

# Christ Episcopal Church

Sparta, NC

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



## **Ash Wednesday**

### **Holy Eucharist with Imposition of Ashes**

*February 14, 2018 – 12:00 Noon*

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 mornings at 9:15 am in the fellowship hall downstairs.

**We extend special thanks today to the following people:**

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

# The Gathering

*The ministers enter in silence.*

*All stand as able.*

## Collect of the Day

Presider            The Lord be with you.

People             **And also with you.**

Presider            Let us pray.

Almighty and everlasting God, you hate nothing you have made and forgive the sins of all who are penitent. Create and make in us new and contrite hearts, that we, worthily lamenting our sins and acknowledging our desolation, may obtain of you, the God of all mercy, perfect remission and forgiveness; 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.*

## Liturgy of the Word

### First Reading

Isaiah 58:1-12

Shout out, do not hold back!  
Lift up your voice like a trumpet!  
Announce to my people their rebellion,  
to the house of Jacob their sins.  
Yet day after day they seek me  
and delight to know my ways,  
as if they were a nation that practiced righteousness  
and did not forsake the ordinance of their God;  
they ask of me righteous judgments,  
they delight to draw near to God.  
"Why do we fast, but you do not see?  
Why humble ourselves, but you do not notice?"  
Look, you serve your own interest on your fast day,  
and oppress all your workers.  
Look, you fast only to quarrel and to fight  
and to strike with a wicked fist.  
Such fasting as you do today  
will not make your voice heard on high.  
Is such the fast that I choose,  
a day to humble oneself?

Is it to bow down the head like a bulrush,  
and to lie in sackcloth and ashes?  
Will you call this a fast,  
a day acceptable to the LORD?

Is not this the fast that I choose:  
to loose the bonds of injustice,  
to undo the thongs of the yoke,  
to let the oppressed go free,  
and to break every yoke?

Is it not to share your bread with the hungry,  
and bring the homeless poor into your house;  
when you see the naked, to cover them,  
and not to hide yourself from your own kin?  
Then your light shall break forth like the dawn,  
and your healing shall spring up quickly;  
your vindicator shall go before you,  
the glory of the LORD shall be your rear guard.  
Then you shall call, and the LORD will answer;  
you shall cry for help, and he will say, Here I am.

If you remove the yoke from among you,  
the pointing of the finger, the speaking of evil,  
if you offer your food to the hungry  
and satisfy the needs of the afflicted,  
then your light shall rise in the darkness  
and your gloom be like the noonday.

The LORD will guide you continually,  
and satisfy your needs in parched places,  
and make your bones strong;  
and you shall be like a watered garden,  
like a spring of water,  
whose waters never fail.

Your ancient ruins shall be rebuilt;  
you shall raise up the foundations of many generations;  
you shall be called the repairer of the breach,  
the restorer of streets to live in.

Reader  
People

The Word of the Lord.  
**Thanks be to God.**

## The Response

### Psalm 103: 8-14

The LORD is full of compassion and mercy, \*  
slow to anger and of great kindness.  
He will not always accuse us, \*  
nor will he keep his anger for ever.  
He has not dealt with us according to our sins, \*  
nor rewarded us according to our wickedness.  
For as the heavens are high above the earth, \*  
so is his mercy great upon those who fear him.  
As far as the east is from the west, \*  
so far has he removed our sins from us.  
As a father cares for his children, \*  
so does the LORD care for those who fear him.  
For he himself knows whereof we are made; \*  
he remembers that we are but dust.

## The Second Lesson

### 2 Corinthians 5:20b-6:10

We entreat you on behalf of Christ, be reconciled to God. For our sake he made him to be sin who knew no sin, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God.

As we work together with him, we urge you also not to accept the grace of God in vain. For he says,

"At an acceptable time I have listened to you,  
and on a day of salvation I have helped you."

See, now is the acceptable time; see, now is the day of salvation! We are putting no obstacle in anyone's way, so that no fault may be found with our ministry, but as servants of God we have commended ourselves in every way: through great endurance, in afflictions, hardships, calamities, beatings, imprisonments, riots, labors, sleepless nights, hunger; by purity, knowledge, patience, kindness, holiness of spirit, genuine love, truthful speech, and the power of God; with the weapons of righteousness for the right hand and for the left; in honor and dishonor, in ill repute and good repute. We are treated as impostors, and yet are true; as unknown, and yet are well known; as dying, and see- we are alive; as punished, and yet not killed; as sorrowful, yet always rejoicing; as poor, yet making many rich; as having nothing, and yet possessing everything.

Reader            The Word of the Lord.  
People            Thanks be to God.

*Please stand as able.*

**Gospel Hymn #676**

*There is a Balm in Gilead*

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

**The Gospel**

**Matthew 6:1-6, 16-21**

Jesus said, "Beware of practicing your piety before others in order to be seen by them; for then you have no reward from your Father in heaven.

"So whenever you give alms, do not sound a trumpet before you, as the hypocrites do in the synagogues and in the streets, so that they may be praised by others. Truly I tell you, they have received their reward. But when you give alms, do not let your left hand know what your right hand is doing, so that your alms may be done in secret; and your Father who sees in secret will reward you.

"And whenever you pray, do not be like the hypocrites; for they love to stand and pray in the synagogues and at the street corners, so that they may be seen by others. Truly I tell you, they have received their reward. But whenever you pray, go into your room and shut the door and pray to your Father who is in secret; and your Father who sees in secret will reward you.

"And whenever you fast, do not look dismal, like the hypocrites, for they disfigure their faces so as to show others that they are fasting. Truly I tell you, they have received their reward. But when you fast, put oil on your head and wash your face, so that your fasting may be seen not by others but by your Father who is in secret; and your Father who sees in secret will reward you.

"Do not store up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust consume and where thieves break in and steal; but store up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust consumes and where thieves do not break in and steal. For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also."

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

*All are seated.*

**The Sermon**

The Rev. Stephanie E. Parker

*A time of reflective silence following the sermon.*

## Imposition of Ashes

*All stand, as able*

Dear People of God:

The first Christians observed with great devotion the days of our Lord's passion and resurrection, and it became the custom of the Church to prepare for them by a season of penitence and fasting. This season of Lent provided a time in which converts to the faith were prepared for Holy Baptism. It was also a time for deep and fearless reflection on the ways in which we wander far from God's hope for the human family. The practice of repentance, reconciliation and forgiveness restored the faithful to joyful participation in the Church. Thereby, the whole congregation was put in mind of the message of pardon and absolution set forth in the Gospel of our Savior, and of the need, which all Christians continually have, to renew their repentance and faith.

I invite you, therefore, in the name of the Church, to the observance of a holy Lent, by self-examination and repentance; by prayer, fasting, and self-reflection; and by reading and meditation on God's holy Word. And, to make a right beginning of repentance, and as a mark of our mortal nature, let us now kneel before the Lord, our maker and redeemer.

*Silence is kept for a time, all kneeling.*

Presider            Almighty God, you have created us out of the dust of the earth: Grant that these ashes may be to us a sign of our mortality and penitence, that we may remember that it is only by your gracious gift that we are given everlasting life; through Jesus Christ our Savior.

People             **Amen.**

*The ashes are imposed with the following words:*

“Remember that you are dust, and to dust you shall return.”

*Together, kneeling as able:*

**Psalm 51**

Have mercy on me, O God, according to your loving-kindness;  
in your great compassion blot out my transgressions.

Wash me through and through from my wickedness  
and cleanse me from my sin.

For I know my transgressions  
and my sin is ever before me.

Against you only have I sinned  
and done what is evil in your sight.

And so you are justified when you speak  
and upright in your judgment

Indeed, I have been wicked from my birth,  
a sinner from my mother's womb.

For behold, you look for truth deep within me,  
and will make me understand wisdom secretly.

Purge me from my sin, and I shall be pure;  
wash me, and I shall be clean indeed.

Make me hear of joy and gladness,  
that the body you have broken may rejoice.

Hide your face from my sins  
and blot out all my iniquities.

Create in me a clean heart, O God,  
and renew a right spirit within me.

Case me not away from your presence  
and take not your holy Spirit from me.

Give me the joy of your saving help again  
and sustain me with your bountiful Spirit.

I shall teach your ways to the wicked,  
and sinners shall return to you.

Deliver me from death, O God,  
and my tongue shall sing of your righteousness,  
O God of my salvation.

Open my lips, O Lord,  
and my mouth shall proclaim your praise.

Had you desired it, I would have offered sacrifice;  
but you take no delight in burnt-offerings.

The sacrifice of God is a troubled spirit;  
a broken and contrite heart, O God, you will not despise.

## Litany of Penitence

*Together, all kneeling, as able.*

**Most holy and merciful Father:**

**We confess to you and to one another,  
and to thee whole communion of saints  
in heaven and on earth,  
that we have sinned by our own fault  
in thought, word, and deed;  
by what we have done, and by what we have left undone.**

Presider We have not loved you with our whole heart, and mind, and strength. We have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. We have not forgiven others, as we have been forgiven.

**People Have mercy on us, Lord.**

Presider We have been deaf to your call to serve, as Christ served us.

We have not been true to the mind of Christ. We have grieved your Holy Spirit.

**People Have mercy on us, Lord.**

Presider We confess to you, Lord, all our past unfaithfulness:  
the pride, hypocrisy, and impatience of your lives,

**People We confess to you, Lord.**

Presider Our self-indulgent appetites and ways,  
and our exploitation of other people,

**People We confess to you, Lord.**

Presider Our anger at our own frustration  
and our envy of those more fortunate than ourselves,

**People We confess to you, Lord.**

Presider Our intemperate love of worldly goods and comforts,  
and our dishonesty in daily life and work,

**People We confess to you, Lord.**

Presider Our negligence in prayer and worship,  
and our failure to command the faith that is in us,

**People We confess to you, Lord.**

Presider Accept our repentance, Lord, for the wrongs we have done:  
for our blindness to human need and suffering,  
and our indifference to injustice and cruelty,

**People Accept our repentance, Lord.**

Presider For all false judgments, for uncharitable thoughts toward our neighbors,  
 and for our prejudice and contempt toward those who differ from us,  
 People **Accept our repentance, Lord.**

Presider For our waste and pollution of your creation,  
 and for our lack of concern for those who come after us,  
 People **Accept our repentance, Lord.**

Presider Restore us, good Lord, and break our hearts open so we can receive your grace,  
 People **Favorably hear us, for your mercy is great.**

Presider Accomplish in us the work of your salvation,  
 People **That we may show forth your glory in the world.**

Presider By the cross and passion of your Son our Lord,  
 People **Bring us with all your saints to the joy of his resurrection.**

Presider Almighty God, the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who desires not the death of  
 sinners, but rather that they may turn from their brokenness and live, has given power  
 and commandment to his ministers to declare and pronounce to his people, being  
 penitent, the absolution and remission of their sins. He pardons and absolves all  
 those who truly repent, and with sincere hearts believe his holy Gospel.  
 Therefore, we beseech him to grant us true repentance and his Holy Spirit, that those  
 things may please him which we do on this day, and that the rest of our life hereafter  
 may be lived in the true fullness of your Abundant life which is your eternal joy now  
 and forever; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **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

#### 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.*

## Holy Communion

*Standing, as able.*

*Eucharistic Prayer 1, Enriching our Worship, pg. 57*

Presider The Lord be with you.

All **And also with you.**

Lift up your hearts.

**We lift them to the Lord.**

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

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

It is truly right, and good and joyful,

To give you thanks, all holy God,

Source of life and fountain of mercy.

Presider You bid your faithful people cleanse their hearts, and prepare with you for the Paschal feast; that, fervent in prayer and in works of mercy, and renewed by your Word and Sacraments, they may come to the fullness of grace which you have prepared for those who love you.

Therefore, joining with Angels and Archangels and with the faithful of every generation, we lift our voices with all creation as we say:

**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.**

Blessed are you, gracious God,  
creator of the universe and giver of life.  
You formed us in your own image  
and called us to dwell in your infinite love.  
You gave the world into our care  
That we might be your faithful stewards  
and show forth your bountiful grace.

But we failed to honor your image  
in one another and in ourselves;  
we would not see your goodness in the world around us;  
and so we violated your creation,  
abused one another,  
And rejected your love.  
Yet you never ceased to care for us,  
and prepared the way of salvation for all people.

Through Abraham and Sarah  
you called us into covenant with you.  
You delivered us from slavery,  
sustained us in the wilderness,  
and raised up prophets  
to renew your promise of salvation.  
Then, in the fullness of time,  
you sent your eternal Word,  
made mortal flesh in Jesus.  
Born into the human family,  
and dwelling among us,  
he revealed your glory.  
Giving himself freely to death on the cross,  
he triumphed over evil,  
opening the way of freedom and life.

On the night before he died for us,  
Our Savior Jesus Christ took bread,  
And when he had given thanks to you,  
He broke it, and gave it to his friends, and said:  
“Take, eat:  
This is my Body which is given for you.  
Do this for the remembrance of me.”

As supper was ending, Jesus 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 poured out for you and for all  
for the forgiveness of sins.  
Whenever you drink it,  
do this for the remembrance of me:

Therefore we proclaim the mystery of faith:

**Christ has died.**

**Christ is risen.**

**Christ will come again.**

Remembering his death and resurrection,  
we now present to you from your creation  
this bread and this wine.

By your Holy Spirit may they be for us  
the Body and Blood of our Savior Jesus Christ.

Grant that we who share these gifts  
may be filled with the Holy Spirit  
and live as Christ's body in the world.

Bring us into the everlasting heritage  
of your daughters and sons,  
that with all your saints,  
past, present, and yet to come,  
we may praise your Name for ever.

Through Christ, and with Christ and in Christ,  
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,  
to you be honor, glory, and praise,  
for ever and ever. **AMEN**

And now, as our Savior Christ has taught us, we are bold to say,

**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**

Presider        Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us;  
People         Therefore let us keep the feast.

## The Invitation to Communion

Presider            The gifts of God for the People of God.

*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

Jo Ellen Carson

O Lord, hear my prayer

Taizé 20

*Stand or kneel, as able.*

## Post Communion Prayer

BCP 366

Presider            Let us pray.

People            Almighty and ever living God, we thank you for feeding us with the spiritual food of the most precious Body and Blood of your Son our Savior Jesus Christ; and for assuring us in these holy mysteries that we are living members of the Body of your Son, and heirs of your eternal kingdom. And now, Father, send us out to do the work you have given us to do, to love and serve you as faithful witnesses of Christ our Lord. To him, to you, and to the Holy Spirit, be honor and glory, now and for ever. Amen.

Presider            Open your hearts and minds before God

Grant, most merciful Lord, to your faithful people pardon and peace, that they may be made whole from all of their brokenness, and love you with a quiet mind; through Christ our Lord. Amen.

*Stand, as able*

## Recessional Hymn #149

*Eternal Lord of love*

## The Dismissal

Presider            Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.

People            **Thanks be to God!**

## 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	Ash Wednesday	February 18
Altar Guild	Louise Law	Louise Law
Chalicer I	Jann Boggs	Jeanne Green
Chalicer II		Gary Medley
Crucifer	Bruce Smith	Sheila Pfaender
Lector I	Barbara Halsey	Sheila Pfaender
Lector II	Jim Halsey	Allan Joyce
Prayers of the People	Jann Boggs	Phil Donaldson
Oblations Bearers	Louise Law & Eleanor Plummer	Phil & Deb Donaldson
Greeters/Ushers	Barbara & Jim Halsey	Frank & Ann Hazard
Book Bearer		Gary Medley
Sanctus Bell	Bruce Smith	Sheila Pfaender

## Announcements

**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 began February 11<sup>th</sup>!**

In Adult Forum Hour, we are exploring and studying the Rites of Confirmation, Reception and Reaffirmation in preparation for Bishop José's visit. This is a fun and informative experience even for those who will not be participating in any of the Rites. Please join us!

**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.**

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*Prayers of the People adapted from Intercession for God's People. Gail Runshaw*