

Christ Episcopal Church

Sparta, NC

A Home to All

Sharing God's Unconditional Love



Fourteenth Sunday after Pentecost

August 26, 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.

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:

Laura Davis, for serving as musician and for being so generous with her talents, and
Cynthia Grant, for providing the flowers for the altar in memory of Sara Shoemaker.

The Gathering

Prelude

All stand, as able.

Processional Hymn #400, vss 1-4

All creatures of our God and King

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, O merciful God, that your Church, being gathered together in unity by your Holy Spirit, may show forth your power among all peoples, to the glory of your Name; 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

1 Kings 8: 1, 6, 10-11, 22-30, 41-43

Solomon assembled the elders of Israel and all the heads of the tribes, the leaders of the ancestral houses of the Israelites, before King Solomon in Jerusalem, to bring up the ark of the covenant of the Lord out of the city of David, which is Zion. Then the priests brought the ark of the covenant of the Lord to its place, in the inner sanctuary of the house, in the most holy place, underneath the wings of the cherubim. And when the priests came out of the holy place, a cloud filled the house of the Lord, so that the priests could not stand to minister because of the cloud; for the glory of the Lord filled the house of the Lord.

Then Solomon stood before the altar of the Lord in the presence of all the assembly of Israel, and spread out his hands to heaven. He said, "O Lord, God of Israel, there is no God like you in heaven above or on earth beneath, keeping covenant and steadfast love for your servants who walk before you with all their heart, the covenant that you kept for your servant my father David as you declared to him; you promised with your mouth and have this day fulfilled with your hand. Therefore, O Lord, God of Israel, keep for your servant my father David that which you promised him, saying, 'There shall never fail you a successor before me to sit on the throne of Israel, if only your children look to their way, to walk before me as you have walked before me.' Therefore, O God of Israel, let your word be confirmed, which you promised to your servant my father David.

"But will God indeed dwell on the earth? Even heaven and the highest heaven cannot contain you, much less this house that I have built! Regard your servant's prayer and his plea, O Lord my God, heeding the cry and the prayer that your servant prays to you today; that your eyes may be open night and day toward this house, the place of which you said, 'My name shall be there,' that you may heed the prayer that your servant prays toward this place. Hear the plea of your servant and of your people Israel when they pray toward this place; O hear in heaven your dwelling place; heed and forgive.

“Likewise when a foreigner, who is not of your people Israel, comes from a distant land because of your name—for they shall hear of your great name, your mighty hand, and your outstretched arm—when a foreigner comes and prays toward this house, then hear in heaven your dwelling place, and do according to all that the foreigner calls to you, so that all the peoples of the earth may know your name and fear you, as do your people Israel, and so that they may know that your name has been invoked on this house that I have built.

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

Please be seated.

The Response

Psalm 84

How dear to me is your dwelling, O Lord of hosts! *
My soul has a desire and longing for the courts of the Lord;
my heart and my flesh rejoice in the living God.

The sparrow has found her a house
and the swallow a nest where she may lay her young; *
by the side of your altars, O Lord of hosts,
my King and my God.

Happy are they who dwell in your house! *
they will always be praising you.

Happy are the people whose strength is in you! *
whose hearts are set on the pilgrims' way.

Those who go through the desolate valley will find it a place of springs, *
for the early rains have covered it with pools of water.

They will climb from height to height, *
and the God of gods will reveal himself in Zion.

Lord God of hosts, hear my prayer; *
hearken, O God of Jacob.

Behold our defender, O God; *
and look upon the face of your Anointed.

For one day in your courts is better than a thousand in my own room, *
and to stand at the threshold of the house of my God
than to dwell in the tents of the wicked.

For the Lord God is both sun and shield; *
he will give grace and glory;

No good thing will the Lord withhold *
from those who walk with integrity.

O Lord of hosts, *
happy are they who put their trust in you!

The Second Reading

Ephesians 6: 10-20

Be strong in the Lord and in the strength of his power. Put on the whole armor of God, so that you may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil. For our struggle is not against enemies of blood and flesh, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the cosmic powers of this present darkness, against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly places. Therefore take up the whole armor of God, so that you may be able to withstand on that evil day, and having done everything, to stand firm. Stand therefore, and fasten the belt of truth around your waist, and put on the breastplate of righteousness. As shoes for your feet put on whatever will make you ready to proclaim the gospel of peace. With all of these, take the shield of faith, with which you will be able to quench all the flaming arrows of the evil one. Take the helmet of salvation, and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God.

Pray in the Spirit at all times in every prayer and supplication. To that end keep alert and always persevere in supplication for all the saints. Pray also for me, so that when I speak, a message may be given to me to make known with boldness the mystery of the gospel, for which I am an ambassador in chains. Pray that I may declare it boldly, as I must speak.

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

Please stand, as able.

Gospel Hymn #460

Alleluia! sing to Jesus!

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: 56-69

Jesus said, "Those who eat my flesh and drink my blood abide in me, and I in them. Just as the living Father sent me, and I live because of the Father, so whoever eats me will live because of me. This is the bread that came down from heaven, not like that which your ancestors ate, and they died. But the one who eats this bread will live forever." He said these things while he was teaching in the synagogue at Capernaum.

When many of his disciples heard it, they said, "This teaching is difficult; who can accept it?" But Jesus, being aware that his disciples were complaining about it, said to them, "Does this offend you? Then what if you were to see the Son of Man ascending to where he was before? It is the spirit that gives life; the flesh is useless. The words that I have spoken to you are spirit and life. But among you there are some who do not believe." For Jesus knew from the first who were the ones that did not believe, and who was the one that would betray him. And he said, "For this reason I have told you that no one can come to me unless it is granted by the Father."

Because of this many of his disciples turned back and no longer went about with him. So Jesus asked the twelve, "Do you also wish to go away?" Simon Peter answered him, "Lord, to whom can we go? You have the words of eternal life. We have come to believe and know that you are the Holy One of God."

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.

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

Laura Davis

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)

Laura Davis

Hymn #335, vss. 1, 2, 4

I am the bread of life

*I am the bread of life;
They who come to Me shall not hunger;
They who believe in Me shall not thirst.
No one can come to Me
Unless the Father draw him.*

Refrain:
*And I will raise them up,
And I will raise them up,
And I will raise him up on the last day.*

*The bread that I will give
Is My flesh for the life of the world,
And they who eat of this bread,
They shall live for ever,
They shall live for ever. (Refrain)*

*I am the resurrection,
I am the life.
They who believe in Me,
Even if he die,
They shall live forever. (Refrain)*

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 #522

Glorious things of thee are spoken

The Dismissal

Presider Let us go forth in the name of Christ!
Alleluia! Alleluia!

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

Coming Lessons

Song of Solomon 2: 8-13

Psalm 45: 1-2, 7-10

James 1: 17-27

Mark 7: 1-8, 14-15, 21-23

The Following People are Assisting with the Services

Role	This Sunday	Next Sunday
Altar Guild	Jeanne Green	Louise Law
Chalicerist I	Shelley Jones	Jeanne Green
Chalicerist II	Brenda Weems	Brenda Weems
Crucifer	Kimberly Jones	Brenda Weems
Lector I	Allan Joyce	Louise Law
Lector II	Tricia Whitman	Ann Hazard
Prayers of the People	Jess Williams	Frank Hazard
Oblations Bearers	Denise & Larry Seckel	Larry & Denise Seckel
Greeters/Ushers	Joe & Judy Ritchie	Frank & Ann Hazard
Book Bearer	Brenda Weems	Jeanne Green
Sanctus Bell	Kimberly Jones	Brenda Weems

Prayer List

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

Departed:

Birthdays: Suzanne Buckle (August 26)

Wedding Anniversaries: Kelly & Brenda Weems (August 26),

Schedule

Sunday, August 26 – Fourteenth Sunday after Pentecost

9:15 am – Adult Forum

10:30 am – Holy Eucharist

6:00 pm – Mountain Soul presents In Harmony

Wednesday, August 29

10:00 am – Holy Eucharist

11:30 am – Friends in Faith

Sunday, September 2 – Fifteenth Sunday after Pentecost

9:15 am – Adult Forum

10:30 am – Holy Eucharist

Monday, September 3 – Labor Day Holiday/Church Office will be closed.

Announcements

Adult Forum: Saving Jesus Sunday at 9:15 am

Server Training and Refreshment on Sunday, September 9th after morning service

If you serve at the Altar as an Acolyte, Chalice Bearer, Crucifer, etc. or want to join this wonderful ministry, please make plans to stay after the service on Sunday, September 9th for training and refreshment. As the Fall season unfolds, look for dates for upcoming training for Ushers and Readers coming soon.

Mountain Heritage Festival Fundraiser on Saturday, September 15th!

Sign-up downstairs! This Festival will be a great opportunity to meet our neighbors and invite them to Christ Church! Find more details on GN&N.

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!

Neighborhood Bible Study at the Seckel's Vestal Road Barn on Thursday, September 6th!

We will meet again Thursday, September 6th at 6:00 pm. Come join us as we study *Conversations with Scripture and with Each Other*. The address is 404 Vestal Road. See the GN&N for more information.

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!

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 or 336-372-4781.

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

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Office hours: Monday-Friday, 8:30 am-1:30 pm

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