

Christ Episcopal Church

Sparta, NC

A Home to All

Sharing God's Unconditional Love



Christ the King

November 25, 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 blank 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, email the church office at ccepiscopeal@skybest.com.

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

Sermons Available: Recent sermons available at www.christchurchallegghany.com.

Adult Formation at Christ Church includes an Adult Forum series Sunday mornings at 9:00 am in the fellowship hall downstairs.

We extend special thanks today to the following people:

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

Marybeth Lentz, for providing the flowers for the altar in memory of her niece,
Kaitlyn Sara Reddy, and

Deb Donaldson & friends, for hosting a Soup Sunday for our fellowship after the service.

The Gathering

Prelude

Processional Hymn #435, vss 1-4

At the Name of Jesus

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.

Gloria: S280 (*sung by all*)

*Glory to God in the highest,
and peace to God's people on earth.*

*Lord God, heavenly King,
almighty God and Father,
we worship you, we give you thanks,
we praise you for your glory.*

*Lord Jesus Christ, only Son of the Father,
Lord God, Lamb of God,
You take away the sin of the world:
have mercy on us;
you are seated at the right hand of the Father:
receive our prayer.*

*For you alone are the Holy One,
you alone are the Lord,
you alone are the Most High,
Jesus Christ,
with the Holy Spirit,
in the glory of God the Father. Amen.*

Remain standing, as able.

The Collect

Presider The Lord be with you.

People **And also with you.**

Presider Let us pray.

Almighty and everlasting God, whose will it is to restore all things in your well-beloved Son, the King of kings and Lord of lords: Mercifully grant that the peoples of the earth, divided and enslaved by sin, may be freed and brought together under his most gracious rule; 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

2 Samuel 23:1-7

These are the last words of David:

The oracle of David, son of Jesse,
the oracle of the man whom God exalted,

the anointed of the God of Jacob,
the favorite of the Strong One of Israel:

The spirit of the Lord speaks through me,
his word is upon my tongue.

The God of Israel has spoken,
the Rock of Israel has said to me:

One who rules over people justly,
ruling in the fear of God,

is like the light of morning,
like rising on a cloudless morning,
gleaming from the rain on the grassy land.

Is not my house like this with God?
For he has made with me an everlasting covenant,
ordered in all things and secure.

Will he not cause to prosper
all my help and my desire?

But the godless are all like thorns that are thrown away;
for they cannot be picked up with the hand;
to touch them one uses an iron bar
or the shaft of a spear.
And they are entirely consumed in fire on the spot.

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

Please be seated.

The Response
Psalm 132:1-19

Lord, remember David, *
and all the hardships he endured;
How he swore an oath to the Lord *
and vowed a vow to the Mighty One of Jacob:
"I will not come under the roof of my house," *
nor climb up into my bed;
I will not allow my eyes to sleep, *
nor let my eyelids slumber;
Until I find a place for the Lord, *
a dwelling for the Mighty One of Jacob."
"The ark! We heard it was in Ephratah; *
we found it in the fields of Jearim.
Let us go to God's dwelling place; *
let us fall upon our knees before his footstool."
Arise, O Lord, into your resting-place, *
you and the ark of your strength.
Let your priests be clothed with righteousness; *
let your faithful people sing with joy.
For your servant David's sake, *
do not turn away the face of your Anointed.
The Lord has sworn an oath to David; *
in truth, he will not break it:
"A son, the fruit of your body *
will I set upon your throne.

If your children keep my covenant
and my testimonies that I shall teach them, *
their children will sit upon your throne for evermore."

For the Lord has chosen Zion; *
he has desired her for his habitation:

"This shall be my resting-place for ever; *
here will I dwell, for I delight in her.

I will surely bless her provisions, *
and satisfy her poor with bread.

I will clothe her priests with salvation, *
and her faithful people will rejoice and sing.

There will I make the horn of David flourish; *
I have prepared a lamp for my Anointed.

As for his enemies, I will clothe them with shame; *
but as for him, his crown will shine."

The Second Reading

Revelation 1:4b-8

Grace to you and peace from him who is and who was and who is to come, and from the seven spirits who are before his throne, and from Jesus Christ, the faithful witness, the firstborn of the dead, and the ruler of the kings of the earth.

To him who loves us and freed us from our sins by his blood, and made us to be a kingdom, priests serving his God and Father, to him be glory and dominion forever and ever. Amen.

Look! He is coming with the clouds;
every eye will see him,
even those who pierced him;
and on his account all the tribes of the earth will wail.

So it is to be. Amen.

"I am the Alpha and the Omega," says the Lord God, who is and who was and who is to come, the Almighty.

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

Please stand, as able.

Gospel Hymn #450, vss 1-3

All hail the power of Jesus' Name!

Remain standing, as able.

Presider The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ, according to John.
People **Glory to you, Lord Christ.**

The Gospel
John 18:33-37

Pilate entered the headquarters again, summoned Jesus, and asked him, "Are you the King of the Jews?" Jesus answered, "Do you ask this on your own, or did others tell you about me?" Pilate replied, "I am not a Jew, am I? Your own nation and the chief priests have handed you over to me. What have you done?" Jesus answered, "My kingdom is not from this world. If my kingdom were from this world, my followers would be fighting to keep me from being handed over to the Jews. But as it is, my kingdom is not from here." Pilate asked him, "So you are a king?" Jesus answered, "You say that I am a king. For this I was born, and for this I came into the world, to testify to the truth. Everyone who belongs to the truth listens to my voice."

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 -



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

Jo Ellen Carson

Doxology

*Praise God from whom all blessings flow;
praise him, all creatures here below;
Praise him above, ye heav'nly host;
praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost.*

Presider All things come of thee, O Lord.
People And of thine own have we given thee.

The Great Thanksgiving

Standing, as able.

Prayer B, BCP 367

Presider The Lord be with you.
People **And also with you.**
Presider Lift up your hearts.
People **We lift them to the Lord.**
Presider Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.
People **It is right to give God thanks and praise.**

It is right, and a good and joyful thing, always and everywhere to give thanks to you, Father Almighty, Creator of heaven and earth.

Proper preface said here.

Therefore, we praise you, joining our voices with Angels and Archangels and with all the company of heaven, who for ever sing this hymn to proclaim the glory of your Name:

Sanctus: 129 (*sung by all*)

*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.*

We give thanks to you, O God, for the goodness and love which you have made known to us in creation; in the calling of Israel to be your people; in your Word spoken through the prophets; and above all in the Word made flesh, Jesus, your Son. For in these last days you sent him to be incarnate from the Virgin Mary, to be Savior and Redeemer of the world. In him, you have delivered us from evil, and made us worthy to stand before you. In him, you have brought us out of error into truth, out of sin into righteousness, out of death into life.

Stand or kneel, as able, for Prayer of Consecration.

On the night before he died for us, our Lord Jesus Christ took bread; and when he had given thanks to you, he broke it, and gave it to his disciples, 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; and when he had given thanks, he gave it to them, 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."

Therefore, according to his command, O Father,

ALL **We remember his death,
We proclaim his resurrection,
We await his coming in glory;**

Presider And we offer our sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving to you, O Lord of all;
presenting to you, from your creation, this bread and this wine.

We pray you, gracious God, to send your Holy Spirit upon these gifts that they may be the Sacrament of the Body of Christ and his Blood of the new Covenant. Unite us to your Son in his sacrifice, that we may be acceptable through him, being sanctified by the Holy Spirit. In the fullness of time, put all things in subjection under your Christ, and bring us to that heavenly country where, with all your saints, we may enter the everlasting heritage of your sons and daughters; through Jesus Christ our Lord, the firstborn of all creation, the head of the Church, and the author of our salvation.

By him, and with him, and in him, in the unity of the Holy Spirit all honor and glory is yours, Almighty Father, now and for ever. **AMEN.**

And now, as our Savior Christ has taught us, we are bold to pray,

**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 *(sung by all)*

Jo Ellen Carson

Hymn #554

'Tis the gift to be simple

*'Tis the gift to be simple,
'tis the gift to be free,
'tis the gift to come down
where we ought to be,
and when we find ourselves in the place just right,
'twill be in the valley of love and delight.*

*When true simplicity is gained
to bow and to bend we shan't be ashamed,
to turn, turn, will be our delight
till by turning, turning we come round right.*

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

BCP 365

Presider Let us pray.

Eternal God, Heavenly Father, you have graciously accepted us as living members of your Son our Savior Jesus Christ, and you have fed us with spiritual food in the Sacrament of his Body and Blood. Send us now into the world in peace, and grant us strength and courage to love and serve you with gladness and singleness of heart; through Christ our Lord. Amen.

The Blessing

Presider Our help is in the name of the Lord;
People **The maker of heaven and earth.**
Presider Blessed be the Name of the Lord;
People **From this time forth for evermore.**
Presider The blessing, mercy, and grace of God Almighty, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, be upon, and remain with you for ever.
All **AMEN!**

Recessional Hymn #616

Hail to the Lord's Anointed

The Dismissal

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

Coming Lessons

Jeremiah 33:14-16
Psalm 25:1-9
1 Thessalonians 3:9-13
Luke 21:25-36

Prayer List

Intercessions: Ben D., Chuck B., Jim D. (healing injury), Jon, Julie O., Karleen, Laura, Linda W., and Ted Y.

Departed: Margaret Peterson (close friend of Martha Honaker),
Don Rink (close friend of the Plummers)

Birthdays:

Wedding Anniversaries: Rod Pace & Louise Law (Nov 25), thanksgiving that Gina D. is healing!

The Following People are Assisting with the Services

Role	This Sunday	Next Sunday
Altar Guild	Nancy Wilson	Nancy Wilson
Chalicerist I	Jeanne Green	Nancy Wilson
Chalicerist II	Brenda Weems	Frances Buckle
Crucifer	Brenda Weems	Frances Buckle
Lector I	Brenda Weems	Frances Buckle
Lector II	Jann Boggs	Randy Watson
Prayers of the People	Jann Boggs	Cecilia Watson
Oblations Bearers	Marybeth Lentz & Cynthia Grant	Randy & Cecilia Watson
Greeters/Ushers	Hal & Nancy Wilson	Frank & Ann Hazard
Book Bearer	Jeanne Green	Nancy Wilson
Sanctus Bell	Brenda Weems	Frances Buckle

Schedule

Sunday, November 25 – Last Sunday after Pentecost

9:00 am – Adult Forum

10:30 am – Holy Eucharist

6:00 pm – Mountain Soul presents For His Glory

Wednesday, November 28

10:00 am – Holy Eucharist

11:30 am – Genesis Bible Study

Sunday, December 2 – First Sunday of Advent

9:00 am – Adult Forum

10:30 am – Holy Eucharist

Announcements

New Adult Forum Advent Series: “Advent in Scripture: Messages of Hope in Dark Times”

This new Adult Forum Advent Series begins TODAY and continues through the four Sundays of Advent in the Parish Hall Sunday mornings at 9 AM. We will encounter the deep mystery of our Advent Scripture. From Apocalyptic Gospels to the prophetic promise of God’s newness breaking into our lives and our world in a bold, demanding way, the Scripture we engage in Advent calls us to wrestle with all that is within us that both longs for and prohibits the fullness of God’s mercy and justice becoming a reality.

Each Sunday we will discuss the Sunday Lectionary and mine these writings for their profound impact on our world today. It is my hope that as an Advent practice you will come and fulfill an important piece of our Baptismal Covenant as we share in the Apostle’s teaching and fellowship before we gather for worship and the breaking of the bread.



Thank you for your generosity! As of today, we have 22 pledges returned for a total of \$102,700. We anticipate a few more pledges to come in through the end of the year but want to share some exciting statistics with you now. Almost 100% of the pledges were either the same or an increase from last year’s pledge. The pledges that did increase did so by an average of 24%!

What this says in the language of finance and numbers is that you are a very generous people with abundant hope for our life and mission together at Christ Church. These numbers tell us that we are on fire for God’s life and love in the world around us. God’s Transforming Generosity is breaking out all around us!

Christmas Children’s Gift Giving Program

The deadline for purchasing gifts for the Christmas Children’s Gift Giving Program is fast approaching! We ask that you bring your gifts to the church **no later than Sunday, December 9th** and join in the annual Christmas Wrapping Party. A light lunch will be served and we’ll enjoy the fellowship of wrapping everything together! If it’s easier to donate money for this program, please make sure your **check is turned in no later than NEXT Sunday, December 2nd** so we can be ready for the December 9th gathering. For more details and to learn ways you can help, contact Cynthia Grant at 336-467-0906, by email at cynthiaegrant@gmail.com.

Upcoming opportunities to enjoy some Food & Fellowship:

November 25th - Deb Donaldson volunteered to host several soup luncheons this winter and our first one will be **TODAY** following the service. Please join us for a heartwarming lunch of soup and some great conversation.

December 9th - Once again Christ Church is participating in the Christmas Children's Gift Giving Program of Alleghany County and our annual Christmas Wrapping Party will be held on this date. Bring your gifts and enjoy the fellowship of wrapping together while enjoying a lunch hosted by Deb

Donaldson and some Food & Fellowship team members. Even if you don't have gifts to wrap, we invite you to attend anyway and eat some lunch, help others wrap while sharing in the joy of this wonderful ministry.

December 23rd - We observe the fourth Sunday of Advent on this date and will be decorating the sanctuary for Christmas immediately following the morning service. The members of the Food & Fellowship team will bring sandwiches, drinks and cookies into the sanctuary to enjoy while we work together to transform Christ Church into the Spirit of Christmas. Please join us for this annual fellowship opportunity.

December 30th - We will end 2018 with another soup luncheon while breaking bread together. Many thanks to Deb Donaldson for making this lunch possible.

The Genesis Bible Study resumes THIS Wednesday morning at 11:30 am.

Neighborhood Bible Study has concluded. There will not be any additional sessions this year.

Mountain Soul presents For His Glory TONIGHT, Sunday, November 25th at 6:00 pm! *See the GN&N for more details about this local gospel group.*

Food & Fellowship Person of the Month for November 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 November is: Jeanne Green. She can be reached at jrgreen@skybest.com or 336.372.4781.

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

Advent Worship Notes: Something Fresh Ahead!

We are now in the Holy season of Advent. This is a season in which we trust that we stand on the brink of something new. Advent is a season of deep longing. It is a time when our longing for God's mercy, love, justice and compassion is wed to our expectation that God does break into history and invite us to awaken from our numbed endurance and domesticated expectations. It is the time to consider our lives afresh in light of the new gifts God is about to give.

Our liturgy for the next four Sundays is meant to echo that longing and will feature a Eucharist Prayer from the Book of Common Prayer Supplement called Enriching our Worship. It will be familiar to some from other settings.

Called EOW for short, this resource was approved for use many years ago and its Eucharist prayers echo the ancient and early liturgies (4th and 5th centuries) of the Christian Church, which focused on the goodness and mercy of God.

This particular Eucharist prayer resonates with the themes of Advent and I invite you to listen closely to how it captures our story of God's saving help and how Advent reminds us God is always doing something new.

In addition, we will be doing prayers at the lighting of the Advent wreath and the Prayers of the People are also imbedded with the longing and preparation for God to break into this world.

And, something else to notice is that we do not sing the Gloria during Advent. Advent, sometimes incorrectly confused with Lenten themes, is meant to be a season of joy and expectation so we do omit the Gloria because of its joyful note, but we omit it during this season so that on Christmas Eve night, we burst forth in joyful song with that Angel's Choir as they announce the wondrous birth of the Christ child! The Gloria's absence in these next four weeks refreshes our memory of the true wonder that the hymn announces. Another way our music will thematically support us in this season is that we will hear piano accompaniment exclusively.

As ever, I always welcome your questions and wonderings and sincerely wish you to share any questions with me directly. My intent as a Liturgist is simply to be a gentle curator of the wide and vast resources in our beautiful liturgical tradition and engage with you in the riches of our deep tradition.

My hope is that we will allow our Advent worship 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.

I hope you will join me for the Advent series "Advent in Scripture: Messages of Hope in Dark Times" in the Parish Hall at 9:00 am Sundays through Advent and that you will come and take a break from the stress and demands that have sadly come to mark this season for many. Come to worship on Sundays and allow yourselves the gift of remembering that we are made for joy and communion with God that transcends all of the ways this life can make us crazy.

And finally, I invite you to keep in mind this Advent a wise saying from Thomas Merton:

“The Advent mystery is the beginning of the end of all in us that is not yet Christ.”

During this time of demand, longing and expectation, may we be gentle with all whom we love and offer kindness to ourselves.

Happy Advent, Stephanie+

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: christchurchallegany.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.