

Christ Episcopal Church

Sparta, NC

*A Home to All
Sharing God's Unconditional Love*



The Fifth Sunday After the Epiphany

February 4, 2018

The Rt. Rev José McLoughlin
Bishop of Western North Carolina

The Rev. Stephanie E. Parker
Rector

Welcome to Christ Episcopal Church

We are delighted God has brought you to this special place. Our tradition is to invite newcomers to introduce themselves during the announcements, if they would like. Following the service, the ushers have guest cards which we hope you will fill out, so we can personally welcome you to the church community. Everyone is invited for refreshments and fellowship in the parish hall afterwards.

What do you need to know about worship? Everything you need for your worship today is in the booklet you are holding. Our service is based on the Book of Common Prayer, using music from sources including the Hymnal 1982 and Taizé.

Are you worshipping with us for the first time? We would love to get to know you! Please fill out one of the pew cards tucked into the pew in front of you. Let us know if we can call you, answer questions, or pray for you. And know that wherever you are on your journey of faith, there is a place for you at Christ Church.

Home communion visits: Do you know someone who isn't able to get to church, but would like a home communion visit? Please call the church office at 336.372.7983 to arrange a visit.

Please wear a name tag. No permanent one? Please use the temporary adhesive name tags found in the church entryway. We're happy to make you a new nametag, a replacement, or simply a spare. For permanent name tags, sign up on the clipboard in the entryway.

Newsletter: Sign up today to receive our electronic newsletter, the weekly Good News & Notes. Email the church office at ccepiscopal@skybest.com.

Sermons Available Recent sermons available at www.christchurchallegghany.com.

Adult Formation at Christ Church includes an Adult Forum series Sunday morning at 9:15 am in the fellowship hall downstairs.

We extend special thanks today to:

Jo Ellen Carson, for serving as musician and for being so generous with her talents, and

Cynthia Grant, for providing refreshments for our fellowship gathering after the service.

The Gathering

Prelude

All stand, as able.

Processional Hymn #371

Thou, whose almighty word

Opening Acclamation

All remain standing, as able.

Presider Blessed be God; Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

People And blessed be God's Kingdom now and forever, Amen.

Collect for Purity (prayed by all)

BCP 355

Presider Let us pray.

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.

Gloria: S280 (*sung by all*)

*Glory to God in the highest,
and peace to God's people on earth.*

*Lord God, heavenly King,
almighty God and Father,
we worship you, we give you thanks,
we praise you for your glory.*

*Lord Jesus Christ, only Son of the Father,
Lord God, Lamb of God,
you take away the sin of the world:
have mercy on us;
you are seated at the right hand of the Father:
receive our prayer.*

*For you alone are the Holy One,
you alone are the Lord,
you alone are the Most High,
Jesus Christ,
with the Holy Spirit,
in the glory of God the Father. Amen.*

Remain standing, as able.

The Collect of the Day

Presider The Lord be with you.

People And also with you.

Presider Let us pray.

Set us free, O God, from the bondage of our sins, and give us the liberty of that abundant life which you have made known to us in your Son our Savior Jesus Christ; who lives and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

All are seated.

The First Lesson

Isaiah 40: 21-31

Have you not known? Have you not heard? Has it not been told you from the beginning? Have you not understood from the foundations of the earth? It is he who sits above the circle of the earth, and its inhabitants are like grasshoppers; who stretches out the heavens like a curtain, and spreads them like a tent to live in; who brings princes to naught, and makes the rulers of the earth as nothing. Scarcely are they planted, scarcely sown, scarcely has their stem taken root in the earth, when he blows upon them, and they wither, and the tempest carries them off like stubble. To whom then will you compare me, or who is my equal? says the Holy One. Lift up your eyes on high and see: Who created these? He who brings out their host and numbers them, calling them all by name; because he is great in strength, mighty in power, not one is missing. Why do you say, O Jacob, and speak, O Israel, "My way is hidden from the Lord, and my right is disregarded by my God"? Have you not known? Have you not heard? The Lord is the everlasting God, the Creator of the ends of the earth. He does not faint or grow weary; his understanding is unsearchable. He gives power to the faint, and strengthens the powerless. Even youths will faint and be weary, and the young will fall exhausted; but those who wait for the Lord shall renew their strength, they shall mount up with wings like eagles, they shall run and not be weary, they shall walk and not faint.

Leader The Word of the Lord.

People Thanks be to God.

The Response

Psalm 147: 1-12, 21c

Hallelujah!

How good it is to sing praises to our God! *
how pleasant it is to honor him with praise!

The Lord rebuilds Jerusalem; *
he gathers the exiles of Israel.

He heals the brokenhearted *
and binds up their wounds.

He counts the number of the stars *
and calls them all by their names.

Great is our Lord and mighty in power; *
there is no limit to his wisdom.

The Lord lifts up the lowly, *
but casts the wicked to the ground.

Sing to the Lord with thanksgiving; *
make music to our God upon the harp.

He covers the heavens with clouds *
and prepares rain for the earth;

He makes grass to grow upon the mountains *
and green plants to serve mankind.

He provides food for flocks and herds *
and for the young ravens when they cry.

He is not impressed by the might of a horse; *
he has no pleasure in the strength of a man;

But the Lord has pleasure in those who fear him, *
in those who await his gracious favor.

Hallelujah!

The Second Lesson

1 Corinthians 9: 16-23

If I proclaim the gospel, this gives me no ground for boasting, for an obligation is laid on me, and woe to me if I do not proclaim the gospel! For if I do this of my own will, I have a reward; but if not of my own will, I am entrusted with a commission. What then is my reward? Just this: that in my proclamation I may make the gospel free of charge, so as not to make full use of my rights in the gospel.

For though I am free with respect to all, I have made myself a slave to all, so that I might win more of them. To the Jews I became as a Jew, in order to win Jews. To those under the law I became as one under the law (though I myself am not under the law) so that I might win those under the law. To those outside the law I became as one outside the law (though I am not free from God's law but am under Christ's law) so that I might win those outside the law. To the weak I became weak, so that I might win the weak. I have become all things to all people, that I might by all means save some. I do it all for the sake of the gospel, so that I may share in its blessings.

Leader The Word of the Lord.

People **Thanks be to God.**

Please stand as able

Gospel Hymn #488

Be thou my vision

Reader The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ, according to Mark.
People **Glory to you, Lord Christ.**

Mark 1: 29-39

After Jesus and his disciples left the synagogue, they entered the house of Simon and Andrew, with James and John. Now Simon's mother-in-law was in bed with a fever, and they told him about her at once. He came and took her by the hand and lifted her up. Then the fever left her, and she began to serve them.

That evening, at sundown, they brought to him all who were sick or possessed with demons. And the whole city was gathered around the door. And he cured many who were sick with various diseases, and cast out many demons; and he would not permit the demons to speak, because they knew him. In the morning, while it was still very dark, he got up and went out to a deserted place, and there he prayed. And Simon and his companions hunted for him. When they found him, they said to him, "Everyone is searching for you." He answered, "Let us go on to the neighboring towns, so that I may proclaim the message there also; for that is what I came out to do." And he went throughout Galilee, proclaiming the message in their synagogues and casting out demons.

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

Sermon

The Rev. Stephanie E. Parker

A time of silence is kept following the sermon.

Please stand, as able
The Nicene Creed

1. I be - lieve in God al - might - y, Au - thor of all things that
2. I be - lieve that Je - sus suf - fered, scourged and scorned and cru - ci -
3. I be - lieve in God's own Spir - it, bond - ing all the saints with-

be, Mak - er of the earth and heav - ens, Keep - er of the sky and
fied; tak - en from the cross, was bur - ied— True Life there had tru - ly
in One church, cath - o - lic and ho - ly, where for - give - ness frees from

sea. I be - lieve in God's Son, Je - sus, now for
died. I be - lieve that on the third day Christ was
sin; in the bod - y's res - ur - rec - tion, for the

us both Lord and Christ, of the Spir - it and of
raised up from the grave, then as - cend - ed to God
break - ing of death's chain gives the life that's ev - er -

Mar - y born to bring a - bun - dant life.
right hand. He will come to judge and save.
last - ing. This the faith that I have claimed.

Prayers of the People

Stand or kneel, as able.

Let us rejoice in the Mystery of the Incarnation,
In the Humanity of God,
In the Wonder of the Word made Flesh.

O Prince of Peace

Your kingdom come

Let us rejoice that God is with us,
A hidden silent presence,
Transforming to gold the leaden rock of earth.

O Emmanuel

Your kingdom come

Let us rejoice that the best name of God is Love,
A Love that draws us like a magnet,
That nothing can defeat, neither evil nor pain nor death.

O Great "I Am"

Your kingdom come

Let us rejoice in God revealed to us as a baby,
Whose weakness is stronger than our brittle pride,
Whose light shines clearer than our willful blindness.

O Word made flesh

Your kingdom come

Let us rejoice that God has given us one another,
That we might learn to bear the beams of love.

O Wonderful counselor

Your kingdom come

Let us pray that we may have courage to change our lives so as to be,
As nations and as individuals,
That the hungry may be fed, the poor achieve dignity,
The oppressed go free, and the stranger be welcomed.

O living Christ

Your kingdom come

Let us pray for those in authority among us,
That they may work for justice and the common good.

O King of Peace
Your kingdom come

Let us pray for the peacemakers of the world,
And all who through their vision and struggle
Seek to make us citizens of one earth.

O Son of Man
Your kingdom come

Let us remember the lonely and anxious among us,
The elderly, the homeless, and the starving,
The foolish and the despairing,
The sick at heart and those in pain,
The dying and those who mourn,
And those whose hearts are hardened against the love of God.

O Lord of love
Your kingdom come

We pray for our sick in heart, body, or soul, especially...

O God of healing
Your kingdom come

We pray for those who have died and those who grieve, especially...

O Lord of Resurrection
Your kingdom come

We share our joy and thanksgivings, especially....

O Lord of the Dance
Your kingdom come

Presider: Beloved Companion and Guide upon the Way, eternal Spirit within us and beyond us:
Let us honor your name in lives of costly giving love; let us show that we and all whom
we meet deserve dignity and respect, for they are your dwelling place and your home.

People **O Lover of souls,
Your kingdom come.**

Presider Let us confess our sins against God and our neighbor.

God of all mercy,
we confess that we have sinned against you,
opposing your will in our lives.
We have denied your goodness in each other,
in ourselves, and in the world you have created.
We repent of the evil that enslaves us,
the evil we have done,
and the evil done on our behalf.
Forgive, restore, and strengthen us
through our Savior Jesus Christ,
that we may abide in your love
and serve only your will. Amen.

Presider 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

Presider The peace of Christ be always with you.

People And also with you.

Please greet one another in a way that is comfortable as a sign of our participation in Christ's reconciling work in the world.

Offertory

Jo Ellen Carson

Doxology

*Praise God from whom all blessings flow;
praise God, all creatures here below;
Praise him above, ye heav'nly host;
praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost.*

The Great Thanksgiving

BCP 367

Prayer B

Presider The Lord be with you.

People **And also with you.**

Presider Lift up your hearts.

People **We lift them to the Lord.**

Presider Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

People **It is right to give God thanks and praise.**

Because in the mystery of the Word made flesh, you have caused a new light to shine in our hearts, to give the knowledge of your glory in the face of your Son 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:

Sanctus: 129 (*sung by all*)

*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.

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 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.

Stand or kneel as able at Prayer of Consecration

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,

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

Presider 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 pray,

The Lord's Prayer

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.

Fraction Anthem: S154 (*sung by all*)

*Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.
Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us;
therefore let us keep the feast.
Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.*

The Invitation to Communion

Presider: The gifts of God for the People of God; God's holy food, for God's holy people.

*All who seek God and are drawn to Christ are welcome at the Lord's Table.
If you are gluten allergic, please ask for a rice wafer at the distribution.*

Communion Music (*sung by all*)

Jo Ellen Carson

I want to walk as a child of the light

Hymn #490

Surely the Presence of the Lord

*Surely the presence of the Lord is in this place,
I can feel His mighty power and His grace,
I can hear the brush of angels' wings,
I see glory on each face.
Surely the presence of the Lord is in this place.*

Post Communion Prayer

BCP 365

Presider Let us pray

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

Presider May Christ, the Son of God, be manifest in you, that your lives may be a light to the world; and the blessing of God Almighty, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, be among you, and remain with you always. **Amen.**

Stand, as able

Recessional Hymn #594

God of grace and God of glory

The Dismissal

Presider Go in peace to love and serve the Lord. Alleluia, alleluia.

People Thanks be to God, Alleluia, alleluia.

Postlude

Coming Lessons

2 Kings 2: 1-12

Psalm 50: 1-6

2 Corinthians 4: 3-6

Mark 9: 2-9

Prayer List

Intercessions: Ben, Ed & Jean, Julie O.

Departed:

Birthdays: Phil Donaldson (Feb 8)

Wedding Anniversaries:

The Following People are Assisting with the Services

Role	Today	February 11
Altar Guild	Louise Law	Louise Law
Chalicer I	Jann Boggs	Chance Wyatt
Chalicer II	Chance Wyatt	Frances Buckle
Crucifer	Frances Buckle	Jeanne Green
Lector I	Louise Law	Frank Hazard
Lector II	Chance Wyatt	Louise Law
Prayers of the People	Frances Buckle	Ann Hazard
Oblations Bearers	Joe & Judy Ritchie	Jann Boggs & Rita Woodruff
Greeters/Ushers	Shelley & Geoff Jones	Willie & Eleanor Plummer
Book Bearer	Chance Wyatt	Frances Buckle
Sanctus Bell	Frances Buckle	Jeanne Green

Announcements

Sunday, February 4 – Fifth Sunday after the Epiphany

9:15am – Adult Forum

10:30am – Holy Eucharist

Tuesday, February 6 – Thursday, February 8

Vestry Retreat in Valle Crucis

Wednesday, February 7 – NO morning service

Sunday, February 11 – Last Sunday after the Epiphany

9:15am – Adult Forum

10:30am – Holy Eucharist

Tuesday, February 13

1:00pm – Finance Committee Meeting

6:00pm – Shrove Tuesday Pancake Feast

Wednesday, February 14 – Ash Wednesday

12:00pm – Ash Wednesday service

Sunday, February 18 – First Sunday of Lent

9:15am – Adult Forum

10:30am – Holy Eucharist

Adult Forum: Confirmation, Reception & Reaffirmation classes begin next Sunday!

Beginning February 11th, we will explore more of the Episcopal tradition in preparation for the Rites of Confirmation, Reception and Reaffirmation as we prepare to welcome Bishop José's on Sunday, March 18th. This will be a wonderful event for our community and an excellent way to share fellowship! Classes will use the Adult Forum hour of 9:15-10:15. There will also be 2-3 activities that happen outside the Forum Hour. It will be a fun and informative experience even for those who will not be participating in any of the Rites.

All those interested in being confirmed, received or reaffirmed during Bishop José's visit on March 18th, need to contact Stephanie no later than February 8th.

We need your help!

Please sign-up to provide refreshments for our Coffee Fellowship and flowers for the sanctuary on the specific Sundays you're available to help this year. The sign-up sheets are on the Information table.

Women's Fellowship

Friends in Faith usually meets on Wednesdays at 11:00, but will be taking a break until after Easter. Watch the Good News & Notes for an update on our next meeting.

You may reach Rev. Stephanie at: revsteph@skybest.com

For any building or property issues please contact: Phil Donaldson or Willie Plummer with your concern.

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*Prayers adapted from **Darkness Yielding** by: Jim Cotter, Martyn Percy, Sylvia Sands, W.H. Vanstone & Rowan Williams and Collect adapted from **Praying with Christ**, based on Louis Evely's meditative book **Our Father**.*

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