



Christ Episcopal Church

200 Duhring Street, Bluefield, WV 24701

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www.christchurchbluefield.org



September 6, 2020

Fourteenth Sunday After Pentecost

Being Proper 18 of the Church Year

A Service of Holy Eucharist and the Ending of a Pastoral
Relationship and Resumption of Ministry



Welcome to this Place of Prayer

This bulletin contains our liturgy today. If you are new or visiting this congregation for the first time we invite you to fill out a Visitor's Card (from the usher) 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.

Opening Sentences

Please stand

The Celebrant says

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

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

The Celebrant then says

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.

Kyrie Eleison

Lord, have mercy.

Christ, have mercy.

Lord, have mercy.

The Celebrant says to the people

The Lord be with you.

People And also with you.

Celebrant Let us pray.

The Collect

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 Congregation may then be seated.

The First Lesson

Exodus 12:1-14

The Lord said to Moses and Aaron in the land of Egypt: This month shall mark for you the beginning of months; it shall be the first month of the year for you. Tell the whole congregation of Israel that on the tenth of this month they are to take a lamb for each family, a lamb for each household. If a household is too small for a whole lamb, it shall join its closest neighbor in obtaining one; the lamb shall be divided in proportion to the number of people who eat of it.

Your lamb shall be without blemish, a year-old male; you may take it from the sheep or from the goats. You shall keep it until the fourteenth day of this month; then the whole assembled congregation of Israel shall slaughter it at twilight. They shall take some of the blood and put it on the two doorposts and the lintel of the houses in which they eat it. They shall eat the lamb that same night; they shall eat it roasted over the fire with unleavened bread and bitter herbs. Do not eat any of it raw or boiled in water, but roasted over the fire, with its head, legs, and inner organs. You shall let none of it remain until the morning; anything that remains until the morning you shall burn.

This is how you shall eat it: your loins girded, your sandals on your feet, and your staff in your hand; and you shall eat it hurriedly. It is the passover of the Lord. For I will pass through the land of Egypt that night, and I will strike down every firstborn in the land of Egypt, both human beings and animals; on all the gods of Egypt I will execute judgments: I am the Lord. The blood shall be a sign for you on the houses where you live: when I see the blood, I will pass over you, and no plague shall destroy you when I strike the land of Egypt.

This day shall be a day of remembrance for you. You shall celebrate it as a festival to the Lord; throughout your generations you shall observe it as a perpetual ordinance.

The word of the Lord.

People Thanks be to God.

The Psalm

Psalm 149

Cantate Domino

- 1 Hallelujah! Sing to the Lord a new song; sing his praise in the congregation of the faithful.
- 2 Let Israel rejoice in his Maker; let the children of Zion be joyful in their King.
- 3 Let them praise his Name in the dance; let them sing praise to him with timbrel and harp.
- 4 For the Lord takes pleasure in his people and adorns the poor with victory.
- 5 Let the faithful rejoice in triumph; let them be joyful on their beds.
- 6 Let the praises of God be in their throat and a two-edged sword in their hand;
- 7 To wreak vengeance on the nations and punishment on the peoples;
- 8 To bind their kings in chains and their nobles with links of iron;
- 9 To inflict on them the judgment decreed; this is glory for all his faithful people. Hallelujah!

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 13:8-14

Owe no one anything, except to love one another; for the one who loves another has fulfilled the law. The commandments, “You shall not commit adultery; You shall not murder; You shall not steal; You shall not covet”; and any other commandment, are summed up in this word, “Love your neighbor as yourself.” Love does no wrong to a neighbor; therefore, love is the fulfilling of the law.

Besides this, you know what time it is, how it is now the moment for you to wake from sleep. For salvation is nearer to us now than when we became believers; the night is far gone, the day is near. Let us then lay aside the works of darkness and put on the armor of light; let us live honorably as in the day, not in reveling and drunkenness, not in debauchery and licentiousness, not in quarreling and jealousy. Instead, put on the Lord Jesus Christ, and make no provision for the flesh, to gratify its desires.

The word of the Lord.

People Thanks be to God.

Gospel Lesson

Matthew 18:15-20

Then, all standing, the Deacon or a Priest reads the Gospel, first saying

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

People Glory to you, Lord Christ.

Jesus said, “If another member of the church sins against you, go and point out the fault when the two of you are alone. If the member listens to you, you have regained that one. But if you are not listened to, take one or two others along with you, so that every word may be confirmed by the evidence of two or three witnesses. If the member refuses to listen to them, tell it to the church; and if the offender refuses to listen even to the church, let such a one be to you as a Gentile and a tax collector. Truly I tell you, whatever you bind on earth will be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth will be loosed in heaven. Again, truly I tell you, if two of you agree on earth about anything you ask, it will be done for you by my Father in heaven. For where two or three are gathered in my name, I am there among them.”

The Gospel of the Lord.

People Praise to you, Lord Christ.

The Nicene Creed

Written about 325 AD, this is the ancient statement of our faith. Please stand.

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 IV)

Let us pray for the Church and for the world.

Grant, Almighty God, that all who confess your Name may be united in your truth, live together in your love, and reveal your glory in the world. We pray for: Justin, Archbishop of Canterbury, Michael, our Presiding Bishop, for Mike, our Bishop, for Fr. Chad, our Priest. Father, we pray for the congregation of Trinity in Parkersburg, with the Rev. Paul Hicks, and in Our Companion Diocese of Colombia The Rev. Javier Aldana of Mision rural El Rosal de Santa Marta. We pray also for those engaged in mission and ministry here at Christ Church, especially, the Outreach Committee, Don Kersey, chairman, the Food Pantry, and all ministries of our parish.

Lord, in your mercy

Hear our prayer.

Guide the people of this land, especially Donald, our President, Jim and Ralph, our governors, and Ron & Don, our mayors, and all the nations, in the ways of justice and peace; that we may honor one another and serve the common good.

Lord, in your mercy

Hear our prayer.

Give us all a reverence for the earth as your own creation, that we may use its resources rightly in the service of others and to your honor and glory.

Lord, in your mercy

Hear our prayer.

Bless all whose lives are closely linked with ours, especially those celebrating birthdays this week: Kelly Meachum McConnico, Mark Van Dyke, Terry Whittington, Bill Wimmer, Joe Graham, Dart Cox, Bobbi Kersey, and grant that we may serve Christ in them and love one another as he loves us.

Lord, in your mercy
Hear our prayer.

Comfort and heal all those who suffer in body, mind, or spirit; especially those listed in our bulletin and all those we remember now either silently or aloud.

And all those whose need for healing is known to You alone. Give them courage and hope in their troubles and bring them the joy of your salvation.

Lord, in your mercy
Hear our prayer.

We commend to your mercy all who have died. We pray that we may share with all your saints in your eternal kingdom.

Lord, in your mercy
Hear our prayer.

The Celebrant says

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.*

A Prayer For New Bishop Search

Officiant and People

Almighty God, you have created each person with many and varied gifts and joined our lives together as members of the Diocese of West Virginia. Look graciously upon us as we search for our 8th Bishop, that we may receive a faithful pastor, who will care for your people and equip us for our ministries. Give us minds to discern your will, courage to follow where you lead, and hearts to love as you command, to the glory of your Son, our Savior Jesus Christ. Amen.

Confession & Absolution

We confess our sins and are reassured of our pardon

The Celebrant says

Let us confess our sins against God and our neighbor.

Celebrant 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.

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 Ending of a Pastoral Relationship and Resumption of Ministry

The Pastoral Intern addresses the congregation with these words:

On the 30th day of May, 2020, I was inducted by you as Pastoral Intern of Christ Church, Bluefield. I have, with God's help and to the best of my abilities, exercised this trust, accepting its privileges and responsibilities. Now my time as your Pastoral Intern has come to a close my tenure ends this day.

The Celebrant says

Do you, the people of Christ Church, recognize and accept the conclusion of this pastoral relationship?

People We do.

The Pastoral Intern and the congregation then say together the following prayer

O God, you have bound us together for a time as Pastor and people to work for the advancement of your kingdom in this place: We give you humble and hearty thanks for the ministry which we have shared in these months now past. We thank you for your patience with us despite our blindness and slowness of heart. We thank you for your forgiveness and mercy in the face of our many failures.

Especially we thank you for your never-failing presence with us through these years, and for the deeper knowledge of you and of each other which we have attained.

We thank you for those who have been joined to this part of Christ's family through baptism. We thank you for opening our hearts and minds again and again to your Word, and for feeding us abundantly with the Sacrament of the Body and Blood of your Son.

Now, we pray, be with those who leave and with us who stay; and grant that all of us, by drawing ever nearer to you, may always be close to each other in the communion of your saints. All this we ask for the sake of Jesus Christ, your Son, our Lord. *Amen.*

The Celebrant then turns to the Rector

You have spent the last three months in a period of rest, renewal, and study for the greater glory of God and for the building up of the Kingdom of God here in Bluefield. Today you return to your flock to love and serve them as faithful witnesses of Christ, our Lord.

Rector

I give thanks to God and to the people of Christ Church for the opportunity and look forward in faith to the work we will continue to do together.

The Celebrant then says

Do you, the people of Christ Church, welcome back your rector from his sabbatical period?

People

We do. Confess the faith of Christ crucified, proclaim his resurrection, and share with us in his eternal priesthood.

The Peace

We share the joy of the Good News!

All stand. The Celebrant says to the people

The peace of the Lord be always with you.

People And also with you.

Then the Ministers and People may greet one another in the name of the Lord by waving their hands.

No physical touching at this time, please.

Announcements

Information for the good of the parish is shared at this time.

Individuals may share personal news at this time as well in order to foster fellowship.



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

Offertory

Eucharistic Prayer

The people remain standing. The Celebrant faces them and sings or says

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.

Here a Proper Preface is sung or said on all Sundays, and on other occasions as appointed.

Therefore, we praise you, joining our voices with Angels and Archangels and with all the company of heaven, who for ever say this hymn to proclaim the glory of your Name:

Celebrant and People

Holy, Holy, Holy Lord, God of power and might,
heaven and earth are full of your glory.

Hosanna in the highest.

Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.

Hosanna in the highest.

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.

All this we ask through your Son Jesus Christ: 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 breaks the consecrated Bread.

A period of silence is kept.

Then may be said

Officiant Alleluia. Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us;

People Therefore let us keep the feast. Alleluia.

Facing the people, the Celebrant says the following Invitation

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.

A Prayer for Spiritual Communion

This prayer is for all those who, for various reasons, are unable to partake of the Holy Eucharist but otherwise earnestly desire to do so.

Celebrant

The receipt of the bread and wine, which is the body and the blood of our Lord Jesus Christ, in the sacrament of the Holy Eucharist, is an outward and visible sign of an inward and spiritual grace. In as much as you would like to partake of this holy food, the spiritual grace provided by the same is supplied to you.

Assisting Minister

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

Almighty God, we thank you for feeding us with the holy food of the Body and Blood of your Son, and for uniting us through him in the fellowship of your Holy Spirit. We thank you for raising up among us faithful servants of your Word and Sacraments. We thank you especially for the return of Chad, our rector, and the work of Paul, our Pastoral Intern, among us. Grant that both they and we may serve you in the days ahead, and always rejoice in your glory, and come at length into your heavenly kingdom; through Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

The Blessing

The Celebrant offers a blessing over the people.

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.

Participants in Today's Liturgy

Acolyte

TBA

Lector

TBA

Altar Guild

Mimi Merritt

Teresa Paine

Linda Ammar

Last Sunday's Attendance

15

Birthdays This Week: Kelly Meachum McConnico, Mark Van Dyke, Terry Whittington, Bill Wimmer, Joe Graham, Dart Cox, Bobbi Kersey

Please Keep the Following in Your Prayers: Dorene Dimes, Bonnie Taylor, Joe Sanders, Lee Puckett, Sr., Mabeline & Elton Robinson, Bea Paine, Lynn Burney, Marilyn Denney, Donna Fortune, Bob and Peggy Walk, Susan Jewell, John Kersey, Martha Linkous, Sarah Irwin, Janet Slager, Kelly Cox, Mike McLeod, Maxine Stevenson, Dean Farmer, Bob Moore, Haddon Lazenby, Jack Burchette, Nick, JL, Cis Barrett, the Riddle Family, Kathy, Patsy Arnold, Randy Snider, Lane, Loraine, Sherry, Margarete Joplin, Scott Rust, Emily Broome and her son Randy, David, the Vinson Family

Calendar of Events

Wednesday - September 9	Union Mission 3:30pm
Sunday – September 13	Bagging for Food Pantry after Church
Wednesday – September 16	Vestry Meeting 7:00pm
Thursday – September 17	Food Pantry 9:00am – 11:00am
Wednesday - September 23	Union Mission 3:30pm

Announcements:

UTO Fall Ingathering: The United Thank Offering is a personal and family devotional program of The Episcopal Church. It is a practice in our life in Christ that begins with daily prayers and gifts of thanksgiving. These gifts of thanksgiving are combined with others at parish and diocesan celebrations and finally within all of The Episcopal Church. The Offerings totaling nearly \$3 million each year are given away in the form of grants. These grants continue to support and strengthen the mission and ministry of the Church throughout the world. Every penny of the Offerings is allocated each year for grants. Our Fall Ingathering of the United Thank Offering will take place every Sunday in September. Place your offering in the plate marked “UTO”.

Meals: Anyone interested in taking a meal to Don and Mary Catherine Williams while she is recovering from surgery, please call Patty Richardson at: 304-952-8502.

Online Bible Study: Join us on Wednesday’s at 10:30 am for Bible study via Zoom. A link to the Zoom meeting is included in each week’s email. A link

to a tutorial on how to use Zoom, if you are new to it, is available in the email as well. For more information please see Fr. Chad.

Masks: We are still accepting masks to give to church members who would like to attend services but do not have one. If you would like to contribute, please see Pastor Paul.

Bishop Search Survey: A link to an online survey from the Bishop Search Committee will be posted on social media and by our weekly email. Please take the time to complete this survey and help the Search Committee in its important task. If you prefer, a paper survey can be supplied to you. Please see Fr. Chad or Susanne Pulse, a member of the Bishop Search Committee, for more information. Thank you!

Family Eucharists: Fr. Chad is offering the opportunity for anyone who, for any reason, is unable to come to worship on Sunday mornings during the pandemic to arrange a time to receive Holy Eucharist in a private setting at the Church. This may be for individuals or families. Please see Fr. Chad for more information or to recommend he contact an individual about this opportunity.



Clergy, Staff, and Wardens of this Parish

the Rev. Chad Slater

Mr. Paul Barker

the Rev. Russ Hatfield

Mr. Terry E. Whittington, Jr.

Ms. Emma Bennett

Mrs. Vanessa Hall

Mrs. Becky Beckett

Mr. Tom Coughlan

Rector

Pastor

Guest Celebrant

Organist & Choirmaster

Parish Administrator

Sexton

Senior Warden

Junior Warden