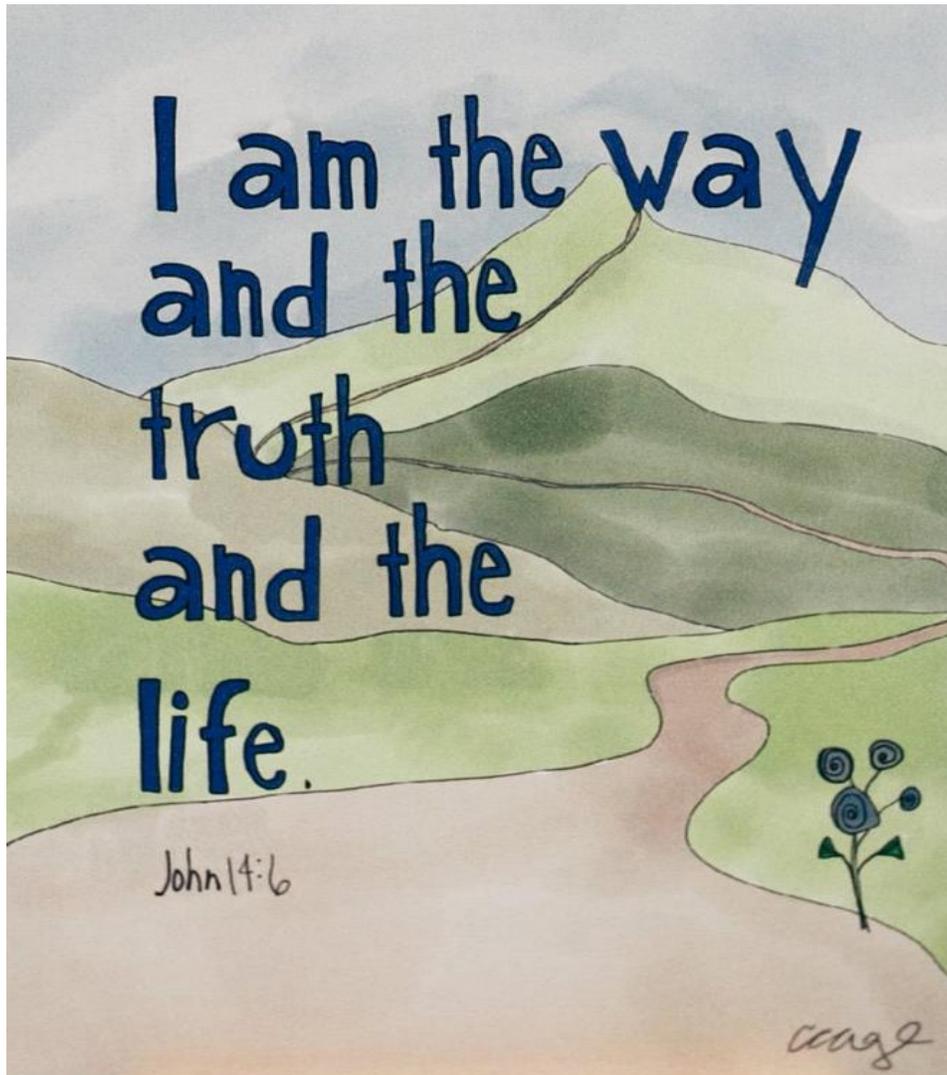


# Christ Episcopal Church

Sparta, NC

*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.*



**Fifth Sunday of Easter**  
**May 10, 2020 – 10:30 AM**

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

**Sermons available.** Recent sermons are available on our website: [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 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  
Joe & Judy Ritchie, for the flowers at the altar in honor of their sons' Bill & Paul Ritchie's  
birthday.

# The Gathering

All stand, as able.

Processional Hymn #448, vss 1-3

O love, how deep, how broad, how high



1 O love, how deep, how broad, how high, how pass - ing  
2 For us bap - tized, for us he bore his ho - ly  
3 For us he prayed; for us he taught; for us his  
4 For us to wick - ed hands be - trayed, scourged, mocked, in  
5 For us he rose from death a - gain; for us he  
6 All glo - ry to our Lord and God for love so



1 thought and fan - ta - sy, that God, the Son of  
2 fast and hun - gered sore; for us temp - ta - tions  
3 dai - ly works he wrought: by words and signs and  
4 pur - ple robe ar - rayed, he bore the shame - ful  
5 went on high to reign; for us he sent his  
6 deep, so high, so broad; the Trin - i - ty whom



1 God, should take our mor - tal form for mor - tals' sake.  
2 sharp he knew; for us the tempt - er ov - er - threw.  
3 ac - tions, thus still seek - ing not him - self, but us.  
4 cross and death; for us gave up his dy - ing breath.  
5 Spi - rit here to guide, to strength - en, and to cheer.  
6 we a - dore for ev - er and for ev - er - more.

All remain standing, as able.

## Opening Acclamation

Presider Alleluia. Christ is risen.

People The Lord is risen indeed. Alleluia.

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

Presider     The Lord be with you.

People       And also with you.

Presider     Let us pray.

Almighty God, whom truly to know is everlasting life: Grant us so perfectly to know your Son Jesus Christ to be the way, the truth, and the life, that we may steadfastly follow his steps in the way that leads to eternal life; through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord, who lives and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. **Amen.**

*All are seated.*

## Liturgy of the Word

### First Reading

**Acts 7:55-60**

Filled with the Holy Spirit, Stephen gazed into heaven and saw the glory of God and Jesus standing at the right hand of God. "Look," he said, "I see the heavens opened and the Son of Man standing at the right hand of God!" But they covered their ears, and with a loud shout all rushed together against him. Then they dragged him out of the city and began to stone him; and the witnesses laid their coats at the feet of a young man named Saul. While they were stoning Stephen, he prayed, "Lord Jesus,

receive my spirit.” Then he knelt down and cried out in a loud voice, “Lord, do not hold this sin against them.” When he had said this, he died.

Reader Hear what the Spirit is saying to God’s people.

People Thanks be to God.

## The Response

### Psalm 31:1-5, 15-16

In you, O LORD, have I taken refuge;  
let me never be put to shame; \*  
deliver me in your righteousness.

Incline your ear to me; \*  
make haste to deliver me.

Be my strong rock, a castle to keep me safe,  
for you are my crag and my stronghold; \*  
for the sake of your Name, lead me and guide me.

Take me out of the net that they have secretly set for me, \*  
for you are my tower of strength.

Into your hands I commend my spirit, \*  
for you have redeemed me,  
O LORD, O God of truth.

My times are in your hand; \*  
rescue me from the hand of my enemies,  
and from those who persecute me.

Make your face to shine upon your servant, \*  
and in your loving-kindness save me."

## The Second Reading

### 1 Peter 2:2-10

Like newborn infants, long for the pure, spiritual milk, so that by it you may grow into salvation—if indeed you have tasted that the Lord is good.

Come to him, a living stone, though rejected by mortals yet chosen and precious in God’s sight, and like living stones, let yourselves be built into a spiritual house, to be a holy priesthood, to offer spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ. For it stands in scripture:

“See, I am laying in Zion a stone,  
a cornerstone chosen and precious;  
and whoever believes in him will not be put to shame.”

To you then who believe, he is precious; but for those who do not believe,

“The stone that the builders rejected  
has become the very head of the corner”,

and

“A stone that makes them stumble,  
and a rock that makes them fall.”

They stumble because they disobey the word, as they were destined to do.

But you are a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, God’s own people, in order that you may proclaim the mighty acts of him who called you out of darkness into his marvelous light.

Once you were not a people,  
but now you are God’s people;  
once you had not received mercy,  
but now you have received mercy.

Reader Hear what the Spirit is saying to God’s people.  
People **Thanks be to God.**

*Please stand, as able.*

Presider The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ, according to John.  
People **Glory to you, Lord Christ.**

## **The Gospel**

### **John 14:1-14**

Jesus said, “Do not let your hearts be troubled. Believe in God, believe also in me. In my Father’s house there are many dwelling places. If it were not so, would I have told you that I go to prepare a place for you? And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and will take you to myself, so that where I am, there you may be also. And you know the way to the place where I am going.”

Thomas said to him, “Lord, we do not know where you are going. How can we know the way?” Jesus said to him, “I am the way, and the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me. If you know me, you will know my Father also. From now on you do know him and have seen him.”

Philip said to him, “Lord, show us the Father, and we will be satisfied.” Jesus said to him, “Have I been with you all this time, Philip, and you still do not know me? Whoever has seen me has seen the Father. How can you say, ‘Show us the Father’? Do you not believe that I am in the Father and the Father is in me? The words that I say to you I do not speak on my own; but the Father who dwells in me does his works. Believe me that I am in the Father and the Father is in me; but if you do not, then believe me because of the works themselves. Very truly, I tell you, the one who believes in me will also do the works that I do and, in fact, will do greater works than these, because I am going to the Father. I will do whatever you ask in my name, so that the Father may be glorified in the Son. If in my name you ask me for anything, I will do it.”

Presider The Gospel of the Lord.  
People **Praise to you, Lord Christ.**

*All are seated.*

## **The Sermon**

The Rev. Stephanie E Parker

*A time of silence 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 for the People

- Leader Alleluia! What was dead shall live; what was dark shall shine; what was forgotten shall be remembered, for the Lord is risen and walks among us. Let us confidently bring before God the needs of all the world, asking God for renewal, saying:
- People **Alleluia! Christ is Risen.**
- Leader Creator God, we thank you for the gift of another day in your beautiful world. Give us clarity to know what our part is to care for our environment and all creatures we encounter.
- People **Alleluia! Christ is Risen.**
- Leader Wonderful Counselor, we pray for a just and peaceable world. May all in authority to govern our churches, cities, states, and nations especially...be mindful of your presence and administer with wisdom, fairness, and mercy.
- People **Alleluia! Christ is Risen.**
- Leader Life-giving Spirit, we pray that you will remind us of how wide your definition of neighbor is. We invite your help in mending rifts between people and nations, revealing to us how we can alleviate the suffering of others to make our world a better place.
- People **Alleluia! Christ is Risen.**
- Leader Lord of the Dance of life and seasons, we give you thanks for the rhythm of connection and refreshment. We are especially thankful for...We praise you for the ways that we are able to taste and see you in all our relationships.
- People **Alleluia! Christ is Risen.**
- Leader Healer and Comforter of our souls, we pray for your healing presence in the lives of all around us who are torn by pain and suffering, in any kind of trouble, are lost, uncared for, or grieving, especially...shelter them and give them peace.
- People **Alleluia! Christ is Risen.**
- Leader Good Shepherd, we remember with love the great cloud of witnesses who have gone before us into your presence and appreciate the ways they have enriched our lives, especially...that they rest in peace and rise in glory.
- People **Alleluia! Christ is Risen.**
- Presider God of life, we thank you for the mystery implanted in us, the paradox of life from death and community from scattered disciples. We praise you for the dying which saves us from death and for the rising, which brings us life. We pray, as we live, through Jesus the risen one, in the power of the Holy Spirit, now and for ever. **Amen.**

## The Peace

Presider The peace of Christ be always with you.

People **And also with you.**

Offertory

*My Shepherd Will Supply My Need*

Betty Upchurch

## The Great Thanksgiving

Eucharistic Prayer B, BCP 367

*Please stand, as able.*

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.**

It is right, and a good and joyful thing, always and everywhere to give thanks go you, Father Almighty, Creator of heaven and earth.

But chiefly are we bound to praise you for the glorious resurrection of your Son Jesus Christ our Lord; for he is the true Paschal Lamb. By his death he has destroyed death, and by his rising to life again he has won for us everlasting life.

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:** S129 (*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.**

*Remain standing or kneel for prayer of consecration.*

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 the 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.

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,

**We remember his death,  
We proclaim his resurrection,  
We await his coming in glory;**

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 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.**

**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 Holy Communion**

**Presider** All Holy Jesus, we gather to represent the people of God at Christ Church. As we receive the sacrament of the body and blood, through the mystery of your holy Spirit, be with those at home who desire to receive you.

**People** Grant us all the Spiritual Communion of unity, grace and Abundant life that is your gift to us at all times and in all places. We love you above all things, and we give you thanks that you are with us wherever we are and that we are, in your love, gathered together in your presence as a full and faithful community of God. Amen.

## Communion Music

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.

## Post Communion Prayer

BCP 365

Presider Let us pray  
Almighty and everliving God,  
we thank you for feeding us with the spiritual communion  
of the most precious fellowship of the Body  
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, give us patience  
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.

## The Blessing

Presider Christ is Risen from the dead! Live without fear: your Creator has made you holy,  
has always protected you, and loves you as a mother. Live in peace and follow the good  
road and may God's blessing be with you this day and always.

All AMEN!

Stand, as able, for the Recessional Hymn.

6 Let ev - ery kin - dred, ev - ery tribe, on this ter - res - trial

1 All hail the power of Je - sus' Name! Let an - gels pros - trate  
 2 Crown him, ye mar - tyrs of our God, who from his al - tar  
 3 Hail him, the Heir of Da - vid's line, whom Da - vid Lord did  
 \* 4 Ye heirs of Is - rael's cho - sen race, ye ran - somed of the  
 \* 5 Sin - ners, whose love can ne'er for - get the worm - wood and the

ball, to him a - scribe, and

1 fall; bring forth the roy - al di - a - dem, and  
 2 call: praise him whose way of pain ye trod, and  
 3 call, the God in - car - nate, Man di - vine, and  
 4 fall, hail him who saves you by his grace, and  
 5 gall, go, spread your tro - phies at his feet, and

crown him Lord of all! to him a -

1 crown him Lord of all! bring forth the roy - al  
 2 crown him Lord of all! praise him whose way of  
 3 crown him Lord of all! the God in - car - nate,  
 4 crown him Lord of all! hail him who saves you  
 5 crown him Lord of all! go, spread your tro - phies

scribe, and crown him Lord of all!

1 di - a - dem, and crown him Lord of all!  
 2 pain ye trod, and crown him Lord of all!  
 3 Man di - vine, and crown him Lord of all!  
 4 by his grace, and crown him Lord of all!  
 5 at his feet, and crown him Lord of all!

## The Dismissal

Presider Shelter in place in the name of the risen Christ!  
Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!  
People **Thanks be to God! Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!**

## Postlude

Betty Upchurch

### Coming Lessons

Acts 17:22-31  
Psalm 66:7-18  
1 Peter 3:13-22  
John 14:15-21

## Prayer List

**Intercessions:** Amy Jones, Ben & Laura Davis, Brenda Weems, Carolyn Duranko, Chuck & Sally Besaw, Father Stan McGraw & Jean McGraw, Fred Pfaender, George Dexter (Nancy Wilson's cousin), Jean Callison, Jonathan, Julie Ottesen, Lorene Ramsey (John Blackwell's mother), Maddie & Wes (Betty Upchurch's granddaughter & her husband), Martha Willie Coleman (Sally Besaw's mother), Paul Parker (Stephanie's father), and Todd/Megan/Hadley Inman (Chuck & Sally Besaw's family members). Also, pray for all those affected by the COVID-19 epidemic.

**Departed:** Bonnie Vaughan

**Birthdays:**

**Wedding Anniversaries & Thanksgivings:**

## Schedule

**Sunday, May 10 – Fifth Sunday of Easter**

10:30 am – Holy Eucharist – via YouTube & Facebook

**Monday, May 11 – Wednesday, May 13 – Church Office will be closed.**

**Wednesday, May 13**

No service

**Thursday, May 14**

11:00 am – Zoom Bible Study and check-in

**Sunday, May 17 – Sixth Sunday of Easter**

10:30 am – Holy Eucharist – via YouTube & Facebook

## Announcements

**ZOOM Bible Study and Check-in** is held every Thursday morning at 11:00 am. If you're interested in joining in, please let Rev. Stephanie or Mary know no later than Wednesday at noon so you can be included in the invitations. An online invitation is required in order for you to join this group.

**Shelter-in-Place** continues to be the requirement as many battle COVID-19. Our kindest gift at the moment is still staying home to reduce the spread of this horrible virus. All precautions are being taken to safely keep the church office up and running, and to provide weekly services online. Our Bishop and Presiding Bishop have asked that parishioners do not enter the building or offices during office hours at this time. We thank you for your support in this sacred responsibility.

## Happy Mother's Day!



*"Mother and Child" by Lovetta Reyes-Cairo*

### **Christ Episcopal Church**

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