



Christ Episcopal Church

200 Duhring Street
Bluefield, WV 24701
(304) 327-6861

www.christchurchbluefield.org



February 2, 2020

The Feast of the Presentation of our Lord, Jesus Christ, in the Temple

Sometimes called Candlemas



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 "HS" 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

Lift up your heads, ye mighty gates

H 436

The Service Begins

BCP 355

Gloria in Excelsis

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

H-S 280

The Collect

Our collective prayer for the day.

Almighty and everliving God, we humbly pray that, as your only-begotten Son was this day presented in the temple, so we may be presented to you with pure and clean hearts by Jesus Christ our Lord; who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. *Amen.*

The First Lesson

Malachi 3:1-4

Thus says the Lord, See, I am sending my messenger to prepare the way before me, and the Lord whom you seek will suddenly come to his temple. The messenger of the covenant in whom you delight-- indeed, he is coming, says the Lord of hosts. But who can endure the day of his coming, and who can stand when he appears?

For he is like a refiner's fire and like fullers' soap; he will sit as a refiner and purifier of silver, and he will purify the descendants of Levi and refine them like gold and silver, until they present offerings to the Lord in righteousness. Then the offering of Judah and Jerusalem will be pleasing to the Lord as in the days of old and as in former years.

The Psalm

Psalm 84

Quam dilecta!

- 1 How dear to me is your dwelling, O Lord of hosts! My soul has a desire and longing for the courts of the Lord; my heart and my flesh rejoice in the living God.
- 2 The sparrow has found her a house and the swallow a nest where she may lay her young; by the side of your altars, O Lord of hosts, my King and my God.
- 3 Happy are they who dwell in your house! they will always be praising you.
- 4 Happy are the people whose strength is in you! whose hearts are set on the pilgrims' way.
- 5 Those who go through the desolate valley will find it a place of springs, for the early rains have covered it with pools of water.

- 6 They will climb from height to height, and the God of gods will reveal himself in Zion.
- 7 Lord God of hosts, hear my prayer; hearken, O God of Jacob.
- 8 Behold our defender, O God; and look upon the face of your Anointed.
- 9 For one day in your courts is better than a thousand in my own room, and to stand at the threshold of the house of my God than to dwell in the tents of the wicked.
- 10 For the Lord God is both sun and shield; he will give grace and glory;
- 11 No good thing will the Lord withhold from those who walk with integrity.
- 12 O Lord of hosts, happy are they who put their trust in you!

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 2:14-18

Since God's children share flesh and blood, Jesus himself likewise shared the same things, so that through death he might destroy the one who has the power of death, that is, the devil, and free those who all their lives were held in slavery by the fear of death. For it is clear that he did not come to help angels, but the descendants of Abraham. Therefore he had to become like his brothers and sisters in every respect, so that he might be a merciful and faithful high priest in the service of God, to make a sacrifice of atonement for the sins of the people. Because he himself was tested by what he suffered, he is able to help those who are being tested.

Hymn

How lovely is thy dwelling place

H 517

Gospel Lesson

Luke 2:22-40

When the time came for their purification according to the law of Moses, the parents of Jesus brought him up to Jerusalem to present him to the Lord (as it is written in the law of the Lord, "Every firstborn male shall be designated as holy to the Lord"), and they offered a sacrifice according to what is stated in the law of the Lord, "a pair of turtledoves or two young pigeons."

Now there was a man in Jerusalem whose name was Simeon; this man was righteous and devout, looking forward to the consolation of Israel, and the Holy Spirit rested on him. It had been revealed to him by the Holy Spirit

that he would not see death before he had seen the Lord's Messiah. Guided by the Spirit, Simeon came into the temple; and when the parents brought in the child Jesus, to do for him what was customary under the law, Simeon took him in his arms and praised God, saying,

"Master, now you are dismissing your servant in peace,
according to your word;
for my eyes have seen your salvation, which you have prepared in the
presence of all peoples,
a light for revelation to the Gentiles
and for glory to your people Israel."

And the child's father and mother were amazed at what was being said about him. Then Simeon blessed them and said to his mother Mary, "This child is destined for the falling and the rising of many in Israel, and to be a sign that will be opposed so that the inner thoughts of many will be revealed-- and a sword will pierce your own soul too."

There was also a prophet, Anna the daughter of Phanuel, of the tribe of Asher. She was of a great age, having lived with her husband seven years after her marriage, then as a widow to the age of eighty-four. She never left the temple but worshiped there with fasting and prayer night and day. At that moment she came, and began to praise God and to speak about the child to all who were looking for the redemption of Jerusalem.

When they had finished everything required by the law of the Lord, they returned to Galilee, to their own town of Nazareth. The child grew and became strong, filled with wisdom; and the favor of God was upon him.



The Sermon

The Nicene Creed

BCP 358

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

The Prayers of the People (Form IV)

BCP 388

We pray together as the people of God

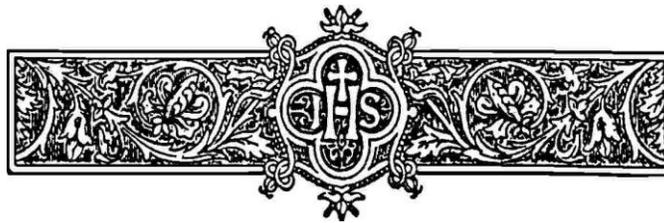
Confession & Absolution

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

*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 vs. 5

Eucharistic Prayer “B”

BCP 367

Sanctus

Words in BCP, Musical Setting

H-S129

Memorial Acclamation

Words in BCP, Musical Setting

H-S138

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

| | |
|--|--------------|
| <i>Bread of the world, in mercy broken</i> | H 301 |
| <i>Christ, whose glory fills the skies</i> | H 7 |
| <i>How bright appears the morning star</i> | H 497 |

Our Prayer after Communion

BCP 366

Hymn

O Zion haste, thy mission high fulfilling

H 539

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!*



The Altar Flowers are given today by
Denise Melvin in memory of loved ones.

Following our service is Coffee Hour, hosted today by Mimi & Rob Merritt and Norma Mahood-Bay. 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!

Participants in Today's Liturgy

| | | |
|------------------------------------|----------------|------------|
| <u>Acolyte</u> | Macon Clement | |
| <u>Chalicer</u> | Rob Merritt | |
| <u>Lector</u> | Alyson Bowling | |
| <u>Altar Guild</u> | Linda Ammar | Betty Nash |
| <u>Nursery Help</u> | Jessica Cole | |
| <u>Vestry Member of the Month:</u> | | |

Birthdays This Week: Missy Thomas, James Patrick Paine

Last Sunday's Attendance

55

Please Keep the Following in Your Prayers

Dorene Dimes, Bonnie Taylor, Joe Sanders, Lee Puckett, Sr., Mabeline & Elton Robinson, Bea Paine, Lynn Burney, Marilyn Denney, Donna Fortune, Bob and Peggy Walk, Susan Jewell, John Kersey, Martha Linkous, Sarah Irwin, Janet Slager, Kelly Cox, Mike McLeod, Maxine Stevenson, Dean Farmer, Bob Moore, Haddon Lazenby, Miffi Williams, Jack Burchette, Nick, JL

Calendar of Events

| | |
|-------------------------|---|
| Sunday – February 9 | Canterbury Club at the Moir's 6:00pm |
| Wednesday – February 12 | Service Dinner at Union Mission 3:00pm |
| Sunday – February 16 | Bagging Groceries after Church |
| Tuesday – February 18 | DOK meeting 10:30am |
| Wednesday – February 19 | Vestry Meeting 7:00pm |
| Thursday – February 20 | Food Pantry 9:00 – 11:00am |
| Tuesday – February 25 | Shrove Tuesday Pancake Dinner 5:30pm |
| Wednesday – February 26 | Ash Wednesday Services 8am, 12 noon, 7:00pm Union Mission 4:30pm |

Announcements:

Welcome Rev. Canon Mark Seitz! Today we welcome the Rev. Canon Mark Seitz, Canon to the Ordinary in the Diocese of West Virginia.

Fr. Chad on Vacation this week: Should you have a pastoral emergency please call the Rev. Russ Hatfield at 276-970-0576.

Canterbury Club: Our next Canterbury Club will be hosted by the Moir Family at their home (604 Mountain View Ave, Blfd. WV) on Sunday February 9 at 6pm. There is a 2020 sign-up sheet in the narthex for Canterbury Club. Anyone that would like to host one you can sign up. Thank you to everyone who hosted a Canterbury Club in 2019!

Nursery Help: Please consider signing up to assist with our Sunday morning nursery. A sign-up sheet is in the Narthex. For more information please see Fr. Chad or Elizabeth Clement.



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