

Christ Episcopal Church

Sparta, NC

A Home to All

Sharing God's Unconditional Love



**Fifteenth Sunday after Pentecost
September 2, 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 ccepiscopal@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.

The Gathering

Prelude

All stand, as able.

The Altar Party enters

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.

Song of Praise (*said*)

Canticle 9

The First Song of Isaiah

Surely it is God who saves me;*

I will trust in him and not be afraid.

For the Lord is my stronghold and my sure defense,*

and he will be my Savior.

Therefore you shall draw water with rejoicing*

from the springs of salvation.

And on that day you shall say,*

Give thanks to the Lord and call upon his Name;

Make his deeds known among the peoples;*

see that they remember that his Name is exalted.

Sing the praises of the Lord, for he has done great things,*

and this is known in all the world.

Cry aloud, inhabitants of Zion, ring out your joy,*

for the great one in the midst of you is the Holy One of Israel.

Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit:*

as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be for ever. **Amen.**

Remain standing, as able.

The Collect

Presider The Lord be with you.

People **And also with you.**

Presider Let us pray.

Lord of all power and might, the author and giver of all good things: Graft in our hearts the love of your Name; increase in us true religion; nourish us with all goodness; and bring forth in us the fruit of good works; 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

Song of Solomon 2: 8-13

The voice of my beloved!

Look, he comes,

leaping upon the mountains,

bounding over the hills.

My beloved is like a gazelle

or a young stag.

Look, there he stands

behind our wall,

gazing in at the windows,

looking through the lattice.

My beloved speaks and says to me:

"Arise, my love, my fair one,

and come away;

for now the winter is past,

the rain is over and gone.

The flowers appear on the earth;

the time of singing has come,

and the voice of the turtledove

is heard in our land.

The fig tree puts forth its figs,

and the vines are in blossom;
they give forth fragrance.

Arise, my love, my fair one,
and come away."

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

People Thanks be to God.

Please be seated.

The Response

Psalm 45: 1-2, 7-10

My heart is stirring with a noble song;
let me recite what I have fashioned for the king; *
my tongue shall be the pen of a skilled writer.

You are the fairest of men; *
grace flows from your lips,
because God has blessed you for ever.

Your throne, O God, endures for ever and ever, *
a scepter of righteousness is the scepter of your kingdom;
you love righteousness and hate iniquity.

Therefore God, your God, has anointed you *
with the oil of gladness above your fellows.

All your garments are fragrant with myrrh, aloes, and cassia, *
and the music of strings from ivory palaces makes you glad.

Kings' daughters stand among the ladies of the court; *
on your right hand is the queen,
adorned with the gold of Ophir.

The Second Reading

James 1: 17-27

Every generous act of giving, with every perfect gift, is from above, coming down from the Father of lights, with whom there is no variation or shadow due to change. In fulfillment of his own purpose he gave us birth by the word of truth, so that we would become a kind of first fruits of his creatures.

You must understand this, my beloved: let everyone be quick to listen, slow to speak, slow to anger; for your anger does not produce God's righteousness. Therefore rid yourselves of all sordidness and rank growth of wickedness, and welcome with meekness the implanted word that has the power to save your souls.

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

The Leader and People pray responsively

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

People: **By faith, with thanksgiving.**

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

People: **By faith, with thanksgiving.**

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

People: **By faith, with thanksgiving.**

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

People: **By faith, with thanksgiving.**

Leader: May our families, our communal life and our wider communities 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. This we ask:

People: **By faith, with thanksgiving.**

Leader: We give you thanks 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. This we pray:

People: **By faith, with thanksgiving.**

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...and also all who suffer in silence. For healing for all the world we pray,

People: **By faith, with thanksgiving.**

Leader: In an endless outpouring of thanksgiving for your ceaseless joy, we give thanks for ...and all the blessings of this life. That we may always rejoice in the power of your love we pray:

People: **By faith, with thanksgiving.**

Presider: Almighty God, when our vision fails and our understanding is darkened, when the ways of life seem hard and the brightness of life is fading, grant us wisdom which deepens faith and enlarges trust. Whenever your ways in the world or our soul are hard

to understand, increase our patience, and our living faith in you. May we at all times and with quiet mind put our confidence in you; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Confession of Sin

BCP 360

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

**Most merciful God,
we confess that we have sinned against you
in thought, word, and deed,
By what we have done,
and by what we have left undone.
We have not loved you with our whole heart;
we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves.
We are truly sorry and we humbly repent.
For the sake of your Son Jesus Christ,
have mercy on us and forgive us;
that we may delight in your will,
and walk in your ways,
to the glory of your Name. 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

Presider Walk in love, as Christ loved us and gave himself for us, an offering and sacrifice to God.

Doxology (*said*)

**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

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 Priest, 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 say,

**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.

Presider: Alleluia! Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us;

People: **Therefore let us keep the feast. Alleluia!**

The Invitation to Communion

Presider The gifts of God for the People of God; God's holy food, for God's holy people.

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.

Surely the Presence of the Lord (*acapella*)

*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

Presider Let us pray

God of abundance, you have fed us with the bread of life and cup of salvation; you have united us with Christ and one another; and you have made us one with all your people in heaven and on earth. Now send us forth in the power of your Spirit, that we may proclaim your redeeming love to the world and continue for ever in the risen life of Christ our Savior. Amen.

Please stand, as able.

The Blessing

Be strong and be bold, for it is God who goes before you. God will be with you; God will not fail you or forsake you. Do not fear or be dismayed. And may the blessing of God, the One, Holy, Undivided Trinity, be upon you and abide with you now and always.

Recessional

The Altar Party processes out

The Dismissal

Presider Let us go forth in the name of Christ!

Alleluia! Alleluia!

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

Coming Lessons

Proverbs 22:1-2, 8-9, 22-23

Psalm 125

James 2:1-17

Mark 7:24-37

Prayer List

Intercessions: Ben, Denise (healing), Ed & Jean, Fred P., Gina D., Julie O., Karleen, Linda W., Mark & Julee W., Martha H., and Suzanne & Lance B.

Departed:

Birthdays: Fonda Hale (September 6)

Wedding Anniversaries:

The Following People are Assisting with the Services

Role	This Sunday	Next Sunday
Altar Guild	Louise Law	Louise Law
Chalicer I	Jeanne Green	Nancy Wilson
Chalicer II	Brenda Weems	Sheila Pfaender
Crucifer	Brenda Weems	Frances Buckle
Lector I	Louise Law	Phil Donaldson
Lector II	Ann Hazard	Frances Buckle
Prayers of the People	Frank Hazard	Phil Donaldson
Oblations Bearers	Denise & Larry Seckel	Denise & Larry Seckel
Greeters/Ushers	Frank & Ann Hazard	Phil & Deb Donaldson
Book Bearer	Jeanne Green	Sheila Pfaender
Sanctus Bell	Brenda Weems	Frances Buckle

Schedule

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.

Wednesday, September 5

10:00 am – Holy Eucharist

11:30 am – Friends in Faith

Thursday, September 6

1:00 pm – Finance Committee meeting

Sunday, September 9 – Sixteenth Sunday after Pentecost

9:00 am – Adult Forum

10:30 am – Holy Eucharist

Server Training & Refreshments following the morning service

Announcements

Worship Notes: Something New Ahead!

As we continue our journey through ordinary time and anticipate the fall, there will be some nuanced changes in our Sunday worship. Ordinary time is a greening or growing time and our scripture continues to speak to us of the cost of discipleship as we anticipate the coming of Advent.

Our liturgy for the time remaining before the season of Advent will take us back into Eucharistic Prayer C which highlights the depth of God's love for all of creation and reminds us we are part of bringing God's love to the world.

We will also be using a different form for our Intercessors during Prayers of the People that emphasize the faith and thanksgiving that defines following Jesus.

In addition, we will be saying the Confession of Sin from *The Book of Common Prayer* that reminds us that it is often the things left undone, our silence in the face of bullying or injustice, or any of our failures to claim our part in the brokenness of our world, that can take us far from God's hope for us. It is a powerful form that sets before us the need for courage in many things.

The sung Creed will return and we will continue the Hymn "Surely it is God who saves me", a sung version of Canticle 9, as our Hymn of Praise.

As always, I appreciate your feedback on these items. I also invite you to come and join us in the Adult Forum. We are currently engaging deep questions around our faith and theology that are the fulfillment of our Baptismal Covenant to "Continue in the Apostles teaching, in fellowship and the breaking of the bread." As well as learning how we can more courageously "support the dignity of every human being."

My deepest hope is that we will allow our worship together to create that rare opportunity in our ever-busy lives to simply be still in the presence of God and let our worship sink deep into the flesh and bones of our being.

Blessings, Stephanie+

CALENDAR CHANGE! Beginning next Sunday, September 9th, the **Adult Forum: *Saving Jesus*** will begin at 9:00 am on Sundays.

Mountain Heritage Festival Fundraiser on Saturday, September 15th!

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

Friends in Faith (FiF)

The Friends in Faith group is currently meeting on Wednesdays at 11:30 am but **will be changing their schedule in September.** Beginning on Monday, September 10th, the Friends in Faith group will begin meeting on Mondays at 11:00 am. Please make a note of the schedule change coming soon. FiF gather as sisters in Christ to praise, pray, study, and share their lives. All are welcome!

Neighborhood Bible Study at the Seckel's Vestal Road Barn on Thursday, September 13th!

We will meet again Thursday, September 13th at 6:00 pm. Come join us as we study *Conversations with Scripture and with Each Other*. The address is 404 Vestal Road. *Please check the GN&N for the readings.*

The Genesis Bible Study begins Wednesday, September 19th at 11:30 and will conclude Wednesday, November 14th. We will be using the book, *Genesis* by Celia B. Sinclair in *The Interpretation Bible Studies* series. You can order the book in paperback or electronically on Amazon.com. If you would like for Rev. Stephanie to order a book for you, please email her at revsteph@skybest.com by September 11th. Bring a lunch and a friend, and let's go deep into the beginning of all things!

Server Training and Refreshment NEXT 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 next Sunday, September 9th, for training and refreshment. As the Fall season unfolds, look for dates for upcoming training for Ushers and Readers coming soon.

Food & Fellowship Person of the Month for September is: Deb Donaldson. She can be reached by telephone at 336.372.7573 or by email at sld1400@aol.com.

Vestry Person of the month for September is: Geoff Jones. He can be reached at geoff.jones@att.net or 336-200.4232.

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

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