

The First Lesson

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.

The Psalm

147:13-21

Laudate Dominum

- 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!

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

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.

Hymn

Away in a manger

H 101

Gospel Lesson

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.



The Sermon

The Nicene Creed

BCP 358

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

Prayers of the People IV

BCP 388

We pray together as the people of God

Confession & Absolution

BCP 360

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

Let all mortal flesh keep silence

Smith

Presentation of Gifts and Tithes

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.

From Hymn 380 vs. 3

Eucharistic Prayer "A"

BCP 361

Sanctus

Words in BCP, Musical Setting

H-S129

Memorial Acclamation

Words in BCP, Musical Setting

H-S132

The Lord's Prayer

Traditional version, found on

BCP 364

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 H 311
How bright appears the Morning Star H 497
What child is this H 115

Our Prayer after Communion BCP 365

Hymn *The first Nowell* H 109

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!*

Following our service will be Coffee Hour, hosted today by Jim and Chris Justice.

This is a time for us to have fellowship, share our joys and sorrows, and get to know one another. It is very much an extension of the communal feast we share in the Holy Eucharist. Please join us!

The Altar Flowers are given today by Mrs. Michelle Parks in memory of Amy Farmer.

Participants in Today's Liturgy

<u>Acolyte</u>	Becky Beckett	Chris Justice
<u>Chalicer</u>	Jay Kephart	Don Williams
<u>Lector</u>	Bernadette Dragotto	Don Williams
<u>Altar Guild</u>	Patty Richardson	Becky Beckett
	Carol Georgis	

Attendance Last Sunday 115

Birthdays Last Week and This Week: Mary Catherine, Carol Georgis, Cindy Brannon, George Clement, James Dyer, Patty Wilkinson, and Buck Sowers



Prayer Requests

Please Keep the Following in Your Prayers

Dorene—Wanda—Bonnie—Joe—Marlene—Lee—Phyllis—
Nelson—Linda—Valerie—Edi—Sierra—Alex—Toni—
Linda—Dawson family—Joan

Calendar of Events

Sunday – January 7 ECW meeting after Coffee Hour
Canterbury Club 6pm
at the home of Carl and Linda Thomas
Wednesday – January 10 ECM Meeting 6pm
Vestry 7pm
Tuesday – January 16 DOK Meeting 10:30am
Thursday – January 18 Food Pantry
Wednesday - January 24 Union Mission Meeting

Announcements:

Canterbury Club: Carl & Linda Thomas will host this month's Canterbury Club at their home on Sunday, January 7 @ 6:00pm Bring a dish to share and enjoy an evening of fellowship!

ECM Pancake Supper: If you haven't already gotten your tickets please see one of the ECM members. The Pancake Supper is Tuesday, February 13 @ 6:00pm

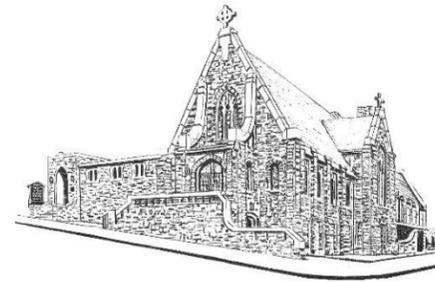
ECW: will meet in Conference Room after Coffee Hour on January 7.

Chili for the Union Mission: We will be supplying chili for the evening meeting at the Union Mission on Wednesday, January 24. See Linda Ammar if you are able to contribute a crockpot full of your favorite recipe!

Coffee Hour: We need people to sign up

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 31, 2017

First Sunday after Christmas

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 *Joy to the world! The Lord is come* H 100

The Service Begins BCP 355

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, 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.