

daughters shall be carried on their nurses' arms. Then you shall see and be radiant; your heart shall thrill and rejoice, because the abundance of the sea shall be brought to you, the wealth of the nations shall come to you. A multitude of camels shall cover you, the young camels of Midian and Ephah; all those from Sheba shall come. They shall bring gold and frankincense, and shall proclaim the praise of the Lord.

The Psalm Psalm 72:1-7,10-14 *Deus, iudicium*

- 1 Give the King your justice, O God, and your righteousness to the King's Son;
- 2 That he may rule your people righteously and the poor with justice;
- 3 That the mountains may bring prosperity to the people, and the little hills bring righteousness.
- 4 He shall defend the needy among the people; he shall rescue the poor and crush the oppressor.
- 5 He shall live as long as the sun and moon endure, from one generation to another.
- 6 He shall come down like rain upon the mown field, like showers that water the earth.
- 7 In his time shall the righteous flourish; there shall be abundance of peace till the moon shall be no more.
- 10 The kings of Tarshish and of the isles shall pay tribute, and the kings of Arabia and Saba offer gifts.
- 11 All kings shall bow down before him, and all the nations do him service.
- 12 For he shall deliver the poor who cries out in distress, and the oppressed who has no helper.
- 13 He shall have pity on the lowly and poor; he shall preserve the lives of the needy.
- 14 He shall redeem their lives from oppression and violence, and dear shall their blood be in his sight.

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 *Ephesians 3:1-12*

This is the reason that I Paul am a prisoner for Christ Jesus for the sake of you Gentiles-- for surely you have already heard of the commission of God's grace that was given me for you, and how the mystery was made known to me by revelation, as I wrote above in a few words, a reading of which will enable you to perceive my understanding of the mystery of Christ. In former generations this mystery was not made known to humankind, as it has now been revealed to his holy apostles and prophets by the Spirit: that is, the Gentiles have

become fellow heirs, members of the same body, and sharers in the promise in Christ Jesus through the gospel.

Of this gospel I have become a servant according to the gift of God's grace that was given me by the working of his power. Although I am the very least of all the saints, this grace was given to me to bring to the Gentiles the news of the boundless riches of Christ, and to make everyone see what is the plan of the mystery hidden for ages in God who created all things; so that through the church the wisdom of God in its rich variety might now be made known to the rulers and authorities in the heavenly places. This was in accordance with the eternal purpose that he has carried out in Christ Jesus our Lord, in whom we have access to God in boldness and confidence through faith in him.

Hymn *As with gladness men of old* **H 119**

Gospel Lesson *Matthew 2:1-12*

In the time of King Herod, after Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea, wise men from the East came to Jerusalem, asking, "Where is the child who has been born king of the Jews? For we observed his star at its rising, and have come to pay him homage." When King Herod heard this, he was frightened, and all Jerusalem with him; and calling together all the chief priests and scribes of the people, he inquired of them where the Messiah was to be born. They told him, "In Bethlehem of Judea; for so it has been written by the prophet:

‘And you, Bethlehem, in the land of Judah, are by no means least among the rulers of Judah; for from you shall come a ruler who is to shepherd my people Israel.’"

Then Herod secretly called for the wise men and learned from them the exact time when the star had appeared. Then he sent them to Bethlehem, saying, "Go and search diligently for the child; and when you have found him, bring me word so



that I may also go and pay him homage." When they had heard the king, they set out; and there, ahead of them, went the star that they had seen at its rising, until it stopped over the place where the child was. When they saw that the star had stopped, they were overwhelmed with joy. On entering the

house, they saw the child with Mary his mother; and they knelt down and paid him homage. Then, opening their treasure chests, they offered him gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh. And having been warned in a dream not to return to Herod, they left for their own country by another road.

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!*

Announcement of the Holy Days of 2018

In the ancient past, when calendars were not common, the dates for the major festivals of the church would be announced on Epiphany, or the first Sunday thereafter, for the faithful to anticipate. Until the Reformation, this would have been the only part of any service heard in the vernacular (the local language) instead of Latin.

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

Offertory *Let all mortal flesh keep silence* Smith

Presentation of Gifts and Tithes

*To God the Father, heavenly Light / To Christ, revealed in earthly night
To God the Holy Ghost we raise / Our equal and unceasing praise*

from Hymn 124 v. 5

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. Everyone, regardless of faith, is welcome to 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

O saving Victim H 311

When Christ's appearing was made known H 132

Earth has many a noble city H 127

Our Prayer after Communion BCP 365

The Blessing of Chalk

Chalk is used in the ancient tradition of blessing our homes at Epiphany. The chalk we bless here today will be distributed for each family to bless their homes with.

V. Our help is the name of the Lord:

R. The maker of heaven and earth.

V. The Lord shall watch over your going out and your coming in:

R. From this time forth for evermore.

V. The Lord be with you.

R. And also with you.

V. Let us pray.

Loving God, bless this chalk which you have created, that it may be helpful to your people; and grant that through the invocation of your most Holy Name all who use it in faith to write upon the doors of their homes the petition of your blessing, may receive health of body and protection of soul for all who dwell in or visit their home; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Hymn *We three kings of Orient are* **H 128**

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 the Richardson family. 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. Norma Mahood-Bay and her family in memory of Dr. John Mahood.

Participants in Today's Liturgy:

<u>Acolyte</u>	John Allen	Becky Beckett
<u>Chalicer</u>	Becky Beckett	Teresa Paine
<u>Lector</u>	Bernadette Dragotto	Becky Beckett
<u>Altar Guild</u>	Patty Richardson Betty Nash	Linda Thomas Emma Slater

Attendance Last Sunday 50

Birthdays This Week: Buck Sowers, Linda Thomas, Lee Rose

Please Keep the Following in Your Prayers

Dorene Dimes, Wanda Myers, Bonnie Taylor, Joe Sanders, Marlene, Lee Puckett, Sr., Alex B., Toni R., Jared Cregger, Kerrigan Farmer, Lindsey Parsley, Daisy Bowman, Ellie Spencer, Sue Godwin, Mabeline & Elton Robinson, Ann Richardson, Sherry Mitchell, Carrie D., Loraine Keffer, Sharon Cranfill,, George Strike, Levertt T., Bea Paine, Frankie Sparks, Audrey, Denny Arner, Jodi Scarberry, Charlotte Woolwine, Lynn Burney, Bob Waschler, Elizabeth Kane, the Walker family, Marilyn Denney

Calendar of Events

Sunday – January 6 LEV Training after Church
 Canterbury Club/12th Night Party at the Thomas'

Wednesday – January 9 Dinner at Union Mission 3-5:30pm

Sunday – January 13 Food Pantry bagging after Church

Wednesday – January 16 Men's Dinner 6:00pm
 Vestry 7:00pm

Thursday – January 17 Food Pantry 9-11:00am

Wednesday – January 23 Dinner at Union Mission 4:30pm

Announcements:

Lay Eucharistic Visitors: A new ministry will be starting this fall. Lay Eucharistic Visitors (LEV's) will take Holy Communion regularly to shut-ins of the parish and share fellowship with them. If you are interested in this ministry, please see Fr. Chad. Training meeting will be held after Church on Sunday, January 6, 2018.

Canterbury Club: Mrs. Linda Thomas will be hosting a Canterbury Club and Twelfth Night Party at her home on Sunday evening, January 6, at 6 pm. Bring a covered dish to share as we celebrate Epiphany!

Revival in Roanoke: Presiding Bishop Michael Curry will be in Roanoke on Sunday, January 27, for a revival service at the Berglund Center. We are working on a plan to carpool to the service, with some interested in driving over the night before and some the morning of the service. If you are interested in helping to coordinate this carpooling, please see Elizabeth Clement or Fr. Chad. Thank you!

Food Pantry Special Items for January: We're still collecting gloves, hats and scarves till January 13th.

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



Christ Episcopal Church

200 Duhring Street, Bluefield, WV 24701

(304) 327-6861

www.christchurchbluefield.org

January 6, 2019—the Feast of the Epiphany

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 *Brightest and best of the stars of the morning* **H 117**

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.*
 O God, by the leading of a star you manifested your only Son to the peoples of the earth: Lead us, who know you now by faith, to your presence, where we may see your glory face to face; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. *Amen.*

The First Lesson *Isaiah 60:1-6*

Arise, shine; for your light has come, and the glory of the Lord has risen upon you. For darkness shall cover the earth, and thick darkness the peoples; but the Lord will arise upon you, and his glory will appear over you. Nations shall come to your light, and kings to the brightness of your dawn. Lift up your eyes and look around; they all gather together, they come to you; your sons shall come from far away, and your