



CHRIST EPISCOPAL CHURCH

BLUEFIELD, WEST VIRGINIA

## The Second Sunday Of Advent

December 10, 2023



SECOND SUNDAY  
OF  
*Advent*

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

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

## Prelude

*The people stand*

### The Processional Hymn

*Prepare the way, O Zion*

**H 65**

*At this time, the Advent candle will be lit.*

## Welcome!

*Celebrant* Bless the Lord who forgives all our sins.

*People* His mercy endures 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.*

*The people remain standing.*

## Trisagion

*Sung three times*

S-102

The musical score is written in G major (one sharp) and 3/4 time. It consists of two systems of vocal and piano accompaniment. The first system has two staves: a vocal line and a piano line. The vocal line begins with a half note G4, followed by quarter notes A4, B4, and C5. The piano line begins with a half note G3, followed by quarter notes A3, B3, and C4. The second system also has two staves: a vocal line and a piano line. The vocal line begins with a half note G4, followed by quarter notes A4, B4, and C5. The piano line begins with a half note G3, followed by quarter notes A3, B3, and C4. The lyrics are: "Ho - ly God, Ho - ly and Might - y, Ho - ly Im - mor - tal One, Have mer - cy up - on us."

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.

## Collect for the Day

Merciful God, who sent your messengers the prophets to preach repentance and prepare the way for our salvation: Give us grace to heed their warnings and forsake our sins, that we may greet with joy the coming of Jesus Christ our Redeemer; who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. *Amen.*

*The people sit.*

## The First Lesson

*Isaiah 40:1-11*

Comfort, O comfort my people, says your God. Speak tenderly to Jerusalem, and cry to her that she has served her term, that her penalty is paid, that she has received from the Lord's hand double for all her sins.

A voice cries out: "In the wilderness prepare the way of the Lord, make straight in the desert a highway for our God. Every valley shall be lifted up, and every mountain and hill be made low; the uneven ground shall become level, and the rough places a plain.

Then the glory of the Lord shall be revealed, and all people shall see it together, for the mouth of the Lord has spoken."

A voice says, "Cry out!" And I said, "What shall I cry?" All people are grass, their constancy is like the flower of the field. The grass withers, the flower fades, when the breath of the Lord blows upon it; surely the people are grass. The grass withers, the flower fades; but the word of our God will stand for ever.

Get you up to a high mountain, O Zion, herald of good tidings; lift up your voice with strength, O Jerusalem, herald of good tidings, lift it up, do not fear; say to the cities of Judah, "Here is your God!" See, the Lord God comes with might, and his arm rules for him; his reward is with him, and his recompense before him. He will feed his flock like a shepherd; he will gather the lambs in his arms, and carry them in his bosom, and gently lead the mother sheep.

*Lector*        The Word of the Lord.

*People*        Thanks be to God!

*The Psalm will be read responsively by whole verse*

1. You have been gracious to your land, O LORD, you have restored the good fortune of Jacob.
2. You have forgiven the iniquity of your people and blotted out all their sins.
8. I will listen to what the LORD God is saying, for he is speaking peace to his faithful people  
and to those who turn their hearts to him.
9. Truly, his salvation is very near to those who fear him, that his glory may dwell in our land.
10. Mercy and truth have met together; righteousness and peace have kissed each other.
11. Truth shall spring up from the earth, and righteousness shall look down from heaven.
12. The LORD will indeed grant prosperity, and our land will yield its increase.
13. Righteousness shall go before him, and peace shall be a pathway for his feet.

Second Lesson

*II Peter 3:8-15a*

Do not ignore this one fact, beloved, that with the Lord one day is like a thousand years, and a thousand years are like one day. The Lord is not slow about his promise, as some think of slowness, but is patient with you, not wanting any to perish, but all to come to repentance. But the day of the Lord will come like a thief, and then the heavens will pass away with a loud noise, and the elements will be dissolved with fire, and the earth and everything that is done on it will be disclosed.

Since all these things are to be dissolved in this way, what sort of persons ought you to be in leading lives of holiness and godliness, waiting for and hastening the coming of the day of God, because of which the heavens will be set ablaze and dissolved, and the elements will melt with fire? But, in accordance with his promise, we wait for new heavens and a new earth, where righteousness is at home.

Therefore, beloved, while you are waiting for these things, strive to be found by him at peace, without spot or blemish; and regard the patience of our Lord as salvation.

*Lector* The Word of the Lord.

*People* Thanks be to God!

*The people standing.*

Hymn *Watchman, tell us of the night*

**H 640**

The Gospel Lesson

*Mark 1:1-8*

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

*People* Glory to you, Lord Christ.

The beginning of the good news of Jesus Christ, the Son of God. As it is written in the prophet Isaiah, “See, I am sending my messenger ahead of you, who will prepare your way; the voice of one crying out in the wilderness: ‘Prepare the way of the Lord, make his paths straight,’”

John the baptizer appeared in the wilderness, proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins. And people from the whole Judean countryside and all the people of Jerusalem were going out to him, and were baptized by him in the river Jordan, confessing their sins. Now John was clothed with camel’s hair, with a leather belt around his waist, and he ate locusts and wild honey. He proclaimed, “The one who is more powerful than I is coming after me; I am not worthy to stoop down and untie the thong of his sandals. I have baptized you with water; but he will baptize you with the Holy Spirit.”

*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 Michael, our Presiding Bishop, Matthew, our Bishop, for Paul 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 the Episcopal Church Women and Episcopal Church Men.

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**

BCP 360

*The celebrant says*

Let us confess our sins against God and our neighbor

*Silence may be kept*

*The Celebrant and people say:*

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 Celebrant 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.

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

## **Announcements**

## **The Holy Communion**

Offertory Hymn *Come, thou long expected Jesus*

**H 66**

*We offer our meager gifts to the service of God in this world*

Presentation of Gifts and Tithes

63 vs. 5

To God the Father, God the Son

And God the Spirit, ever One,

Praise, honor, might and glory be

From age to age eternally

*The people remain standing*

## **Eucharistic Prayer A**

*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:

*The Hymnal 1982, Service Music, #130*

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.

The image shows a musical score for a hymn. It consists of two systems of music, each with a vocal line (treble clef) and a piano accompaniment line (bass clef). The key signature is two flats (B-flat and E-flat). The first system has lyrics: "in the name of the Lord. Ho - san - na". The second system has lyrics: "in the high - est. Ho - san - na in the high - est." The music is written in a simple, hymn-like style with block chords and moving lines.

*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.*

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 and says*  
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. Take them in remembrance that Christ died for you, and feed on him in your hearts by faith, with thanksgiving.



## The Distribution of the Holy Sacrament

All baptized Christians, regardless of age or denomination, are invited and encouraged 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. If you need assistance receiving the sacrament, please notify the usher. 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 by the reader's lectern.

## 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.

Communion Hymn

*Shepherd of souls, refresh and bless*

**H 343**

## 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 Blessing

Recessional Hymn

*On Jordan's bank the Baptist's cry*

**H 76**

## 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, Bob and Peggy Walk, Martha Linkous, Buck Sowers, Donna Fortune, Ed and Gladys Fortune, Jim and Chris Justice, Ivy and the Gaines Family, Fr. Russ and Debbie Hatfield and family, Mary Lou, Brian, Don Harris, Ted Lewis, Rebecca Broyles, Jim Dyer, Brian, Lane, Sherry, Scot, Max, Brad, Sandi, Joan, Mike Boosier, Pam Spracher, Barry Dinger, Joel Hammond, Martin and Ethan, Jim, Joan Gray, Rosemary, Eddie Hughes, Doug Truter, Jenessa, Ameiah, Beth Kane, and Debbie H.

**Attendance Last Sunday:**

**46**

Following our service will be Coffee Hour, hosted by Peter and Patricia Taylor. This is a time for us to have fellowship, share our joys, learn ways we can pray for each other, 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!

### Participants in Today's Liturgy

Celebrant

The Rev. Paul Barker

Organist & Choirmaster

Terry E. Whittington, Jr.

Acolyte

Becky Beckett

Lector

David Kersey

Altar Guild

Teresa Paine, Betty Nash, Linda Thomas

Birthdays this week: Valerie Mahood.

The Altar Flowers are given by Phil and Valerie Mahood for the greater Glory of God.

### Calendar of Events

Wednesday – December 13

ECW Cookies for Shut-ins at CEC 2:00pm

Advent Evening Prayer Service 5:30pm

Sunday – December 10

Canterbury Club at the Beckett's 6:00pm

Wednesday – December 20

Advent Evening Prayer Service 5:30pm

Sunday – December 24

Fourth Sunday of Advent 10:00am

Christmas Service 5:30pm

### 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. Please let us know how many you would like no later than today, **December 10**. Thank you!

NARCAN/AED Training: Betty Nash will provide training for anyone interested in learning how to perform these medical procedures on Sunday, **December 10** at 11:30am.

ECW: Will be packing cookie boxes for shut-ins on **December 13** at 2:00pm. Please let Patty Richardson know if you can make cookies.

Snacks for the Men's Fellowship Home: are now being collected for the men at the Fellowship Home, to be delivered the week before Christmas. Store bought or homemade goodies are welcome....anything from cookies, chips, nuts, cheeses, crackers, party mixes, drinks - whatever you would like to donate. Baskets have been placed out front for you to place your snack in .... thanks for donating. Baskets will be picked up on Sunday, **December 17th**.

Coffee Hour: A Coffee Hour host will be needed for **each Sunday in January 2024**. 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.

Food Pantry Collection: It has become a tradition of our Food Pantry to give gloves, hats, scarves, socks, and blankets to help make winter a little warmer for our friends. A bin has been placed in the narthex to begin accepting these items, which may be homemade, purchased, or gently used. Thank you so much for your participation in this community need!

Loose Offerings: All Sundays' loose offerings during the **month of December** will be designated for our Food Pantry ministry. Please be generous in helping this ministry assist our neighbors in need. Thank you!



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

The Rev. Paul Barker

Mr. Terry E. Whittington, Jr.

Ms. Emma Bennett

Mrs. Vanessa Hall

Mrs. Becky Beckett

Mr. Peter Richardson

Priest  
Organist & Choirmaster  
Parish Administrator  
Sexton  
Senior Warden  
Junior Warden