

# Christ Episcopal Church

200 Duhring Street, Bluefield, WV 24701

(304) 327-6861

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



## September 1, 2019

The 12th Sunday After Pentecost

*being Proper XVII of the Church Year*

### 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

*Joyful, joyful, we adore thee*

**H 376**

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.*

Lord of all power and might, the author and giver of all good things: Graft in our hearts the love of your Name; increase in us true religion; nourish us with all goodness; and bring forth in us the fruit of good works; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God for ever and ever. *Amen.*

## The First Lesson

*Jeremiah 2:4-13*

Hear the word of the Lord, O house of Jacob, and all the families of the house of Israel. Thus says the Lord:

What wrong did your ancestors find in me that they went far from me, and went after worthless things, and became worthless themselves?

They did not say, "Where is the Lord who brought us up from the land of Egypt, who led us in the wilderness, in a land of deserts and pits, in a land of drought and deep darkness, in a land that no one passes through, where no one lives?"

I brought you into a plentiful land to eat its fruits and its good things. But when you entered you defiled my land, and made my heritage an abomination.

The priests did not say, "Where is the Lord?" Those who handle the law did not know me; the rulers transgressed against me; the prophets prophesied by Baal, and went after things that do not profit.

Therefore once more I accuse you, says the Lord, and I accuse your children's children.

Cross to the coasts of Cyprus and look, send to Kedar and examine with care; see if there has ever been such a thing. Has a nation changed its gods, even though they are no gods?

But my people have changed their glory for something that does not profit. Be appalled, O heavens, at this, be shocked, be utterly desolate, says the Lord, for my people have committed two evils: they have forsaken me, the fountain of living water, and dug out cisterns for themselves, cracked cisterns that can hold no water.

## The Psalm

Psalm 81:1, 10-16

*Exultate Deo*

- 1 Sing with joy to God our strength and raise a loud shout to the God of Jacob.
- 10 I am the Lord your God, who brought you out of the land of Egypt and said, "Open your mouth wide, and I will fill it."
- 11 And yet my people did not hear my voice, and Israel would not obey me.
- 12 So I gave them over to the stubbornness of their hearts, to follow their own devices.
- 13 Oh that my people would listen to me! that Israel would walk in my ways!
- 14 I should soon subdue their enemies and turn my hand against their foes.

15 Those who hate the Lord would cringe before him, and their punishment would last for ever.

16 But Israel would I feed with the finest wheat and satisfy him with honey from the rock.

*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

*Hebrews 13:1-8, 15-16*

Let mutual love continue. Do not neglect to show hospitality to strangers, for by doing that some have entertained angels without knowing it. Remember those who are in prison, as though you were in prison with them; those who are being tortured, as though you yourselves were being tortured. Let marriage be held in honor by all, and let the marriage bed be kept undefiled; for God will judge fornicators and adulterers. Keep your lives free from the love of money, and be content with what you have; for he has said, "I will never leave you or forsake you." So we can say with confidence,

"The Lord is my helper;  
I will not be afraid.  
What can anyone do to me?"

Remember your leaders, those who spoke the word of God to you; consider the outcome of their way of life, and imitate their faith. Jesus Christ is the same yesterday and today and forever.

Through him, then, let us continually offer a sacrifice of praise to God, that is, the fruit of lips that confess his name. Do not neglect to do good and to share what you have, for such sacrifices are pleasing to God.

## Hymn

*Lo! What a cloud of witnesses*

**H 545**

## Gospel Lesson

*Luke 14:1, 7-14*

On one occasion when Jesus was going to the house of a leader of the Pharisees to eat a meal on the sabbath, they were watching him closely.

When he noticed how the guests chose the places of honor, he told them a parable. "When you are invited by someone to a wedding banquet, do not sit

down at the place of honor, in case someone more distinguished than you has been invited by your host; and the host who invited both of you may come and say to you, 'Give this person your place,' and then in disgrace you would start to take the lowest place. But when you are invited, go and sit down at the lowest place, so that when your host comes, he may say to you, 'Friend, move up higher'; then you will be honored in the presence of all who sit at the table with you. For all who exalt themselves will be humbled, and those who humble themselves will be exalted."

He said also to the one who had invited him, "When you give a luncheon or a dinner, do not invite your friends or your brothers or your relatives or rich neighbors, in case they may invite you in return, and you would be repaid. But when you give a banquet, invite the poor, the crippled, the lame, and the blind. And you will be blessed, because they cannot repay you, for you will be repaid at the resurrection of the righteous."

### The Sermon

#### The Nicene Creed

BCP 358

*First composed in 325, this is the ancient statement of faith*

#### The Prayers of the People (Form IV)

BCP 388

#### The Confession and 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

*O Love of God Most Full*

*Young*

#### Presentation of Gifts and Tithes

*Holy Father, holy Son*

*Holy Spirit, Three we name thee*

*while in essence only One,*

*undivided God we claim thee*

From Hymn 366 vs. 4



## Participants in Today's Liturgy

Acolyte

Elizabeth Burton

Lectors

Bernadette Dragotto

Becky Kersey

Chalicians

Becky Kersey

Altar Guild

Linda Ammar, Teresa Paine, Mimi Merritt, Patricia Taylor

Nursery Help: No nursery this Sunday

**Birthdays This Week:** Wanda Myers, Kelly Meachum McConnico.

## Last Sunday's Attendance

55

## Please Keep the Following in Your Prayers

Dorene Dimes, Wanda Myers, Bonnie Taylor, Joe Sanders, Lee Puckett, Sr., Kerrigan Farmer, Mabeline & Elton Robinson, Bea Paine, Charlotte Woolwine, Lynn Burney, Marilyn Denney, Michelle Parks, Shirley Weaver, Will Calfee, Doug Bloomfield, Paul Anderson, Deane Family, Donna Fortune, Deanna Edwards, Elizabeth Kane, Jerry and Debbie, Nina and family, Marlene, Becky Steorts, Amy Melvin.



## Calendar of Events

Wednesday – September 4

ECW will meet at the church 5:30pm

Monday – September 9-11

LARCUM Conference

Wednesday – September 11

Serve Dinner at Union Mission 3-5:30pm

Tuesday – September 17

DOK meeting 10:30am

Wednesday – September 18

ECM Dinner 6:00pm

Vestry 7:00pm

Thursday – September 19

Food Pantry 9-11:00am

Friday – September 20-22

“Graced” Women’s Conference

Wednesday – September 25

Serve Dinner at Union Mission 4:30pm

## **Announcements:**

**UTO:** Have you been saving up in your Blue Box? September is United Thank Offering Month and we will be collecting our Blue Boxes and other donations for this important ministry of the Episcopal Church Women. Stay tuned for more!

**ECW:** We will be meeting on Wednesday, September 4<sup>th</sup> @ 5:30pm. A sign-up sheet is in the narthex.

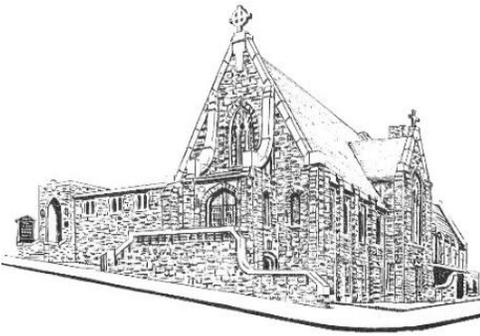
**LARCUM:** An interdenominational forum on “Christianity and Civil Government: history, theology and implications” will be held in Charleston September 9<sup>th</sup> thru 11<sup>th</sup>. For more information see Fr. Chad.

**ECM:** A sign-up sheet is in the Narthex to volunteer for supplying dinner for the Episcopal Church Men’s Meeting. All men of the parish are welcome to attend for fellowship each month.

**Women’s Conference:** A weekend women’s retreat will be held at Peterkin Camp & Conference Center on Friday thru Sunday, September 20-22<sup>nd</sup>. Brochures are in the narthex.

**Coffee Hour:** We are in need of volunteers to provide refreshments for our weekly time of fellowship. If you have questions, please see Mary Catherine Williams.

**Trip to Israel Opportunity:** Pastor Gerald Manning of Fincastle Presbyterian Church in Bluefield, VA is leading a ten-day trip to Israel in February 2020. There are a couple more vacancies to fill, so if you are interested in going, more information can be found in the narthex.



## Clergy, Staff, and Wardens of this Parish

the Rev. Chad Slater

Ms. Emma Bennett

Mr. Terry E. Whittington, Jr.

Mrs. Vanessa Hall

Mrs. Susan Jewell

Mrs. Becky Beckett

Mr. Tom Coughlan

Rector

Parish Administrator

Organist & Choirmaster

Sexton

Nursery Attendant

Senior Warden

Junior Warden

# THE *Episcopal* CHURCH



*welcomes you*