

Christ Episcopal Church

Sparta, North Carolina

*Christ Church is an active, joyful, transforming, faith community that practices radical welcome.
Together we feed our minds, souls, and bodies with study, worship, and hospitality.
We are a growing fellowship of people who seek to love like Jesus.*



The Second Sunday in Lent

March 8, 2020

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 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 335.372.7983 to arrange a visit.

Please wear a name tag. No permanent one? Please use the blank name tags found in the church entryway at the bottom of the blue board. We're happy to make you a new nametag, a replacement, or simply a spare. For permanent name tags, email the church office at ccepisopal@skybest.com.

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

Sermons available. Recent sermons are available on our website: www.christchurchallegghany.com.

Social media: Please check out our website at www.christchurchallegghany.com, and "like" us on Facebook at Church Episcopal Church - Sparta, North Carolina.

Adult Formation: We have an Adult Forum series on Sunday mornings at 9:00 am in the fellowship hall downstairs.

We extend special thanks today to:

Betty Upchurch, for serving as musician and for being so generous with her talents, and

The Altar Guild, for providing the arrangement for the altar.

The Gathering

Prelude

What Wondrous Love?

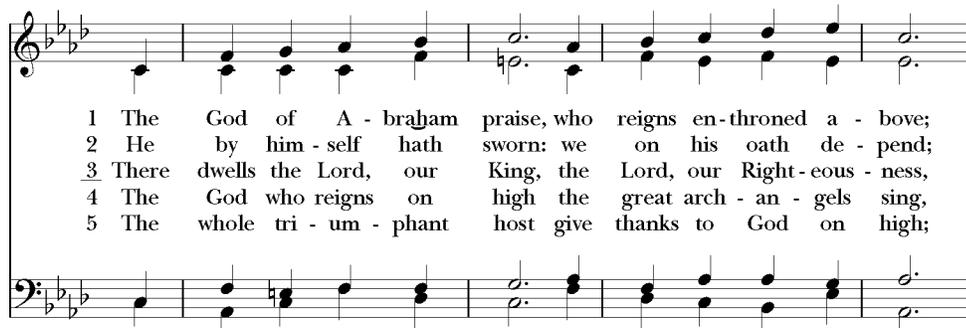
Betty Upchurch

Welcome and Announcements

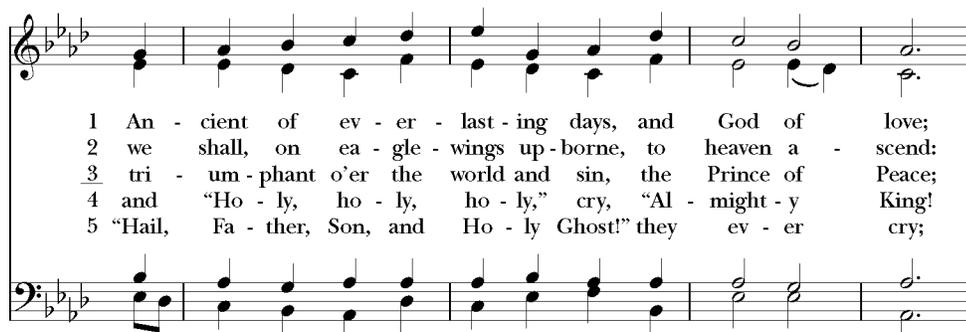
All stand, as able.

Processional Hymn #401, vss 1-3

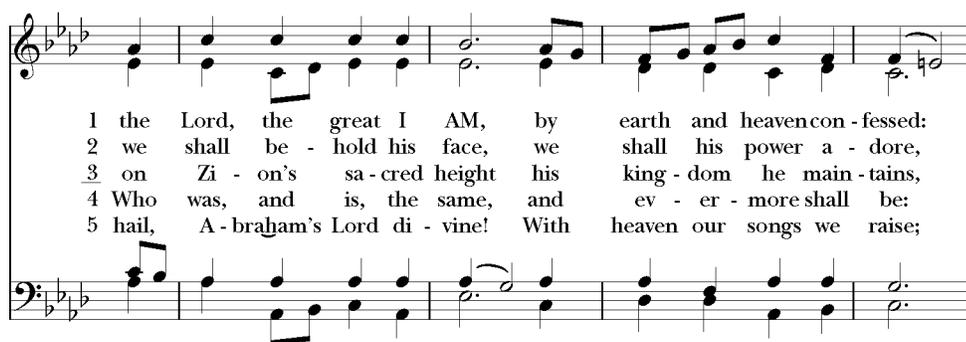
The God of Abraham praise



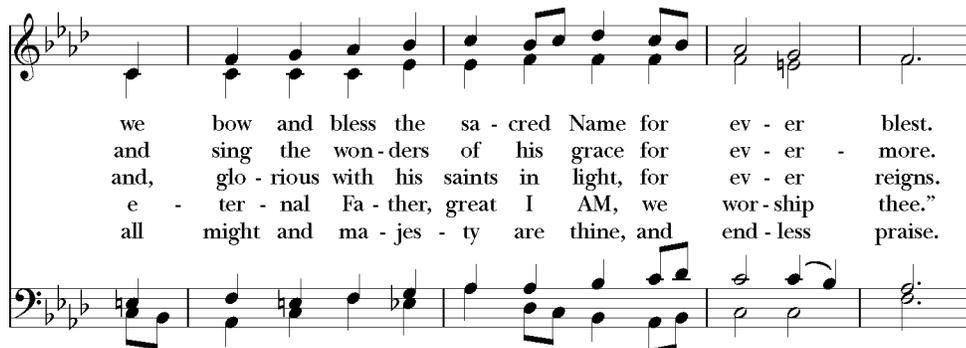
1 The God of A - braham praise, who reigns en - throned a - bove;
2 He by him - self hath sworn: we on his oath de - pend;
3 There dwells the Lord, our King, the Lord, our Right - eous - ness,
4 The God who reigns on high the great arch - an - gels sing,
5 The whole tri - um - phant host give thanks to God on high;



1 An - cient of ev - er - last - ing days, and God of love;
2 we shall, on ea - gle - wings up - borne, to heaven a - scend;
3 tri - um - phant o'er the world and sin, the Prince of Peace;
4 and "Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly," cry, "Al - might - y King!
5 "Hail, Fa - ther, Son, and Ho - ly Ghost!" they ev - er cry;



1 the Lord, the great I AM, by earth and heaven con - fessed:
2 we shall be - hold his face, we shall his power a - dore,
3 on Zi - on's sa - cred height his king - dom he main - tains,
4 Who was, and is, the same, and ev - er - more shall be:
5 hail, A - braham's Lord di - vine! With heaven our songs we raise;



we bow and bless the sa - cred Name for ev - er blest.
and sing the won - ders of his grace for ev - er - more.
and, glo - rious with his saints in light, for ev - er reigns.
e - ter - nal Fa - ther, great I AM, we wor - ship thee."
all might and ma - jes - ty are thine, and end - less praise.

All remain standing, as able.

Opening Acclamation

Presider Blessed be the God of our salvation:

People **Who bears our burdens and forgives our sins.**

Presider If we say that we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. But if we confess our sins, God, who is faithful and just, will forgive our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness. 1John 1:8,9

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.

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.

Taizé 9

Bless the Lord

*Bless the Lord, my soul,
And bless God's holy name.
Bless the Lord, my soul,
Who leads me into life. (Repeat one time)*

Please 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, whose glory it is always to have mercy: Be gracious to all who have gone astray from your ways, and bring them again with penitent hearts and steadfast faith to embrace and hold fast the unchangeable truth of your Word, Jesus Christ your Son; who with you and the Holy Spirit lives and reigns, one God, for ever and ever. Amen.

All are seated.

Liturgy of the Word

The First Lesson

Genesis 12:1-4a

The Lord said to Abram, “Go from your country and your kindred and your father’s house to the land that I will show you. I will make of you a great nation, and I will bless you, and make your name great, so that you will be a blessing. I will bless those who bless you, and the one who curses you I will curse; and in you all the families of the earth shall be blessed.”

So Abram went, as the Lord had told him; and Lot went with him.

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

People Thanks be to God.

The Response

Psalm 121

I lift up my eyes to the hills; *

from where is my help to come?

My help comes from the LORD, *

the maker of heaven and earth.

He will not let your foot be moved *

and he who watches over you will not fall asleep.

Behold, he who keeps watch over Israel *

shall neither slumber nor sleep;

The LORD himself watches over you; *

the LORD is your shade at your right hand,

So that the sun shall not strike you by day, *

nor the moon by night.

The LORD shall preserve you from all evil; *

it is he who shall keep you safe.

The LORD shall watch over your going out and your coming in, *

from this time forth for evermore.

The Second Lesson

Romans 4:1-5, 13-17

What then are we to say was gained by Abraham, our ancestor according to the flesh? For if Abraham was justified by works, he has something to boast about, but not before God. For what does the scripture say? “Abraham believed God, and it was reckoned to him as righteousness.” Now to one who works, wages are not reckoned as a gift but as something due. But to one who without works trusts him who justifies the ungodly, such faith is reckoned as righteousness.

For the promise that he would inherit the world did not come to Abraham or to his descendants through the law but through the righteousness of faith. If it is the adherents of the law who are to be the heirs, faith is null and the promise is void. For the law brings wrath; but where there is no law, neither is there violation.

For this reason it depends on faith, in order that the promise may rest on grace and be guaranteed to all his descendants, not only to the adherents of the law but also to those who share the faith of Abraham (for he is the father of all of us, as it is written, “I have made you the father of many nations”)—in the presence of the God in whom he believed, who gives life to the dead and calls into existence the things that do not exist.

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

People **Thanks be to God.**

Please stand, as able.

Gospel Hymn #679

Surely it is God who saves me

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

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

The Gospel

John 3:1-17

There was a Pharisee named Nicodemus, a leader of the Jews. He came to Jesus by night and said to him, “Rabbi, we know that you are a teacher who has come from God; for no one can do these signs that you do apart from the presence of God.” Jesus answered him, “Very truly, I tell you, no one can see the kingdom of God without being born from above.” Nicodemus said to him, “How can anyone be born after having grown old? Can one enter a second time into the mother’s womb and be born?” Jesus answered, “Very truly, I tell you, no one can enter the kingdom of God without being born of water and Spirit. What is born of the flesh is flesh, and what is born of the Spirit is spirit. Do not be astonished that I said to you, ‘You must be born from above.’ The wind blows where it chooses, and you hear the sound of it, but you do not know where it comes from or where it goes. So it is with everyone who is born of the Spirit.” Nicodemus said to him, “How can these things be?” Jesus answered him, “Are you a teacher of Israel, and yet you do not understand these things?

“Very truly, I tell you, we speak of what we know and testify to what we have seen; yet you do not receive our testimony. If I have told you about earthly things and you do not believe, how can you believe if I tell you about heavenly things? No one has ascended into heaven except the one who descended from heaven, the Son of Man. And just as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, so must the Son of Man be lifted up, that whoever believes in him may have eternal life.

“For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him may not perish but may have eternal life.

“Indeed, God did not send the Son into the world to condemn the world, but in order that the world might be saved through him.”

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, for the Nicene Creed.

The Nicene Creed

We believe in one God,
the Father, the Almighty,
maker of heaven and earth,
of all that is, seen and unseen.

We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ,
the only Son of God,
eternally begotten of the Father,
God from God, Light from Light,
true God from true God,
begotten, not made,
of one Being with the Father.

Through him all things were made.

For us and for our salvation

he came down from heaven:

by the power of the Holy Spirit

he became incarnate from the Virgin Mary,
and was made man.

For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate;

he suffered death and was buried.

On the third day he rose again

in accordance with the Scriptures;

he ascended into heaven

and is seated at the right hand of the Father.

He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead,
and his kingdom will have no end.

We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life,
who proceeds from the Father and the Son.

With the Father and the Son he is worshiped and glorified.

He has spoken through the Prophets.

We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic Church.

We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins.

We look for the resurrection of the dead,

and the life of the world to come. Amen.

Stand or kneel, as able.

Prayers of the People

Form IV, BCP, adapted

Presider Let us pray for the Church and for the world.
Create in us a clean heart, O God, and put a new and right Spirit within us. Remind us of the joy of your salvation and sustain us with your love and grace.

God of Forgiveness and Compassion,

Thank you for your mercy.

Comfort and heal all those who suffer in body, mind, or spirit; give them courage and hope in their troubles, and bring them the joy of your salvation, especially...

God of Forgiveness and Compassion,

Thank you for your mercy.

Guide the people of this land, and of all the nations, in the ways of justice and peace; that we may honor one another and all people, friend and enemy, and serve the common good. We pray especially for the health of the global economy and for all people who are suffering the pain of poverty, war and violence.

God of Forgiveness and Compassion,

Thank you for your mercy.

We commend to your mercy all who have died, that your will for them may be fulfilled; and we pray that we may share with all your saints in your eternal kingdom, especially...

God of Forgiveness and Compassion,

Thank you for your mercy.

Open our eyes to see the destruction we cause by our careless consumption; open our ears to hear the groaning of all creation and the cries of your creatures without voice; open our hearts to feel remorse for our unfaithful care of your creation; inspire us to a greater love and wonder for the care of your natural world.

God of Forgiveness and Compassion,

Thank you for your mercy.

Bless all whose lives are closely linked with ours, and grant that we may serve Christ in them, and love one another as he loves us, especially...

God of Forgiveness and Compassion,

Thank you for your mercy.

We thank you for all the blessings of this life, especially...

God of Forgiveness and Compassion,

Thank you for your mercy.

Presider O God, mercifully hear the prayers of your people who call upon you; grant that we may both see and know the things we need to do and that we may also have the grace and courage to do them faithfully, through Jesus Christ our Lord. **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

Jesus Walked This Lonesome Valley

Betty Upchurch

Please stand, as able.

Doxology (*sung 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. Amen.*

Presider All things come of thee, O Lord.

People **And of thine own have we given thee.**

The Great Thanksgiving

Remain standing, as able.

EOW, Eucharistic Prayer 1, pgs. 57-59

Presider The Lord be with you.

All **And also with you.**

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give God thanks and praise.

Presider It is truly right, and good and joyful,
to give you thanks, all-holy God,
source of life and fountain of mercy.

You bid your faithful people cleanse their hearts, and prepare with joy for the Paschal feast; that, fervent in prayer and in works of mercy, and renewed by your Word and Sacraments, they may come to the fullness of grace which you have prepared for those who love you. Therefore, joining with Angels and Archangels and with the faithful of every generation, we lift our voices with all creation as we sing:

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 the one who comes in the name of the Lord.

Hosanna in the highest.

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

Blessed are you, gracious God, creator of the universe and giver of life. You formed us in your own image and called us to dwell in your infinite love. You gave the world into our care that we might be your faithful stewards and show forth your bountiful grace.

But we failed to honor your image in one another and in ourselves; we would not see your goodness in the world around us; and so we violated your creation, abused one another, and rejected your love. Yet you never ceased to care for us, and prepared the way of salvation for all people.

Through Abraham and Sarah you called us into covenant with you. You delivered us from slavery, sustained us in the wilderness, and raised up prophets to renew your promise of salvation. Then, in the fullness of time, you sent your eternal Word, made mortal flesh in Jesus. Born into the human family, and dwelling among us, he revealed your glory. Giving himself freely to death on the cross, he triumphed over evil, opening the way of freedom and life.

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."

As supper was ending, Jesus 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, we proclaim the mystery of faith:

ALL **Christ has died.**
 Christ is risen.
 Christ will come again.

Remembering his death and resurrection, we now present to you from your creation this bread and this wine. By your Holy Spirit may they be for us the Body and Blood of our Savior Jesus Christ. Grant that we who share these gifts may be filled with the Holy Spirit and live as Christ's Body in the world. Bring us into the everlasting heritage of your daughters and sons, that with all your saints, past, present, and yet to come, we may praise your Name for ever.

Through Christ and with Christ and in Christ, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, to you be honor, glory, and praise, for ever and ever. **AMEN.**

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

Our Father, who art in heaven,
hallowed be thy Name,
thy kingdom come,
thy will be done,
on earth as it is in heaven.

Give us this day our daily bread.

And forgive us our trespasses,
as we forgive those
who trespass against us.

And lead us not into temptation,
but deliver us from evil.

For thine is the kingdom,
and the power, and the glory,
for ever and ever. Amen.

The Breaking of the Bread

A period of silence is kept.

Fraction Anthem: S164 (*sung by all*)

Jesus, Lamb of God: have mercy on us.
Jesus, bearer of our sins: have mercy on us.
Jesus, redeemer, redeemer of the world:
give us your peace, give us your peace.

The Invitation to Communion

Presider The gifts of God for the People of God...

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*)

Betty Upchurch

Surely the Presence of the Lord

Surely the presence of the Lord is in this place,
I can feel God's mighty power and God's 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.

Prayer after Communion

BCP 366

Presider Let us pray,
Almighty and everliving God,
we thank you for feeding us with the spiritual food
of the most precious Body and Blood
of your Son, our Savior Jesus Christ;
and for assuring us in these holy mysteries
that we are living members of the Body of your Son,
and heirs of your eternal kingdom.
And now, Father, send us out
to do the work you have given us to do,
to love and serve you
as faithful witnesses of Christ our Lord.
To him, to you, and to the Holy Spirit,
be honor and glory, now and for ever. Amen.

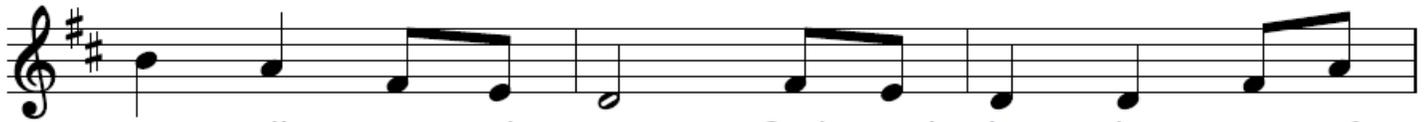
Presider Open your hearts and minds to God.
Keep this your family, Lord, with your never-failing mercy, that relying solely on the help
of your heavenly grace, they may be upheld by your divine protection; through Christ
our Lord. Amen.

Please stand, as able, for the Recessional hymn on the next page.

Verses



1. Sum-moned by the God who made us Rich in
 2. Ra-diant ris-en from the wa-ter, Robed in
 3. Trust the good-ness of cre-a-tion; Trust the
 4. Bring the hopes of ev-'ry na-tion; Bring the
 5. Draw to-geth-er at one ta-ble All the



1. our di-ver-si-ty, Gath-ered in the name of
 2. ho-li-ness and light, Male and fe-male in God's
 3. Spir-it strong with-in. Dare to dream the vi-sion
 4. art of ev-'ry race. Weave a song of peace and
 5. hu-man fam-i-ly; Shape a cir-cle ev-er

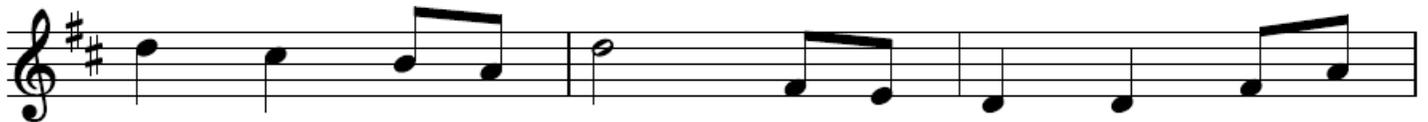


1. Je-sus, Rich-er still in u-ni-ty:
 2. im-age, Male and fe-male, God's de-light:
 3. prom-ised, Sprung from seed of what has been.
 4. jus-tice; Let it sound through time and space.
 5. wid-er And a peo-ple ev-er free.

Refrain



Let us bring the gifts that dif-fer And, in



splen-did, var-ied ways, Sing a new church in-to



be-ing, One in faith and love and praise.

The Dismissal

Presider Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.

People Thanks be to God.

Postlude

Coming Lessons

Exodus 17:1-7

Psalm 95

Romans 5:1-11

John 4:5-42

Prayer List

Intercessions: Ben & Laura Davis, Brenda Weems, Carolyn Duranko, Chuck & Sally Besaw, Father Stan McGraw, Fred Pfaender, Jonathan, Julie Ottesen, Lorene Ramsey (John Blackwell's mother). Also, pray for all those affected by the COVID-19 epidemic, as well as those impacted by the recent tornados in Tennessee.

Departed:

Birthdays: Brenda Weems (March 12), Allan Joyce (March 12)

Wedding Anniversaries:

The Following People are Assisting with the Services

Role	Today	Next Sunday
Altar Guild	Bruce Smith	Bruce Smith
Chalicer I	Nancy Wilson	Sheila Pfaender
Chalicer II		
Crucifer	Nancy Wilson	Sheila Pfaender
Lector I	Ann Hazard	Sheila Pfaender
Lector II	Jann Boggs	Frank Hazard
Prayers of the People	Jann Boggs	Ann Hazard
Oblations Bearers	Jann Boggs	Bruce Smith
Greeters/Ushers	Ann & Frank Hazard	Nancy & Hal Wilson
Book Bearer		
Sanctus Bell	Nancy Wilson	Sheila Pfaender

Schedule

Sunday, March 8 – The Second Sunday in Lent

9:00 am – Adult Forum

10:30 am – Holy Eucharist

Tuesday, March 10

11:30 am – Finance Team meeting

Wednesday, March 11

10:00 am – Holy Eucharist

11:30 am – Vestry meeting

Sunday, March 15 – The Third Sunday in Lent

9:00 am – Adult Forum

10:30 am – Holy Eucharist

Announcements

NEW Adult Forum – Beginning next Sunday, March 15th, we'll be exploring the Enneagram. *Read the GN&N for details.* Adult Forum begins at 9:00 am on Sundays.

Save-the-Date! The March Ladies' Lunch Out is scheduled for Tuesday, March 24th. *More details soon.*

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

Vestry Person of the Month for March is: Jann Boggs. She can be reached at 727.641.4925 or jeepers57peepers@gmail.com.

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

Christ Episcopal Church

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Office hours: Monday-Thursday, 11:15 am – 3:45 pm

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