



CHRIST EPISCOPAL CHURCH

BLUEFIELD, WEST VIRGINIA

The Twelfth Sunday after Pentecost

August 28, 2022



200 Duhring Street, Bluefield, WV 24701

(304) 327-6861

www.christchurchbluefield.org

Prelude

The Opening Hymn

Holy, Holy, Holy

Handout

Celebrant Blessed be God: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

People And blessed be his kingdom, now and for ever. *Amen.*

The Collect for Purity

Celebrant

Almighty God, to you all hearts are open, all desires known, and from you no secrets are hid: Cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love you, and worthily magnify your holy Name; through Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

Hymn of Praise

Jesus is Lord of All the Earth

Handout

Celebrant The Lord be with you.

People And also with you.

Celebrant Let us pray.

The Collect 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 12:4-13

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 Word of the Lord.

People

Thanks be to God.

The Psalm will be read responsively by whole verse

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.



The 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.

The Word of the Lord.

People Thanks be to God.

Hymn

Seek Ye first the Kingdom of God

Handout

Gospel Lesson

Luke 14:1,- 7-14

The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Luke.

People Glory to you, Lord Christ.

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 Gospel of the Lord.

People Praise to you, Lord Christ

The Sermon

The Rev. Lou Hays

The Nicene Creed

All stand as they are able

We believe in one God,
the Father, the Almighty,
maker of heaven and earth,
of all that is, seen and unseen.
We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ,
the only Son of God,
eternally begotten of the Father,
God from God, Light from Light,
true God from true God,
begotten, not made,
of one Being with the Father.
Through him all things were made.
For us and for our salvation
he came down from heaven:
by the power of the Holy Spirit
he became incarnate from the Virgin Mary,
and was made man.
For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate;
he suffered death and was buried.
On the third day he rose again
in accordance with the Scriptures;



he ascended into heaven
and is seated at the right hand of the Father.
He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead,
and his kingdom will have no end.
We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life,
who proceeds from the Father and the Son.
With the Father and the Son he is worshiped and glorified.
He has spoken through the Prophets.
We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic Church.
We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins.
We look for the resurrection of the dead,
and the life of the world to come. Amen.

The Prayers of the People, Form III

Father, we pray for your holy Catholic Church;

That we all may be one.

Grant that every member of the Church may truly and humbly serve you;

That your Name may be glorified by all people.

We pray for Mike and Matthew, our Bishops, for Lou our priest, and for all
bishops, priests, and deacons;

That they may be faithful ministers of your Word and Sacraments.

We pray for all who govern and hold authority in the nations of the world;

That there may be justice and peace on the earth.

Give us grace to do your will in all that we undertake;

That our works may find favor in your sight.

Have compassion on those who suffer from any grief or trouble;

That they may be delivered from their distress.

Give to the departed eternal rest;

Let light perpetual shine upon them.

We praise you for your saints who have entered into joy;

May we also come to share in your heavenly kingdom.

Let us pray for our own needs and those of others.

In our Diocesan Cycle of prayer, we pray for St. Matthews, Wheeling.

In our Anglican Cycle of prayer, we pray for The Anglican Church in Aotearoa, New Zealand and Polynesia.

We pray for all who are on our parish prayer list, and for any others that we might now name, either silently or aloud

Pause

We pray for all who have died, especially our loved ones who have gone before us, and for any others that we might now name, either silently or aloud

Pause

We give thanks for all of the blessings of this life, for our family, friends and loved ones, and for any other thanksgivings we might now name, either silently or aloud.

Pause

Let us join together in our Prayer for this stage of the Transition.

Gracious and loving God, we give you thanks and praise for bringing us this far in our transition journey. We thank you for our parish profile and our hopes and dreams for the future. We pray that you will bring us candidates who you would have serve as our next Rector. Continue to bless the Search Committee and lead them to right decisions and give us patience and hope as we wait. In Jesus' name we pray, *Amen.*

Celebrant

Almighty and eternal God, ruler of all things in heaven and earth: Mercifully accept the prayers of your people and strengthen us to do your will; through Jesus Christ our Lord *Amen.*

The Confession and Absolution

The Celebrant then calls the people to confess their sins to God

Let us confess our sins against God and our neighbor.

Silence may be kept.

Officiant and People

Most merciful God,

we confess that we have sinned against you
in thought, word, and deed,

by what we have done,

and by what we have left undone.

We have not loved you with our whole heart;

we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves.

We are truly sorry and we humbly repent.

For the sake of your Son Jesus Christ,

have mercy on us and forgive us;

that we may delight in your will,

and walk in your ways,

to the glory of your Name. Amen.

The priest says

Almighty God have mercy on you, forgive you all your sins through our Lord Jesus Christ, strengthen you in all goodness, and by the power of the Holy Spirit keep you in eternal life. *Amen.*

The Peace

Celebrant The peace of the Lord be always with you.

People And also with you.

The Holy Eucharist

Eucharistic Prayer A

The people remain standing. The Celebrant says

The Lord be with you.

People And also with you.

Celebrant Lift up your hearts.

People We lift them to the Lord.

Celebrant Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

People It is right to give him thanks and praise.

It is right, and a good and joyful thing, always and everywhere to give thanks to you, Father Almighty, Creator of heaven and earth. For you are the source of light and life, you made us in your own image, and called us to new life in Jesus Christ our Lord.

Therefore, we praise you, joining our voices with Angels and Archangels and with all the company of heaven, who for ever sing this hymn to proclaim the glory of your Name:

Celebrant and People

Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might,
Heaven and earth are full of your glory.

Hosanna in the highest.

Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.

Hosanna in the highest.

The people remain standing as able in solidarity with the risen Christ

Then the Celebrant continues

Holy and gracious Father: In your infinite love you made us for yourself, and, when we had fallen into sin and become subject to evil and death, you, in your mercy, sent Jesus Christ, your only and eternal Son, to share our human nature, to live and die as one of us, to reconcile us to you, the God and Father of all.

He stretched out his arms upon the cross, and offered himself, in obedience to your will, a perfect sacrifice for the whole world.

On the night he was handed over to suffering and death, our Lord Jesus Christ took bread; and when he had given thanks to you, he broke it, and gave it to his disciples, and said, "Take, eat: This is my Body, which is given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me."

After supper he took the cup of wine; and when he had given thanks, he gave it to them, and said, "Drink this, all of you: This is my Blood of the new

Covenant, which is shed for you and for many for the forgiveness of sins. Whenever you drink it, do this for the remembrance of me."

Celebrant and People

Therefore, we proclaim the mystery of faith:

Celebrant and People

Christ has died.

Christ is risen.

Christ will come again.

The Celebrant continues

We celebrate the memorial of our redemption, O Father, in this sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving. Recalling his death, resurrection, and ascension, we offer you these gifts.

Sanctify them by your Holy Spirit to be for your people the Body and Blood of your Son, the holy food and drink of new and unending life in him. Sanctify us also that we may faithfully receive this holy Sacrament, and serve you in unity, constancy, and peace; and at the last day bring us with all your saints into the joy of your eternal kingdom.

All this we ask through your Son Jesus Christ: By him, and with him, and in him, in the unity of the Holy Spirit all honor and glory is yours, Almighty Father, now and for ever. AMEN.

And now, as our Savior Christ has taught us, we are bold to say,

People and Celebrant

Our Father, who art in heaven,

hallowed be thy Name,

thy kingdom come,

thy will be done,

on earth as it is in heaven.

Give us this day our daily bread.

And forgive us our trespasses,

as we forgive those

who trespass against us.



And lead us not into temptation,
but deliver us from evil.
For thine is the kingdom,
and the power, and the glory,
for ever and ever. Amen.

The Breaking of the Bread

The Celebrant then breaks the Consecrated Bread

Celebrant Alleluia! Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us;

People Therefore let us keep the feast. Alleluia!

The Celebrant then presents the Sacrament to the People

The Gifts of God, for the People of God.

The Distribution of the Holy Sacrament

All baptized Christians, regardless of age or denomination, are invited and encouraged to receive the sacrament. Everyone, regardless of faith, is welcome to receive a blessing— simply cross your arms in front of you approach the priest. Gluten free wafers are available to those who request them.

Our Prayer after Communion

After Communion, the Celebrant says

Let us pray.

Celebrant and People

Eternal God, heavenly Father,
you have graciously accepted us as living members
of your Son our Savior Jesus Christ,
and you have fed us with spiritual food
in the Sacrament of his Body and Blood.
Send us now into the world in peace,
and grant us strength and courage
to love and serve you
with gladness and singleness of heart;
through Christ our Lord. Amen.

The Blessing

Closing Hymn

I, the Lord of Sea and Sky

Handout

The Dismissal

Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.

People Thanks be to God.

Postlude

Please Keep the Following in Your Prayers:

Dorene Dimes, Bonnie Taylor, Joe Sanders, Bea Paine, Bob and Peggy Walk, John Kersey, Martha Linkous, Jay Kephart, Buck Sowers, Donna Fortune, Ed and Gladys Fortune, Ivy and the Gaines Family, Chris Justice, John Beckett, Brian, Lane, Sherry, Lilian Blackman, Scot, and Max.

Participants in Today's Liturgy

Celebrant

The Rev. Lou Hays

Pianist

Brian Tracey

Acolyte

Katherine Lewis

Lector

Linda Ammar

Altar Guild

Becky Beckett, Chris Justice,
Patty Richardson, Mimi Merritt



The Altar Flowers are given today for the greater Glory of God
by Bill Davis.



Birthdays This Week:

I.V. Sudduth, Delia Kersey, and Payton Wimmer.

Calendar of Events

Wednesday – September 14

Union Mission 4:00pm

Vestry Meeting 6:00pm

Thursday – September 15

Food Pantry 9:00 – 11:00am

Tuesday – September 20

DOK meeting 10:30am

Wednesday – September 28

Union Mission 3:30pm

Attendance Last Sunday:

34

Announcements:

Coffee Hour: We need coffee hour hosts for September 18TH. Please sign up on the white board in the hallway next to the library. Please help us continue this important ministry of hospitality.

Gardens Sign-up: If you would like to help with planting and maintaining the flowers in the Columbarium and out in front of the Church, please put your name on the sign-up sheet in the Narthex.

Food Pantry Collection: Our Food Pantry has a tradition of giving hats, scarves, gloves, and socks to help make winter a little warmer for our friends. A collection bin is in the narthex to begin accepting donations for these items. They can be homemade, purchased, or gently used.

Winter Pansies: If you'd like to donate toward having winter pansies planted in the Columbarium, please note "Pansies" in the memo section of your gift.

Some Background History on the Ridge Runner Train

BLUEFIELD, Va. — The fully restored Ridge Runner No. 36 locomotive was back on track as volunteers of the Save the Ridge Runner Committee took a major step in efforts to get the popular attraction back in service.

Thursday morning's re-railing of the Ridge Runner locomotive was an emotional experience. Lecia Smith, co-chair of the committee wore sunglasses, but they did not conceal the tears running down her face when the Cleco crane started lifting the locomotive off the RJ Mine Service utility trailer. "I have been an emotional mess," Lori Mills said. "I have cried all morning long."

In July 2009, Mills organized the initial grassroots effort to save the train after the city announced a plan to remove the tourist train from Lotito Park and place it downtown as a static display saluting the city's railroading history. Mills soon learned

that she had hundreds of allies in her quest to save the Ridge Runner, and the city responded by appointing a committee to raise funds to restore the track, locomotive and cars of the train.

A private corporation, Skyland Corp., brought the Ridge Runner to the East River Mountain Overlook in 1964, as part of a larger plan to develop the mountain top into a major tourist attraction. The train attracted tourists to the world's smallest interstate railroad, but the completion of I-77 in 1976 with tunnels through East River and Big Walker Mountains, took traffic away from old U.S. Route 21-52. By the early 1980s, the railroad wasn't self-sustaining, and the city acquired the project with the idea of re-establishing it in Lotito Park.

The city re-launched the Ridge Runner in 1984, but time took a toll on the train and the track and with limited revenues as well as increasing maintenance costs, the city parked the train in its underground tunnel/garage complex where it remained until the rail excursion to Bluefield from Roanoke, Va., prompted Andy Merriman, the city manager, to consider ways to promote the city's railroad theme.

The Save the Ridge Runner Committee exceeded all expectations with fundraising success, with in-kind and cash donations totaling \$194,357. RJ Mine Services put \$100,000 into the effort in in-kind contributions by restoring the locomotive to its 1964 glory.

Jamie Clark and Timmy Varney of RJ Mine Services carefully placed the locomotive back on the track as Gary Blankenship, a mobile crane operator with Cleco Corp., of Rosedale, Va., gently set the locomotive on the tracks. A small crowd that had gathered Thursday morning to witness the event broke out into a spontaneous round of applause. As the sun peaked through the clouds, the Ridge Runner was on track again for a new era of service to the region.

The task was not easy. Clark and the RJ Mine Service crew totally dismantled the locomotive and rebuilt everything from the ground up. The committee worked with Raymond Woody to replace the old cross ties with new ones and to erect a new depot for passengers to board the train.

"What do you think of it?" Bea Paine, co-chair of the committee asked with pride as she, Mary Raub, Steve Coleman, Art Riley, Carl Snyder, Smith and Mills admired the restored train.

Paine coordinated the re-opening celebration that starts at 2 p.m., on Saturday, May 12. The Bluefield High School Band and the Bluefield State College Community Choir will perform, and rides will be free throughout the day, according to Paine. Clark and RJ Mine Service personnel hoped to place the cars on the track Thursday as well. Woody was on hand to assist with any necessary track-related projects as the Ridge Runner rolled again.



Clergy, Staff, and Wardens of this Parish

The Rev. Lou Hays
Ms. Emma Bennett
Mr. Terry E. Whittington, Jr.
Mrs. Vanessa Hall
Mr. David Kersey
Mr. Peter Richardson

Interim Rector
Parish Administrator
Organist & Choirmaster
Sexton
Senior Warden
Junior Warden