

Christ Episcopal Church

Sparta, NC

A Home to All

Sharing God's Unconditional Love



Second Sunday of Advent
December 9, 2018 – 10:30 AM
Celebrating 20 years!

The Rt. Rev José McLoughlin
Bishop of Western North Carolina

The Rev. Stephanie E. Parker
Rector

Welcome to Christ Episcopal Church

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

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

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

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

Please wear a name tag. No permanent one? Please use the 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 ccepiscopal@skybest.com.

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

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

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

We extend special thanks today to the following people:

The Altar Guild, for providing the flowers on the altar, and

Deb Donaldson & friends, for providing refreshments during our Annual Christmas Wrapping Party moved to Friday, December 7th.

The Gathering

Prelude

All stand, as able.

Processional Hymn #470

There's a wideness in God's mercy

Advent Wreath Prayers

Remain standing, as able.

Second Sunday of Advent

Leader High on the mountains
Someone is shouting

People **Here comes God!**

Justice is marching
Peace is following
Here comes God!

Help is near
Shout for glory
Here comes God!

Through years and millennia
Through days and moments
We are traveling home.

Trusting in promises
Covered in mercy
We are traveling home.

Growing in holiness
Heading for glory
We are traveling home.

Presider We travel in time;
People **May God walk with us into eternity.**

We travel in hope;
May God sing with us through the darkness.

We travel in wonder;
May God dance with us in holy joy.

All So may the blessing of the God of glory, Traveler, Storyteller, Dancer, be in us today
and every day. AMEN.

We light two blue candles.

The Collect

Presider The Lord be with you.

People **And also with you.**

Presider Let us pray.

Merciful God, who sent your messengers the prophets to preach repentance and prepare the way for our salvation: Give us grace to heed their warnings and forsake our sins, that we may greet with joy the coming of Jesus Christ our Redeemer; who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

Wait for the Lord (*sung by all*)

Taizé #12

Wait for the Lord, whose day is near.

Wait for the Lord, keep watch, take heart!

Wait for the Lord, His day is near.

Wait for the Lord. Be strong, take heart!

All are seated.

Liturgy of the Word

The First Reading

Baruch 5:1-9

Take off the garment of your sorrow and affliction, O Jerusalem,
and put on forever the beauty of the glory from God.

Put on the robe of the righteousness that comes from God;
put on your head the diadem of the glory of the Everlasting;

for God will show your splendor everywhere under heaven.

For God will give you evermore the name,
"Righteous Peace, Godly Glory."

Arise, O Jerusalem, stand upon the height;
look toward the east,

and see your children gathered from west and east
at the word of the Holy One,
rejoicing that God has remembered them.

For they went out from you on foot,
led away by their enemies;

but God will bring them back to you,
carried in glory, as on a royal throne.

For God has ordered that every high mountain and the everlasting hills be made low
and the valleys filled up, to make level ground,
so that Israel may walk safely in the glory of God.

The woods and every fragrant tree
have shaded Israel at God's command.

For God will lead Israel with joy,
in the light of his glory,
with the mercy and righteousness that come from him.

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

The Response
Canticle 16

BCP, page 92

Blessed be the Lord, the God of Israel; *
 he has come to his people and set them free.

He has raised up for us a mighty savior, *
 born of the house of his servant David.

 Through his holy prophets he promised of old,
that he would save us from our enemies, *
 from the hands of all who hate us.

He promised to show mercy to our fathers *
 and to remember his holy covenant.

This was the oath he swore to our father Abraham, *
 to set us free from the hands of our enemies,

Free to worship him without fear, *
 holy and righteous in his sight
 all the days of our life.

You, my child, shall be called the prophet of the Most High, *
 for you will go before the Lord to prepare his way,

To give his people knowledge of salvation *
 by the forgiveness of their sins.

In the tender compassion of our God *
 the dawn from on high shall break upon us,

To shine on those who dwell in darkness and the shadow of death, *
and to guide our feet into the way of peace.

Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit: *
as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be for ever. **Amen.**

The Second Lesson

Philippians 1:3-11

I thank my God every time I remember you, constantly praying with joy in every one of my prayers for all of you, because of your sharing in the gospel from the first day until now. I am confident of this, that the one who began a good work among you will bring it to completion by the day of Jesus Christ. It is right for me to think this way about all of you, because you hold me in your heart, for all of you share in God's grace with me, both in my imprisonment and in the defense and confirmation of the gospel. For God is my witness, how I long for all of you with the compassion of Christ Jesus. And this is my prayer, that your love may overflow more and more with knowledge and full insight to help you to determine what is best, so that in the day of Christ you may be pure and blameless, having produced the harvest of righteousness that comes through Jesus Christ for the glory and praise of God.

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

People **Thanks be to God.**

Please stand, as able.

Gospel Hymn #56, vss 1, 4-5

O come, O come, Emmanuel

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

The Gospel
Luke 3:1-6

In the fifteenth year of the reign of Emperor Tiberius, when Pontius Pilate was governor of Judea, and Herod was ruler of Galilee, and his brother Philip ruler of the region of Ituraea and Trachonitis, and Lysanias ruler of Abilene, during the high priesthood of Annas and Caiaphas, the word of God came to John son of Zechariah in the wilderness. He went into all the region around the Jordan, proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins, as it is written in the book of the words of the prophet Isaiah,

"The voice of one crying out in the wilderness:

'Prepare the way of the Lord,
 make his paths straight.

Every valley shall be filled,
 and every mountain and hill shall be made low,

and the crooked shall be made straight,
 and the rough ways made smooth;

and all flesh shall see the salvation of God."

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.

The Nicene Creed

WLP 768

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

Intercessor God calls us to love one another; as a sign of that love, we lift our prayers to God for the needs of all people throughout the world.

We pray for the peace of the world, that our instruments of war may be transformed into instruments of peace, and that nations shall cease to learn war any more.

Silence

We pray for the church, that we may become more and more a means of grace and peace in the world.

Silence

We pray for all people of good will who seek to cast off the works of darkness, for human rights activists, peace workers, environmentalists, and for the myriads of ordinary people who in their day to day work and lives risk sharing the beauty of your truth and love with a world that does not always want to listen.

Silence

We give thanks for all of our blessings, especially...
With you, what we already have, is enough and more.

Silence

We pray for all who are in need, especially...
that we may be alert to the presence of Christ in them and ready to reach out in love.

Silence

We pray for all who have died, especially... and those you would name. And we pray for those who grieve, that they may faithfully wait upon God with confidence in that love which sustains us in every moment of our lives, even those where we sit in darkness and loss.

Silence

We pray for all assembled here today, that we may know and extend the grace and joy of being in a faith community; that we may hear the Good News of Jesus Christ and then go forth and be as Jesus to this world.

Silence

Presider We praise you, Lord our God, that you have called us to be instruments of your presence in the world. Grant us grace to discern your will and the strength and courage to do it, through Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Presider: Let us confess our sins against God and our neighbor.

A period of silence may be kept.

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 Music

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.*

Presider All things come of thee, O Lord.

People And of thine own have we given thee.

The Great Thanksgiving

Standing, as able.

Eucharistic Prayer 2, Enriching our Worship 1, pg. 60

Presider The Lord be with you.
All **And also with you.**
 Lift up your hearts.
 We lift them to the Lord.

Because you love us, you sent your beloved Son to redeem us from sin and death, and to make us heirs in him of everlasting life and that when he shall come again in power and great love to judge the world, we may without shame or fear rejoice to behold his appearing.

We praise you and we bless you, holy and gracious God,
source of life abundant.

From before time you made ready the creation.

Your Spirit moved over the deep
and brought all things into being:

sun, moon, and stars;
earth, winds, and waters;
and every living thing.

You made us in your image,
and taught us to walk in your ways.

But we rebelled against you, and wandered far away;
and yet, as a mother cares for her children,
you would not forget us.

Time and again you called us
to live in the fullness of your love.

And so this day we join with Saints and Angels
in the chorus of praise that rings through eternity,
lifting our voices to magnify you as we sing:

Sanctus: S128 (*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.

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

Glory and honor and praise to you, holy and living God.

To deliver us from the power of sin and death

and to reveal the riches of your grace,

you looked with favor upon Mary, your willing servant,

that she might conceive and bear a son,

Jesus the holy child of God.
Living among us, Jesus loved us.
He broke bread with outcasts and sinners,
healed the sick, and proclaimed good news to the poor.
He yearned to draw all the world to himself
yet we were heedless of his call to walk in love.
Then, the time came for him to complete upon the cross
the sacrifice of his life, and to be glorified by you.

On the night before he died for us,
Jesus was at table with his friends.
He took bread, gave thanks to you,
broke it, and gave it to them, and said:
“Take, eat:
This is my Body, which is given for you.
Do this for the remembrance of me.”

As supper was ending, Jesus took the cup of wine.
Again, he gave thanks to you,
gave it to them, and said:
“Drink this, all of you:
This is my Blood of the new Covenant,
which is poured out for you and for all
for the forgiveness of sins.
Whenever you drink it,
do this for the remembrance of me.”

Now gathered at your table, O God of all creation,
and remembering Christ, crucified and risen,
who was and is and is to come,
we offer to you our gifts of bread and wine,
and ourselves, a living sacrifice.

Pour out your Spirit upon these gifts
that they may be the Body and Blood of Christ.
Breathe your Spirit over the whole earth
and make us your new creation,
the Body of Christ given for the world you have made.
In the fullness of time bring us,
with all your saints,
from every tribe and language and people and nation,
to feast at the banquet prepared
from the foundation of the world.

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.

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.

Fraction Anthem: 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

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.

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

May God who conquered darkness with light,
 give peace to you.

May God who conquered death with life,
 give peace to you.

May God who conquered loneliness with love,
 give peace to you.

And the Blessing of God Almighty, Creator, Redeemer and Sustainer, be upon you and remain with you for ever. **Amen.**

Recessional Hymn #556

Rejoice, ye pure in heart!

The Dismissal

Presider Go in peace to love and serve the Lord. Alleluia, alleluia.

People **Thanks be to God, Alleluia, alleluia.**

Postlude

<p style="text-align: center;">Coming Lessons</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Zephaniah 3:14-20 Philippians 4:4-7 Luke 3:7-18 Canticle 9</p>

Prayer List

Intercessions: Ben D., Chuck B., Jim D., Jon, Julie O., Laura, Linda W., and Ted Y.

Departed:

Birthdays: Shelly Morris (Dec 12), Joe Smyrski (Dec 15)

Wedding Anniversaries:

The Following People are Assisting with the Services

Role	This Sunday	Next Sunday
Altar Guild	Sheila Pfaender	Bruce Smith
Chalicerist I	Sheila Pfaender	Bruce Smith
Chalicerist II	Ann Hazard	Nancy Wilson
Crucifer	Ann Hazard	Nancy Wilson
Lector I	Sheila Pfaender	Bruce Smith
Lector II	Frank Hazard	Phil Donaldson
Prayers of the People	Frank Hazard	Bruce Smith
Oblations Bearers	Hal & Nancy Wilson	Phil & Deb Donaldson
Greeters/Ushers	Bruce Smith & Brenda Weems	Hal Wilson & Phil Donaldson
Book Bearer	Sheila Pfaender	Bruce Smith
Sanctus Bell	Ann Hazard	Nancy Wilson

Schedule

Sunday, December 9 – Second Sunday of Advent

9:00 am – Adult Forum

10:30 am – Holy Eucharist

Wednesday, December 12

10:00 am – Holy Eucharist

Thursday, December 13

1:00 pm – Finance Team meeting

Sunday, December 16 – Third Sunday of Advent

9:00 am – Adult Forum

10:30 am – Holy Eucharist

Announcements

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

This Adult Forum Advent Series continues through 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.

Transforming Generosity – We are so grateful for your 2019 pledges and your continued support of the mission and ministry of Christ Church. We wanted to send out a gentle reminder to any who have not yet made their pledge. Having that information before the end of the year will greatly help us as we plan ahead for 2019.

Mountain Soul presents The Faithful Four on Sunday, December 30th at 6:00 pm! *Please read the GN&N for more information.*

End-of-Year Gifts and Reimbursements NOTICE!

As hard as it is to believe, we're now in the last month of 2018! End-of-year reports are beginning to take shape, and in keeping with that task, we ask that you **turn in all receipts for reimbursement no later than Monday, December 17th** and **make your end-of-year gifts no later than Sunday, December 23rd**. This will allow us to complete the necessary end-of-year financial reports as well as finalize your 2018 contribution statements in a timely manner.

Upcoming opportunities to enjoy some Food & Fellowship:

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.

Food & Fellowship Person of the Month for December 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 December is: Sheila Pfaender. She can be reached by telephone at 336.200.1164 or by email at sspfaender@gmail.com.

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

Christ Episcopal Church

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Email: ccepiscopal@skybest.com

Website: christchurchalleglhany.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.