



CHRIST EPISCOPAL CHURCH

BLUEFIELD, WEST VIRGINIA

200 Duhring Street, Bluefield, WV 24701

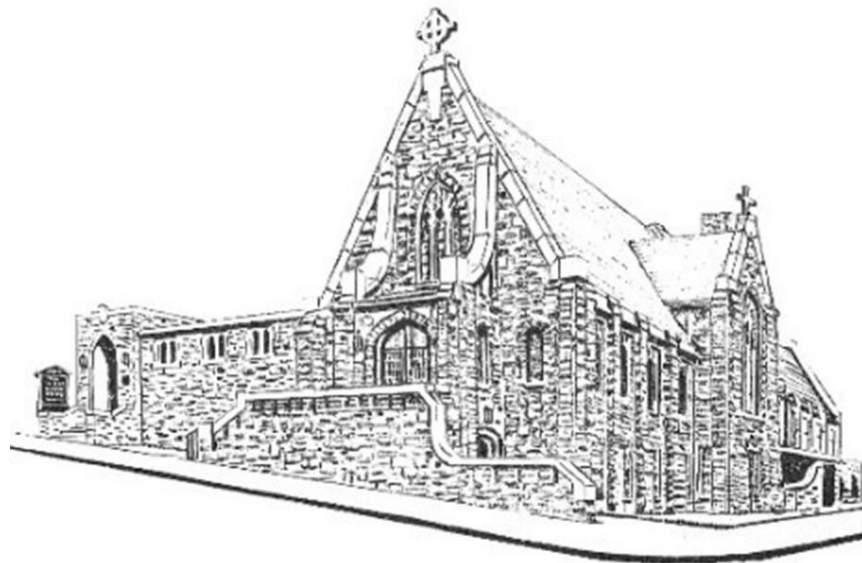
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## The Third Sunday after the Epiphany

January 23, 2022



This bulletin contains our liturgy today.

Given the pandemic, our worship is somewhat different. We respectfully ask that you wear and keep a face mask on, covering your nose and mouth, during this service. UV Light Air Sanitizers are present to help provide a pathogen free worship space. We hope that you will feel safe in this place and leave uplifted 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 with us.

## Prelude

### Our Service Begins

*Please stand as you are able for the procession*

### We Welcome Our Interim Rector

**David:** Dear Sisters and Brothers in Christ, we gather this morning to mark and celebrate a new chapter in our journey together. We will always remember and honor the ministry of Chad, now Canon to the Ordinary for the Diocese of West Virginia. And today we welcome the person called to serve with us during this interim period, the Reverend Lou Hays.

**Peter:** We give thanks for the ministry that God has brought to and through Christ Episcopal Church over the generations, and especially for the faithful service and ministry of the laypersons of this parish. And we ask God to continue to bless us with faithful leadership and service during this time of transition.

**David:** Lou, will you commit to loving us, faithfully administering the sacraments, preaching and teaching the word of God, and walking with us as we journey through this time of transition?

**Lou:** I will, with God's help.

**Peter:** Dear People of Christ Episcopal Church, will you promise to support Lou in his ministry among us, and to assist, support, and pray for the ministry of transition that will lead us to call the person whom God would have serve as our next Rector?

**People:** We will, with God's help.

**David:** Lou, I give you these as symbols of your sacramental and pastoral authority during your time with us. Be with us as a person of prayer and love, preaching the Gospel, caring for the sick and encouraging us to live into our Baptismal Covenant.

**Lou:** Let us pray. Gracious and loving God, we give you thanks and praise for this your parish and for our time of transition together. Continue to pour out your blessings upon us. Be with us as together we minister in your name. Empower us through your Holy Spirit with the strength, courage, wisdom, and love to celebrate our heritage and to discern and prepare boldly for the

future that you envision for us. All this we ask in the name of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ. **Amen.**

### The Opening Sentences

*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 - mighty 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 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.

Give us grace, O Lord, to answer readily the call of our Savior Jesus Christ and proclaim to all people the Good News of his salvation, that we and the whole world may perceive the glory of his marvelous works; who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. *Amen.*

**We Hear and Respond to God’s Word**

**The First Lesson**

*Nehemiah 8:1-3, 5-6, 8-10*

All the people of Israel gathered together into the square before the Water Gate. They told the scribe Ezra to bring the book of the law of Moses, which the LORD had given to Israel. Accordingly, the priest Ezra brought the law before the assembly, both men and women and all who could hear with understanding. This was on the first day of the seventh month. He read from

it facing the square before the Water Gate from early morning until midday, in the presence of the men and the women and those who could understand; and the ears of all the people were attentive to the book of the law. And Ezra opened the book in the sight of all the people, for he was standing above all the people; and when he opened it, all the people stood up. Then Ezra blessed the LORD, the great God, and all the people answered, "Amen, Amen," lifting up their hands. Then they bowed their heads and worshiped the LORD with their faces to the ground. So, they read from the book, from the law of God, with interpretation. They gave the sense, so that the people understood the reading.

And Nehemiah, who was the governor, and Ezra the priest and scribe, and the Levites who taught the people said to all the people, "This day is holy to the LORD your God; do not mourn or weep." For all the people wept when they heard the words of the law. Then he said to them, "Go your way, eat the fat and drink sweet wine and send portions of them to those for whom nothing is prepared, for this day is holy to our LORD; and do not be grieved, for the joy of the LORD is your strength."

*Lector*           The Word of the Lord.

*People*            Thanks be to God!

## The Psalm

Psalm 19

*Caeli enarrant*

*We will read the Psalm responsively by whole verse.*

1. The heavens declare the glory of God, and the firmament shows his handiwork.
2. One day tells its tale to another, and one night imparts knowledge to another.
3. Although they have no words or language, and their voices are not heard,
4. Their sound has gone out into all lands, and their message to the ends of the world.
5. In the deep has he set a pavilion for the sun; it comes forth like a bridegroom out of his chamber; it rejoices like a champion to run its course.
6. It goes forth from the uttermost edge of the heavens and runs about

- to the end of it again; nothing is hidden from its burning heat.
7. The law of the Lord is perfect and revives the soul; the testimony of the Lord is sure and gives wisdom to the innocent.
  8. The statutes of the Lord are just and rejoice the heart; the commandment of the Lord is clear and gives light to the eyes.
  9. The fear of the Lord is clean and endures for ever; the judgments of the Lord are true and righteous altogether.
  10. More to be desired are they than gold, more than much fine gold, sweeter far than honey, than honey in the comb.
  11. By them also is your servant enlightened, and in keeping them there is great reward.
  12. Who can tell how often he offends? cleanse me from my secret faults.
  13. Above all, keep your servant from presumptuous sins; let them not get dominion over me; then shall I be whole and sound, and innocent of a great offense.
  14. Let the words of my mouth and the meditation of my heart be acceptable in your sight, O Lord, my strength and my redeemer.

*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

*I Corinthians 12:12-31a*

Just as the body is one and has many members, and all the members of the body, though many, are one body, so it is with Christ. For in the one Spirit we were all baptized into one body--Jews or Greeks, slaves or free--and we were all made to drink of one Spirit.

Indeed, the body does not consist of one member but of many. If the foot would say, "Because I am not a hand, I do not belong to the body," that would not make it any less a part of the body. And if the ear would say, "Because I am not an eye, I do not belong to the body," that would not make it any less a part of the body. If the whole body were an eye, where would the hearing be? If the whole body were hearing, where would the sense of smell be? But as it is, God arranged the members in the body, each one of them, as

he chose. If all were a single member, where would the body be? As it is, there are many members, yet one body. The eye cannot say to the hand, "I have no need of you," nor again the head to the feet, "I have no need of you." On the contrary, the members of the body that seem to be weaker are indispensable, and those members of the body that we think less honorable we clothe with greater honor, and our less respectable members are treated with greater respect, whereas our more respectable members do not need this. But God has so arranged the body, giving the greater honor to the inferior member, that there may be no dissension within the body, but the members may have the same care for one another. If one member suffers, all suffer together with it; if one member is honored, all rejoice together with it.

Now you are the body of Christ and individually members of it. And God has appointed in the church first apostles, second prophets, third teachers; then deeds of power, then gifts of healing, forms of assistance, forms of leadership, various kinds of tongues. Are all apostles? Are all prophets? Are all teachers? Do all work miracles? Do all possess gifts of healing? Do all speak in tongues? Do all interpret? But strive for the greater gifts.

*Lector*        The Word of the Lord.

*People*        Thanks be to God!

### The Gospel Lesson

*Luke 4:14-21*

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

*People*        Glory to you, Lord Christ.

Jesus, filled with the power of the Spirit, returned to Galilee, and a report about him spread through all the surrounding country. He began to teach in their synagogues and was praised by everyone.

When he came to Nazareth, where he had been brought up, he went to the synagogue on the sabbath day, as was his custom. He stood up to read, and the scroll of the prophet Isaiah was given to him. He unrolled the scroll and found the place where it was written:

"The Spirit of the Lord is upon me,  
because he has anointed me  
to bring good news to the poor.

He has sent me to proclaim release to the captives  
and recovery of sight to the blind,  
to let the oppressed go free,  
to proclaim the year of the Lord's favor."

And he rolled up the scroll, gave it back to the attendant, and sat down. The eyes of all in the synagogue were fixed on him. Then he began to say to them, "Today this scripture has been fulfilled in your hearing."

*Celebrant*     The Gospel of the Lord.

*People*         Praise to you, Lord Christ.

### The Sermon

The Rev. Lou Hays

### The Nicene Creed

*Please stand as you 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, Form III**

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 Justin, the Archbishop of Canterbury, Michael, our Presiding Bishop, Mike, our Bishop, Matthew, our Bishop-elect, for Lou, our priest, and for all bishops, priests, and deacons;

*That they may be faithful ministers of your Word and Sacraments.*

We pray for Joe, our President, Jim and Glenn, our Governors, Ron and Donnie, our Mayors, and 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.*

We pray for all who are ill, or in any trouble, need or sorrow, especially all who are on our parish prayer list, and for any others we might now name, either silently or aloud. (Pause) Have compassion on those who suffer from any grief or trouble;

*That they may be delivered from their distress.*

We pray for all who have died, especially our loved ones who have gone before us, and for any others we might now name, either silently or aloud.  
(Pause) 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 Trinity Church,  
Shepherdstown.

In our Anglican Cycle of prayer, we pray for the Church in Hong Kong.

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.

*Celebrant*

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 forever. Amen.

### **The Confession of Sin**

*Silence may be kept*

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.

*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**

*After the Offertory piece has been played the People stand and sing to the familiar tune of the "Old 100<sup>th</sup>"*

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*

*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; for you are the source of light and life, you made us in your image, and called us to new life in Jesus Christ our Lord..

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:

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*

We give thanks to you, O God, for the goodness and love which you have made known to us in creation; in the calling of Israel to be your people; in your Word spoken through the prophets; and above all in the Word made flesh, Jesus, your Son. For in these last days, you sent him to be incarnate from the Virgin Mary, to be the Savior and Redeemer of the world. In him, you have delivered us from evil, and made us worthy to stand before you. In him, you have brought us out of error into truth, out of sin into righteousness, out of death into life.

On the night before he died for us, 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, according to his command, O Father,

*Celebrant and People*

We remember his death,  
 We proclaim his resurrection,

We await his coming in glory;

*The Celebrant continues*

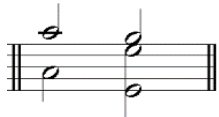
And we offer our sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving to you, O Lord of all; presenting to you, from your creation, this bread and this wine. We pray you, gracious God, to send your Holy Spirit upon these gifts that they may be the Sacrament of the Body of Christ and his Blood of the new Covenant. Unite us to your Son in his sacrifice, that we may be acceptable through him, being sanctified by the Holy Spirit. In the fullness of time, put all things in subjection under your Christ, and bring us to that heavenly country where, with St. Mary, St. Margret, and all your saints, we may enter the everlasting heritage of your sons and daughters; through Jesus Christ our Lord, the firstborn of all creation, the head of the Church, and the author of our salvation.

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 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.

### 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.

## Our Prayer after Communion

*Celebrant* 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 Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

## The Blessing

## Meet the Interim Rector

## The Dismissal

*The departing minister then says*

Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.

*People* Thanks be to God.

## Postlude



The Altar Flowers are given today for the greater Glory of God  
by Jay Kephart in memory of loved ones.



## Participants in Today's Liturgy

Celebrant

Organist & Choirmaster

Acolyte

Lector

Altar Guild

The Rev. Lou Hays

Terry E. Whittington, Jr.

Rob Merritt

David Kersey

Patty Richardson

## **From the Slater Family**

Words cannot express the deep love and admiration our family has for the people of Christ Church. You have walked with us in times of joy and sadness and we have been honored to do the same with you. We feel blessed that Benjamin and Emma will always remember that Bluefield was their hometown and that Christ Church was where they learned to pray. While we are sad to leave, we do so in knowing that we are following the Holy Spirit. Pray for us as we move into this new ministry. We will never cease praying for you. We cannot wait to see what God has in store next for this wonderful and holy place!

**Please Keep the Following in Your Prayers:** Dorene Dimes, Bonnie Taylor, Joe Sanders, Bea Paine, Bob and Peggy Walk, John Kersey, Martha Linkous, Jay Kephart, Buck and Louisa Sowers, Donna Fortune, Ed and Gladys Fortune, Ivy and the Gaines Family, Taylor Frazier III, Brian, and Tracy Lane.

**Birthdays This Week:** Catherine Beemer, Howard Troutner, Frank Wilkinson, and Benjamin Slater

## **Calendar of Events**

Sunday – January 23

Welcoming of Interim Rector, Fr. Lou Hays  
after Church 11 :00 am

## **Announcements:**

**Food Pantry:** Blankets are being collected for February's Food Pantry. We appreciate receiving new blankets or ones that are lightly used - thanks! You may leave blankets in the bin setting in the narthex.

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

The Rev. Lou Hays

Mr. Terry E. Whittington, Jr.

Ms. Emma Bennett

Mrs. Vanessa Hall

Mr. David Kersey

Mr. Peter Richardson

Interim Rector

Organist & Choirmaster

Parish Administrator

Sexton

Senior Warden

Junior Warden