



The Fifth Sunday of Easter

Celebrating Rogation Sunday

May 2, 2021



Welcome to this Place of Prayer

This bulletin contains our liturgy today. If you are new or visiting this congregation for the first time, we invite you to fill out a Visitor's Card (from the usher) 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.

As a sign of love and respect during this pandemic era our worship is somewhat different. We are observing social distancing, mask wearing, and enhanced cleaning protocols. As time and circumstances permit these changes to our worship will be amended. We hope that you will feel safe in this place and leave edified by our celebration of Word and Sacrament.

<u>Prelude</u>

Our Service Begins

Please stand as the Celebrant and altar party move to the frontCelebrantAlleluia. Christ is risen.PeopleThe Lord is risen indeed. Alleluia.CelebrantCelebrant

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 Gloria is then said, all standing Glory to God in the highest, and peace to his people on earth. Lord God, heavenly King, almighty God and Father, we worship you, we give you thanks, we praise you for your glory. Lord Jesus Christ, only Son of the Father, Lord God, Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world: have mercy on us; you are seated at the right hand of the Father: receive our prayer. For you alone are the Holy One, you alone are the Lord, you alone are the Most High, Jesus Christ, with the Holy Spirit, in the glory of God the Father. Amen.

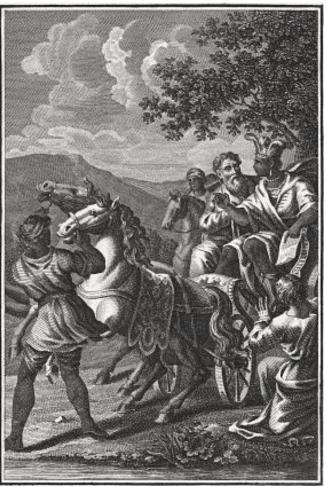
The Collect of the Day

Our collective prayer for the dayCelebrantThe Lord be with you.PeopleAnd also with you.CelebrantLet us pray.

Almighty God, whom truly to know is everlasting life: Grant us so perfectly to know your Son Jesus Christ to be the way, the truth, and the life, that we may steadfastly follow his steps in the way that leads to eternal life; through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord, who lives and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. *People* Amen.

We Hear and Respond to God's WordThe First LessonActs 8:26-40

An angel of the Lord said to Philip, "Get up and go toward the south to the road that goes down from Jerusalem to Gaza." (This is a wilderness road.) So he got up and went. Now there was an Ethiopian eunuch, a court official of the Candace, queen of the Ethiopians, in charge of her entire treasury. He had come to Jerusalem to worship and was returning home; seated in his chariot, he was reading the prophet Isaiah. Then the Spirit said to Philip, "Go over to this chariot and join it." So Philip ran up to it and heard him reading the prophet Isaiah. He asked, "Do you understand what you are reading?" He replied, "How can I,



unless someone guides me?" And he invited Philip to get in and sit beside him. Now the passage of the scripture that he was reading was this:

> "Like a sheep he was led to the slaughter, and like a lamb silent before its shearer, so he does not open his mouth. In his humiliation justice was denied him. Who can describe his generation?

For his life is taken away from the earth."

The eunuch asked Philip, "About whom, may I ask you, does the prophet say this, about himself or about someone else?" Then Philip began to speak, and starting with this scripture, he proclaimed to him the good news about Jesus. As they were going along the road, they came to some water; and the eunuch said, "Look, here is water! What is to prevent me from being baptized?" He commanded the chariot to stop, and both of them, Philip and the eunuch, went down into the water, and Philip baptized him. When they came up out of the water, the Spirit of the Lord snatched Philip away; the eunuch saw him no more, and went on his way rejoicing. But Philip found himself at Azotus, and as he was passing through the region, he proclaimed the good news to all the towns until he came to Caesarea.

Lector The Word of the Lord.

People Thank be to God!

<u>The Psalm</u>

Psalm 22:24-30

Deus, Deus meus

The Psalm will be read responsively by whole verse

- 24. My praise is of him in the great assembly;I will perform my vows in the presence of those who worship him.
- 25. The poor shall eat and be satisfied, and those who seek the Lord shall praise him: "May your heart live for ever!"
- 26. All the ends of the earth shall remember and turn to the Lord, and all the families of the nations shall bow before him.
- 27. For kingship belongs to the Lord; * he rules over the nations.
- 28. To him alone all who sleep in the earth bow down in worship; all who go down to the dust fall before him.
- 29. My soul shall live for him; my descendants shall serve him; they shall be known as the Lord'S for ever.
- 30. They shall come and make known to a people yet unborn the saving deeds that he has done.

Said together

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

Beloved, let us love one another, because love is from God; everyone who loves is born of God and knows God. Whoever does not love does not know God, for God is love. God's love was revealed among us in this way: God sent his only Son into the world so that we might live through him. In this is love, not that we loved God but that he loved us and sent his Son to be the atoning sacrifice for our sins. Beloved, since God loved us so much, we also ought to love one another. No one has ever seen God; if we love one another, God lives in us, and his love is perfected in us.

By this we know that we abide in him and he in us, because he has given us of his Spirit. And we have seen and do testify that the Father has sent his Son as the Savior of the world. God abides in those who confess that Jesus is the Son of God, and they abide in God. So we have known and believe the love that God has for us.

God is love, and those who abide in love abide in God, and God abides in them. Love has been perfected among us in this: that we may have boldness on the day of judgment, because as he is, so are we in this world. There is no fear in love, but perfect love casts out fear; for fear has to do with punishment, and whoever fears has not reached perfection in love. We love because he first loved us. Those who say, "I love God," and hate their brothers or sisters, are liars; for those who do not love a brother or sister whom they have seen, cannot love God whom they have not seen. The commandment we have from him is this: those who love God must love their brothers and sisters also.

LectorThe Word of the Lord.PeopleThank be to God!

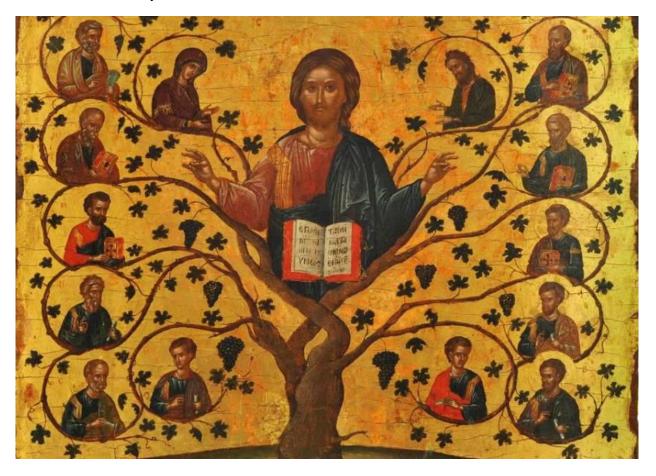


The Gospel Lesson

CelebrantThe Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to John.PeopleGlory to you, Lord Christ.

Jesus said to his disciples, "I am the true vine, and my Father is the vinegrower. He removes every branch in me that bears no fruit. Every branch that bears fruit he prunes to make it bear more fruit. You have already been cleansed by the word that I have spoken to you. Abide in me as I abide in you. Just as the branch cannot bear fruit by itself unless it abides in the vine, neither can you unless you abide in me. I am the vine, you are the branches. Those who abide in me and I in them bear much fruit, because apart from me you can do nothing. Whoever does not abide in me is thrown away like a branch and withers; such branches are gathered, thrown into the fire, and burned. If you abide in me, and my words abide in you, ask for whatever you wish, and it will be done for you. My Father is glorified by this, that you bear much fruit and become my disciples."

CelebrantThe Gospel of the Lord.PeoplePraise 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.

The Prayers of the People

The intercessor greets the congregation with the following words and leads us in prayer.

Our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ, said, 'If you abide in me, and my words abide in you, ask for whatever you wish, and it will be done for you.' Let us now approach the throne of grace with confidence in the ever-loving providence of our God.

Lord Jesus Christ, apart from you we can not bear fruit for the kingdom for you are the true vine and we are the branches. Produce in us the fruits of your Holy Spirit. Abide in us for the sake of your church, endue your bishops and other ministers with grace and perseverance, to be faithful to the Gospel.

Lord, in your mercy...Hear our prayer.

Have mercy, good Lord, on your earth and supply its needs. Where there is hunger, give food. Where there is distress, provide comfort. Where there is discord, bring order and peace. And, in due course, turn the whole world to you in faith, repentance, and praise.

Lord, in your mercy... Hear our prayer.

Grant to those who hold authority in this and every land the courage, conviction, and desire to work for the common good.

Lord, in your mercy... Hear our prayer.

Keep us mindful of the blessings of this good earth that we may be faithful stewards of the bounty you have entrusted us.

Lord, in your mercy... Hear our prayer.

Bless us with the courage of blessed Philip, who took the time to share his faith with a curious stranger. May we always be prepared to proclaim the faith.

Lord, in your mercy...Hear our prayer.

Heavenly Father, we are the people that were yet unborn when the Psalmist in exultation exclaimed: "future generations will be told about the Lord." Help us, we pray, to pass along the faith handed down to us.

Lord, in your mercy...Hear our prayer.

Focus our love on those who are in special need of prayer. Heal those who are unwell or in need, particularly those on our prayer list, and others in need whom we now name silently in our hearts...

Lord, in your mercy...Hear our prayer.

Thank you, Lord Jesus, for hearing us and caring for us in all our needs. Constantly intercede for us before our heavenly Father, and open our eyes that we may see him through you. We ask all this in your holy name, for you live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. *Amen*.

The Confession and Absolution

The Celebrant then calls the people to confess their sins to God 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

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

CelebrantThe peace of the Lord be always with you.PeopleAnd 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.

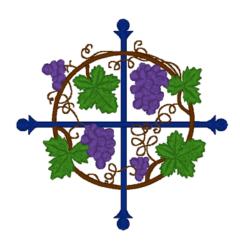
<u>The Holy Eucharist, sometimes call *The Mass*</u> <u>Offertory</u>

The Eucharistic Prayer

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.

The Celebrant continues



It is right, and a good and joyful thing, always and everywhere to give thanks to you, Father Almighty, Creator of heaven and earth. But chiefly are we bound to praise you for the glorious resurrection of your Son Jesus Christ our Lord; for he is the true Paschal Lamb, who was sacrificed for us, and has taken away the sin of the world. By his death he has destroyed death, and by his rising to life again he has won for us everlasting life.

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

Holy, Holy, Holy Lord, God of power and might, heaven and earth are full of your glory.

Hosanna in the highest.

Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.

Hosanna in the highest.

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.

All this we ask through your Son Jesus Christ: 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. AMEN.

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

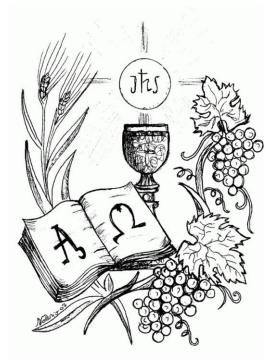
Celebrant Behold the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world! The Celebrant then breaks the Consecrated Bread

Celebrant 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. Take them in remembrance that Christ died for you, and feed on him in your hearts by faith, with thanksgiving.



The Invitation to Spiritual Communion

Celebrant

The receipt of the bread and wine, which is the body and the blood of our Lord Jesus Christ, in the sacrament of the Holy Eucharist, is an outward and visible sign of an inward and spiritual grace. In as much as you would like to partake of this holy food, the spiritual grace provided by the same is supplied to you.

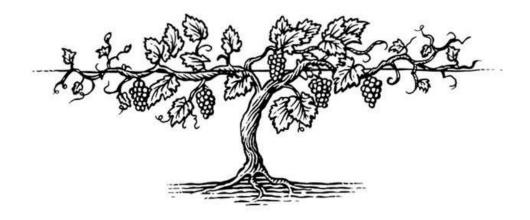
Reader

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

After Communion, the Celebrant says 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 Christ our Lord. Amen.

The Liturgy of Rogation Sunday

Opening Prayer

Celebrant The Lord be with you.

People And also with you.

Celebrant Let us pray.

We give you thanks, most gracious God, for the beauty of earth and sky and sea; for the richness of mountains, plains, and rivers; for the songs of birds and the loveliness of flowers. We praise you for these good gifts, and pray that we may safeguard them for our posterity. Grant that we may continue to grow in our grateful enjoyment of your abundant creation, to the honor and glory of your Name, now and for ever.

People Amen.

<u>Canticle of Praise</u> The Celebrants leads the Canticle by reciting those portions with an asterisk. The Congregation follows by reciting the intervening lines.

Benedicite, omnia opera Domini

Glorify the Lord, all you works of the Lord, praise him and highly exalt him for ever.In the firmament of his power, glorify the Lord, praise him and highly exalt him for ever.

Glorify the Lord, you angels, and all powers of the Lord, O heavens and all waters above the heavens. Sun and moon and stars of the sky, glorify the Lord, praise him and highly exalt him for ever. Glorify the Lord, every shower of rain and fall of dew, all winds and fire and heat. Winter and Summer, glorify the Lord, praise him and highly exalt him for ever. Glorify the Lord, O chill and cold, drops of dew and flakes of snow. Frost and cold, ice and sleet, glorify the Lord, praise him and highly exalt him for ever. Glorify the Lord, O nights and days, O shining light and enfolding dark. Storm clouds and thunderbolts, glorify the Lord, praise him and highly exalt him for ever. Let the earth glorify the Lord, praise him and highly exalt him for ever. Glorify the Lord, O mountains and hills, and all that grows upon the earth, praise him and highly exalt him for ever. Glorify the Lord, O springs of water, seas, and streams, O whales and all that move in the waters. All birds of the air, glorify the Lord, praise him and highly exalt him for ever. Glorify the Lord, O beasts of the wild, and all you flocks and herds. O men and women everywhere, glorify the Lord, praise him and highly exalt him for ever. Let us glorify the Lord: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit; praise him and highly exalt him for ever. In the firmament of his power, glorify the Lord, praise him and highly exalt him for ever.

The Petitions

The Celebrant begins

Almighty God, in giving us dominion over things on earth, you made us fellow workers in your creation. Hear us as we pray.

That you would give us wisdom and reverence so to use the resources of nature, that no one may suffer from our abuse of them, and that generations yet to come may continue to praise you for your bounty,

We pray to you, O Lord.

For favorable weather, temperate rains, and fruitful seasons, that there may be food and drink for all your creatures,

We pray to you, O Lord.

For your blessing upon the lands and waters, and all who work upon them to bring forth food and all things needful for your people,

We pray to you, O Lord.

For all who care for the earth, the water, and the air, that the riches of your creation may abound from age to age,

We pray to you, O Lord.

O gracious Father, who opens your hand and fill all things living with plenteousness: Bless the lands and waters, and multiply the harvests of the world; let your Spirit go forth, that it may renew the face of the earth; show your loving-kindness, that our land may give her increase; and save us from selfish use of what you provide, that men and women everywhere may give you thanks; through Christ our Lord.

Amen.

The Rotation Blessing

At this time the Congregation may take up their garden implements, plants, seeds, or other items to be blessed and hold them as the Celebrant says the following prayer.

Almighty and everlasting God, Creator of all things and giver of all life, let your blessing be upon these tools, plants, and other instruments of your creation and grant that they may serve to your glory and the welfare of your people: through Jesus Christ our Lord.

People Amen.

The Blessing of the Easter Season

The Celebrant then pronounces the following blessing over the people

My Brothers and Sisters, love one another, because love is from God. Proclaim God's salvation to every generation. Remain in Jesus Christ, and like branches of a vine, draw your life from him. May God the vine grower tend you and make you fruitful; may Christ Jesus abide in you and give you life; and may the Holy Spirit cast out all fear and fill you with God's love.

And may the blessing of God Almighty—the Father, the Son, and Holy Spirit—be with you now and evermore.

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! Alleluia! Alleluia!*

Postlude

The Altar Flowers are given today for the greater Glory of God and in loving memory of his parents, Terry E. and Thelma Kelly Whittington, by Terry Whittington



Participants in Today's Liturgy

1 2	
<u>Celebrant</u>	the Very Rev. Chad Slater
<u>Organist & Choirmaster</u>	Terry E. Whittington, Jr.
<u>Acolyte</u>	Benjamin Slater
Lector	David Kersey
<u>Altar Guild</u>	Patty Richardson
	Becky Beckett

Attendance Last Sunday:

Please Keep the Following in Your Prayers: Dorene Dimes, Bonnie Taylor, Joe Sanders, Lee Puckett, Sr., Mabeline 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, Dean Farmer, Haddon Lazenby, Jack Burchette, Nick, JL, Cis Barrett, Kathy, Randy Snider, Lane, Loraine, Sherry, Margarette Joplin, Emily Broome, David, Cady, Martin, Marion Lowe, Margaret Westfall, Harry, Ben Rose, Jay Kephart, Rick Longworth, all Healthcare Personnel and Frontline Workers, Jack, Sheri, Dan, Kathy, Hamilton Jones, Kensley, John, Emily, Kathleen Nieman, Alan Riggins, Brenda Payne, and Buck and Louisa Sowers

Birthdays This Week: Sloane Hunter, Pat McCoy, Vic Bowman, Lynn McCue Burney, Theron Lewis, Ramona Parks, Patty Richardson, Pat Wimmer, and Chris Justice

Calendar of Events

Wednesday – May 12	Serve Dinner at Union Mission 3:00pm
Thursday – May 13	Ascension Day Service 7:00pm
Thursday – May 20	Food Pantry 9:00am -11:00am
Wednesday –May 26	Serve Dinner at Union Mission 4:00pm

Announcements:

<u>Food Pantry Donations</u>: We will be collecting personal hygiene items for our May Food Pantry. A basket will be located in the Narthex to collect the items. Toothbrushes, toothpaste, soap, lotion, shampoo, hand sanitizer, body wash, mouthwash, razors, feminine products, and the like are much appreciated. Thank you! Special Thanks from the Paine Family

To our family at Christ Episcopal Church: It was so good to see so many friends at church. Thanks to all who participated in the "Drive-by Birthday Parade". It was worth being 100. Thanks to everyone for all your cards, letters, and gift of the parade. It was all very much appreciated.

<u>To Fr. Chad:</u> It has been a real blessing to have you as our priest during this long pandemic, and all the extra tasks that kept our church alive. Thanking you for all my friends in CEC. We love you Chad & Jennifer, Emma, and Benjamin. With much love and blessings, B & Jim Paine.

<u>Bluefield Union Mission</u>: We will resume serving the evening meal at the Bluefield Union Mission on both the 2nd and 4th Wednesdays of each month beginning in May. In the month of April, we resumed our 2nd Wednesday service with success. Thank you to all our volunteers!

<u>Volunteers to Assist with In-Person Worship Needed</u>: Now that we have returned to in-person worship we need volunteers to help enrich our services and make them operate well. If you would like to serve as an usher, lector, acolyte, or even as a musician at any of our in-person services please let Fr. Chad know. You may call, text, or email him at chad@cecblf.org. Other worship ministry opportunities will be opening up as circumstances permit.

Christ Church Parish Survey 2021: Who We Are & Where We Want to Go

Christ Church is undertaking the process to survey the parish for the needs and hopes for our future as a community of faith. Everyone at the parish is encouraged to participate so that we can best understand where we are as a group and what direction the Spirit is calling us to move in.

This Survey should take you approximately 20 minutes to complete. Please take your time and answer each question as honestly as you can. Some questions require only one answer while others may ask you to rank choices or select all that you feel are applicable. Paper copies can be made available for those who prefer. All answers are anonymous. The survey can be found at the following web address: https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/7F2CBN5



Clergy, Staff, and Wardens of this Parish

the Rev. Chad Slater Mr. Terry E. Whittington, Jr. Ms. Emma Bennett Mrs. Vanessa Hall Mr. David Kersey Mr. Tom Coughlan Rector Organist & Choirmaster Parish Administrator Sexton Senior Warden Junior Warden