

Christ Episcopal Church

Sparta, NC

*A Home to All
Sharing God's Unconditional Love*



The Holy Name of Our Lord Jesus Christ

December 30, 2018

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.

Social Media: Please check out our website at www.christchurchallegghany.com, and "like" us on Facebook at Christ Episcopal Church – Sparta, NC.

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

We extend special thanks today to:

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

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

Deb Donaldson & friends, for providing refreshments for our fellowship following the service.

The Gathering

Prelude

All stand, as able.

Processional Hymn #435, vss 1-3

At the Name of Jesus

Opening Acclamation

Presider Glory to God on highest!
People **And peace to God's people on earth!**

Presider Let us pray,

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.

Hymn #96

Angels we have heard on high

Remain standing, as able.

The Collect of the Day

Presider The Lord be with you.
People **And also with you.**

Presider Let us pray,

Almighty God, you have poured upon us the new light of your incarnate Word: Grant that this light, enkindled in our hearts, may shine forth in our lives; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

All are seated.

Liturgy of the Word

The First Lesson

Isaiah 61:10-62:3

I will greatly rejoice in the Lord,
my whole being shall exult in my God;

for he has clothed me with the garments of salvation,
he has covered me with the robe of righteousness,

as a bridegroom decks himself with a garland,
and as a bride adorns herself with her jewels.

Sing to the Lord with thanksgiving; *
make music to our God upon the harp.

He covers the heavens with clouds *
and prepares rain for the earth;

He makes grass to grow upon the mountains *
and green plants to serve mankind.

He provides food for flocks and herds *
and for the young ravens when they cry.

He is not impressed by the might of a horse; *
he has no pleasure in the strength of a man;

But the Lord has pleasure in those who fear him, *
in those who await his gracious favor.

Worship the Lord, O Jerusalem; *
praise your God, O Zion;

For he has strengthened the bars of your gates; *
he has blessed your children within you.

He has established peace on your borders; *
he satisfies you with the finest wheat.

He sends out his command to the earth, *
and his word runs very swiftly.

He gives snow like wool; *
he scatters hoarfrost like ashes.

He scatters his hail like bread crumbs; *
who can stand against his cold?

He sends forth his word and melts them; *
he blows with his wind, and the waters flow.

He declares his word to Jacob, *
his statutes and his judgments to Israel.

He has not done so to any other nation; *
to them he has not revealed his judgments.
Hallelujah!

The Second Lesson

Galatians 3: 23-25; 4:4-7

Now before faith came, we were imprisoned and guarded under the law until faith would be revealed. Therefore the law was our disciplinarian until Christ came, so that we might be justified by faith. But now that faith has come, we are no longer subject to a disciplinarian.

But when the fullness of time had come, God sent his Son, born of a woman, born under the law, in order to redeem those who were under the law, so that we might receive adoption as children. And because you are children, God has sent the Spirit of his Son into our hearts, crying, "Abba! Father!" So you are no longer a slave but a child, and if a child then also an heir, through God.

Leader The Word of the Lord.

People **Thanks be to God.**

Please stand, as able.

Gospel Hymn #83

O come, all ye faithful

Reader The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ, according to John.

People **Glory to you, Lord Christ.**

The Gospel

John 1:1-18

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was in the beginning with God. All things came into being through him, and without him not one thing came into being. What has come into being in him was life, and the life was the light of all people. The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overcome it.

There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. He came as a witness to testify to the light, so that all might believe through him. He himself was not the light, but he came to testify to the light. The true light, which enlightens everyone, was coming into the world.

He was in the world, and the world came into being through him; yet the world did not know him. He came to what was his own, and his own people did not accept him. But to all who received him, who believed in his name, he gave power to become children of God, who were born, not of blood or of the will of the flesh or of the will of man, but of God.

And the Word became flesh and lived among us, and we have seen his glory, the glory as of a father's only son, full of grace and truth. (John testified to him and cried out, "This was he of whom I said, 'He who comes after me ranks ahead of me because he was before me.'") From his fullness we have all received, grace upon grace. The law indeed was given through Moses; grace and truth came through Jesus Christ. No one has ever seen God. It is God the only Son, who is close to the Father's heart, who has made him known.

Reader The Gospel of the Lord.

People **Praise to you, Lord Christ.**

A time of silence is kept 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
 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 come to judge and save.
 last - ing. This the faith that I have claimed.

Prayers of the People

Let us rejoice in the Mystery of the Incarnation,
In the Humanity of God,
In the Wonder of the Word made Flesh.

O Prince of Peace

Manifest in us today

Let us rejoice that God is with us,
A hidden silent presence,
Transforming to gold the leaden rock of earth.

O Emmanuel

Manifest in us today

Let us rejoice that the best name of God is Love,
A Love that draws us like a magnet,
That nothing can defeat, neither evil nor pain nor death.

O Wonderful Counselor

Manifest in us today

Let us rejoice in God revealed to us as a baby,
Whose weakness is stronger than our brittle pride,
Whose light shines clearer than our willful blindness.

O Word made flesh

Manifest in us today

Let us rejoice that God has given us one another,
That we might learn to bear the beams of love.

O Wonderful counselor

Manifest in us today

Let us pray that we may have courage to change our lives so as to be,
As nations and as individuals,
That the hungry may be fed, the poor achieve dignity,
The oppressed go free, and the stranger be welcomed.

O living Christ

Manifest in us today

Let us pray for those in authority among us,
That they may work for justice and the common good.

O King of Peace

Manifest in us today

Let us pray for the peacemakers of the world,
And all who through their vision and struggle
Seek to make us citizens of one earth.

O Son of Man

Manifest in us today

Let us remember the lonely and anxious among us,
The elderly, the homeless, and the starving,
The foolish and the despairing,
The sick at heart and those in pain,
The dying and those who mourn,
And those whose hearts are hardened against the love of God.

O Lord of love

Manifest in us today

We pray for our sick in heart, body, or soul, especially...

O God of healing

Manifest in us today

We pray for those who have died and those who grieve, especially...

O Lord of Resurrection

Manifest in us today

We share our joy and thanksgivings, especially....

O Lord of the Dance

Manifest in us today

Presider: Dear God, our Creator,
All: Beloved Companion and Guide upon the Way,
Eternal Spirit within us and beyond us:

let us honor your name
in lives of costly giving love;

let us show that we and all whom we meet
deserve dignity and respect,
for they are your dwelling place and your home;

let us share in action your deep desire
for justice and peace among the peoples of the world;

let us in the spirit of your forgiving us
make friends with those we've hurt
and failed to love;

let us in your love free the world from evil,
transforming darkness into light.

For the whole world is yours,
and you invite us to be partners in the work of your creating.

Amen.
So be it.

Confession of Sin

Enriching Our Worship 1, pg. 56

Presider Let us confess our sins to God.

A period of silent reflection.

God of all mercy,
we confess that we have sinned against you,
opposing your will in our lives.
We have denied your goodness in each other,
in ourselves, and in the world you have created.
We repent of the evil that enslaves us,
the evil we have done,
and the evil done on our behalf.
Forgive, restore, and strengthen us
through our Savior Jesus Christ,
that we may abide in your love
and serve only your will. 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.
So will we do it.

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 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.

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.**

Because you gave Jesus Christ, your only Son, to be born for us; who, by the mighty power of the Holy Spirit, was made perfect Man of the flesh of the Virgin Mary his mother; so that we might be delivered from the bondage of sin, and receive power to become your children.

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 say,

The Lord's Prayer

**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 112

In the Bleak Midwinter

- 1. In the bleak midwinter,
frosty wind made moan,
earth stood hard as iron,
water like a stone;
snow had fallen, snow on snow,
snow on snow,
in the bleak midwinter,
long ago.*
- 2. Our God, heaven cannot hold him,
nor earth sustain;
heaven and earth shall flee away
when he comes to reign:
in the bleak midwinter
a stable-place sufficed
the Lord God incarnate,
Jesus Christ.*
- 3. Angels and archangels,
may have gathered there,
cherubim and seraphim
thronged the air;
but his mother only,
in her maiden bliss,
worshiped the beloved
with a kiss.*
- 4. What can I give him,
poor as I am?
If I were a shepherd,
I would bring a lamb;
if I were a wise man
I would do my part;
yet what I can I give him
give my heart.*

*Let us praise your name,
God our Savior,
Alleluia, alleluia!
Praise and bless your name,
God our Savior,
Praise and bless your name,
Alleluia! (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

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

Recessional Hymn #99

Go tell it on the mountain

The Dismissal

Presider Go in peace to love and serve the Lord. Alleluia, alleluia.
People Thanks be to God, Alleluia, alleluia.

Postlude

Coming Lessons

Isaiah 60:1-6
Psalm 72:1-7, 10-14
Ephesians 3:1-12
Matthew 2:1-12

Prayer List

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

Departed:

Birthdays: Hal Wilson (Jan 1), Maureen Madden (Jan 2), Bob Hale (Jan 5)

Wedding Anniversaries:

The Following People are Assisting with the Services

Role	This Sunday	Next Sunday
Altar Guild	Jeanne Green	Jeanne Green
Chalicer I	Jeanne Green	Ann Hazard
Chalicer II	Nancy Wilson	Jeanne Green
Crucifer	Nancy Wilson	Jeanne Green
Lector I	Barbara Halsey	Ann Hazard
Lector II	Jim Halsey	Frank Hazard
Prayers of the People	Jann Boggs	Frank Hazard
Oblations Bearers	Phil Donaldson	Jann Boggs
Greeters/Ushers	Jim & Barbara Halsey	Randy & Cecilia Watson
Book Bearer	Jeanne Green	Ann Hazard
Sanctus Bell	Nancy Wilson	Jeanne Green

Schedule

Sunday, December 30 – First Sunday of Christmas

NO Adult Forum

10:30 am – Holy Eucharist

Soup Sunday following the service

6:00 pm – Mountain Soul presents The Faithful Four

Tuesday, January 1 – New Year’s Day – The church office will be closed.

Wednesday, January 2

10:00 am – Holy Eucharist

Sunday, January 6 – The Epiphany of our Lord Jesus Christ

9:00 am – Adult Forum

10:30 am – Holy Eucharist

Announcements

Adult Forum resumes next Sunday, January 6th at 9:00 am.

TODAY, December 30th, we'll enjoy another soup luncheon compliments of Deb Donaldson. Please join us as we break bread together in fellowship following this morning's service.

REMINDER: Ministry Team reports are due by Monday, January 7th.

Altar Flowers 2019

If you would like to provide flowers for the altar on a specific Sunday this year, please sign-up at the Information table.

Refreshments 2019

If you would like to provide refreshments on a specific Sunday this year, please sign-up at the Information table.

Food & Fellowship Person of the Month for January is: Deb Donaldson. She can be reached at 336.372.7573 or sld1400@aol.com.

Vestry Person of the Month for January is: Phil Donaldson. He can be reached at 336.372.7573 or sld1400@aol.com.

For any building or property issues, please contact: Phil Donaldson with your concerns. He can be reached at 336.372.7573 or sld1400@aol.com.

Mountain Soul presents The Faithful Four TONIGHT at 6:00 pm!



The Faithful Four found its origin in the mid-1990s, when all four of the members were part of the New Covenant Baptist Association Youth Choir of North Carolina and Virginia. Then teenagers, Jeff, Ronalda, Derek and Daryl began singing together for “fun” which eventually led to singing in church services together as a group. The youngsters often practiced outside “under a tree” prior to engagements, as they were not yet old enough to provide their own transportation and schedule rehearsals. In many instances, the group would be called on to sing without notice. However, the enthusiastic and willing young people would always jump at the opportunity to glorify God in song. After several months, it was evident that they were an established “quartet” and needed a name. “The Faithful Four” seemed fitting as the high school students were always in church and were often called on—and willing—to sing!

We hope you’ll join us tonight!

Save-the-date:

Our Annual Meeting
will be Sunday, January 20th.

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 adapted from *Darkness Yielding* by: Jim Cotter, Martyn Percy, Sylvia Sands, W.H. Vanstone & Rowan Williams
and *Collect* adapted from *Praying with Christ* based on Louis Evely's meditative book, *Our Father*.

Today's bulletins are printed in color due to an anonymous donation.