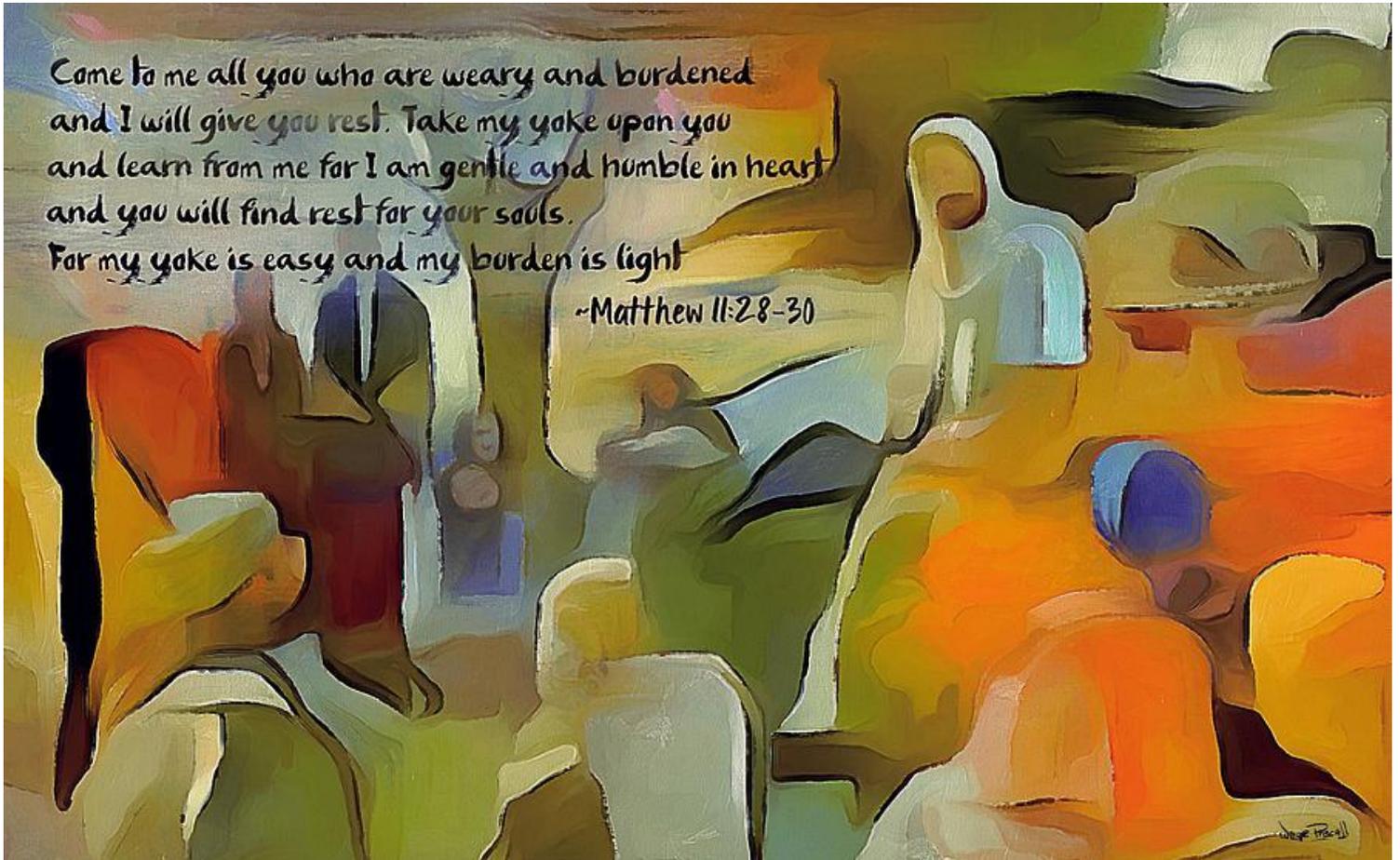


Christ Episcopal Church

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.*



The Fifth Sunday after Pentecost

July 5, 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:

Laura Davis, for serving as musician and for being so generous with her talents.

The Gathering

All stand, as able.

Processional Hymn #679

Surely it is God who saves me



1 Sure - ly it is God — who saves me; trust - ing him, I shall not
2 Make his deeds — known to the peo - ples; tell out his ex - alt - ed



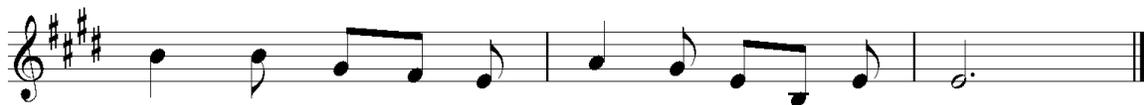
fear. For the Lord de - fends and shields me and his sav - ing
Name. Praise the Lord, who has done great things; all his works his



help is near. So re - joice as you draw wa - ter from sal -
might pro - claim. Zi - on, lift your voice in sing - ing; for with



va - tion's liv - ing spring; in the day of your de -
you has come to dwell, in your ve - ry midst, the



liv - erance thank the Lord, his mer - cies sing.
great and Ho - ly One of Is - ra - el.

All remain standing, as able.

Opening Acclamation

Presider Blessed be God: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

People And blessed be God's kingdom, now and for ever. Amen.

Presider Let us pray,

BCP 355

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.*

The Collect

Presider The Lord be with you.

People And also with you.

Presider Let us pray.

O God, you have taught us to keep all your commandments by loving you and our neighbor: Grant us the grace of your Holy Spirit, that we may be devoted to you with our whole heart, and united to one another with pure affection; 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

Zechariah 9:9-12

Rejoice greatly, O daughter Zion!
Shout aloud, O daughter Jerusalem!

Lo, your king comes to you;
triumphant and victorious is he,

humble and riding on a donkey,
on a colt, the foal of a donkey.

He will cut off the chariot from Ephraim
and the war horse from Jerusalem;

and the battle bow shall be cut off,
and he shall command peace to the nations;
his dominion shall be from sea to sea,
and from the River to the ends of the earth.
As for you also, because of the blood of my covenant with you,
I will set your prisoners free from the waterless pit.
Return to your stronghold, O prisoners of hope;
today I declare that I will restore to you double.

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

The Response

Psalm 145:8-15

The LORD is gracious and full of compassion, *
slow to anger and of great kindness.
The LORD is loving to everyone *
and his compassion is over all his works.
All your works praise you, O LORD, *
and your faithful servants bless you.
They make known the glory of your kingdom *
and speak of your power;
That the peoples may know of your power *
and the glorious splendor of your kingdom.
Your kingdom is an everlasting kingdom; *
your dominion endures throughout all ages.
The LORD is faithful in all his words *
and merciful in all his deeds.
The LORD upholds all those who fall; *
he lifts up those who are bowed down.

The Second Reading

Romans 7:15-25a

I do not understand my own actions. For I do not do what I want, but I do the very thing I hate. Now if I do what I do not want, I agree that the law is good. But in fact it is no longer I that do it, but sin that dwells within me. For I know that nothing good dwells within me, that is, in my flesh. I can will what is right, but I cannot do it. For I do not do the good I want, but the evil I do not want is what I do. Now if I do what I do not want, it is no longer I that do it, but sin that dwells within me.

So I find it to be a law that when I want to do what is good, evil lies close at hand. For I delight in the law of God in my inmost self, but I see in my members another law at war with the law of my mind,

making me captive to the law of sin that dwells in my members. Wretched man that I am! Who will rescue me from this body of death? Thanks be to God through Jesus Christ our Lord!

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

People **Thanks be to God.**

Please stand, as able, for the Gospel reading.

Presider The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ, according to Matthew.

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

The Gospel

Matthew 11:16-19, 25-30

Jesus said to the crowd, "To what will I compare this generation? It is like children sitting in the marketplaces and calling to one another,

'We played the flute for you, and you did not dance;
we wailed, and you did not mourn.'

For John came neither eating nor drinking, and they say, 'He has a demon'; the Son of Man came eating and drinking, and they say, 'Look, a glutton and a drunkard, a friend of tax collectors and sinners!' Yet wisdom is vindicated by her deeds."

At that time Jesus said, "I thank you, Father, Lord of heaven and earth, because you have hidden these things from the wise and the intelligent and have revealed them to infants; yes, Father, for such was your gracious will. All things have been handed over to me by my Father; and no one knows the Son except the Father, and no one knows the Father except the Son and anyone to whom the Son chooses to reveal him.

"Come to me, all you that are weary and are carrying heavy burdens, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you, and learn from me; for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light."

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 or kneel, 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 of the People

Leader: Bound together in Christ in the communion of the Holy Spirit, we pray with one heart and mind to our God, saying:

People: Holy Spirit, you renew the face of the Earth.

Leader: We pray that the love that flows endlessly between the Father and the Son in the fellowship of the Holy Spirit may renew and deepen the lives of all who follow Jesus and draw the human family all together into your eternal dance;

People: Holy Spirit, you renew the face of the Earth.

Leader: We pray for the leaders of the Church, and for the leaders of nations, that we, with them, may discern the ways to overcome divisions and mistrust, that all may reflect your unity in every aspect of our common lives.

People: Holy Spirit, you renew the face of the Earth.

Leader: We pray that your Abundant Life, seen clearly in the life of Jesus, may endure and flourish as the Holy Spirit enlightens us to a greater understanding of you, ourselves, and all others with whom we share our planet.

People: Holy Spirit, you renew the face of the Earth.

Leader: We pray for our families, our communal life and our wider communities, that they may be places of communion and mutual support, which builds us up and strengthens us with your grace and truth. We pray especially for... We give thanks for the gift of community.

People: Holy Spirit, you renew the face of the Earth.

Leader: We thank you for our natural world, which you so lovingly created; help us be wise, careful, and loving caregivers of your creation.

People: Holy Spirit, you renew the face of the Earth.

Leader: In the power of your Spirit who joins our prayer to Christ's eternal intercession, we pray for the sick, the suffering, those who have died, and all who stand in need, especially...For healing for all the world we pray,

People: Holy Spirit, you renew the face of the earth.

Leader: In an endless outpouring of thanksgiving for your ceaseless joy, we give thanks for... that we may always rejoice in the power of your love.

People: Holy Spirit, you renew the face of the Earth.

Presider: Gracious God, by the inner workings of your Spirit, help us to embrace your grace to deepen our communion with you, give us courage to more and more be signs of your enduring love. This we pray through Jesus Christ, who lives and works with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

Confession of Sin

Enriching Our Worship 1, pg. 56

Presider Let us confess our sins against God and our neighbor.

God of all mercy,
we confess that we have sinned against you,
opposing your will in our lives.
We have denied your goodness in each other,
in ourselves, and in the world you have created.
We repent of the evil that enslaves us,
the evil we have done,
and the evil done on our behalf.
Forgive, restore, and strengthen us
through our Savior Jesus Christ,
that we may abide in your love
and serve only your will. 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.

The Peace

Presider The peace of Christ be always with you.

People And also with you.

Offertory

Laura Davis

The Great Thanksgiving

Standing, as able.

Eucharistic Prayer C, BCP 369

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 God of all power, Ruler of the Universe, you are worthy of glory and praise.

People Glory to you for ever and ever.

Presider At your command all things came to be: the vast expanse of interstellar space, galaxies, suns, the planets in their courses, and this fragile earth, our island home.

People By your will they were created and have their being.

Presider From the primal elements you brought forth the human race, and blessed us with memory, reason, and skill. You made us the rulers of creation. But we turned against you, and betrayed your trust; and we turned against one another.

People Have mercy, Lord, for we are sinners in your sight.

Presider Again and again, you called us to return. Through prophets and sages you revealed your righteous Law. And in the fullness of time you sent your only Son, born of a woman, to fulfill your Law, to open for us the way of freedom and peace.

People **By his blood, he reconciled us.
By his wounds, we are healed.**

Presider And therefore we praise you, joining with the heavenly chorus, with prophets, apostles, and martyrs, and with all those in every generation who have looked to you in hope, to proclaim with them your glory, in their unending hymn:

Sanctus: S129 (*sung by all*)

BCP 362

*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.

And so, Father, we who have been redeemed by him, and made a new people by water and the Spirit, now bring before you these gifts. Sanctify them by your Holy Spirit to be the Body and Blood of Jesus Christ our Lord.

On the night he was betrayed he took bread, said the blessing, broke the bread, and gave it to his friends, 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, gave thanks, 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."

Remembering now his work of redemption, and offering to you this sacrifice of thanksgiving,

People **We celebrate his death and resurrection,
as we await the day of his coming.**

Lord God of our Fathers and Mothers; God of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob; God of Sarah, Rebekah and Leah; God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ: Open our eyes to see your hand at work in the world about us. Deliver us from the presumption of coming to this Table for solace only, and not for strength; for pardon only, and not for renewal. Let the grace of this Holy Communion make us one body, one spirit in Christ, that we may worthily serve the world in his name.

People **Risen Lord, be known to us in the breaking of the Bread.**

Accept these prayers and praises, Father, through Jesus Christ our great High Priests, to whom, with you and the Holy Spirit, your Church gives honor, glory, and worship, from generation to generation.
AMEN.

As our Savior Christ has taught us, we now pray,

Our Father in heaven,
hallowed be your Name,
your kingdom come,
your will be done,
on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us today our daily bread.
Forgive us our sins,
as we forgive those
who sin against us.
Save us from the time of trial,
and deliver us from evil.
For the kingdom, the power,
and the glory are yours,
now and for 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

Laura Davis

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

The Rev. Stephanie E. Parker

Please stand, as able.

The Dismissal

Presider Let us shelter in place rejoicing in the power of the Holy Spirit!
Alleluia! Alleluia!
People Thanks be to God! Alleluia! Alleluia!

Postlude

Coming Lessons

Isaiah 55:10-13

Psalm 65:1-14

Romans 8:1-11

Matthew 13:1-9, 18-23

Prayer List

Intercessions: Amy Jones, Ben & Laura Davis, Brenda Weems, Carolyn Duranko, Chuck & Sally Besaw, Dannie Parker, Father Stan McGraw & Jean McGraw, Fred Pfaender, Jean Callison, Jonathan, Julie Ottesen, Lorene Ramsey, Martha Willie Coleman, and Paul Parker. Also, pray for all those affected by the COVID-19 epidemic.

Departed:

Birthdays:

Wedding Anniversaries & Thanksgivings:

Schedule

Sunday, July 5 – The Fifth Sunday after Pentecost

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

Thursday, July 9

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

Sunday, July 12 – The Sixth Sunday after 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. 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.

Updated Office and Church Guidelines during extended Phase II of COVID-19:

The NC Governor has extended Phase II until at least July 17th when the infection/death numbers would have to stabilize or decrease in NC. It is now also mandatory to wear face masks in all public places in order to stop the increasing spread.

In both the *Good News and Notes* and announcements I offered a reminder that even though the impact and resulting loneliness for so many individuals cannot be overstated, and the desire to connect, to return to some form of normalcy is strong, we **MUST** encourage you to connect via phone calls, emails, Facetime, participating in the weekly Zoom Bible Study, participating in the weekly Sunday service, calling Rev. Stephanie for a phone visit, or establishing an email connection with Rev. Stephanie. But as Phase II indicates, it is still Safer at Home right now.

What I want to add is how very much I too long to gather with all of you, see your smiling faces pop into my office and share a chat—all of those things that often brighten my day as the Rector/Pastor of this wonderful parish.

The horror of Covid-19 has visited my family up close and personal, and it has caused huge recurring health problems in a strong, healthy 30-something. My desire to “get back to normal” or

even a “new normal” is greatly tempered by this personal experience of Covid-19. And this was even with my beloved family member being very careful. When I am confronted with folks who are putting themselves and others at risk, I have a very strong response that is also born out of deep love and care for you and all.

I am continually working on ideas that could create safe gatherings so we can feel reconnected and as soon as any of those thoughts can be put into action, you will know!

Again, guidelines from the National and Diocesan office ask that no one come into the Parish except administrators, clergy, Parish leaders (Sr Warden, Jr Warden, Treasurer) on a strict as-needed basis, and Altar Guild members who set up for weekly services.

As hard as this is, we want to gently remind all of you that it is safer for everyone if you remain at home and don't come to the church right now. If you are one of the individuals noted above:

You MUST wear a face mask when entering the church, maintain 6 feet of distance from each other, wash your hands regularly and/or use hand sanitizer.

Given the size of the Administrator's Office, we ask that you enter no further than the doorway.

Face masks and hand sanitizer are available, as required, on a table to the right of the parish hall entrance door.

Plans are being made now so when it IS safe to be together again, we'll be able to do that. And as always, we'll keep you posted.

Christ Church Vestry and Rector

Christ Episcopal Church

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