



# Christ Episcopal Church

200 Duhring Street, Bluefield, WV 24701

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[www.christchurchbluefield.org](http://www.christchurchbluefield.org)



## September 27, 2020

### Seventeenth Sunday After Pentecost

*Being Proper 21 of the Church Year*

### A Service of Holy Eucharist



### 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

O God, you declare your almighty power chiefly in showing mercy and pity: Grant us the fullness of your grace, that we, running to obtain your promises, may become partakers of your heavenly treasure; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. *Amen.*

*The Congregation may then be seated.*

## The First Lesson

*Exodus 17:1-7*

From the wilderness of Sin the whole congregation of the Israelites journeyed by stages, as the Lord commanded. They camped at Rephidim, but there was no water for the people to drink. The people quarreled with Moses, and said, "Give us water to drink." Moses said to them, "Why do you quarrel with me? Why do you test the Lord?" But the people thirsted there for water; and the people complained against Moses and said, "Why did you bring us out of Egypt, to kill us and our children and livestock with thirst?"

So, Moses cried out to the Lord, "What shall I do with this people? They are almost ready to stone me." The Lord said to Moses, "Go on ahead of the people, and take some of the elders of Israel with you; take in your hand the staff with which you struck the Nile, and go. I will be standing there in front of you on the rock at Horeb. Strike the rock, and water will come out of it, so that the people may drink." Moses did so, in the sight of the elders of Israel.

He called the place Massah and Meribah, because the Israelites quarreled and tested the Lord, saying, “Is the Lord among us or not?”

The word of the Lord.

*People* Thanks be to God.

### The Psalm

Psalm 78:1-4, 12-16

*Attendite, popule*

- 1 Hear my teaching, O my people; incline your ears to the words of my mouth.
- 2 I will open my mouth in a parable; I will declare the mysteries of ancient times.
- 3 That which we have heard and known, and what our forefathers have told us, we will not hide from their children.
- 4 We will recount to generations to come the praiseworthy deeds and the power of the Lord, and the wonderful works he has done.
- 12 He worked marvels in the sight of their forefathers, in the land of Egypt, in the field of Zoan.
- 13 He split open the sea and let them pass through; he made the waters stand up like walls.
- 14 He led them with a cloud by day, and all the night through with a glow of fire.
- 15 He split the hard rocks in the wilderness and gave them drink as from the great deep.
- 16 He brought streams out of the cliff, and the waters gushed out like rivers.

*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

*Philippians 2:1-13*

If then there is any encouragement in Christ, any consolation from love, any sharing in the Spirit, any compassion and sympathy, make my joy complete: be of the same mind, having the same love, being in full accord and of one mind. Do nothing from selfish ambition or conceit, but in humility regard others as better than yourselves. Let each of you look not to your own interests, but to the interests of others. Let the same mind be in you that was



in Christ Jesus, who, though he was in the form of God, did not regard equality with God as something to be exploited, but emptied himself, taking the form of a slave, being born in human likeness.

And being found in human form, he humbled himself and became obedient to the point of death--even death on a cross. Therefore God also highly exalted him and gave him the name that is above every name, so that at the name of Jesus every knee should bend, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, and every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.

Therefore, my beloved, just as you have always obeyed me, not only in my presence, but much more now in my absence, work out your own salvation with fear and trembling; for it is God who is at work in you, enabling you both to will and to work for his good pleasure.

The word of the Lord.

*People* Thanks be to God.

### Gospel Lesson

*Matthew 21:23-32*

*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.

When Jesus entered the temple, the chief priests and the elders of the people came to him as he was teaching, and said, “By what authority are you doing these things, and who gave you this authority?” Jesus said to them, “I will also ask you one question; if you tell me the answer, then I will also tell you by what authority I do these things. Did the baptism of John come from heaven, or was it of human origin?” And they argued with one another, “If we say, ‘From heaven,’ he will say to us, ‘Why then did you not believe him?’ But if we say, ‘Of human origin,’ we are afraid of the crowd; for all regard John as a prophet.” So they answered Jesus, “We do not know.” And he said to them, “Neither will I tell you by what authority I am doing these things.

“What do you think? A man had two sons; he went to the first and said, ‘Son, go and work in the vineyard today.’ He answered, ‘I will not’; but later he changed his mind and went. The father went to the second and said the same; and he answered, ‘I go, sir’; but he did not go. Which of the two did the will of his father?” They said, “The first.” Jesus said to them, “Truly I tell you, the tax collectors and the prostitutes are going into the kingdom of God ahead of you. For John came to you in the way of righteousness and you did not believe him, but the tax collectors and the prostitutes believed him; and even after you saw it, you did not change your minds and believe him.

The Gospel of the Lord.

*People* Praise to you, Lord Christ.

The Sermon

the Rev. Chad Slater

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.

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### 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 St. John's of Harper's Ferry, with the Rev. John Unger, and in Our Companion Diocese of Colombia The Rev. Ernesto Boss of Parroquia San Lucas. We pray also for those engaged in mission and ministry here at Christ Church, especially, **the Building and Grounds Committee, Tom Coughlan, our Junior Warden, and Vanessa Hall, our sexton.**

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: Mimi Merritt, Trey Snidow, Michael Parks, Sheila Brooks, 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, especially **the parents and grandparents of Dr. Sheila Brooks**. 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 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.

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*

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 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!*

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The Altar Flowers are given today by  
Sheila Brooks in loving memory of her parents and grandparents.

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## Last Sunday's Attendance

21

## **Participants in Today's Liturgy**

Altar Guild

Mimi Merritt

Teresa Paine

Linda Ammar

**Birthdays This Week:** Mimi Merritt, Trey Snidow, Michael Parks, Sheila Brooks

**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, Joe Graham's family, Cady

## **Calendar of Events**

Wednesdays in September

Online Bible Study (Zoom) 10:30am

Wednesday, September 30

Congregational Meeting on  
the Bishop Search 7:00 pm

Sunday – October 4

Pet Blessing/Joint Worship 11:00am

Sunday – October 11

Bagging Groceries after Church

Congregational Meeting on the Bishop Search after Church

Wednesday – October 14

Union Mission 3:30pm

Thursday – October 15

Food Pantry 9:00am – 11:00am

Wednesday – October 21

Vestry Meeting 7:00pm

Wednesday – October 28

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 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”.

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 Fr. Chad.

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!

Bishop Search Congregational Meetings: The Search Committee is reaching out to congregations to host conversations about our experience, desires, and expectations for our diocese and our new bishop. Please plan on attending one of these sessions to give your feedback on some important questions to help with the Search Committee’s work. For more information about these meetings, or the search process, please see Fr. Chad or Susanne Pulse (a member of the Diocesan Search Committee). 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.

Pet Blessing/Joint Worship: We will hold a joint Pet Blessing/Joint Worship service in the parking lot on Sunday, October 4, 2020 at 11:00am.



**Clergy, Staff, and Wardens of this Parish**

the Rev. Chad Slater  
Mr. Terry E. Whittington, Jr.  
Ms. Emma Bennett  
Mrs. Vanessa Hall  
Mrs. Becky Beckett  
Mr. Tom Coughlan

Rector  
Organist & Choirmaster  
Parish Administrator  
Sexton  
Senior Warden  
Junior Warden