

# Christ Episcopal Church

Sparta, NC

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



## Last Sunday After the Epiphany

February 11, 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](mailto:ccepiscopal@skybest.com).

**Sermons Available** Recent sermons available at [www.christchurchallegghany.com](http://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 #304

*I come with joy to meet my Lord*

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.

O God, who before the passion of your only-begotten Son revealed his glory upon the holy mountain: Grant to us that we, beholding by faith the light of his countenance, may be strengthened to bear our cross, and be changed into his likeness from glory to glory; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. **Amen.**

*All are seated.*

The First Lesson

### **2 Kings 2: 1-12**

When the Lord was about to take Elijah up to heaven by a whirlwind, Elijah and Elisha were on their way from Gilgal. Elijah said to Elisha, "Stay here; for the Lord has sent me as far as Bethel." But Elisha said, "As the Lord lives, and as you yourself live, I will not leave you." So they went down to Bethel. The company of prophets who were in Bethel came out to Elisha, and said to him, "Do you know that today the Lord will take your master away from you?" And he said, "Yes, I know; keep silent."

Elijah said to him, "Elisha, stay here; for the Lord has sent me to Jericho." But he said, "As the Lord lives, and as you yourself live, I will not leave you." So they came to Jericho. The company of prophets who were at Jericho drew near to Elisha, and said to him, "Do you know that today the Lord will take your master away from you?" And he answered, "Yes, I know; be silent."

Then Elijah said to him, "Stay here; for the Lord has sent me to the Jordan." But he said, "As the Lord lives, and as you yourself live, I will not leave you." So the two of them went on. Fifty men of the company of prophets also went, and stood at some distance from them, as they both were standing by the Jordan. Then Elijah took his mantle and rolled it up, and struck the water; the water was parted to the one side and to the other, until the two of them crossed on dry ground.

When they had crossed, Elijah said to Elisha, "Tell me what I may do for you, before I am taken from you." Elisha said, "Please let me inherit a double share of your spirit." He responded, "You have asked a hard thing; yet, if you see me as I am being taken from you, it will be granted you; if not, it will not." As they continued walking and talking, a chariot of fire and horses of fire separated the two of them, and Elijah ascended in a whirlwind into heaven. Elisha kept watching and crying out, "Father, father! The chariots of Israel and its horsemen!" But when he could no longer see him, he grasped his own clothes and tore them in two pieces.

Leader           The Word of the Lord.

**People           Thanks be to God.**

The Response

**Psalm 50: 1-6**

The Lord, the God of gods, has spoken; \*  
he has called the earth from the rising of the sun to its setting.

Out of Zion, perfect in its beauty, \*  
God reveals himself in glory.

Our God will come and will not keep silence; \*  
before him there is a consuming flame,  
and round about him a raging storm.

He calls the heavens and the earth from above \*  
to witness the judgment of his people.

"Gather before me my loyal followers, \*  
those who have made a covenant with me  
and sealed it with sacrifice."

6 Let the heavens declare the rightness of his cause; \*  
for God himself is judge.

The Second Lesson

**2 Corinthians 4: 3-6**

Even if our gospel is veiled, it is veiled to those who are perishing. In their case the god of this world has blinded the minds of the unbelievers, to keep them from seeing the light of the gospel of the glory of Christ, who is the image of God. For we do not proclaim ourselves; we proclaim Jesus Christ as Lord and ourselves as your slaves for Jesus' sake. For it is the God who said, "Let light shine out of darkness," who has shone in our hearts to give the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ.

Leader            The Word of the Lord.

People            **Thanks be to God.**

*Please stand as able*

**Gospel Hymn #657**

*Love divine, all loves exelling*

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

**Mark 9: 2-9**

Jesus took with him Peter and James and John, and led them up a high mountain apart, by themselves. And he was transfigured before them, and his clothes became dazzling white, such as no one on earth could bleach them. And there appeared to them Elijah with Moses, who were talking with Jesus. Then Peter said to Jesus, "Rabbi, it is good for us to be here; let us make three dwellings, one for you, one for Moses, and one for Elijah." He did not know what to say, for they were terrified. Then a cloud overshadowed them, and from the cloud there came a voice, "This is my Son, the Beloved; listen to him!" Suddenly when they looked around, they saw no one with them any more, but only Jesus.

As they were coming down the mountain, he ordered them to tell no one about what they had seen, until after the Son of Man had risen from the dead.

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

*Take my life, and let it be*

Hymn #707

*Day by day, dear Lord*

Hymn #654

*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

All the praise and thanks to you, most merciful God, for adopting us as your own children, for incorporating us into your holy Church, and for making us worthy to share in the inheritance of the saints in the light. May the blessing of God Almighty, Father, Son and Holy Spirit be among you and remain with you always. **Amen.**

*Stand, as able*

Recessional Hymn #493

*O for a thousand tongues to sing*

## The Dismissal

Presider

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

People

Thanks be to God, Alleluia, alleluia.

Postlude

## Coming Lessons

Genesis 9: 8-17

Psalm 25: 1-9

1 Peter 3: 18-22

Mark 1: 9-15

## Prayer List

**Intercessions:** Ben, Ed & Jean, Julie O., Leia B.

**Departed:**

**Birthdays:**

**Wedding Anniversaries:**

## The Following People are Assisting with the Services

Role	Today	February 14 – Ash Wednesday
Altar Guild	Louise Law	Louise Law
Chalicerist I	Chance Wyatt	Jann Boggs
Chalicerist II	Frances Buckle	
Crucifer	Jeanne Green	Bruce Smith
Lector I	Frank Hazard	Barbara Halsey
Lector II	Louise Law	Jim Halsey
Prayers of the People	Ann Hazard	Jann Boggs
Oblations Bearers	Jann Boggs & Rita Woodruff	Louise Law & Eleanor Plummer
Greeters/Ushers	Willie & Eleanor Plummer	Barbara & Jim Halsey
Book Bearer	Frances Buckle	
Sanctus Bell	Jeanne Green	Bruce Smith

Role	Next Sunday
Altar Guild	Louise Law
Chalicerist I	Jeanne Green
Chalicerist II	Gary Medley
Crucifer	Sheila Pfaender
Lector I	Sheila Pfaender
Lector II	Allan Joyce
Prayers of the People	Phil Donaldson
Oblations Bearers	Phil & Deb Donaldson
Greeters/Ushers	Frank & Ann Hazard
Book Bearer	Gary Medley
Sanctus Bell	Sheila Pfaender

# Announcements

## **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 Supper

## **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 Hour: Confirmation, Reception & Reaffirmation classes begin today!**

In Adult Forum Hour, we will explore and study the Rites of Confirmation, Reception and Reaffirmation in preparation for Bishop José's visit. This will be a wonderful event for our community and an excellent way to share fellowship! Classes will use the Adult Forum hour of 9:15-10:15am. 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.

## **Ladies' Lunch Out coming up on Tuesday, February 20<sup>th</sup>!**

The February Ladies' Lunch Out is scheduled for Tuesday, February 20<sup>th</sup> at noon at The Mustard Seed Café. Your host is Eleanor Plummer and the sign-up sheet is on the Information table. If you have any questions, please contact Eleanor at 336.372.7214.

## **We continue to 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](mailto:revsteph@skybest.com)

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

## Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper coming up this Tuesday, February 13<sup>th</sup>!

Please join us for food, fellowship and fun! We'll be gathering on **Tuesday, February 13<sup>th</sup> at 6:00pm**. The community is invited to attend. There is no charge for the meal but donations will be accepted for The Emergency Fuel Relief Fund sponsored by the Alleghany Ministerium.





**Ash Wednesday**  
**Holy Eucharist with Imposition of Ashes**  
*February 14, 2018 – 12:00 Noon*

Christ Episcopal Church  
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Rector cell: (336)363-4141  
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Website: [christchurchallegghany.org](http://christchurchallegghany.org)  
Office hours: Monday - Friday, 8:30am - 1:30pm

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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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