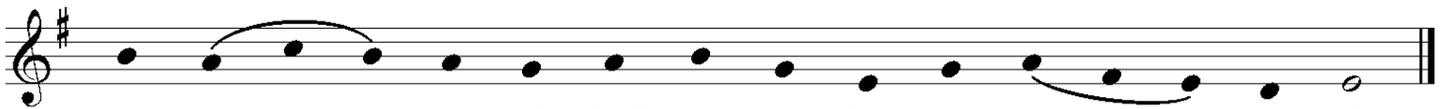
(Dec. 22) 7 O come, De - sire of na - tions, bind in one the  
(Dec. 23) 8 O come, O come, Em - man - u - el, and ran - som



7 hearts of all man - kind; bid thou our sad di - vi - sions  
8 cap - tive Is - ra - el, that mourns in lone - ly ex - ile



7 cease, and be thy - self our King of Peace. Re - joice! Re - joice!  
8 here un - til the Son of God ap - pear.



Em - man - u - el shall come to thee, O Is - ra - el!

*The stanzas may be used as antiphons with "The Song of Mary" on the dates given.*

Words: Latin, ca. 9th cent.; ver *Hymnal 1940*, alt. Copyright © The Church Pension Fund. Music: *Veni, Veni, Emmanuel*, plainsong, Mode 1, *Processionale*, 15th, cent.; adpt. Thomas Helmore (1811-1890); acc. Richard Proulx (b. 1937) Copyright ©1975, G.I.A. Publications, Inc. All rights reserved. Used with permission.

## 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.

Purify our conscience, Almighty God, by your daily visitation, that your Son Jesus Christ, at his coming, may find in us a mansion prepared for himself; 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

### The First Lesson

*Micah 5:2-5a*

You, O Bethlehem of Ephrathah,  
who are one of the little clans of Judah,  
from you shall come forth for me  
one who is to rule in Israel,  
whose origin is from of old,  
from ancient days.

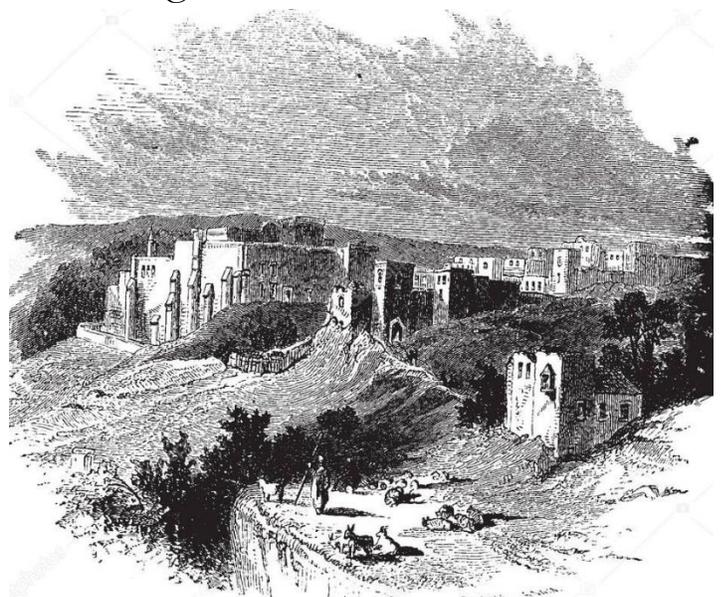
Therefore, he shall give them up until the time  
when she who is in labor has brought forth;  
then the rest of his kindred shall return  
to the people of Israel.

And he shall stand and feed his flock in the strength of the LORD,  
in the majesty of the name of the LORD his God.

And they shall live secure, for now he shall be great  
to the ends of the earth;  
and he shall be the one of peace.

*Lector* The Word of the Lord.

*People* Thanks be to God!



*We will recite the Canticle in unison.*

My soul proclaims the greatness of the Lord,  
my spirit rejoices in God my Savior;  
for he has looked with favor on his lowly servant.

From this day all generations will call me blessed:  
the Almighty has done great things for me, and holy is his Name.

He has mercy on those who fear him  
in every generation.

He has shown the strength of his arm,  
he has scattered the proud in their conceit.

He has cast down the mighty from their thrones,  
and has lifted up the lowly.

He has filled the hungry with good things,  
and the rich he has sent away empty.

He has come to the help of his servant Israel,  
for he has remembered his promise of mercy,

The promise he made to our fathers,  
to Abraham and his children for ever.

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

*Hebrews 10:5-10*

When Christ came into the world, he said,

"Sacrifices and offerings you have not desired, but a body you have prepared for me; in burnt offerings and sin offerings you have taken no pleasure. Then I said, 'See, God, I have come to do your will, O God' (in the scroll of the book it is written of me)."

When he said above, "You have neither desired nor taken pleasure in sacrifices and offerings and burnt offerings and sin offerings" (these are offered according to the law), then he added, "See, I have come to do your will." He abolishes the first in order to establish the second. And it is by God's will that we have been sanctified through the offering of the body of Jesus Christ once for all.

*Lector*        The Word of the Lord.

*People*        Thanks be to God!

## The Gospel Lesson

Luke 1:39-55

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

*People* Glory to you, Lord Christ.

In those days Mary set out and went with haste to a Judean town in the hill country, where she entered the house of Zechariah and greeted Elizabeth.

When Elizabeth heard Mary's greeting, the child leaped in her womb. And Elizabeth was filled with the Holy Spirit and exclaimed with a loud cry, "Blessed are you among women, and blessed is the fruit of your womb. And why has this happened to me, that the mother of my Lord comes to me? For as soon as I heard the sound of your greeting, the child in my womb leaped for joy. And blessed is she who believed that there would be a fulfillment of what was spoken to her by the Lord."

*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.*

Our souls proclaim the greatness of you, O Lord, and we rejoice; for you have looked with favor on us, your servants. Hear us as we pray.

O Lord, you have mercy on those who fear you from every generation. Bless the faithful of every generation with your grace, especially the loved ones of John and Delia Kersey, Betsy Davis, the loved ones of the Richardson Family, and of the Meachum Family.

Come Lord, Jesus...*hear our Prayer.*

Lord, you have shown the strength of your arm and you have scattered the proud in their conceit. Teach your Church to serve with humility, compassion, and love. Keep Justin, the Archbishop of Canterbury, Michael, our Presiding Bishop, Mike, our Bishop, Matthew, our Bishop-elect, and Chad, our priest, under your care and strengthen them to be faithful to your Word and sacraments.

Come Lord, Jesus...*hear our Prayer.*

Lord, you have cast down the mighty from their thrones, and lifted up the lowly. Guide us toward justice and dignity for all people. We pray for Joe, our President, Jim and Ralph, our Governors, and Ron and Donnie, our Mayors, that they may make right decisions for the welfare of all.

Come Lord, Jesus...*hear our Prayer.*

Lord, you have filled the hungry with good things, and the rich you have sent away empty. Help us to hunger for righteousness and turn away from the greed that divides us and destroys your creation. Bless for this work Michael Richardson and Carol Georgis, as they celebrate birthdays.

Come Lord, Jesus...*hear our Prayer.*

Lord, you have come to the help of your servant Israel, for you have remembered your promise of mercy. Come to the help of all those on our Prayer List, and those we now name before you either silently or aloud...

Come Lord, Jesus...*hear our Prayer.*

God of Zion, the promise you made to our fathers, to Abraham and his children for ever still resounds in the hearts and minds of your faithful. Our souls proclaim the greatness of you, O Lord—Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. *Amen.*

## **The Confession and Absolution**

*The Deacon or Celebrant says*

Let us confess our sins against God and our neighbor.

*Silence may be kept. Minister and People*

Most merciful God,  
we confess that we have sinned against you  
in thought, word, and deed,  
by what we have done,  
and by what we have left undone.  
We have not loved you with our whole heart;  
we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves.  
We are truly sorry and we humbly repent.  
For the sake of your Son Jesus Christ,  
have mercy on us and forgive us;  
that we may delight in your will,  
and walk in your ways,  
to the glory of your Name. Amen.

*The Bishop, when present, or the Priest, stands and says*

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

## **The Peace**

*Celebrant* The peace of the Lord be always with you.

*People* And also with you.

*At this time we will greet those around us in the name of the Lord. Please refrain from physical touch during this time so as to ensure proper social distancing for all members of the congregation. Thank you.*



## **The Holy Eucharist, sometimes call *The Mass***

**Offertory**

*In Dulce Jubilo*

played on hurdy-gurdies

*After the Offertory piece has been played the People stand and sing to the familiar tune of the "Old 100<sup>th</sup>"*

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.

## Prayer of Preparation at the Altar

As the grain once scattered in the fields and the grapes once dispersed on the hillside are now united on this table in bread and wine, so, Lord, may your whole Church soon be gathered together from the corners of the earth into your kingdom. *Amen.*

## Eucharistic Prayer "B"

*The people remain standing. The Celebrant, whether bishop or priest, faces them and sings or says*

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.

*Then, facing the Holy Table, the Celebrant proceeds*

It is right, and a good and joyful thing, always and every-where to give thanks to you, Father Almighty, Creator of heaven and earth. Because you sent your beloved Son to redeem us from sin and death, and to make us heirs in him of everlasting life; that when he shall come again in power and great triumph to judge the world, we may without shame or fear rejoice to behold his appearing. 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 musical notation consists of four staves of music in a single system. The first staff begins with a treble clef and a key signature of one flat (B-flat). The melody is written in a simple, hymn-like style. There are three triplet markings (indicated by a '3' above a bracket) over the words 'Ho - ly', 'heaven and earth', and 'Ho - san - na'. The music concludes with a double bar line.

*The people stand or kneel. Then the Celebrant continues*

We give thanks to you, O God, for the goodness and love which you have made known to us in creation; in the calling of Israel to be your people; in your Word spoken through the prophets; and above all in the Word made flesh, Jesus, your Son. For in these last days, you sent him to be incarnate from the Virgin Mary, to be the Savior and Redeemer of the world. In him, you have delivered us from evil, and made us worthy to stand before you. In him, you have brought us out of error into truth, out of sin into righteousness, out of death into life.

On the night before he died for us, 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, according to his command, O Father,

*Celebrant and People*

We remember his death,  
We proclaim his resurrection,  
We await his coming in glory;

*The Celebrant continues*

And we offer our sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving to you, O Lord of all; presenting to you, from your creation, this bread and this wine. We pray you, gracious God, to send your Holy Spirit upon these gifts that they may be the Sacrament of the Body of Christ and his Blood of the new Covenant. Unite us to your Son in his sacrifice, that we may be acceptable through him, being sanctified by the Holy Spirit. In the fullness of time, put all things in subjection under your Christ, and bring us to that heavenly country where, with St. Mary, St. Margret, and all your saints, we may enter the everlasting heritage of your sons and daughters; through Jesus Christ our Lord, the firstborn of all creation, the head of the Church, and the author of our salvation.

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.

*The Celebrant and People together sing*



**A - men.**



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 and says*

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 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.

## The Blessing

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

May Almighty God,  
by whose providence our Savior Christ came among us in great humility,  
sanctify you with the light of his blessing and set you free from all sin.  
May he whose second Coming in power and great glory we await,  
make you steadfast in faith, joyful in hope, and constant in love.  
May you, who rejoice in the first Advent of our Redeemer,  
at his second Advent be rewarded with unending life.  
And the blessing of God Almighty, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit,  
be upon you and remain with you for ever.

*People* Amen!

## The Dismissal

We are dismissed from this gathering to go into the world to spread the Good News and the love of Christ! We respond to this instruction with:

*Thanks be to God!*

## Postlude



The following are given today for the greater Glory of God:

Altar Flowers – by John & Delia Kersey in memory of loved ones.

Chrismon Tree –by Peter & Patty Richardson in memory of loved ones.

Advent Wreath – by Marc & Patricia Meachum in memory of loved ones

Door Wreathes – by Bill Davis in memory of Betsy Davis



### **Participants in Today's Liturgy**

<u>Celebrant</u>	the Very Rev. Chad Slater
<u>Organist &amp; Choirmaster</u>	Terry E. Whittington, Jr.
<u>Musicians</u>	Tim & Maggie Mainland
<u>Acolyte</u>	Ben Slater
<u>Lector</u>	Delia Kersey
<u>Altar Guild</u>	Linda Ammar and Patty Richardson

**Birthdays This Week:** Michael Richardson and Carol Georgis

**Attendance Last Sunday:**

42

**Please Keep the Following in Your Prayers:** Dorene Dimes, Bonnie Taylor, Joe Sanders, Bea Paine, 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, JL, Randy Snider, Margarete Joplin, David, Martin, Harry, Ben Rose, Jack, Sheri, Dan, Kensley, John, 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, Taylor Frazier, III, and Brian.

### **Calendar of Events**

Friday – December 24

Christmas Eve 5:00pm & 11:00 pm

Sunday – December 26

1<sup>st</sup> Sunday After Christmas Virtual Service

Saturday – January 15

Farewell Reception for the Slater Family  
at David's Downtown 3-5pm

Sunday – January 16

Fr. Chad's Farewell Service 10:00 am

## **Announcements:**

Worship Assistant Scheduling: If you are interested in serving as an acolyte or other worship assistant, please let Fr. Chad know. He is working on a schedule for services after his departure and help is needed. Thank you!

We've Come This Far by Faith Pledge Drive: Pledge Cards have been mailed out to all households of the parish. If for some reason you did not receive your Pledge Card, please let the Parish Office know as soon as possible. Pledge Cards may be returned to the church either by mail or in the Sunday offering plate. Thank you!

Farewell and God Bless Reception Invitation: You're invited to a goodbye reception for the Slater family.

When: Saturday, January 15, 2022

Time: 3-5 p.m.

Where: David's Downtown

Come by and wish the Slaters farewell and the Lord's Blessings on their new journey. Please RSVP by January 7th to Linda Ammar: [lwammar1@gmail.com](mailto:lwammar1@gmail.com) or call: 304-545-9750.

## **A message from the Vestry**

We are very sorry to see Father Chad, Jennifer, Ben and Emma leave for Charleston. While we say goodbye over the next few weeks, we need to work to fill the void they will leave behind. We are in discussions with a prospective supply priest for the beginning of the year. We will need parish members to fill the acolyte and videographer roles that will be left open when the Slaters leave. We will need to assemble a search committee to seek a new permanent rector. We have three Vestry terms which expire in January and will need to be filled at the annual meeting.

All of us will need to remain active in the church and intentional with our church life. It is very important for you to complete and return your annual pledge card. As we vet prospective rectors, they will be vetting us and it is important that we fully fund the “Rector Expenses” line items in our annual budget to demonstrate our wherewithal to pay a full time priest. If you need a pledge card, one may be obtained from the church office.

Please send an email to Emma Bennett in the Parish Office to let her know which of the roles noted above that you can take on. If we all pitch in and work together, we will find that the future for our church will be bright.



## **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