

# Christ Episcopal Church Sparta, NC

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

## Celebrating 20 Years!

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**Fourth Sunday of Easter  
April 22, 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](mailto:ccepiscopal@skybest.com).

**Sermons Available** Recent sermons available at [www.christchurchallegghany.com](http://www.christchurchallegghany.com).

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

**We extend special thanks today to the following people:**

**Laura Davis**, for serving as musician and for being so generous with her talents.

# The Gathering

Prelude

*All stand, as able*

Processional Hymn #450 (vss 1-3)

*All hail the power of Jesus' Name!*

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 Son Jesus is the good shepherd of your people: Grant that when we hear his voice we may know him who calls us each by name, and follow where he leads; who, with you and the Holy Spirit, lives and reigns, one God, for ever and ever. **Amen.**

*All are seated.*

## Liturgy of the Word

### First Reading

#### Acts 4: 5-12

The rulers, elders, and scribes assembled in Jerusalem, with Annas the high priest, Caiaphas, John, and Alexander, and all who were of the high-priestly family. When they had made the prisoners stand in their midst, they inquired, "By what power or by what name did you do this?" Then Peter, filled with the Holy Spirit, said to them, "Rulers of the people and elders, if we are questioned today because of a good deed done to someone who was sick and are asked how this man has been healed, let it be known to all of you, and to all the people of Israel, that this man is standing before you in good health by the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth, whom you crucified, whom God raised from the dead. This Jesus is  
    ` the stone that was rejected by you, the builders;  
        it has become the cornerstone.'

There is salvation in no one else, for there is no other name under heaven given among mortals by which we must be saved."

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

People             **Thanks be to God.**

## The Response

### Psalm 23

The Lord is my shepherd; \*  
I shall not be in want.

He makes me lie down in green pastures \*  
and leads me beside still waters.

He revives my soul \*  
and guides me along right pathways for his Name's sake.

Though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death,  
I shall fear no evil; \*  
for you are with me;  
your rod and your staff, they comfort me.

You spread a table before me in the presence of those who trouble me; \*  
you have anointed my head with oil,  
and my cup is running over.

Surely your goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life, \*  
and I will dwell in the house of the Lord for ever.

## The Second Reading

### 1 John 3: 16-24

We know love by this, that he laid down his life for us~ and we ought to lay down our lives for one another. How does God's love abide in anyone who has the world's goods and sees a brother or sister in need and yet refuses help?

Little children, let us love, not in word or speech, but in truth and action. And by this we will know that we are from the truth and will reassure our hearts before him whenever our hearts condemn us; for God is greater than our hearts, and he knows everything. Beloved, if our hearts do not condemn us, we have boldness before God; and we receive from him whatever we ask, because we obey his commandments and do what pleases him.

And this is his commandment, that we should believe in the name of his Son Jesus Christ and love one another, just as he has commanded us. All who obey his commandments abide in him, and he abides in them. And by this we know that he abides in us, by the Spirit that he has given us.

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 John.

People             **Glory to you, Lord Christ**

### **The Gospel**

**John 10: 11-18**

Jesus said, "I am the good shepherd. The good shepherd lays down his life for the sheep. The hired hand, who is not the shepherd and does not own the sheep, sees the wolf coming and leaves the sheep and runs away—and the wolf snatches them and scatters them. The hired hand runs away because a hired hand does not care for the sheep. I am the good shepherd. I know my own and my own know me, just as the Father knows me and I know the Father. And I lay down my life for the sheep. I have other sheep that do not belong to this fold. I must bring them also, and they will listen to my voice. So there will be one flock, one shepherd. For this reason the Father loves me, because I lay down my life in order to take it up again. No one takes it from me, but I lay it down of my own accord. I have power to lay it down, and I have power to take it up again. I have received this command from my Father."

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  
 died; 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.

## 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... We give thanks for the gift of community.
- 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

Laura Davis

*Please stand, as able.*

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

*Remain 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,

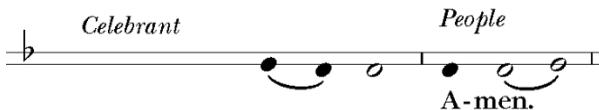
**We remember his death,  
We proclaim his resurrection,  
We await his coming in glory;**

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)

Laura Davis

Hymn #508

Breathe on me, Breath of God (vss 1-3)

*Breathe on me, Breath of God,  
fill me with life anew,  
that I may love what thou dost love,  
and do what thou wouldst do.*

*Breathe on me, Breath of God,  
until my heart is pure,  
until with thee I will one will,  
to do and to endure.*

*Breathe on me, Breath of God,  
till I am wholly thine,  
till all this earthly part of me  
glows with thy fire divine.*

Taizé 28

Come and fill our hearts with peace

*Come and fill our hearts with your peace,  
You alone, O Lord, are holy.  
Come and fill our hearts with your peace,  
Alleluia! (Repeat 2 times)*

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 #180

*He is risen*

## 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 8: 26-40

Psalm 22: 24-30

1 John 4: 7-21

John 15: 1-8

### Prayer List

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

**Departed:**

**Birthdays:** Jeanne Green (April 23)

**Wedding Anniversaries:** 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	Shelley Jones	Sheila Pfaender
Chalicerist II	Gary Medley	Shelley Jones
Crucifer	Brenda Weems	Kimberly Jones
Lector I	Jann Boggs	Sheila Pfaender
Lector II	Brenda Weems	Louise Law
Prayers of the People	Cynthia Grant	Ann Hazard
Oblations Bearers	Marybeth Lentz & Cynthia Grant	Louise Law & Rod Pace
Greeters/Ushers	Frank & Ann Hazard	Willie & Eleanor Plummer
Book Bearer	Gary Medley	Shelley Jones
Sanctus Bell	Brenda Weems	Kimberly Jones

## Schedule

### Sunday, April 22 – Fourth Sunday of Easter

9:15 am – Adult Forum

10:30 am – Holy Eucharist

### Wednesday, April 25

10:00 am – Holy Eucharist

### Sunday, April 29 – Fifth Sunday of Easter

9:15 am – Adult Forum

10:30 am – Holy Eucharist

6:00 pm – Mountain Soul presents Jonah Riddle & the Carolina Express

## Announcements

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

**New address for Fred Hardee:** 1351 Susanna Wesley Drive, Winston-Salem, NC 27104

### **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 **Thursday, May 3rd**. 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](mailto: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 29<sup>th</sup>!**

Mountain Soul's first event of 2018 will be featuring **Jonah Riddle and the Carolina Express**. They'll be performing on **Sunday, April 29<sup>th</sup> 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](mailto:mlentz@skybest.com) or 336-657-7088.

**Vestry Person of the month for April is:** Sheila Pfaender, [sspfaender@gmail.com](mailto:sspfaender@gmail.com)

**You may reach Rev. Stephanie at:** [revsteph@skybest.com](mailto: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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*Prayers of the People adapted from Intercession for God's People. Gail Runshaw*