

Christ Episcopal Church

Sparta, NC

A Home to All

Sharing God's Unconditional Love



Sixteenth Sunday after Pentecost
September 9, 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.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:

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

The Gathering

Prelude

All stand, as able.

Processional Hymn #411

O bless the Lord, my soul!

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

Hymn #679

*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 us, O Lord, to trust in you with all our hearts; for, as you always resist the proud who confide in their own strength, so you never forsake those who make their boast of your mercy; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

All are seated.

Liturgy of the Word

First Reading

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

A good name is to be chosen rather than great riches,
and favour is better than silver or gold.

The rich and the poor have this in common:
the Lord is the maker of them all.

Whoever sows injustice will reap calamity,
and the rod of anger will fail.

Those who are generous are blessed,
for they share their bread with the poor.

Do not rob the poor because they are poor,
or crush the afflicted at the gate;

for the Lord pleads their cause
and despoils of life those who despoil them.

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

People **Thanks be to God.**

The Response

Psalm 125

Those who trust in the Lord are like Mount Zion, *
which cannot be moved, but stands fast for ever.

The hills stand about Jerusalem; *
so does the Lord stand round about his people,
from this time forth for evermore.

The scepter of the wicked shall not hold sway over the land allotted to the just, *
so that the just shall not put their hands to evil.

Show your goodness, O Lord, to those who are good *
and to those who are true of heart.

As for those who turn aside to crooked ways,
the Lord will lead them away with the evildoers; *
but peace be upon Israel.

The Second Reading

James 2:1-17

My brothers and sisters, do you with your acts of favoritism really believe in our glorious Lord Jesus Christ? For if a person with gold rings and in fine clothes comes into your assembly, and if a poor person in dirty clothes also comes in, and if you take notice of the one wearing the fine clothes and say, "Have a seat here, please," while to the one who is poor you say, "Stand there," or, "Sit at my feet," have you not made distinctions among yourselves, and become judges with evil thoughts? Listen, my beloved brothers and sisters. Has not God chosen the poor in the world to be rich in faith and to be heirs of the kingdom that he has promised to those who love him? But you have dishonored the poor. Is it not the rich who oppress you? Is it not they who drag you into court? Is it not they who blaspheme the excellent name that was invoked over you?

You do well if you really fulfill the royal law according to the scripture, "You shall love your neighbor as yourself." But if you show partiality, you commit sin and are convicted by the law as transgressors. For whoever keeps the whole law but fails in one point has become accountable for all of it. For the one who said, "You shall not commit adultery," also said, "You shall not murder." Now if you do not commit adultery but if you murder, you have become a transgressor of the law. So speak and so act as those who are to be judged by the law of liberty. For judgment will be without mercy to anyone who has shown no mercy; mercy triumphs over judgment.

What good is it, my brothers and sisters, if you say you have faith but do not have works? Can faith save you? If a brother or sister is naked and lacks daily food, and one of you says to them, "Go in peace; keep warm and eat your fill," and yet you do not supply their bodily needs, what is the good of that? So faith by itself, if it has no works, is dead.

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

Please stand, as able.

Gospel Hymn #410

Praise, my soul, the King of heaven

Remain standing, as able.

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

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

The Gospel

Mark 7:24-37

Jesus set out and went away to the region of Tyre. He entered a house and did not want anyone to know he was there. Yet he could not escape notice, but a woman whose little daughter had an unclean spirit immediately heard about him, and she came and bowed down at his feet. Now the woman was a Gentile, of Syrophoenician origin. She begged him to cast the demon out of her daughter. He said to her, "Let the children be fed first, for it is not fair to take the children's food and throw it to the dogs." But she answered him, "Sir, even the dogs under the table eat the children's crumbs." Then he said to her, "For saying that, you may go—the demon has left your daughter." So she went home, found the child lying on the bed, and the demon gone.

Then he returned from the region of Tyre, and went by way of Sidon towards the Sea of Galilee, in the region of the Decapolis. They brought to him a deaf man who had an impediment in his speech; and they begged him to lay his hand on him. He took him aside in private, away from the crowd, and put his fingers into his ears, and he spat and touched his tongue. Then looking up to heaven, he sighed and said to him, "Ephphatha," that is, "Be opened." And immediately his ears were opened, his tongue was released, and he spoke plainly. Then Jesus ordered them to tell no one; but the more he ordered them, the more zealously they proclaimed it. They were astounded beyond measure, saying, "He has done everything well; he even makes the deaf to hear and the mute to speak."

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.

1. I be - lieve in God al - might - y, Au - thor of all things that
 2. I be - lieve that Je - sus suf - fered, scourged and scorned and cru - ci -
 3. I be - lieve in God's own Spir - it, bond - ing all the saints with-

be, Mak - er of the earth and heav - ens, Keep - er of the sky and
 died; tak - en from the cross, was bur - ied— True Life there had tru - ly
 in One church, cath - o - lic and ho - ly, where for - give-ness frees from

sea. I be - lieve in God's Son, Je - sus, now for
 died. I be - lieve that on the third day Christ was
 sin; in the bod - y's res - ur - rec - tion, for the

us both Lord and Christ, of the Spir - it and of
 raised up from the grave, then as - cend - ed to God
 break - ing of death's chain gives the life that's ev - er -

Mar - y born to bring a - bun - dant life,
 right hand. He will come to judge and save,
 last - ing. This the faith that I have claimed.

Prayers of the People *Form III (adapted)*

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 a 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

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

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

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.

Communion Music (*sung by all*)

Jo Ellen Carson

I've Got Peace Like a River

*I've got peace like a river,
I've got peace like a river,
I've got peace like a river in my soul,
I've got peace like a river,
I've got peace like a river,
I've got peace like a river in my soul.*

*I've got joy like a fountain,
I've got joy like a fountain,
I've got joy like a fountain in my soul,
I've got joy like a fountain,
I've got joy like a fountain,
I've got joy like a fountain in my soul.*

*I've got love like an ocean,
I've got love like an ocean,
I've got love like an ocean in my soul,
I've got love like an ocean,
I've got love like an ocean,
I've got love like an ocean in my soul.*

Nothing can trouble

Taizé 29

*Nothing can trouble, nothing can frighten.
Those who seek God shall never go wanting.
Nothing can trouble, nothing can frighten.
God alone fills us. (Repeat)*

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

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 Hymn #551

Rise up, ye saints of God!

The Dismissal

Presider Let us go forth in the name of Christ!
Alleluia! Alleluia!
People Thanks be to God! Alleluia! Alleluia!

Coming Lessons

Proverbs 1:20-33
Psalm 19
James 3:1-12
Mark 8:27-38

Prayer List

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

Departed:

Birthdays: Sally Williamson (Sept 14)

Wedding Anniversaries:

The Following People are Assisting with the Services

Role	This Sunday	Next Sunday
Altar Guild	Louise Law	Louise Law
Chalicer I	Nancy Wilson	Frances Buckle
Chalicer II	Sheila Pfaender	Bruce Smith
Crucifer	Frances Buckle	Bruce Smith
Lector I	Phil Donaldson	Tricia Whitman
Lector II	Frances Buckle	Bruce Smith
Prayers of the People	Phil Donaldson	Frances Buckle
Oblations Bearers	Denise & Larry Seckel	Tricia Whitman & other
Greeters/Ushers	Joe & Judy Ritchie	Larry & Denise Seckel
Book Bearer	Sheila Pfaender	Frances Buckle
Sanctus Bell	Frances Buckle	Bruce Smith

Schedule

Sunday, September 9 – Sixteenth Sunday after Pentecost

9:00 am – Adult Forum

10:30 am – Holy Eucharist

Server Training & Refreshments following the morning service

Monday, September 10

11:00 am – Friends in Faith

Tuesday, September 11

12:30 pm – Vestry meeting

Wednesday, September 12

10:00 am – Holy Eucharist

Thursday, September 13

6:00 pm – Neighborhood Bible Study at the Seckel Barn, 404 Vestal Rd.

Saturday, September 15

10:00 am – 4:30 pm – Mountain Heritage Festival Fundraiser

Sunday, September 16 – Seventeenth Sunday after Pentecost

9:00 am – Adult Forum

10:30 am – Holy Eucharist

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 TODAY, Sunday, September 9th, the **Adult Forum: *Saving Jesus*** will begin at 9:00 am on Sundays.

Mountain Heritage Festival Fundraiser THIS Saturday, September 15th!

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 THIS Thursday, September 13th!

We will meet again THIS 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 TODAY 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 today 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.

Christ Episcopal Church

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