

# Christ Episcopal Church

Sparta, NC

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

## Celebrating 20 Years!

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**Fifth Sunday of Easter**  
**April 29, 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 #460 (vss 1-3)

*Alleluia! sing to Jesus!*

## 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.

Almighty God, whom truly to know is everlasting life: Grant us so perfectly to know your Son Jesus Christ to be the way, the truth, and the life, that we may steadfastly follow his steps in the way that leads to eternal life; through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord, who lives and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. **Amen.**

*All are seated.*

## Liturgy of the Word

### First Reading

**Acts 8: 26-40**

An angel of the Lord said to Philip, "Get up and go toward the south to the road that goes down from Jerusalem to Gaza." (This is a wilderness road.) So he got up and went. Now there was an Ethiopian eunuch, a court official of the Candace, queen of the Ethiopians, in charge of her entire treasury. He had come to Jerusalem to worship and was returning home; seated in his chariot, he was reading the prophet Isaiah. Then the Spirit said to Philip, "Go over to this chariot and join it." So Philip ran up to it and heard him reading the prophet Isaiah. He asked, "Do you understand what you are reading?" He replied, "How can I, unless someone guides me?" And he invited Philip to get in and sit beside him. Now the passage of the scripture that he was reading was this:

"Like a sheep he was led to the slaughter,  
and like a lamb silent before its shearer,  
so he does not open his mouth.

In his humiliation justice was denied him.

Who can describe his generation?

For his life is taken away from the earth."

The eunuch asked Philip, "About whom, may I ask you, does the prophet say this, about himself or about someone else?" Then Philip began to speak, and starting with this scripture, he proclaimed to him the good news about Jesus. As they were going along the road, they came to some water; and the eunuch said, "Look, here is water! What is to prevent me from being baptized?" He commanded the chariot to stop, and both of them, Philip and the eunuch, went down into the water, and Philip baptized him. When they came up out of the water, the Spirit of the Lord snatched Philip away; the eunuch saw him no more, and went on his way rejoicing. But Philip found himself at Azotus, and as he was passing through the region, he proclaimed the good news to all the towns until he came to Caesarea.

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

People             **Thanks be to God.**

## The Response

### Psalm 22: 24-30

My praise is of him in the great assembly; \*  
I will perform my vows in the presence of those who worship him.

The poor shall eat and be satisfied,  
and those who seek the Lord shall praise him: \*  
"May your heart live for ever!"

All the ends of the earth shall remember and turn to the Lord, \*  
and all the families of the nations shall bow before him.

For kingship belongs to the Lord; \*  
he rules over the nations.

To him alone all who sleep in the earth bow down in worship; \*  
all who go down to the dust fall before him.

My soul shall live for him;  
my descendants shall serve him; \*  
they shall be known as the Lord's for ever.

They shall come and make known to a people yet unborn \*  
the saving deeds that he has done.

## The Second Reading

### 1 John 4: 7-21

Beloved, let us love one another, because love is from God; everyone who loves is born of God and knows God. Whoever does not love does not know God, for God is love. God's love was revealed among us in this way: God sent his only Son into the world so that we might live through him. In this is love, not that we loved God but that he loved us and sent his Son to be the atoning sacrifice for our sins. Beloved, since God loved us so much, we also ought to love one another. No one has ever seen God; if we love one another, God lives in us, and his love is perfected in us.

By this we know that we abide in him and he in us, because he has given us of his Spirit. And we have seen and do testify that the Father has sent his Son as the Savior of the world. God abides in those who confess that Jesus is the Son of God, and they abide in God. So we have known and believe the love that God has for us.

God is love, and those who abide in love abide in God, and God abides in them. Love has been perfected among us in this: that we may have boldness on the day of judgment, because as he is, so are we in this world. There is no fear in love, but perfect love casts out fear; for fear has to do with punishment, and whoever fears has not reached perfection in love. We love because he first loved us. Those who say, "I love God," and hate their brothers or sisters, are liars; for those who do not love a brother or sister whom they have seen, cannot love God whom they have not seen. The commandment we have from him is this: those who love God must love their brothers and sisters also.

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

*Please stand, as able.*

**Gospel Hymn #508**

*Breathe on me, Breath of God*

*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 15: 1-8**

Jesus said to his disciples, "I am the true vine, and my Father is the vinegrower. He removes every branch in me that bears no fruit. Every branch that bears fruit he prunes to make it bear more fruit. You have already been cleansed by the word that I have spoken to you. Abide in me as I abide in you. Just as the branch cannot bear fruit by itself unless it abides in the vine, neither can you unless you abide in me. I am the vine, you are the branches. Those who abide in me and I in them bear much fruit, because apart from me you can do nothing. Whoever does not abide in me is thrown away like a branch and withers; such branches are gathered, thrown into the fire, and burned. If you abide in me, and my words abide in you, ask for whatever you wish, and it will be done for you. My Father is glorified by this, that you bear much fruit and become my disciples."

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.

## 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.**

## *A Farewell to Chance Wyatt*

### 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.*

Hymn #644 (vss 1-4)

*How sweet the Name of Jesus sounds*

*How sweet the Name of Jesus sounds  
in a believer's ear!  
It soothes our sorrows, heals our wounds,  
and drives away our fear.*

*It makes the wounded spirit whole,  
and calms the troubled breast;  
'tis manna to the hungry soul,  
and to the wary, rest.*

*Dear Name, the rock on which I build,  
my shield and hiding place,  
my never-failing treasury,  
filled with boundless stores of grace!*

*O Jesus! Shepherd, Guardian, Friend,  
O Prophet, Priest, and King,  
my Lord, my Life, my Way, my End,  
accept the praise I bring.*

Taizé 19

*In God alone*

*In God alone my soul can find rest and peace,  
in God my peace and joy.  
Only in God my soul can find its rest,  
find its rest and peace. (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.*

Stand or kneel, as able.

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 #594**

*God of grace and God of glory*

**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 10: 44-48

Psalm 98

1 John 5: 1-6

John 15: 9-17

## 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, Nathan, Rod & Louise, the Besaw family, Gary K. on the unexpected death of his son

**Departed:**

**Birthdays:**

**Wedding Anniversaries:** Bob & Fonda Hale (May 2), Larry & Denise Seckel (May 6)

### The Following People are Assisting with the Services

Role	This Sunday	Next Sunday
Altar Guild	Sheila Pfaender	Bruce Smith
Chalicer I	Sheila Pfaender	Gary Medley
Chalicer II	Shelley Jones	Brenda Weems
Crucifer	Kimberly Jones	Kimberly Jones
Lector I	Sheila Pfaender	Brenda Weems
Lector II	Louise Law	Allan Joyce
Prayers of the People	Marybeth Lentz	Tricia Whitman
Oblations Bearers	Louise Law & Rod Pace	Joe & Judy Ritchie
Greeters/Ushers	Willie & Eleanor Plummer	Geoff & Shelley Jones
Book Bearer	Shelley Jones	Brenda Weems
Sanctus Bell	Kimberly Jones	Kimberly Jones

## Schedule

### **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

### **Wednesday, May 2**

10:00 am – Holy Eucharist

### **Thursday, May 3**

6:00 pm – Bible Study at the Seckel Barn

### **Sunday, May 6 – Sixth Sunday of Easter**

9:15 am – Adult Forum

10:30 am – Holy Eucharist

Stone Soup Coffee Fellowship following the morning service

## Announcements

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

**Mt. Soul's 2018 kick-off event is TONIGHT, Sunday, April 29<sup>th</sup> at 6:00 pm!**

Mountain Soul's first event of 2018 will be featuring **Jonah Riddle and the Carolina Express**. Please join us!

### **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, May 3<sup>rd</sup>**. Please join us!

### **Sunday May 6<sup>th</sup> – Stone Soup Coffee Fellowship**

We'll be having a simple meal of Soup, Bread and Fruit sponsored by the Outreach Committee and Friends. Please bring something for our local Food Pantry.

**Food & Fellowship Person of the Month for May is:** Deb Donaldson. She can be reached at [sld1400@aol.com](mailto:sld1400@aol.com) or 336-372-7573.

**Vestry Person of the month for May is:** Phil Donaldson. He can be reached at [sld1400@aol.com](mailto:sld1400@aol.com) or 336.372.7573.

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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*Music used by Permission CCLE License #11138616*  
*Prayers of the People adapted from Intercession for God's People. Gail Runshaw*