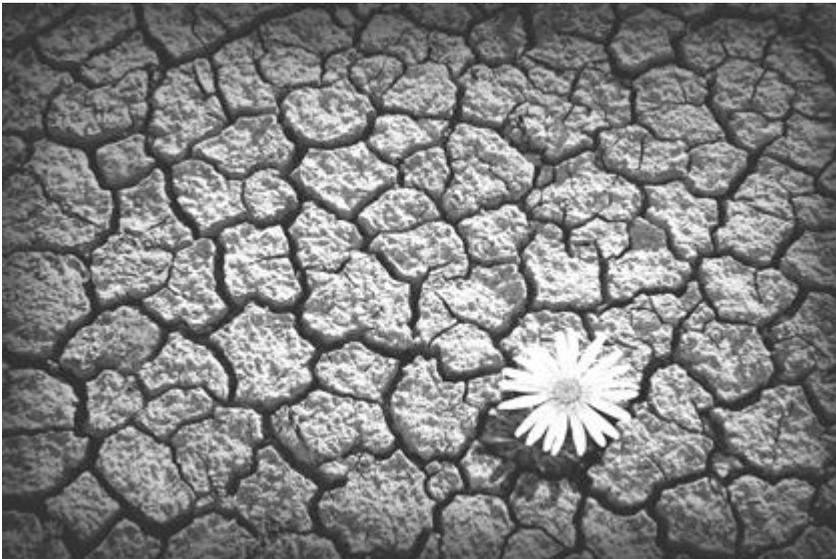


Christ Episcopal Church

Sparta, NC

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



First Sunday in Lent

February 18, 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:

Laura Davis, for serving as musician and for being so generous with her talents, and

The Altar Guild, for providing the beautiful arrangement for the altar.

The Gathering

Prelude

All stand, as able.

Processional Hymn #518

Christ is made the sure foundation

Opening Acclamation

All kneel, as able.

Presider Blessed be the God of our salvation:
People **Who bears our burdens and forgives our sins.**

Presider Jesus said, "The first commandment is this: Hear, O Israel: The Lord our God is the only Lord. Love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, with all your mind, and with all your strength. The second is this: Love your neighbor as yourself. There is no other commandment great than these." Mark 12: 29-31

Confession of Sin

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

A period of silence will be observed.

All **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.**

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.**

Remain kneeling, as able.

Taizé 9

Bless the Lord

*Bless the Lord, my soul,
and bless God's holy name.
Bless the Lord, my soul,
who leads me into life. (Repeat one time)*

All stand, as able.

The Collect

Presider The Lord be with you.

People **And also with you.**

Presider Let us pray.

Almighty God, whose blessed Son was led by the Spirit to be tempted by Satan: Come quickly to help us who are assaulted by many temptations; and, as you know the weaknesses of each of us, let each one find you mighty to save; through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

All are seated.

Liturgy of the Word

First Reading

Genesis 9: 8-17

God said to Noah and to his sons with him, "As for me, I am establishing my covenant with you and your descendants after you, and with every living creature that is with you, the birds, the domestic animals, and every animal of the earth with you, as many as came out of the ark. I establish my covenant with you, that never again shall all flesh be cut off by the waters of a flood, and never again shall there be a flood to destroy the earth." God said, "This is the sign of the covenant that I make between me and you and every living creature that is with you, for all future generations: I have set my bow in the clouds, and it shall be a sign of the covenant between me and the earth. When I bring clouds over the earth and the bow is seen in the clouds, I will remember my covenant that is between me and you and every living creature of all flesh; and the waters shall never again become a flood to destroy all flesh. When the bow is in the clouds, I will see it and remember the everlasting covenant between God and every living creature of all flesh that is on the earth." God said to Noah, "This is the sign of the covenant that I have established between me and all flesh that is on the earth."

Reader The Word of the Lord.

People **Thanks be to God.**

The Response

Psalm 25: 1-9

To you, O Lord, I lift up my soul;
my God, I put my trust in you; *
let me not be humiliated,
nor let my enemies triumph over me.

Let none who look to you be put to shame; *
let the treacherous be disappointed in their schemes.

Show me your ways, O Lord, *
and teach me your paths.

Lead me in your truth and teach me, *
for you are the God of my salvation;
in you have I trusted all the day long.

Remember, O Lord, your compassion and love, *
for they are from everlasting.

Remember not the sins of my youth and my transgressions; *
remember me according to your love
and for the sake of your goodness, O Lord.

Gracious and upright is the Lord; *
therefore he teaches sinners in his way.

He guides the humble in doing right *
and teaches his way to the lowly.

All the paths of the Lord are love and faithfulness *
to those who keep his covenant and his testimonies.

The Second Lesson

1 Peter 3: 18-22

Christ also suffered for sins once for all, the righteous for the unrighteous, in order to bring you to God. He was put to death in the flesh, but made alive in the spirit, in which also he went and made a proclamation to the spirits in prison, who in former times did not obey, when God waited patiently in the days of Noah, during the building of the ark, in which a few, that is, eight persons, were saved through water. And baptism, which this prefigured, now saves you- not as a removal of dirt from the body, but as an appeal to God for a good conscience, through the resurrection of Jesus Christ, who has gone into heaven and is at the right hand of God, with angels, authorities, and powers made subject to him.

Reader The Word of the Lord.

People **Thanks be to God.**

Please stand, as able.

Gospel Hymn #602

Jesu, Jesu

Please remain standing, as able, for the Gospel.

Presider The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ, according to Mark.

People **Glory to you, Lord Christ.**

The Gospel

Mark 1: 9-15

In those days Jesus came from Nazareth of Galilee and was baptized by John in the Jordan. And just as he was coming up out of the water, he saw the heavens torn apart and the Spirit descending like a dove on him. And a voice came from heaven, "You are my Son, the Beloved; with you I am well pleased."

And the Spirit immediately drove him out into the wilderness. He was in the wilderness forty days, tempted by Satan; and he was with the wild beasts; and the angels waited on him.

Now after John was arrested, Jesus came to Galilee, proclaiming the good news of God, and saying, "The time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God has come near; repent, and believe in the good news."

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 silence following the sermon.

All stand, as able.

The Nicene Creed

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.

Prayers of the People

Form IV, Book of Common Prayer, adapted

Stand or kneel, as able.

Presider Let us pray for the Church and for the world.

Create in us a clean heart, O God, and put a new and right Spirit within us. Remind us of the joy of your salvation and sustain us with your love and grace.

God of Forgiveness and Compassion,

Thank you for your mercy.

Comfort and heal all those who suffer in body, mind, or spirit; give them courage and hope in their troubles, and bring them the joy of your salvation, especially...

God of Forgiveness and Compassion,

Thank you for your mercy.

Guide the people of this land, and of all the nations, in the ways of justice and peace; that we may honor one another and all people, friend and enemy, and serve the common good. We pray especially for the health of the global economy and for all people who are suffering the pain of poverty, war and violence.

God of Forgiveness and Compassion,

Thank you for your mercy.

We commend to your mercy all who have died, that your will for them may be fulfilled; and we pray that we may share with all your saints in your eternal kingdom, especially...

God of Forgiveness and Compassion,

Thank you for your mercy.

Open our eyes to see the destruction we cause by our careless consumption; open our ears to hear the groaning of all creation and the cries of your creatures without voice; open our hearts to feel remorse for our unfaithful care of your creation; inspire us to a greater love and wonder for the care of your natural world.

God of Forgiveness and Compassion,

Thank you for your mercy.

Bless all whose lives are closely linked with ours, and grant that we may serve Christ in them, and love one another as he loves us, especially...

God of Forgiveness and Compassion,

Thank you for your mercy.

We thank you for all the blessings of this life, especially...

God of Forgiveness and Compassion,

Thank you for your mercy.

Presider O God, mercifully hear the prayers of your people who call upon you; grant that we may both see and know the things we need to do and that we may also have the grace and courage to do them faithfully, through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

All stand, as able.

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

Laura Davis

All stand, as able.

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

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.

You bid your faithful people cleanse their hearts, and prepare with joy 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 sing:

Sanctus: S125 (*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. Hosanna in the highest.*

Stand or kneel, as able, at Prayer of Consecration.

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 pray,

**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: S164 (*sung by all*)

*Jesus, Lamb of God: have mercy on us.
Jesus, bearer of our sins: have mercy on us.
Jesus, redeemer, redeemer of the world:
give us your peace, give us your peace.*

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: (sung by all) Laura Davis

Amazing Grace

Hymn #671

*Amazing grace how sweet the sound
That saved a wretch like me.
I once was lost but now am found
Was blind but now I see.*

*'Twas grace that taught my heart to fear
And grace my fears relieved.
How precious did that grace appear
The hour I first believed.*

*The Lord has promised good to me
His Word my hope secures.
He will my shield and portion be
As long as life endures.*

The Lord is my song

Taizé #20

*O Lord, hear my prayer,
O Lord, hear my prayer.
When I call answer me.
O Lord, hear my prayer,
O Lord, hear my prayer.
Come and listen to me.*

*The Lord is my song,
The Lord is my praise:
All my hope comes from God.
The Lord is my song,
The Lord is my praise:
God, the wellspring of life.*

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.*

Prayer after Communion

Enriching our Worship 1, pg. 56

Presider

Let us pray.

**Almighty and everliving 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 to God.

Presider

Grant, Almighty God, that your people may recognize their weakness and put their whole trust in your strength, so that they may rejoice for ever in the protection of your loving providence; through Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Stand, as able

Recessional Hymn #522

Glorious things of thee are spoken

The Dismissal

Presider

Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.

People

Thanks be to God.

Postlude

Coming Lessons

Genesis 17: 1-7, 15-16

Psalm 22: 22-30

Romans 4: 13-25

Mark 8: 31-38

Prayer List

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

Departed:

Birthdays: David Green (Feb 21), Barbara Halsey (Feb 25)

Wedding Anniversaries:

The Following People are Assisting with the Services

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

Schedule

Sunday, February 18 – First Sunday of Lent

9:15am – Adult Forum hour

10:30am – Holy Eucharist

Tuesday, February 20

12:00pm – Ladies Lunch Out at The Mustard Seed Café

Wednesday, February 21

10:00am – Holy Eucharist

Friday, February 23 – Church office will be closed

Sunday, February 25 – Second Sunday of Lent

9:15am – Adult Forum hour

10:30am – Holy Eucharist

Wednesday, February 28

10:00am – Holy Eucharist

Sunday, March 4 – Third Sunday of Lent

9:15am – Adult Forum hour

10:30am – Holy Eucharist

Announcements

Adult Forum Sundays @ 9:15:

All Invited to Join our Confirmation, Reception & Reaffirmation Class

On Sunday mornings we are exploring more of the Episcopal tradition in preparation for the Rites of Confirmation, Reception and Reaffirmation as we prepare to welcome Bishop José on Sunday, March 18th. This class is a wonderful intergenerational event for our community and an excellent way to share fellowship! 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, should have already contacted Stephanie. If you're interested and have NOT contacted her, please do so as soon as possible.

Ladies' Lunch Out coming up this Tuesday, February 20th!

The February Ladies' Lunch Out is scheduled for this Tuesday, February 20th 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.

The church office will be closed this Friday, February 23rd while Mary is out of town.

Vestry Person of the Month for February is: Phil Donaldson, sld1400@aol.com

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

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

Memorial / Thanksgiving Easter Lilies

Remember those you love by placing an Easter Lily in the Church for Easter. Gifts can be made in thanksgiving for or in memory of. **Last day to have form in office is by Friday, March 23.**

Please fill out the below form and attach your contribution.

In Memory of _____

Or

In Thanksgiving for _____

Donor Name: _____



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