



CHRIST EPISCOPAL CHURCH

BLUEFIELD, WEST VIRGINIA

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## Morning Prayer for Sunday, November 29, 2020

The First Sunday of Advent

### Opening Sentences

Watch , for you know not when the master of the house will come, in the evening, or at midnight, or at cockcrow, or in the morning; lest he come suddenly and find you asleep.

*Mark 13:35, 36*

### 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.

Our King and Savior now draws near: Come, let us adore him.

### **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 80:1-7, 16-18

*Qui regis Israel*

1. Hear, O Shepherd of Israel, leading Joseph like a flock; shine forth, you that are enthroned upon the cherubim.
2. In the presence of Ephraim, Benjamin, and Manasseh, stir up your strength and come to help us.

3. Restore us, O God of hosts; show the light of your countenance, and we shall be saved.
4. O Lord God of hosts, how long will you be angered despite the prayers of your people?
5. You have fed them with the bread of tears; you have given them bowls of tears to drink.
6. You have made us the derision of our neighbors, and our enemies laugh us to scorn.
7. Restore us, O God of hosts; show the light of your countenance, and we shall be saved.
16. Let your hand be upon the man of your right hand, the son of man you have made so strong for yourself.
17. And so will we never turn away from you; give us life, that we may call upon your Name.
18. Restore us, O Lord God of hosts; show the light of your countenance, and we shall be saved.

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 Book of the Prophet Isaiah

*Isaiah 64:1-9*

O that you would tear open the heavens and come down,  
so that the mountains would quake at your presence--  
as when fire kindles brushwood  
and the fire causes water to boil--  
to make your name known to your adversaries,  
so that the nations might tremble at your presence!  
When you did awesome deeds that we did not expect,  
you came down, the mountains quaked at your presence.  
From ages past no one has heard,  
no ear has perceived,  
no eye has seen any God besides you,  
who works for those who wait for him.

You meet those who gladly do right,  
those who remember you in your ways.  
But you were angry, and we sinned;  
because you hid yourself we transgressed.  
We have all become like one who is unclean,  
and all our righteous deeds are like a filthy cloth.  
We all fade like a leaf,  
and our iniquities, like the wind, take us away.  
There is no one who calls on your name,  
or attempts to take hold of you;  
for you have hidden your face from us,  
and have delivered us into the hand of our iniquity.  
Yet, O Lord, you are our Father;  
we are the clay, and you are our potter;  
we are all the work of your hand.  
Do not be exceedingly angry, O Lord,  
and do not remember iniquity forever.  
Now consider, we are all your people.

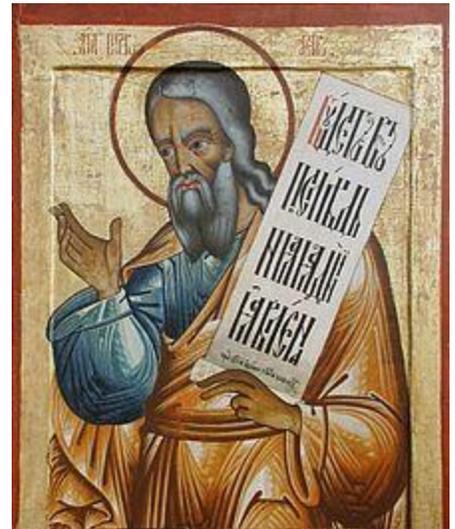
Here ends the Reading.

**Canticle 10**

*The Second Song of Isaiah*

*Isaiah 55:6-11*

Seek the Lord while he wills to be found;  
call upon him when he draws near.  
Let the wicked forsake their ways  
and the evil ones their thoughts;  
And let them turn to the Lord, and he will have compassion,  
and to our God, for he will richly pardon.  
For my thoughts are not your thoughts,  
nor your ways my ways, says the Lord.  
For as the heavens are higher than the earth,  
so are my ways higher than your ways,  
and my thoughts than your thoughts.  
For as rain and snow fall from the heavens  
and return not again, but water the earth,  
Bringing forth life and giving growth,  
seed for sowing and bread for eating,



So is my word that goes forth from my mouth;  
it will not return to me empty;  
But it will accomplish that which I have purposed,  
and prosper in that for which I sent it.  
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 Paul's First Letter to the Corinthians

*1 Corinthians 1:3-9*

Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ. I give thanks to my God always for you because of the grace of God that has been given you in Christ Jesus, for in every way you have been enriched in him, in speech and knowledge of every kind-- just as the testimony of Christ has been strengthened among you-- so that you are not lacking in any spiritual gift as you wait for the revealing of our Lord Jesus Christ. He will also strengthen you to the end, so that you may be blameless on the day of our Lord Jesus Christ. God is faithful; by him you were called into the fellowship of his Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

Here ends the reading.

Canticle 16

*The Song of Zechariah*

*Luke 1: 68-79*

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.

A Reading from the Gospel of Mark

*Mark 13:24-37*

Jesus said, “In those days, after that suffering, the sun will be darkened, and the moon will not give its light, and the stars will be falling from heaven, and the powers in the heavens will be shaken.

Then they will see ‘the Son of Man coming in clouds’ with great power and glory. Then he will send out the angels, and gather his elect from the four winds, from the ends of the earth to the ends of heaven.

“From the fig tree learn its lesson: as soon as its branch becomes tender and puts forth its leaves, you know that summer is near. So also, when you see these things taking place, you know that he is near, at the very gates. Truly I tell you, this generation will not pass away until all these things have taken place. Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will not pass away.

“But about that day or hour no one knows, neither the angels in heaven, nor the Son, but only the Father. Beware, keep alert; for you do not know when the time will come. It is like a man going on a journey, when he



leaves home and puts his slaves in charge, each with his work, and commands the doorkeeper to be on the watch. Therefore, keep awake—for you do not know when the master of the house will come, in the evening, or at midnight, or at cockcrow, or at dawn, or else he may find you asleep when he comes suddenly. And what I say to you I say to all: Keep awake.”

Here ends the reading.

## **Homily**

### **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 "A"

V. Show us your mercy, O Lord;  
R. And grant us your salvation.  
V. Clothe your ministers with righteousness;  
R. Let your people sing with joy.  
V. Give peace, O Lord, in all the world;  
R. For only in you can we live in safety.  
V. Lord, keep this nation under your care;  
R. And guide us in the way of justice and truth.  
V. Let your way be known upon earth;  
R. Your saving health among all nations.  
V. Let not the needy, O Lord, be forgotten;  
R. Nor the hope of the poor be taken away.  
V. Create in us clean hearts, O God;  
R. And sustain us with your Holy Spirit.

### The Collect of the Day

Almighty God, give us grace to cast away the works of darkness, and put on the armor of light, now in the time of this mortal life in which your Son Jesus Christ came to visit us in great humility; that in the last day, when he shall come again in his glorious majesty to judge both the living and the dead, we may rise to the life immortal; through him who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for 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 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)*

### 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*

Glory to God whose power, working in us, can do infinitely more than we can ask or imagine: Glory to him from generation to generation in the Church, and in Christ Jesus for ever and ever. *Amen.* *Ephesians 3:20,21*

## *O come O come Emmanuel*

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The Altar Flowers are given today by  
Stan and Grey Kiser 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, Margarette Joplin, Scott Rust, Emily Broome, David, Joe Graham's family, Cady, Martin, Marion Lowe, Margaret Westfall, Harry, Ben Rose, Rev. Mark Seitz, Jay Kephart

**Birthdays This Week:** Elizabeth Burton, Rebecca Broyles, Borden Thomas, John Lee Allen, Niko Parks

## **Calendar of Events**

Wednesdays in November

Saturday-December 5

Sunday-December 6

Wednesday – December 16

Thursday – December 17

Thursday-December 24

Online Bible Study (Zoom) 10:30am

Online HE for St. Nicholas 7:00pm

Advent Lessons & Carols Presentation

Vestry Meeting 7:00pm

Food Pantry 9:00am – 11:00am

Christmas Eve Services TBD

## **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.

Special Prayer: If you'd like to send Dorene a card of encouragement and let her know you're praying for her, please address it to: Ms. Dorene Dimes – Mercer Nursing & Rehab Center - 1275 Southview Dr. – Rm. A10B, Bluefield, WV 24701.

Cyber Sunday School: While Sunday School is not able to meet in person for many churches, we would like to extend the opportunity to all families to enroll in our Cyber Sunday School program. This weekly video will offer Bible stories and lessons for children ages 4 through 11 (and all who are children at heart). This is an ecumenical program that we hope will be a benefit for Christians of all traditions. There is no cost. Please email [info@cecblf.org](mailto:info@cecblf.org) to provide your email address for the link to be sent to and the first name of the child or children who will be participating. Thank you.

2020 Stewardship Program: This year's theme is "Hope Grows Here". Estimates of Gifts and Tithes cards will be collected in the month of November. Cards may be mailed to the church office.



**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