

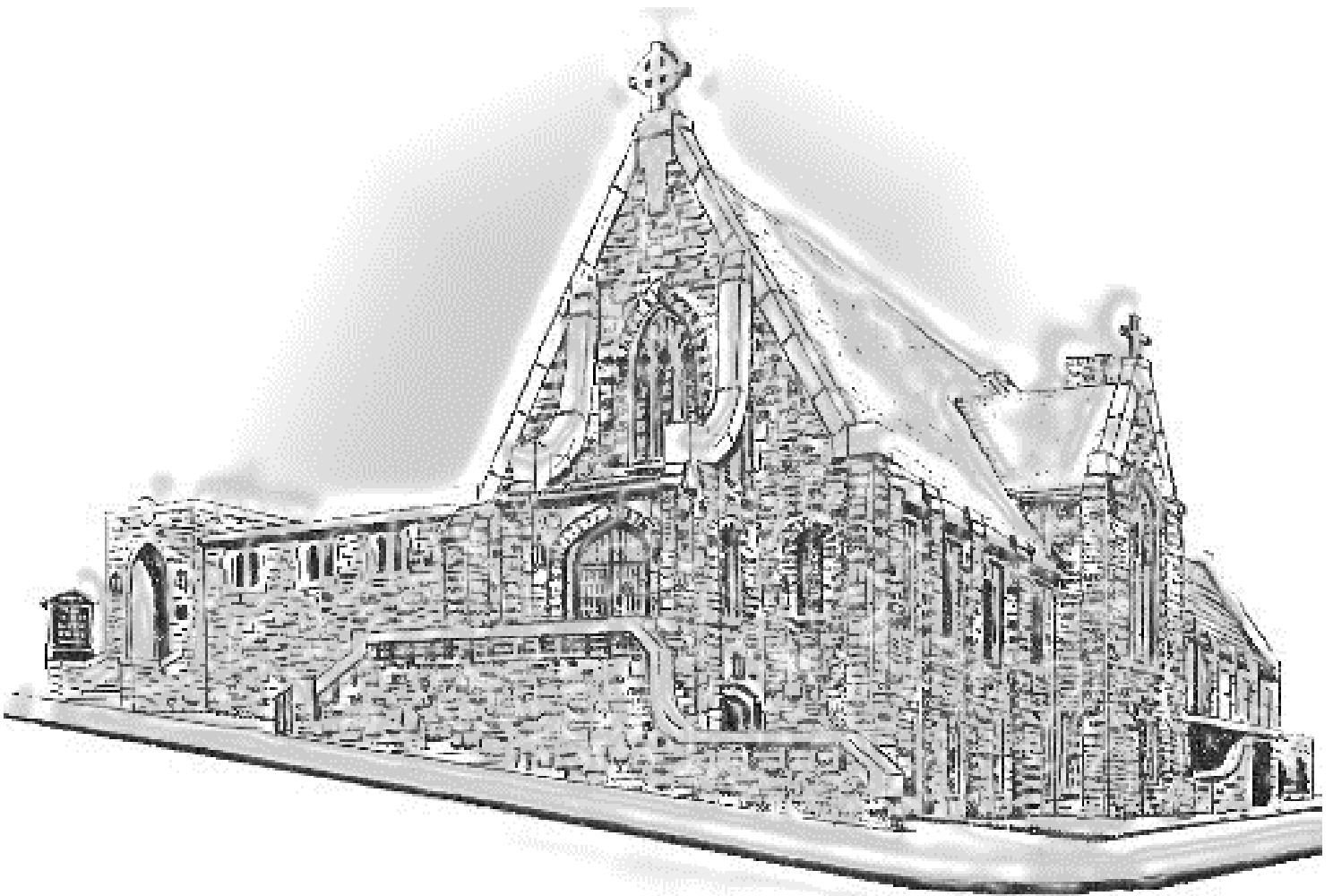


CHRIST EPISCOPAL CHURCH

BLUEFIELD, WEST VIRGINIA

The Eleventh Sunday After Pentecost

August 13, 2023



200 Duhring Street, Bluefield, WV 24701

(304) 327-6861

www.christchurchbluefield.org



Prelude

The Processional Hymn

Praise to the Lord, the Almighty

H 390

Welcome!

The people standing, the Celebrant says

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 people standing.

Hymn of Praise

O bless the Lord, my soul!

H 411

The Collect for the Day

Celebrant The Lord be with you.

People And also with you.

Celebrant Let us pray.

Grant to us, Lord, we pray, the spirit to think and do always those things that are right, that we, who cannot exist without you, may by you be enabled to live according to your will; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. *Amen.*

The people sit.

The First Lesson

Genesis 37:1-4, 12-28

Jacob settled in the land where his father had lived as an alien, the land of Canaan. This is the story of the family of Jacob. Joseph, being seventeen years old, was shepherding the flock with his brothers; he was a helper to the sons of Bilhah and Zilpah, his father's wives; and Joseph brought a bad report

of them to their father. Now Israel loved Joseph more than any other of his children, because he was the son of his old age; and he had made him a long robe with sleeves. But when his brothers saw that their father loved him more than all his brothers, they hated him, and could not speak peaceably to him.

Now his brothers went to pasture their father's flock near Shechem. And Israel said to Joseph, "Are not your brothers pasturing the flock at Shechem? Come, I will send you to them." He answered, "Here I am." So he said to him, "Go now, see if it is well with your brothers and with the flock; and bring word back to me." So he sent him from the valley of Hebron.

He came to Shechem, and a man found him wandering in the fields; the man asked him, "What are you seeking?" "I am seeking my brothers," he said; "tell me, please, where they are pasturing the flock." The man said, "They have gone away, for I heard them say, 'Let us go to Dothan.'" So Joseph went after his brothers, and found them at Dothan. They saw him from a distance, and before he came near to them, they conspired to kill him. They said to one another, "Here comes this dreamer. Come now, let us kill him and throw him into one of the pits; then we shall say that a wild animal has devoured him, and we shall see what will become of his dreams." But when Reuben heard it, he delivered him out of their hands, saying, "Let us not take his life." Reuben said to them, "Shed no blood; throw him into this pit here in the wilderness, but lay no hand on him" —that he might rescue him out of their hand and restore him to his father. So when Joseph came to his brothers, they stripped him of his robe, the long robe with sleeves that he wore; and they took him and threw him into a pit. The pit was empty; there was no water in it.

Then they sat down to eat; and looking up they saw a caravan of Ishmaelites coming from Gilead, with their camels carrying gum, balm, and resin, on their way to carry it down to Egypt. Then Judah said to his brothers, "What profit is it if we kill our brother and conceal his blood? Come, let us sell him to the Ishmaelites, and not lay our hands on him, for he is our brother, our own flesh." And his brothers agreed. When some Midianite traders passed by, they drew Joseph up, lifting him out of the pit, and sold him to the Ishmaelites for twenty pieces of silver. And they took Joseph to Egypt.

Lector The Word of the Lord.

People Thanks be to God!

The Psalm

Psalm 105:1-6, 16-22, 45b

Confitemini Domino

The Psalm will be read responsively by whole verse

1. Give thanks to the Lord and call upon his Name; make known his deeds among the peoples.
2. Sing to him, sing praises to him, and speak of all his marvelous works.
3. Glory in his holy Name; let the hearts of those who seek the Lord rejoice.
4. Search for the Lord and his strength; continually seek his face.
5. Remember the marvels he has done, his wonders and the judgments of his mouth,
6. O offspring of Abraham his servant, O children of Jacob his chosen.
16. Then he called for a famine in the land and destroyed the supply of bread.
17. He sent a man before them, Joseph, who was sold as a slave.
18. They bruised his feet in fetters; his neck they put in an iron collar.
19. Until his prediction came to pass, the word of the Lord tested him.
20. The king sent and released him; the ruler of the peoples set him free.
21. He set him as a master over his household, as a ruler over all his possessions,
22. To instruct his princes according to his will and to teach his elders wisdom.
45. Hallelujah!

The Second Lesson

Romans 10:5-15

Moses writes concerning the righteousness that comes from the law, that “the person who does these things will live by them.” But the righteousness that comes from faith says, “Do not say in your heart, ‘Who will ascend into heaven?’” (that is, to bring Christ down) “or ‘Who will descend into the abyss?’” (that is, to bring Christ up from the dead). But what does it say?

“The word is near you,
on your lips and in your heart”

(that is, the word of faith that we proclaim); because if you confess with your lips that Jesus is Lord and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved. For one believes with the heart and so is justified, and one confesses with the mouth and so is saved. The scripture says, “No one who believes in him will be put to shame.” For there is no distinction between

Jew and Greek; the same Lord is Lord of all and is generous to all who call on him. For, “Everyone who calls on the name of the Lord shall be saved.”

But how are they to call on one in whom they have not believed? And how are they to believe in one of whom they have never heard? And how are they to hear without someone to proclaim him? And how are they to proclaim him unless they are sent? As it is written, “How beautiful are the feet of those who bring good news!”

Lector The Word of the Lord.

People Thanks be to God!

The people standing.

Hymn

At the Name of Jesus

H 435

The Gospel Lesson

Matthew 14:22-33

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

People Glory to you, Lord Christ.

Jesus made the disciples get into the boat and go on ahead to the other side, while he dismissed the crowds. And after he had dismissed the crowds, he went up the mountain by himself to pray. When evening came, he was there alone, but by this time the boat, battered by the waves, was far from the land, for the wind was against them. And early in the morning he came walking toward them on the sea. But when the disciples saw him walking on the sea, they were terrified, saying, “It is a ghost!” And they cried out in fear. But immediately Jesus spoke to them and said, “Take heart, it is I; do not be afraid.”



Peter answered him, “Lord, if it is you, command me to come to you on the water.” He said, “Come.” So, Peter got out of the boat, started walking on the water, and came toward Jesus. But when he noticed the strong wind, he became frightened, and

beginning to sink, he cried out, “Lord, save me!” Jesus immediately reached out his hand and caught him, saying to him, “You of little faith, why did you doubt?” When they got into the boat, the wind ceased. And those in the boat worshiped him, saying, “Truly you are the Son of God.”

Celebrant The Gospel of the Lord.

People Praise to you, Lord Christ.

The Sermon

The Rev. Paul Barker

The Nicene Creed

BCP 358

All stand as they are able and say together:

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

BCP 387

The people 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 Michael, our presiding Bishop, Matthew, our Bishop, for Paul
our Priest, 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 Addiction Centers and Recovery

Programs.

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

The Celebrant concludes the prayers

O Lord our God, accept the fervent prayers of your people; in the multitude of your mercies, look with compassion upon us and all who turn to you for help; for you are gracious, O lover of souls, and to you we give glory, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, now and for ever. *Amen.*

The Confession of Sin

BCP 360

The celebrant says

Let us confess our sins against God and our neighbor

Silence may be kept

The Celebrant and people say:

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 Celebrant 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.

The people may greet one another with a sign of God's love.

Announcements

The Holy Eucharist

Offertory *God, my King, they might confessing* **H 414**

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

Praise God, from whom all blessing flow;
Praise Him, all creatures here below;
Praise Him above, ye heavenly host:
Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost.

Eucharistic Prayer B

BCP 367

The people remain standing.

The Celebrant, whether bishop or priest, faces them and sings or says

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.

Then, facing the Holy Table, the Celebrant proceeds

It is right, and a good and joyful thing, always and everywhere to give thanks to you, Father Almighty, Creator of heaven and earth; for you are the source of light and life, you made us in your image, and called us to new life in Jesus Christ our Lord.

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

The Hymnal 1982, Service Music, #130

The musical score is written for voice and piano. It consists of four systems of music. Each system has a vocal line (treble clef) and a piano accompaniment (bass clef). The key signature has two flats (B-flat and E-flat), and the time signature is 4/4. The lyrics are: "Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of power and 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 -". The piano accompaniment features chords and some melodic lines, with some notes tied across measures. The vocal line is primarily composed of quarter and eighth notes, with some rests.

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

The people stand or kneel.

Then the Celebrant continues

We give thanks to you, O God, for the goodness and love which you have made known to us in creation; in the calling of Israel to be your people; in your Word spoken through the prophets; and above all in the Word made flesh, Jesus, your Son. For in these last days you sent him to be incarnate from the Virgin Mary, to be the Savior and Redeemer of the world. In him, you have delivered us from evil, and made us worthy

to stand before you. In him, you have brought us out of error into truth, out of sin into righteousness, out of death into life.

On the night before he died for us, 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, according to his command, O Father,

Celebrant and People

We remember his death,
We proclaim his resurrection,
We await his coming in glory;

The Celebrant continues

And we offer our sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving to you, O Lord of all; presenting to you, from your creation, this bread and this wine.

We pray you, gracious God, to send your Holy Spirit upon these gifts that they may be the Sacrament of the Body of Christ and his Blood of the new Covenant. Unite us to your Son in his sacrifice, that we may be acceptable through him, being sanctified by the Holy Spirit. In the fullness of time, put all things in subjection under your Christ, and bring us to that heavenly country where, with all your saints, we may enter the everlasting heritage of your sons and daughters; through Jesus Christ our Lord, the firstborn of all creation, the head of the Church, and the author of our salvation.

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 Breaking of the Bread

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

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 Distribution of the Holy Sacrament

All baptized Christians, regardless of age or denomination, are invited and encouraged to receive the sacrament. Communion is distributed at the altar rail. 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 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 by the reader's lectern.

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:

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.

Communion Hymn

Commit thou all that grieves thee

H 669

Our Prayer after Communion

BCP 365

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 Dismissal

Let us go forth in the name of Christ.

People Thanks be to God.

Postlude

Following our service will be Coffee Hour, hosted today by Shirley Ofsa. This is a time for us to have fellowship, share our joys, learn ways we can pray for each other, and get to know one another better. It is very much an extension of the communal feast we share in the Holy Eucharist. Please join us!

Please Keep the Following in Your Prayers: Delia Kersey and family, Dorene Dimes, Bonnie Taylor, Joe Sanders, Bob and Peggy Walk, Martha Linkous, Buck Sowers, Donna Fortune, Ed and Gladys Fortune, Ivy and the Gaines Family, Debbie Hatfield, Mary Lou, Brian, Don Harris, Lane, Sherry, Scot, Max, Brad, Sandi, Joan, Mike Boosier, Pam Spracher, Barry Dinger, Joel Hammond, Martin and Ethan, Jim, Joan Gray, Rosemary, and Eddie Hughes.

The Altar Flowers are given today for the greater Glory of God
by Paul and Rebecca Broyles.

Attendance Last Sunday:

42

Participants in Today's Liturgy

Celebrant

The Rev. Paul Barker

Organist & Choirmaster

Terry E. Whittington, Jr.

Acolyte

Becky Beckett

Lector

David Kersey

Altar Guild

Elizabeth Clement and Betty Nash

Calendar of Events

Tuesday – August 15

DOK meeting 10:30am

Wednesday – August 16

Vestry Meeting 7:00pm

Thursday – August 17

Food Pantry 9:00-11:00am

Community Picnic 5:00-6:30pm

Tuesday – August 22

Parish Life Committee meeting 5:00pm

Sunday – August 27

Annual Church Picnic in Bluefield City Park 10:30am

Announcements:

The Community Picnic: will be held on Thursday, August 17, from 5:00-6:30pm in the parking lot below the church. The First Presbyterian and Immanuel Church will be helping Christ Church with this project. A sign-up sheet for helpers is in the narthex. Please sign up.

Parish Life Committee: will meet August 22 at 5:00pm in Hobson Library to discuss upcoming events this fall and winter.

Church Picnic: Our Annual Church Picnic will be held on Sunday, August 27 in Bluefield City Park - Shelter One at 10:30. Fried chicken, tea, lemonade, and ice will be furnished by David's Downtown. Paper products, plastic utensils and cups will be provided by the Church. Bottled water will be available. Bring your favorite dish and enjoy the day. Any help would be appreciated setting up and cleaning up that day.

Coffee Hour: A Coffee Hour host will be needed for **September 10, 17, and 24**. Sign up on the white board located outside the library. Contact Mary Catherine Williams (276-326-2411) or mkw@dlwco.com if you have any questions. Thank you for helping Christ Church in this important ministry.

Clergy, Staff, and Wardens of this Parish

The Rev. Paul Barker

Priest

Mr. Terry E. Whittington, Jr.

Organist & Choirmaster

Ms. Emma Bennett

Parish Administrator

Mrs. Vanessa Hall

Sexton

Mrs. Becky Beckett

Senior Warden

Mr. Peter Richardson

Junior Warden