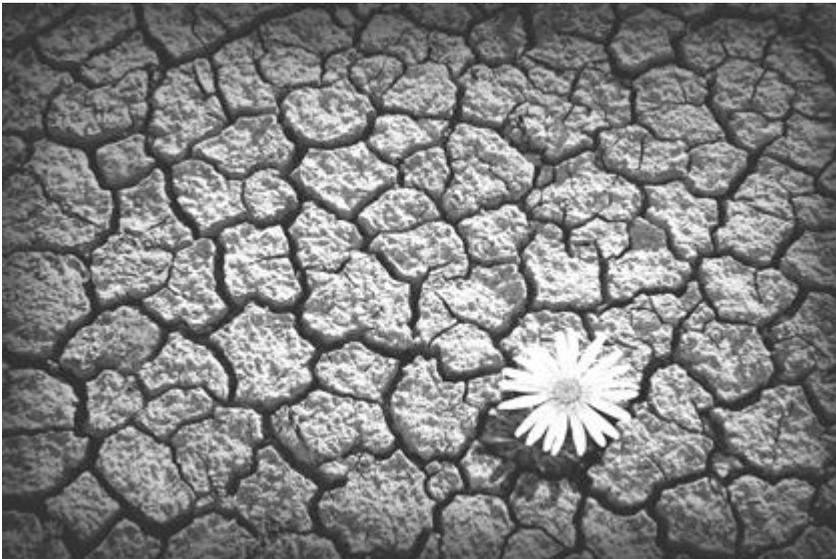


Christ Episcopal Church

Sparta, NC

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



Fourth Sunday in Lent

March 11, 2018

The Rt. Rev José McLoughlin
Bishop of Western North Carolina

The Rev. Stephanie E. Parker
Rector

Welcome to Christ Episcopal Church

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

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

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

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

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

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

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,

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

Deb Donaldson, for providing the refreshments for our fellowship gathering after the service.

The Gathering

Prelude

All stand, as able.

Processional Hymn #686

Come, thou fount of every blessing

Opening Acclamation

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

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.

Gracious Father, whose blessed Son Jesus Christ came down from heaven to be the true bread which gives life to the world: Evermore give us this bread, that he may live in us, and we in him; 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
Numbers 21: 4-9

From Mount Hor the Israelites set out by the way to the Red Sea, to go around the land of Edom; but the people became impatient on the way. The people spoke against God and against Moses, "Why have you brought us up out of Egypt to die in the wilderness? For there is no food and no water, and we detest this miserable food." Then the Lord sent poisonous serpents among the people, and they bit the people, so that many Israelites died. The people came to Moses and said, "We have sinned by speaking against the Lord and against you; pray to the Lord to take away the serpents from us." So Moses prayed for the people. And the Lord said to Moses, "Make a poisonous serpent, and set it on a pole; and everyone who is bitten shall look at it and live." So Moses made a serpent of bronze, and put it upon a pole; and whenever a serpent bit someone, that person would look at the serpent of bronze and live.

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

The Response

Psalm 107: 1-3, 17-22

Give thanks to the Lord, for he is good, *
and his mercy endures for ever.

Let all those whom the Lord has redeemed proclaim *
that he redeemed them from the hand of the foe.

He gathered them out of the lands; *
from the east and from the west,
from the north and from the south.

Some were fools and took to rebellious ways; *
they were afflicted because of their sins.

They abhorred all manner of food *
and drew near to death's door.

Then they cried to the Lord in their trouble, *
and he delivered them from their distress.

He sent forth his word and healed them *
and saved them from the grave.

Let them give thanks to the Lord for his mercy *
and the wonders he does for his children.

Let them offer a sacrifice of thanksgiving *
and tell of his acts with shouts of joy.

The Second Lesson

Ephesians 2: 1-10

You were dead through the trespasses and sins in which you once lived, following the course of this world, following the ruler of the power of the air, the spirit that is now at work among those who are disobedient. All of us once lived among them in the passions of our flesh, following the desires of flesh and senses, and we were by nature children of wrath, like everyone else. But God, who is rich in mercy, out of the great love with which he loved us even when we were dead through our trespasses, made us alive together with Christ~ by grace you have been saved~ and raised us up with him and seated us with him in the heavenly places in Christ Jesus, so that in the ages to come he might show the immeasurable riches of his grace in kindness toward us in Christ Jesus. For by grace you have been saved through faith, and this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God~ not the result of works, so that no one may boast. For we are what he has made us, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand to be our way of life.

Reader The Word of the Lord.

People Thanks be to God.

Please stand, as able.

Gospel Hymn #671

Amazing Grace

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 3: 14-21

Jesus said, "Just as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, so must the Son of Man be lifted up, that whoever believes in him may have eternal life.

"For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him may not perish but may have eternal life.

"Indeed, God did not send the Son into the world to condemn the world, but in order that the world might be saved through him. Those who believe in him are not condemned; but those who do not believe are condemned already, because they have not believed in the name of the only Son of God. And this is the judgment, that the light has come into the world, and people loved darkness rather than light because their deeds were evil. For all who do evil hate the light and do not come to the light, so that their deeds may not be exposed. But those who do what is true come to the light, so that it may be clearly seen that their deeds have been done in God."

Presider The Gospel of the Lord.

People Praise to you, Lord Christ.

All are seated.

The Sermon

A time of silence following the sermon.

The Rev. Stephanie E Parker

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.

Christ, be our light (vss. 1, 2, 5)

Bernadette Farre



- Verses
1. Long-ing for light, — we wait in dark - ness. Long-ing for
 2. Long-ing for peace, — our world is trou - bled. Long-ing for
 3. Long-ing for food, — man - y are hun - gry. Long-ing for
 4. Long-ing for shel-ter, man - y are home-less. Long-ing for
 5. Man - y the gifts, — man - y the peo - ple, man - y the



1. truth, — we turn to you. Make us your own, —
2. hope, — man - y de - spair. Your word a - lone —
3. wa - ter, man - y still thirst. Make us your bread, —
4. warmth, — man - y are cold. Make us your build - ing,
5. hearts that yearn to be - long. Let us be ser - vants



1. your ho - ly peo-ple, light for the world to see.
2. has pow'r to save us. Make us your liv - ing voice.
3. bro - ken for oth-ers, shared un - til all are fed.
4. shel - ter - ing oth-ers, walls made of liv - ing stone.
5. to one an - oth-er, mak - ing your king - dom come.



Refrain
Christ, be our light! Shine in our hearts. Shine through the dark - ness.



Christ, be our light! Shine in your church gath-ered to-day.

O Lord, hear my prayer

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. (Repeat)*

*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. (Repeat)*

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 down in mercy, Lord, on your people who kneel before you; and grant that those whom you have nourished by your Word and Sacrament may bring forth fruit worthy of repentance; through Christ our Lord. Amen.

Stand, as able

Recessional Hymn #620

Jerusalem, my happy home

The Dismissal

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

Postlude

Coming Lessons

Jeremiah 31: 31-34

Psalm 51: 1-13

Hebrews 5: 5-10

John 12: 20-33

Prayer List

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

Departed:

Birthdays: Brenda Weems (March 12), Allan Joyce (March 12)

Wedding Anniversaries:

The Following People are Assisting with the Services

Role	This Sunday	Next Sunday
Altar Guild	Bruce Smith	Bruce Smith
Chalicer I	Shelley Jones	Sheila Pfaender
Chalicer II	Bruce Smith	Brenda Weems
Crucifer	Brenda Weems	Nancy Wilson
Lector I	Phil Donaldson	Chance Wyatt
Lector II	Brenda Weems	Bruce Smith
Prayers of the People	Phil Donaldson	Jann Boggs
Oblations Bearers	Allan Joyce & Gary Medley	Jeanne Green & Jann Boggs
Greeters/Ushers	Nancy & Hal Wilson	Chance Wyatt & Bruce Smith
Book Bearer	Bruce Smith	Brenda Weems
Sanctus Bell	Brenda Weems	Nancy Wilson

Schedule

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

See back cover for visit schedule

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. Today will be our last class.

There will be NO Adult Forum next Sunday, March 18th. A new Adult Forum begins March 25th.

Ladies' Lunch Out scheduled for March 15!

The March Ladies' Lunch Out is scheduled for this 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 **this 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 next 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 no later than March 11th** 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.

Sunday, March 18 – Bishop José Visits

9:00 am Vestry meets with the Bishop

9:45 am Candidates meet with the Bishop

10:30 am Worship service

And then join us for lunch and a forum
with the Bishop!

Christ Episcopal Church
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Website: christchurchallegghany.org
Office hours: Monday – Friday, 8:30 am – 1:30 pm

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