

Christ Episcopal Church

Sparta, NC

A Home to All

Sharing God's Unconditional Love



Parish Picnic

Third Sunday after Pentecost

June 10, 2018 – 11:00 AM

Celebrating 20 years!

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 person:

Big Gap Civil, for serving as musicians and for being so generous with their talents, and

The Food & Fellowship Committee, for organizing our annual Parish Picnic!

The Gathering

Gathering Song

Big Gap Civil

All stand, as able.

Opening Acclamation

Presider Blessed be God: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

People And blessed by God's kingdom, now and for ever. Amen.

Presider Let us pray (*prayed by all*)

BCP 355

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: (*said by all*)

BCP 90

Glory to you, Lord God of our Fathers;
you are worthy of praise; glory to you.

Glory to you for the radiance of your holy Name;
we will praise you and highly exalt you for ever.

Glory to you in the splendor of your temple;
on the throne of your majesty, glory to you.

Glory to you, seated between the Cherubim;
we will praise you and highly exalt you for ever.

Glory to you, beholding the depths;
in the high vault of heaven, glory to you.

Glory to you, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit;
we will praise you and highly exalt you for ever.

Remain standing, as able.

The Collect

Presider The Lord be with you.

People **And also with you.**

Presider Let us pray.

O God, from whom all good proceeds: Grant that by your inspiration we may think those things that are right, and by your merciful guiding may do them; 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

Genesis 3: 8-15

They heard the sound of the Lord God walking in the garden at the time of the evening breeze, and the man and his wife hid themselves from the presence of the Lord God among the trees of the garden. But the Lord God called to the man, and said to him, "Where are you?" He said, "I heard the sound of you in the garden, and I was afraid, because I was naked; and I hid myself." He said, "Who told you that you were naked? Have you eaten from the tree of which I commanded you not to eat?" The man said, "The woman whom you gave to be with me, she gave me fruit from the tree, and I ate." Then the Lord God said to the woman, "What is this that you have done?" The woman said, "The serpent tricked me, and I ate." The Lord God said to the serpent,

 "Because you have done this,
 cursed are you among all animals
 and among all wild creatures;

upon your belly you shall go,
 and dust you shall eat
 all the days of your life.

I will put enmity between you and the woman,
 and between your offspring and hers;

he will strike your head,
 and you will strike his heel."

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

People **Thanks be to God.**

Please be seated.

The Response
Psalm 138

I will give thanks to you, O Lord, with my whole heart; *
before the gods I will sing your praise.

I will bow down toward your holy temple
and praise your Name, *
because of your love and faithfulness;

For you have glorified your Name *
and your word above all things.

When I called, you answered me; *
you increased my strength within me.

All the kings of the earth will praise you, O Lord, *
when they have heard the words of your mouth.

They will sing of the ways of the Lord, *
that great is the glory of the Lord.

Though the Lord be high, he cares for the lowly; *
he perceives the haughty from afar.

Though I walk in the midst of trouble, you keep me safe; *
you stretch forth your hand against the fury of my enemies;
your right hand shall save me.

The Lord will make good his purpose for me; *
O Lord, your love endures for ever;
do not abandon the works of your hands.

The Second Reading
2 Corinthians 4: 13-5: 1

Just as we have the same spirit of faith that is in accordance with scripture—"I believed, and so I spoke"—we also believe, and so we speak, because we know that the one who raised the Lord Jesus will raise us also with Jesus, and will bring us with you into his presence. Yes, everything is for your sake, so that grace, as it extends to more and more people, may increase thanksgiving, to the glory of God.

So we do not lose heart. Even though our outer nature is wasting away, our inner nature is being renewed day by day. For this slight momentary affliction is preparing us for an eternal weight of glory beyond all measure, because we look not at what can be seen but at what cannot be seen; for what can be seen is temporary, but what cannot be seen is eternal.

For we know that if the earthly tent we live in is destroyed, we have a building from God, a house not made with hands, eternal in the heavens.

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

Music

Big Gap Civil

Please stand, as able.

Presider The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ, according to Mark.
People **Glory to you, Lord Christ.**

The Gospel
Mark 3: 20-35

The crowd came together again, so that Jesus and his disciples could not even eat. When his family heard it, they went out to restrain him, for people were saying, "He has gone out of his mind." And the scribes who came down from Jerusalem said, "He has Beelzebul, and by the ruler of the demons he casts out demons." And he called them to him, and spoke to them in parables, "How can Satan cast out Satan? If a kingdom is divided against itself, that kingdom cannot stand. And if a house is divided against itself, that house will not be able to stand. And if Satan has risen up against himself and is divided, he cannot stand, but his end has come. But no one can enter a strong man's house and plunder his property without first tying up the strong man; then indeed the house can be plundered.

"Truly I tell you, people will be forgiven for their sins and whatever blasphemies they utter; but whoever blasphemes against the Holy Spirit can never have forgiveness, but is guilty of an eternal sin"—for they had said, "He has an unclean spirit."

Then his mother and his brothers came; and standing outside, they sent to him and called him. A crowd was sitting around him; and they said to him, “Your mother and your brothers and sisters are outside, asking for you.” And he replied, “Who are my mother and my brothers?” And looking at those who sat around him, he said, “Here are my mother and my brothers! Whoever does the will of God is my brother and sister and mother.”

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.

Please stand, as able.

Prayers of the People

Leader: Bound together in Christ in the communion of the Holy Spirit, we pray with one heart and mind to our God, saying:

People: Holy Spirit, you renew the face of the Earth.

Leader: We pray that the love that flows endlessly between the Father and the Son in the fellowship of the Holy Spirit may renew and deepen the lives of all who follow Jesus and draw the human family all together into your eternal dance;

People: Holy Spirit, you renew the face of the Earth.

Leader: We pray for the leaders of the Church, and for the leaders of nations, that we, with them, may discern the ways to overcome divisions and mistrust, that all may reflect your unity in every aspect of our common lives.

People: Holy Spirit, you renew the face of the Earth.

Leader: We pray that your Abundant Life, seen clearly in the life of Jesus, may endure and flourish as the Holy Spirit enlightens us to a greater understanding of you, ourselves, and all others with whom we share our planet.

People: Holy Spirit, you renew the face of the Earth.

Leader: We pray for our families, our communal life and our wider communities, that they may be places of communion and mutual support, which builds us up and strengthens us with your grace and truth. We pray especially for... We give thanks for the gift of community.

People: Holy Spirit, you renew the face of the Earth.

Leader: We thank you for our natural world, which you so lovingly created and call us to redeem; help us be wise, careful, and loving caregivers of your creation.

People: Holy Spirit, you renew the face of the Earth.

Leader: In the power of your Spirit who joins our prayer to Christ's eternal intercession, we pray for the sick, the suffering, those who have died, and all who stand in need, especially...For healing for all the world we pray,

People: Holy Spirit, you renew the face of the earth.

Leader: In an endless outpouring of thanksgiving for your ceaseless joy, we give thanks for... that we may always rejoice in the power of your love.

People: Holy Spirit, you renew the face of the Earth.

Stephanie: Gracious God, whom Jesus taught us to call Abba, Father, by the inner workings of your Spirit, help us to embrace your grace to deepen our communion with you, give us courage to more and more be signs of your enduring love. This we pray through Jesus Christ, who lives and works with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever.
Amen.

Presider Let us confess our sins against God and our neighbor.

God of all mercy,
we confess that we have sinned against you,
opposing your will in our lives.
We have denied your goodness in each other,
in ourselves, and in the world you have created.
We repent of the evil that enslaves us,
the evil we have done,
and the evil done on our behalf.
Forgive, restore, and strengthen us
through our Savior Jesus Christ,
that we may abide in your love
and serve only your will. Amen.

Presider Almighty God have mercy on you, forgive you all your sins through our Lord Jesus Christ, strengthen you in all goodness, and by the power of the Holy Spirit keep you in eternal life. 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 (*sung acapella by congregation*)

Ubi caritas

*Ubi caritas et amor,
Ubi caritas deus ibi est (Repeat)*

The Great Thanksgiving

Standing, as able.

Eucharistic Prayer C, BCP 369

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 God of all power, Ruler of the Universe, you are worthy of glory and praise.

People **Glory to you for ever and ever.**

Presider At your command all things came to be: the vast expanse of interstellar space, galaxies, suns, the planets in their courses, and this fragile earth, our island home.

People **By your will they were created and have their being.**

Presider From the primal elements you brought forth the human race, and blessed us with memory, reason, and skill. You made us the rulers of creation. But we turned against you, and betrayed your trust; and we turned against one another.

People **Have mercy, Lord, for we are sinners in your sight.**

Presider Again and again, you called us to return. Through prophets and sages you revealed your righteous Law. And in the fullness of time you sent your only Son, born of a woman, to fulfill your Law, to open for us the way of freedom and peace.

People **By his blood, he reconciled us.**

By his wounds, we are healed.

Presider And therefore we praise you, joining with the heavenly chorus, with prophets, apostles, and martyrs, and with all those in every generation who have looked to you in hope, to proclaim with them your glory, in their unending hymn:

Sanctus: S129 (*said 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.

And so, Father, we who have been redeemed by him, and made a new people by water and the Spirit, now bring before you these gifts. Sanctify them by your Holy Spirit to be the Body and Blood of Jesus Christ our Lord.

On the night he was betrayed he took bread, said the blessing, broke the bread, and gave it to his friends, 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, gave thanks, 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."

Remembering now his work of redemption, and offering to you this sacrifice of thanksgiving,

People **We celebrate his death and resurrection,
as we await the day of his coming.**

Lord God of our Fathers and Mothers; God of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob; God of Sarah, Rebekah and Leah; God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ: Open our eyes to see your hand at work in the world about us. Deliver us from the presumption of coming to this Table for solace only, and not for strength; for pardon only, and not for renewal. Let the grace of this Holy Communion make us one body, one spirit in Christ, that we may worthily serve the world in his name.

People **Risen Lord, be known to us in the breaking of the Bread.**

Accept these prayers and praises, Father, through Jesus Christ our great High Priests, to whom, with you and the Holy Spirit, your Church gives honor, glory, and worship, from generation to generation.

AMEN.

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.**

The Breaking of the Bread

A period of silence is kept.

Fraction: S154 (*said 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

Big Gap Civil

Surely the Presence of the Lord (*sung acapella by the congregation*)
*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 sit, 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.

Stand, as able.

The Blessing

Presider Almighty God, may the words which we have heard this day with our outward ears, through your grace, be so grafted inwardly in our hearts, that they may bring forth in us the fruit of compassionate living, to the honor and praise of your Name. May the blessing of God Almighty, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, be with you this day and remain with you always. **Amen.**

The Dismissal

Presider Let us go forth rejoicing in the power of the Holy Spirit!
Alleluia! Alleluia!
People Thanks be to God! Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

Let's Picnic!

Coming Lessons

1 Samuel 15: 34 - 16: 13
Psalm 20
2 Corinthians 5: 6-17
Mark 4: 26-34

The Following People are Assisting with the Services

Role	This Sunday	Next Sunday
Altar Guild	Marybeth Lentz	Marybeth Lentz
Chalistic I	Sheila Pfaender	Brenda Weems
Chalistic II	Shelley Jones	Jann Boggs
Crucifer	Kimberly Jones	Ann Hazard
Lector I	Sheila Pfaender	Jann Boggs
Lector II	Frank Hazard	Frank Hazard
Prayers of the People	Frank Hazard	Ann Hazard
Oblations Bearers		Shelley & Geoff Jones
Greeters/Ushers	Ann & Frank Hazard	Frank Hazard & Jim Halsey
Book Bearer	Shelley Jones	Jann Boggs
Sanctus Bell	Kimberly Jones	Ann Hazard

Prayer List

Intercessions: Ben, Denise H., Ed & Jean, Fred P., Jessica, Julie O., Laura D., Lisa D., Mark & Julee W., and Ray V.

Departed:

Birthdays:

Wedding Anniversaries: Geoff & Shelley Jones (June 17)

Schedule

Sunday, June 10 – Third Sunday after Pentecost

10:30 am – Drop off picnic food in the fellowship hall

11:00 am – Parish Picnic

Tuesday, June 12

12:30 pm – Vestry meeting

Wednesday, June 13

10:00 am – Holy Eucharist

Thursday, June 14

6:00 pm – Bible Study at the Seckel Barn

Sunday, June 17 – Fourth Sunday after Pentecost

9:15 am – Adult Forum

10:30 am – Holy Eucharist

Announcements

Adult Forum: Saving Jesus

Jesus is not just a historical figure relegated to the pages of Scripture and stories that happened long ago. The invitation to follow Jesus is always before us and Jesus' teachings and life call us into a transformational way of seeing and living in the world here and now.

Join us in Adult Forum, Sundays @ 9:15 for Saving Jesus, a 12-part exploration of who Jesus was in his context, time and culture as well as how we can follow Jesus today. A host of experts from many denominations and faith traditions help us to have conversations about the relevance of Jesus for the 1st century. Come and Join the Conversation!

20/20 Challenge!

By now you should have received your 20/20 Challenge letter. We are very thankful for your generosity and we are excited to meet the promise to extend this opportunity.

We will have a special day of celebration of the 20 years since we became a mission of the Diocese of Western North Carolina on June 24th, which is when we will recognize the first fruits of our Challenge efforts. You are welcome to mail your card in at any time and to think and pray on your participation beyond the June 24th celebration. Our deepest goal is to shine with that Christ Church “can do” spirit and offer everyone a chance to get us on the road to the next 20 years!

Prayer List Reminder

Prayers are updated at the end of each month. If you'd like continued prayers for someone on the prayer list, please make sure you let Mary know before the end of the month. We would also love to know when someone on the prayer list is doing better so we can include them on our list of Thanksgivings.

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, June 14**. Please join us!

Food & Fellowship Person of the Month for June is: Eleanor Plummer. She can be reached at shpd311@skybest.com or 336-372-7214.

Vestry Person of the month for June is: Frank Hazard. He can be reached at frankhazard01@gmail.com or 336-372-8808.

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

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

Bits and Pieces for your information

As summer finally comes to the mountains, it is a great time to renew some general information about communication, Vestry proceedings and Pastoral Care.

Communication: The best way to stay abreast of the many happenings at Christ Church is to read the Good News and Notes, the Sunday bulletin and checking the webpage for new pictures and other information that is available there. If you want to communicate with me directly, you are invited to email anytime at revsteph@skybest.com and Tuesday-Sunday, call at 336-363-4141. Please respect Monday as my Sabbath unless you have an emergency and in that case, please call me immediately!

I also want to renew the invitation to know that unless you have heard something from me directly in writing or in person, you have not heard from me at all. I invite you at anytime to speak with me directly. I am always happy to hear how you are doing, about the goings on in your lives—in good times and in challenging times, and I am especially open to hearing your concerns.

If you have a pastoral care need, please contact me directly. Clergy are often the last to hear about hospitalizations, illnesses, etc. I always want to hear from you if you desire a visit and the only way to insure that is to speak with me directly. I would love to hear from you! Long-term pastoral care is a ministry for the entire congregation. Show your love for our members by visiting, writing, or calling those who are no longer able to be with us on a regular basis.

Vestry: So many exciting things are happening in Vestry! You are always invited to attend Vestry meetings and in lieu of that, read the Vestry minutes as they are posted. Note that the previous month's Vestry minutes are not approved until the following month's meeting, but it is still a good way to keep your finger on the pulse. Another important note is to know what Vestry minutes contain. While 99.9% of the Vestry meetings are about creating relationship and community leadership, our minutes are something required by state and federal law and are instrumental when we require action with our banking institutions and other official matters. As such they report transactions of motions and codified decisions. There is sometimes report of discussion, but in general, as official documents, they are the least suited to verbatim accounts of every discussion. A perfect place to hear expanded news of the community is in the Good News and Notes. If you do not have a computer, but would like to receive the Good News and Notes, please notify us and we will mail a hard copy to you.

Another exciting happening in Vestry is that we have adopted the Diocesan and Episcopal Church Foundations meeting format. As such, we devote time in Vestry to Church Leadership Training, visioning strategies, and other matters that help us motivate our community of faith in vitality and joyous health.

These are but a few topics of interest. While there are some aspects of my work as priest that are sensitive and necessarily confidential, I am always open to your questions. Please let me know if there are any other "behind the scenes" activities that you would find of interest. I always stand ready and excited to share news about Christ Church and my life within it.

May God Bless and Keep You All,

Stephanie+

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