



CHRIST EPISCOPAL CHURCH

BLUEFIELD, WEST VIRGINIA

The Third Sunday of Advent

Holy Eucharist

December 15, 2024



**Third Sunday
of Advent**

200 Duhring Street, Bluefield, WV 24701

(304) 327-6861

www.cecblf.org

Prelude

The people stand

The Processional Hymn

Rejoice! rejoice, believers

H 68

Welcome!

At this time, all children are invited to follow the cross and teachers to their classrooms.

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

Stir up your power, O Lord, and with great might come among us; and, because we are sorely hindered by our sins, let your bountiful grace and mercy speedily help and deliver us; through Jesus Christ our Lord, to whom, with you and the Holy Spirit, be honor and glory, now and for ever. *Amen.*

The people sit.

The First Lesson

Zephaniah 3:14-20

Sing aloud, O daughter Zion;

shout, O Israel!

Rejoice and exult with all your heart,

O daughter Jerusalem!

The LORD has taken away the judgments against you,
he has turned away your enemies.
The king of Israel, the LORD, is in your midst;
you shall fear disaster no more.
On that day it shall be said to Jerusalem:
Do not fear, O Zion;
do not let your hands grow weak.
The LORD, your God, is in your midst,
a warrior who gives victory;
he will rejoice over you with gladness,
he will renew you in his love;
he will exult over you with loud singing
as on a day of festival.
I will remove disaster from you,
so that you will not bear reproach for it.
I will deal with all your oppressors
at that time.
And I will save the lame
and gather the outcast,
and I will change their shame into praise
and renown in all the earth.
At that time I will bring you home,
at the time when I gather you;
for I will make you renowned and praised
among all the peoples of the earth,
when I restore your fortunes
before your eyes, says the LORD.

Lector The Word of the Lord.

People Thanks be to God!

The First Song of Isaiah

Isaiah 12:2-6

Ecce Deus

The Canticle will be read together

Surely, it is God who saves me;
I will trust in him and not be afraid.

For the Lord is my stronghold and my sure defense,
and he will be my Savior.
Therefore you shall draw water with rejoicing
from the springs of salvation.
And on that day you shall say,
Give thanks to the Lord and call upon his Name;
Make his deeds known among the peoples;
see that they remember that his Name is exalted.
Sing the praises of the Lord, for he has done great things,
and this is known in all the world.
Cry aloud, inhabitants of Zion, ring out your joy,
for the great one in the midst of you is the Holy One of Israel.
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 4:4-7

Rejoice in the Lord always; again I will say, Rejoice. Let your gentleness be known to everyone. The Lord is near. Do not worry about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.

Lector The Word of the Lord.

People Thanks be to God!

The people standing.

Hymn

Let thy Blood in mercy poured

H 313

The Gospel Lesson

Luke 3:7-18

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

People Glory to you, Lord Christ

John said to the crowds that came out to be baptized by him, "You brood of vipers! Who warned you to flee from the wrath to come? Bear fruits worthy of repentance. Do not begin to say to yourselves, 'We have Abraham as our

ancestor'; for I tell you, God is able from these stones to raise up children to Abraham. Even now the ax is lying at the root of the trees; every tree therefore that does not bear good fruit is cut down and thrown into the fire."

And the crowds asked him, "What then should we do?" In reply he said to them, "Whoever has two coats must share with anyone who has none; and whoever has food must do likewise." Even tax collectors came to be baptized, and they asked him, "Teacher, what should we do?" He said to them, "Collect no more than the amount prescribed for you." Soldiers also asked him, "And we, what should we do?" He said to them, "Do not extort money from anyone by threats or false accusation, and be satisfied with your wages."

As the people were filled with expectation, and all were questioning in their hearts concerning John, whether he might be the Messiah, John answered all of them by saying, "I baptize you with water; but one who is more powerful than I is coming; I am not worthy to untie the thong of his sandals. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire. His winnowing fork is in his hand, to clear his threshing floor and to gather the wheat into his granary; but the chaff he will burn with unquenchable fire."

So, with many other exhortations, he proclaimed the good news to the people.

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. Stephen's, Beckley
and St. Stephen's, Romney.

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

Humbly I adore thee

H 314

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

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

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. 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

O heavenly Word, eternal Light

H 63

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

Lo! he comes, with clouds descending

H 58

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 Linda Gillespie
for the greater Glory of God.

Attendance Last Sunday:

44

Birthdays this week: Susan Rutherford

Following our service, we will have Coffee Hour hosted by Stan and Grey Kiser. 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

Bill Denney

Lector

Katherine Lewis

Altar Guild

Linda Gillespie, Teresa Paine, Betty Nash

Calendar of Events

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

Morning Prayer Service 10:00am

Announcements:

Poinsettias: If you would like to help with decorating our Church for Christmas, you may purchase a poinsettia in honor of, or in 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 18**. 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