

Christ Episcopal Church

Sparta, NC

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

Celebrating 20 Years!

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Third Sunday of Easter

April 15, 2018 – 10:30 AM

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.christchurchallegany.com.

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

We extend special thanks today to the following people:

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

The Gathering

Prelude

All stand, as able

Processional Hymn #179 (vss 1-3)

Welcome, happy morning!

Opening Acclamation

All remain standing, as able

Presider Alleluia. Christ is risen.

People The Lord is risen indeed. Alleluia.

Presider Let us pray.

Almighty God, to you all hearts are open, all desires known, and from you no secrets are hid: Cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love you, and worthily magnify your holy Name; through Christ our Lord. Amen.

Gloria: S280 (*sung by all*)

*Glory to God in the highest,
and peace to God's 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.*

Remain standing, as able.

The Collect

Presider The Lord be with you.

People **And also with you.**

Presider Let us pray.

O God, whose blessed Son made himself known to his disciples in the breaking of bread: Open the eyes of our faith, that we may behold him in all his redeeming work; who lives and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

All are seated.

Liturgy of the Word

First Reading

Acts 3: 12-19

Peter addressed the people, “You Israelites, why do you wonder at this, or why do you stare at us, as though by our own power or piety we had made him walk? The God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob, the God of our ancestors has glorified his servant Jesus, whom you handed over and rejected in the presence of Pilate, though he had decided to release him. But you rejected the Holy and Righteous One and asked to have a murderer given to you, and you killed the Author of life, whom God raised from the dead. To this we are witnesses. And by faith in his name, his name itself has made this man strong, whom you see and know; and the faith that is through Jesus has given him this perfect health in the presence of all of you.

“And now, friends, I know that you acted in ignorance, as did also your rulers. In this way God fulfilled what he had foretold through all the prophets, that his Messiah would suffer. Repent therefore, and turn to God so that your sins may be wiped out.”

Reader Hear what the Spirit is saying to God’s people.

People **Thanks be to God.**

The Response

Psalm 4

Answer me when I call, O God, defender of my cause; *
you set me free when I am hard-pressed;
have mercy on me and hear my prayer.

"You mortals, how long will you dishonor my glory; *
how long will you worship dumb idols
and run after false gods?"

Know that the Lord does wonders for the faithful; *
when I call upon the Lord, he will hear me.

Tremble, then, and do not sin; *
speak to your heart in silence upon your bed.

Offer the appointed sacrifices *
and put your trust in the Lord.

Many are saying, "Oh, that we might see better times!" *
Lift up the light of your countenance upon us, O Lord.

You have put gladness in my heart, *
more than when grain and wine and oil increase.

I lie down in peace; at once I fall asleep; *
for only you, Lord, make me dwell in safety.

The Second Reading

1 John 3: 1-7

See what love the Father has given us, that we should be called children of God; and that is what we are. The reason the world does not know us is that it did not know him. Beloved, we are God's children now; what we will be has not yet been revealed. What we do know is this: when he is revealed, we will be like him, for we will see him as he is. And all who have this hope in him purify themselves, just as he is pure.

Everyone who commits sin is guilty of lawlessness; sin is lawlessness. You know that he was revealed to take away sins, and in him there is no sin. No one who abides in him sins; no one who sins has either seen him or known him. Little children, let no one deceive you. Everyone who does what is right is righteous, just as he is righteous.

Reader Hear what the Spirit is saying to God's people.
People **Thanks be to God.**

Please stand, as able.

Remain standing, as you are able, for the Gospel.

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

People **Glory to you, Lord Christ**

The Gospel

Luke 24: 36b-48

Jesus himself stood among the disciples and said to them, “Peace be with you.” They were startled and terrified, and thought that they were seeing a ghost. He said to them, “Why are you frightened, and why do doubts arise in your hearts? Look at my hands and my feet; see that it is I myself. Touch me and see; for a ghost does not have flesh and bones as you see that I have.” And when he had said this, he showed them his hands and his feet. While in their joy they were disbelieving and still wondering, he said to them, “Have you anything here to eat?” They gave him a piece of broiled fish, and he took it and ate in their presence.

Then he said to them, “These are my words that I spoke to you while I was still with you—that everything written about me in the law of Moses, the prophets, and the psalms must be fulfilled.” Then he opened their minds to understand the scriptures, and he said to them, “Thus it is written, that the Messiah is to suffer and to rise from the dead on the third day, and that repentance and forgiveness of sins is to be proclaimed in his name to all nations, beginning from Jerusalem. You are witnesses of these things.

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.

1. I be - lieve in God al - might - y, Au - thor of all things that
 2. I be - lieve that Je - sus suf - fered, scourged and scorned and cru - ci -
 3. I be - lieve in God's own Spir - it, bond - ing all the saints with-

be, Mak - er of the earth and heav - ens, Keep - er of the sky and
 fied; tak - en from the cross, was bur - ied— True Life there had tru - ly
 in One church, cath - o - lic and ho - ly, where for - give - ness frees from

sea. I be - lieve in God's Son, Je - sus, now for
 died. I be - lieve that on the third day Christ was
 sin; in the bod - y's res - ur - rec - tion, for the

us both Lord and Christ, of the Spir - it and of
 raised up from the grave, then as - cend - ed to God
 break - ing of death's chain gives the life that's ev - er -

Mar - y born to bring a - bun - dant life.
 right hand. He will come to judge and save.
 last - ing. This the faith that I have claimed.

(P)

Prayers for the People

- Leader Alleluia! What was dead shall live; what was dark shall shine; what was forgotten shall be remembered, for the Lord is risen and walks among us. Let us confidently bring before God the needs of all the world, asking God for renewal, saying:
- People **Alleluia! Christ is Risen.**
- Leader Creator God, we thank you for the gift of another day in your beautiful world. Give us clarity to know what our part is to care for our environment and all creatures we encounter.
- People **Alleluia! Christ is Risen.**
- Leader Wonderful Counselor, we pray for a just and peaceable world. May all in authority to govern our cities, states, and nations be mindful of your presence and administer with wisdom, fairness, and mercy.
- People **Alleluia! Christ is Risen.**
- Leader Life-giving Spirit, we pray that you will remind us of how wide your definition of neighbor is. We invite your help in mending rifts between people and nations, revealing to us how we can alleviate the suffering of others to make our world a better place.
- People **Alleluia! Christ is Risen.**
- Leader Lord of the Dance of life and seasons, we give you thanks for the rhythm of connection and refreshment. We praise you for the ways that we are able to taste and see you in all our relationships. We are thankful for those we name silently or aloud, especially...
- People **Alleluia! Christ is Risen.**
- Leader Healer and Comforter of our souls, we pray for your healing presence in the lives of all around us who are torn by pain and suffering, in any kind of trouble, are lost, uncared for, or grieving, especially those we name silently or aloud... shelter them and give them peace.
- People **Alleluia! Christ is Risen.**
- Leader Good Shepherd, we remember with love the great cloud of witnesses who have gone before us into your presence and appreciate the ways they have enriched our lives, especially those we name silently or aloud...that they rest in peace and rise in glory.
- People **Alleluia! Christ is Risen.**
- Presider God of life, we thank you for the mystery implanted in us, the paradox of life from death and community from scattered disciples. We praise you for the dying which saves us from death and for the rising, which brings us life. We pray, as we live, through Jesus the risen one, in the power of the Holy Spirit, now and for ever. **Amen.**

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

Doxology

*Praise God from whom all blessings flow;
praise God, all creatures here below;
Praise God 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.

But chiefly are we bound to praise you for the glorious resurrection of your Son Jesus Christ our Lord; for he is the true Paschal Lamb, who has taken away the sin of the world. By his death he has destroyed death, and by his rising to life again he has won for us everlasting life.

Therefore we praise you, joining our voices with Angels and Archangels and with all the company of heaven, who for ever sing this hymn to proclaim the glory of your Name:

Sanctus: S129 (*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.**

Remain standing or kneel here for 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, according to his command, O Father,

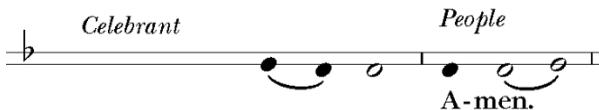
**We remember his death,
We proclaim his resurrection,
We await his coming in glory;**

And we offer our sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving to you, O Lord of all; presenting to you, from your creation, this bread and this wine.

We pray you, gracious God, to send your Holy Spirit upon these gifts that they may be the Sacrament of the Body of Christ and his Blood of the new Covenant. Unite us to your Son in his sacrifice, that we may be acceptable through him, being sanctified by the Holy Spirit. In the fullness of time, put all things in subjection under your Christ, and bring us to that heavenly country where, with all your saints, we may enter the everlasting heritage of your sons and daughters; through Jesus Christ our Lord, the firstborn of all creation, the head of the Church, and the author of our salvation.

Presider then sings,

By him, and with him, and in him, in the unity of the Holy Spirit all honor and glory is yours, Almighty Father, now and for ever.



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: S154 (*sung by all*)

Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.
Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us;
therefore let us keep the feast.
Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.

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*)

Jo Ellen Carson

As the deer pants for the water

As the deer pants for the water
So my soul longs after you.
You alone are my heart's desire
And I long to worship you.

Martin Nystrom, composer

Refrain:

You alone are my strength, my shield,
To You alone may my spirit yield;
You alone are my heart's desire,
And I long to worship you.

*I want you more than gold or silver,
Only you can satisfy;
You alone are the real joy giver
And the apple of my eye. (Refrain)*

*You're my friend and you are my brother,
Even though you are a king;
I love you more than any other,
So much more than anything. (Refrain)*

Spirit of the Living God

*Spirit of the living God, fall afresh on me.
Spirit of the living God, fall afresh on me.
Melt me, mold me, fill me, use me,
Spirit of the living God, fall afresh on me.*

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.*

Stand or kneel, as able.

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.

The Blessing

Presider

Christ is Risen from the dead! Live without fear: your Creator has made you holy, has always protected you, and loves you as a mother. Go in peace to follow the good road and may God's blessing be with you this day and always.

All

AMEN!

Stand, as able

Recessional Hymn #493

O for a thousand tongues to sing

The Dismissal

Presider Let us go forth in the name of the risen Christ!
Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!
People **Thanks be to God! Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!**

Postlude

Coming Lessons

Acts 4: 5-12
Psalm 23
1 John 3: 16-24
John 10: 11-18

Prayer List

Intercessions: Ben, Daniel, Ed & Jean, Felbert T., Gina D., Jon, Julia, Julie O., Lance & Suzanne W., Laura D., Laura M., Leia B., the Besaw family, Gary K. on the unexpected death of his son

Departed: Scott Koch (pronounced "Cook")

Birthdays:

Wedding Anniversaries: Ed & Melora Campbell (April 18), Charles & Sally Besaw (April 22)

The Following People are Assisting with the Services

Role	This Sunday	Next Sunday
Altar Guild	Sheila Pfaender	Sheila Pfaender
Chalicerist I	Brenda Weems	Shelley Jones
Chalicerist II	Jeanne Green	Gary Medley
Crucifer	Frances Buckle	Brenda Weems
Lector I	Louise Law	Jann Boggs
Lector II	Allan Joyce	Brenda Weems
Prayers of the People	Brenda Weems	Cynthia Grant
Oblations Bearers	Allan Joyce & Gary Medley	Marybeth Lentz & Cynthia Grant
Greeters/Ushers	Jim & Barbara Halsey	Frank & Ann Hazard
Book Bearer	Jeanne Green	Gary Medley
Sanctus Bell	Frances Buckle	Brenda Weems

Schedule

Sunday, April 15 – Third Sunday of Easter

9:15 am – Adult Forum

10:30 am – Holy Eucharist

Tuesday, April 17

12:00 pm – Ladies’ Lunch Out at Kanpai

Wednesday, April 18

10:00 am – Holy Eucharist

Thursday, April 19

6:00 pm – Bible Study of the Gospel of John (*see details below*)

Sunday, April 22 – Fourth Sunday of Easter

9:15 am – Adult Forum

10:30 am – Holy Eucharist

Announcements

Adult Forum: Theology Stew – Sundays @ 9:15 am.

Ladies' Lunch Out in April...

Ladies' Lunch Out will be **THIS Tuesday, April 17th at noon at Kanpai**. **PLEASE NOTE DATE CHANGE**. The sign-up sheet is on the Information table. Jann Boggs is hosting. Please contact her if you have any questions. She can be reached at jaspalding@juno.com or 727.641.4925.

Bible Study of the Gospel of John

A study of the Gospel of John continues every other week at 6:00 pm at the Seckel Barn, 404 Vestal Road, Sparta. The Rev. Martha Honaker is leading the study. Our next gathering will be **THIS Thursday, April 19th**. Read this week's *Good News & Notes* for more information, and please join us!

Your Creative Ideas are needed!

We are celebrating 20 years as a worshipping community, and one fun way we plan to mark the occasion is with a bumper sticker slogan! We are a parish filled with creative minds so we ask that you brainstorm and then share your bumper sticker ideas with us. We'll pick the best 3 ideas from your submissions, share them via our *Good News & Notes*, and will ask you to vote on your favorite one after we have heard from several of you. The final bumper sticker design will be revealed after the votes are counted.

To submit your ideas, please send to ccepiscopal@skybest.com. Make sure you include any images and content in the format you prefer. All submissions must be received **no later than Friday, April 27 at noon**. Then watch the *GN&N* for the top three submissions and instructions on how to vote for your favorite.

We hope you'll join us in this fun way to kick-off our celebration of 20 years of ministry.

Mt. Soul's 2018 kick-off event will be Sunday, April 29th!

Mountain Soul's first event of 2018 will be featuring **Jonah Riddle and the Carolina Express**. They'll be performing on **Sunday, April 29th at 6:00 pm**. Mark your calendars now, and check the *GN&N* for more details.

"Jonah and Grayson Riddle remind me of a certain kid I used to know around Missouri that would travel anywhere possible to hear Bluegrass Music, that kid being myself. It reminds me of the days when I ate, breathed, and slept the music. They have a burning passion for the Traditional Sounds of days gone by. Dressing the part, singing the style, and playing the old ways. For as young as they are, they are quick studies of the early pioneers. The Carolina soul runs in their veins with grit and desire to make music entertaining and joyous. Youth honoring the fathers is an A+ in my book!"

- C.J. Lewandowski, Bluegrass Today

Food & Fellowship Person of the Month for April is: Marybeth Lentz, mlentz@skybest.com or 336-657-7088.

Vestry Person of the month for April is: Sheila Pfaender, sspfaender@gmail.com

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

For any building or property issues, please contact: Phil Donaldson with your concerns

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

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