



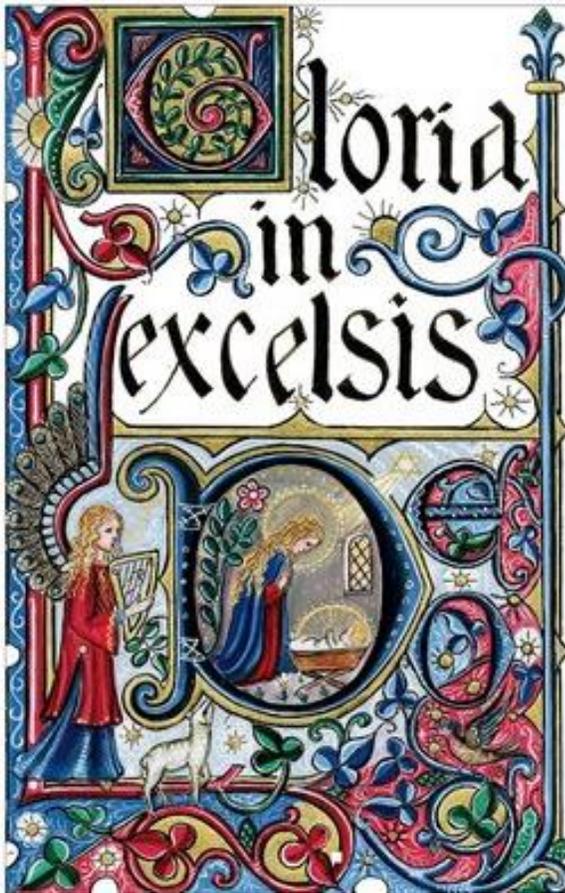
CHRIST EPISCOPAL CHURCH

BLUEFIELD, WEST VIRGINIA

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**A Festival Service of
Holy Eucharist
on the Feast of the Nativity
of Our Lord and Savior
Jesus Christ
sometimes called
the Feast of Christmas**

December 24, 2021

Welcome to this place of prayer.

This bulletin contains our liturgy today.

Given the circumstances during this pandemic era our worship is somewhat different. We respectfully ask that you wear and keep a face mask on during this service. UV Light Air Sanitizers are present to help ensure a pathogen free worship space. We hope that you will feel safe in this place and leave edified by our celebration today.

The Vestry of Christ Church encourages everyone, out of love and respect to all, to get vaccinated against COVID-19. Our Parish Nurse can answer any questions you may have about the vaccine. Our ushers can direct you to a Vestry Member or the Parish Nurse for more information.

If you are new or visiting this congregation for the first time, we invite you to fill out a Visitor's Card and place it in the collection plate located in the back of the church. We are honored you have chosen to worship with us today and hope that you will continue your faith journey here.



Prelude

The Liturgy of the Nativity

The Proclamation of the Birth of Christ

This ancient chant announces the birth of the Savior in the context of God's acts of Salvation through history.

Tonight, the eve of the twenty-fifth day of December,
unknown ages from the time when God created the heavens and the earth
and then formed man and woman in his own image.

Several thousand years after the flood,
when God made the rainbow shine forth as a sign of the covenant.

Twenty-one centuries from the time of Abraham and Sarah;
Thirteen centuries after Moses led the people of Israel out of Egypt.

Eleven hundred years from the time of Ruth and the Judges;

One thousand years from the anointing of David as king;

In the sixty-fifth week according to the prophecy of Daniel.

In the one hundred and ninety-fourth Olympiad;

The seven hundred and fifty-second year from the foundation
of the city of Rome.

The forty-second year of the reign of Octavian Augustus;
the whole world being at peace,

Jesus Christ,

please stand

eternal God and Son of the eternal Father,
desiring to sanctify the world by his most merciful coming,
being conceived by the Holy Spirit,
and nine months having passed since his conception,
was born in Bethlehem of Judea of the Virgin Mary.

This is the nativity of our Lord Jesus Christ according to the flesh.

Processional Hymn

Please remain standing as the Altar Party processes to the Crèche.

Blessing of the Crèche

The Celebrant stops at the Crèche to bless it and the People

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.

Celebrant The Word was made flesh

People And dwelt among us.

Celebrant O great mystery, and wonderful sacrament, that animals should see the new-born Lord, lying in a manger! Blessed is the Virgin whose womb was worthy to bear Christ the Lord.

People Alleluia!

Officiant Let us pray.

Almighty God, who in the Incarnation of your Son has revealed to us the holiness of creation, be pleased to bless and hallow this image of his sacred birth, so that those who gaze upon it may behold this mystery, whereby humanity shares in your very nature; through Christ our Lord.

People Amen.

The Procession then continues to the Altar

The Liturgy of the Word

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 Hymn of Praise

The Gloria is then sung, all standing

1. Glo - ry to God in the high - est, and
peace to his peo - ple on earth. 2. Lord God, heaven - ly
King, al - might - y God and Fa - ther, we wor - ship you, we
give you thanks, we praise you for your glo - ry. 3. Lord Je - sus
Christ, on - ly Son of the Fa - ther, Lord God, Lamb of God, 4. you
take a - way the sin of the world: have mer - cy
on us; 5. you are seat - ed at the right hand of the Fa - ther: re -
ceive our prayer. 6. For you a - lone are the Ho - ly One,
you a - lone are the Lord, 7. you a - lone are the Most
High, Je - sus Christ, with the Ho - ly Spi - rit, in the
glo - ry of God the Fa - ther. A - men.

The musical score is written in G major and 4/4 time. It consists of 12 staves of music. The lyrics are placed below the notes. There are three triplet markings (indicated by a '3' and a bracket) over the notes for 'Christ, on - ly', 'Lamb of God', and 'Most High'. The piece concludes with a double bar line.

The Collect of the Day

Our collective prayer for the day

Celebrant The Lord be with you.

People And also with you.

Celebrant Let us pray.

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.*

We Hear and Respond to God's Word

The People may now be seated.

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

Psalm 96

Cantate Domino

We will read the Psalm 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.

Said by all

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.

The 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 Gospel Lesson

Luke 2:1-20

Please stand for the reading of the Gospel.

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!"

When the angels had left them and gone into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, "Let us go now to Bethlehem and see this thing that has taken place, which the Lord has made known to us." So they went with haste and found Mary and Joseph, and the child lying in the manger. When they saw this, they made known what had been told them about this child; and all who heard it were amazed at what the shepherds told them. But Mary treasured all these words and pondered them in her heart. The shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen, as it had been told them.

Celebrant The Gospel of the Lord.

People Praise to you, Lord Christ.

The Sermon

the Very Rev. Chad Slater

The Nicene Creed

All stand as they are able

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.



**meaning the church universal, that all Christians are one people regardless of denomination*

The Prayers of the People

The intercessor greets the congregation with the following words and leads us in prayer. You may stand or kneel.

My Sisters and Brothers in the peace of God, all the gifts that we shall give and receive in these days are but small tokens of the gift that shines forth in God's word made flesh this night. From grateful hearts let us intercede for all who find themselves longing for this deepest, truest, gift, saying: Lord, hear our prayer.

That the peace proclaimed by angels in the shepherds' field might be realized on every field of war, on every street of violence, and in every home of brokenness, let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, hear our prayer.

That the child born to us might find in our hearts a warm welcome by our openness to shelter the homeless, feed the hungry, strengthen the oppressed, and support those who minister to them, let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, hear our prayer.

That in this time of gift-giving we might become more responsive to the abandoned, the despairing, and the mourning, let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, hear our prayer.

That the rejoicing of this night might be a bond leading us to true communion of life and worship, and that the Word which conquers darkness might enlighten the blindness which keeps Christ's followers separated and at odds, let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, hear our prayer.

That the power of the Word would fill our hearts and minds, so that the Gospel might be preached with greater courage and strength to the halls of power and the ends of the earth, let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, hear our prayer.

That the joy and consolation of the Wonderful Counselor might enliven all who are burdened by disease and illness, especially those we now name before you either silently or aloud..., let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, hear our prayer.

That the blessed hope we celebrate this night might be the fulfillment of all who have gone before us in faith, especially Mr. and Mrs. Robert Richardson, Mr. and Mrs. M.T. Meachum, Mrs. Betsy Davis, Mrs. Nancy Sudduth, and the faithful cloud of witnesses surrounding us now, let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, hear our prayer.

O God, the source of light and life, you have pierced the quiet of this night by the utterance of your Word in our flesh. May our words of praise and petition be strong echoes of your Christmas Word, so that all might come to the peace you promise in Jesus, who is Lord and God this night and forever.

Amen.

The Confession and Absolution

The Deacon or 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

For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him may not perish but may have eternal life. *John 3:16*

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

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.

Isaiah 9:6

Celebrant The peace of the Lord be always with you.

People And also with you.

At this time we will greet those around us in the name of the Lord. Please refrain from physical touch during this time so as to ensure proper social distancing for all members of the congregation. Thank you.



The Holy Eucharist, sometimes call *The Mass*

Offertory Sentences

On this holy night the angels sang to the shepherds watching their flocks, ‘Glory to God in the highest heaven, and on earth peace, goodwill toward all people.’ As the shepherds did, let us now seek the Messiah and lay down our homage to Him who laid his glory down for us.

Offertory

After the Offertory piece has been played the People stand and sing to the familiar tune of the “Old 100th”

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.

Eucharistic Prayer “B”

The people remain standing. The Celebrant faces them and says

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:

Celebrant and People

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow-er and
might, hea - ven and earth are full of your glo - ry. 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.

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.

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.

The Celebrant and People together sing



A - men.



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 Fraction

The Celebrant then breaks the Consecrated Bread and says

The bread of God is he who comes down from heaven and gives life to the world. *(John 6:33)* 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

These are the Gifts of God, for the People of God.

Come now; let us adore him.

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 as the physical sacrament is being distributed.

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 the Holy Sacrament

All baptized Christians, of any tradition, are welcome to receive the sacrament. Everyone, regardless of faith, is welcome to receive a blessing— simply cross your arms in front of you approach the priest. Each row, beginning in the front, should come up to the chancel step to receive the Blessed Bread. The Chalice cannot be offered at this time by direction of the Bishop of West Virginia. Once the priest has dropped the Blessed Bread in your hand you should return by the side aisle to your pew. Once a row has been Communed, the next is free to come to the chancel steps. Gluten free wafers are available to those who request them.



Hymn of Adoration

Silent Night

At this time the lights of the church will be dimmed. Acolytes will come through the church to light the tappers of those sitting closest to the aisle. From those candles others sitting in the pew may pass the light, one to another. After the candles have been lit and the acolytes return to the Altar, you are invited to sit or kneel as you are able. Please refrain from removing your mask during the singing of the hymn.

Si - lent night, ho - ly night, all is calm,
Si - lent night, ho - ly night, shep - herds quake
Si - lent night, ho - ly night, Son of God,

all is bright round yon vir - gin mo - ther and child.
at the sight, glo - ries stream from hea - ven a - far,
love's pure light ra - diant beams from thy ho - ly face,

Ho - ly in - fant, so ten - der and mild, sleep in hea - ven - ly
 heaven - ly hosts— sing al - le - lu - ia; Christ, the Sa - vior, is
 with the dawn of re - deem - ing grace, Je - sus, Lord, at thy

peace. Sleep in hea - ven - ly peace.
 born! Christ, the Sa - vior, is born!
 birth. Je - sus, Lord, at thy birth.

Words: Joseph Mohr (1792-1848); tr. John Freeman Young (1820-1885)
 Music: *Stille Nacht*, melody Franz Xaver Gruber (1787-1863); harm. Carl H. Reinecke (1824-1910)

Our Prayer after Communion

After Communion, the Celebrant says

Let us pray.



Celebrant and People

Loving God,
 we give you thanks for restoring us
 in your image
 and nourishing us with spiritual food
 in the Sacrament of Christ's Body
 and Blood.
 Now send us forth a people, forgiven,
 healed, renewed;
 that we may proclaim your love
 to the world
 and continue in the risen life of Christ
 our Savior.
 Amen.

The Blessing

The Celebrant then pronounces the following blessing over the people

May Almighty God, who sent his Son to take our nature upon him, bless you in this holy season, scatter the darkness of sin, and brighten your heart with the light of his holiness.

May God, who sent his angels to proclaim the glad news of the Savior's birth, fill you with joy, and make you heralds of the Gospel. *Amen.*

May God, who in the Word made flesh joined heaven to earth and earth to heaven, give you his peace and favor.

And the blessing of God Almighty, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, be upon you and remain with you for ever.

People Amen!

The Dismissal

We are dismissed from this gathering to go into the world to spread the Good News and the love of Christ! We respond to this instruction with:

Thanks be to God!

Postlude



Participants in Today's Liturgy

Celebrant

the Very Rev. Chad Slater

Organist & Choirmaster

Terry E. Whittington, Jr.

Harpist

Laurel Thompson

Musicians

Tim & Maggie Mainland

Acolytes

Emma Slater & Benjamin Slater

Lectors

Ted Lewis *Early Service*

Don Williams *Late Service*

Altar Guild

Linda Ammar & Betty Nash

Images in this bulletin are from Illuminated Manuscripts dating from the early to late medieval period, all in the public domain. Sources include the *Carrow Psalter*, the *Missal of the Nativity*, the *Abbey Bible*, the *Book of Hours of Jeanne d'Evreux*, the *Westminster Abbey Bestiary*, and fragments housed in various collections.

The following are given today for the greater Glory of God:

Altar Flowers – by Barbara Sudduth in memory of Nancy Sudduth

Chrismon Tree – by Peter & Patty Richardson in memory of loved ones.

Advent Wreath – by Marc & Patricia Meachum in memory of loved ones

Door Wreathes – by Bill Davis in memory of Betsy Davis

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

Terry Whittington in memory of Terry & Thelma Kelly Whittington

Mollie Whittington in memory of William Gordon Whittington

David & Bobbi Kersey in memory of Loved Ones

Jim & Susanne Pulse in memory of Loved Ones

John & Delia Kersey in memory of Loved Ones

Brian & Lise Tracey in memory of Ivan & Annamae Tracey and John Holdorf

The Lewis Family in memory of Clyde Deal and Linda Jones

The Slater Family in memory of Margaret Westfall

Elizabeth Burton in memory of Fred & Mary Kathryn Burton

Don & Becky Kersey in memory of Loved Ones

Shirley Ofsa in memory of Loved Ones

Rob & Mimi Merritt in memory of Loved Ones

Becky Steorts in memory of Loved Ones

Betty Nash & Charlie Blevins in memory of Loved Ones

*Stan & Grey Kiser in memory of Sibyl & Rufus Matthews
and Betty & Harvey Kiser*

Norma Mahood-Bay in memory of Loved Ones

Sheila Brooks in memory of Loved Ones

Teresa Paine in memory of Loved Ones

John & Becky Beckett in memory of Loved Ones

Jim & Chris Justice in memory of Loved Ones

*The Broyles Family in memory of Loved Ones
and in honor of the Slater Family*

David & Debbie Faber in memory of Loved Ones

and in honor of the ministry of the Slater Family

Don & Mary Catherine Williams in honor of the Slater Family

Poinsettias may be collected by their sponsors from 12:30 to 1:30 on Monday, December 27th or by arrangement with Linda Ammar. Thank you.





Clergy, Staff, and Wardens of this Parish

the Very Rev. Chad Slater

Mr. Terry E. Whittington, Jr.

Ms. Emma Bennett

Mrs. Vanessa Hall

Mr. David Kersey

Mr. Peter Richardson

Rector

Organist & Choirmaster

Parish Administrator

Sexton

Senior Warden

Junior Warden