

# Christ Episcopal Church

Sparta, NC

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



## The Epiphany of Our Lord Jesus Christ

January 6, 2019

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](mailto: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](mailto:ccepiscopal@skybest.com).

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

**Social Media:** Please check out our website at [www.christchurchallegghany.com](http://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 Gathering

Prelude

*All stand, as able.*

Processional Hymn #511

*Holy Spirit, ever living*

Opening Acclamation

*All remain standing, as able.*

Presider Blessed be God; Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

People **And blessed be God's Kingdom now and for ever. Amen.**

Collect for Purity (prayed by all)

BCP 355

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.

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 of the Day

Presider            The Lord be with you.

**People            And also with you.**

Presider            Let us pray,

O God, by the leading of a star you manifested your only Son to the peoples of the earth: Lead us, who know you now by faith, to your presence, where we may see your glory face to face; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

*All are seated.*

## Liturgy of the Word

### The First Lesson

#### Isaiah 60:1-6

Arise, shine; for your light has come,  
and the glory of the Lord has risen upon you.

For darkness shall cover the earth,  
and thick darkness the peoples;

but the Lord will arise upon you,  
and his glory will appear over you.

Nations shall come to your light,  
and kings to the brightness of your dawn.

Lift up your eyes and look around;  
they all gather together, they come to you;

your sons shall come from far away,  
and your daughters shall be carried on their nurses' arms.

Then you shall see and be radiant;  
your heart shall thrill and rejoice,

because the abundance of the sea shall be brought to you,  
the wealth of the nations shall come to you.

A multitude of camels shall cover you,  
the young camels of Midian and Ephah;  
all those from Sheba shall come.

They shall bring gold and frankincense,  
and shall proclaim the praise of the Lord.

Leader            Hear what the Spirit is saying to God's People.

**People            Thanks be to God.**

## The Response

### Psalm 72:1-7,10-14

Give the King your justice, O God, \*  
and your righteousness to the King's Son;  
That he may rule your people righteously \*  
and the poor with justice;  
That the mountains may bring prosperity to the people, \*  
and the little hills bring righteousness.  
He shall defend the needy among the people; \*  
he shall rescue the poor and crush the oppressor.  
He shall live as long as the sun and moon endure, \*  
from one generation to another.  
He shall come down like rain upon the mown field, \*  
like showers that water the earth.  
In his time shall the righteous flourish; \*  
there shall be abundance of peace till the moon shall be no more.  
The kings of Tarshish and of the isles shall pay tribute, \*  
and the kings of Arabia and Saba offer gifts.  
All kings shall bow down before him, \*  
and all the nations do him service.  
For he shall deliver the poor who cries out in distress, \*  
and the oppressed who has no helper.  
He shall have pity on the lowly and poor; \*  
he shall preserve the lives of the needy.  
He shall redeem their lives from oppression and violence, \*  
and dear shall their blood be in his sight.

## The Second Lesson

### Ephesians 3:1-12

This is the reason that I Paul am a prisoner for Christ Jesus for the sake of you Gentiles- for surely you have already heard of the commission of God's grace that was given me for you, and how the mystery was made known to me by revelation, as I wrote above in a few words, a reading of which will enable you to perceive my understanding of the mystery of Christ. In former generations this mystery was not made known to humankind, as it has now been revealed to his holy apostles and prophets by the Spirit: that is, the Gentiles have become fellow heirs, members of the same body, and sharers in the promise in Christ Jesus through the gospel.

Of this gospel I have become a servant according to the gift of God's grace that was given me by the working of his power. Although I am the very least of all the saints, this grace was given to me to bring to the Gentiles the news of the boundless riches of Christ, and to make everyone see what is the plan of the mystery hidden for ages in God who created all things; so that through the church the wisdom of God in its rich variety might now be made known to the rulers and authorities in the heavenly places. This was in accordance with the eternal purpose that he has carried out in Christ Jesus our Lord, in whom we have access to God in boldness and confidence through faith in him.

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 #371**

*Thou, whose almighty word*

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

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

**The Gospel**

**Matthew 2:1-12**

In the time of King Herod, after Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea, wise men from the East came to Jerusalem, asking, "Where is the child who has been born king of the Jews? For we observed his star at its rising, and have come to pay him homage." When King Herod heard this, he was frightened, and all Jerusalem with him; and calling together all the chief priests and scribes of the people, he inquired of them where the Messiah was to be born. They told him, "In Bethlehem of Judea; for so it has been written by the prophet:

    And you, Bethlehem, in the land of Judah,  
        are by no means least among the rulers of Judah;  
for from you shall come a ruler  
        who is to shepherd my people Israel."

Then Herod secretly called for the wise men and learned from them the exact time when the star had appeared. Then he sent them to Bethlehem, saying, "Go and search diligently for the child; and when you have found him, bring me word so that I may also go and pay him homage." When they had heard the king, they set out; and there, ahead of them, went the star that they had seen at its rising, until it stopped over the place where the child was. When they saw that the star had stopped, they were overwhelmed with joy. On entering the house, they saw the child with Mary his mother; and they knelt down and paid him homage. Then, opening their treasure chests, they offered him gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh. And having been warned in a dream not to return to Herod, they left for their own country by another road.

Reader           The Gospel of the Lord.

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

**Sermon**

**The Rev. Stephanie E. Parker**

*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  
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 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.

○ 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.

○ 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.

○ 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.

○ 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.

○ 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.

○ 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 against God and our neighbor.

*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.

### 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

LEVAS Hymn #146

*Break thou the bread of life*

*Break thou the bread of life,  
Dear Lord, to me,  
As thou didst break the loaves  
Beside the sea;  
Beyond the sacred page  
I seek thee, Lord;  
My spirit pants for thee,  
O living word!*

*Bless thou the truth, dear Lord,  
To me, to me,  
As thou didst bless the bread  
By Galilee;  
Then shall all bondage cease,  
All fetters fall,  
And I shall find my peace,  
My all in all.*

*Teach me to live, dear Lord,  
Only for thee,  
As they disciples lived  
In Galilee;  
Then, all my struggles o'er,  
Then, vict'ry won,  
I shall behold thee, Lord,  
The living one.*

*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**

Presider        All praise and thanks to you, most merciful God, for adopting us as your own children,  
 for incorporating us into your holy Church, and for making us worthy to share in the  
 inheritance of the saints in the light.  
 May the blessing of God Almighty, Father, Son and Holy Spirit be among you and  
 remain with you always. Amen.

**Recessional Hymn #529**

*In Christ there is no East or West*

## **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 43:1-7

Psalm 29

Acts 8:14-17

Luke 3:15-17, 21-22

### **Prayer List**

**Intercessions:** Ben D., Chuck B., Jann B., Jim D., Jon, Julie O., Laura D., Stella D.

**Departed:**

**Birthdays:** Bob Dixon (Jan 10), Geoff Jones (Jan 12)

**Wedding Anniversaries:**

## The Following People are Assisting with the Services

Role	This Sunday	Next Sunday
Altar Guild	Jeanne Green	Jeanne Green
Chalicer I	Ann Hazard	Sheila Pfaender
Chalicer II	Jeanne Green	Brenda Weems
Crucifer	Jeanne Green	Brenda Weems
Lector I	Ann Hazard	Sheila Pfaender
Lector II	Frank Hazard	Frances Buckle
Prayers of the People	Frank Hazard	Frances Buckle
Oblations Bearers	Jann Boggs	Frances Buckle & David Buckle
Greeters/Ushers	Randy & Ceil Watson	Nancy & Hal Wilson
Book Bearer	Ann Hazard	Sheila Pfaender
Sanctus Bell	Jeanne Green	Brenda Weems

## Schedule

### **Sunday, January 6 – The Baptism of Our Lord Jesus Christ**

9:00 am – Adult Forum

10:30 am – Holy Eucharist

### **Monday, January 7 – Ministry Team reports are due!**

### **Tuesday, January 8**

1:00 pm – Finance Team meeting

### **Wednesday, January 9**

10:00 am – Holy Eucharist

11:30 am – Altar Guild meeting

### **Sunday, January 13 – First Sunday after Epiphany**

9:00 am – Adult Forum

10:30 am – Holy Eucharist

### **Tuesday, January 15**

12:30 pm – Vestry meeting

### **Wednesday, January 16**

10:00 am – Holy Eucharist

### **Sunday, January 20 – Second Sunday after Epiphany**

9:00 am – Adult Forum

10:30 am – Holy Eucharist

Annual meeting and lunch following the service

## Announcements

**Adult Forum resumes THIS Sunday, January 6<sup>th</sup> at 9:00 am. We explore the themes of Epiphany!**

**REMINDER: Ministry Team reports are due by TOMORROW, Monday, January 7<sup>th</sup>.**

**SAVE-the-DATE: The Annual Meeting and Potato Bar Luncheon will be Sunday, January 20<sup>th</sup>!**

This year, our Annual Meeting will be preceded by our famous Potato Bar Luncheon. Please join in this annual feast by signing-up to bring a potato topping, side salad or dessert to complement **the best baked potatoes** in Alleghany County! Visit the Information table in the fellowship hall to indicate your contribution to this very popular luncheon.

**Ladies Lunch - Thursday, January 24 Harvest Grill (Shelton Vineyards). Meet at church to carpool & depart @ 11:15 am.**

The Harvest Grill, located on the grounds of Shelton Vineyards Dobson, NC, offers upscale dining with a bistro style atmosphere. This is one of our favorite lunch outings. Plan to join us, and invite a friend,

too. Sign-up sheet on the Information table or call the church office. Contact Nancy Wilson if you have any questions. 336.528.2729

**Altar Flowers and Refreshments 2019**

If you would like to provide flowers for the altar and/or 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](mailto: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](mailto: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](mailto:sld1400@aol.com).

**Christ Episcopal Church**

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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*.