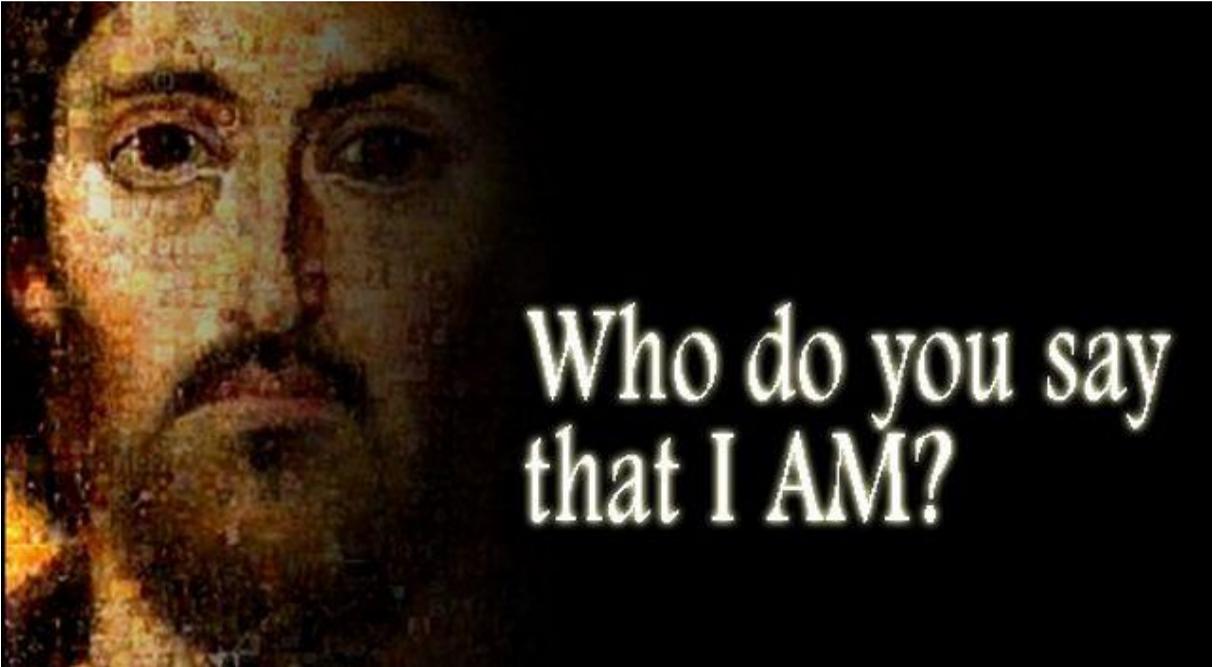


Christ Episcopal Church

Sparta, NC

A Home to All

Sharing God's Unconditional Love



Seventeenth Sunday after Pentecost
September 16, 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.

We extend special thanks today to the following people:

Betty Upchurch, for serving as musician and for being so generous with her talents, and

Stella Daniel, for providing refreshments for our fellowship following the morning service.

The Gathering

Prelude

All stand, as able.

Processional Hymn #518

Christ is made the sure 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.

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.

O God, because without you we are not able to please you, mercifully grant that your Holy Spirit may in all things direct and rule our hearts; 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 1:20-33

Wisdom cries out in the street;
 in the squares she raises her voice.

At the busiest corner she cries out;
 at the entrance of the city gates she speaks:

“How long, O simple ones, will you love being simple?

How long will scoffers delight in their scoffing
 and fools hate knowledge?

Give heed to my reproof;

I will pour out my thoughts to you;
 I will my words known to you.

Because I have called and you refused,
 have stretched out my hand and no one heeded,

and because you have ignored all my counsel
 and would have none of my reproof,

I also will laugh at your calamity;
 I will mock when panic strikes you,

when panic strikes you like a storm,
 and your calamity comes like a whirlwind,
 when distress and anguish come upon you.

Then they will call upon me, but I will not answer;
 they will seek me diligently, but will not find me.

Because they hated knowledge
and did not choose the fear of the Lord,
would have none of my counsel,
and despised all my reproof,
therefore they shall eat the fruit of their way
and be sated with their own devices.
For waywardness kills the simple,
and the complacency of fools destroys them;
but those who listen to me will be secure
and will live at ease, without dread of disaster.”

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

Please be seated.

The Response
Psalm 19

The heavens declare the glory of God, *
and the firmament shows his handiwork.
One day tells its tale to another, *
and one night imparts knowledge to another.
Although they have no words or language, *
and their voices are not heard,
Their sound has gone out into all lands, *
and their message to the ends of the world.
In the deep has he set a pavilion for the sun; *
it comes forth like a bridegroom out of his chamber;
it rejoices like a champion to run its course.
It goes forth from the uttermost edge of the heavens
and runs about to the end of it again; *
nothing is hidden from its burning heat.
The law of the Lord is perfect
and revives the soul; *
the testimony of the Lord is sure
and gives wisdom to the innocent.

The statutes of the Lord are just
and rejoice the heart; *
the commandment of the Lord is clear
and gives light to the eyes.

The fear of the Lord is clean
and endures for ever; *
the judgments of the Lord are true
and righteous altogether.

More to be desired are they than gold,
more than much fine gold, *
sweeter far than honey,
than honey in the comb.

By them also is your servant enlightened, *
and in keeping them there is great reward.

Who can tell how often he offends? *
cleanse me from my secret faults.

Above all, keep your servant from presumptuous sins;
let them not get dominion over me; *
then shall I be whole and sound,
and innocent of a great offense.

Let the words of my mouth and the meditation of my
heart be acceptable in your sight, *
O Lord, my strength and my redeemer.

The Second Reading

James 3:1-12

Not many of you should become teachers, my brothers and sisters, for you know that we who teach will be judged with greater strictness. For all of us make many mistakes. Anyone who makes no mistakes in speaking is perfect, able to keep the whole body in check with a bridle. If we put bits into the mouths of horses to make them obey us, we guide their whole bodies. Or look at ships: though they are so large that it takes strong winds to drive them, yet they are guided by a very small rudder wherever the will of the pilot directs. So also the tongue is a small member, yet it boasts of great exploits.

How great a forest is set ablaze by a small fire! And the tongue is a fire. The tongue is placed among our members as a world of iniquity; it stains the whole body, sets on fire the cycle of nature, and is itself set on fire by hell. For every species of beast and bird, of reptile and sea creature, can be tamed and has been tamed by the human species, but no one can tame the tongue~ a restless evil, full of deadly poison. With it we bless the Lord and Father, and with it we curse those who are made in the likeness of God.

From the same mouth come blessing and cursing. My brothers and sisters, this ought not to be so. Does a spring pour forth from the same opening both fresh and brackish water? Can a fig tree, my brothers and sisters, yield olives, or a grapevine figs? No more can salt water yield fresh.

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

People **Thanks be to God.**

Please stand, as able.

Gospel Hymn #379

Now thank we all our God

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 8:27-38

Jesus went on with his disciples to the villages of Caesarea Philippi; and on the way he asked his disciples, "Who do people say that I am?" And they answered him, "John the Baptist; and others, Elijah; and still others, one of the prophets." He asked them, "But who do you say that I am?" Peter answered him, "You are the Messiah." And he sternly ordered them not to tell anyone about him.

Then he began to teach them that the Son of Man must undergo great suffering, and be rejected by the elders, the chief priests, and the scribes, and be killed, and after three days rise again. He said all this quite openly. And Peter took him aside and began to rebuke him. But turning and looking at his disciples, he rebuked Peter and said, "Get behind me, Satan! For you are setting your mind not on divine things but on human things."

He called the crowd with his disciples, and said to them, "If any want to become my followers, let them deny themselves and take up their cross and follow me. For those who want to save their life will lose it, and those who lose their life for my sake, and for the sake of the gospel, will save it. For what will it profit them to gain the whole world and forfeit their life? Indeed, what can they give in return for their life? Those who are ashamed of me and of my words in this adulterous and sinful generation, of them the Son of Man will also be ashamed when he comes in the glory of his Father with the holy angels."

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 cōme to judge and save.
 last - ing. This the faith that I have claimed.

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 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

Betty Upchurch

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.

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; 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

Betty Upchurch

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 #522, vss. 1-3

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!**

Coming Lessons

Proverbs 31:10-31
Psalm 1
James 3:13 - 4:3, 7-8a
Mark 9:30-37

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: Larry Seckel (Sept 16), Pat Bassett (Sept 17), Joe Ritchie (Sept 17)

Wedding Anniversaries:

Schedule

Sunday, September 16 – Seventeenth Sunday after Pentecost

9:00 am – Adult Forum
10:30 am – Holy Eucharist

Monday, September 17

11:00 am – Friends in Faith

Wednesday, September 19

10:00 am – Holy Eucharist
11:30 am – Genesis Bible Study
1:00 pm – Ladies' Lunch Out at High Meadows Country Club

Thursday, September 20

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

Sunday, September 23 – Eighteenth Sunday after Pentecost

9:00 am – Adult Forum
10:30 am – Holy Eucharist

The Following People are Assisting with the Services

Role	This Sunday	Next Sunday
Altar Guild	Louise Law	Louise Law
Chalicer I	Frances Buckle	Bruce Smith
Chalicer II	Bruce Smith	Shelley Jones
Crucifer	Bruce Smith	Shelley Jones
Lector I	Tricia Whitman	Bruce Smith
Lector II	Bruce Smith	Shelley Jones
Prayers of the People	Frances Buckle	Bruce Smith
Oblations Bearers	Tricia Whitman & other	Jeanne Green & Marybeth Lentz
Greeters/Ushers	Larry & Denise Seckel	Phil & Deb Donaldson
Book Bearer	Frances Buckle	Bruce Smith
Sanctus Bell	Bruce Smith	Shelley Jones

Announcements

The Genesis Bible Study begins THIS Wednesday, September 19th at 11:30.

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. Bring a lunch and a friend, and let's go deep into the beginning of all things!

September Ladies' Lunch Out THIS Wednesday, September 19th

Cathy & Linda Williams will be co-hosting the Ladies' Lunch Out on Wednesday, September 19th at 1:00 pm at the High Meadows Country Club. The sign-up sheet is on the Information table. If you have any questions, please contact either Cathy or Linda.

Neighborhood Bible Study at the Seckel's Vestal Road Barn THIS Thursday, September 20th!

We will meet again THIS Thursday, September 20th 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 97th Annual Convention of the Episcopal Diocese of Western North Carolina takes place November 9-10, 2018 at Kanuga Conference Center. If you are interested in attending as either a delegate or alternate delegate of Christ Episcopal Church, contact Phil Donaldson at 336-372-7573 or email at sld1400@aol.com.

Mountain Soul presents Swingset on Sunday, September 30th at 6:00 pm. For more details, check out the GN&N!

SAVE-THE-DATE!

We will be kicking off our Fall Financial Giving series on **Sunday, September 30.**

Our Festive Meal Luncheon will be November 3 with an exciting speaker and November 11 will be our Consecration Sunday!

Your Abundant Living Action TEAM will be bringing you inspiring stories of how lives are changed and ministries are funded through giving back to God what God has so generously given to us.

Friends in Faith (FiF)

The Friends in Faith group meets on Mondays at 11:00 am. *Please note the date/time change.* FiF gather as sisters in Christ to praise, pray, study, and share their lives. All are welcome!

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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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.