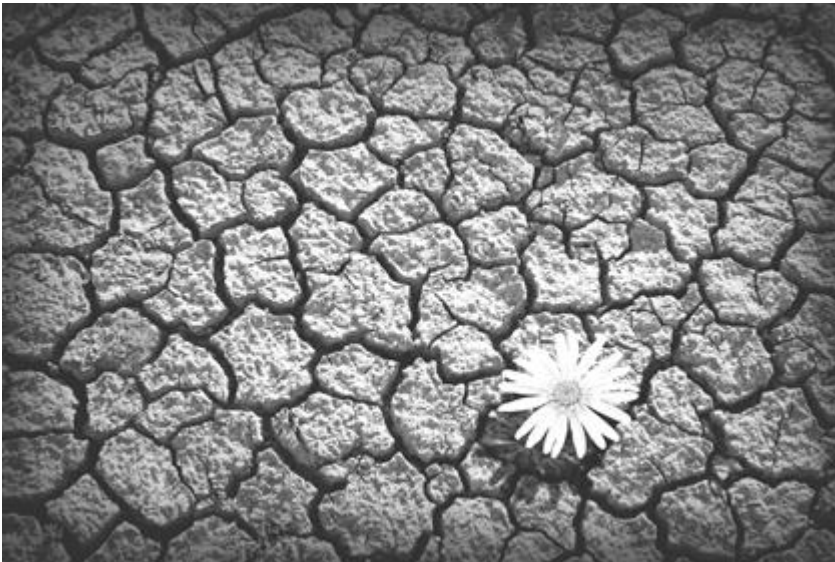


Christ Episcopal Church

Sparta, NC

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



Third Sunday in Lent

March 4, 2018

The Rt. Rev José McLoughlin
Bishop of Western North Carolina

The Rev. Stephanie E. Parker
Rector

Welcome to Christ Episcopal Church

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

We extend special thanks today to:

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

Ann Hazard, for providing the beautiful arrangement for the altar given in thanksgiving for another year of life for Chloe Graham White and Frank Louis Hazard, and

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

The Gathering

Prelude

All stand, as able.

Processional Hymn #470

There's a wideness to God's mercy

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.

Almighty God, you know that we have no power in ourselves to help ourselves: Keep us both outwardly in our bodies and inwardly in our souls, that we may be defended from all adversities which may happen to the body, and from all evil thoughts which may assault and hurt the soul; 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

Exodus 20: 1-17

Then God spoke all these words:

I am the Lord your God, who brought you out of the land of Egypt, out of the house of slavery; you shall have no other gods before me.

You shall not make for yourself an idol, whether in the form of anything that is in heaven above, or that is on the earth beneath, or that is in the water under the earth. You shall not bow down to them or worship them; for I the Lord your God am a jealous God, punishing children for the iniquity of parents, to the third and the fourth generation of those who reject me, but showing steadfast love to the thousandth generation of those who love me and keep my commandments.

You shall not make wrongful use of the name of the Lord your God, for the Lord will not acquit anyone who misuses his name.

Remember the sabbath day, and keep it holy. For six days you shall labour and do all your work. But the seventh day is a sabbath to the Lord your God; you shall not do any work—you, your son or your daughter, your male or female slave, your livestock, or the alien resident in your towns. For in six days the Lord made heaven and earth, the sea, and all that is in them, but rested the seventh day; therefore the Lord blessed the sabbath day and consecrated it.

Honor your father and your mother, so that your days may be long in the land that the Lord your God is giving you.

You shall not murder.

You shall not commit adultery.

You shall not steal.

You shall not bear false witness against your neighbor.

You shall not covet your neighbor's house; you shall not covet your neighbor's wife, or male or female slave, or ox, or donkey, or anything that belongs to your neighbor.

Reader The Word of the Lord.

People **Thanks be to God.**

The Response

Psalm 19

The heavens declare the glory of God, *
and the firmament shows his handiwork.

One day tells its tale to another, *
and one night imparts knowledge to another.

Although they have no words or language, *
and their voices are not heard,

Their sound has gone out into all lands, *
and their message to the ends of the world.

In the deep has he set a pavilion for the sun; *
it comes forth like a bridegroom out of his chamber;
it rejoices like a champion to run its course.

It goes forth from the uttermost edge of the heavens
and runs about to the end of it again; *
nothing is hidden from its burning heat.

The law of the Lord is perfect
and revives the soul; *
the testimony of the Lord is sure
and gives wisdom to the innocent.

The statutes of the Lord are just
and rejoice the heart; *
the commandment of the Lord is clear
and gives light to the eyes.

The fear of the Lord is clean
and endures for ever; *
the judgments of the Lord are true
and righteous altogether.

More to be desired are they than gold,
more than much fine gold, *
sweeter far than honey,
than honey in the comb.

By them also is your servant enlightened, *
and in keeping them there is great reward.

Who can tell how often he offends? *
cleanse me from my secret faults.

Above all, keep your servant from presumptuous sins;
let them not get dominion over me; *
then shall I be whole and sound,
and innocent of a great offense.

Let the words of my mouth and the meditation of my
heart be acceptable in your sight, *
O Lord, my strength and my redeemer.

The Second Lesson

1 Corinthians 1: 18-25

The message about the cross is foolishness to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God. For it is written,

“I will destroy the wisdom of the wise,
and the discernment of the discerning I will thwart.”

Where is the one who is wise? Where is the scribe? Where is the debater of this age? Has not God made foolish the wisdom of the world? For since, in the wisdom of God, the world did not know God through wisdom, God decided, through the foolishness of our proclamation, to save those who believe. For Jews demand signs and Greeks desire wisdom, but we proclaim Christ crucified, a stumbling block to Jews and foolishness to Gentiles, but to those who are the called, both Jews and Greeks, Christ the power of God and the wisdom of God. For God’s foolishness is wiser than human wisdom, and God’s weakness is stronger than human strength.

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

Please stand, as able.
Gospel Hymn #488

Be thou my vision

Please remain standing, as able, for the Gospel.

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

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

The Gospel

John 2: 13-22

The Passover of the Jews was near, and Jesus went up to Jerusalem. In the temple he found people selling cattle, sheep, and doves, and the money changers seated at their tables. Making a whip of cords, he drove all of them out of the temple, both the sheep and the cattle. He also poured out the coins of the money changers and overturned their tables. He told those who were selling the doves, "Take these things out of here! Stop making my Father's house a marketplace!" His disciples remembered that it was written, "Zeal for your house will consume me." The Jews then said to him, "What sign can you show us for doing this?" Jesus answered them, "Destroy this temple, and in three days I will raise it up." The Jews then said, "This temple has been under construction for forty-six years, and will you raise it up in three days?" But he was speaking of the temple of his body. After he was raised from the dead, his disciples remembered that he had said this; and they believed the scripture and the word that Jesus had spoken.

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

Jo Ellen Carson

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)

Hymn #490

I want to walk as a child of the light

*I want to walk as a child of the light.
I want to follow Jesus.
God set the stars to give light to the world.
The star of my life is Jesus.*

*Refrain:
In him there is no darkness at all.
The night and the day are both alike.
The Lamb is the light of the city of God.
Shine in my heart, Lord Jesus.*

*I want to see the brightness of God.
I want to look at Jesus.
Clear sun of righteousness, shine on my path,
And show me the way to the Father. (Refrain)*

*I'm looking for the coming of Christ.
I want to be with Jesus.
When we have run with patience the race,
we shall know the joy of Jesus. (Refrain)*

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 Look mercifully on this your family, Almighty God, that by your great goodness
they may be governed and preserved evermore; through Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Stand, as able

Recessional Hymn #686

Come, thou fount of every blessing

The Dismissal

Presider Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.
People Thanks be to God.

Postlude

Coming Lessons

Numbers 21: 4-9
Psalm 107: 1-3, 17-22
Ephesians 2: 1-10
John 3: 14-21

Prayer List

Intercessions: Ben, Ed & Jean, Gina Davis, Jess & Linda, Jon, Julie O., Laura, Leia B.,
and the family of Ed Adams

Departed: Ed Adams

Birthdays: Katie Campbell (March 4)

Wedding Anniversaries:

The Following People are Assisting with the Services

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

Schedule

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/Daylight Savings Time begins

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

Thursday, March 15

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

Saturday, March 17

9:00 am – 12:00 pm – Annual Church Workday; lunch will be provided

3:30 pm – 6th Annual Polar Plunge for Special Olympics NC, Alleghany Wellness Center

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 begins. The Reverend Martha Honaker will be leading the study. Participants will meet every other Thursday at 6:00 pm.

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 11th.

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

Ladies' Lunch Out scheduled for March 15!

The March Ladies' Lunch Out is scheduled for Thursday, March 15th at noon at The Mustard Seed Café. Louise Law is your host and the sign-up sheet is on the Information table. If you have any questions, please contact Louise at 336.363.6059.

Our Annual Church Workday

Our workday will be held **on Saturday, March 17, 2018**. Mulch will be added to the plants outdoors so *please bring rakes, shovels and wheelbarrows* if you have them. Time will be from **9 AM to 12 PM** and **lunch will be provided**. Rain date will be on Saturday, 24 March 2018. Same time with lunch provided. Call Phil Donaldson at 336-372-7573 if you have any questions.

Bishop José will be visiting Sunday, March 18th!

We look forward to hosting Bishop José on Sunday, March 18th. The Food & Fellowship Committee have created a sign-up sheet for the special luncheon that day and ask that you sign-up as soon as possible for the dish(es) you plan to bring. The sign-up sheet is on the Information table.

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 March is: Jann Boggs, jaspalding@juno.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 concerns.

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