

# Christ Episcopal Church

Sparta, NC

*A Home to All*

*Sharing God's Unconditional Love*



**Eighteenth Sunday after Pentecost**  
**September 23, 2018 – 10:30 AM**  
**Celebrating 20 years!**

The Rt. Rev José McLoughlin  
Bishop of Western North Carolina

The Rev. Stephanie E. Parker  
Rector

# Welcome to Christ Episcopal Church

We are delighted God has brought you to this special place. Our tradition is to invite newcomers to introduce themselves during the announcements, if they would like. Following the service, the ushers have guest cards which we hope you will fill out, so we can personally welcome you to the church community. Everyone is invited for refreshments and fellowship in the parish hall afterwards.

**What do you need to know about worship?** Everything you need for your worship today is in the booklet you are holding. Our service is based on the Book of Common Prayer, using music from sources including the Hymnal 1982 and Taizé.

**Are you worshipping with us for the first time?** We would love to get to know you! Please fill out one of the pew cards tucked into the pew in front of you. Let us know if we can call you, answer questions, or pray for you. And know that wherever you are on your journey of faith, there is a place for you at Christ Church.

**Home communion visits:** Do you know someone who isn't able to get to church, but would like a home communion visit? Please call the church office at 336.372.7983 to arrange a visit.

**Please wear a name tag.** No permanent one? Please use the temporary adhesive name tags found in the church entryway. We're happy to make you a new nametag, a replacement, or simply a spare. For permanent name tags, sign up on the clipboard in the entryway.

**Newsletter:** Sign up today to receive our electronic newsletter, the weekly *Good News & Notes*. Email the church office at [ccepiscopeal@skybest.com](mailto:ccepiscopeal@skybest.com).

**Sermons Available:** Recent sermons available at [www.christchurchallegghany.com](http://www.christchurchallegghany.com).

**Adult Formation** at Christ Church includes an Adult Forum series Sunday mornings at 9:15 am in the fellowship hall downstairs.

**We extend special thanks today to the following people:**

**Laura Davis**, for serving as musician and for being so generous with her talents,  
**an anonymous friend**, for providing flowers for the altar in memory of Aurelia Eller, and  
**Stella Daniel**, for providing refreshments for our fellowship following the service.

# The Gathering

Prelude

*All stand, as able.*

Processional Hymn #556, vss 1-3

*Rejoice, ye pure in heart!*

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, Lord, not to be anxious about earthly things, but to love things heavenly; and even now, while we are placed among things that are passing away, to hold fast to those that shall endure; 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

#### Proverbs 31:10-31

A capable wife who can find?

She is far more precious than jewels.

The heart of her husband trusts in her,  
and he will have no lack of gain.

She does him good, and not harm,  
all the days of her life.

She seeks wool and flax,  
and works with willing hands.

She is like the ships of the merchant,  
she brings her food from far away.

She rises while it is still night  
and provides food for her household  
and tasks for her servant-girls.

She considers a field and buys it;  
with the fruit of her hands she plants a vineyard.

She girds herself with strength,  
and makes her arms strong.

She perceives that her merchandise is profitable.  
Her lamp does not go out at night.

She puts her hands to the distaff,  
and her hands hold the spindle.

She opens her hand to the poor,  
and reaches out her hands to the needy.

She is not afraid for her household when it snows,  
for all her household are clothed in crimson.

She makes herself coverings;  
her clothing is fine linen and purple.  
Her husband is known in the city gates,  
taking his seat among the elders of the land.  
She makes linen garments and sells them;  
she supplies the merchant with sashes.  
Strength and dignity are her clothing,  
and she laughs at the time to come.  
She opens her mouth with wisdom,  
and the teaching of kindness is on her tongue.  
She looks well to the ways of her household,  
and does not eat the bread of idleness.  
Her children rise up and call her happy;  
her husband too, and he praises her:  
“Many women have done excellently,  
but you surpass them all.”  
Charm is deceitful, and beauty is vain,  
but a woman who fears the LORD is to be praised.  
Give her a share in the fruit of her hands,  
and let her works praise her in the city gates.

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

*Please be seated.*

**The Response**  
**Psalm 1**

Happy are they who have not walked in the counsel of the wicked, \*  
nor lingered in the way of sinners,  
nor sat in the seats of the scornful!

Their delight is in the law of the Lord, \*  
and they meditate on his law day and night.

They are like trees planted by streams of water,  
bearing fruit in due season, with leaves that do not wither; \*  
everything they do shall prosper.

It is not so with the wicked; \*  
they are like chaff which the wind blows away.

Therefore the wicked shall not stand upright when judgment comes, \*  
nor the sinner in the council of the righteous.

For the Lord knows the way of the righteous, \*  
but the way of the wicked is doomed.

**The Second Reading**  
**James 3:13-4:3, 7-8a**

Who is wise and understanding among you? Show by your good life that your works are done with gentleness born of wisdom. But if you have bitter envy and selfish ambition in your hearts, do not be boastful and false to the truth. Such wisdom does not come down from above, but is earthly, unspiritual, devilish. For where there is envy and selfish ambition, there will also be disorder and wickedness of every kind. But the wisdom from above is first pure, then peaceable, gentle, willing to yield, full of mercy and good fruits, without a trace of partiality or hypocrisy. And a harvest of righteousness is sown in peace for those who make peace.

Those conflicts and disputes among you, where do they come from? Do they not come from your cravings that are at war within you? You want something and do not have it; so you commit murder. And you covet something and cannot obtain it; so you engage in disputes and conflicts. You do not have, because you do not ask. You ask and do not receive, because you ask wrongly, in order to spend what you get on your pleasures.

Submit yourselves therefore to God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you. Draw near to God, and he will draw near to you.

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

People            **Thanks be to God.**

*Please stand, as able.*

**Gospel Hymn #657**

*Love divine, all loves excelling*

*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 9:30-37**

Jesus and his disciples passed through Galilee. He did not want anyone to know it; for he was teaching his disciples, saying to them, “The Son of Man is to be betrayed into human hands, and they will kill him, and three days after being killed, he will rise again.” But they did not understand what he was saying and were afraid to ask him.

Then they came to Capernaum; and when he was in the house he asked them, “What were you arguing about on the way?” But they were silent, for on the way they had argued with one another who was the greatest. He sat down, called the twelve, and said to them, “Whoever wants to be first must be last of all and servant of all.” Then he took a little child and put it among them; and taking it in his arms, he said to them, “Whoever welcomes one such child in my name welcomes me, and whoever welcomes me welcomes not me but the one who sent me.”

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  
 fied; 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

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

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

Laura Davis

Taizé #28

*Come and fill our hearts*

*Come and fill our hearts with your peace.  
You alone, O Lord, are holy.  
Come and fill our hearts with peace,  
alleluia! (Repeat)*

Taizé #29

*Nothing can trouble*

*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 #182

*Christ is alive!*

## The Dismissal

Presider            Let us go forth in the name of Christ!

Alleluia! Alleluia!

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

### Coming Lessons

Esther 7:1-6, 9-10; 9:20-22

Psalm 124

James 5:13-20

Mark 9:38-50

### 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:** Louise Law (Sept 25)

**Wedding Anniversaries:**

## The Following People are Assisting with the Services

Role	This Sunday	Next Sunday
Altar Guild	Louise Law	Louise Law
Chalicer I	Bruce Smith	Shelley Jones
Chalicer II	Shelley Jones	Ann Hazard
Crucifer	Shelley Jones	Ann Hazard
Lector I	Bruce Smith	Phil Donaldson
Lector II	Shelley Jones	Frank Hazard
Prayers of the People	Bruce Smith	Phil Donaldson
Oblations Bearers	Jeanne Green & Marybeth Lentz	Phil & Deb Donaldson
Greeters/Ushers	Phil & Deb Donaldson	Frank Hazard
Book Bearer	Bruce Smith	Shelley Jones
Sanctus Bell	Shelley Jones	Ann Hazard

### Schedule

#### **Sunday, September 23 – Eighteenth Sunday after Pentecost**

9:00 am – Adult Forum

10:30 am – Holy Eucharist

#### **Monday, September 24**

11:00 am – Friends in Faith

#### **Wednesday, September 26**

10:00 am – Holy Eucharist

11:30 am – Genesis Bible Study

#### **Sunday, September 30 – Nineteenth Sunday after Pentecost**

9:00 am – Adult Forum

10:30 am – Holy Eucharist

6:00 pm – Mountain Soul presents Swingset

### Announcements

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](mailto:sld1400@aol.com).

The Genesis Bible Study began last Wednesday, September 19th and will continue on Wednesday mornings at 11:00 am. 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!



### SAVE-THE-DATE!

We will be kicking off our Fall Financial Giving series **NEXT 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.

**Mountain Soul presents Swingset NEXT Sunday, September 30<sup>th</sup> at 6:00 pm.** For more details, check out the GN&N!

**Neighborhood Bible Study at the Seckel's Vestal Road Barn on Thursday, October 4<sup>th</sup>!**

We will meet again on Thursday, October 4<sup>th</sup> 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.*

### 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](mailto: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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*Prayers of the People adapted from Intercession for God's People. Gail Runshaw.*