



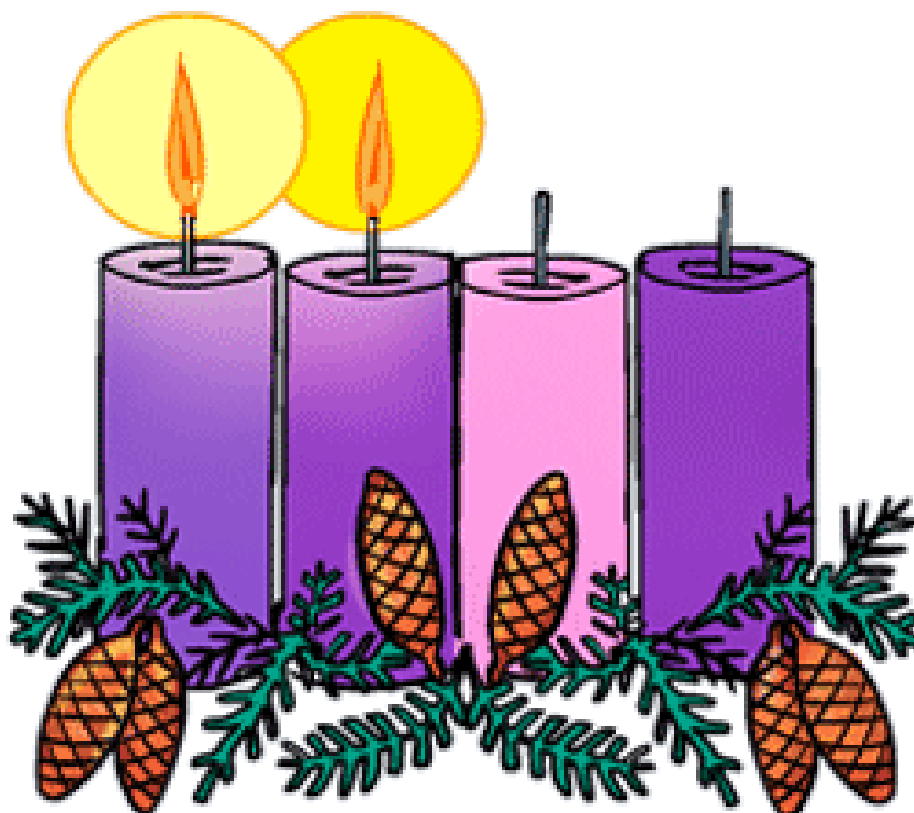
# CHRIST EPISCOPAL CHURCH

BLUEFIELD, WEST VIRGINIA

## The Second Sunday of Advent

Holy Eucharist

December 8, 2024



**Second Sunday  
of Advent**

200 Duhring Street, Bluefield, WV 24701

(304) 327-6861

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

## Prelude

*The people stand*

### The Processional Hymn

*Prepare the way, O Zion*

**H 65**

## Welcome!

*Celebrant* Blessed be God: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. BCP 355  
*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.*

### Hymn of Praise

*Hark the glad sound! The Savior comes*

**H 72**

*Celebrant* The Lord be with you.

*People* And also with you.

*Celebrant* Let us pray.

*The people remain standing.*

## 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

*Malachi 3:1-4*

See, I am sending my messenger to prepare the way before me, and the Lord whom you seek will suddenly come to his temple. The messenger of the covenant in whom you delight-- indeed, he is coming, says the Lord of hosts.

But who can endure the day of his coming, and who can stand when he appears?

For he is like a refiner's fire and like fullers' soap; he will sit as a refiner and purifier of silver, and he will purify the descendants of Levi and refine them like gold and silver, until they present offerings to the Lord in righteousness. Then the offering of Judah and Jerusalem will be pleasing to the Lord as in the days of old and as in former years.

*Lector*       The Word of the Lord.

*People*       Thanks be to God!

The Song of Zechariah

*Luke 1:68-79*

*Benedictus Dominus Deus*

*The Canticle will be read together*

Blessed be the Lord, the God of Israel;  
    he has come to his people and set them free.  
He has raised up for us a mighty savior,  
    born of the house of his servant David.  
Through his holy prophets he promised of old,  
that he would save us from our enemies,  
    from the hands of all who hate us.  
He promised to show mercy to our fathers  
    and to remember his holy covenant.  
This was the oath he swore to our father Abraham,  
    to set us free from the hands of our enemies,  
Free to worship him without fear,  
    holy and righteous in his sight  
    all the days of our life.  
You, my child, shall be called the prophet of the Most High,  
    for you will go before the Lord to prepare his way,  
To give his people knowledge of salvation  
    by the forgiveness of their sins.  
In the tender compassion of our God  
    the dawn from on high shall break upon us,

To shine on those who dwell in darkness and the shadow of death,  
and to guide our feet into the way of peace.

Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit:  
as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be for ever. Amen.

Second Lesson

*Philippians 1: 3-11*

I thank my God every time I remember you, constantly praying with joy in every one of my prayers for all of you, because of your sharing in the gospel from the first day until now. I am confident of this, that the one who began a good work among you will bring it to completion by the day of Jesus Christ. It is right for me to think this way about all of you, because you hold me in your heart, for all of you share in God's grace with me, both in my imprisonment and in the defense and confirmation of the gospel. For God is my witness, how I long for all of you with the compassion of Christ Jesus. And this is my prayer, that your love may overflow more and more with knowledge and full insight to help you to determine what is best, so that in the day of Christ you may be pure and blameless, having produced the harvest of righteousness that comes through Jesus Christ for the glory and praise of God.

*Lector* The Word of the Lord.

*People* Thanks be to God!

*The people standing.*

Hymn

*Savior of the nations, come*

**H 54**

The Gospel Lesson

*Luke 3:1-6*

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

*People* Glory to you, Lord Christ

In the fifteenth year of the reign of Emperor Tiberius, when Pontius Pilate was governor of Judea, and Herod was ruler of Galilee, and his brother Philip ruler of the region of Ituraea and Trachonitis, and Lysanias ruler of Abilene, during the high priesthood of Annas and Caiaphas, the word of God came to John son of Zechariah in the wilderness. He went into all the region around the Jordan, proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins, as it is written in the book of the words of the prophet Isaiah,

"The voice of one crying out in the wilderness:  
'Prepare the way of the Lord,  
    make his paths straight.  
Every valley shall be filled,  
    and every mountain and hill shall be made low,  
and the crooked shall be made straight,  
    and the rough ways made smooth;  
and all flesh shall see the salvation of God.'"

*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 Sean, 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 St. Thomas', Weirton and St. Thomas', White Sulphur Springs.

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**

BCP 360

*The Celebrant says*

Let us confess our sins against God and our neighbor.

*Silence may be kept.*

*Minister and People*

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 Bishop, when present, or 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.

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

## **Announcements**

## **The Holy Communion**

Offertory Hymn

*Hark! A thrilling voice is sounding*

**H 59**

*After the Offertory piece has been played the People stand as the gifts are brought forward and sing the familiar tune of the "Old 100<sup>th</sup>"*

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.

*The people remain standing*

## **Eucharistic Prayer A**

BCP 361

*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

The first system of musical notation consists of two staves, treble and bass clef, in a key signature of two flats (B-flat and E-flat). The melody is written in the treble clef, and the bass line is in the bass clef. The lyrics are placed below the notes.

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

The second system of musical notation continues from the first. It features a long note in the treble clef for the word "might," followed by a rest. The bass line continues with the same rhythmic pattern. The lyrics "Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord," are placed below the notes.

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. 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.

### Communion Hymn

*Strengthen for service, Lord*

**H 312**

### 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**

*Celebrant* Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.

*People* Thanks be to God.

## **Postlude**

The Altar Flowers are given today by Delia Kersey  
for the greater Glory of God.

## **Attendance Last Sunday:**

50

## **Birthdays this week:** Valerie Mahood

Following our service, we will have Coffee Hour hosted by Rob and Mimi Merritt. 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!

**Please Keep the Following in Your Prayers:** Dorene Dimes, Bonnie Taylor, Joe Sanders, Bob 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, Mary Lou, Don Harris, John and Becky Beckett, Jim Paine, Julie Blevins, John and Sandy Moir, Mary Catherine and Don Williams, Sherry, Scot, Max, Brad, Sandi, Joan, Mike Boosier, Pam Spracher, Barry Dinger, Joel Hammond, Jim, Joan Gray, Doug Truter, Beth Kane, Debbie H., Kimberly Norriss, Mark Williams, Donna Thompson-Whitehead, Liz, Joan, Dave, Mopsy Shott Forbes, Everly Nowlin, Sandra, Felicia, Leo Maial, Parker Anderson, Riley Whitney, Harold Brewster, and Ellie Spencer.

## **Participants in Today's Liturgy**

Celebrant

The Rev. Paul Barker

Organist & Choirmaster

Terry E. Whittington, Jr.

Acolyte

Mike Lilly

Lector

Cameron Clement

Altar Guild

Linda Ammar, Patty Richardson

## Calendar of Events

Wednesday – December 11

Union Mission 4:00pm

Evening Prayer – Rite I 5:30-6:00pm

Tuesday – December 17

DOK meeting 10:30-11:30am

Wednesday – December 18

Evening Prayer – Rite I 5:30-6:00pm

Men's Dinner 6:00pm

Vestry meeting 7:00pm

Thursday – December 19

Food Pantry 9:00 – 11:00am

Tuesday – December 24

Christmas Eve Service 5:30pm

Wednesday – December 25

Merry Christmas!

## Announcements:

Poinsettias: If you would like to help with decorating our Church for Christmas, you may purchase a poinsettia in either honor or memory of someone for a cost of \$20 each. A sign-up sheet is now available in the Narthex. Please let us know how many you would like no later than Sunday, December 15. Thank you!

Cookies for Shut-ins: Please sign up to make cookies for Shut-ins and bring your cookies to the church on Monday, December 16. Boxes will be packed at 2pm.

Snacks for the Fellowship Home: We are collecting snacks for the men at the Fellowship Home. A box has been put in the front hall. Please leave your snack in the box by Wednesday, December 18th. If you have any questions, please contact Linda Ammar. Thank you.

Food Pantry: The Food Pantry will be collecting the following seasonal items during the next few colder months:

**December:** Blankets

**January:** Socks for Men/Women

Thanks so much for your continued support of this outreach!

Ushers Needed: We are in need of volunteers to usher. David Kersey has had hip surgery and will need some help with this ministry. There will be a signup sheet for all interested. We can provide training. See Mary Catherine Williams if you are interested.



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

The Rev. Paul Barker

Mr. Terry E. Whittington, Jr.

Ms. Emma Bennett

Ms. Gina Vescio

Mrs. Becky Beckett

Mr. Peter Richardson

Rector  
Organist & Choirmaster  
Parish Administrator  
Sexton  
Senior Warden  
Junior Warden