



CHRIST EPISCOPAL CHURCH

BLUEFIELD, WEST VIRGINIA

Christmas

December 24, 2023



200 Duhring Street, Bluefield, WV 24701

(304) 327-6861

www.cecbf.org

Prelude

Harp

The people stand

The Processional Hymn

O come, all ye faithful

H 83

Welcome!

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.*

The people remain standing.

The Hymn of Praise

Joy to the world! the Lord is come

H 100

Celebrant The Lord be with you.

People And also with you.

Celebrant Let us pray.

Collect for the Day

O God, you have caused this holy night to shine with the brightness of the true Light: Grant that we, who have known the mystery of that Light on earth, may also enjoy him perfectly in heaven; where with you and the Holy Spirit he lives and reigns, one God, in glory everlasting. *Amen.*

The people sit.

The First Lesson

Isaiah 9:2-7

The people who walked in darkness

have seen a great light;

those who lived in a land of deep darkness--

on them light has shined.

You have multiplied the nation,
you have increased its joy;
they rejoice before you
as with joy at the harvest,
as people exult when dividing plunder.

For the yoke of their burden,
and the bar across their shoulders,
the rod of their oppressor,
you have broken as on the day of Midian.

For all the boots of the tramping warriors
and all the garments rolled in blood
shall be burned as fuel for the fire.

For a child has been born for us,
a son given to us;
authority rests upon his shoulders;
and he is named

Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God,
Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.

His authority shall grow continually,
and there shall be endless peace
for the throne of David and his kingdom.

He will establish and uphold it
with justice and with righteousness
from this time onward and forevermore.

The zeal of the LORD of hosts will do this.

Lector The Word of the Lord.

People Thanks be to God!

The Psalm will be read responsively by whole verse

1. Sing to the LORD a new song; sing to the LORD, all the whole earth.
2. Sing to the LORD and bless his Name; proclaim the good news of his salvation from day to day.
3. Declare his glory among the nations and his wonders among all peoples.
4. For great is the LORD and greatly to be praised; he is more to be feared than all gods.
5. As for all the gods of the nations, they are but idols; but it is the LORD who made the heavens.
6. Oh, the majesty and magnificence of his presence! Oh, the power and the splendor of his sanctuary!
7. Ascribe to the LORD, you families of the peoples; ascribe to the LORD honor and power.
8. Ascribe to the LORD the honor due his Name; bring offerings and come into his courts.
9. Worship the LORD in the beauty of holiness; let the whole earth tremble before him.
10. Tell it out among the nations: "The LORD is King! he has made the world so firm that it cannot be moved; he will judge the peoples with equity."
11. Let the heavens rejoice, and let the earth be glad; let the sea thunder and all that is in it; let the field be joyful and all that is therein.
12. Then shall all the trees of the wood shout for joy before the LORD when he comes, when he comes to judge the earth.
13. He will judge the world with righteousness and the peoples with his truth.

Second Lesson*Titus 2:11-14*

For the grace of God has appeared, bringing salvation to all, training us to renounce impiety and worldly passions, and in the present age to live lives that are self-controlled, upright, and godly, while we wait for the blessed hope

and the manifestation of the glory of our great God and Savior, Jesus Christ. He it is who gave himself for us that he might redeem us from all iniquity and purify for himself a people of his own who are zealous for good deeds.

Lector The Word of the Lord.

People Thanks be to God!

The people standing.

Hymn

Hark! the herald angels sing

H 87



The Gospel Lesson

Luke 2:1-14

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

People Glory to you, Lord Christ.

In those days a decree went out from Emperor Augustus that all the world should be registered. This was the first registration and was taken while Quirinius was governor of Syria. All went to their own towns to be registered.

Joseph also went from the town of Nazareth in Galilee to Judea, to the city of David called Bethlehem, because he was descended from the house and family of David. He went to be registered with Mary, to whom he was engaged and who was expecting a child. While they were there, the time came for her to deliver her child. And she gave birth to her firstborn son and wrapped him in bands of cloth, and laid him in a manger, because there was no place for them in the inn.

In that region there were shepherds living in the fields, keeping watch over their flock by night. Then an angel of the Lord stood before them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. But the angel said to them, "Do not be afraid; for see-- I am bringing you good news of great joy for all the people: to you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is the Messiah, the Lord. This will be a sign for you: you will find a child wrapped in bands of cloth and lying in a manger." And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host, praising God and saying,

"Glory to God in the highest heaven,
and on earth peace among those whom he favors!"

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 Service Corps and Volunteers in Mission.

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

O Jesus So Gentle, Jesus so sweet

Bach

Soloist David Hardin

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

Presentation of Gifts and Tithes

Hymn 380 vs. 3

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.

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 gave Jesus Christ, your only Son, to be born for us; who, by the mighty power of the Holy Spirit, was made perfect Man of the flesh of the Virgin Mary his mother; so that we might be delivered from the bondage of sin, and receive power to become your children.

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 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

Harp

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.

Hymn

Silent night, holy night

H 111

The Blessing

The Dismissal

Angels we have heard on high

H 96

Let us go forth into the world, rejoicing in the power of the Spirit.

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, 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.

Participants in Today's Liturgy

<u>Celebrant</u>	The Rev. Paul Barker
<u>Organist & Choirmaster</u>	Terry E. Whittington, Jr.
<u>Harpist</u>	Laurel Thompson
<u>Acolyte</u>	Teresa Paine
<u>Lector</u>	Don Williams
<u>Altar Guild</u>	Teresa Paine, Betty Nash, Linda Thomas

The Altar Flowers are given by Barbara Sudduth for the greater Glory of God and in memory of loved ones.

The lovely tree and wreathes in the church have been
so graciously provided by:

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



*The poinsettias that adorn our beautiful church this evening
have been given in memory or honor of the following:*

Don & Mary Catherine Williams in memory of loved ones

Stan & Grey Kiser in memory of loved ones

Becky Steorts in memory of loved ones

Elizabeth Burton in memory of Fred & Mary Kathryn Burton

Don & Becky Kersey in memory of loved ones

Paul Barker in memory of Richard and Barbara Barker

Betty Nash & Charlie Blevins in honor of Liam & Lilly

Terry Whittington in memory of Terry & Thelma Kelly Whittington

Mollie Whittington in memory of William Gordon Whittington

Linda Gillespie in memory of Carl and loved ones

*Sheila Brooks in memory of loved ones
and in honor of Lillian Lovelace and McNeil Lovelace*

Linda Ammar in memory of loved ones

David & Bobbi Kersey in memory of loved ones

John & Becky Beckett in memory of Loved Ones

Tim and Maggie Mainland in memory of Phyllis and Joan

Art Meade in memory of Murel Meade and Marsha Meade

Shirley Ofsa in memory of loved ones

Mike Lilly in memory of Betty and Phil Lilly

John and Sandy Moir in honor of our beloved parents

Keith and Darla Olson in honor of Pete Sterncoff

*The Lewis Family in memory of Clyde Deal,
Josephine Lewis, Linda Jones, and Theron Brooks*

The Broyles Family in memory of Joyce & Fr. Bill Morgan

Kathy Cowan in memory of Rob, Bobby, and Jeremy

Jim & Chris Justice in memory of loved ones

Teresa Paine in memory of loved ones

*Tripper and Staci Thomas in memory of
Carl Thomas, Jr. and Jack Shafford*

*Peter and Patricia Taylor in honor of
Dr. & Mrs. J. Brookins Taylor and Mr. & Mrs. Howard Hale*

Norma Mahood-Bay in memory of loved ones

Robert and Mimi Merritt in memory of loved ones.

Poinsettias may be collected by their sponsors on Wednesday, December 27th, between 9:00 and 3:00. For other arrangements please see Linda Ammar.



Calendar of Events

Sunday – January 7	Canterbury Club at the home of Linda Thomas 6:00pm
Wednesday – January 10	Union Mission 4:00pm
Tuesday – January 16	DOK meeting 10:30am
Wednesday – January 17	Men’s Dinner 6:00pm
	Vestry meeting 7:00pm
Thursday – January 18	Food Pantry 9:00 – 11:00am
Sunday – January 21	Christ Church Annual Meeting
Wednesday – January 24	Union Mission 3:30pm

Announcements:

Food Pantry Collection: A bin has been placed in the narthex for blankets, 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!

Canterbury Club: January Canterbury Club will be held at the home of Linda Thomas on **January 7 at 6pm**. Bring your favorite dish and adult beverage. This is an adult gathering. If you have any questions contact Mary Catherine Williams at mkw@dlwco.com .

Coffee Hour: A Coffee Hour host will be needed for **January 7, 21, and 28, 2024**. Sign up on the white board located outside the library. Contact Mary Catherine Williams (276-326-2411) or mkw@dlwco.com) if you have any questions. Thank you for helping Christ Church in this important ministry.

Clergy, Staff, and Wardens of this Parish

The Rev. Paul Barker	Priest
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

