

Christ Episcopal Church

200 Duhring Street, Bluefield, WV 24701

(304) 327-6861

www.christchurchbluefield.org



September 8, 2019

The 13th Sunday After Pentecost

being Proper XVIII of the Church Year

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 "H-S" 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

Hymn

God of grace and God of glory

H 594

The Service Begins

BCP 355

Gloria in Excelsis

H-S 280

The text to this ancient hymn of praise is found in the BCP

The Collect

Our collective prayer for the day.

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.*

The First Lesson

Jeremiah 18:1-11

The word that came to Jeremiah from the Lord: "Come, go down to the potter's house, and there I will let you hear my words." So I went down to the potter's house, and there he was working at his wheel. The vessel he was making of clay was spoiled in the potter's hand, and he reworked it into another vessel, as seemed good to him.

Then the word of the Lord came to me: Can I not do with you, O house of Israel, just as this potter has done? says the Lord. Just like the clay in the potter's hand, so are you in my hand, O house of Israel. At one moment I may declare concerning a nation or a kingdom, that I will pluck up and break down and destroy it, but if that nation, concerning which I have spoken, turns from its evil, I will change my mind about the disaster that I intended to bring on it. And at another moment I may declare concerning a nation or a kingdom that I will build and plant it, but if it does evil in my sight, not listening to my voice, then I will change my mind about the good that I had intended to do to it. Now, therefore, say to the people of Judah and the inhabitants of Jerusalem: Thus says the Lord: Look, I am a potter shaping evil against you and devising a plan against you. Turn now, all of you from your evil way, and amend your ways and your doings.

The Psalm

Psalm 139:1-5, 12-17

Domine, probasti

- 1 Lord, you have searched me out and known me; you know my sitting down and my rising up; you discern my thoughts from afar.
- 2 You trace my journeys and my resting-places and are acquainted with all my ways.
- 3 Indeed, there is not a word on my lips, but you, O Lord, know it altogether.
- 4 You press upon me behind and before and lay your hand upon me.
- 5 Such knowledge is too wonderful for me; it is so high that I cannot attain to it.
- 12 For you yourself created my inmost parts; you knit me together in my mother's womb.
- 13 I will thank you because I am marvelously made; your works are wonderful, and I know it well.

- 14 My body was not hidden from you, while I was being made in secret and woven in the depths of the earth.
- 15 Your eyes beheld my limbs, yet unfinished in the womb; all of them were written in your book; they were fashioned day by day, when as yet there was none of them.
- 16 How deep I find your thoughts, O God! how great is the sum of them!
- 17 If I were to count them, they would be more in number than the sand; to count them all, my life span would need to be like yours.

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

Philemon 1-21

Paul, a prisoner of Christ Jesus, and Timothy our brother, To Philemon our dear friend and co-worker, to Apphia our sister, to Archippus our fellow soldier, and to the church in your house: Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

When I remember you in my prayers, I always thank my God because I hear of your love for all the saints and your faith toward the Lord Jesus. I pray that the sharing of your faith may become effective when you perceive all the good that we may do for Christ. I have indeed received much joy and encouragement from your love, because the hearts of the saints have been refreshed through you, my brother.

For this reason, though I am bold enough in Christ to command you to do your duty, yet I would rather appeal to you on the basis of love-- and I, Paul, do this as an old man, and now also as a prisoner of Christ Jesus. I am appealing to you for my child, Onesimus, whose father I have become during my imprisonment. Formerly he was useless to you, but now he is indeed useful both to you and to me. I am sending him, that is, my own heart, back to you. I wanted to keep him with me, so that he might be of service to me in your place during my imprisonment for the gospel; but I preferred to do nothing without your consent, in order that your good deed might be voluntary and not something forced. Perhaps this is the reason he was separated from you for a while, so that you might have him back forever, no longer as a slave but more than a slave, a beloved brother-- especially to me but how much more to you, both in the flesh and in the Lord.

So if you consider me your partner, welcome him as you would welcome me. If he has wronged you in any way, or owes you anything, charge that to my account. I, Paul, am writing this with my own hand: I will repay it. I say nothing about your owing me even your own self. Yes, brother, let me have this benefit from you in the Lord! Refresh my heart in Christ. Confident of your obedience, I am writing to you, knowing that you will do even more than I say.

Hymn

Lord Christ, when first thou cam'st to earth

H 598

Gospel Lesson

Luke 14:25-33

Now large crowds were traveling with Jesus; and he turned and said to them, "Whoever comes to me and does not hate father and mother, wife and children, brothers and sisters, yes, and even life itself, cannot be my disciple. Whoever does not carry the cross and follow me cannot be my disciple. For which of you, intending to build a tower, does not first sit down and estimate the cost, to see whether he has enough to complete it? Otherwise, when he has laid a foundation and is not able to finish, all who see it will begin to ridicule him, saying, 'This fellow began to build and was not able to finish.' Or what king, going out to wage war against another king, will not sit down first and consider whether he is able with ten thousand to oppose the one who comes against him with twenty thousand? If he cannot, then, while the other is still far away, he sends a delegation and asks for the terms of peace. So therefore, none of you can become my disciple if you do not give up all your possessions."

The Sermon

The Nicene Creed

BCP 358

First composed in 325, this is the ancient statement of faith

The Prayers of the People (Form IV)

BCP 388

The Confession and Absolution

BCP 360

We confess our sins and are reassured of our pardon

The Peace

We share the joy of the Good News!

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

Offertory

Alleluia! Sing to Jesus!

Harrison

Presentation of Gifts and Tithes

Holy Father, holy Son

Holy Spirit, Three we name thee

while in essence only One,

undivided God we claim thee

From Hymn 366 vs. 4

Eucharistic Prayer “B”

BCP 367

Sanctus

Words in BCP, Musical Setting

H-S129

Memorial Acclamation

Words in BCP, Musical Setting

H-S138

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

Bread of the world, in mercy broken

H 301

If thou but trust in God to guide thee

H 635

Day by day, dear Lord

H 654

Our Prayer after Communion

BCP 366

Hymn

Come, Gracious Spirit, heavenly Dove

H 512

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!*

The Altar Flowers are given today by
Richard and Carolyn McCue Matthews in memory of loved ones.

Following our service will be Coffee Hour, hosted today by Peter and Patty Richardson. 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!

Participants in Today's Liturgy

<u>Acolyte</u>		Will Puckett
<u>Lectors</u>	Mike Lilly	Becky Beckett
<u>Chalicians</u>		Becky Beckett
<u>Altar Guild</u>	Linda Ammar, Teresa Paine, Mimi Merritt,	Patricia Taylor
<u>Nursery Help:</u>	Jennifer Slater	

Birthdays This Week: Terry Whittington, Bill Wimmer, Joe Graham, Bobby Kersey, Samantha Kinney.

Last Sunday's Attendance

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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, Becky Steorts, Amy Melvin, Bob and Peggy Walk.

Calendar of Events

Monday – September 9-11	LARCUM Conference
Wednesday – September 11	Serve Dinner at Union Mission 3-5:30pm
Sunday – September 15	Bagging groceries after church
Tuesday – September 17	DOK meeting 10:30am

Wednesday – September 18

ECM Dinner 6:00pm

Vestry 7:00pm

Thursday – September 19

Food Pantry 9-11:00am

Friday – September 20-22

“Graced” Women’s Conference

Wednesday – September 25

Serve Dinner at Union Mission 4:30pm

Sunday – September 29

Altar Guild meeting after church

Announcements:

UTO: Have you been saving up in your Blue Box? September is United Thank Offering Month and we will be collecting our Blue Boxes and other donations for this important ministry of the Episcopal Church Women. Stay tuned for more!

Food Pantry Items Needed: Handout lists available in Narthex for Food Pantry items being collected during the months of September thru January.

Altar Guild: There will be a meeting of all altar guild members on Sunday, September 29th after church. Please make every effort to attend.

LARCUM: An interdenominational forum on “Christianity and Civil Government: history, theology and implications” will be held in Charleston September 9th thru 11th. For more information see Fr. Chad.

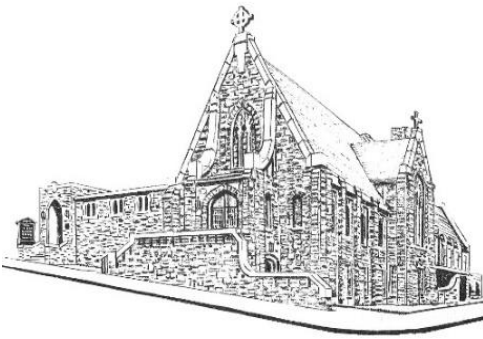
ECM: A sign-up sheet is in the Narthex to volunteer for supplying dinner for the Episcopal Church Men’s Meeting. All men of the parish are welcome to attend for fellowship each month.

Women’s Conference: A weekend women’s retreat will be held at Peterkin Camp & Conference Center on Friday thru Sunday, September 20-22nd. Brochures are in the narthex.

Coffee Hour: We are in need of volunteers to provide refreshments for our weekly time of fellowship. If you have questions, please see Mary Catherine Williams.

Trip to Israel Opportunity: Pastor Gerald Manning of Fincastle Presbyterian Church in Bluefield, VA is leading a ten-day trip to Israel in February 2020. There are a couple more vacancies to fill, so if you are interested in going, more information can be found in the narthex.

Nursery Help: Please consider signing up to assist with our Sunday morning nursery. A sign-up sheet is in the Narthex. For more information please see Fr. Chad or Elizabeth Clement.



Clergy, Staff, and Wardens of this Parish

the Rev. Chad Slater

Ms. Emma Bennett

Mr. Terry E. Whittington, Jr.

Mrs. Vanessa Hall

Mrs. Susan Jewell

Mrs. Becky Beckett

Mr. Tom Coughlan

Rector

Parish Administrator
Organist & Choirmaster

Sexton

Nursery Attendant

Senior Warden

Junior Warden

THE *Episcopal* CHURCH



welcomes you