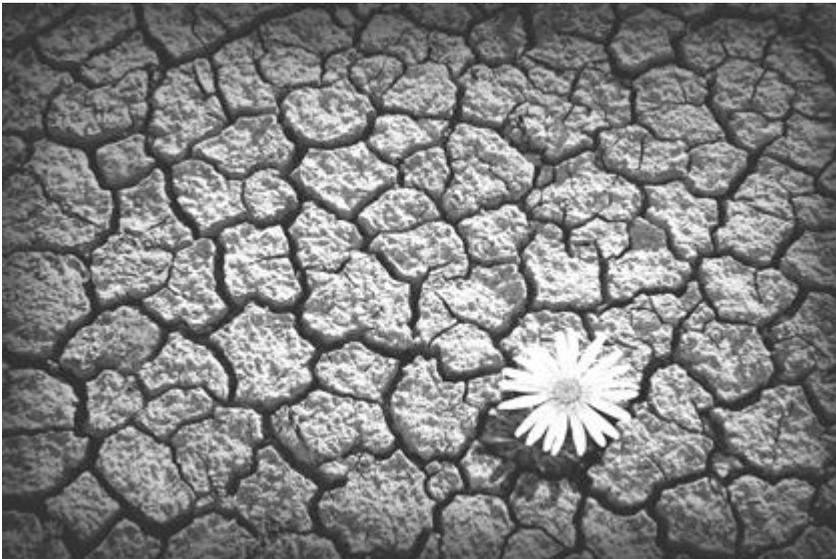


Christ Episcopal Church

Sparta, NC

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



Fifth Sunday in Lent **With Confirmation, Reception and Re-affirmation** **March 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,

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

The Food & Fellowship Committee, for coordinating the luncheon for our fellowship gathering with Bishop José after the service.

Reception and Reaffirmation of Baptismal Vows

Prelude

All stand, as able.

Processional Hymn #495

Hail thou once despised Jesus

Opening Acclamation

BCP 413

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

Bishop There is one Body and one Spirit;
People There is one hope in God's call to us;
Bishop One Lord, one Faith, one Baptism;
People One God and Father of all.

Gloria: S280 (sung by all)

*Glory to God in the highest,
and peace to his people on earth.*

*Lord God, heavenly King,
almighty God and Father,
we worship you, we give you thanks,
we praise you for your glory.*

*Lord Jesus Christ, only Son of the Father,
Lord God, Lamb of God,
you take away the sin of the world:
have mercy on us;
you are seated at the right hand of the Father:
receive our prayer.*

*For you alone are the Holy One,
you alone are the Lord,
you alone are the Most High,
Jesus Christ,
with the Holy Spirit,
in the glory of God the Father. Amen.*

Presider The Lord be with you.

People **And also with you.**

Presider Let us pray.

Almighty God, you alone can bring into order the unruly wills and affections of sinners: Grant your people grace to love what you command and desire what you promise; that, among the swift and varied changes of the world, our hearts may surely there be fixed where true joys are to be found; through Jesus Christ 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

Jeremiah 31: 31-34

The days are surely coming, says the Lord, when I will make a new covenant with the house of Israel and the house of Judah. It will not be like the covenant that I made with their ancestors when I took them by the hand to bring them out of the land of Egypt—a covenant that they broke, though I was their husband, says the Lord. But this is the covenant that I will make with the house of Israel after those days, says the Lord: I will put my law within them, and I will write it on their hearts; and I will be their God, and they shall be my people. No longer shall they teach one another, or say to each other, “Know the Lord,” for they shall all know me, from the least of them to the greatest, says the Lord; for I will forgive their iniquity, and remember their sin no more.

Reader The Word of the Lord.

People **Thanks be to God.**

The Response

Psalm 51: 1-13

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Cast me not away from your presence *
and take not your holy Spirit from me.

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

The Second Lesson

Hebrews 5: 5-10

Christ did not glorify himself in becoming a high priest, but was appointed by the one who said to him,

“You are my Son,
today I have begotten you”;
as he says also in another place,

“You are a priest forever,
according to the order of Melchizedek.”

In the days of his flesh, Jesus offered up prayers and supplications, with loud cries and tears, to the one who was able to save him from death, and he was heard because of his reverent submission. Although he was a Son, he learned obedience through what he suffered; and having been made perfect, he became the source of eternal salvation for all who obey him, having been designated by God a high priest according to the order of Melchizedek.

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

Please stand, as able.

Gospel Hymn #439

What wondrous love is this?

Please remain standing, as able, for the Gospel.

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

People Glory to you, Lord Christ.

The Gospel

John 12:20-33

Now among those who went up to worship at the festival were some Greeks. They came to Philip, who was from Bethsaida in Galilee, and said to him, “Sir, we wish to see Jesus.” Philip went and told Andrew; then Andrew and Philip went and told Jesus. Jesus answered them, “The hour has come for the Son of Man to be glorified. Very truly, I tell you, unless a grain of wheat falls into the earth and dies, it remains just a single grain; but if it dies, it bears much fruit. Those who love their life lose it, and those who hate their life in this world will keep it for eternal life. Whoever serves me must follow me, and where I am, there will my servant be also. Whoever serves me, the Father will honor.

“Now my soul is troubled. And what should I say—‘Father, save me from this hour’? No, it is for this reason that I have come to this hour. Father, glorify your name.” Then a voice came from heaven, “I have glorified it, and I will glorify it again.” The crowd standing there heard it and said that it was thunder. Others said, “An angel has spoken to him.” Jesus answered, “This voice has come for your sake, not for mine. Now is the judgment of this world; now the ruler of this world will be driven out. And I, when I am lifted up from the earth, will draw all people to myself.” He said this to indicate the kind of death he was to die.

Deacon The Gospel of the Lord.

People Praise to you, Lord Christ.

All are seated.

The Sermon

A time of silence following the sermon.

The Rt. Reverend José McLoughlin

Bishop Do you believe in God the Holy Spirit?
People **I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic Church,
the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting.**

Bishop Will you continue in the apostles' teaching and
fellowship, in the breaking of bread, and in the prayers?
People **I will, with God's help.**

Bishop Will you persevere in resisting evil, and, whenever
you fall into sin, repent and return to the Lord?
People **I will, with God's help.**

Bishop Will you proclaim by word and example the Good
News of God in Christ?
People **I will, with God's help.**

Bishop Will you seek and serve Christ in all persons, loving
your neighbor as yourself?
People **I will, with God's help.**

Bishop Will you strive for justice and peace among all
people, and respect the dignity of every human being?
People **I will, with God's help.**

Prayers for the Candidates

Bishop Let us now pray for these persons who have renewed their commitment to Christ.
Silence.

Leader Deliver them, O Lord, from the way of sin and death.
People **Lord, hear our prayer.**

Leader Open their hearts to your grace and truth.
People **Lord, hear our prayer.**

Leader Fill them with your holy and life-giving Spirit.
People **Lord, hear our prayer.**

Leader Keep them in the faith and communion of your holy Church.
People **Lord, hear our prayer.**

Leader Teach them to love others in the power of the Spirit.
People **Lord, hear our prayer.**

Leader Send them into the world in witness to your love.
People **Lord, hear our prayer.**

Leader Bring them to the fullness of your peace and glory.
People **Lord, hear our prayer.**

The Bishop prays,

Almighty God, we thank you that by the death and resurrection of your Son Jesus Christ you have overcome sin and brought us to yourself, and that by the sealing of your Holy Spirit you have bound us to your service. Renew in these your servants the covenant you made with them at their Baptism. Send them forth in the power of that Spirit to perform the service you set before them; through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever.

Amen.

The Bishop lays hands on the Candidate for Confirmation and says,

Strengthen, O Lord, your servant Kimberly Jones with your Holy Spirit; empower her for your service; and sustain her all the days of her life. **Amen.**

The Bishop lays hands on the Candidate for Reception and says,

Marybeth Lentz, we recognize you as a member of the one holy catholic and apostolic Church, and we receive you into the fellowship of this Communion. God the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, bless, preserve, and keep you. **Amen.**

The Bishop lays hands on the Candidates for Reaffirmation and says,

Jann Boggs, may the Holy Spirit, who has begun a good work in you, direct and uphold you in the service of Christ and his kingdom. **Amen.**

Jeanne Green, may the Holy Spirit, who has begun a good work in you, direct and uphold you in the service of Christ and his kingdom. **Amen.**

Sheila Pfaender, may the Holy Spirit, who has begun a good work in you, direct and uphold you in the service of Christ and his kingdom. **Amen.**

Bishop Let us pray.

Almighty and everliving God, let your fatherly hand ever be over these your servants; let your Holy Spirit ever be with them; and so lead them into the knowledge and obedience of our Word, that they may serve you in this life, and dwell with you in the life to come; 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.

Consecration of New Vestment

Bishop You shall make holy garments for Aaron, for glory and for beauty.

Bishop Clothe your ministers with righteousness:

Congregation **Let your people sing with joy.**

Bishop Let us pray.

O God, you revealed your Son clothed in majesty and glory: Accept this chasuble for the use of the clergy of your Church, that, being clothed with humility as they minister to you, they may show forth his eternal splendor; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Offertory

Today's loose offering supports the Bishop's Discretionary Fund.

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

Standing, as able.

Eucharistic Prayer B, BCP 367

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.

Presider 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: S129 (*sung by all*)

BCP 362

*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.

Remain standing or kneel for the Prayer of Consecration.

We give thanks to you, O God, for the goodness and love which you have made known to us in creation; in the calling of Israel to be your people; in your Word spoken through the prophets; and above all in the Word made flesh, Jesus, your Son. For in these last days you sent him to be incarnate from the Virgin Mary, to be the Savior and Redeemer of the world. In him, you have delivered us from evil, and made us worthy to stand before you. In him, you have brought us out of error into truth, out of sin into righteousness, out of death into life.

On the night before he died for us, our Lord Jesus Christ took bread; and when he had given thanks to you, he broke it, and gave it to his disciples, and said, "Take, eat: This is my Body, which is given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me."

After supper he 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 shed 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 our patron Stephen and all your saints, past, present, and yet to come, we may praise your Name for ever.

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

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

**Our Father, who art in heaven,
hallowed be thy Name,
thy kingdom come,
thy will be done,
on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread.
And forgive us our trespasses,
as we forgive those
who trespass against us.
And lead us not into temptation,
but deliver us from evil.
For thine is the kingdom,
and the power, and the glory,
for ever and ever. Amen.**

Fraction: 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 20

O Lord, hear my prayer

*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 well-spring of life. (Repeat)*

Hymn #707

Take my life, and let it be

*Take my life, and let it be
consecrated, Lord, to thee;
take my moments and my days,
let them flow in ceaseless praise.*

*Take my hands, and let them move
at the impulse of thy love;
take my heart, it is thine own;
it shall be thy royal throne.*

*Take my voice, and let me sing
always, only, for my King;
take my intellect, and use
every power as thou shalt choose.*

*Take my will, and make it thine;
it shall be no longer mine.
Take myself, and I will be
ever, only, all for thee.*

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.*

Post Communion Prayer

BCP 365

Presider Let us pray.

Eternal God, heavenly Father,
you have graciously accepted us as living members
of your Son our Savior Jesus Christ,
and you have fed us with spiritual food
in the Sacrament of his Body and Blood.
Send us now into the world in peace,
and grant us strength and courage
to love and serve you
with gladness and singleness of heart;
through Christ our Lord. Amen.

Blessing

The Rt. Reverend José McLoughlin

Stand, as able

Recessional Hymn 473

Lift high the Cross

The Dismissal

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

Postlude

Today's loose offering supports the Bishop's Discretionary Fund.



Congratulations to...

Kimberly Jones

Marybeth Lentz

Jann Boggs

Jeanne Green

Sheila Pfaender



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:

Wedding Anniversaries:

The Following People are Assisting with the Services

Role	This Sunday	Next Sunday
Altar Guild	Bruce Smith	Bruce Smith
Chalicer I	Sheila Pfaender	Ann Hazard
Chalicer II	Brenda Weems	Nancy Wilson
Crucifer	Nancy Wilson	Kimberly Jones
Lector I	Chance Wyatt	Jann Boggs
Lector II	Bruce Smith	Brenda Weems
Prayers of the People	Jann Boggs	Shelley Jones
Oblations Bearers	Jeanne Green & Jann Boggs	Shelley & Geoff Jones
Greeters/Ushers	Chance Wyatt & Bruce Smith	Joe & Judy Ritchie
Book Bearer	Brenda Weems	Nancy Wilson
Sanctus Bell	Nancy Wilson	Kimberly Jones

Coming Lessons

Liturgy of the Palms,
Mark 11: 1-11

Liturgy of the Word,
Isaiah 50: 4-9a
Psalm 31: 9-16
Philippians 2: 5-11
Mark 14: 1-15: 47

Schedule & Announcements

Sunday, March 18 – Fifth Sunday of Lent/Bishop José’s Visit

NO Adult Forum this morning.

9:00 am – Vestry meets with the Bishop

9:45 am – Candidates meet with the Bishop

10:30 am – Holy Eucharist

Lunch and a forum with Bishop José will be held 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 (*see details below*)

No Adult Forum this Sunday. Join us Palm Sunday, March 25th for a Special Forum about the services of Holy Week.

Bible Study of the Gospel of John

A study of the Gospel of John will begin this 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!

Food & Fellowship Person of the Month Announcement

Beginning in April, the Food & Fellowship Ministry will have one of our team members available each Sunday of the month to assist anyone who signs up to host coffee hour refreshments. Our team member will be available to answer any questions prior to your selected Sunday as well as be present in the kitchen on the day to assist you with setting up and cleaning up afterwards. Our team does a great job throughout the year providing opportunities for fellowship so that we all have some quality time to spend together in a loving atmosphere. However, we need help from each one of you to keep these opportunities going. Please remember that the refreshments for our coffee hour are usually simple and purchased from the store. Occasionally we have a host who just loves to entertain and provides a wonderful spread of goodies, and that is okay too. Either way, you will now have a friend who knows their way around our kitchen to help you carry out this very important service. Please select a Sunday and sign your name to the sheet on the information table downstairs. The ***Food & Fellowship person of the Month for April is Marybeth Lentz***. She can be reached at mlentz@skybest.com or 336-657-7088.

Memorial / Thanksgiving Easter Lilies

The **deadline** to have the form in the office is **next Friday, March 23**.

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.

HOLY WEEK SCHEDULE

Sunday, March 25 – Palm Sunday

9:15 am – Adult Forum
10:30 am – Holy Eucharist

Wednesday, March 28

10:00 am – Holy Eucharist

Thursday, March 29 – Maundy Thursday/Agape Meal

6:00 pm – Maundy Thursday service

Friday, March 30 – Good Friday

12:00 pm – Good Friday service

Saturday, March 31 – Easter Vigil

6:30 pm – Easter Vigil service

Sunday, April 1 – Easter

9:15 am – Adult Forum
10:30 am – Holy Eucharist

The Journey is How We Know: Holy Week at Christ Church

At our Vestry meeting on Tuesday we watched a TED talk that spoke of religious routine-ism. How after years and years of exposure, we lose our hunger and thirst for the beautiful liturgies that used to enthrall us and we fall away from their observance. Holy Week has, for many, suffered under this challenge.

One of the Holiest week's in Christendom, it contains the full journey of Jesus in the last week of his life. Each service, beginning with Palm Sunday, marks a crucial point in how we understand how we too are to follow Jesus as he has asked us to do.

The journey of triumphal entry into Jerusalem, the last supper with his disciples, the day of his death, the long night of Vigil that then bursts forth with new life from the Empty Tomb—each and every step on this journey guides us more fully into what it means to serve Christ still. But we cannot fully apprehend the joy and ultimate victory of God's love without the entire journey—the journey really is how we know.

We have created for all of you a Pilgrim's Passport; a written guide that offers the time and dates as well as what to expect as we worship through all of these Holy Days. Even if you can't attend all of the services we hope you will make every effort to join us as we travel this pilgrim's journey together. Pick up your passport, mark your calendars and experience Easter as you never have before—Holy Week is anything but routine!

Christ Episcopal Church
2543 US Highway 21 South
PO Box 1866
Sparta, North Carolina 28675
Office: 336-372-7983
Rector cell: (336)363-4141
Email: ccepiscopal@skybest.com
Website: christchurchallegghany.org
Office hours: Monday – Friday, 8:30 am – 1:30 pm

“Glory to God”, Public Domain, Used By Permission CCLI License #11138616.

“Doxology”, Author: Ken Thomas (1709; alt.), Public Domain, Used by Permission CCLI License #11138616.

CCLI Song # 22025, Words by Edwin Othello Excell, John Newton, John P. Rees, Public Domain, Used by permission CCLI License # 11138616.

“Take My Life and Let It Be”, Words: Frances Ridley Havergal, Public Domain, Used by Permission CCLI License #11138616.