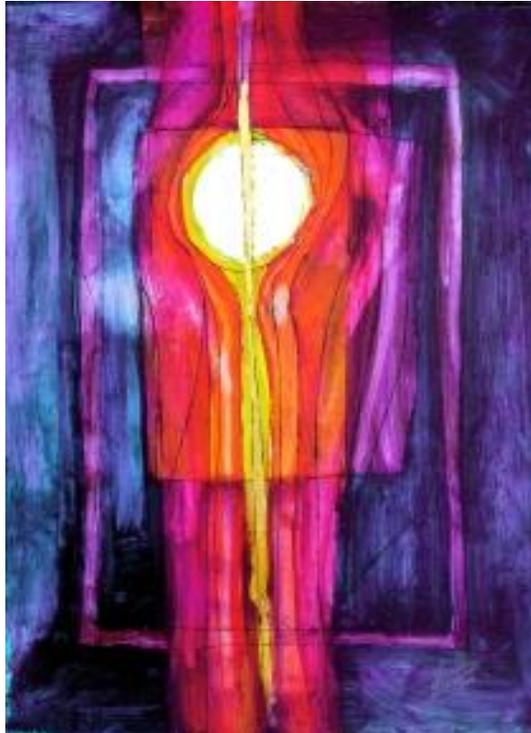


# Christ Episcopal Church

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.*



## Seventh Sunday of Easter

May 24, 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

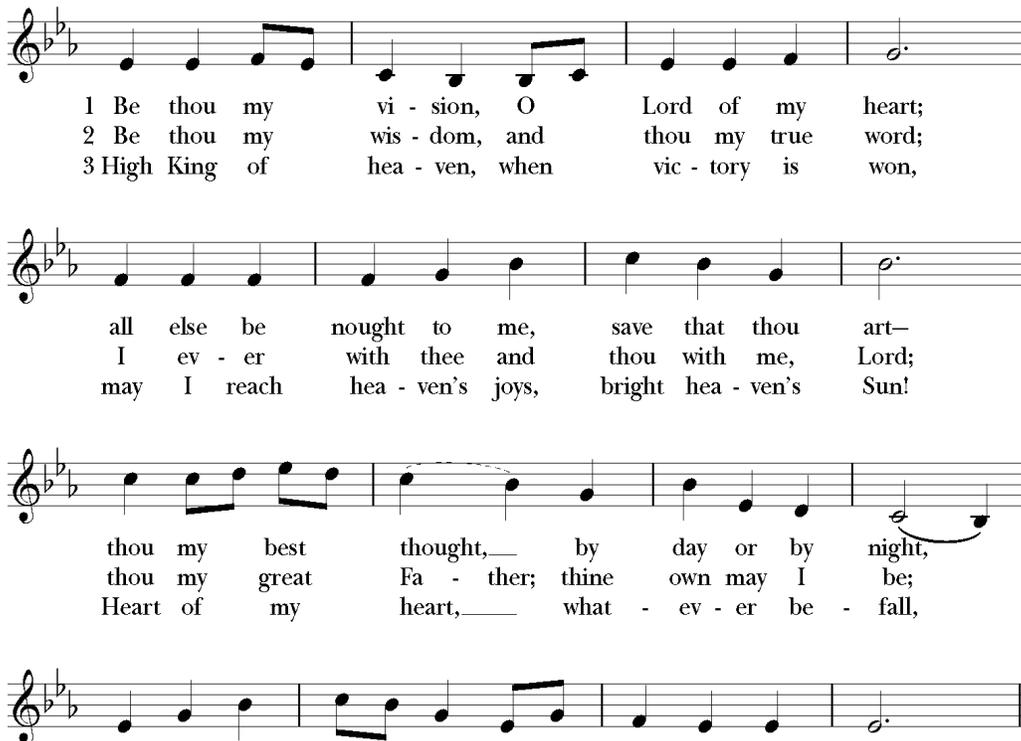
**Jeanne Green**, for the flowers at the altar in memory of Walton C. Green and William M. Reindollar.

# The Gathering

All stand, as able.

## Processional Hymn #488

Be thou my vision



1 Be thou my vi - sion, O Lord of my heart;  
2 Be thou my wis - dom, and thou my true word;  
3 High King of hea - ven, when vic - tory is won,  
all else be nought to me, save that thou art—  
I ev - er with thee and thou with me, Lord;  
may I reach hea - ven's joys, bright hea - ven's Sun!  
thou my best thought,— by day or by night,  
thou my great Fa - ther; thine own may I be;  
Heart of my heart, — what - ev - er be - fall,  
wak - ing or sleep - ing, thy pres - ence my light.  
thou in me dwell - ing, and I one with thee.  
still be my vis - ion, O Ru - ler of all.

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.

Please remain standing, as able.

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.*

## The Collect

Presider     The Lord be with you.

People       And also with you.

Presider     Let us pray.

O God, the King of glory, you have exalted your only Son Jesus Christ with great triumph to your kingdom in heaven: Do not leave us comfortless, but send us your Holy Spirit to strengthen us, and exalt us to that place where our Savior Christ has gone before; who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, in glory everlasting. **Amen.**

*All are seated.*

## Liturgy of the Word

### First Reading

#### Acts 1:6-14

When the apostles had come together, they asked Jesus, "Lord, is this the time when you will restore the kingdom to Israel?" He replied, "It is not for you to know the times or periods that the Father has set by his own authority. But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth." When he had said this, as they were watching, he was lifted up, and a cloud took him out of their sight. While he was going and they were gazing up toward heaven, suddenly two men in white robes stood by them. They said, "Men of Galilee, why do you stand looking up toward heaven? This Jesus, who has been taken up from you into heaven, will come in the same way as you saw him go into heaven."

Then they returned to Jerusalem from the mount called Olivet, which is near Jerusalem, a sabbath day's journey away. When they had entered the city, they went to the room upstairs where they were staying, Peter, and John, and James, and Andrew, Philip and Thomas, Bartholomew and Matthew, James son of Alphaeus, and Simon the Zealot, and Judas son of James. All these were constantly devoting themselves to prayer, together with certain women, including Mary the mother of Jesus, as well as his brothers.

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

People Thanks be to God.

## The Response

### Psalm 68:1-10, 33-36

Let God arise, and let his enemies be scattered; \*  
let those who hate him flee before him.

Let them vanish like smoke when the wind drives it away; \*  
as the wax melts at the fire, so let the wicked perish at the presence of God.

But let the righteous be glad and rejoice before God; \*  
let them also be merry and joyful.

Sing to God, sing praises to his Name;  
exalt him who rides upon the heavens; \*  
YAHWEH is his Name, rejoice before him!

Father of orphans, defender of widows, \*  
God in his holy habitation!

God gives the solitary a home and brings forth prisoners into freedom; \*  
but the rebels shall live in dry places.

O God, when you went forth before your people, \*  
when you marched through the wilderness,

The earth shook, and the skies poured down rain,  
at the presence of God, the God of Sinai, \*  
at the presence of God, the God of Israel.

You sent a gracious rain, O God, upon your inheritance; \*  
you refreshed the land when it was weary.

Your people found their home in it; \*  
in your goodness, O God, you have made provision for the poor.

Sing to God, O kingdoms of the earth; \*  
sing praises to the Lord.

He rides in the heavens, the ancient heavens; \*  
he sends forth his voice, his mighty voice.

Ascribe power to God; \*  
his majesty is over Israel;  
his strength is in the skies.

How wonderful is God in his holy places! \*  
the God of Israel giving strength and power to his people!  
Blessed be God!

## **The Second Reading**

### **1 Peter 4:12-14; 5:6-11**

Beloved, do not be surprised at the fiery ordeal that is taking place among you to test you, as though something strange were happening to you. But rejoice insofar as you are sharing Christ's sufferings, so that you may also be glad and shout for joy when his glory is revealed. If you are reviled for the name of Christ, you are blessed, because the spirit of glory, which is the Spirit of God, is resting on you.

Humble yourselves therefore under the mighty hand of God, so that he may exalt you in due time. Cast all your anxiety on him, because he cares for you. Discipline yourselves, keep alert. Like a roaring lion your adversary the devil prowls around, looking for someone to devour. Resist him, steadfast in your faith, for you know that your brothers and sisters in all the world are undergoing the same kinds of suffering. And after you have suffered for a little while, the God of all grace, who has called you to his eternal glory in Christ, will himself restore, support, strengthen, and establish you. To him be the power forever and ever. **Amen.**

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 17:1-11**

Jesus looked up to heaven and said, "Father, the hour has come; glorify your Son so that the Son may glorify you, since you have given him authority over all people, to give eternal life to all whom you have given him. And this is eternal life, that they may know you, the only true God, and Jesus Christ whom you have sent. I glorified you on earth by finishing the work that you gave me to do. So now, Father, glorify me in your own presence with the glory that I had in your presence before the world existed.

"I have made your name known to those whom you gave me from the world. They were yours, and you gave them to me, and they have kept your word. Now they know that everything you have given me is from you; for the words that you gave to me I have given to them, and they have received them and know in truth that I came from you; and they have believed that you sent me. I am asking on their behalf; I am not asking on behalf of the world, but on behalf of those whom you gave me, because they are yours. All mine are yours, and yours are mine; and I have been glorified in them.

And now I am no longer in the world, but they are in the world, and I am coming to you. Holy Father, protect them in your name that you have given me, so that they may be one, as we are one.”

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.*

## **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**

*Glorify Your Name*

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.

*Please be seated.*

## 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!

*Please stand, as able, for the Recessional Hymn.*

1 Thou, whose al - might - y word cha - os and dark - ness heard,  
 2 Thou who didst come to bring on thy re - deem - ing wing  
 3 Spi - rit of truth and love, life - giv - ing, ho - ly Dove,  
 4 Ho - ly and bless - ed Three, glo - ri - ous Trin - i - ty,

and took their flight; hear us, we hum - bly pray, and, where the  
 heal - ing and sight, health to the sick in mind, sight to the  
 speed forth thy flight! Move on the wa - ters' face bear - ing the  
 wis - dom, love, might; bound - less as o - cean's tide, roll - ing in

Gos - pel day sheds not its glo - rious ray, let there be light!  
 in - ly blind, now to all hu - man - kind, let there be light!  
 gifts of grace, and, in earth's dark - est place, let there be light!  
 full - est pride, through the world, far and wide, let there be light!

**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: The Day of Pentecost**  
 Acts 2:1-21  
 Psalm 104:25-35, 37  
 1 Corinthians 12:3b-13  
 John 7:37-39

## 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, Frances A., Fred Pfaender, George Dexter (Nancy Wilson's cousin), Jean Callison, Jonathan, Julie Ottesen, Lorene Ramsey (John Blackwell's mother), Martha Willie Coleman (Sally Besaw's mother), and Paul Parker (Rev. Stephanie's father). Also, pray for all those affected by the COVID-19 pandemic.

**Departed:**

**Birthdays:**

**Wedding Anniversaries & Thanksgivings:**

## Schedule

**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 for the holiday

**Wednesday, May 27**

No service

**Thursday, May 28**

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

**Sunday, May 31 – The Day of Pentecost**

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

## Announcements

**ZOOM Bible Study and Check-in** is held every Thursday morning at 11:00 am. **PLEASE NOTE: Due to an obligation that can't be rescheduled, the Zoom Bible Study will be held on WEDNESDAY, May 27<sup>th</sup> at 11:00 am.** Everything else is the same; use the same link to access the meeting. If you're interested in joining in, please let Rev. Stephanie or Mary know no later than **TUESDAY** 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.

# Memorial Day is tomorrow, Monday, May 25<sup>th</sup>!



## Remember & Honor

**Christ Episcopal Church**  
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