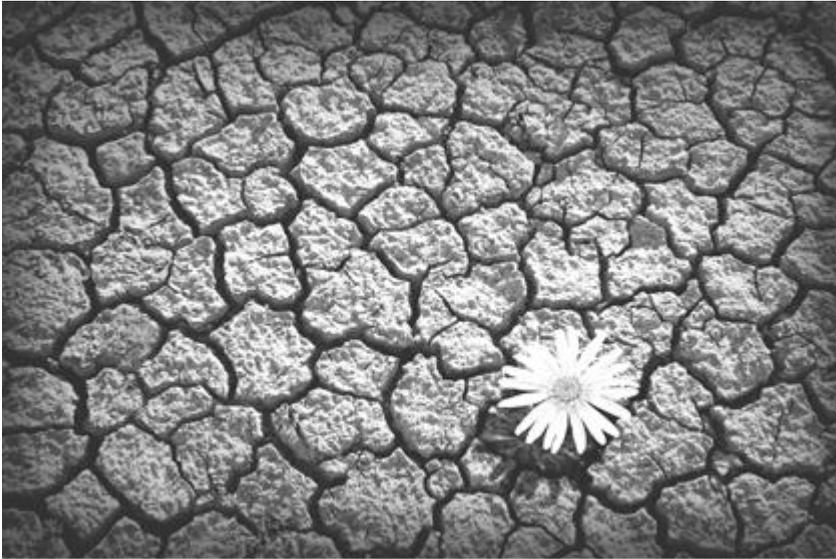


# Christ Episcopal Church

Sparta, NC

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



## Second Sunday in Lent

February 25, 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:

**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 #390**

*Praise to the Lord*

## Opening Acclamation

Presider Blessed be the God of our salvation:

**People Who bears our burdens and forgives our sins.**

Presider If we say that we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. But if we confess our sins, God, who is faithful and just, will forgive our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness. *1 John 1:8,9*

*Stand or kneel, as able.*

## Confession of Sin

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

*A period of silence will be observed.*

Presider Most merciful God,  
All 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.**

*Stand, as able.*

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

## The Collect

Presider        The Lord be with you.  
People         **And also with you.**  
Presider        Let us pray.

O God, whose glory it is always to have mercy: Be gracious to all who have gone astray from your ways, and bring them again with penitent hearts and steadfast faith to embrace and hold fast the unchangeable truth of your Word, Jesus Christ your Son; who with you and the Holy Spirit lives and reigns, one God, for ever and ever. **Amen.**

*All are seated.*

## Liturgy of the Word

### First Reading

#### **Genesis 17: 1-7, 15-16**

When Abram was ninety-nine years old, the Lord appeared to Abram, and said to him, "I am God Almighty; walk before me, and be blameless. And I will make my covenant between me and you, and will make you exceedingly numerous." Then Abram fell on his face; and God said to him, "As for me, this is my covenant with you: You shall be the ancestor of a multitude of nations. No longer shall your name be Abram, but your name shall be Abraham; for I have made you the ancestor of a multitude of nations. I will make you exceedingly fruitful; and I will make nations of you, and kings shall come from you. I will establish my covenant between me and you, and your offspring after you throughout their generations, for an everlasting covenant, to be God to you and to your offspring after you.

God said to Abraham, "As for Sarai your wife, you shall not call her Sarai, but Sarah shall be her name. I will bless her, and moreover I will give you a son by her. I will bless her, and she shall give rise to nations; kings of peoples shall come from her."

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

## The Response

### Psalm 22: 22-30

Praise the Lord, you that fear him; \*  
stand in awe of him, O offspring of Israel;  
all you of Jacob's line, give glory.

For he does not despise nor abhor the poor in their poverty;  
neither does he hide his face from them; \*  
but when they cry to him he hears them.

My praise is of him in the great assembly; \*  
I will perform my vows in the presence of those who worship him.

The poor shall eat and be satisfied,  
and those who seek the Lord shall praise him: \*  
"May your heart live for ever!"

All the ends of the earth shall remember and turn to the Lord, \*  
and all the families of the nations shall bow before him.

For kingship belongs to the Lord; \*  
he rules over the nations.

To him alone all who sleep in the earth bow down in worship; \*  
all who go down to the dust fall before him.

My soul shall live for him;  
my descendants shall serve him; \*  
they shall be known as the Lord's for ever.

They shall come and make known to a people yet unborn \*  
the saving deeds that he has done.

## The Second Lesson

### Romans 4:13-25

For the promise that he would inherit the world did not come to Abraham or to his descendants through the law but through the righteousness of faith. If it is the adherents of the law who are to be the heirs, faith is null and the promise is void. For the law brings wrath; but where there is no law, neither is there violation.

For this reason it depends on faith, in order that the promise may rest on grace and be guaranteed to all his descendants, not only to the adherents of the law but also to those who share the faith of Abraham (for he is the father of all of us, as it is written, “I have made you the father of many nations”) —in the presence of the God in whom he believed, who gives life to the dead and calls into existence the things that do not exist. Hoping against hope, he believed that he would become “the father of many nations,” according to what was said, “So numerous shall your descendants be.” He did not weaken in faith when he considered his own body, which was already as good as dead (for he was about a hundred years old), or when he considered the barrenness of Sarah’s womb. No distrust made him waver concerning the promise of God, but he grew strong in his faith as he gave glory to God, being fully convinced that God was able to do what he had promised. Therefore his faith “was reckoned to him as righteousness.” Now the words, “it was reckoned to him,” were written not for his sake alone, but for ours also. It will be reckoned to us who believe in him who raised Jesus our Lord from the dead, who was handed over to death for our trespasses and was raised for our justification.

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

*Please stand, as able.*  
**Gospel Hymn #679**

*Surely it is God who saves me*

*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 8: 31-38**

Jesus began to teach his disciples that the Son of Man must undergo great suffering, and be rejected by the elders, the chief priests, and the scribes, and be killed, and after three days rise again. He said all this quite openly. And Peter took him aside and began to rebuke him. But turning and looking at his disciples, he rebuked Peter and said, “Get behind me, Satan! For you are setting your mind not on divine things but on human things.”

He called the crowd with his disciples, and said to them, “If any want to become my followers, let them deny themselves and take up their cross and follow me. For those who want to save their life will lose it, and those who lose their life for my sake, and for the sake of the gospel, will save it. For what will it profit them to gain the whole world and forfeit their life? Indeed, what can they give in return for their life? Those who are ashamed of me and of my words in this adulterous and sinful generation, of them the Son of Man will also be ashamed when he comes in the glory of his Father with the holy angels.”

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.**

### The Commissioning of the Vestry

*Our new Vestry gathers at the front of the altar.*

Presider: I present to you these persons to be admitted to the ministry of Wardens and Vestry members in this congregation:

Presider: Do you commit yourselves to carry out the responsibilities of the office to which you have been appointed?

Leaders: I do.

Presider: Do you reaffirm your commitment to follow Jesus and to serve this congregation in his name?

Leaders: I do.

Presider: *(to the congregation)*

Will you do all in your power to support these leaders with your prayers, your honest yet gracious communication with them, and your willingness to help them carry out Christ's ministry in this church?

**Congregation: We will.**

Presider: In the name of this congregation I commission you, *Sheila Pfaender, Phil Donaldson, Geoff Jones, Jeanne Green, Jann Boggs, and Frank Hazard* for this leadership ministry, and pledge you our prayers, encouragement, and support. May the Holy Spirit guide and strengthen you, that in this, and in all things, you may do God's will in the service of the kingdom of Christ. **Amen.**

*Silence.*

Let us pray.

O eternal God, the foundation of all wisdom and the source of all courage: Enlighten with your grace the Wardens and Vestry of this congregation, and so rule their minds, and guide their counsels, that in all things they may seek your glory and promote the mission of your Church; 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

Taizé 29

Nothing can trouble

*Nothing can trouble,  
nothing can frighten.  
Those who seek God shall  
never go wanting.*

*Nothing can trouble,  
nothing can frighten.  
God alone fills us. (Repeat x 2)*

Hymn #676

There is a balm in Gilead

*Sometimes I feel discouraged,  
and think my work's in vain,  
but then the Holy Spirit  
revives my soul again. (Refrain)*

*Don't ever be discouraged,  
for Jesus is your friend.  
And if you lack for knowledge,  
he'll ne'er refuse to lend. (Refrain)*

*Refrain:  
There is a balm in Gilead,  
to make the wounded whole,  
there is a balm in Gilead,  
to heal the sin-sick soul.*

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

Keep this your family, Lord, with your never-failing mercy, that relying solely  
on the help of your heavenly grace, they may be upheld by your divine  
protection; through Christ our Lord. Amen.

*Stand, as able*

Recessional Hymn #398

*I sing the almighty power of God*

## The Dismissal

Presider

Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.

People

Thanks be to God.

Postlude

## Coming Lessons

Exodus 20: 1-17

Psalm 19

1 Corinthians 1: 18-25

John 2: 13-22

## Prayer List

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

**Departed:** David Penland (Patti Phelps' brother)

**Birthdays:** Barbara Halsey (Feb 25), Joseph Williamson (Feb 28), Ed Campbell (March 1)

**Wedding Anniversaries:**

## The Following People are Assisting with the Services

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

# Schedule

## **Sunday, February 25 – Second Sunday of Lent**

9:15 am – Adult Forum hour

10:30 am – Holy Eucharist

## **Wednesday, February 28**

10:00 am – Holy Eucharist

## **Sunday, March 4 – Third Sunday of Lent**

9:15 am – Adult Forum hour

10:30 am – Holy Eucharist

## **Wednesday, March 7**

10:00 am – Holy Eucharist

## **Sunday, March 11 – Fourth Sunday of Lent**

9:15 am – Adult Forum hour

10:30 am – Holy Eucharist

## **Tuesday, March 13**

12:30 pm – Vestry meeting

## **Wednesday, March 14**

10:00 am – Holy Eucharist

## **Sunday, March 18 – Fifth Sunday of Lent/Bishop José's Visit**

NO Adult Forum this morning.

10:30 am – Holy Eucharist

11:45 am – Lunch immediately following the service

## **Wednesday, March 21**

10:00 am – Holy Eucharist

## **Thursday, March 22**

6:00 pm – Bible Study of the Gospel of John at the Seckel Barn, 404 Vestal Rd.

# 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. Classes run through March 11<sup>th</sup>.

All those interested in being confirmed, received or reaffirmed during Bishop José's visit on March 18th, should have already contacted Stephanie.

### **Bible Study of the Gospel of John**

A study of the Gospel of John will begin on Thursday, March 22 and continue every other week at 6:00 pm at the Seckel Barn, 404 Vestal Road, Sparta. The study will be led by the Rev. Martha Honaker. Please join us!

**Vestry Person of the Month for February is:** Phil Donaldson, [sld1400@aol.com](mailto:sld1400@aol.com)

**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 concerns.

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Office hours: Monday – Friday, 8:30 am – 1:30 pm

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