



CHRIST EPISCOPAL CHURCH

BLUEFIELD, WEST VIRGINIA

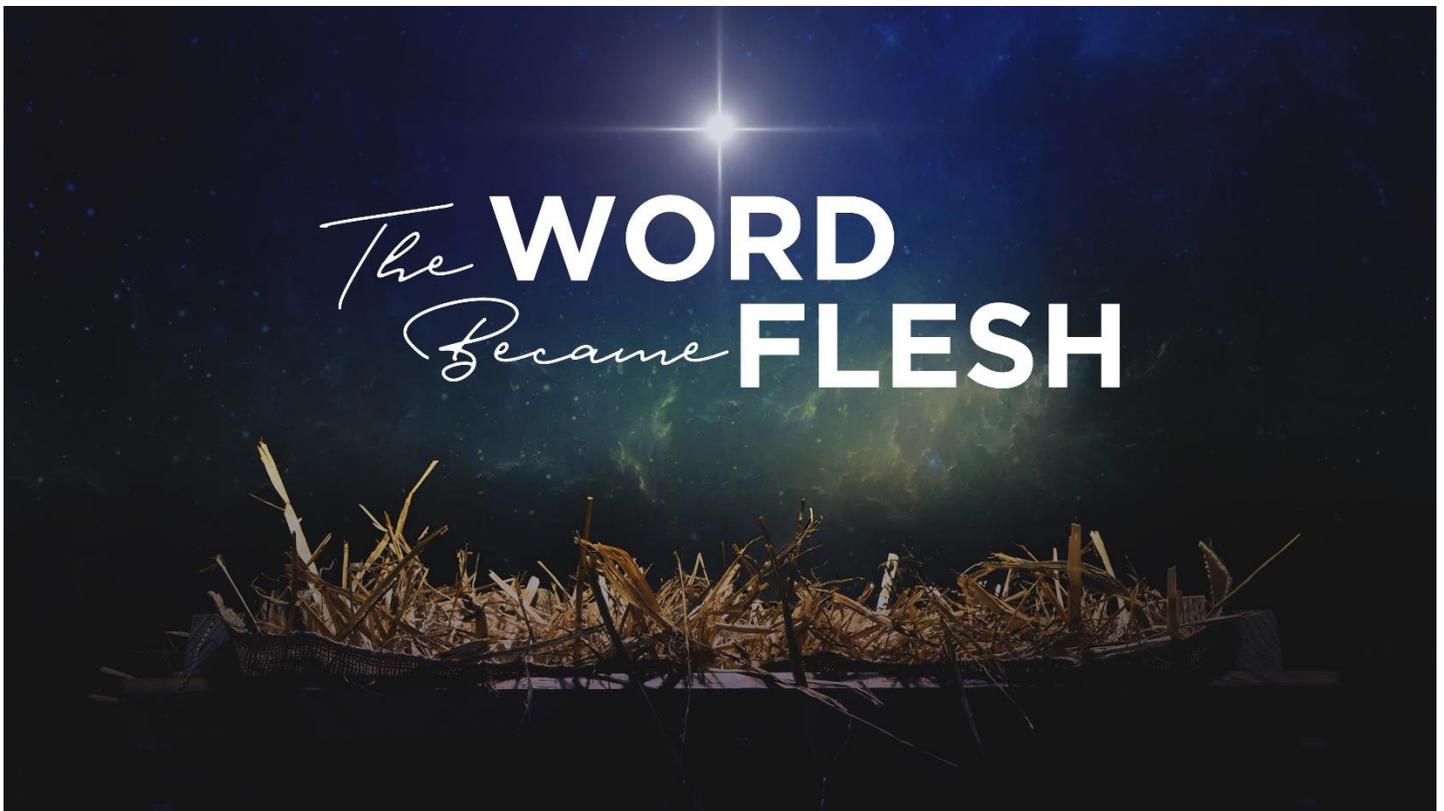
200 Duhring Street, Bluefield, WV 24701

(304) 327-6861

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



## The First Sunday After Christmas December 26, 2021



Thank you for joining us for this special online only worship service. This virtual service can be found online at YouTube and Facebook. Simply search for the Christ Episcopal Church, Bluefield, page on either platform.

May God richly bless you in this Christmas Season!

## **Opening Sentences**

*The Officiant begins the service with these words*

Behold, the dwelling of God is with mankind. He will dwell with them, and they shall be his people, and God himself will be with them, and be their God.

*Revelation 21:3*

## **Confession of Sin**

*The Officiant says to the people*

Dearly beloved, we have come together in the presence of Almighty God our heavenly Father, to set forth his praise, to hear his holy Word, and to ask, for ourselves and on behalf of others, those things that are necessary for our life and our salvation. And so that we may prepare ourselves in heart and mind to worship him, let us kneel in silence, and with penitent and obedient hearts confess our sins, that we may obtain forgiveness by his infinite goodness and mercy.

*Said together*

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 Priest alone 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 Invitatory and Psalter

*Officiant* Lord, open our lips.

*People* And our mouth shall proclaim your praise.

*Officiant and People*

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.

Alleluia. To us a child is born: O come, let us adore him. Alleluia.

## Venite

*Psalm 95:1-7*

Come, let us sing to the Lord;

let us shout for joy to the Rock of our salvation.

Let us come before his presence with thanksgiving

and raise a loud shout to him with psalms.

For the Lord is a great God,

and a great King above all gods.

In his hand are the caverns of the earth,

and the heights of the hills are his also.

The sea is his, for he made it,

and his hands have molded the dry land.

Come, let us bow down, and bend the knee,

and kneel before the Lord our Maker.

For he is our God,

and we are the people of his pasture and the sheep of his hand.

Oh, that today you would hearken to his voice!

## The Psalm or Psalms Appointed

Psalm 147

*Laudate Dominum*

1. Hallelujah!

How good it is to sing praises to our God!

how pleasant it is to honor him with praise!

2. The Lord rebuilds Jerusalem;

he gathers the exiles of Israel.

3. He heals the brokenhearted

and binds up their wounds.

4. He counts the number of the stars  
and calls them all by their names.
5. Great is our Lord and mighty in power;  
there is no limit to his wisdom.
6. The Lord lifts up the lowly,  
but casts the wicked to the ground.
7. Sing to the Lord with thanksgiving;  
make music to our God upon the harp.
8. He covers the heavens with clouds  
and prepares rain for the earth
9. He makes grass to grow upon the mountains  
and green plants to serve mankind.
10. He provides food for flocks and herds  
and for the young ravens when they cry.
11. He is not impressed by the might of a horse;  
he has no pleasure in the strength of a man;
12. But the Lord has pleasure in those who fear him,  
in those who await his gracious favor.
13. Worship the Lord, O Jerusalem;  
praise your God, O Zion;
14. For he has strengthened the bars of your gates;  
he has blessed your children within you.
15. He has established peace on your borders;  
he satisfies you with the finest wheat.
16. He sends out his command to the earth,  
and his word runs very swiftly.
17. He gives snow like wool;  
he scatters hoarfrost like ashes.
18. He scatters his hail like bread crumbs;  
who can stand against his cold?

19. He sends forth his word and melts them;  
he blows with his wind, and the waters flow.
20. He declares his word to Jacob,  
his statutes and his judgments to Israel.
21. He has not done so to any other nation;  
to them he has not revealed his judgments.  
Hallelujah!

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 Lessons**

#### **A Reading from the Book of the Prophet Isaiah**

*Isaiah 61:10-62:3*

I will greatly rejoice in the LORD,  
my whole being shall exult in my God;  
for he has clothed me with the garments of salvation,  
he has covered me with the robe of righteousness,  
as a bridegroom decks himself with a garland,  
and as a bride adorns herself with her jewels.  
For as the earth brings forth its shoots,  
and as a garden causes what is sown in it to spring up,  
so the Lord GOD will cause righteousness and praise  
to spring up before all the nations.  
For Zion's sake I will not keep silent,  
and for Jerusalem's sake I will not rest,  
until her vindication shines out like the dawn,  
and her salvation like a burning torch.  
The nations shall see your vindication,  
and all the kings your glory;  
and you shall be called by a new name  
that the mouth of the LORD will give.  
You shall be a crown of beauty in the hand of the LORD,  
and a royal diadem in the hand of your God.  
Here ends the Reading.

Canticle 11 *The Third Song of Isaiah*

*Isaiah 60:1-3, 11a, 14c, 18-19* *Surge, illuminare*

Arise, shine, for your light has come,  
and the glory of the Lord has dawned upon you.

For behold, darkness covers the land;  
deep gloom enshrouds the peoples.

But over you the Lord will rise,  
and his glory will appear upon you.

Nations will stream to your light,  
and kings to the brightness of your dawning.

Your gates will always be open;  
by day or night they will never be shut.

They will call you, The City of the Lord,  
The Zion of the Holy One of Israel.

Violence will no more be heard in your land,  
ruin or destruction within your borders.

You will call your walls, Salvation,  
and all your portals, Praise.

The sun will no more be your light by day;  
by night you will not need the brightness of the moon.

The Lord will be your everlasting light,  
and your God will be your glory.

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.

A Reading from Paul's Letter to the Church in Galatia

*Galatians 3:23-25; 4:4-7*

Now before faith came, we were imprisoned and guarded under the law until faith would be revealed. Therefore the law was our disciplinarian until Christ came, so that we might be justified by faith. But now that faith has come, we are no longer subject to a disciplinarian.

But when the fullness of time had come, God sent his Son, born of a woman, born under the law, in order to redeem those who were under the law, so that we might receive adoption as children. And because you are children, God has sent the Spirit of his Son into our hearts, crying, "Abba! Father!" So you are no longer a slave but a child, and if a child then also an heir, through God.

Here ends the reading.

Blessed be the Lord, the God of Israel;

he has come to his people and set them free.

He has raised up for us a mighty savior,

born of the house of his servant David.

Through his holy prophets he promised of old,

that he would save us from our enemies,

from the hands of all who hate us.

He promised to show mercy to our fathers

and to remember his holy covenant.

This was the oath he swore to our father Abraham,

to set us free from the hands of our enemies,

Free to worship him without fear,

holy and righteous in his sight

all the days of our life.

O ruler of the universe, Lord God,

great deeds are they that you have done,

surpassing human understanding.

Your ways are ways of righteousness and truth,

O King of all the ages.

Who can fail to do you homage, Lord,

and sing the praises of your Name?

for you only are the Holy One.

All nations will draw near and fall down before you,

because your just and holy works have been revealed.

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.

A Reading from the Gospel of John*John 1:1-18*

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was in the beginning with God. All things came into being through him, and without him not one thing came into being. What has come into being in him was life, and the life was the light of all people. The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overcome it.

There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. He came as a witness to testify to the light, so that all might believe through him. He himself was not the light, but he came to testify to the light. The true light, which enlightens everyone, was coming into the world.

He was in the world, and the world came into being through him; yet the world did not know him. He came to what was his own, and his own people did not accept him. But to all who received him, who believed in his name, he gave power to become children of God, who were born, not of blood or of the will of the flesh or of the will of man, but of God.

And the Word became flesh and lived among us, and we have seen his glory, the glory as of a father's only son, full of grace and truth. (John testified to him and cried out, "This was he of whom I said, 'He who comes after me ranks ahead of me because he was before me.'") From his fullness we have all received, grace upon grace. The law indeed was given through Moses; grace and truth came through Jesus Christ. No one has ever seen God. It is God the only Son, who is close to the Father's heart, who has made him known.

Here ends the reading.

## **Homily**

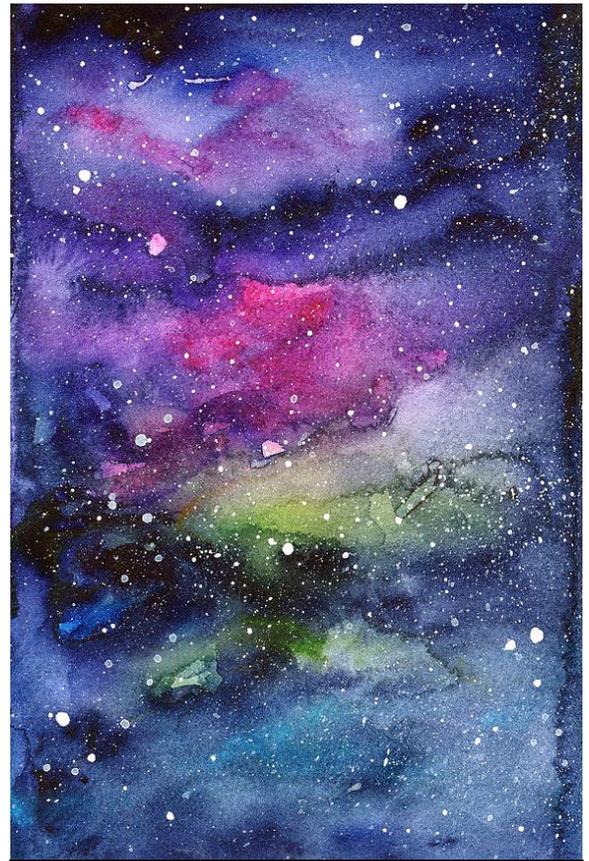
### **The Apostles' Creed**

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

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.



*Rainbow Galaxy* by Olga Shvartsur

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.

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. Amen.

### **The Prayers**

*Officiant* The Lord be with you.

*People* And also with you.

*Officiant* Let us pray.

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 Suffrages "A"

- V. Show us your mercy, O Lord;  
R. And grant us your salvation.
- V. Clothe your ministers with righteousness;  
R. Let your people sing with joy.
- V. Give peace, O Lord, in all the world;  
R. For only in you can we live in safety.
- V. Lord, keep this nation under your care;  
R. And guide us in the way of justice and truth.
- V. Let your way be known upon earth;  
R. Your saving health among all nations.
- V. Let not the needy, O Lord, be forgotten;  
R. Nor the hope of the poor be taken away.
- V. Create in us clean hearts, O God;  
R. And sustain us with your Holy Spirit.

### The Collect of the Day

Almighty God, you have poured upon us the new light of your incarnate Word: Grant that this light, enkindled in our hearts, may shine forth in our lives; 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.

### A Collect for Sundays

O God, you make us glad with the weekly remembrance of the glorious resurrection of your Son our Lord: Give us this day such blessing through our worship of you, that the week to come may be spent in your favor; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

### Collect for Mission

Lord Jesus Christ, you stretched out your arms of love on the hard wood of the cross that everyone might come within the reach of your saving embrace: So clothe us in your Spirit that we, reaching forth our hands in love, may bring those who do not know you to the knowledge and love of you; for the honor of your Name. Amen.

## The Prayers of the People

*The Lector then calls the people to prayer and leads them as follows*

With joy and gratitude for the gift of Jesus, let us draw near to our heavenly Father in prayer, asking his mercy for the Church, the world, and all who need his loving-kindness.

Heavenly Father, we thank you for the gift of your Son, our Savior Jesus Christ. Turn our hearts, eyes, and lives toward Christ, our eternal Dayspring and our heart's delight.

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

Make your Church into the true Temple of Jesus. Let it always reveal him as your light and glory for all people. Enthroned in the Church as your Word, wisdom, and salvation for the world. We pray especially for Justin, the Archbishop of Canterbury, Michael, our Presiding Bishop, Mike, our Bishop, Matthew, our Bishop-elect, and Chad, our priest.

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

We lift up before you, dear Lord, the many people of our congregation. We remember especially today, William Smith, Mary Catherine Williams, and Cindy Brannon who celebrate birthdays this week. Keep our focus on loving you, caring for one another, and sharing the Gospel with those who do not yet know Jesus.

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

Our Christmas cards and carols often speak of peace and goodwill. Yet we see anger, suspicion, discord, and hatred all around us. Gracious God, we implore you to touch every life with your peace, forgiveness, and love. Be with the leaders of the nations: Joe, our President, Jim and Ralph, our Governors, and Ron and Donnie, our Mayors, and clothe each of them with the garments of goodwill, charity, and generosity.

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

Bring "tidings of comfort and joy" to everyone burdened by suffering, sin, and sorrow, especially those on our Prayer List. Gladden the hearts of their loved ones, and give compassion and wisdom to all who care for them.

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

Thank you, for the salvation you have granted to all who have died trusting in you. We pray to you for those we love but see no longer: for Nancy Sudduth, Betsy Davis, the loved ones of the Richardson Family, and of the Meachum Family. Gather us, with everyone whom you have redeemed through the merits of your Son. There, in the power of the Holy Spirit, we shall joyfully praise and worship you, forever and ever and unto the ages of ages.

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

Thank you for hearing our prayers, dear Lord. We entrust them, and our lives, into your merciful care. *Amen.*

### **The General Thanksgiving**

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

### **Concluding Versicles**

*Officiant* Let us bless the Lord.

*People* Thanks be to God.

*The Celebrant then concludes the service with this verse*

May the God of hope fill us with all joy and peace in believing through the power of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

*Romans 15:13*



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

Altar Flowers – by Barbara Sudduth in memory of Nancy Sudduth  
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

The poinsettias that adorn our beautiful church this evening  
Have been given in memory or honor of the following:

Terry Whittington in memory of Terry & Thelma Kelly Whittington  
Mollie Whittington in memory of William Gordon Whittington  
David & Bobbi Kersey in memory of Loved Ones  
Jim & Susanne Pulse in memory of Loved Ones  
John & Delia Kersey in memory of Loved Ones  
Brian & Lise Tracey in memory of Ivan & Annamae Tracey and John Holdorf  
The Lewis Family in memory of Clyde Deal and Linda Jones  
The Slater Family in memory of Margaret Westfall  
Elizabeth Burton in memory of Fred & Mary Kathryn Burton  
Don & Becky Kersey in memory of Loved Ones  
Shirley Ofsa in memory of Loved Ones  
Rob & Mimi Merritt in memory of Loved Ones  
Becky Steorts in memory of Loved Ones  
Betty Nash & Charlie Blevins in memory of Loved Ones  
Stan & Grey Kiser in memory of Sibyl & Rufus Matthews  
and Betty & Harvey Kiser  
Norma Mahood-Bay in memory of Loved Ones  
Sheila Brooks in memory of Loved Ones  
Teresa Paine in memory of Loved Ones  
John & Becky Beckett in memory of Loved Ones  
Jim & Chris Justice in memory of Loved Ones  
The Broyles Family in memory of Loved Ones  
and in honor of the Slater Family  
David & Debbie Faber in memory of Loved Ones  
and in honor of the ministry of the Slater Family  
Don & Mary Catherine Williams in honor of the Slater Family

*Poinsettias may be collected by their sponsors on Monday, December 27<sup>th</sup>, between 12:30 and 1:30.  
For other arrangements please see Linda Ammar.*

## **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>	Emma Slater
<u>Lector</u>	Rob Merritt
<u>Altar Guild</u>	Linda Ammar and Patty Richardson

## **Attendance Last Sunday:**

51

**Birthdays This Week:** William Smith, Mary Catherine Williams, and Cindy Brannon

**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**

Sunday – January 2	HE Christmas II with Fr. Chad
Sunday – January 9	HE with Baptism
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
Sunday – January 23	HE with Fr. Lou Hays

## **Announcements:**

**Worship Assistant Scheduling:** If you are interested in serving as an acolyte, lector, 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!

**Altar Guild Flowers:** If you are interested in giving altar flowers during the year 2022 OR if you no longer wish to give flowers, please contact Linda Ammar. Thank you.

## **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