

Christ Episcopal Church

Sparta, NC

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



The First Sunday after the Epiphany

January 13, 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.

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.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:

Nancy Wilson, for providing refreshments for our fellowship after the morning service.

The Gathering

All stand, as able.

The Altar Party processes in joyful silence.

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 (*said 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,

Father in heaven, who at the baptism of Jesus in the River Jordan proclaimed him your beloved Son and anointed him with the Holy Spirit: Grant that all who are baptized into his Name may keep the covenant they have made, and boldly confess him as Lord and Savior; who with you and the Holy Spirit lives and reigns, one God, in glory everlasting. **Amen.**

All are seated.

Liturgy of the Word

The First Lesson

Isaiah 43:1-7

Thus says the LORD,
 he who created you, O Jacob,
he who formed you, O Israel:
Do not fear, for I have redeemed you;
 I have called you by name, you are mine.
When you pass through the waters, I will be with you;
 and through the rivers, they shall not overwhelm you;
when you walk through fire you shall not be burned,
 and the flame shall not consume you.
For I am the LORD your God,
 the Holy One of Israel, your Savior.
I give Egypt as your ransom,
 Ethiopia and Seba in exchange for you.
Because you are precious in my sight,
 and honored, and I love you,
I give people in return for you,
 nations in exchange for your life.
Do not fear, for I am with you;
 I will bring your offspring from the east,
 and from the west I will gather you;
I will say to the north, "Give them up,"
 and to the south, "Do not withhold;

bring my sons from far away
and my daughters from the end of the earth~
everyone who is called by my name,
whom I created for my glory,
whom I formed and made."

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

The Response
Psalm 29

Ascribe to the Lord, you gods, *
ascribe to the Lord glory and strength.

Ascribe to the Lord the glory due his Name; *
worship the Lord in the beauty of holiness.

The voice of the Lord is upon the waters;
the God of glory thunders; *
the Lord is upon the mighty waters.

The voice of the Lord is a powerful voice; *
the voice of the Lord is a voice of splendor.

The voice of the Lord breaks the cedar trees; *
the Lord breaks the cedars of Lebanon;

He makes Lebanon skip like a calf, *
and Mount Hermon like a young wild ox.

The voice of the Lord splits the flames of fire;
the voice of the Lord shakes the wilderness; *
the Lord shakes the wilderness of Kadesh.

The voice of the Lord makes the oak trees writhe *
and strips the forests bare.

And in the temple of the Lord *
all are crying, "Glory!"

The Lord sits enthroned above the flood; *
the Lord sits enthroned as King for evermore.

The Lord shall give strength to his people; *
the Lord shall give his people the blessing of peace.

The Second Lesson

Acts 8:14-17

When the apostles at Jerusalem heard that Samaria had accepted the word of God, they sent Peter and John to them. The two went down and prayed for them that they might receive the Holy Spirit (for as yet the Spirit had not come upon any of them; they had only been baptized in the name of the Lord Jesus). Then Peter and John laid their hands on them, and they received the Holy Spirit.

Leader The Word of the Lord.

People **Thanks be to God.**

Please stand, as able.

The Altar Party processes in joyful silence for the reading of the Gospel.

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

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

The Gospel

Luke 3:15-17, 21-22

As the people were filled with expectation, and all were questioning in their hearts concerning John, whether he might be the Messiah, John answered all of them by saying, "I baptize you with water; but one who is more powerful than I is coming; I am not worthy to untie the thong of his sandals. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire. His winnowing fork is in his hand, to clear his threshing floor and to gather the wheat into his granary; but the chaff he will burn with unquenchable fire."

Now when all the people were baptized, and when Jesus also had been baptized and was praying, the heaven was opened, and the Holy Spirit descended upon him in bodily form like a dove. And a voice came from heaven, "You are my Son, the Beloved; with you I am well pleased."

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.

Renewal of Baptismal Covenant

Renewal of Baptismal Covenant Prayers

- Presider Let us now pray for all as we prepare to renew our Baptismal Covenant.
- Leader Deliver us, O Lord, from the ways we fall short of God's hope for the human family.
People **May we follow Jesus into wholeness.**
- Leader Open our hearts to your grace and truth.
People **May we see Christ in all people.**
- Leader Fill us with your holy and life-giving Spirit.
People **May we be co-creators with you in your world.**
- Leader Keep us in the faith and communion of your holy Church.
People **May we live our faith in the world and in our places of worship.**
- Leader Teach us to love others in the power of the Spirit.
People **Inspire us to greater joy.**
- Leader Send us into the world in witness to your love.
People **Make us instruments of your hope and truth.**
- Leader Bring us to the fullness of your peace and glory.
People **May we love others as you love us.**
- Leader Let us pray for our own needs and those of others...
- Presider May all who are baptized into the death of Jesus Christ your Son live in the power of his resurrection and look for him to come again in glory; who lives and reigns now and forever. **Amen.**

All stand, as able, and gather around the Baptism Font

Wade in the Water (*sung by all*)

Wade in the water.

Wade in the water, children,

Wade in the water.

God's a-going to trouble the water.

Thanksgiving over the Water

The Rev. Stephanie E Parker

Presider The Lord be with you.

People **And also with you.**

Presider Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

People **It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

We thank you, Almighty God, for the gift of water. Over it, the Holy Spirit moved in the beginning of creation. Through it, you led the children of Israel out of their bondage in Egypt into the land of promise. In it, your Son Jesus received the baptism of John and was anointed by the Holy Spirit as the Messiah, the Christ, to lead us, through his death and resurrection, from the bondage of sin into everlasting life.

We thank you, Father, for the water of Baptism. In it, we are buried with Christ in his death. By it, we share in his resurrection. Through it, we are reborn by the Holy Spirit. Therefore, in joyful obedience to your Son, we bring into his fellowship those who come to him in faith, baptizing them in the Name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

Now sanctify this water, we pray you, by the power of your Holy Spirit, that those who here are cleansed from sin and born again may continue for ever in the risen life of Jesus Christ our Savior.

To him, to you, and to the Holy Spirit, be all honor and glory, now and for ever.

Amen.

Book of Common Prayer, pg. 292

Presider Do you reaffirm your renunciation of evil and renew your commitment of Jesus Christ?

People **I do.**

Presider Do you believe in God the Father?

People **I believe in God, the Father Almighty, Creator of heaven and earth.**

Presider Do you believe in Jesus Christ, the Son of God?

People **I believe in Jesus Christ, His only Son, our Lord.**

**He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit
and born of the Virgin Mary.**

**He suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, died, and was buried.**

He descended to the dead.

On the third day he rose again.

**He ascended into heaven,
and is seated at the right hand of the Father.**

He will come again to judge the living and the dead.

Presider Do you believe in God the Holy Spirit?
People **I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the holy catholic Church,
the communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body,
and the life everlasting.**

Presider Will you continue in the apostles' teaching and fellowship, in the breaking of bread,
and in the prayers?
People **I will, with God's help.**

Presider Will you persevere in resisting evil, and, whenever you fall into sin, repent and return to
the Lord?
People **I will, with God's help.**

Presider Will you proclaim by word and example the Good News of God in Christ?
People **I will, with God's help.**

Presider Will you seek and serve Christ in all persons, loving your neighbor as yourself?
People **I will, with God's help.**

Presider Will you strive for justice and peace among all people, and respect the dignity of every
human being?
People **I will, with God's help.**

Presider Grant, O Lord, that all who are baptized into the death of Jesus Christ your Son may
live in the power of his resurrection by being an Easter people; people who claim new
life out of every death and new hope out of every defeat. We pray as we live, through
Jesus the risen one, in the power of the Holy Spirit, now and forever. **Amen.**

Chrism

As we renew our Baptism, we remember we are marked as Christ's own forever.

Please come to Stephanie to receive Chrism.

You are sealed by the Holy Spirit in Baptism and marked as Christ's own for ever.

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.

The Altar is prepared in silence.

Doxology (*said by all*)

**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 (*said 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.

Presider: Alleluia.
Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us;
People: **therefore let us keep the feast.**
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.

As the Presider clears the Altar,

Surely the Presence of the Lord (*sung acapella*)

*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 kneel, 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.

Please stand, as able.

The Altar Party processes out in yet more joyful silence.

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 62:1-5
Psalm 36:5-10
1 Corinthians 12:1-11
John 2:1-11

Prayer List

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

Departed:

Birthdays: Sheila Pfaender (Jan 16)

Wedding Anniversaries:

The Following People are Assisting with the Services

Role	This Sunday	Next Sunday
Altar Guild	Jeanne Green	Jeanne Green
Chalicer I	Sheila Pfaender	Brenda Weems
Chalicer II	Brenda Weems	Bruce Smith
Crucifer	Brenda Weems	Bruce Smith
Lector I	Sheila Pfaender	Brenda Weems
Lector II	Frances Buckle	Phil Donaldson
Prayers of the People	Frances Buckle	Jann Boggs
Oblations Bearers	Frances Buckle & David Buckle	Joe & Judy Ritchie
Greeters/Ushers	Nancy & Hal Wilson	Phil & Deb Donaldson
Book Bearer	Sheila Pfaender	Brenda Weems
Sanctus Bell	Brenda Weems	Bruce Smith

Schedule

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

NO Adult Forum

10:30 am – Holy Eucharist

Annual meeting and Potato Bar luncheon following the service

Announcements

Adult Forum: Lessons for Living

Join us on Sundays at 9:00 am as we engage the Lessons (Scriptures) of the day. This encounter seeks to offer us a much wider vision and understanding of what our Sunday Readings mean for us today. Our holy narrative is not left dry and dusty in the pages of history, but Jesus' wisdom and the call of the prophets to be a people of justice and mercy is a living, powerful guide to encountering the realities of our world with hopefulness and courage. Come and be enlivened and engaged in the timeless sacred story of God's love and hope for a world in turmoil.

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

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.

Annual Meeting luncheon sign-up

Please sign-up to bring something to our Annual Meeting luncheon on Sunday, January 20th. The sign-up sheet is on the Information table.

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 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.

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.

Christ Episcopal Church

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Website: christchurchallegany.org – Email: ccepisopal@skybest.com

Office hours: Monday-Friday, 8:30 am-1:30 pm

Music used by permission CCLI License #11138616.

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*.

Art by He Qi – “The Baptism of Jesus”