

# Christ Episcopal Church

Sparta, NC

*A Home to All*

*Sharing God's Unconditional Love*



**Twelfth Sunday after Pentecost**

**August 12, 2018 – 10:30 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 [ccepiscopeal@skybest.com](mailto:ccepiscopeal@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:**

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

**Ann & Frank Hazard**, for providing the flowers for the altar in thanksgiving for their wonderful grandchildren, Cody, Aaron, Christopher, Katie, and Chloe, and

**Sally Williamson**, for providing refreshments for our fellowship after the service.

# The Gathering

Prelude

*All stand, as able.*

Processional Hymn #525

*The Church's one foundation*

Opening Acclamation

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

Hymn #679

*Surely it is God who saves me*

*Surely it is God who saves me;  
trusting him, I shall not fear.  
For the Lord defends and shields me  
and his saving help is near.  
So rejoice as you draw water  
from salvation's living spring;  
in the day of your deliverance  
thank the Lord, his mercies sing.*

*Make his deeds known to the peoples;  
tell out his exalted Name.  
Praise the Lord, who has done great things;  
all his works his might proclaim.  
Zion, lift your voice in singing;  
for with you has come to dwell,  
in your very midst, the great and  
Holy One of Israel.*

*Remain standing, as able.*

### **The Collect**

Presider            The Lord be with you.

**People            And also with you.**

Presider            Let us pray.

Grant to us, Lord, we pray, the spirit to think and do always those things that are right, that we, who cannot exist without you, may by you be enabled to live according to your will; 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**

**2 Samuel 18: 5-9, 15, 31-33**

The king, David, ordered Joab and Abishai and Ittai, saying, “Deal gently for my sake with the young man Absalom.” And all the people heard when the king gave orders to all the commanders concerning Absalom. So the army went out into the field against Israel; and the battle was fought in the forest of Ephraim. The men of Israel were defeated there by the servants of David, and the slaughter there was great on that day, twenty thousand men. The battle spread over the face of all the country; and the forest claimed more victims that day than the sword. Absalom happened to meet the servants of David.

Absalom was riding on his mule, and the mule went under the thick branches of a great oak. His head caught fast in the oak, and he was left hanging between heaven and earth, while the mule that was under him went on.

And ten young men, Joab’s armor-bearers, surrounded Absalom and struck him, and killed him.

Then the Cushite came; and the Cushite said, “Good tidings for my lord the king! For the Lord has vindicated you this day, delivering you from the power of all who rose up against you.” The king said to the Cushite, “Is it well with the young man Absalom?” The Cushite answered, “May the enemies of my lord the king, and all who rise up to do you harm, be like that young man.”

The king was deeply moved, and went up to the chamber over the gate, and wept; and as he went, he said, “O my son Absalom, my son, my son Absalom! Would I had died instead of you, O Absalom, my son, my son!”

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

**People            Thanks be to God.**

*Please be seated.*

## The Response

### Psalm 130

Out of the depths have I called to you, O Lord;  
Lord, hear my voice; \*  
    let your ears consider well the voice of my supplication.

If you, Lord, were to note what is done amiss, \*  
    O Lord, who could stand?

For there is forgiveness with you; \*  
    therefore you shall be feared.

I wait for the Lord; my soul waits for him; \*  
    in his word is my hope.

My soul waits for the Lord,  
more than watchmen for the morning, \*  
    more than watchmen for the morning.

O Israel, wait for the Lord, \*  
    for with the Lord there is mercy;

With him there is plenteous redemption, \*  
    and he shall redeem Israel from all their sins.

## The Second Reading

### Ephesians 4: 25-5: 2

Putting away falsehood, let all of us speak the truth to our neighbors, for we are members of one another. Be angry but do not sin; do not let the sun go down on your anger, and do not make room for the devil. Thieves must give up stealing; rather let them labor and work honestly with their own hands, so as to have something to share with the needy. Let no evil talk come out of your mouths, but only what is useful for building up, as there is need, so that your words may give grace to those who hear. And do not grieve the Holy Spirit of God, with which you were marked with a seal for the day of redemption. Put away from you all bitterness and wrath and anger and wrangling and slander, together with all malice, and be kind to one another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, as God in Christ has forgiven you. Therefore be imitators of God, as beloved children, and live in love, as Christ loved us and gave himself up for us, a fragrant offering and sacrifice to God.

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 able.*

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

People             **Glory to you, Lord Christ.**

### **The Gospel**

**John 6: 35, 41-51**

Jesus said, "I am the bread of life. Whoever comes to me will never be hungry, and whoever believes in me will never be thirsty."

Then the Jews began to complain about him because he said, "I am the bread that came down from heaven." They were saying, "Is not this Jesus, the son of Joseph, whose father and mother we know? How can he now say, 'I have come down from heaven'?" Jesus answered them, "Do not complain among yourselves. No one can come to me unless drawn by the Father who sent me; and I will raise that person up on the last day. It is written in the prophets, 'And they shall all be taught by God.' Everyone who has heard and learned from the Father comes to me. Not that anyone has seen the Father except the one who is from God; he has seen the Father. Very truly, I tell you, whoever believes has eternal life. I am the bread of life. Your ancestors ate the manna in the wilderness, and they died. This is the bread that comes down from heaven, so that one may eat of it and not die. I am the living bread that came down from heaven. Whoever eats of this bread will live forever; and the bread that I will give for the life of the world is my flesh."

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.*

## The Nicene Creed

We believe in one God,  
the Father, the Almighty,  
maker of heaven and earth,  
of all that is, seen and unseen.

We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ,  
the only Son of God,  
eternally begotten of the Father,  
God from God, Light from Light,  
true God from true God,  
begotten, not made,  
of one Being with the Father.

Through him all things were made.

For us and for our salvation

he came down from heaven:

by the power of the Holy Spirit

he became incarnate from the Virgin Mary,  
and was made man.

For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate;

he suffered death and was buried.

On the third day he rose again

in accordance with the Scriptures;

he ascended into heaven

and is seated at the right hand of the Father.

He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead,  
and his kingdom will have no end.

We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life,  
who proceeds from the Father and the Son.

With the Father and the Son he is worshiped and glorified.

He has spoken through the Prophets.

We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic Church.

We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins.

We look for the resurrection of the dead,

and the life of the world to come. Amen.

## Prayers of the People

Form III (adapted)

*The Leader and People pray responsively*

Leader Holy God, we pray for your holy Catholic Church;  
People **That we all may be one.**

Leader Grant that every member of the Church may truly and  
humbly serve you;  
People **That your Name may be glorified by all people.**

Leader We pray for all bishops, priests, and deacons; especially .....

People **That they may be faithful ministers of your Word and Sacraments.**

Leader We pray for all who govern and hold authority in the nations  
of the world;  
People **That there may be justice and peace on the earth.**

Leader Give us grace to do your will in all that we undertake;  
People **That our works may find favor in your sight.**

Leader Have compassion on those who suffer from any grief or trouble.  
We pray especially for ... and also all who suffer in silence.  
People **That they may be delivered from their distress.**

Leader We give you thanks for ...; and all the blessings of this life.  
People **That all may share in your joy.**

Leader We praise you for your saints who have entered into joy, and for those who have  
died...may they rest in peace and rise in glory.  
People **May we also come to share in your heavenly kingdom.**

Leader Let us pray for our own needs and those of others; *the people may add their own petitions.*

*Silence*

Presider:

**All:** O Lord our God, accept the fervent prayers of your people; in the multitude of your mercies, look with compassion upon us and all who turn to you for help; for you are gracious, O lover of souls, and to you we give glory, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, now and for ever. Amen.

## Confession of Sin

*Enriching Our Worship 1, pg. 56*

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.

## Retirement of the Chalice

Taste and see that the Lord is good; happy are they who trust in the Lord.

V. These cups of blessing, which we retire, helped us to share in the Blood of Christ.

R. These were holy vessels for sacred use.

Let us pray.

*Silence.*

Almighty God, whose blessed Son instituted the Sacrament of his Body and Blood: Grant that all who receive the holy Mysteries from these vessels, which we now retire from use in your Church, may become another object of beauty, transformed not lost. 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

*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.**

*Proper preface said here.*

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.

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. **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 (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

The Gift of Love

*Though I may speak with bravest fire,  
and have the gift to all inspire,  
and have not love, my words are vain,  
as sounding brass, and hopeless gain.*

*Though I may give all I possess,  
and striving so my love profess,  
but not be given by love within,  
the profit soon turns strangely thin.*

*Come, Spirit, come, our hearts control,  
our spirits long to be made whole.  
Let inward love guide every deed;  
by this we worship, and are freed.*

Open our Eyes, Lord

*Open our eyes, Lord.  
We want to see Jesus.  
To reach out and touch Him,  
and say that we love Him.*

*Open our ears, Lord.  
And help us to listen.  
Open our eyes, Lord.  
We want to see Jesus.*

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 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.

*Please stand, as able.*

**The Blessing**

**Recessional Hymn #594**

*God of grace and God of glory*

**The Dismissal**

Presider Let us go forth in the name of Christ!

Alleluia! Alleluia!

People Thanks be to God! Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

**Coming Lessons**

1 Kings 2: 10-12; 3: 3-14

Psalm 111

Ephesians 5: 15-20

John 6: 51-58

## Prayer List

**Intercessions:** Ben, Ed & Jean, Fred P., Gina D., Jann B., Julie O., Mark & Julee W., Martha H., Suzanne & Lance B., and Virginia R.

**Departed:**

**Birthdays:** Shelley Jones (August 12)

**Wedding Anniversaries:**

### The Following People are Assisting with the Services

| Role                  | This Sunday                 | Next Sunday                  |
|-----------------------|-----------------------------|------------------------------|
| Altar Guild           | Jeanne Green                | Jeanne Green                 |
| Chalicer I            | Brenda Weems                | Ann Hazard                   |
| Chalicer II           | Frances Buckle              | Jeanne Green                 |
| Crucifer              | Jeanne Green                | Sheila Pfaender              |
| Lector I              | Louise Law                  | Phil Donaldson               |
| Lector II             | Phil Donaldson              | Sheila Pfaender              |
| Prayers of the People | Tricia Whitman              | Frank Hazard                 |
| Oblations Bearers     | Jann Boggs & Marybeth Lentz | Brenda Weems & Rita Woodruff |
| Greeters/Ushers       | Hal & Nancy Wilson          | Phil & Deb Donaldson         |
| Book Bearer           | Frances Buckle              | Jeanne Green                 |
| Sanctus Bell          | Jeanne Green                | Sheila Pfaender              |

## Schedule

**Sunday, August 12 – Twelfth Sunday after Pentecost**

9:15 am – Adult Forum

10:30 am – Holy Eucharist

**Tuesday, August 14**

12:30 pm – Vestry meeting

**Wednesday, August 15**

10:00 am – Holy Eucharist

11:30 am – Friends in Faith

**Sunday, August 19 – Thirteenth 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 as we continue our study of 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 21st century. Come and Join the Conversation!

### **Mountain Heritage Festival Fundraiser on Saturday, September 15<sup>th</sup>!**

We will be participating in this year's Mountain Heritage Festival on Saturday, September 15<sup>th</sup> from 10:00 am to 4:30 pm! Our booth will be selling water, soft drinks, cotton candy, and nuts and other possible goodies! And at the moment, we'll be the only booth set up to sell those items so we expect a good day! We already have someone volunteering to provide drinks but if you'd like to make a contribution to support the fundraiser expenses or would like to join us at the booth, please let us know as soon as possible. Stephanie will be at the booth for the whole day to greet folks and we hope to get a minimum of 9 volunteers to manage the concessions. Please sign-up on the sign-up sheet located on the Information table. This Festival will be a great opportunity to meet our neighbors and invite them to Christ Church!

### **Fundraising Forum**

Stephanie will be leading a brief fundraising forum on Sunday, August 19<sup>th</sup> following the 10:30 service. This will be your opportunity to hear about the exciting possibilities before us that will help support our financial health as well as create deep bonds of fellowship and connection.

Please plan to join us!

### **August Ladies' Lunch Out is scheduled for Tuesday, August 21<sup>st</sup>!**

The August Ladies' Lunch Out will be at Horizon Bistro on Tuesday, August 21<sup>st</sup> @ noon. Your host is Judy Ritchie. You can contact her via email at [wjritchie@embarqmail.com](mailto:wjritchie@embarqmail.com) or by phone at 336.200.0244. There's also a sign-up sheet on the Information table.

### **Mountain Soul's next service will be Sunday, August 26<sup>th</sup> at 6:00 pm featuring In Harmony!**

In Harmony is a local Ashe County duo known for their beautiful harmony. For more information about the group, check out the GN&N.

**The Neighborhood Bible Study at the Seckel's Vestal Road Barn will meet on August 23rd.**

We will meet again **Thursday, August 23<sup>rd</sup> at 6:00 pm**. Come join us as we study *Conversations with Scripture and with Each Other*. The address is 404 Vestal Road. For more information, check out the GN&N.

**Genesis Bible Study begins Wednesday, September 19th at 11:30 and will conclude Wednesday, November 14th.** This will be a deep exploration of The Beginning of all things!

**TBA: Training, refreshment and Support for all Servers of all ages, Ushers, and Readers**

As the Fall season unfolds, look for these opportunities to refresh your ministry in these areas, join one of these ministries for the first time and go deeper into why these are key areas of ministry for the entire parish!

**Friends in Faith**

The Friends in Faith group is meeting on Wednesdays at 11:30 am. We gather as sisters in Christ to praise, pray, study, and share our lives. Please join us!

**Food & Fellowship Person of the Month for August is:** Brenda Weems. Her preferred method of contact is by email – weemswight@earthlink.net. For those who don't use email, she can be reached at 919-812-2810.

**Vestry Person of the month for August is:** Jeanne Green. She can be reached at [jrgreen@skybest.com](mailto:jrgreen@skybest.com) or 336-372-4781.

**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.*

*"The Gift of Love", Words by Hal Hopson, 1972, Music: Traditional English melody adapt. by Hal Hopson, 1972, © 1972 Hope Publishing Co.*

*"Open Our Eyes, Lord", Text and Music by Robert Cull, © Copyright 1976 by Maranatha! Music.*