



Christ Episcopal Church

200 Duhring Street, Bluefield, WV 24701

(304) 327-6861

www.christchurchbluefield.org



December 8, 2019

The Second Sunday of Advent



Welcome to this Place of Prayer

If you are new or visiting this congregation for the first time we invite you to fill out a Visitor's Card (found on the rack in front of you) and place it in the collect plate as it is passed. We are honored you have chosen to worship with us today and hope that you will continue your faith journey here.

This bulletin will help guide you through today's service. The abbreviation "H" stands for "Hymnal." This is the larger red book located on the shelf in front of you. That music noted as "HS" followed by a number is service music, and is found in the very first pages of the Hymnal. "BCP" is our abbreviation for "Book of Common Prayer," which is the smaller red book.

The Liturgy of the Word for the Sacrament of Baptism

Hymn *Prepare the way, O Zion* **H 65**

The Service Begins **BCP 299**

Gloria in Excelsis *The text to this ancient hymn of praise is found in the BCP* **H-S 280**

The Collect *Our collective prayer for the day.*

Merciful God, who sent your messengers the prophets to preach repentance and prepare the way for our salvation: Give us grace to heed their warnings and forsake our sins, that we may greet with joy the coming of Jesus Christ our Redeemer; who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. *Amen.*

The First Lesson

Isaiah 11:1-10

A shoot shall come out from the stump of Jesse, and a branch shall grow out of his roots.

The spirit of the Lord shall rest on him, the spirit of wisdom and understanding, the spirit of counsel and might, the spirit of knowledge and the fear of the Lord. His delight shall be in the fear of the Lord. He shall not judge by what his eyes see, or decide by what his ears hear; but with righteousness he shall judge the poor, and decide with equity for the meek of the earth; he shall strike the earth with the rod of his mouth, and with the breath of his lips he shall kill the wicked.

Righteousness shall be the belt around his waist, and faithfulness the belt around his loins. The wolf shall live with the lamb, the leopard shall lie down with the kid, the calf and the lion and the fatling together, and a little child shall lead them.

The cow and the bear shall graze, their young shall lie down together; and the lion shall eat straw like the ox. The nursing child shall play over the hole of the asp, and the weaned child shall put its hand on the adder's den. They will not hurt or destroy on all my holy mountain; for the earth will be full of the knowledge of the Lord as the waters cover the sea.

On that day the root of Jesse shall stand as a signal to the peoples; the nations shall inquire of him, and his dwelling shall be glorious.

The Psalm

Psalm 72:1-7, 18-19

Deus, iudicium

- 1 Give the King your justice, O God, and your righteousness to the King's Son;
- 2 That he may rule your people righteously and the poor with justice;
- 3 That the mountains may bring prosperity to the people, and the little hills bring righteousness.
- 4 He shall defend the needy among the people; he shall rescue the poor and crush the oppressor.
- 5 He shall live as long as the sun and moon endure, from one generation to another.
- 6 He shall come down like rain upon the mown field, like showers that water the earth.

- 7 In his time shall the righteous flourish; there shall be abundance of peace till the moon shall be no more.
- 18 Blessed be the Lord God, the God of Israel, who alone does wondrous deeds!
- 19 And blessed be his glorious Name for ever! and may all the earth be filled with his glory. Amen. Amen.

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.

Second Lesson

Romans 15:4-13

Whatever was written in former days was written for our instruction, so that by steadfastness and by the encouragement of the scriptures we might have hope. May the God of steadfastness and encouragement grant you to live in harmony with one another, in accordance with Christ Jesus, so that together you may with one voice glorify the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ.

Welcome one another, therefore, just as Christ has welcomed you, for the glory of God. For I tell you that Christ has become a servant of the circumcised on behalf of the truth of God in order that he might confirm the promises given to the patriarchs, and in order that the Gentiles might glorify God for his mercy. As it is written,

"Therefore I will confess you among the Gentiles, and sing praises to your name"; and again he says, "Rejoice, O Gentiles, with his people"; and again, "Praise the Lord, all you Gentiles, and let all the peoples praise him"; and again Isaiah says, "The root of Jesse shall come, the one who rises to rule the Gentiles; in him the Gentiles shall hope."

May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, so that you may abound in hope by the power of the Holy Spirit.

Hymn

Hark! A thrilling voice is sounding

H 59

Gospel Lesson

Matthew 3:1-12

In those days John the Baptist appeared in the wilderness of Judea, proclaiming, "Repent, for the kingdom of heaven has come near." This is the

one of whom the prophet Isaiah spoke when he said, “The voice of one crying out in the wilderness: ‘Prepare the way of the Lord, make his paths straight.’”

Now John wore clothing of camel’s hair with a leather belt around his



waist, and his food was locusts and wild honey. Then the people of Jerusalem and all Judea were going out to him, and all the region along the Jordan, and they were baptized by him in the river Jordan,

confessing their sins.

But when he saw many Pharisees and Sadducees coming for baptism, he said to them, “You brood of vipers! Who warned you to flee from the wrath to come? Bear fruit worthy of repentance. Do not presume to say to yourselves, ‘We have Abraham as our ancestor’; for I tell you, God is able from these stones to raise up children to Abraham. Even now the ax is lying at the root of the trees; every tree therefore that does not bear good fruit is cut down and thrown into the fire.

“I baptize you with water for repentance, but one who is more powerful than I is coming after me; I am not worthy to carry his sandals. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire. His winnowing fork is in his hand, and he will clear his threshing floor and will gather his wheat into the granary; but the chaff he will burn with unquenchable fire.”

The Sermon

The Liturgy of the Eucharist, sometimes called *the Mass*

Offertory

Savior of The Nations Come

Schalk

Presentation of Gifts and Tithes

*To God the Father, God the Son,
And God the Spirit, ever One,
Praise, honor, might, and glory be
From age to age eternally*

From Hymn 63 vs. 5

Eucharistic Prayer “D”

BCP 372

Sanctus

Words in BCP, Musical Setting

H-S129

Memorial Acclamation

Words in BCP, Musical Setting

H-S 141

The Lord’s Prayer

Traditional version, found on BCP 364

Fraction Anthem

H-S 152

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 as the priest comes by. It is the tradition of this parish that 12 to 14 people at a time receive Communion at the altar rail, at which point all are dismissed together to return to their seats, and another group may move forward to the rail.

Gluten free wafers are available to those who request them.

Communion Hymns

O saving Victim, open wide

H 311

Thy Kingdom come, O God!

H 613

Savior of the nations, come!

H 54

Our Prayer after Communion

BCP 366

Hymn

Hail to the Lord’s Anointed

H 616

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!*

Following our service will be Coffee Hour, hosted today by Ted and Katherine Lewis. This is a time for us to have fellowship, share our joys and sorrows, and get to know one another. It is very much an extension of the communal feast we share in the Holy Eucharist. Please join us!

The Altar Flowers are given today by
Mr. Joe Graham in memory of loved ones.

The Advent Wreath is given by Mr. & Mrs. Marc Meachum in memory of
loved ones.

The Door Wreathes are given by Mr. Bill Davis
in memory of Mrs. Betsy Davis

The Chrismon Tree is given by Mr. & Mrs. Peter Richardson in memory of
loved ones.

Participants in Today's Liturgy

Acolyte Ben Slater

Chalicer Becky Beckett

Lectors Bernadette Dragotto Don Williams

Altar Guild Becky Beckett Patty Richardson Linda Ammar Chris Justice

Nursery Help Emma Slater and Ben Slater

Vestry Member of the Month: Becky Beckett

Please Keep the Following in Your Prayers

Dorene Dimes, Wanda Myers, Bonnie Taylor, Joe Sanders, Lee Puckett, Sr., Kerrigan Farmer, Mabeline & Elton Robinson, Bea Paine, Charlotte Woolwine, Lynn Burney, Marilyn Denney, Michelle Parks, Shirley Weaver, Will Calfee, Doug Bloomfield, Paul Anderson, Deane Family, Donna Fortune, Deanna Edwards, Elizabeth Kane, Jerry and Debbie, Nina and family, Marlene, Amy Melvin, Bob and Peggy Walk, Susan Jewell, John Kersey, Judy Anderson, Michelle Coleman, Martha Linkous, Sarah Irwin, Janet Slager, Kelly Cox, Ruth Metcalf, Mike McLeod, Maxine Stevenson, Dean Farmer, Bob Moore, Haddon Lazenby

Birthdays This Week: Nelson Kersey, Scot Bennitt, and Valerie Mahood

Last Sunday's Attendance

Calendar of Events

Sunday – December 8	Canterbury Club at the Beckett's 6:00 pm
Sunday – December 15	Bagging groceries after church
Wednesday – December 11	ECW meeting 5:30pm
Wednesday – December 18	Assembling cookie trays 2:00pm ECM Dinner with Fellowship Home 6:00pm Vestry Meeting 7:00pm
Thursday – December 19	Food Pantry 9:00am – 11:00am
Tuesday – December 24	Christmas Eve early service 5:00pm Christmas Eve late service 11:00pm
Sunday – December 29	Special service at Immanuel Lutheran 10:30am
Sunday – January 19	Altar Guild Meeting following Coffee Hour

Announcements:

ECW Meeting: ECW will meet on Wednesday, December 11 in Rowley Hall at 5:30pm. All members are asked to bring a favorite appetizer or dessert with the recipe. We will share the appetizers and desserts as our meal and a recipe booklet will be made to distribute in the new year.

Christmas Cookie Trays: ECW will again provide Christmas cookie trays for our shut-ins. Please sign up in the narthex to bring cookies. Cookies should be at the church by December 18. Anyone interested may meet at the church on the 18th at 2:00pm to assemble the trays. Thank you for your help with this project.

Poinsettias for Christmas: If you would like to order a poinsettia in memory of honor of a loved one this Christmas a sign-up sheet is located in the Narthex. Poinsettias are \$15 and payment can be placed in the attached envelope. Please note if you have paid, and if by check or cash. Thank you!

Nursery Help: Please consider signing up to assist with our Sunday morning nursery. A sign-up sheet is in the Narthex. Sign-ups are now open for the remainder of this calendar year! For more information please see Fr. Chad or Elizabeth Clement.

Coffee Hour: If you are interested in this very important ministry at Christ Church, please call the office at 304-327-6861 or Email Emma Bennett at secretary@cecblf.org.

Loose Offering: Any loose offering collected in December will go to the Rector's Discretionary Fund.

Food Pantry Items Needed: Handout lists are available in Narthex for Food Pantry items being collected during the months of December thru January. We will accept monetary contributions also. See Patty Richardson or Mary Catherine Williams if you have any questions.

The Annual Meeting: The Annual Meeting of Christ Episcopal Church will be officially gaveled into order today, in accordance with our current bylaws. However, we will immediately adjourn the meeting until January 12, 2020. This will allow us to present full year 2019 accounting figures to everyone. A motion to change the bylaws to permit the Annual Meeting in January of each year will be presented by the Vestry at the January meeting.

Altar Guild Meeting: There will be an altar guild meeting on Sunday, January 19th, following coffee hour.

100th Anniversary Service at Immanuel Lutheran Church: On Christmas morning 1919 the original Christ Episcopal Church building burned to the ground in a devastating fire. Until the new church could be completed over a year and a half later our congregation worshiped with the people of Immanuel Lutheran Church down the street. To commemorate this special anniversary of neighborly hospitality and ecumenical work we will be worshipping together with Immanuel on Sunday, December 29, 2019 at a special service at 10:30 am. The Rt. Rev. Bob Humphrey, Lutheran Bishop of Virginia, and the Rt. Rev. Mike Klusmeyer, the Episcopal Bishop of West Virginia will be joining us for this celebration. A festive reception will follow in our own Rowley Hall. Please make plans to join us!

Clergy, Staff, and Wardens of this Parish

the Rev. Chad Slater

Rector

Ms. Emma Bennett

Parish Administrator

Mr. Terry E. Whittington, Jr.

Organist & Choirmaster

Mrs. Vanessa Hall

Sexton

Mrs. Susan Jewell

Nursery Attendant

Mrs. Becky Beckett

Senior Warden

Mr. Tom Coughlan

Junior Warden