



# CHRIST EPISCOPAL CHURCH

BLUEFIELD, WEST VIRGINIA

December 18, 2022



FOURTH SUNDAY

OF

*Advent*

200 Duhring Street, Bluefield, WV 24701

(304) 327-6861

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

## Prelude

The Processional Hymn      *O come, O come, Emmanuel*      vs. 1-4, 8      **H 56**

*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 for the Trisagion 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), 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 first system covers the first two phrases, and the second system covers the final phrase. The piano accompaniment provides a steady harmonic support with chords and moving lines.

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

Purify our conscience, Almighty God, by your daily visitation, that your Son Jesus Christ, at his coming, may find in us a mansion prepared for himself; who lives and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. *Amen.*

## The First Lesson

*Isaiah 7:10-16*

Again the Lord spoke to Ahaz, saying, Ask a sign of the Lord your God; let it be deep as Sheol or high as heaven. But Ahaz said, I will not ask, and I will not put the Lord to the test. Then Isaiah said: "Hear then, O house of David! Is it too little for you to weary mortals, that you weary my God also?"

Therefore, the Lord himself will give you a sign. Look, the young woman is with child and shall bear a son, and shall name him Immanuel. He shall eat curds and honey by the time he knows how to refuse the evil and choose the good. For before the child knows how to refuse the evil and choose the good, the land before whose two kings you are in dread will be deserted."

The Word of the Lord.

*People* Thanks be to God.

## The Psalm

Psalm 80:1-7, 16-18

*Qui regis Israel*

*The Psalm will be read responsively by whole verse*

1. Hear, O Shepherd of Israel, leading Joseph like a flock; shine forth, you that are enthroned upon the cherubim.
2. In the presence of Ephraim, Benjamin, and Manasseh, stir up your strength and come to help us.
3. Restore us, O God of hosts; show the light of your countenance, and we shall be saved.
4. O Lord God of hosts, how long will you be angered despite the prayers of your people?
5. You have fed them with the bread of tears; you have given them bowls of tears to drink.
6. You have made us the derision of our neighbors, and our enemies laugh us to scorn.
7. Restore us, O God of hosts; show the light of your countenance, and we shall be saved.
16. Let your hand be upon the man of your right hand, the son of man you have made so strong for yourself.
17. And so will we never turn away from you; give us life, that we may call upon your Name.

18. Restore us, O Lord God of hosts; show the light of your countenance, and we shall be saved.

The Second Lesson

*Romans 1:1-7*

Paul, a servant of Jesus Christ, called to be an apostle, set apart for the gospel of God, which he promised beforehand through his prophets in the holy scriptures, the gospel concerning his Son, who was descended from David according to the flesh and was declared to be Son of God with power according to the spirit of holiness by resurrection from the dead, Jesus Christ our Lord, through whom we have received grace and apostleship to bring about the obedience of faith among all the Gentiles for the sake of his name, including yourselves who are called to belong to Jesus Christ,

To all God's beloved in Rome, who are called to be saints: Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

The Word of the Lord.

*People* Thanks be to God.

Hymn

*The angel Gabriel from heaven came*

**H265**

Gospel Lesson

*Matthew 1:18-25*

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

*People* Glory to you, Lord Christ.

Now the birth of Jesus the Messiah took place in this way. When his mother Mary had been engaged to Joseph, but before they lived together, she was found to be with child from the Holy Spirit. Her husband Joseph, being a righteous man and unwilling to expose her to public disgrace, planned to dismiss her quietly. But just when he had resolved to do this, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream and said, "Joseph, son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary as your wife, for the child conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit. She will bear a son, and you are to name him Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins." All this took place to fulfill what had been spoken by the Lord through the prophet:

"Look, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and they shall name him Emmanuel,"

which means, “God is with us.” When Joseph awoke from sleep, he did as the angel of the Lord commanded him; he took her as his wife, but had no marital relations with her until she had borne a son; and he named him Jesus.

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, for Paul as he prepares to become our pastor, 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 Emmanuel Church, Keyser.

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

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* *All my heart this night rejoices* Tim and Maggie Mainland

*After the Offertory piece has been played the People stand and sing to the familiar tune of the "Old 100<sup>th</sup>"*

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

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

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

*How bright appears the Morning Star*

**H497**

### 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.

## **Farewell Liturgy for the Interim Rector**

*Following the post-communion prayer, the Interim Rector goes to the front of the Chancel where he is joined by the Senior Warden. When in place, the Senior Warden says,*

Lou, you have been among us as our priest through the period of our search for a new Rector. You have been a faithful steward to us in bringing God's word and sacraments, in tending to our spiritual needs through prayer and worship, and in your pastoral leadership of this parish. We give thanks to God for your presence among us and pray for God's abundant blessings upon you as you go forth from here in your continued ministry for Christ and the Church.

*The Senior Warden asks the congregation,*

My brothers and sisters, do you recognize and accept the conclusion of this pastoral relationship?

*People:* We do

*Interim Rector:* Let us pray. O God, you have bound us together for a time as clergy and people to work for the advancement of your kingdom in this place. We give you humble and hearty thanks for the ministry which we have shared in the time now ending. We thank you for your never-failing presence with us through this time, and for the deeper knowledge of you and of each other which we have attained. We thank you for opening our hearts and minds again and again to your Word, and for feeding us abundantly with the Sacrament of the Body and Blood of your Son.

*People:* Gracious God, be with Lou as he leaves, and grant that all of us, by drawing ever nearer to you, may always be close to each other in the communion of your saints. All this we ask for the sake of Jesus Christ, your Son, our Lord. Amen

*The Senior Warden vestry returns to his seat and the service concludes with the Blessing, Processional Hymn and Dismissal.*

## **The Blessing**

**The Dismissal**

Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.

*People Thanks be to God.*

Postlude

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Following our service will be Coffee Hour, hosted today by the Vestry. 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!

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**Participants in Today's Liturgy**

<u>Celebrant</u>	The Rev. Lou Hays
<u>Organist</u>	Terry Whittington
<u>Acolyte</u>	Becky Beckett Chris Justice
<u>Lay Eucharist Minister</u>	Becky Beckett
<u>Lector</u>	Linda Ammar
<u>Altar Guild</u>	Betty Nash, Linda Thomas

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The following are given today for the greater Glory of God:  
Altar Flowers – by John and Delia Kersey in memory of loved ones.  
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

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**Birthdays This Week:** Susan Rutherford, Margaret (Maggie) Jusiel

**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, Pam Spracher, Barry Dinger, and Joel Hammond.

### **Calendar of Events**

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:**

**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.

**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 18<sup>th</sup>. Thank you! Contact Linda Ammar with questions.

**Coffee Hour:** Please help us continue this important ministry of hospitality by signing up 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](mailto: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](mailto:lwammar1@gmail.com) or Chris Justice: [cjbasket@aol.com](mailto: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