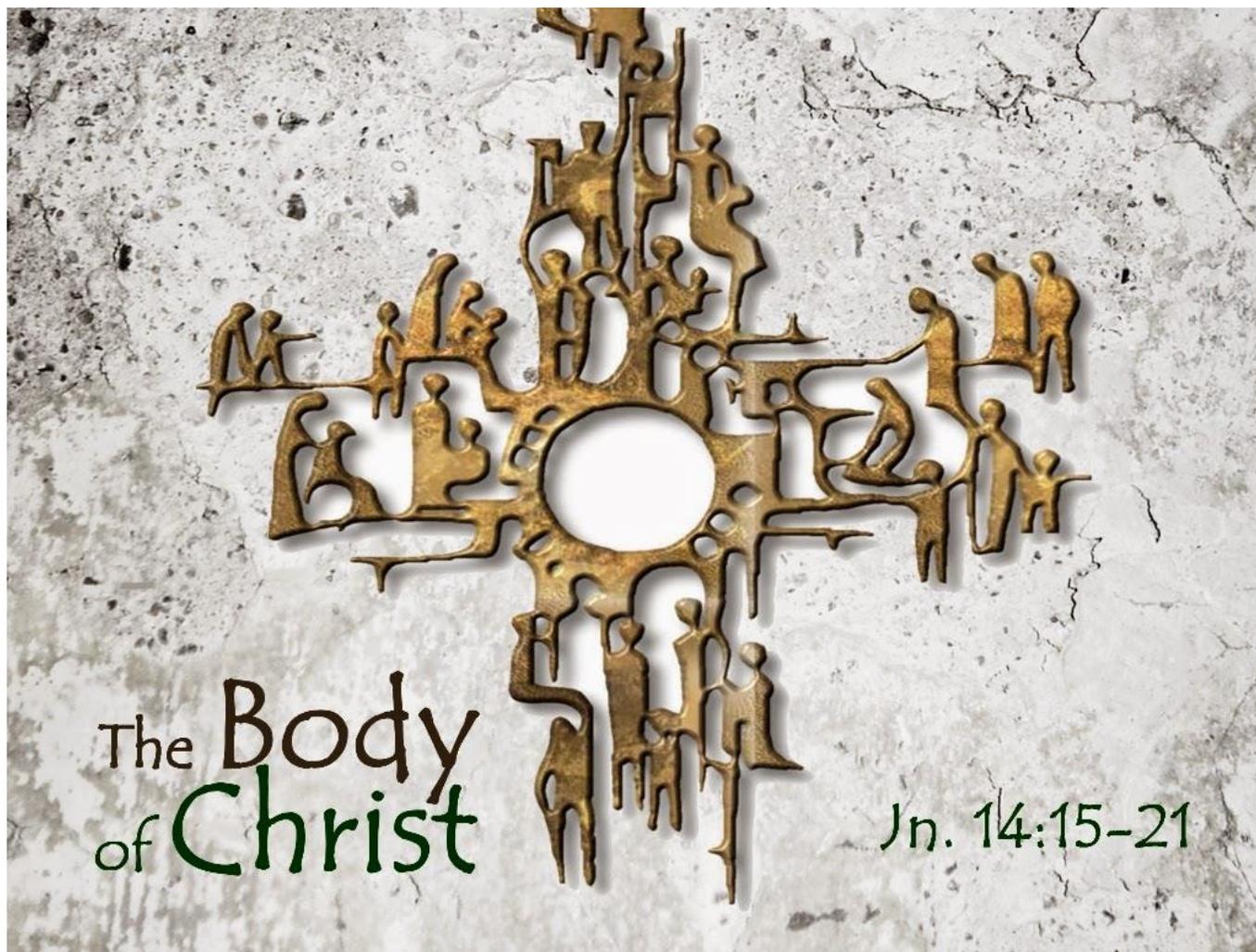


Christ Episcopal Church

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.*



Sixth Sunday of Easter
May 17, 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.

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:

Jo Ellen Carson, for serving as musician and for being so generous with her talents, and

Frank & Ann Hazard, for the flowers at the altar in memory of their mothers, Frances Hazard and Laura Graham Wilkinson Cheney.

The Gathering

All stand, as able.

Processional Hymn #529

In Christ there is no East or West

*In Christ there is no East or West,
in him no South or North,
but one great fellowship of love
throughout the whole wide earth.*

*Join hands, disciples of the faith,
what e'er your race may be!
Who serves my Father as his child
is surely kin to me.*

*In Christ now meet both East and West,
in him meet South and North,
all Christly souls are one in him,
throughout the whole wide earth.*

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.

O God, you have prepared for those who love you such good things as surpass our understanding: Pour into our hearts such love towards you, that we, loving you in all things and above all things, may obtain your promises, which exceed all that we can desire; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. **Amen.**

All are seated.

Liturgy of the Word

First Reading

Acts 17:22-31

Paul stood in front of the Areopagus and said, "Athenians, I see how extremely religious you are in every way. For as I went through the city and looked carefully at the objects of your worship, I found among them an altar with the inscription, 'To an unknown god.' What therefore you worship as unknown, this I proclaim to you. The God who made the world and everything in it, he who is Lord of heaven and earth, does not live in shrines made by human hands, nor is he served by human hands, as though he needed anything, since he himself gives to all mortals life and breath and all

things. From one ancestor he made all nations to inhabit the whole earth, and he allotted the times of their existence and the boundaries of the places where they would live, so that they would search for God and perhaps grope for him and find him—though indeed he is not far from each one of us. For ‘In him we live and move and have our being’; as even some of your own poets have said,

‘For we too are his offspring.’

Since we are God’s offspring, we ought not to think that the deity is like gold, or silver, or stone, an image formed by the art and imagination of mortals. While God has overlooked the times of human ignorance, now he commands all people everywhere to repent, because he has fixed a day on which he will have the world judged in righteousness by a man whom he has appointed, and of this he has given assurance to all by raising him from the dead.”

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

People **Thanks be to God.**

The Response

Psalm 66:7-18

Bless our God, you peoples; *
 make the voice of his praise to be heard;
Who holds our souls in life, *
 and will not allow our feet to slip.
For you, O God, have proved us; *
 you have tried us just as silver is tried.
You brought us into the snare; *
 you laid heavy burdens upon our backs.
You let enemies ride over our heads;
we went through fire and water; *
 but you brought us out into a place of refreshment.
I will enter your house with burnt-offerings
and will pay you my vows, *
 which I promised with my lips
 and spoke with my mouth when I was in trouble.
I will offer you sacrifices of fat beasts
with the smoke of rams; *
 I will give you oxen and goats.
Come and listen, all you who fear God, *
 and I will tell you what he has done for me.
I called out to him with my mouth, *
 and his praise was on my tongue.
If I had found evil in my heart, *
 the Lord would not have heard me;

But in truth God has heard me; *
he has attended to the voice of my prayer.

Blessed be God, who has not rejected my prayer, *
nor withheld his love from me.

The Second Reading

1 Peter 3:13-22

Now who will harm you if you are eager to do what is good? But even if you do suffer for doing what is right, you are blessed. Do not fear what they fear, and do not be intimidated, but in your hearts sanctify Christ as Lord. Always be ready to make your defense to anyone who demands from you an accounting for the hope that is in you; yet do it with gentleness and reverence. Keep your conscience clear, so that, when you are maligned, those who abuse you for your good conduct in Christ may be put to shame. For it is better to suffer for doing good, if suffering should be God's will, than to suffer for doing evil. For Christ also suffered for sins once for all, the righteous for the unrighteous, in order to bring you to God. He was put to death in the flesh, but made alive in the spirit, in which also he went and made a proclamation to the spirits in prison, who in former times did not obey, when God waited patiently in the days of Noah, during the building of the ark, in which a few, that is, eight persons, were saved through water. And baptism, which this prefigured, now saves you~ not as a removal of dirt from the body, but as an appeal to God for a good conscience, through the resurrection of Jesus Christ, who has gone into heaven and is at the right hand of God, with angels, authorities, and powers made subject to him.

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 14:15-21

Jesus said, "If you love me, you will keep my commandments. And I will ask the Father, and he will give you another Advocate, to be with you forever. This is the Spirit of truth, whom the world cannot receive, because it neither sees him nor knows him. You know him, because he abides with you, and he will be in you.

"I will not leave you orphaned; I am coming to you. In a little while the world will no longer see me, but you will see me; because I live, you also will live. On that day you will know that I am in my Father, and you in me, and I in you. They who have my commandments and keep them are those who love me; and those who love me will be loved by my Father, and I will love them and reveal myself to them."

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.

Please stand or kneel, as able, for the Prayers of the People.

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

Jo Ellen Carson

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.

Please be seated.

Communion Music

Jo Ellen Carson

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!

Please stand, as able, for the Recessional Hymn.

1 God of grace and God of glo - ry, on thy peo - ple pour thy power;
 2 Lo! the hosts of e - vil round us scorn thy Christ, as - sail his ways!
 3 Cure thy chil - dren's war - ring mad - ness, bend our pride to thy con - trol;
 4 Save us from weak res - ig - na - tion to the e - vils we de - plore;

crown thine an - cient Church's sto - ry; bring her bud to glo - rious flower.
 From the fears that long have bound us free our hearts to faith and praise:
 shame our wan - ton, self - ish glad - ness, rich in things and poor in soul.
 let the gift of thy sal - va - tion be our glo - ry ev - er - more.

Grant us wis - dom, grant us cour - age, for the fac - ing of this
 grant us wis - dom, grant us cour - age, for the liv - ing of these
 Grant us wis - dom, grant us cour - age, lest we miss thy king - dom's
 Grant us wis - dom, grant us cour - age, serv - ing thee whom we a -

hour, for the fac - ing of this hour.
 days, for the liv - ing of these days.
 goal, lest we miss thy king - dom's goal.
 dore, serv - ing thee whom we a - dore.

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

Coming Lessons

Acts 1:6-14
Psalm 68:1-10, 33-36
1 Peter 4:12-14; 5:6-11
John 17:1-11

Prayer List

Intercessions: Amy Jones, Ben & Laura Davis, Brenda Weems, Carolyn Duranko, Chuck & Sally Besaw, Dannie Parker (Rev. Stephanie's niece), 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), and Paul Parker (Rev. Stephanie's father). Also, pray for all those affected by the COVID-19 epidemic.

Departed:

Birthdays:

Wedding Anniversaries & Thanksgivings: Frank & Ann Hazard (May 22)

Schedule

Sunday, May 17 – Sixth Sunday of Easter

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

Wednesday, May 20

No service

Thursday, May 21

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

Sunday, May 24 – Seventh Sunday of Easter

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

Monday, May 25 – Memorial Day

Church Office will be closed

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.



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