

The First Lesson

Isaiah 9:2-7

The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light; those who lived in a land of deep darkness--on them light has shined. You have multiplied the nation, you have increased its joy; they rejoice before you as with joy at the harvest, as people exult when dividing plunder. For the yoke of their burden, and the bar across their shoulders, the rod of their oppressor, you have broken as on the day of Midian. For all the boots of the tramping warriors and all the garments rolled in blood shall be burned as fuel for the fire.

For a child has been born for us, a son given to us; authority rests upon his shoulders; and he is named Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace. His authority shall grow continually, and there shall be endless peace for the throne of David and his kingdom. He will establish and uphold it with justice and with righteousness from this time onward and forevermore.

The zeal of the Lord of hosts will do this.



The Psalm

Psalm 96

Cantate Domino

The Choir will sing the antiphon, followed by the congregation. The congregation will join in singing the antiphon at those points indicated in the text.

Antiphon: *Today is born our Savior, Christ the Lord!*

- 1 Sing to the LORD a new song; sing to the LORD, all the whole earth.
- 2 Sing to the LORD and bless his Name; proclaim the good news of his salvation from day to day.
Today is born our Savior, Christ the Lord!
- 3 Declare his glory among the nations and his wonders among all peoples.
- 4 For great is the LORD and greatly to be praised; he is more to be feared than all gods.
Today is born our Savior, Christ the Lord!
- 11 Let the heavens rejoice, and let the earth be glad; let the sea thunder and all that is in it; let the field be joyful and all that is therein.
- 12 Then shall all the trees of the wood shout for joy before the LORD when he comes, when he comes to judge the earth.

Today is born our Savior, Christ the Lord!

Second Lesson

Titus 2:11-14

For the grace of God has appeared, bringing salvation to all, training us to renounce impiety and worldly passions, and in the present age to live lives that are self-controlled, upright, and godly, while we wait for the blessed hope and the manifestation of the glory of our great God and Savior, Jesus Christ. He it is who gave himself for us that he might redeem us from all iniquity and purify for himself a people of his own who are zealous for good deeds.

Hymn

Hark! The Herald Angels Sing

H 87

The Gospel Alleluia

Sung by all. Please stand.

Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia!

Behold, I bring you good tidings of great joy;

To you is born a savior, Christ the Lord!

Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia!

Gospel Lesson

Luke 2:1-20

In those days a decree went out from Emperor Augustus that all the world should be registered. This was the first registration and was taken while Quirinius was governor of Syria. All went to their own towns to be registered. Joseph also went from the town of Nazareth in Galilee to Judea, to the city of David called Bethlehem, because he was descended from the house and family of David. He went to be registered with Mary, to whom he was engaged and who was expecting a child. While they were there, the time came for her to deliver her child. And she gave birth to her firstborn son and wrapped him in bands of cloth, and laid him in a manger, because there was no place for them in the inn.

In that region there were shepherds living in the fields, keeping watch over their flock by night. Then an angel of the Lord stood before them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. But the angel said to them, "Do not be afraid; for see-- I am bringing you good news of great joy for all the people: to you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is the Messiah, the Lord. This will be a sign for you: you will find a child wrapped in bands of cloth and lying in a manger." And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host, praising God and saying,

"Glory to God in the highest heaven,

and on earth peace among those whom he favors!"

When the angels had left them and gone into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, "Let us go now to Bethlehem and see this thing that has taken place, which the Lord has made known to us." So they went with haste and

found Mary and Joseph, and the child lying in the manger. When they saw this, they made known what had been told them about this child; and all who heard it were amazed at what the shepherds told them. But Mary treasured all these words and pondered them in her heart. The shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen, as it had been told them.

The Sermon

The Nicene Creed

BCP 358

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

The Prayers of the People

We respond to each petition of "Let us pray to the Lord," with the phrase "Lord, hear our prayer."

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

Wonderful Peace

Nordquist

Presentation of Gifts and Tithes

Sung by all. Please stand.

Christ, to thee with God the Father, and, O Holy Ghost to Thee,

Hymn and chant and high thanksgiving, and unwearied praises be;

Honor, glory and dominion, and eternal victory, evermore and evermore!

from H 82 v. 4

Eucharistic Prayer "B"

BCP 367

Sanctus

Words in BCP, Musical Setting

H-S130

Memorial Acclamation

Words in BCP, Musical Setting

H-S138

The Lord's Prayer

Traditional version, found on

BCP 364

Fraction Anthem

H-S 154

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 come and receive a blessing—simply cross your arms in front of you as the priest comes by. 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

Lo, How a Rose e'er Blooming H 81, vs. 1 & 2
Following this hymn, a selection of instrumental music will be played

Our Prayer after Communion BCP 365

Candlelight Hymn *Silent Night* H 111

The acolytes and ushers will light the candle of the person seated at the end of each pew. Please light the candle of the person next to you. The sanctuary lights will be dimmed as we kneel to sing the hymn. You may take your candle with you at the conclusion of the service, if you like.

The Great Blessing of Christmas

Please respond to each petition with "Amen!"

Recessional Hymn *Angels We Have Heard on High* H 96

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 the service there will be a reception in Hobson Library. A variety of sweet treats, cookies, and beverages will be served. All are invited to fellowship at this reception as we celebrate the birth of our Savior!

Participants in This Evening's Liturgy

Celebrant	the Rev. Chad Slater
Organist and Choirmaster	Terry E. Whittington, Jr.
Harpist	Laurel Thompson
Lectors	David Hardin Don Williams
Acolytes	Becky Beckett Becky Kersey
Chalicists	Don Williams Becky Kersey
Ushers	Peter Richardson Bill Davis
Altar Guild	Patty Richardson Becky Beckett Carol Georgis



The Christ Church Crèche is hand carved of solid wood by Dr. Ralph McCue and is dedicated to Laurel Clarkson McCue—his mother.

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

The wreathes on the doors were donated by Mr. C. William Davis in memory of his wife, Mrs. Betsy Davis.

The Advent Wreath was donated by Mr. and Mrs. Marc Meachum in memory of Mr. and Mrs. M.T. Meachum.

The flowers on the altar were donated by Mrs. Barbara Sudduth in memory of her mother, Mrs. Nancy Sudduth.



The poinsettias that adorn the church this evening were made possible by the generosity of the following:

Linda Ammar in memory of Lois & Dan Wells and of Chris Ammar
John & Becky Beckett in memory of Family
Sheila Brooks in memory of loved ones
The Broyles Family in memory of loved ones
Kathy Burge & Michelle Parks in memory of loved ones
Lynn Burney in memory of Dr. & Mrs. Ralph McCue, Mrs. Lucille Gilliss, and Dr. and Mrs. Alonzo G. McCue, Jr.
Kipp Cortez in honor of his parents
Tom Coughlin in memory of loved ones
David & Debbie Faber in memory of loved ones
Jim & Chris Justice in memory of loved ones
Jay Kephart in memory of Rick
Bobbi & David Kersey in memory of loved ones
Donald & Becky Kersey in memory of their parents
John & Delia Kersey in memory of loved ones
Betty Nash & Charlie Blevins in memory of loved ones
Teresa Paine in memory of loved ones
Susanne & Jim Pulse in memory of loved ones
Chad & Jennifer Slater in memory of Sharon Curry
Mike & Kay Sudduth in memory of Deb Sarver and loved ones
Borden Thomas & Carly Brand in honor of Carl & Linda Thomas
Howard & Susan Troutner in memory of their parents
Terry Whittington in memory of Terry & Thelma Kelly Whittington
Mary Catherine & Don Williams in memory of loved ones

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 24, 2017

The Feast of the Nativity of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ

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

The Proclamation of the Birth of Christ

This ancient chant announces the birth of the Savior in the context of God's acts of Salvation through history.

Hymn *O Come, All Ye Faithful* H 83

Blessing of the Crèche

The Celebrant will invite the Congregation to prayer and pronounce the blessing

Opening Sentences BCP 355

Gloria in Excelsis H-S 278

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

The Collect *Our collective prayer for the day.*

O God, you have caused this holy night to shine with the brightness of the true Light: Grant that we, who have known the mystery of that Light on earth, may also enjoy him perfectly in heaven; where with you and the Holy Spirit he lives and reigns, one God, in glory everlasting. *Amen.*