

# 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 Ninth Sunday after Pentecost** **August 2, 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

**The Vestry**, for providing the flowers for the altar in honor of The Rev Stephanie E. Parker.

# The Gathering

All stand, as able.

## Processional Hymn

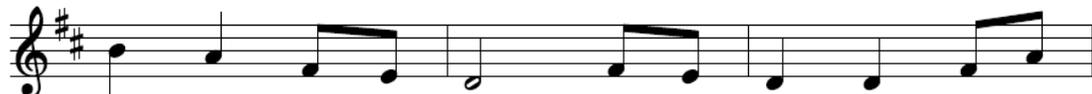
Sing a new church

{sung to the tune: Come, thou fount of every blessing}

Verses



1. Sum-moned by the God who made us Rich in  
2. Ra-diant ris-en from the wa-ter, Robed in  
3. Trust the good-ness of cre-a-tion; Trust the  
4. Bring the hopes of ev-'ry na-tion; Bring the  
5. Draw to-geth-er at one ta-ble All the

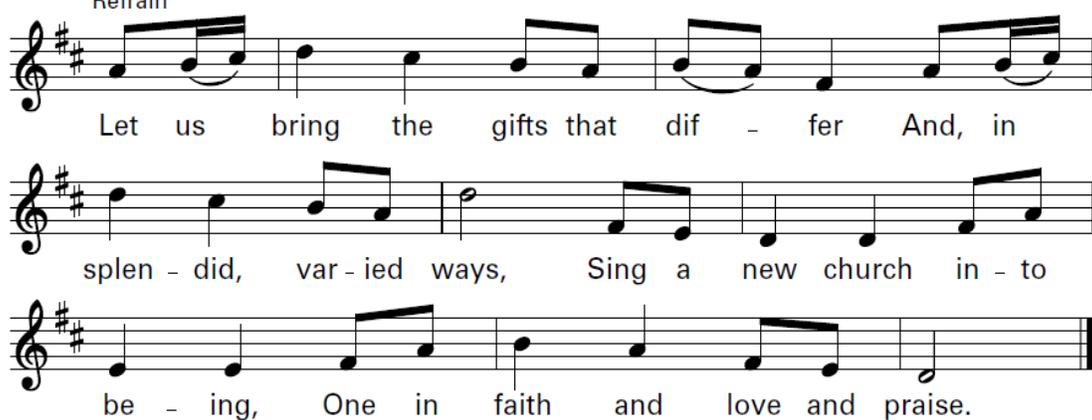


1. our di-ver-si-ty, Gath-ered in the name of  
2. ho-li-ness and light, Male and fe-male in God's  
3. Spir-it strong with-in. Dare to dream the vi-sion  
4. art of ev-'ry race. Weave a song of peace and  
5. hu-man fam-i-ly; Shape a cir-cle ev-er



1. Je-sus, Rich-er still in u-ni-ty:  
2. im-age, Male and fe-male, God's de-light:  
3. prom-ised, Sprung from seed of what has been.  
4. jus-tice; Let it sound through time and space.  
5. wid-er And a peo-ple ev-er free.

Refrain



Let us bring the gifts that dif-fer And, in  
splen-did, var-ied ways, Sing a new church in-to  
be-ing, One in faith and love and praise.

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 There is one Body and one Spirit;  
People There is one hope in God's call to us;  
Presider One Lord, one Faith, one Baptism;  
People One God and Father of all.

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.

Let your continual mercy, O Lord, cleanse and defend your Church; and, because it cannot continue in safety without your help, protect and govern it always by your goodness; 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

### Isaiah 55:1-5

Thus says the Lord:

"Ho, everyone who thirsts,  
come to the waters;  
and you that have no money,  
come, buy and eat!

Come, buy wine and milk  
without money and without price.

Why do you spend your money for that which is not bread,  
and your labor for that which does not satisfy?

Listen carefully to me, and eat what is good,  
and delight yourselves in rich food.

Incline your ear, and come to me;  
listen, so that you may live.

I will make with you an everlasting covenant,  
my steadfast, sure love for David.

See, I made him a witness to the peoples,  
a leader and commander for the peoples.

See, you shall call nations that you do not know,  
and nations that do not know you shall run to you,  
because of the LORD your God, the Holy One of Israel,  
for he has glorified you."

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

People Thanks be to God.

## The Response

### Psalm 145: 8-9, 15-22

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.

The LORD upholds all those who fall; \*  
he lifts up those who are bowed down.

The eyes of all wait upon you, O LORD, \*  
and you give them their food in due season.

You open wide your hand \*  
and satisfy the needs of every living creature.

The LORD is righteous in all his ways \*  
and loving in all his works.

The LORD is near to those who call upon him, \*  
to all who call upon him faithfully.

He fulfills the desire of those who fear him; \*  
he hears their cry and helps them.

The LORD preserves all those who love him, \*  
but he destroys all the wicked.

My mouth shall speak the praise of the LORD; \*  
let all flesh bless his holy Name for ever and ever.

## **The Second Reading**

### **Romans 9:1-5**

I am speaking the truth in Christ- I am not lying; my conscience confirms it by the Holy Spirit- I have great sorrow and unceasing anguish in my heart. For I could wish that I myself were accursed and cut off from Christ for the sake of my own people, my kindred according to the flesh. They are Israelites, and to them belong the adoption, the glory, the covenants, the giving of the law, the worship, and the promises; to them belong the patriarchs, and from them, according to the flesh, comes the Messiah, who is over all, God blessed forever. **Amen.**

**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 14:13-21**

Jesus withdrew in a boat to a deserted place by himself. But when the crowds heard it, they followed him on foot from the towns. When he went ashore, he saw a great crowd; and he had compassion for them and cured their sick. When it was evening, the disciples came to him and said, "This is a deserted place, and the hour is now late; send the crowds away so that they may go into the villages and buy food for themselves." Jesus said to them, "They need not go away; you give them something to eat." They replied, "We have nothing here but five loaves and two fish." And he said, "Bring them here to me." Then he ordered the crowds to sit down on the grass. Taking the five loaves and the two fish, he looked up to heaven, and blessed and broke the loaves, and gave them to the disciples, and the disciples gave them to the crowds. And all ate and were filled; and they took up what was left over of the broken pieces, twelve baskets full. And those who ate were about five thousand men, besides women and children.

**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, for the Prayers of the People.*

## Prayers of the People

From the rising of the sun to its setting, let us pray to the Lord.

That the people of God in all the world  
may worship in spirit and in truth,  
let us pray to the Lord:

**Your kingdom come,  
your will be done.**

That the Church may discover again that unity which is your gift, especially...  
let us pray to the Lord:

**Your kingdom come,  
your will be done.**

That the nations of the earth  
may seek after the ways that make for peace,  
let us pray to the Lord:

**Your kingdom come,  
your will be done.**

That the whole creation, groaning in travail,  
may be set free to enjoy the glorious liberty of the children of God,  
let us pray to the Lord:

**Your kingdom come,  
your will be done.**

That all who with Christ have entered the shadow of death  
may rest in peace and rise in glory, especially...  
let us pray to the Lord:

**Your kingdom come,  
your will be done.**

Let us commend the world, to which Christ showed the way,  
to the mercy and protection of God. We pray especially for...  
let us pray to the Lord

**Your kingdom come,  
your will be done.**

We give thanks for the joys of faith community, especially for...  
let us pray to the Lord

**Your kingdom come,  
your will be done.**

We give you thanks for the last four years and the time we have traveled together as Priest and People of God. We thank you for the wild beauty of the Holy Spirit who drives us into the wilderness and ministers to us in these times of transition. Grant that we may all know the peace that passes understanding and that we may trust in your goodness in all things.

**Your kingdom come,  
your will be done.**

Presider: Almighty God, you have created the heavens and the earth and made us in your own image: teach us to discern your hand in all your works and your likeness in all your children; through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord, who with you and the Holy Spirit reigns supreme over all things, 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 Ending of the Pastoral Relationship**

*Book of Occasional Services, pg. 343*

On the 30<sup>th</sup> of October, 2016, I was inducted by Bishop José McLoughlin as rector of Christ Episcopal Church. I have, with God's help and to the best of my abilities, exercised this trust, accepting its privileges and responsibilities.

After traveling the Way of Love together for four years, it is with both deep joy and deep sadness that our sacred time together has drawn to a close this day.

Presider Do you, the people of Christ Episcopal Church, recognize and accept the conclusion of this pastoral relationship?

**People We do.**

*Reverend Stephanie expresses thanksgiving for the time of the tenure, with its joys and sorrows, and state hopes for the future of the congregation.*

## Departing Reflection

The Reverend Stephanie E. Parker

*Reverend Stephanie returns the objects and symbols of her office {keys, altar book, parish register}*

**All** O God, you have bound us together for a time as priest and people to work for the advancement of your kingdom in this place: We give you humble and hearty thanks for the ministry which we have shared in these years now past.

*Silence*

**All** We thank you for your patience with us despite our blindness and slowness of heart. We thank you for your forgiveness and mercy in the face of our many failures.

*Silence*

**All** Especially we thank you for your never-failing presence with us through these years, and for the deeper knowledge of you and of each other which we have attained.

*Silence*

**All** We thank you for those who have been joined to this part of Christ's family these four years. We thank you for opening our hearts and minds again and again to your Word, and for the feeding us abundantly with the Sacrament of the Body and Blood of your Son.

*Silence*

**All** Now, we pray, be with Stephanie who leaves and with us who stay; and grant that all of us, by drawing ever nearer to you, may always be close to each other in the communion of your saints. All this we ask for the sake of Jesus Christ, your Son, our Lord. Amen.

## The Peace

**Presider** The peace of Christ be always with you.

**People** And also with you.

## Offertory

Betty Upchurch

## The Great Thanksgiving

*Please stand, as able.*

Eucharistic Prayer B, BCP 367

**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.

Through the great shepherd of your flock, Jesus Christ our Lord; who after his resurrection sent forth his apostles to preach the Gospel and to teach all nations; and promised to be with them always, even to the end of the ages.

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.**

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

Leader: Let us pray,

Almighty God, we thank you for feeding us with the holy food of the Body and Blood of your Son, and for uniting us through him in the fellowship of your Holy Spirit. We thank you for raising up among us faithful servants of your Word and Sacraments. We thank you especially for the work of The Reverend Stephanie E. Parker among us. Grant that both she and we may serve you in the days ahead, and always rejoice in your glory, and come at length into your heavenly kingdom; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

## The Blessing

The Rev. Stephanie E. Parker

May God, whose Spirit unites us and fills our hearts with joy, illumine us still, and strengthen us for the years to come.

And the blessing of God Almighty, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, be upon you and remain with you for ever. **Amen.**

*Please stand, as able.*

## The Dismissal

Presider Let us bless the Lord! Alleluia! Alleluia!

People **Thanks be to God! Alleluia! Alleluia!**

## Postlude

### Coming Lessons

1 Kings 19:9-18

Psalm 85:8-13

Romans 10:5-15

Matthew 14:22-33

## Prayer List

**Intercessions:** Amy Jones, Ben & Laura Davis, Brenda Weems, Carolyn Duranko, Chuck & Sally Besaw, David J., Father Stan McGraw & Jean McGraw, Fred Pfaender, Jean Callison, Jonathan, Julie Ottesen, Lorene Ramsey, Martha Willie Coleman, and Robert, Marybeth & family following the death of Marybeth's sister, Kathleen Howard. Also, pray for all those affected by the COVID-19 epidemic.

**Departed:** Kathleen Howard (Marybeth's sister)

**Birthdays:**

**Wedding Anniversaries & Thanksgivings:**

## Schedule

### **Sunday, August 2 – The Ninth Sunday after Pentecost**

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

12:00 – 1:30 pm – DRIVE-BY Goodbye with Reverend Stephanie

### **Sunday, August 9 – The Tenth Sunday after Pentecost**

10:30 am – Morning Prayer: Rite Two – via YouTube & Facebook

## Announcements

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

The NC Governor has now **extended Phase II until at least August 7<sup>th</sup>** when the infection/death numbers would have to stabilize or decrease in NC. It is 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

# Thank you, Rector Stephanie!



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