



CHRIST EPISCOPAL CHURCH

BLUEFIELD, WEST VIRGINIA

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## Morning Prayer for Sunday, January 3, 2021

The Second Sunday after Christmas

### Opening Sentences

Behold, the dwelling of God is with mankind. He will dwell with them, and they shall be his people, and God himself will be with them, and be their God.

*Revelation 21:3*

### Confession of Sin

*The Officiant says to the people*

Dearly beloved, we have come together in the presence of Almighty God our heavenly Father, to set forth his praise, to hear his holy Word, and to ask, for ourselves and on behalf of others, those things that are necessary for our life and our salvation. And so that we may prepare ourselves in heart and mind to worship him, let us kneel in silence, and with penitent and obedient hearts confess our sins, that we may obtain forgiveness by his infinite goodness and mercy.

*The Officiant and People together*

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 Priest alone 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 Invitatory and Psalter**

*Officiant* Lord, open our lips.

*People* And our mouth shall proclaim your praise.

*Officiant and People*

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.

Alleluia. To us a child is born: O come, let us adore him. Alleluia.

### **Venite**

*Psalm 95:1-7*

Come, let us sing to the Lord;

let us shout for joy to the Rock of our salvation.

Let us come before his presence with thanksgiving

and raise a loud shout to him with psalms.

For the Lord is a great God,

and a great King above all gods.

In his hand are the caverns of the earth,

and the heights of the hills are his also.

The sea is his, for he made it,

and his hands have molded the dry land.

Come, let us bow down, and bend the knee,

and kneel before the Lord our Maker.

For he is our God,

and we are the people of his pasture and the sheep of his hand.

Oh, that today you would hearken to his voice!

### **The Psalm or Psalms Appointed**

Psalm 84 or 84:1-8

*Quam dilecta!*

1. How dear to me is your dwelling, O Lord of hosts!  
My soul has a desire and longing for the courts of the Lord;  
my heart and my flesh rejoice in the living God.
2. The sparrow has found her a house  
and the swallow a nest where she may lay her young;

by the side of your altars, O Lord of hosts,  
my King and my God.

3. Happy are they who dwell in your house!  
they will always be praising you.
4. Happy are the people whose strength is in you!  
whose hearts are set on the pilgrims' way.
5. Those who go through the desolate valley will find it a place of springs,  
for the early rains have covered it with pools of water.
6. They will climb from height to height,  
and the God of gods will reveal himself in Zion.
7. Lord God of hosts, hear my prayer;  
hearken, O God of Jacob.
8. Behold our defender, O God;  
and look upon the face of your Anointed.
9. For one day in your courts is better than a thousand in my own room,  
and to stand at the threshold of the house of my God  
than to dwell in the tents of the wicked.
10. For the Lord God is both sun and shield;  
he will give grace and glory;
11. No good thing will the Lord withhold  
from those who walk with integrity.
12. O Lord of hosts,  
happy are they who put their trust in you!

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 Lessons**

A Reading from the Second Book of the Prophet Jeremiah

*Jeremiah 31:7-14*

Thus says the Lord:

Sing aloud with gladness for Jacob,  
and raise shouts for the chief of the nations;  
proclaim, give praise, and say,  
"Save, O Lord, your people,  
the remnant of Israel."

See, I am going to bring them from the land of the north,  
and gather them from the farthest parts of the earth,

among them the blind and the lame, those with child and those in labor, together;  
a great company, they shall return here.

With weeping they shall come,  
and with consolations I will lead them back,  
I will let them walk by brooks of water,  
in a straight path in which they shall not stumble;  
for I have become a father to Israel,  
and Ephraim is my firstborn.

Hear the word of the Lord, O nations,  
and declare it in the coastlands far away;  
say, "He who scattered Israel will gather him,  
and will keep him as a shepherd a flock."

For the Lord has ransomed Jacob,  
and has redeemed him from hands too strong for him.  
They shall come and sing aloud on the height of Zion,  
and they shall be radiant over the goodness of the Lord,  
over the grain, the wine, and the oil,  
and over the young of the flock and the herd;  
their life shall become like a watered garden,  
and they shall never languish again.

Then shall the young women rejoice in the dance,  
and the young men and the old shall be merry.  
I will turn their mourning into joy,  
I will comfort them, and give them gladness for sorrow.  
I will give the priests their fill of fatness,  
and my people shall be satisfied with my bounty,  
says the Lord.

Here ends the reading.

**Canticle 13**                      *Benedictus es, Domine*

Glory to you, Lord God of our fathers;  
you are worthy of praise; glory to you.  
Glory to you for the radiance of your holy Name;  
we will praise you and highly exalt you for ever.



*Song of the Three Young Men*

Glory to you in the splendor of your temple;  
on the throne of your majesty, glory to you.  
Glory to you, seated between the Cherubim;  
we will praise you and highly exalt you for ever.  
Glory to you, beholding the depths;  
in the high vault of heaven, glory to you.  
Glory to you, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit;  
we will praise you and highly exalt you for ever.

A Reading from Paul's Letter to the Church in Ephesus      *Ephesians 1:3-6,15-19a*

Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us in Christ with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places, just as he chose us in Christ before the foundation of the world to be holy and blameless before him in love. He destined us for adoption as his children through Jesus Christ, according to the good pleasure of his will, to the praise of his glorious grace that he freely bestowed on us in the Beloved.

I have heard of your faith in the Lord Jesus and your love toward all the saints, and for this reason I do not cease to give thanks for you as I remember you in my prayers. I pray that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, may give you a spirit of wisdom and revelation as you come to know him, so that, with the eyes of your heart enlightened, you may know what is the hope to which he has called you, what are the riches of his glorious inheritance among the saints, and what is the immeasurable greatness of his power for us who believe.

Here ends the reading.

**Canticle 19**      The Song of the Redeemed      *Magna et mirabilia*      *Revelation 15:3-4*

O ruler of the universe, Lord God,  
great deeds are they that you have done,  
surpassing human understanding.  
Your ways are ways of righteousness and truth,  
O King of all the ages.  
Who can fail to do you homage, Lord,  
and sing the praises of your Name?  
for you only are the Holy One.

All nations will draw near and fall down before you,  
because your just and holy works have been revealed.  
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.

### A Reading from the Gospel of Luke

*Luke 2:41-52*

The parents of Jesus went to Jerusalem every year for the festival of the Passover. And when he was twelve years old, they went up as usual for the festival. When the festival was ended and they started to return, the boy Jesus stayed behind in Jerusalem, but his parents did not know it. Assuming that he was in the group of travelers, they went a day's journey. Then they started to look for him among their relatives and friends. When they did not find him, they returned to Jerusalem to search for him. After three days they found him in the temple, sitting among the teachers, listening to them and asking them questions. And all who heard him were amazed at his understanding and his answers. When his parents saw him they were astonished; and his mother said to him, "Child, why have you treated us like this? Look, your father and I have been searching for you in great anxiety." He said to them, "Why were you searching for me? Did you not know that I must be in my Father's house?" But they did not understand what he said to them. Then he went down with them and came to Nazareth, and was obedient to them. His mother treasured all these things in her heart.

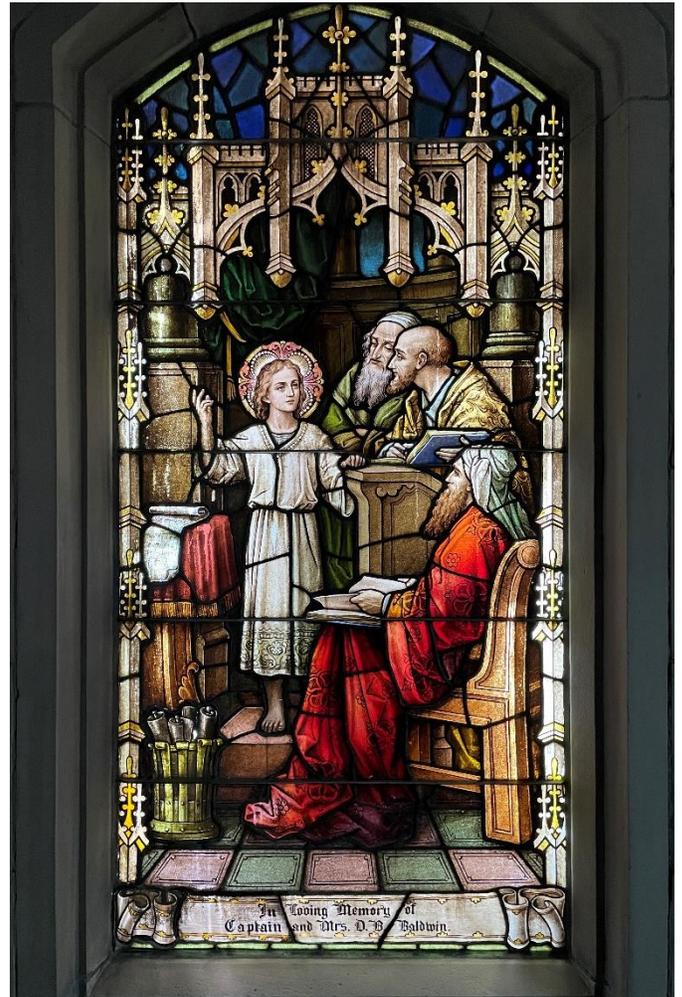
And Jesus increased in wisdom and in years, and in divine and human favor.

Here ends the reading.

### The Homily

*Christ Among the Doctors*

One of our stained glass windows here at Christ Episcopal Church, Bluefield, WV



## **The Apostles' Creed**

I believe in God, the Father almighty,  
creator of heaven and earth;

I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord.

He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit  
and born of the Virgin Mary.

He suffered under Pontius Pilate,  
was crucified, died, and was buried.

He descended to the dead.

On the third day he rose again.

He ascended into heaven,  
and is seated at the right hand of the Father.

He will come again to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit,  
the holy catholic Church,  
the communion of saints,  
the forgiveness of sins  
the resurrection of the body,  
and the life everlasting. Amen.

## **The Prayers**

*Officiant*     The Lord be with you.

*People*        And also with you.

*Officiant*     Let us pray.

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 Suffrages "B"

V. Save your people, Lord, and bless your inheritance;

R. Govern and uphold them, now and always.

V. Day by day we bless you;

R. We praise your name for ever.

V. Lord, keep us from all sin today;

R. Have mercy upon us, Lord, have mercy.

V. Lord, show us your love and mercy;

R. For we put our trust in you.

V. In you, Lord, is our hope;

R. And we shall never hope in vain.

### The Collect of the Day

O God, who wonderfully created, and yet more wonderfully restored, the dignity of human nature: Grant that we may share the divine life of him who humbled himself to share our humanity, your Son Jesus Christ; who lives and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. *Amen.*

### A Collect for Sundays

O God, you make us glad with the weekly remembrance of the glorious resurrection of your Son our Lord: Give us this day such blessing through our worship of you, that the week to come may be spent in your favor; through Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

### A Collect for Grace

Lord God, almighty and everlasting Father, you have brought us in safety to this new day: Preserve us with your mighty power, that we may not fall into sin, nor be overcome by adversity; and in all we do, direct us to the fulfilling of your purpose; through Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

### A Prayer for Times of Great Sickness and Mortality

O Most mighty and merciful God, in this time of grievous sickness, we flee unto thee for succour. Deliver us, we beseech thee, from our peril; give strength and skill to all those who minister to the sick; prosper the means made use of for their cure; and grant that, perceiving how frail and uncertain our life is, we may apply our hearts unto that heavenly wisdom which leadeth to eternal life; through Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.* *(from the 1928 BCP)*

### Special Needs and Concerns of the Congregation

Heavenly Father, we pray to you that your comfort may descend upon those on our Prayer List...and all those whom we remember in our hearts. We give thanks to you for those celebrating birthdays in the coming week—George Clement, James Dyer, Patty Wilkinson, Buck Sowers, and Lisa van Dyke. We ask your guidance to be upon the temporal leaders of our society—for Donald, our President, Jim and Ralph, our governors, for Ron and Don, our mayors, and for all those in authority in this and every land. We humbly request of you, O Lord our God, to look favorably on the mission of the Diocese of West Virginia, and especially on the Bishop Coadjutor Search Committee. May your blessing ever be upon those who put their trust in you. *Amen.*

### Collect for Mission

Lord Jesus Christ, you stretched out your arms of love on the hard wood of the cross that everyone might come within the reach of your saving embrace: So clothe us in your Spirit that we, reaching forth our hands in love, may bring those who do not know you to the knowledge and love of you; for the honor of your Name. *Amen.*

### Announcements

#### The General Thanksgiving

Almighty God, Father of all mercies,  
we your unworthy servants give you humble thanks  
for all your goodness and loving-kindness  
to us and to all whom you have made.  
We bless you for our creation, preservation,  
and all the blessings of this life;

but above all for your immeasurable love  
in the redemption of the world by our Lord Jesus Christ;  
for the means of grace, and for the hope of glory.  
And, we pray, give us such an awareness of your mercies,  
that with truly thankful hearts we may show forth your praise,  
not only with our lips, but in our lives,  
by giving up our selves to your service,  
and by walking before you  
in holiness and righteousness all our days;  
through Jesus Christ our Lord,  
to whom, with you and the Holy Spirit,  
be honor and glory throughout all ages. Amen.

### **Concluding Versicles**

*Officiant* Let us bless the Lord.

*People* Thanks be to God.

*The Officiant then concludes the service with*

May the God of hope fill us with all joy and peace in believing through the  
power of the Holy Spirit. *Amen.*

*Romans 15:13*

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The Advent Wreath is given by Marc and Patricia Meachum  
in memory of loved ones.

The Front Door Wreathes are given by Bill Davis  
in memory of Betsy Hillier Davis.

Rawley Hall Wreathes are given by Peter and Patricia Richardson  
in memory of loved ones.

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**Please Keep the Following in Your Prayers:** Dorene Dimes, Bonnie Taylor, Joe Sanders, Lee Puckett, Sr., Mabeline & Elton Robinson, Bea Paine, Lynn Burney, Marilyn Denney, Donna Fortune, Bob and Peggy Walk, Susan Jewell, John Kersey, Martha Linkous, Sarah Irwin, Janet Slager, Kelly Cox, Maxine Stevenson, Dean Farmer, Haddon Lazenby, Jack Burchette, Nick, JL, Cis Barrett, Kathy, Patsy Arnold, Randy Snider, Lane, Loraine, Sherry, Margarete Joplin, Scott Rust, Emily Broome, David, Cady, Martin, Marion Lowe, Margaret Westfall, Harry, Ben Rose, Rev. Mark Seitz, Jay Kephart, Al Marra, Rich Longworth, and all Healthcare Personnel and Frontline Workers.

**Birthdays This Week:** George Clement, James Dyer, Patty Wilkinson, Buck Sowers, and Lisa van Dyke

### **Calendar of Events**

Wednesdays in January	Online Bible Study (Zoom) 10:30am
Wednesday—January 6	Holy Eucharist for Epiphany (Online)
Wednesday—January 13	Online Annual Meeting 7:00pm
Wednesday—January 20	Zoom Vestry Meeting 7:00pm
Thursday—January 21	Food Pantry 9-11am

### **Announcements:**

**Online Bible Study:** Join us on Wednesday's at 10:30 am for Bible study via Zoom. A link to the Zoom meeting is included in each week's email. A link to a tutorial on how to use Zoom, if you are new to it, is available in the email as well. For more information please see Fr. Chad.

**The Twelve Days of Christmas:** To help us commemorate the Christmas season we will be releasing a series of 12 videos—one each day of the traditional Twelve Days of Christmas. These videos will take us through a Christmas Lessons and Carols service and showcase some of the great talent of our members and friends. Watch for each day's email or on Facebook for a link to the YouTube video for that day.



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

the Rev. Chad Slater

Mr. Terry E. Whittington, Jr.

Ms. Emma Bennett

Mrs. Vanessa Hall

Mrs. Becky Beckett

Mr. Tom Coughlan

Rector

Organist & Choirmaster

Parish Administrator

Sexton

Senior Warden

Junior Warden