

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 Last Sunday in Lent

March 29, 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

Ann Hazard, for providing the arrangement at the altar in honor of Frank's 75th birthday.

The Gathering

Welcome and Announcements

All stand, as able.

Processional Hymn #657

Love divine, all loves excelling

1 Love di - vine, all loves ex - cell - ing, joy of heaven, to
2 Come, al - might - y to de - liv - er, let us all thy
3 Fi - nish then thy new cre - a - tion; pure and spot - less

earth come down, fix in us thy hum - ble dwell - ing, all thy
life re - ceive; sud - den - ly re - turn, and nev - er, nev - er -
let us be; let us see thy great sal - va - tion per - fect -

faith - ful mer - cies crown. Je - sus, thou art all com - pas - sion,
more thy tem - ples leave. Thee we would be al - way bless - ing,
ly re - stored in thee: changed from glo - ry in - to glo - ry,

pure, un - bound - ed love thou art; vis - it us with
serve thee as thy hosts a - bove, pray, and praise thee
till in heaven we take our place, till we cast our

thy sal - va - tion, en - ter ev - ery trem - bling heart.
with - out ceas - ing, glo - ry in thy per - fect love.
crowns be - fore thee, lost in won - der, love, and 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,

Almighty God, you alone can bring into order the unruly wills and affections of sinners: Grant your people grace to love what you command and desire what you promise; that, among the swift and

varied changes of the world, our hearts may surely there be fixed where true joys are to be found; 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

Ezekiel 37:1-14

The hand of the Lord came upon me, and he brought me out by the spirit of the Lord and set me down in the middle of a valley; it was full of bones. He led me all around them; there were very many lying in the valley, and they were very dry. He said to me, "Mortal, can these bones live?" I answered, "O Lord God, you know." Then he said to me, "Prophesy to these bones, and say to them: O dry bones, hear the word of the Lord. Thus says the Lord God to these bones: I will cause breath to enter you, and you shall live. I will lay sinews on you, and will cause flesh to come upon you, and cover you with skin, and put breath in you, and you shall live; and you shall know that I am the Lord."

So I prophesied as I had been commanded; and as I prophesied, suddenly there was a noise, a rattling, and the bones came together, bone to its bone. I looked, and there were sinews on them, and flesh had come upon them, and skin had covered them; but there was no breath in them. Then he said to me, "Prophesy to the breath, prophesy, mortal, and say to the breath: Thus says the Lord God: Come from the four winds, O breath, and breathe upon these slain, that they may live." I prophesied as he commanded me, and the breath came into them, and they lived, and stood on their feet, a vast multitude.

Then he said to me, "Mortal, these bones are the whole house of Israel. They say, 'Our bones are dried up, and our hope is lost; we are cut off completely.' Therefore prophesy, and say to them, Thus says the Lord God: I am going to open your graves, and bring you up from your graves, O my people; and I will bring you back to the land of Israel. And you shall know that I am the Lord, when I open your graves, and bring you up from your graves, O my people. I will put my spirit within you, and you shall live, and I will place you on your own soil; then you shall know that I, the Lord, have spoken and will act," says the Lord.

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

People **Thanks be to God.**

The Response

Psalm 130

Out of the depths have I called to you, O LORD;

LORD, hear my voice; *

let your ears consider well the voice of my supplication.

If you, LORD, were to note what is done amiss, *

O Lord, who could stand?

For there is forgiveness with you; *

therefore you shall be feared.

I wait for the LORD; my soul waits for him; *
in his word is my hope.
My soul waits for the LORD,
more than watchmen for the morning, *
more than watchmen for the morning.
O Israel, wait for the LORD, *
for with the LORD there is mercy;
With him there is plenteous redemption, *
and he shall redeem Israel from all their sins.

The Second Lesson

Romans 8:6-11

To set the mind on the flesh is death, but to set the mind on the Spirit is life and peace. For this reason the mind that is set on the flesh is hostile to God; it does not submit to God's law~ indeed it cannot, and those who are in the flesh cannot please God.

But you are not in the flesh; you are in the Spirit, since the Spirit of God dwells in you. Anyone who does not have the Spirit of Christ does not belong to him. But if Christ is in you, though the body is dead because of sin, the Spirit is life because of righteousness. If the Spirit of him who raised Jesus from the dead dwells in you, he who raised Christ from the dead will give life to your mortal bodies also through his Spirit that dwells in you.

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

People **Thanks be to God.**

Please stand, as able.

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

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

The Gospel

John 11:1-45

Now a certain man was ill, Lazarus of Bethany, the village of Mary and her sister Martha. Mary was the one who anointed the Lord with perfume and wiped his feet with her hair; her brother Lazarus was ill. So the sisters sent a message to Jesus, "Lord, he whom you love is ill." But when Jesus heard it, he said, "This illness does not lead to death; rather it is for God's glory, so that the Son of God may be glorified through it." Accordingly, though Jesus loved Martha and her sister and Lazarus, after having heard that Lazarus was ill, he stayed two days longer in the place where he was.

Then after this he said to the disciples, "Let us go to Judea again." The disciples said to him, "Rabbi, the Jews were just now trying to stone you, and are you going there again?" Jesus answered, "Are there not twelve hours of daylight? Those who walk during the day do not stumble, because they see the light of this world. But those who walk at night stumble, because the light is not in them." After saying this, he told them, "Our friend Lazarus has fallen asleep, but I am going there to awaken him." The disciples said to him, "Lord, if he has fallen asleep, he will be all right." Jesus, however, had been

speaking about his death, but they thought that he was referring merely to sleep. Then Jesus told them plainly, "Lazarus is dead. For your sake I am glad I was not there, so that you may believe. But let us go to him." Thomas, who was called the Twin, said to his fellow disciples, "Let us also go, that we may die with him."

When Jesus arrived, he found that Lazarus had already been in the tomb four days. Now Bethany was near Jerusalem, some two miles away, and many of the Jews had come to Martha and Mary to console them about their brother. When Martha heard that Jesus was coming, she went and met him, while Mary stayed at home. Martha said to Jesus, "Lord, if you had been here, my brother would not have died. But even now I know that God will give you whatever you ask of him." Jesus said to her, "Your brother will rise again." Martha said to him, "I know that he will rise again in the resurrection on the last day." Jesus said to her, "I am the resurrection and the life. Those who believe in me, even though they die, will live, and everyone who lives and believes in me will never die. Do you believe this?" She said to him, "Yes, Lord, I believe that you are the Messiah, the Son of God, the one coming into the world."

When she had said this, she went back and called her sister Mary, and told her privately, "The Teacher is here and is calling for you." And when she heard it, she got up quickly and went to him. Now Jesus had not yet come to the village, but was still at the place where Martha had met him. The Jews who were with her in the house, consoling her, saw Mary get up quickly and go out. They followed her because they thought that she was going to the tomb to weep there. When Mary came where Jesus was and saw him, she knelt at his feet and said to him, "Lord, if you had been here, my brother would not have died." When Jesus saw her weeping, and the Jews who came with her also weeping, he was greatly disturbed in spirit and deeply moved. He said, "Where have you laid him?" They said to him, "Lord, come and see." Jesus began to weep. So the Jews said, "See how he loved him!" But some of them said, "Could not he who opened the eyes of the blind man have kept this man from dying?"

Then Jesus, again greatly disturbed, came to the tomb. It was a cave, and a stone was lying against it. Jesus said, "Take away the stone." Martha, the sister of the dead man, said to him, "Lord, already there is a stench because he has been dead four days." Jesus said to her, "Did I not tell you that if you believed, you would see the glory of God?" So they took away the stone. And Jesus looked upward and said, "Father, I thank you for having heard me. I knew that you always hear me, but I have said this for the sake of the crowd standing here, so that they may believe that you sent me." When he had said this, he cried with a loud voice, "Lazarus, come out!" The dead man came out, his hands and feet bound with strips of cloth, and his face wrapped in a cloth. Jesus said to them, "Unbind him, and let him go."

Many of the Jews therefore, who had come with Mary and had seen what Jesus did, believed in 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

Leader 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.**

Offertory

Were You There?

Betty Upchurch

Please stand, as able.

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; God's holy food, for God's holy people.

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.
Look with compassion, O Lord, upon this your people; that, rightly observing this holy
season, they may learn to know you more fully, and to serve you with a more perfect will;
through Christ our Lord. Amen.

Please stand, as able.

1 There's a wide-ness in God's mer - cy like the wide-ness of the sea;
 2 There is no place where earth's sor - rows are more felt than up in heaven;
 3 For the love of God is broad - er than the mea - sure of the mind;

there's a kind - ness in his jus - tice, which is more than lib - er - ty.
 there is no place where earth's fail - ings have such kind - ly judg - ment given.
 and the heart of the E - ter - nal is most won - der - ful - ly kind.

There is wel - come for the sin - ner, and more gra - ces for the good;
 There is plen - ti - ful re - demp - tion in the blood that has been shed;
 If our love were but more faith - ful, we should take him at his word;

there is mer - cy with the Sa - vior; there is heal - ing in his blood.
 there is joy for all the mem - bers in the sor - rows of the Head.
 and our life would be thanks - giv - ing for the good - ness of the Lord.

The Dismissal

Presider Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.

People Thanks be to God

Postlude

Coming Lessons

The Liturgy of the Palms

Psalms 118:1-2, 19-29

Matthew 21:1-11

The Liturgy of the Word

Isaiah 50:4-9a

Psalm 31:9-16

Philippians 2:5-11

Matthew 26:14-27

Prayer List

Intercessions: Amy Jones, Ben & Laura Davis, Brenda Weems, Carolyn Duranko, Chuck & Sally Besaw, Father Stan McGraw & Jean McGraw, Fred Pfaender, Jonathan, Julie Ottesen, and Lorene Ramsey (John Blackwell's mother). Also, pray for all those affected by the COVID-19 pandemic.

Departed:

Birthdays: Bruce Smith (March 30), Frank Hazard (March 31)

Wedding Anniversaries:

Schedule

Sunday, March 29 – Last Sunday in Lent

No Adult Forum

10:30 am – Holy Eucharist – pre-recorded service available via YouTube

Wednesday, April 1

10:00 am – Holy Eucharist – format will be shared via email

Announcements

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: Gary Medley. He can be reached at gapdweller@gmail.com.

Christ Episcopal Church

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