

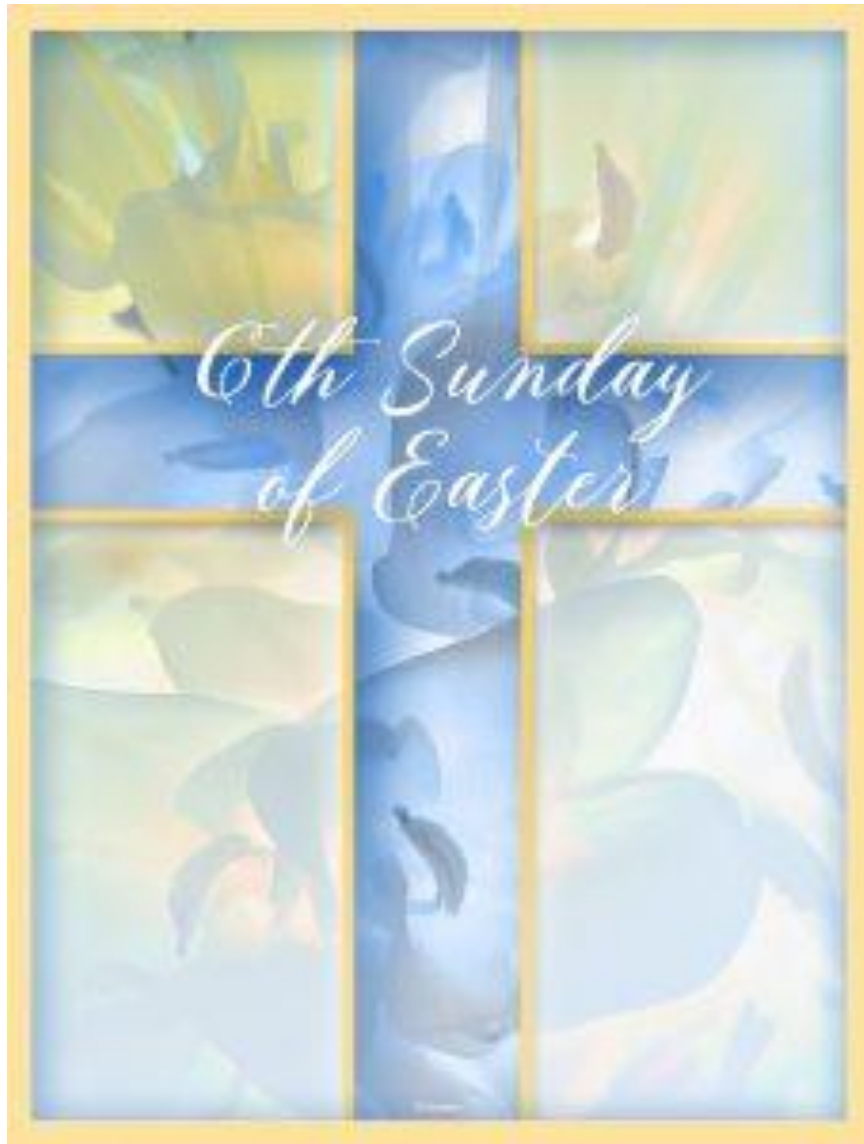


# CHRIST EPISCOPAL CHURCH

BLUEFIELD, WEST VIRGINIA

## Sixth Sunday of Easter

May 14, 2023



200 Duhring Street, Bluefield, WV 24701

(304) 327-6861

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

## Prelude

### The Processional Hymn

*The spacious firmament on high*

**H409**

*The people standing, the Celebrant says*

*Celebrant* Alleluia! Christ is Risen!

*People* The Lord is Risen indeed! Alleluia!

### 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

*Good Christians all, rejoice and sing!*

**H205**

### The Collect of the Day

*Celebrant* The Lord be with you.

*People* And also with you.

*Celebrant* Let us pray.

O God, you have prepared for those who love you such good things as surpass our understanding: Pour into our hearts such love towards you, that we, loving you in all things and above all things, may obtain your promises, which exceed all that we can desire; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. *Amen.*

*The people may be seated.*

### The First Lesson

*Acts 17:22-31*

Paul stood in front of the Areopagus and said, "Athenians, I see how extremely religious you are in every way. For as I went through the city and looked carefully at the objects of your worship, I found among them an altar with the inscription, 'To an unknown god.' What therefore you worship as unknown, this I proclaim to you. The God who made the world and everything in it, he who is Lord of heaven and earth, does not live in shrines made by human hands, nor is he served by human hands, as though he needed anything,

since he himself gives to all mortals life and breath and all things. From one ancestor he made all nations to inhabit the whole earth, and he allotted the times of their existence and the boundaries of the places where they would live, so that they would search for God and perhaps grope for him and find him—though indeed he is not far from each one of us. For ‘In him we live and move and have our being’; as even some of your own poets have said,  
‘For we too are his offspring.’

Since we are God’s offspring, we ought not to think that the deity is like gold, or silver, or stone, an image formed by the art and imagination of mortals. While God has overlooked the times of human ignorance, now he commands all people everywhere to repent, because he has fixed a day on which he will have the world judged in righteousness by a man whom he has appointed, and of this he has given assurance to all by raising him from the dead.”

*Lector*        The Word of the Lord.

*People*        Thanks be to God!

The Psalm

Psalm 66:7-18

*Jubilate Deo*

*The Psalm will be read responsively by whole verse*

7. Bless our God, you peoples; make the voice of his praise to be heard;
8. Who holds our souls in life, and will not allow our feet to slip.
9. For you, O God, have proved us; you have tried us just as silver is tried.
10. You brought us into the snare; you laid heavy burdens upon our backs.
11. You let enemies ride over our heads; we went through fire and water; but you brought us out into a place of refreshment.
12. I will enter your house with burnt-offerings and will pay you my vows, which I promised with my lips and spoke with my mouth when I was in trouble.
13. I will offer you sacrifices of fat beasts with the smoke of rams; I will give you oxen and goats.
14. Come and listen, all you who fear God, and I will tell you what he has done for me.
15. I called out to him with my mouth, and his praise was on my tongue.
16. If I had found evil in my heart, the Lord would not have heard me;
17. But in truth God has heard me; he has attended to the voice of my prayer.

18. Blessed be God, who has not rejected my prayer, nor withheld his love from me.

The Second Lesson

*I Peter 3:13-22*

Now who will harm you if you are eager to do what is good? But even if you do suffer for doing what is right, you are blessed. Do not fear what they fear, and do not be intimidated, but in your hearts sanctify Christ as Lord. Always be ready to make your defense to anyone who demands from you an accounting for the hope that is in you; yet do it with gentleness and reverence. Keep your conscience clear, so that, when you are maligned, those who abuse you for your good conduct in Christ may be put to shame. For it is better to suffer for doing good, if suffering should be God's will, than to suffer for doing evil.

For Christ also suffered for sins once for all, the righteous for the unrighteous, in order to bring you to God. He was put to death in the flesh, but made alive in the spirit, in which also he went and made a proclamation to the spirits in prison, who in former times did not obey, when God waited patiently in the days of Noah, during the building of the ark, in which a few, that is, eight persons, were saved through water. And baptism, which this prefigured, now saves you-- not as a removal of dirt from the body, but as an appeal to God for a good conscience, through the resurrection of Jesus Christ, who has gone into heaven and is at the right hand of God, with angels, authorities, and powers made subject to him.

*Lector* The Word of the Lord.

*People* Thanks be to God!

*The people standing.*

Sequence Hymn

*Be thou my vision, O Lord of my heart*

**H488**

The Gospel Lesson

*John 14:15-21*

*Celebrant* The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to John.

*People* Glory to you, Lord Christ.

Jesus said, "If you love me, you will keep my commandments. And I will ask the Father, and he will give you another Advocate, to be with you forever. This is the Spirit of truth, whom the world cannot receive, because it neither

sees him nor knows him. You know him, because he abides with you, and he will be in you.”

“I will not leave you orphaned; I am coming to you. In a little while the world will no longer see me, but you will see me; because I live, you also will live. On that day you will know that I am in my Father, and you in me, and I in you. They who have my commandments and keep them are those who love me; and those who love me will be loved by my Father, and I will love them and reveal myself to them.”

*Celebrant* The Gospel of the Lord.

*People* Praise to you, Lord Christ.

### The Sermon

The Rev. Paul Barker

### The Nicene Creed

BCP 358

*All stand as they are able and say together*

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

BCP 387

*The people may stand or kneel.*

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 Paul 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 Grace Church, Middleway and St. John's Church, Charleston.

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*

*The Celebrant concludes the prayers*

O Lord our God, accept the fervent prayers of your people; in the multitude of your mercies, look with compassion upon us and all who turn to you for help; for you are gracious, O lover of souls, and to you we give glory, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, now and for ever. *Amen.*

*The Confession of Sin is omitted during the Season of Easter*

### **The Peace**

*Celebrant* The peace of the Lord be always with you.

*People* And also with you.

*The people may greet one another with a sign of God's love.*

## Announcements

### The Holy Eucharist

#### Offertory

*Come down, O Love divine*

**H516**

*After the offertory piece has been played the people stand and sing the familiar tune of the "Old 100".*

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

*Celebrant* The Lord be with you.

*People* And also with you.

Let us pray the words our Savior Christ taught us:

*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 Deacon then presents the Sacrament to the People*

The Gifts of God, for the People of God. Take them in remembrance that Christ died for you, and feed on him in your hearts by faith, with thanksgiving.

#### The Prayer for Spiritual Communion



*Should you prefer not to receive the physical elements of the Holy Communion, you are invited to read the following in silent prayer*

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 Holy Communion from Reserved Sacrament

All baptized Christians, regardless of age or denomination, are invited and welcome to receive the sacrament. Communion is distributed at the altar rail. 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 by asking the priest. If you do not wish to receive the sacrament but would like to receive a prayer, 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 by the readers' lectern.

### Communion Hymns

*Strengthen for service, Lord*

**H312**

### Our Prayer after Communion

BCP 365

*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 Easter Season Prayer

*The Celebrant then offers the following prayer to the people*

May Almighty God, who has redeemed us and made us his children through the resurrection of his Son our Lord, bestow upon us the riches of God's blessing. Amen.

May God, who through the water of baptism has raised us from sin into newness of life, make us holy and worthy to be united with Christ for ever. Amen.

May God, who has brought us out of bondage to sin into true and lasting freedom in the Redeemer, bring us to your eternal inheritance. Amen.

May God of all creation, who called upon your servant Mary to bring your Son into the world. On this Mother's Day, bless all our mothers who bear witness to your love. Their generosity and strength have blessed generations. Please, ease their worry for the families you entrust to them, guide them in times of doubt, and hold them close when they are overwhelmed by both joy and sorrow. May they know our deep gratitude for giving us life and love. Amen.

And, may the blessing of God Almighty be upon us and remain with us for ever. *Amen!*

### Recessional Hymn

*Lord dismiss us with thy blessing*

**H344**

### The Dismissal

*Celebrant* Alleluia, alleluia! Let us go forth in the name of Christ.

*People* Thanks be to God. *Alleluia, alleluia!*

### Postlude

### Attendance Last Sunday:

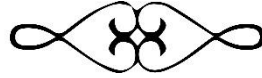
42

**Birthdays This Week:** Karen Joseph, Vanessa Hall, and Barbara Sudduth.



Following our service will be Coffee Hour, hosted by Jim and Chris Justice. This is a time for us to have fellowship, share our joys and sorrows, and get to know one another better. It is very much an extension of the communal feast we share in the Holy Eucharist.

Please join us!



**Please Keep the Following in Your Prayers:** Dorene Dimes, Bonnie Taylor, Joe Sanders, Bob and Peggy Walk, John Kersey, Martha Linkous, Jay Kephart family, Buck Sowers, Donna Fortune, Ed and Gladys Fortune, Ivy and the Gaines Family, Fr. Russ Hatfield, Brian, Art Mead, Becky Steorts, Lane, Sherry, Scot, Max, Brad, Sandi, Joan, Mike Boosier, Pam Spracher, Barry Dinger, Joel Hammond, Martin and Ethan, Jim, Joan Gray, and Rosemary.



The Altar Flowers are given today for the greater Glory of God by John and Becky Beckett.



**Participants in Today's Liturgy**

Celebrant

The Rev. Paul Barker

Organist & Choirmaster

Terry E. Whittington, Jr.

Acolytes

Katherine Lewis

Lectors

Rob Merritt

Altar Guild

Patty Richardson and Becky Beckett

**Calendar of Events**

Tuesday – May 16

DOK meeting 10:30am

Wednesday – May 17

Men's Dinner 6:00pm

Vestry Meeting 7:00pm

Thursday – 18

Food Pantry 9:00 -11:00am

Wednesday – May 24

Union Mission 3:30pm

Saturday – June 17

Pastor Paul's Ordination to the Priesthood 10:00am

### **Announcements:**

Coffee Hour: A Coffee Hour host or hostess is needed for each Sunday in **June**. Sign up on the white board located outside the Library. Contact Mary Catherine Williams (276-326-2411) or [mkw@dlwco.com](mailto:mkw@dlwco.com) if you have any questions. Thank you for helping Christ Church in this important ministry.

CEC Recycling Program: Christ Church is doing recycling of things at the church. We have two recycling bins on the main floor besides the Men's Restroom and two in Rowley Hall for cardboard/ paper and plastic. The Food Pantry have cardboard boxes that needs to be recycled also. Thanks to everyone for helping with this project. See further information on sign-up sheet in narthex.

Parish Life: There is a signup sheet in the Narthex for Parish Life. If you want to be a part of this very important ministry at our church, consider signing up. You can contact Mary Catherine Williams at [mkw@dlwco.com](mailto:mkw@dlwco.com) or 276-326-2411 with any questions.

Columbarium Garden Flowers: We will be planting flowers in the Columbarium Garden early in June. If you would be interested in helping to plant and water these flowers, please contact Linda Ammar. Thank you!

Canterbury Club: See sign-up sheet in narthex. Thank you!

### **Clergy, Staff, and Wardens of this Parish**

The Rev. Paul Barker

Pastor

Mr. Terry E. Whittington, Jr.

Organist & Choirmaster

Ms. Emma Bennett

Parish Administrator

Mrs. Vanessa Hall

Sexton

Mrs. Becky Beckett

Senior Warden

Mr. Peter Richardson

Junior Warden