

The First Lesson

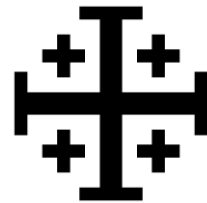
*Isaiah 64:1-9*

O that you would tear open the heavens and come down, so that the mountains would quake at your presence--as when fire kindles brushwood and the fire causes water to boil--to make your name known to your adversaries, so that the nations might tremble at your presence!

When you did awesome deeds that we did not expect, you came down, the mountains quaked at your presence. From ages past no one has heard, no ear has perceived, no eye has seen any God besides you, who works for those who wait for him. You meet those who gladly do right, those who remember you in your ways.

But you were angry, and we sinned; because you hid yourself we transgressed. We have all become like one who is unclean, and all our righteous deeds are like a filthy cloth. We all fade like a leaf, and our iniquities, like the wind, take us away. There is no one who calls on your name, or attempts to take hold of you; for you have hidden your face from us, and have delivered us into the hand of our iniquity.

Yet, O Lord, you are our Father; we are the clay, and you are our potter; we are all the work of your hand. Do not be exceedingly angry, O Lord, and do not remember iniquity forever. Now consider, we are all your people.



The Psalm

Psalm 80:1-7, 16-18

*Qui regis Israel*

- 1 Hear, O Shepherd of Israel, leading Joseph like a flock; shine forth, you that are enthroned upon the cherubim.
- 2 In the presence of Ephraim, Benjamin, and Manasseh, stir up your strength and come to help us.
- 3 Restore us, O God of hosts; show the light of your countenance, and we shall be saved.
- 4 O Lord God of hosts, how long will you be angered despite the prayers of your people?
- 5 You have fed them with the bread of tears; you have given them bowls of tears to drink.
- 6 You have made us the derision of our neighbors, and our enemies laugh us to scorn.
- 7 Restore us, O God of hosts; show the light of your countenance, and we shall be saved.

- 16 Let your hand be upon the man of your right hand, the son of man you have made so strong for yourself.
- 17 And so will we never turn away from you; give us life, that we may call upon your Name.
- 18 Restore us, O Lord God of hosts; show the light of your countenance, and we shall be saved.

*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.

Second Lesson

*1 Corinthians 1:3-9*

Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

I give thanks to my God always for you because of the grace of God that has been given you in Christ Jesus, for in every way you have been enriched in him, in speech and knowledge of every kind-- just as the testimony of Christ has been strengthened among you-- so that you are not lacking in any spiritual gift as you wait for the revealing of our Lord Jesus Christ. He will also strengthen you to the end, so that you may be blameless on the day of our Lord Jesus Christ. God is faithful; by him you were called into the fellowship of his Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

Hymn      *The King shall come when morning dawns*      **H 73**

Gospel Lesson      *Mark 13:24-37*

Jesus said, "In those days, after that suffering, the sun will be darkened, and the moon will not give its light, and the stars will be falling from heaven, and the powers in the heavens will be shaken. Then they will see 'the Son of Man coming in clouds' with great power and glory. Then he will send out the angels, and gather his elect from the four winds, from the ends of the earth to the ends of heaven.

"From the fig tree learn its lesson: as soon as its branch becomes tender and puts forth its leaves, you know that summer is near. So also, when you see these things taking place, you know that he is near, at the very gates. Truly I tell you, this generation will not pass away until all these things have taken place. Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will not pass away.

"But about that day or hour no one knows, neither the angels in heaven, nor the Son, but only the Father. Beware, keep alert; for you do not know when the time will come. It is

like a man going on a journey, when he leaves home and puts his slaves in charge, each with his work, and commands the doorkeeper to be on the watch. Therefore, keep awake—for you do not know when the master of the house will come, in the evening, or at midnight, or at cockcrow, or at dawn, or else he may find you asleep when he comes suddenly. And what I say to you I say to all: Keep awake."



The Sermon

The Nicene Creed      BCP 327

*Written about 325 AD, this is the ancient statement of our faith*

Prayers of the People      BCP 328

*We pray together as the people of God*

Confession & Absolution      BCP 331

*We confess our sins and are reassured of our pardon*

The Peace      *We share the joy of the Good News!*

**The Liturgy of the Eucharist, sometimes called the Mass**

Offertory      *Prepare the Way of the Lord*      Rowan

Presentation of Gifts and Tithes  
*To God the Father, God the Son, and God the spirit, ever One, praise, honor, might, and glory be from age to age eternally.*

From Hymn 63 vs. 5

Eucharistic Prayer "I"      BCP 333

*Sanctus*      Words in BCP, Musical Setting      H-S113

*The Lord's Prayer*      BCP 336

*Prayer of Humble Access*      BCP 337

*Fraction Anthem*      H-S 152



The Distribution of the Holy Sacrament

All baptized Christians, of any tradition, are welcome to receive the sacrament. It is the tradition of this parish that 12 to 14 people at a time receive Communion at the altar rail, at which point all are dismissed together to return to their seats, and another group may move forward to the rail. Gluten free wafers are available to those who request them.

Communion Hymns

*O saving victim opening wide* H 311  
*"Sleepers, wake!" A voice astounds us* H 61  
*"Thy Kingdom Come!" on bended knee* H 615

Our Prayer after Communion BCP 339

Hymn *Hail to the Lord's Anointed* H 616

The Annual Meeting

The Congregation is dismissed to Rowley Hall for a luncheon followed by the business of the Annual Meeting.

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!*

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Thank You to the Parish Life Committee for organizing this year's Annual Meeting!

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The Altar Flowers are given today by Mr. & Mrs. Jim Justice in memory of loved ones.

The Advent Wreath is given by Mr. & Mrs. Marc Meachum in memory of Mr. & Mrs. M.T. Meachum.

The Door Wreathes are given by Mr. Bill Davis in memory of Mrs. Betsy Davis

The Chrismon Tree is given by Mr. & Mrs. Peter Richardson in memory of Mr. & Mrs. Robert Richardson

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Participants in Today's Liturgy

Acolyte	Becky Beckett	Will Puckett
	Chris Justice	
Chalicer	Rob Merritt	Becky Beckett
Lector	Delia Kersey	Rob Merritt
Altar Guild	Patty Richardson	Becky Beckett
	Carol Georgis	

Attendance Last Sunday 58

Birthdays This Week:

Borden Thomas, John Lee Allen, Niko Parks, Nelson Kersey

Please Keep the Following in Your Prayers

Dorene Dimes - Wanda Myers - Tom Blevins - Bonnie Taylor - Joe Sanders - Edi - Marlene - Lee Puckett, Sr. - Sierra - Linda - Valerie Mahood - Thomas Jaworski - Roy Abel - Alex B. - Toni R - Brian - Phyllis & Nelson Walker - Linda Sydeski

Calendar of Events

Sunday-December 10 ECW meeting after church  
Canterbury Club at the Beckett's 6pm  
Tuesday-December 12 Taize Service 6pm  
Wednesday-December 13 ECM Christmas Dinner 6pm  
Vestry Meeting 7pm  
Tuesday-December 19 DoK Meeting 10:30am  
Thursday-December 21 Food Pantry  
Sunday-December 24 Morning Prayer 10am  
HE at St. Mary's 6pm  
HE at CEC 11pm

Announcements:

Food Pantry: We will be collecting blankets, hats, gloves, and scarves in December. Thank you for your donations.

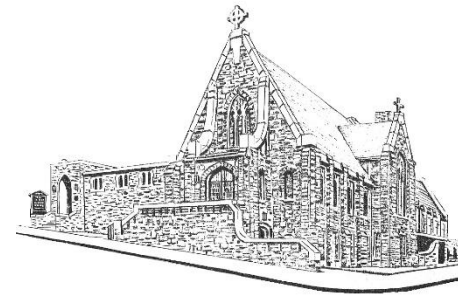
ECW: The Episcopal Church Women will meet after Coffee Hour next Sunday, December 10, to elect new officers and plan for 2018 projects.

Christmas Poinsettias: If you would like to purchase a poinsettia for Christmas in honor or memory of a loved one, there will be a sign-up sheet at the usher's station beginning next Sunday. Poinsettias are \$15 each.

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Clergy, Staff, and Wardens of this Parish

The Rev. Chad Slater	Rector
Ms. Emma Bennett	Parish Administrator
Mr. Terry E. Whittington, Jr.	Organist & Choirmaster
Mrs. Vanessa Hall	Sexton
Mr. David Hardin	Senior Warden
Mrs. Dee Puckett	Junior Warden



# Christ Episcopal Church

200 Duhring Street, Bluefield, WV 24701-2910

(304) 327-6861

www.christchurchbluefield.org



https://www.facebook.com/christchurchbluefield

## December 3, 2017

### The First Sunday of Advent

*And also being the Sunday of the Annual Meeting of the Parish*

Welcome to this Place of Prayer

If you are new or visiting this congregation for the first time we invite you to fill out a Visitor's Card (found on the rack in front of you) and place it in the collect plate as it is passed. We are honored you have chosen to worship with us today and hope that you will continue your faith journey here.

This bulletin will help guide you through today's service. The abbreviation "H" stands for "Hymnal." This is the larger red book located on the shelf in front of you. That music noted as "H-S" followed by a number is service music, and is found in the very first pages of the Hymnal. "BCP" is our abbreviation for "Book of Common Prayer," which is the smaller red book.

The Liturgy of the Word

Hymn *Lo! He comes, with clouds descending* H 58

The Service Begins BCP 323

Gloria in Excelsis H-S 280

*The text to this ancient hymn of praise is found in the BCP*

The Collect *Our collective prayer for the day.*

Almighty God, give us grace that we may cast away the works of darkness, and put upon us the armor of light, now in the time of this mortal life in which thy Son Jesus Christ came to visit us in great humility; that in the last day, when he shall come again in his glorious majesty to judge both the quick and the dead, we may rise to the life immortal; through him who liveth and reigneth with thee and the Holy Ghost, one God, now and for ever. *Amen.*