



CHRIST EPISCOPAL CHURCH

BLUEFIELD, WEST VIRGINIA

December 24, 2021



The Nativity of Our Lord Jesus Christ

200 Duhring Street, Bluefield, WV 24701

(304) 327-6861

www.christchurchbluefield.org

Prelude

by Laurel Thompson, Harpist

(11pm only)

Processional Hymn

O come, all ye faithful

H 83

(5pm vs. 1-3,6)

Blessing of the Crèche *(5pm only)*

Celebrant and People O great mystery, and wonderful sacrament, that animals should see the new-born Lord, lying in a manger! Blessed is the Virgin whose womb was worthy to bear Christ the Lord. Alleluia!

Celebrant The Word was made flesh

People And dwelt among us

Let us pray.

Almighty God, who in the Incarnation of your Son has revealed to us the holiness of creation, be pleased to bless and hallow this image of his sacred birth, so that those who gaze upon it may behold this mystery, whereby humanity shares in your very nature; through Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

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

Angels we have heard on high

H 96

The Collect of the Day

Celebrant The Lord be with you.

People And also with you.

Celebrant Let us pray.

O God, you have caused this holy night to shine with the brightness of the true Light: Grant that we, who have known the mystery of that Light on earth, may also enjoy him perfectly in heaven; where with you and the Holy Spirit he lives and reigns, one God, in glory everlasting. *Amen.*

The First Lesson

Isaiah 9:2-7

The people who walked in darkness
have seen a great light;
those who lived in a land of deep darkness--
on them light has shined.
You have multiplied the nation,
you have increased its joy;
they rejoice before you
as with joy at the harvest,
as people exult when dividing plunder.
For the yoke of their burden,
and the bar across their shoulders,
the rod of their oppressor,
you have broken as on the day of Midian.
For all the boots of the tramping warriors
and all the garments rolled in blood
shall be burned as fuel for the fire.
For a child has been born for us,
a son given to us;
authority rests upon his shoulders;
and he is named
Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God,
Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.
His authority shall grow continually,
and there shall be endless peace
for the throne of David and his kingdom.
He will establish and uphold it
with justice and with righteousness
from this time onward and forevermore.

The zeal of the Lord of hosts will do this.

Lector The Word of the Lord.

People Thanks be to God!

The Psalm

Psalm 96

Cantate Domino

We will read the Psalm responsively by whole verse.

1. Sing to the Lord a new song;
sing to the Lord, all the whole earth.
2. Sing to the Lord and bless his Name;
proclaim the good news of his salvation from day to day.
3. Declare his glory among the nations
and his wonders among all peoples.
4. For great is the Lord and greatly to be praised;
he is more to be feared than all gods.
5. As for all the gods of the nations, they are but idols;
but it is the Lord who made the heavens.
6. Oh, the majesty and magnificence of his presence!
Oh, the power and the splendor of his sanctuary!
7. Ascribe to the Lord, you families of the peoples;
ascribe to the Lord honor and power.
8. Ascribe to the Lord the honor due his Name;
bring offerings and come into his courts.
9. Worship the Lord in the beauty of holiness;
let the whole earth tremble before him.
10. Tell it out among the nations: "The Lord is King!
he has made the world so firm that it cannot be moved;
he will judge the peoples with equity."
11. Let the heavens rejoice, and let the earth be glad;
let the sea thunder and all that is in it;
let the field be joyful and all that is therein.

12. Then shall all the trees of the wood shout for joy
before the Lord when he comes,
when he comes to judge the earth.
13. He will judge the world with righteousness
and the peoples with his truth.

The Second Lesson

Titus 2:11-14

For the grace of God has appeared, bringing salvation to all, training us to renounce impiety and worldly passions, and in the present age to live lives that are self-controlled, upright, and godly, while we wait for the blessed hope and the manifestation of the glory of our great God and Savior, Jesus Christ. He it is who gave himself for us that he might redeem us from all iniquity and purify for himself a people of his own who are zealous for good deeds.

Lector The Word of the Lord.

People Thanks be to God!

Hymn

Hark! the herald angels sing

H 87

The Gospel Lesson

Luke 2:1-20

Please stand for the reading of the Gospel.

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

People Glory to you, Lord Christ.

In those days a decree went out from Emperor Augustus that all the world should be registered. This was the first registration and was taken while Quirinius was governor of Syria. All went to their own towns to be registered. Joseph also went from the town of Nazareth in Galilee to Judea, to the city of David called Bethlehem, because he was descended from the house and family of David. He went to be registered with Mary, to whom he was engaged and who was expecting a child. While they were there, the time came for her to deliver her child. And she gave birth to her firstborn son and wrapped him in bands of cloth, and laid him in a manger, because there was no place for them in the inn.

In that region there were shepherds living in the fields, keeping watch over their flock by night. Then an angel of the Lord stood before them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. But the angel said to them, "Do not be afraid; for see-- I am bringing you good news of great joy for all the people: to you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is the Messiah, the Lord. This will be a sign for you: you will find a child wrapped in bands of cloth and lying in a manger." And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host, praising God and saying,

"Glory to God in the highest heaven,
and on earth peace among those whom he favors!"

When the angels had left them and gone into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, "Let us go now to Bethlehem and see this thing that has taken place, which the Lord has made known to us." So they went with haste and found Mary and Joseph, and the child lying in the manger. When they saw this, they made known what had been told them about this child; and all who heard it were amazed at what the shepherds told them. But Mary treasured all these words and pondered them in her heart. The shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen, as it had been told them.

Celebrant The Gospel of the Lord.
People Praise to you, Lord Christ.

The Sermon

The Rev. Lou Hays

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, Form III

The intercessor greets the congregation with the following words and leads us in prayer. You may stand or kneel.

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 Matthew, our Bishop, for Lou our priest, for Paul as he prepares
to become our pastor, and for all bishops, priests, and deacons;
That they may be faithful ministers of your Word and Sacraments.

We pray 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.

Have compassion on those who suffer from any grief or trouble;
That they may be delivered from their distress.

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, Parkersburg.

In our Anglican Cycle of prayer, we pray for The Anglican Church of Melanesia.

We pray for all who are on our parish prayer list, and for any others that we might now name, either silently or aloud

Pause

We pray for all who have died, especially our loved ones who have gone before us, and for any others that we might now name, either silently or aloud

Pause

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.

Pause

Closing Collect

Almighty and eternal God, ruler of all things in heaven and earth: Mercifully accept the prayers of your people, and strengthen us to do your will; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

The Confession of Sin

The Deacon or Celebrant says

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.

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.



The Holy Eucharist

Offertory

Lo, how a Rose e'er blooming

Tim and Maggie Mainland

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.

Eucharistic Prayer "B"

The people remain standing

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. Because you gave Jesus Christ, your only Son, to be born for us; who, by the mighty power of the Holy Spirit, was made perfect Man of the flesh of the Virgin Mary his mother; so that we might be delivered from the bondage of sin, and receive power to become your children.

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

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of power and

The musical notation consists of two staves, a treble clef on the top and a bass clef on the bottom. The key signature has two flats (B-flat and E-flat). The melody is written in a simple, hymn-like style with quarter and eighth notes. The lyrics are placed below the notes.

might, Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord,

God of power and might, hea - ven and earth are

full, full of your glo - ry. Ho -

san - na in the high - est. Ho - san - na

in the high - est. Bless - ed is he who comes

The image shows a musical score for a hymn. It consists of two systems of music, each with a vocal line and a piano accompaniment line. The key signature is B-flat major (two flats). The first system of music has the lyrics "in the name of the Lord. Ho - san - na" written below the vocal line. The second system of music has the lyrics "in the high - est. Ho - san - na in the high - est." written below the vocal line. The piano accompaniment features chords and melodic lines that support the vocal melody.

Music: From *Deutsche Messe*, Franz Peter Schubert (1797-1828); arr. Richard Proulx (b. 1937). Copyright © 1985 GIA Publications, Inc.

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.

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 Breeding of the Bread

The Celebrant then breaks the Consecrated Bread

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, regardless of age or denomination, are invited and encouraged to receive the sacrament. With our return to the common cup, communion is distributed at the altar rail. Gluten free wafers are available by asking the priest. If you do not wish to receive the sacrament but would like to receive a blessing, please join us at the rail and cross your arms over your chest. Depart through the doors at either side of the rail, returning to your pew through the door into the back of the nave.

Music during Communion

Laurel Thompson, Harpist (11pm only)

Post Communion Hymn

Silent Night

At this time the lights of the church will be dimmed. Acolytes will come through the church to light the tappers of those sitting closest to the aisle. From those candles others sitting in the pew may pass the light, one to another. After the candles have been lit and the acolytes return to the Altar, you are invited to sit or kneel as you are able.

Si - lent night, ho - ly night, all is calm,
 Si - lent night, ho - ly night, shep - herds quake
 Si - lent night, ho - ly night, Son of God,

all is bright round yon vir - gin mo - ther and child.
 at the sight, glo - ries stream from hea - ven a - far,
 love's pure light ra - diant beams from thy ho - ly face,

Ho - ly in - fant, so ten - der and mild, sleep in hea - ven - ly
 heaven - ly hosts— sing al - le - lu - ia; Christ, the Sa - vior, is
 with the dawn of re - deem - ing grace, Je - sus, Lord, at thy

peace. Sleep in hea - ven - ly peace.
 born! Christ, the Sa - vior, is born!
 birth. Je - sus, Lord, at thy birth.

Words: Joseph Mohr (1792-1848); tr. John Freeman Young (1820-1885)
 Music: *Stille Nacht*, melody Franz Xaver Gruber (1787-1863); harm. Carl H. Reinecke (1824-1910)

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

May Almighty God, who sent his Son to take our nature upon him, bless you
in this holy season, scatter the darkness of sin, and brighten your heart with
the light of his holiness.

May God, who sent his angels to proclaim the glad news of the Savior's birth,
fill you with joy, and make you heralds of the Gospel. *Amen.*

May God, who in the Word made flesh joined heaven to earth and earth to
heaven, give you his peace and favor.

And the blessing of God Almighty, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit,
be upon you and remain with you for ever.

People Amen!

The Dismissal

Let us go forth in the name of Christ.

Thanks be to God!

Recessional Hymn

Joy to the world

H100

Postlude

Go tell it on the mountain

Tim and Maggie Mainland

Participants in Today's Liturgy

<u>Celebrant</u>	The Rev. Lou Hays
<u>Organist & Choirmaster</u>	Terry E. Whittington, Jr.
<u>Harpist (at 11pm only)</u>	Laurel Thompson
<u>Musicians</u>	Tim & Maggie Mainland
<u>Acolytes</u>	Becky Kersey
<u>Lectors</u>	Ted and Theodore Lewis (5pm) Don Williams (11pm)
<u>Altar Guild</u>	Betty Nash, Linda Thomas

The following are given today for the greater Glory of God:

Altar Flowers – by Barbara Sudduth in memory of Nancy Sudduth
Chrismon Tree – by Peter & Patty Richardson in memory of loved ones.
Advent Wreath – by Marc & Patricia Meachum in memory of loved ones
Door Wreathes – by Bill Davis in memory of Betsy Davis

The poinsettias that adorn our beautiful church this evening Have been given in memory or honor of the following:

Linda Ammar in memory of Loved Ones
Terry Whittington in memory of Terry & Thelma Kelly Whittington
Mollie Whittington in memory of William Gordon Whittington
David & Bobbi Kersey in memory of our parents
Jim & Susanne Pulse in memory of Loved Ones
John & Delia Kersey in memory of Barton Kersey
Brian & Lise Tracey in memory of our parents
The Rev. Lou Hays in memory of Carolyn and Marion Hays
Elizabeth Burton in memory of Fred & Mary Kathryn Burton
Don & Becky Kersey in memory of Loved Ones
Shirley Ofsa in memory of Loved Ones
Rob & Mimi Merritt in memory of Loved Ones
Becky Steorts in honor of Fr. Lou and Pastor Paul
Betty Nash & Charlie Blevins in honor of our grandchildren

Stan & Grey Kiser in memory of our parents
Peter and Patricia Taylor in memory of Dr. and Mrs. John Brookins Taylor
Norma Mahood-Bay in memory of Dr. John Mahood
Sheila Brooks in memory of Lillian Holt and Mack Lovelace
Teresa Paine in memory of Bea Paine
John & Becky Beckett in memory of Loved Ones
Jim & Chris Justice in memory of Loved Ones
The Broyles Family in honor of Loved Ones
Don & Mary Catherine Williams in memory of Loved Ones

Poinsettias may be collected by their sponsors from 12:30 to 1:30 on Monday, December 26th or by arrangement with Linda Ammar. Thank you.

Announcements:

Coffee Hour: Please help us continue this important ministry of hospitality by signing up on the white board in the hallway next to the library.

Food Pantry Collection: Our Food Pantry has a tradition of giving hats, scarves, gloves, socks, and blankets to help make winter a little warmer for our friends. A collection bin is in the narthex to begin accepting donations for these items. They can be homemade, purchased, or gently used.

Recycling Program: Christ Church will be starting a recycling program soon. We need volunteers to take the items to a recycling truck at Mitchell Stadium every Thursday from 1-4 pm. A sign-up sheet for volunteers will be in the narthex. Thanks for all who volunteer for this program.

Acolytes and Lectors needed: If you would like to participate in this valuable ministry, please contact Rob Merritt, 304-920-860; robmerritt202@gmail.com

DOK Project: The Daughters of the Kings will be working on a new project for The Wade Center. They are currently in need of sweatpants for children that will be used when they have had an accident. A plastic tub is in the narthex to collect the following items: Girls/Boys running pants/sweat pants in children's sizes M(8-10), L(12-14) and XL if you can find them. Thank you for

any contributions you can provide. Please contact Mary Catherine Williams if you have any questions.

Altar Guild Flower Donation List: We are in the process of updating our list of people who donate flowers on Sunday mornings, so if you want to continue giving flowers, you do not need to do anything. However, if you **(1)** have moved and wish to have your name removed from the list or **(2)** if you are new and would like to begin giving flowers, please send an email to:

Linda Ammar: lwammar1@gmail.com or Chris Justice: cjbasket@aol.com

Pledge Envelopes: Please pick up your pledge payment envelopes, which are located on the table in the narthex.

Annual Meeting: Our Annual Meeting will be held on January 21 following the 10am worship service.

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

