

Christ Episcopal Church

Sparta, NC

A Home to All

Sharing God's Unconditional Love



Nineteenth Sunday after Pentecost

September 30, 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 ccepisopal@skybest.com.

Sermons Available: Recent sermons available at www.christchurchalleglhany.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,

Jann Boggs, for providing the flowers for the altar in thanksgiving for her husband, Vilder, as they approach their third anniversary (Oct 23rd), and

Dan & Dana Lewis, for sharing their musical gifts with us this morning.

The Gathering

Prelude

Announcements

Witness

Jann Boggs

All stand, as able

Transforming Generosity Prayer (prayed by all)

Presider Let us pray.

Almighty and everlasting God, from who comes every good and perfect gift, hear our prayers for this parish family. Enliven the spirit of the people so that our hearts are changed and in our thankfulness we joyfully give of ourselves. By your Spirit, fashion our lives according to the example of your Son, and grant that we may show the power of your love to all among whom we live; through Jesus Christ our Lord.
Amen.

A time of silence following the prayer.

Processional Hymn #618

Ye watchers and ye holy ones

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.

*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, you declare your almighty power chiefly in showing mercy and pity: Grant us the fullness of your grace, that we, running to obtain your promises, may become partakers of your heavenly treasure; 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

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

The king and Haman went in to feast with Queen Esther. On the second day, as they were drinking wine, the king again said to Esther, "What is your petition, Queen Esther? It shall be granted you. And what is your request? Even to the half of my kingdom, it shall be fulfilled." Then Queen Esther answered, "If I have won your favor, O king, and if it pleases the king, let my life be given me~ that is my petition~ and the lives of my people~ that is my request. For we have been sold, I and my people, to be destroyed, to be killed, and to be annihilated. If we had been sold merely as slaves, men and women, I

would have held my peace; but no enemy can compensate for this damage to the king.” Then King Ahasuerus said to Queen Esther, “Who is he, and where is he, who has presumed to do this?” Esther said, “A foe and enemy, this wicked Haman!” Then Haman was terrified before the king and the queen.

Then Harbona, one of the eunuchs in attendance on the king, said, “Look, the very gallows that Haman has prepared for Mordecai, whose word saved the king, stands at Haman's house, fifty cubits high.” And the king said, “Hang him on that.” So they hanged Haman on the gallows that he had prepared for Mordecai. Then the anger of the king abated.

Mordecai recorded these things, and sent letters to all the Jews who were in all the provinces of King Ahasuerus, both near and far, enjoining them that they should keep the fourteenth day of the month Adar and also the fifteenth day of the same month, year by year, as the days on which the Jews gained relief from their enemies, and as the month that had been turned for them from sorrow into gladness and from mourning into a holiday; that they should make them days of feasting and gladness, days for sending gifts of food to one another and presents to the poor.

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

People **Thanks be to God.**

Please be seated.

The Response

Psalm 124

If the Lord had not been on our side, *
let Israel now say;

If the Lord had not been on our side, *
when enemies rose up against us;

Then would they have swallowed us up alive *
in their fierce anger toward us;

Then would the waters have overwhelmed us *
and the torrent gone over us;

Then would the raging waters *
have gone right over us.

Blessed be the Lord! *
he has not given us over to be a prey for their teeth.

We have escaped like a bird from the snare of the fowler; *
the snare is broken, and we have escaped.

Our help is in the Name of the Lord, *
the maker of heaven and earth.

The Second Reading

James 5:13-20

Are any among you suffering? They should pray. Are any cheerful? They should sing songs of praise. Are any among you sick? They should call for the elders of the church and have them pray over them, anointing them with oil in the name of the Lord. The prayer of faith will save the sick, and the Lord will raise them up; and anyone who has committed sins will be forgiven. Therefore confess your sins to one another, and pray for one another, so that you may be healed. The prayer of the righteous is powerful and effective. Elijah was a human being like us, and he prayed fervently that it might not rain, and for three years and six months it did not rain on the earth. Then he prayed again, and the heaven gave rain and the earth yielded its harvest.

My brothers and sisters, if anyone among you wanders from the truth and is brought back by another, you should know that whoever brings back a sinner from wandering will save the sinner's soul from death and will cover a multitude of sins

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

People Thanks be to God.

Please stand, as able.

Gospel Hymn #645

The King of love my shepherd is

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 9:38-50

John said to Jesus, "Teacher, we saw someone casting out demons in your name, and we tried to stop him, because he was not following us." But Jesus said, "Do not stop him; for no one who does a deed of power in my name will be able soon afterward to speak evil of me. Whoever is not against us is for us. For truly I tell you, whoever gives you a cup of water to drink because you bear the name of Christ will by no means lose the reward.

"If any of you put a stumbling block before one of these little ones who believe in me, it would be better for you if a great millstone were hung around your neck and you were thrown into the sea. If your hand causes you to stumble, cut it off; it is better for you to enter life maimed than to have two hands and to go to hell, to the unquenchable fire. And if your foot causes you to stumble, cut it off; it is better for you to enter life lame than to have two feet and to be thrown into hell. And if your eye causes you to stumble, tear it out; it is better for you to enter the kingdom of God with one eye than to have two eyes and to be thrown into hell, where their worm never dies, and the fire is never quenched.

“For everyone will be salted with fire. Salt is good; but if salt has lost its saltiness, how can you season it? Have salt in yourselves, and be at peace with one another.”

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

Leaning on the Everlasting Arms

Dan & Dana Lewis

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

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 #544

Jesus shall reign

The Dismissal

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

Coming Lessons

Job 1:1, 2:1-10
Psalm 26
Hebrews 1:1-4; 2:5-12
Mark 10:2-16

Prayer List

Intercessions: Ben, Chuck B., 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: Nancy Smyrski (Oct 2), Cynthia Grant (Oct 4)

Wedding Anniversaries:

The Following People are Assisting with the Services

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

Schedule

Sunday, September 30 – Nineteenth Sunday after Pentecost

9:00 am – Adult Forum

10:30 am – Holy Eucharist

6:00 pm – Mountain Soul presents Swingset

Wednesday, October 3

10:00 am – Holy Eucharist

11:30 am – Genesis Bible Study

Thursday, October 4

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

Sunday, October 7 – Twentieth Sunday after Pentecost

9:00 am – Adult Forum

10:30 am – Holy Eucharist

Announcements

Mountain Soul presents Swingset THIS 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 **TODAY, 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.

Calling all Chili and Corn Bread makers!

Your talents are needed to make chili and corn bread to sell at our Fall Festival to be held on Saturday, October 13th. Don't be shy, please sign up on the sheet located on the information table in the fellowship hall.

The Genesis Bible Study continues on Wednesday mornings at 11:00 am. We're 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!

Neighborhood Bible Study at the Seckel's Vestal Road Barn THIS Thursday, October 4th!

We will meet THIS Thursday, October 4th 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 will *not* be meeting for now. Please watch the GN&N for information about when the group will resume meeting.

Food & Fellowship Person of the Month for October is: Marybeth Lentz. She can be reached by telephone at 336.657.7088 or by email at mlentz@skybest.com.

Vestry Person of the month for October is: Jann Boggs. She can be reached at jaspalding@juno.com or 727.641.4925.

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

* * *

Urgent: Sign Up TODAY!
**Christ Church's Inaugural Fall Fun Festival &
Blessing of the Animals**

Our long-awaited Fall Event is here and now it is time for the members of Christ Church to shine forth by volunteering so that our community can see what we're made of.

Today after the service we will speak briefly and there will be sign-up sheets as well as descriptions of the opportunities to serve that are listed. The ways to serve are varied and you can participate ahead of the festival as well as on the day. Please sign-up to help in as many ways as you can!

Fall is in the air and so this is a great opportunity to provide a fun day for our parish and our community. Show your Christ Church Spirit, and sign-up and participate in our Inaugural Fall Fun Festival and Blessing of the Animals on **Saturday, October 13th from 10:00 am to 3:00 pm!**

Christ Episcopal Church
2543 US Highway 21 South
PO Box 1866

Sparta, North Carolina 28675

Office: 336-372-7983

Rector cellphone: 336-363-4141

Email: ccepiscopal@skybest.com

Website: christchurchallegghany.org

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.