

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 Seventh Sunday after Pentecost

July 19, 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:

Betty Upchurch, for serving as musician and for being so generous with her talents.

The Gathering

All stand, as able.

Processional Hymn #371

Thou, whose almighty word

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!

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.

Almighty God, the fountain of all wisdom, you know our necessities before we ask and our ignorance in asking: Have compassion on our weakness, and mercifully give us those things which for our unworthiness we dare not, and for our blindness we cannot ask; through the worthiness of your Son Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. Amen.

All are seated.

Liturgy of the Word

First Reading

Isaiah 44:6-8

Thus says the LORD, the King of Israel,
and his Redeemer, the LORD of hosts:

I am the first and I am the last;
besides me there is no god.

Who is like me? Let them proclaim it,
let them declare and set it forth before me.

Who has announced from of old the things to come?

Let them tell us what is yet to be.

Do not fear, or be afraid;

have I not told you from of old and declared it?

You are my witnesses!

Is there any god besides me?

There is no other rock; I know not one.

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

People **Thanks be to God.**

The Response

Psalm 86:11-17

Teach me your way, O Lord,

and I will walk in your truth; *

knit my heart to you that I may fear your Name.

I will thank you, O Lord my God, with all my heart, *

and glorify your Name for evermore.

For great is your love toward me; *

you have delivered me from the nethermost Pit.

The arrogant rise up against me, O God,

and a band of violent men seeks my life; *

they have not set you before their eyes.

But you, O Lord, are gracious and full of compassion, *

slow to anger, and full of kindness and truth.

Turn to me and have mercy upon me; *

give your strength to your servant;

and save the child of your handmaid.

Show me a sign of your favor,

so that those who hate me may see it and be ashamed; *

because you, O Lord, have helped me and comforted me.

The Second Reading

Romans 8:12-25

Brothers and sisters, we are debtors, not to the flesh, to live according to the flesh~ for if you live according to the flesh, you will die; but if by the Spirit you put to death the deeds of the body, you will live. For all who are led by the Spirit of God are children of God. For you did not receive a spirit of slavery to fall back into fear, but you have received a spirit of adoption. When we cry, "Abba! Father!" it is that very Spirit bearing witness with our spirit that we are children of God, and if children, then heirs, heirs of God and joint heirs with Christ~ if, in fact, we suffer with him so that we may also be glorified with him.

I consider that the sufferings of this present time are not worth comparing with the glory about to be revealed to us. For the creation waits with eager longing for the revealing of the children of God; for the creation was subjected to futility, not of its own will but by the will of the one who subjected it, in hope that the creation itself will be set free from its bondage to decay and will obtain the freedom of the glory of the children of God. We know that the whole creation has been groaning in labor pains until now; and not only the creation, but we ourselves, who have the first fruits of the Spirit, groan inwardly while we wait for adoption, the redemption of our bodies. For in hope we were saved. Now hope that is seen is not hope. For who hopes for what is seen? But if we hope for what we do not see, we wait for it with patience.

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 13:24-30,36-43

Jesus put before the crowd another parable: "The kingdom of heaven may be compared to someone who sowed good seed in his field; but while everybody was asleep, an enemy came and sowed weeds among the wheat, and then went away. So when the plants came up and bore grain, then the weeds appeared as well. And the slaves of the householder came and said to him, 'Master, did you not sow good seed in your field? Where, then, did these weeds come from?' He answered, 'An enemy has done this.' The slaves said to him, 'Then do you want us to go and gather them?' But he replied, 'No; for in gathering the weeds you would uproot the wheat along with them. Let both of them grow together until the harvest; and at harvest time I will tell the reapers, Collect the weeds first and bind them in bundles to be burned, but gather the wheat into my barn.'"

Then he left the crowds and went into the house. And his disciples approached him, saying, "Explain to us the parable of the weeds of the field." He answered, "The one who sows the good seed is the Son of Man; the field is the world, and the good seed are the children of the kingdom; the weeds are the children of the evil one, and the enemy who sowed them is the devil; the harvest is the end of the age, and the reapers are angels. Just as the weeds are collected and burned up with fire, so will it be at the end of the age. The Son of Man will send his angels, and they will collect out of his kingdom all causes of sin and all evildoers, and they will throw them into the furnace of fire, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth. Then the righteous will shine like the sun in the kingdom of their Father. Let anyone with ears listen!"

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

Form III (adapted)

Leader Father, we pray for your holy catholic Church;

People **That we all may be one.**

Leader Grant that every member of the Church may truly and humbly serve you;

People **That your Name may be glorified by all people.**

Leader We pray for all bishops, priests, and deacons...

People **That they may be faithful ministers of your Word and Sacraments.**

Leader We pray for all who govern and hold authority in the nations of the world;

People **That there may be justice and peace on the earth.**

Leader Give us grace to do your will in all that we undertake;

People **That our works may find favor in your sight.**

Leader Have compassion on those who suffer from any grief or trouble. We pray especially for...and all who suffer in silence.

People **That they may be delivered from their distress.**

Leader We give you thanks especially for...and all the blessings of this life.

People **That we may share your joy.**

Leader We praise you for your saints who have entered into joy, and for those who have died...may they rest in peace and rise in glory.

People **May we also come to share in your heavenly kingdom.**

Leader Let us pray for our own needs and those of others. We pray especially for...

Silence

Presider: O Lord our God, accept the fervent prayers of your people; in the multitude of your mercies, look with compassion upon us and all who turn to you for help; for you are gracious, O lover of souls, and to you we give glory, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, 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

Betty Upchurch

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

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

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

1 Kings 3:5-12

Psalm 119:129-136

Romans 8:26-39

Matthew 13:31-33, 44-52

Prayer List

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

Departed:

Birthdays: Kimberly Jones (July 23)

Wedding Anniversaries & Thanksgivings: Tom Dillon & Grace Mauney (July 25)

Schedule

Sunday, July 19 – The Seventh Sunday after Pentecost

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

Thursday, July 23

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

Sunday, July 26 – The Eighth 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.

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

The NC Governor has now extended Phase II until at least August 7th 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.

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

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