



CHRIST EPISCOPAL CHURCH

BLUEFIELD, WEST VIRGINIA

200 Duhring Street, Bluefield, WV 24701

(304) 327-6861

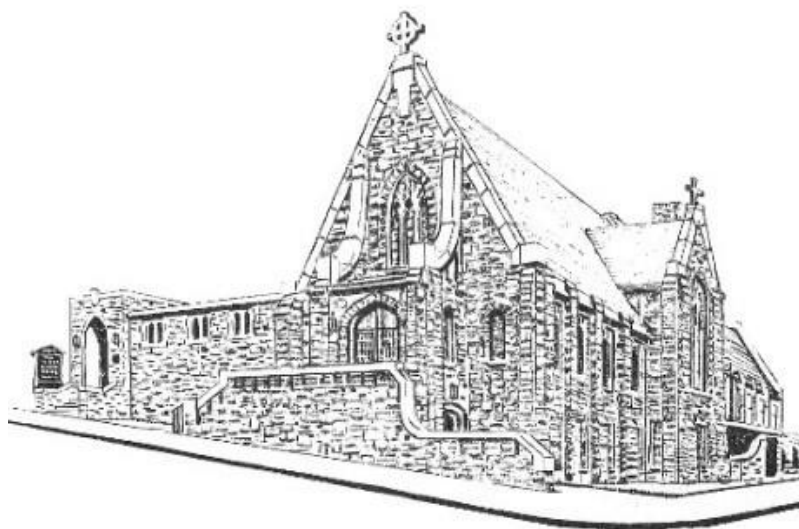
www.christchurchbluefield.org



The Fifteenth Sunday after Pentecost

and being Proper XVIII of the Church Year

September 5, 2021



This bulletin contains our liturgy today.

Given the circumstances during this pandemic era our worship is somewhat different. We respectfully ask that you wear and keep a face mask on during this service. We hope that you will feel safe in this place and leave edified by our celebration of Word and Sacrament 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 here.

Prelude

Our Service Begins

The Opening Sentences

Celebrant Blessed be God: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

People And blessed be his kingdom, now and for ever. Amen.

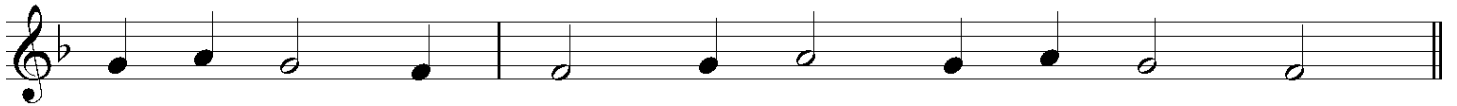
Celebrant

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 Kyrie is then sung, all standing



Lord, have mer - cy up - on us. Lord, have mer -



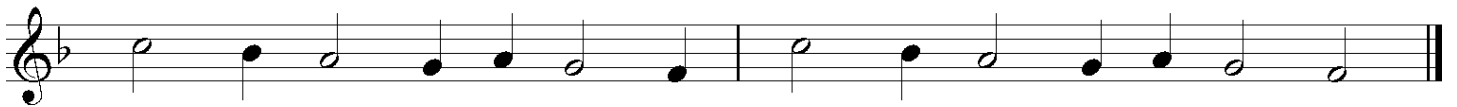
cy up - on us. Lord, have mer - cy up - on us.



Christ, have mer - cy up - on us. Christ, have mer - cy up - on us.



Christ, have mer - cy up - on us. Lord, have mer - cy up - on us.



Lord, have mer - cy up - on us. Lord, have mer - cy up - on us.

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.

Grant us, O Lord, to trust in you with all our hearts; for, as you always resist the proud who confide in their own strength, so you never forsake those who make their boast of your mercy; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. *Amen.*

We Hear and Respond to God's Word

The First Lesson

Isaiah 35:4-7a

Say to those who are of a fearful heart,
 'Be strong, do not fear! Here is your God.
 He will come with vengeance, with terrible recompense.
 He will come and save you.'

Then the eyes of the blind shall be opened, and the ears of the deaf unstopped; then the lame shall leap like a deer, and the tongue of the speechless sing for joy.

For waters shall break forth in the wilderness, and streams in the desert; the burning sand shall become a pool, and the thirsty ground springs of water.

Lector The Word of the Lord.

People Thanks be to God!

The Psalm

Psalm 146

Lauda, anima mea

The Psalm will be read responsively by whole verse

1. Hallelujah!

Praise the Lord, O my soul!
I will praise the Lord as long as I live;
I will sing praises to my God while I have my being.

2. Put not your trust in rulers, nor in any child of earth,
 for there is no help in them.

3. When they breathe their last, they return to earth,
 and in that day their thoughts perish.

4. Happy are they who have the God of Jacob for their help!
 whose hope is in the Lord their God;

5. Who made heaven and earth, the seas, and all that is in them;
 who keeps his promise for ever;

6. Who gives justice to those who are oppressed,
 and food to those who hunger.

7. The Lord sets the prisoners free;
the Lord opens the eyes of the blind;
the Lord lifts up those who are bowed down;
8. The Lord loves the righteous;
the Lord cares for the stranger;
he sustains the orphan and widow,
but frustrates the way of the wicked.
9. The Lord shall reign for ever,
your God, O Zion, throughout all generations.
Hallelujah!

Sung together

Officiant and People

Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spi - rit:

As it was in the beginning, is now, and will be for ever. A - men.

The Second Lesson

James 2:1-17

My brothers and sisters, do you with your acts of favoritism really believe in our glorious Lord Jesus Christ? For if a person with gold rings and in fine clothes comes into your assembly, and if a poor person in dirty clothes also comes in, and if you take notice of the one wearing the fine clothes and say, “Have a seat here, please,” while to the one who is poor you say, “Stand there,” or, “Sit at my feet,” have you not made distinctions among yourselves, and become judges with evil thoughts? Listen, my beloved brothers and sisters. Has not God chosen the poor in the world to be rich in faith and to be heirs of the kingdom that he has promised to those who love him? But you have dishonored the poor. Is it not the rich who oppress you? Is it not they who drag you into court? Is it not they who blaspheme the excellent name that was invoked over you?

You do well if you really fulfill the royal law according to the scripture, “You shall love your neighbor as yourself.” But if you show partiality, you commit sin and are convicted by the law as transgressors. For whoever keeps the whole law but fails in one point has become accountable for all of it.[For the one who said, “You shall not commit adultery,” also said, “You shall not

murder.” Now if you do not commit adultery but if you murder, you have become a transgressor of the law. So speak and so act as those who are to be judged by the law of liberty. For judgment will be without mercy to anyone who has shown no mercy; mercy triumphs over judgment.]

What good is it, my brothers and sisters, if you say you have faith but do not have works? Can faith save you? If a brother or sister is naked and lacks daily food, and one of you says to them, “Go in peace; keep warm and eat your fill,” and yet you do not supply their bodily needs, what is the good of that? So faith by itself, if it has no works, is dead.

Lector The Word of the Lord.

People Thank be to God!

The Gospel Lesson

Mark 7:24-37

Please stand for the Gospel Lesson

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

People Glory to you, Lord Christ.



Jesus set out and went away to the region of Tyre. He entered a house and did not want anyone to know he was there. Yet he could not escape notice, but a woman whose little daughter had an unclean spirit immediately heard about him, and she came and bowed down at his feet. Now the woman was a Gentile, of Syrophenician origin. She begged him to cast the demon out of her daughter. He said to her, “Let the children be fed first, for it is not fair to take the children’s food and throw it to the dogs.” But she answered him, “Sir, even the dogs under the table eat the children’s crumbs.” Then he said to her,

“For saying that, you may go—the demon has left your daughter.” So she went home, found the child lying on the bed, and the demon gone.

Then he returned from the region of Tyre, and went by way of Sidon towards the Sea of Galilee, in the region of the Decapolis. They brought to him a deaf man who had an impediment in his speech; and they begged him to lay his hand on him. He took him aside in private, away from the crowd, and put his fingers into his ears, and he spat and touched his tongue. Then looking up to heaven, he sighed and said to him, “Ephphatha,” that is, “Be opened.” And immediately his ears were opened, his tongue was released, and he spoke plainly. Then Jesus ordered them to tell no one; but the more he ordered them, the more zealously they proclaimed it. They were astounded beyond measure, saying, “He has done everything well; he even makes the deaf to hear and the mute to speak.”

Celebrant The Gospel of the Lord.

People Praise 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.

**meaning the church universal, that all Christians are one people regardless of denomination*

The Prayers of the People

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

In peace, we pray to you, Lord God.

For all people in their daily life and work, especially Kelly Meachum McConnico, Mark Van Dyke, Terry Whittington, Bill Wimmer, and Bobbi Kersey who celebrate birthdays this week;

For our families, friends, and neighbors, and for those who are alone.

For this community, the nation, and the world;

For all who work for justice, freedom, and peace.

For the just and proper use of your creation;

For the victims of hunger, fear, injustice, and oppression.

For all who are in danger, sorrow, or any kind of trouble;

For those who minister to the sick, the friendless, and the needy.

For the peace and unity of the Church of God;

For all who proclaim the Gospel, and all who seek the Truth.

For Michael, our Presiding Bishop, Mike, our Bishop, and Chad, our priest,
and all bishops and other ministers;

For all who serve God in his Church.

For the special needs and concerns of this congregation. For those on our
prayer list and all those we now name before you either silently or aloud...

Hear us, Lord;

For your mercy is great.

We thank you, Lord, for all the blessings of this life. We will exalt you, O God
our King;

And praise your Name for ever and ever.

We pray for all who have died, especially the loved ones of Richard And
Carolyn McCue Matthews, that they may have a place in your eternal kingdom.

Lord, let your loving-kindness be upon them;

Who put their trust in you.

We pray to you also for the forgiveness of our sins.

A period of silence is kept for reflection.

Leader and People

Have mercy upon us, most merciful Father;

in your compassion forgive us our sins,

known and unknown,

things done and left undone;

and so uphold us by your Spirit

that we may live and serve you in newness of life,

to the honor and glory of your Name;

through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

The Bishop, when present, or the Priest, stands and says

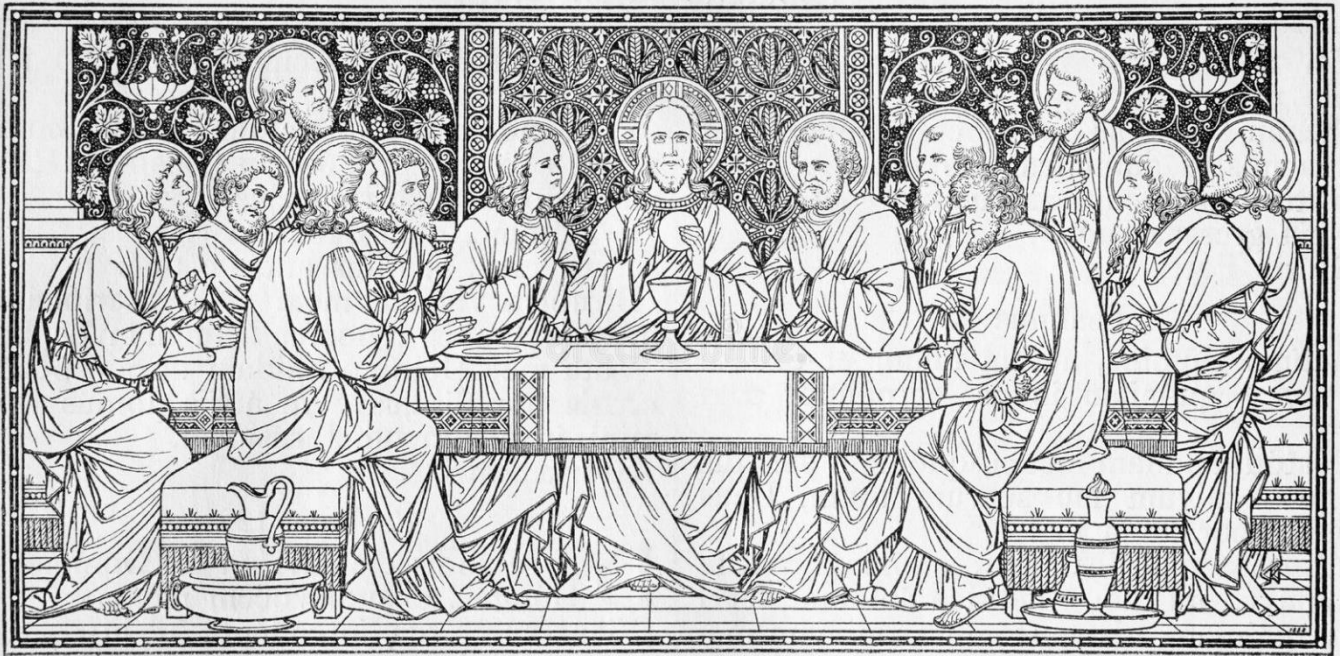
Almighty God have mercy on you, forgive you all your sins through our Lord
Jesus Christ, strengthen you in all goodness, and by the power of the Holy
Spirit keep you in eternal life. Amen.

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*

Doxology

After the Offertory piece has been played the People stand and sing to the familiar tune of the "Old 100th"

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. Amen.

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

God of all power, Ruler of the Universe, you are worthy of glory and praise.

Glory to you for ever and ever.

At your command all things came to be: the vast expanse of interstellar space, galaxies, suns, the planets in their courses, and this fragile earth, our island home.

By your will they were created and have their being.

From the primal elements you brought forth the human race, and blessed us with memory, reason, and skill. You made us the rulers of creation. But we turned against you, and betrayed your trust; and we turned against one another. *Have mercy, Lord, for we are sinners in your sight.*

Again and again, you called us to return. Through prophets and sages you revealed your righteous Law. And in the fullness of time you sent your only Son, born of a woman, to fulfill your Law, to open for us the way of freedom and peace.

By his blood, he reconciled us.

By his wounds, we are healed.

And therefore we praise you, joining with the heavenly chorus, with prophets, apostles, and martyrs, and with all those in every generation who have looked to you in hope, to proclaim with them your glory, in their unending hymn:

Celebrant and People

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 musical score is written on four staves in G major (one sharp) and 4/4 time. It features a melody with various note values including quarter, eighth, and sixteenth notes, as well as rests. There are three triplet markings (indicated by a '3' and a bracket) over the words 'heaven and earth', 'san - na', and 'high - est'.

The people stand or kneel.

Then the Celebrant continues

And so, Father, we who have been redeemed by him, and made a new people by water and the Spirit, now bring before you these gifts. Sanctify them by your Holy Spirit to be the Body and Blood of Jesus Christ our Lord.

On the night he was betrayed he took bread, said the blessing, broke the bread, and gave it to his friends, 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, gave thanks, 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."

Remembering now his work of redemption, and offering to you this sacrifice of thanksgiving,

*We celebrate his death and resurrection,
as we await the day of his coming.*

Lord God of our Fathers and Mothers: God of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob; God of Sarah, Rebecca, and Rachel; God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ: Open our eyes to see your hand at work in the world about us. Deliver us from the presumption of coming to this Table for solace only, and not for strength; for pardon only, and not for renewal. Let the grace of this Holy Communion make us one body, one spirit in Christ, that we may worthily serve the world in his name.

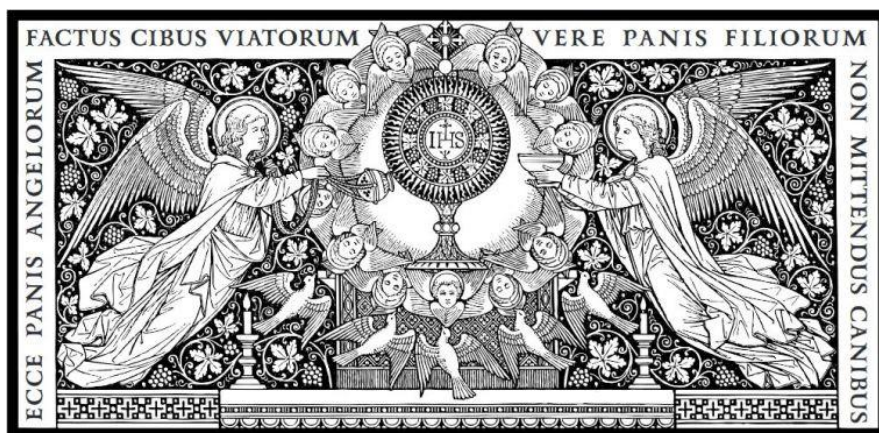
Risen Lord, be known to us in the breaking of the Bread.

Accept these prayers and praises, Father, through Jesus Christ our great High Priest, to whom, with you and the Holy Spirit, your Church gives honor, glory, and worship, from generation to generation.

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 Fraction

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

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 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

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 Blessing

The Celebrant then pronounces the following blessing over the people

As you have been fed, go to feed the hungry.

As you have been set free, go to set free the imprisoned.

As you have been received – give.

As you have heard – proclaim.

And the blessing of God Almighty, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, be amongst you and remain with you always.

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!

Postlude



The Altar Flowers are given today for the greater Glory of God and in memory of loved ones by Richard and Carolyn McCue Matthews.

Participants in Today's Liturgy

<u>Celebrant</u>	the Very Rev. Chad Slater
<u>Organist & Choirmaster</u>	Terry E. Whittington, Jr.
<u>Acolyte</u>	Emma Slater
<u>Lector</u>	Katherine Lewis
<u>Altar Guild</u>	Elizabeth Clement, Teresa Paine, Linda Ammar

Please Keep the Following in Your Prayers: Dorene Dimes, Bonnie Taylor, Joe Sanders, Bea Paine, Lynn Burney, Bob and Peggy Walk, John Kersey, Martha Linkous, Jay Kephart, Buck and Louisa Sowers, Mabeline Robinson, Donna Fortune, Sarah Irwin, Janet Slager, Dean Farmer, Haddon Lazenby, Jack Burchette, Nick, JL, Randy Snider, Margarett Joplin, David, Martin, Harry, Ben Rose, Jack, Sheri, Dan, Kensley, John, Elizabeth Kane, Betty, Matt, Eric, Carol, Dave, Gail, Jean, all Healthcare Personnel and Frontline Workers, the people of Haiti, and the people of Afghanistan

Attendance Last Sunday:

40

Birthdays This Week: Kelly Meachum McConnico, Mark Van Dyke, Terry Whittington, Bill Wimmer, and Bobbi Kersey

Calendar of Events

Wednesday – September 8	Serving Dinner at Union Mission 3:00 pm
Sunday – September 12	Bagging Groceries after Church
Wednesday – September 15	Vestry Meeting 7:00pm
Thursday – September 16	Food Pantry 9:00am – 11:00am
Wednesday – September 22	Serving Dinner at Union Mission 4:00 pm
Sunday – October 24	CEC Building 100 th Anniversary

Announcements:

Bishop Candidates Virtual Interviews: To watch the virtual interviews with the three candidates to be the next Bishop of West Virginia please go to www.wvbishopsearch.org . Links to the videos are located on the page. Our delegates for the electing convention are Jim and Susanne Pulse (Fr. Chad also has a separate vote as a member of the clergy in the Diocese). Please keep them all in your prayers as they discern God's will for the Diocese. You can also contact them with your thoughts and impressions on the candidates.

UV Light Air Sanitizers Donated to Christ Church: A generous donation by an anonymous member of the Christ Church congregation has enabled us to purchase hospital grade air sanitizers for the nave and sanctuary. These sanitizers use HEPA filters and UV light to trap and kill bacteria and viruses. The particular model purchased was designed for use in medical facilities and the UV light component has been shown to kill the COVID-19 and other viruses. Similar air sanitizers were recently required for use in all public-school classrooms in the United Kingdom. These air sanitizers are quiet, efficient, and discrete. They will be placed strategically around the room to help protect all who enter our church for worship. We are thrilled to be able to add this additional layer of protection for our members and guests. If you have any questions about these new air sanitizers, please contact Fr. Chad for more information.

100th Anniversary: Mark your calendars for Sunday, October 24, 2021! We will celebrate the 100th Anniversary of our beautiful church building's consecration. Bishop Klusmeyer will be joining us that day to help us celebrate! A larger "homecoming" and celebration will be scheduled at a later date (post-pandemic).

Church Picnic a Success!: Thank you to everyone who assisted last week in helping make our annual church picnic a wonderful and safe opportunity for worship and fellowship!



Clergy, Staff, and Wardens of this Parish

the Very Rev. Chad Slater

Mr. Terry E. Whittington, Jr.

Ms. Emma Bennett

Mrs. Vanessa Hall

Mr. David Kersey

Mr. Peter Richardson

Rector

Organist & Choirmaster

Parish Administrator

Sexton

Senior Warden

Junior Warden