

Christ Episcopal Church

Sparta, NC

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

Celebrating 20 Years!

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Sixth Sunday of Easter

May 6, 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 ccepisopal@skybest.com.

Sermons Available: Recent sermons available at 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:

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

Outreach & Friends, for providing the Stone Soup for our fellowship gathering after the service, and

Bob & Fonda Hale, for providing the altar flowers in celebration of their wedding anniversary.

The Gathering

Prelude

All stand, as able.

Processional Hymn #686

Come, thou fount of every blessing

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, you have prepared for those who love you such good things as surpass our understanding: Pour into our hearts such love towards you, that we, loving you in all things and above all things, may obtain your promises, which exceed all that we can desire; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. **Amen.**

All are seated.

Liturgy of the Word

First Reading

Acts 10: 44-48

While Peter was still speaking, the Holy Spirit fell upon all who heard the word. The circumcised believers who had come with Peter were astounded that the gift of the Holy Spirit had been poured out even on the Gentiles, for they heard them speaking in tongues and extolling God. Then Peter said, "Can anyone withhold the water for baptizing these people who have received the Holy Spirit just as we have?" So he ordered them to be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ. Then they invited him to stay for several days.

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

People **Thanks be to God.**

The Response

Psalm 98

Sing to the Lord a new song, *
for he has done marvelous things.

With his right hand and his holy arm *
has he won for himself the victory.

The Lord has made known his victory; *
his righteousness has he openly shown in the sight of the nations.

He remembers his mercy and faithfulness to the house of Israel, *
and all the ends of the earth have seen the victory of our God.

Shout with joy to the Lord, all you lands; *
lift up your voice, rejoice, and sing.

Sing to the Lord with the harp, *
with the harp and the voice of song.

With trumpets and the sound of the horn *
shout with joy before the King, the Lord.

Let the sea make a noise and all that is in it, *
the lands and those who dwell therein.

Let the rivers clap their hands, *
and let the hills ring out with joy before the Lord,
when he comes to judge the earth.

In righteousness shall he judge the world *
and the peoples with equity.

The Second Reading

1 John 5: 1-6

Everyone who believes that Jesus is the Christ has been born of God, and everyone who loves the parent loves the child. By this we know that we love the children of God, when we love God and obey his commandments. For the love of God is this, that we obey his commandments. And his commandments are not burdensome, for whatever is born of God conquers the world. And this is the victory that conquers the world, our faith. Who is it that conquers the world but the one who believes that Jesus is the Son of God?

This is the one who came by water and blood, Jesus Christ, not with the water only but with the water and the blood. And the Spirit is the one that testifies, for the Spirit is the truth.

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

People Thanks be to God.

Please stand, as able.

Gospel Hymn #488

Be thou my vision

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: 9-17

Jesus said to his disciples, “As the Father has loved me, so I have loved you; abide in my love. If you keep my commandments, you will abide in my love, just as I have kept my Father’s commandments and abide in his love. I have said these things to you so that my joy may be in you, and that your joy may be complete.

“This is my commandment, that you love one another as I have loved you. No one has greater love than this, to lay down one’s life for one’s friends. You are my friends if you do what I command you. I do not call you servants any longer, because the servant does not know what the master is doing; but I have called you friends, because I have made known to you everything that I have heard from my Father. You did not choose me but I chose you. And I appointed you to go and bear fruit, fruit that will last, so that the Father will give you whatever you ask him in my name. I am giving you these commands so that you may love one another.”

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.**

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

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.

For the beauty of the earth (vss 1-4)

*For the beauty of the earth, for the beauty of the skies,
for the love which from our birth, over and around us lies,
Christ our God, to thee we raise, this our hymn of grateful praise.*

*For the beauty of each hour, of the day and of the night,
hill and vale, and tree and flower, sun and moon, and stars of light,
Christ our God, to thee we raise, this our hymn of grateful praise.*

*For the joy of ear and eye, for the heart and mind's delight,
for the mystic harmony, linking sense to sound and sight,
Christ our God, to thee we raise, this our hymn of grateful praise.*

*For the joy of human love, brother, sister, parent, child,
friends on earth, and friends above, for all gentle thoughts and mild,
Christ our God, to thee we raise, this our hymn of grateful praise.*

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 #371

Thou, whose almighty word

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 1: 15-17, 21-26
Psalm 1
1 John 5: 9-13
John 17: 6-19

Prayer List

Intercessions: Ben, Daniel, Ed & Jean, Felbert T., Fred P., Gina D., Julie O., Laura D., Leia B., Linda, Nathan
Departed: Carolina Lea (Judy Ritchie's stepmother)
Birthdays: Jann Boggs (May 7), Sally Besaw (May 8)
Wedding Anniversaries: Larry & Denise Seckel (May 6)

The Following People are Assisting with the Services

Role	This Sunday	Next Sunday
Altar Guild	Bruce Smith	Bruce Smith
Chalichist I	Gary Medley	Ann Hazard
Chalichist II	Brenda Weems	
Crucifer	Kimberly Jones	Bruce Smith
Lector I	Brenda Weems	Bruce Smith
Lector II	Allan Joyce	Phil Donaldson
Prayers of the People	Tricia Whitman	Phil Donaldson
Oblations Bearers	Joe & Judy Ritchie	Marybeth Lentz & Frank Hazard
Greeters/Ushers	Geoff & Shelley Jones	Phil & Deb Donaldson
Book Bearer	Brenda Weems	Bruce Smith
Sanctus Bell	Kimberly Jones	Bruce Smith

Schedule

Sunday, May 6 – Sixth Sunday of Easter/Rogation Sunday

9:15 am – Adult Forum

10:30 am – Holy Eucharist

Stone Soup Coffee Fellowship following the morning service

Wednesday, May 9

10:00 am – Holy Eucharist

Sunday, May 13 – Seventh Sunday of Easter/Sunday after Ascension/Mother’s Day

9:15 am – Adult Forum

10:30 am – Holy Eucharist

Announcements

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

May 6th – Stone Soup Coffee Fellowship TODAY

Please join us after the morning service for a simple meal of Soup, Bread and Fruit sponsored by the Outreach Committee and Friends. Please bring something for our local Food Pantry.

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 17th**. Please join us!

Food & Fellowship Person of the Month for May is: Deb Donaldson. She can be reached at 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 or 336.372.7573.

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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Prayers of the People adapted from Intercession for God's People. Gail Runshaw*