



CHRIST EPISCOPAL CHURCH

BLUEFIELD, WEST VIRGINIA

200 Duhring Street, Bluefield, WV 24701

(304) 327-6861

www.christchurchbluefield.org



Morning Prayer for Sunday, December 13, 2020

The Second Sunday of Advent

Opening Sentences

In the wilderness prepare the way of the Lord, make straight in the desert a highway for our God.

Isaiah 40:3

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.

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

Jubilate

Psalm 100

Be joyful in the Lord, all you lands;

serve the Lord with gladness

and come before his presence with a song.

Know this: The Lord himself is God;

he himself has made us, and we are his;

we are his people and the sheep of his pasture.

Enter his gates with thanksgiving;

go into his courts with praise;

give thanks to him and call upon his Name.

For the Lord is good;

his mercy is everlasting;

and his faithfulness endures from age to age.

The Psalm or Psalms Appointed

Psalm 126

In convertendo

1. When the Lord restored the fortunes of Zion,
then were we like those who dream.
2. Then was our mouth filled with laughter,
and our tongue with shouts of joy.
3. Then they said among the nations,
"The Lord has done great things for them."
4. The Lord has done great things for us,
and we are glad indeed.

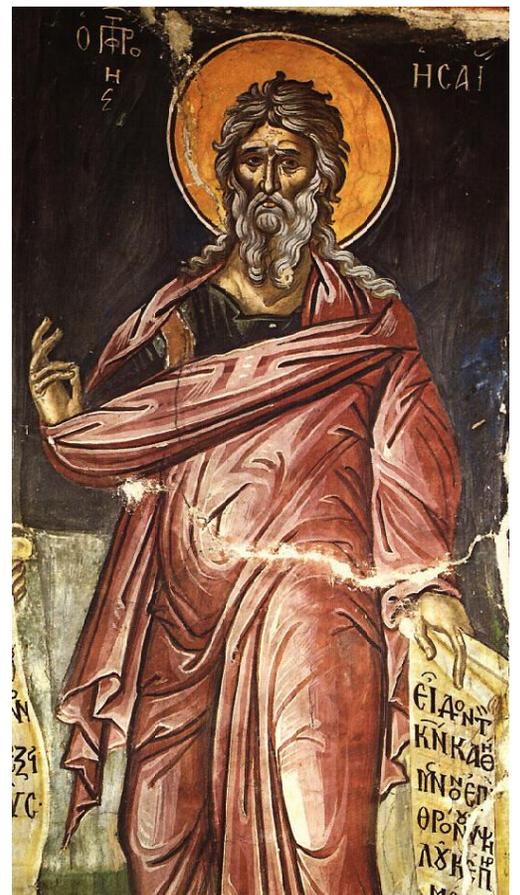
5. Restore our fortunes, O Lord,
like the watercourses of the Negev.
 6. Those who sowed with tears
will reap with songs of joy.
 7. Those who go out weeping, carrying the seed,
will come again with joy, shouldering their sheaves.
- Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit:
as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be for ever. Amen.

The Lessons

A Reading from the Book of the Prophet Isaiah

Isaiah 61:1-4, 8-11

The spirit of the Lord God is upon me,
because the Lord has anointed me;
he has sent me to bring good news to the oppressed,
to bind up the brokenhearted,
to proclaim liberty to the captives,
and release to the prisoners;
to proclaim the year of the Lord's favor,
and the day of vengeance of our God;
to comfort all who mourn;
to provide for those who mourn in Zion—
to give them a garland instead of ashes,
the oil of gladness instead of mourning,
the mantle of praise instead of a faint spirit.
They will be called oaks of righteousness,
the planting of the Lord, to display his glory.
They shall build up the ancient ruins,
they shall raise up the former devastations;
they shall repair the ruined cities,
the devastations of many generations.
For I the Lord love justice,
I hate robbery and wrongdoing;
I will faithfully give them their recompense,
and I will make an everlasting covenant with them.
Their descendants shall be known among the nations,
and their offspring among the peoples;



all who see them shall acknowledge
that they are a people whom the Lord has blessed.
I will greatly rejoice in the LORD,
my whole being shall exult in my God;
for he has clothed me with the garments of salvation,
he has covered me with the robe of righteousness,
as a bridegroom decks himself with a garland,
and as a bride adorns herself with her jewels.
For as the earth brings forth its shoots,
and as a garden causes what is sown in it to spring up,
so the Lord God will cause righteousness and praise
to spring up before all the nations.
Here ends the Reading.

Canticle 10

The Second Song of Isaiah

Quaerite Dominum

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 Church at Thessaloniki

1 Thessalonians 5:16-24

Rejoice always, pray without ceasing, give thanks in all circumstances; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you. Do not quench the Spirit. Do not despise the words of prophets, but test everything; hold fast to what is good; abstain from every form of evil.

May the God of peace himself sanctify you entirely; and may your spirit and soul and body be kept sound and blameless at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ. The one who calls you is faithful, and he will do this.

Here ends the reading.

Canticle 15

The Song of Mary—*the Magnificat*

Luke 1:46-55

My soul proclaims the greatness of the Lord,
my spirit rejoices in God my Savior;
for he has looked with favor on his lowly servant.
From this day all generations will call me blessed:
the Almighty has done great things for me, and holy is his Name.
He has mercy on those who fear him
in every generation.
He has shown the strength of his arm,
he has scattered the proud in their conceit.
He has cast down the mighty from their thrones,
and has lifted up the lowly.
He has filled the hungry with good things,
and the rich he has sent away empty.
He has come to the help of his servant Israel,
for he has remembered his promise of mercy,
The promise he made to our fathers,
to Abraham and his children for ever.
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 John

John 1:6-8,19-28

There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. He came as a witness to testify to the light, so that all might believe through him. He himself was not the light, but he came to testify to the light.

This is the testimony given by John when the Jews sent priests and Levites from Jerusalem to ask him, “Who are you?” He confessed and did not deny it, but confessed, “I am not the Messiah.” And they asked him, “What then? Are you Elijah?” He said, “I am not.” “Are you the prophet?” He answered, “No.” Then they said to him, “Who are you? Let us have an answer for those who sent us. What do you say about yourself?” He said, “I am the voice of one crying out in the wilderness, ‘Make straight the way of the Lord,’” as the prophet Isaiah said. Now they had been sent from the Pharisees. They asked him, “Why then are you baptizing if you are neither the Messiah, nor Elijah, nor the prophet?” John answered them, “I baptize with water. Among you stands one whom you do not know, the one who is coming after me; I am not worthy to untie the thong of his sandal.” This took place in Bethany across the Jordan where John was baptizing.

Here ends the reading.



The Preaching of St. John the Baptist, by Pieter Brueghel the Elder, 1566

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

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.*

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 the Renewal of Life

O God, the King eternal, whose light divides the day from the night and turns the shadow of death into the morning: Drive far from us all wrong desires, incline our hearts to keep your law, and guide our feet into the way of peace; that, having done your will with cheerfulness during the day, we may, when night comes, rejoice to give you thanks; 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 succor. 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

O God, you have made of one blood all the peoples of the earth and sent your blessed Son to preach peace to those who are far off and to those who are near: Grant that people everywhere may seek after you and find you; bring the nations into your fold; pour out your Spirit upon all flesh; and hasten the coming of your kingdom; through Jesus Christ our Lord. *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

O come O come Emmanuel

The Altar Flowers are given today by
The Altar Guild in memory of past Altar Guild members.
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.

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, Al Marra, Rick Longworth

Birthdays This Week: Valerie Mahood, Rev. Chad Slater, and Susan Rutherford

Calendar of Events

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| Wednesdays in December | Online Bible Study (Zoom) 10:30am |
| Wednesday – December 16 | Vestry Meeting 7:00pm |
| Thursday – December 17 | Food Pantry 9:00am – 11:00am |
| Monday – December 21 | Longest Night Service 7:00 pm (Online) |
| Thursday-December 24 | Christmas Eve 5:00pm Duhring St. Parking Lot |

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.

Christmas Cookies: The Episcopal Church Women will be collecting cookies for care packages to our shut ins and other members. Holiday cookies and sweet treats of all kinds are welcome and appreciated. Cookie donations can be left at either the church office or at the home of ECW President Patty Richardson. Donations should be in by Wednesday, December 16th. For more information, please call Patty at 304-952-8502. Thank you!

Christmas Basket for the Fellowship Home: We will be collecting snacks and treats to send to the men of the Fellowship Home this year. A collection basket is in the Narthex at the church if you would like to drop off a donation there, or you can deliver them to Linda Ammar. Monetary donations will also be accepted to purchase items for the basket. Thank you!

Christmas Poinsettias: Please call the church office at 304-327-6861 to order a poinsettia to decorate the church at Christmas. Poinsettias are \$15 each and checks may be made payable to the Church. Orders must be received by the church office no later than Monday, December 14th.

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 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.

2021 Stewardship Program: This year's theme is "Hope Grows Here". Please remember to send your Estimates of Gifts and Tithes cards 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