



CHRIST EPISCOPAL CHURCH

BLUEFIELD, WEST VIRGINIA

December 11, 2022



THIRD SUNDAY
OF
Advent

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

www.christchurchbluefield.org

Prelude

The Processional Hymn *Hark the glad sound! The Savior comes*

H 72

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.*

Trisagion *Sung three times*

S-102

The musical score is presented in two systems. Each system consists of a vocal line (treble clef) and a piano accompaniment line (bass clef). The key signature is one flat (B-flat major or D minor), and the time signature is 4/4. The lyrics are: "Ho - ly God, Ho - ly and Might - y, Ho - ly Im - mor - tal One, Have mer - cy up - on us." The piano accompaniment features a steady bass line with chords that support the vocal melody.

Music: Ver. *Hymnal 1982*, after Alexander Archangelsky (1846-1924). Setting: Copyright © Church Publishing Inc.

The Holy Eucharist, Holy God: Trisagion, #102 from *The Hymnal 1982, Service Music* — Music: Ver. *Hymnal 1982*, after Alexander Archangelsky (1846-1924). Setting: Copyright © Church Publishing Inc.

Celebrant The Lord be with you.

People And also with you.

Celebrant Let us pray.

The Collect for the Day

Stir up your power, O Lord, and with great might come among us; and, because we are sorely hindered by our sins, let your bountiful grace and mercy speedily help and deliver us; through Jesus Christ our Lord, to whom, with you and the Holy Spirit, be honor and glory, now and for ever. *Amen.*

The First Lesson

Isaiah 35:1-10

The wilderness and the dry land shall be glad, the desert shall rejoice and blossom; like the crocus it shall blossom abundantly, and rejoice with joy and singing. The glory of Lebanon shall be given to it, the majesty of Carmel and Sharon. They shall see the glory of the LORD, the majesty of our God.

Strengthen the weak hands and make firm the feeble knees. Say to those who are of a fearful heart, "Be strong, do not fear! Here is your God. He will come with vengeance, with terrible recompense. He will come and save you."

Then the eyes of the blind shall be opened, and the ears of the deaf unstopped; then the lame shall leap like a deer, and the tongue of the speechless sing for joy. For waters shall break forth in the wilderness, and streams in the desert; the burning sand shall become a pool, and the thirsty ground springs of water; the haunt of jackals shall become a swamp, the grass shall become reeds and rushes.

A highway shall be there, and it shall be called the Holy Way; the unclean shall not travel on it, but it shall be for God's people; no traveler, not even fools, shall go astray. No lion shall be there, nor shall any ravenous beast come up on it; they shall not be found there, but the redeemed shall walk there. And the ransomed of the LORD shall return and come to Zion with singing; everlasting joy shall be upon their heads; they shall obtain joy and gladness, and sorrow and sighing shall flee away.

The Word of the Lord.

People Thanks be to God.

The Psalm

Psalm 146:4-9

Lauda, anima mea

The Psalm will be read responsively by whole verse

4. Happy are they who have the God of Jacob for their help! whose hope is in the Lord their God;
5. Who made heaven and earth, the seas, and all that is in them; who keeps his promise for ever;
6. Who gives justice to those who are oppressed, and food to those who hunger.
7. The Lord sets the prisoners free; the Lord opens the eyes of the blind; the Lord lifts up those who are bowed down;
8. The Lord loves the righteous; the Lord cares for the stranger; he sustains the orphan and widow, but frustrates the way of the wicked.
9. The Lord shall reign for ever, your God, O Zion, throughout all generations.
Hallelujah!

The Second Lesson

James 5:7-10

Be patient, therefore, beloved, until the coming of the Lord. The farmer waits for the precious crop from the earth, being patient with it until it receives the early and the late rains. You also must be patient. Strengthen your hearts, for the coming of the Lord is near. Beloved, do not grumble against one another, so that you may not be judged. See, the Judge is standing at the doors! As an example of suffering and patience, beloved, take the prophets who spoke in the name of the Lord.

The Word of the Lord.

People Thanks be to God.

Hymn

The King of love my shepherd is

H645

Gospel Lesson

Matthew 11:2-11

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

People Glory to you, Lord Christ.

When John heard in prison what the Messiah was doing, he sent word by his disciples and said to him, “Are you the one who is to come, or are we to wait for another?” Jesus answered them, “Go and tell John what you hear and see: the blind receive their sight, the lame walk, the lepers are cleansed, the

deaf hear, the dead are raised, and the poor have good news brought to them. And blessed is anyone who takes no offense at me.”

As they went away, Jesus began to speak to the crowds about John: “What did you go out into the wilderness to look at? A reed shaken by the wind? What then did you go out to see? Someone dressed in soft robes? Look, those who wear soft robes are in royal palaces. What then did you go out to see? A prophet? Yes, I tell you, and more than a prophet. This is the one about whom it is written,

‘See, I am sending my messenger ahead of you,
who will prepare your way before you.’

“Truly I tell you, among those born of women no one has arisen greater than John the Baptist; yet the least in the kingdom of heaven is greater than he.”

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 Matthew, our Bishop, 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. Michael's, Kingwood; and All Saints, Union.

In our Anglican Cycle of prayer, we pray for The Anglican Church of Kenya.

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

Officiant

Hasten, O Father, the coming of your kingdom; and grant that we your servants, who now live by faith, may with joy behold your Son at his coming in glorious majesty; even Jesus Christ, our only Mediator and Advocate. *Amen.*

The Confession of Sin

The celebrant says

Let us confess our sins against God and our neighbor

Silence may be kept

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 stands and 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.

Announcements

The Holy Eucharist

Offertory *O Come, O Come, Emmanuel* Brian and Lise Tracey

After the Offertory piece has been played the People stand and sing to the familiar tune of the "Old 100th"

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;
Praise Him, all creatures here below;
Praise Him above, ye heavenly host:
Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost.

Eucharistic Prayer A

The people remain standing

Celebrant 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.

Then, facing the Holy Table, the Celebrant proceeds

It is right, and a good and joyful thing, always and every-where to give thanks to you, Father Almighty, Creator of heaven and earth. Because you sent your beloved Son to redeem us from sin and death, and to make us heirs in him of everlasting life; that when he shall come again in power and great triumph to judge the world, we may without shame or fear rejoice to behold his appearing.

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:

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of power and

The first system of musical notation consists of a treble and bass staff in G major (one sharp) and 4/4 time. The melody is primarily homophonic, with chords moving in parallel motion. The lyrics are: "Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of power and".

might, Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord,

The second system continues the melody. It features a long note with a fermata over the word "might," in the treble staff, and a corresponding long note in the bass staff. The lyrics are: "might, Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord,".

God of power and might, hea - ven and earth are

The third system concludes the phrase. It features another long note with a fermata over the word "might," in the treble staff, and a corresponding long note in the bass staff. The lyrics are: "God of power and might, hea - ven and earth are".

full, full of your glo - ry. Ho -

san - na in the high - est. Ho - san - na

in the high - est. Bless - ed is he who comes

in the name of the Lord. Ho - san - na

in the high - est. Ho - san - na in the high - est.

Music: From *Deutsche Messe*, Franz Peter Schubert (1797-1828); arr. Richard Proulx (b. 1937). Copyright © 1985 GIA Publications, Inc.

The people stand or kneel. 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."

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.*

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

Celebrant and People together

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 Prayer for Spiritual Communion

In union, O Lord, with your faithful people at every altar of your Church, where the Holy Eucharist is now being celebrated, I desire to offer to you praise and thanksgiving. I remember your death, Lord Christ; I proclaim your resurrection; I await your coming in glory. And since I cannot receive you today in the Sacrament of your Body and Blood, I beseech you to come spiritually into my heart. Cleanse and strengthen me with your grace, Lord Jesus, and let me never be separated from you. May I live in you, and you in me, in this life and in the life to come. Amen.

The Distribution of the Holy Sacrament

All baptized Christians, regardless of age or denomination, are invited and encouraged to receive the sacrament. With our return to the common cup, communion is distributed at the altar rail. Gluten free wafers are available by asking the priest. If you do not wish to receive the sacrament but would like to receive a blessing, please join us at the rail and cross your arms over your chest.

Depart through the doors at either side of the rail, returning to your pew through the door into the back of the nave.

Communion Hymn

Tell out, my soul, the greatness of the Lord

H437

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

Recessional Hymn

Watchman, tell us of the night

H640

The Dismissal

Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.

People Thanks be to God.

Postlude



Following our service will be Coffee Hour, hosted today by Brian and Lise Tracey. 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>Celebrant</u>	The Rev. Lou Hays
<u>Organist</u>	Terry Whittington
<u>Acolyte</u>	Becky Beckett Elizabeth Burton
<u>Lay Eucharist Minister</u>	Chris Justice
<u>Lector</u>	David Kersey
<u>Altar Guild</u>	Betty Nash, Linda Thomas

Please Keep the Following in Your Prayers: Dorene Dimes, Bonnie Taylor, Joe Sanders, Bob and Peggy Walk, John Kersey, Martha Linkous, Jay Kephart, Buck Sowers, Donna Fortune, Ed and Gladys Fortune, Ivy and the Gaines Family, John Beckett, Brian, Lane, Sherry, Scot, Max, Brad, Sandi, Joan, Mike Boosier, and Pam Spracher.



The following are given today for the greater Glory of God:

Altar Flowers – by Phil and Valerie Mahood

Door Wreathes – by Bill Davis in memory of Betsy Davis

Advent Wreath – by Marc & Patricia Meachum
in memory of loved ones

Chrismon Tree –by Peter & Patty Richardson in memory of
Mr. and Mrs. Robert Richardson



Birthdays This Week: Valerie Mahood.

Calendar of Events

Wednesday – December 14	Vestry Meeting 6:00pm
Thursday – December 15	Food Pantry 9 – 11:00am
Sunday – December 18	Canterbury Club at the Beckett's 6:00pm
Tuesday – December 20	DOK Meeting 10:30am
Wednesday – December 21	Union Mission 3:30pm
Saturday – December 24	Christmas Eve Early Service 5:00pm Christmas Eve Late Service 11:00pm

Announcements:

Poinsettias: If you would like to order a poinsettia to decorate our Church for Christmas, in either honor or memory of someone, a sign-up sheet will be available in the Narthex. Poinsettias are \$20 each. Please let us know how many you would like no later than Sunday, December 11th. Thank you!

ECW Christmas Cookies: The ECW will again be preparing cookie boxes for our shut-in members. ECW members are asked to furnish 3 to 4 dozen cookies to be distributed to our members who are shut-in or living in a care facility. If you would like to help with this outreach, please contact Patty Richardson at 304-952-8502 by text or by leaving a message. Cookies will need to be at the church by 2:00pm on December 15th. Volunteers will also be necessary to help with the delivery of the cookies. This is an important outreach for our ECW, and we hope you will take time to help us.

Canterbury Club: John and Becky Beckett will host a Canterbury Club at their home at 1500 College Avenue on Sunday, Dec. 18 at 6:00 p.m. Please plan to attend and bring your favorite hors d'oeuvres and desserts and enjoy the evening. Bring your own adult beverage, if desired. Hope to see you there. Pastor Paul Barker will be able to attend so come and meet our new pastor.

Fellowship Home: Items for the Fellowship Home Snack Basket are being collected in a basket out front...cookies, chips, cheeses, crackers, candy, homemade items, and more. Please bring your snack item to the church no later than Sunday, December 18th. Thank you! Contact Linda Ammar with questions.

Coffee Hour: Please help us continue this important ministry of hospitality by signing up for Sundays in January on the white board in the hallway next to the library.

Food Pantry Collection: Our Food Pantry has a tradition of giving hats, scarves, gloves, socks, and blankets 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.

Recycling Program: Christ Church will be starting a recycling program soon. We need volunteers to take the items to a recycling truck at Mitchell

Stadium every Thursday from 1-4 pm. A sign-up sheet for volunteers will be in the narthex. Thanks for all who volunteer for this program.

Acolytes and Lectors needed: If you would like to participate in this valuable ministry, please contact Rob Merritt, 304-920-860; robmerritt202@gmail.com

DOK Project: The Daughters of the Kings will be working on a new project for The Wade Center. They are currently in need of sweatpants for children that will be used when they have had an accident. A plastic tub is in the narthex to collect the following items: Girls/Boys running pants/sweat pants in children's sizes M(8-10), L(12-14) and XL if you can find them. Thank you for any contributions you can provide. Please contact Mary Catherine Williams if you have any questions.

Christmas Eve Services: We'll follow our usual custom of having two services on Christmas Eve; one at 5:00pm and one at 11:00pm.

Altar Guild Flower Donation List: We are in the process of updating our list of people who donate flowers on Sunday mornings, so if you want to continue giving flowers, you do not need to do anything. However, if you **(1)** have moved and wish to have your name removed from the list or **(2)** if you are new and would like to begin giving flowers, please send an email to:

Linda Ammar: lwammar1@gmail.com or Chris Justice: cjbasket@aol.com

Pledge Envelopes: Please pick up your pledge payment envelopes, which are located on the table in the narthex.

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