

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.



Morning Prayer: Rite Two

The Fourteenth Sunday after Pentecost

September 6, 2020 – 10:30 AM

The Rt. Rev José McLoughlin
Bishop of Western North Carolina

Jann Boggs
Senior Warden

Welcome to Christ Episcopal Church

We are delighted God has brought you to this special place.

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 email our office at ccepisopal@skybest.com with your name and contact information, and 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.

Newsletter: Sign-up today to receive our electronic newsletter, the weekly *Good News & Notes*. Email the church office at ccepisopal@skybest.com.

We extend special thanks today to:

Jann Boggs, for leading us in worship this morning,

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

Mary Lee Joines, for providing flowers for the altar in memory of her mother, Ethel Marie
Burton Lee.

Social media: Please join us for online worship by visiting our Facebook page or our YouTube page at Church Episcopal Church – Sparta, North Carolina.

And for more information about Christ Church, please visit our website – christchurchallegghany.com.

The Gathering

Prelude

Processional Hymn #657

Love divine, all loves excelling

1 Love di - vine, all loves ex - cell - ing, joy of heaven, to
2 Come, al - might - y to de - liv - er, let us all thy
3 Fi - nish then thy new cre - a - tion; pure and spot - less

earth come down, fix in us thy hum - ble dwell - ing, all thy
life re - ceive; sud - den - ly re - turn, and nev - er, nev - er -
let us be; let us see thy great sal - va - tion per - fect -

faith - ful mer - cies crown. Je - sus, thou art all com - pas - sion,
more thy tem - ples leave. Thee we would be al - way bless - ing,
ly re - stored in thee: changed from glo - ry in - to glo - ry,

pure, un - bound - ed love thou art; vis - it us with
serve thee as thy hosts a - bove, pray, and praise thee
till in heaven we take our place, till we cast our

thy sal - va - tion, en - ter ev - ery trem - bling heart.
with - out ceas - ing, glo - ry in thy per - fect love.
crowns be - fore thee, lost in won - der, love, and praise.

Opening Acclamation

Leader I was glad when they said to me,
People **“Let us go to the house of the Lord.”**

Confession of Sin

Leader Dearly beloved, we have come together in the presence of Almighty God our heavenly Father, to set forth his praise, to hear his holy Word, and to ask, for ourselves and on behalf of others, those things that are necessary for our life and our salvation. And so that we may prepare ourselves in heart and mind to worship him, let us kneel in silence, and with penitent and obedient hearts confess our sins, that we may obtain forgiveness by his infinite goodness and mercy.

Silence.

Leader Most merciful God,
People **we confess that we have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done, and by what we have left undone. We have not loved you with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. We are truly sorry and we humbly repent. For the sake of your Son Jesus Christ, have mercy on us and forgive us; that we may delight in your will, and walk in your ways, to the glory of your Name. Amen.**

Leader Almighty God have mercy on us, forgive us all our sins through our Lord Jesus Christ, strengthen us in all goodness, and by the power of the Holy Spirit keep us in eternal life. **Amen.**

Leader Lord, open our lips.
People **And our mouth shall proclaim your praise.**

All **Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit: as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be for ever. Amen.**
Alleluia.

Christ our Passover

Alleluia.

Christ our Passover has been sacrificed for us;*
therefore let us keep the feast,
Not with the old leaven, the leaven of malice and evil,*
but with the unleavened bread of sincerity and truth. **Alleluia.**

Christ being raised from the dead will never die again;*
death no longer has dominion over him.
The death that he died, he died to sin, once for all;*
but the life he lives, he lives to God.

So also consider yourselves dead to sin,*
and alive to God in Jesus Christ our Lord. Alleluia.

Christ has been raised from the dead,*
the first fruits of those who have fallen asleep.
For since by a man came death,*
by a man has come also the resurrection of the dead.
For as in Adam all die,*
so also in Christ shall all be made alive. Alleluia.

Liturgy of the Word

A Reading from Ezekiel 33:7-11

You, mortal, I have made a sentinel for the house of Israel; whenever you hear a word from my mouth, you shall give them warning from me. If I say to the wicked, “O wicked ones, you shall surely die,” and you do not speak to warn the wicked to turn from their ways, the wicked shall die in their iniquity, but their blood I will require at your hand. But if you warn the wicked to turn from their ways, and they do not turn from their ways, the wicked shall die in their iniquity, but you will have saved your life.

Now you, mortal, say to the house of Israel, Thus you have said: “Our transgressions and our sins weigh upon us, and we waste away because of them; how then can we live?” Say to them, As I live, says the Lord GOD, I have no pleasure in the death of the wicked, but that the wicked turn from their ways and live; turn back, turn back from your evil ways; for why will you die, O house of Israel?

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

Psalm 119:33-40

Teach me, O LORD, the way of your statutes, *
and I shall keep it to the end.
Give me understanding, and I shall keep your law; *
I shall keep it with all my heart.
Make me go in the path of your commandments, *
for that is my desire.
Incline my heart to your decrees *
and not to unjust gain.
Turn my eyes from watching what is worthless; *
give me life in your ways.
Fulfill your promise to your servant, *
which you make to those who fear you.

Turn away the reproach which I dread, *
because your judgments are good.

Behold, I long for your commandments; *
in your righteousness preserve my life.

The Third Song of Isaiah 60:1-3, 11a, 14c, 18-19

Arise, shine, for your light has come, *
and the glory of the Lord has dawned upon you.

For behold, darkness covers the land; *
deep gloom enshrouds the peoples.

But over you the Lord will rise, *
and his glory will appear upon you.

Nations will stream to your light, *
and kings to the brightness of your dawning.

Your gates will always be open; *
by day or night they will never be shut.

They will call you, The City of the Lord, *
The Zion of the Holy One of Israel.

Violence will no more be heard in your land, *
ruin or destruction within your borders.

You will call your walls, Salvation, *
and all your portals, Praise.

The sun will no more be your light by day; *
by night you will not need the brightness of the moon.

The Lord will be your everlasting light, *
and your God will be your glory.

Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit: *
As it was in the beginning, is now, and will be for ever. Amen.

Silence.

The Second Reading

Romans 13:8-14

Owe no one anything, except to love one another; for the one who loves another has fulfilled the law. The commandments, “You shall not commit adultery; You shall not murder; You shall not steal; You shall not covet”; and any other commandment, are summed up in this word, “Love your neighbor as yourself.” Love does no wrong to a neighbor; therefore, love is the fulfilling of the law.

Besides this, you know what time it is, how it is now the moment for you to wake from sleep. For salvation is nearer to us now than when we became believers; the night is far gone, the day is near. Let us then lay aside the works of darkness and put on the armor of light; let us live honorably as in the day, not in reveling and drunkenness, not in debauchery and licentiousness, not in quarreling

and jealousy. Instead, put on the Lord Jesus Christ, and make no provision for the flesh, to gratify its desires.

Reader The Word of the Lord.

People Thanks be to God.

The Song of Zechariah – Luke 1:68-79

Blessed be the Lord, the God of Israel;*

he has come to his people and set them free.

He has raised up for us a mighty savior,*

born of the house of his servant David.

Through his holy prophets he promised of old,

that he would save us from our enemies,*

from the hands of all who hate us.

He promised to show mercy to our fathers*

and to remember his holy covenant.

This was the oath he swore to our father Abraham,*

to set us free from the hands of our enemies,

Free to worship him without fear,*

holy and righteous in his sight

all the days of our life.

You, my child, shall be called the prophet of the Most High,*

for you will go before the Lord to prepare his way,

To give his people knowledge of salvation*

by the forgiveness of their sins.

In the tender compassion of our God*

the dawn from on high shall break upon us,

To shine on those who dwell in darkness and the shadow of death,*

and to guide our feet into the way of peace.

Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit:*

as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be for ever. Amen.

A Reading from the Gospel of Matthew

Matthew 18:15-20

Jesus said, “If another member of the church sins against you, go and point out the fault when the two of you are alone. If the member listens to you, you have regained that one. But if you are not listened to, take one or two others along with you, so that every word may be confirmed by the evidence of two or three witnesses. If the member refuses to listen to them, tell it to the church; and if the offender refuses to listen even to the church, let such a one be to you as a Gentile and a tax collector. Truly I tell you, whatever you bind on earth will be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth will be loosed in heaven. Again, truly I tell you, if two of you agree on earth about

anything you ask, it will be done for you by my Father in heaven. For where two or three are gathered in my name, I am there among them.”

Reader The Word of the Lord.

People Thanks be to God.

Reflections

Jann Boggs

Silence.

The Apostles' Creed

I believe in God, the Father almighty,
creator of heaven and earth.

I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord.

He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit
and born of the Virgin Mary.

He suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, died, and was buried.

He descended to the dead.

On the third day he rose again.

He ascended into heaven,
and is seated at the right hand of the Father.

He will come again to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the holy catholic Church,
the communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body,
and the life everlasting. Amen.

The Prayers

Leader The Lord be with you.

People And also with you.

Leader Let us 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.

Show us your mercy, O Lord;
And grant us your salvation.
Clothe your ministers with righteousness;
Let your people sing with joy.
Give peace, O Lord, in all the world;
For only in you can we live in safety.
Lord, keep this nation under your care:
And guide us in the way of justice and truth.
Let your way be known upon earth;
Your saving health among all nations.
Let not the needy, O Lord, be forgotten;
Nor the hope of the poor be taken away.
Create in us clean hearts, O God;
And sustain us with your Holy Spirit.

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 created and deemed very good. Help us, we pray, to do as you have commanded and care for our planet the way you care for us.

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.

Leader: Gracious God, whom Jesus taught us to call Abba, Father, 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.**

The Collect for Sundays

Leader The Lord be with you.

People And also with you.

Leader Let us pray,

O God, you make us glad with the weekly remembrance of the glorious resurrection of your Son our Lord: Give us this day such blessing through our worship of you, that the week to come may be spent in your favor; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

The Collect for Peace

O God, the author of peace and lover of concord, to know you is eternal life and to serve you is perfect freedom: Defend us, your humble servants, in all assaults of our enemies; that we, surely trusting in your defense, may not fear the power of any adversaries; through the might of Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Prayer for Mission

O God, you have made of one blood all the peoples of the earth, and sent your blessed Son to preach peace to those who are far off and to those who are near: Grant that people everywhere may seek after you and find you; bring the nations into your fold; pour out your Spirit upon all flesh; and hasten the coming of your kingdom; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

A General Thanksgiving

Please stand, as able, and read in unison.

BCP 836

Accept, O Lord, our thanks and praise for all that you have done for us. We thank you for the splendor of the whole creation, for the beauty of this world, for the wonder of life, and for the mystery of love.

We thank you for the blessing of family and friends, and for the loving care which surrounds us on every side.

We thank you for setting us at tasks which demand our best efforts, and for leading us to accomplishments which satisfy and delight us.

We thank you also for those disappointments and failures that lead us to acknowledge our dependence on you alone.

Above all, we thank you for your Son Jesus Christ; for the truth of his Word and the example of his life; for his steadfast obedience, by which he overcame temptation; for his dying, through which he overcame death; and for his rising to life again, in which we are raised to the life of your kingdom.

Grant us the gift of your Spirit, that we may know Christ and make him known; and through him, at all times and in all places, may give thanks to you in all things. Amen.

The Blessing

Leader Let us pray,
Almighty God, you have given us grace at this time with one accord to make our common supplication to you; and you have promised through your well-beloved Son that when two or three are gathered together in his Name you will be in the midst of them: Fulfill now, O Lord, our desires and petitions as may be best for us; granting us in this world knowledge of your truth, and in the age to come life everlasting. **Amen.**

Leader Let us bless the Lord. Alleluia, alleluia.

People Thanks be to God. Alleluia, alleluia.

The Dismissal

Leader May the God of hope fill us with all joy and peace in believing through the power of the Holy Spirit. **Amen.**

Postlude

Laura Davis

Coming Lessons

Genesis 50:15-21

Psalm 103:1-13

Romans 14:1-12

Matthew 18:21-35

Prayer List

- Intercessions:** Amy Jones, Ben & Laura Davis, Brenda Weems, Carolyn Duranko, Chuck & Sally Besaw, David Joines, Family of Dean Stoker, Jann Boggs, Jean Callison, Jonathan, Julie Ottesen, Lorene Ramsey, Martha Willie Coleman, Sheila Pfaender, and Smitty Hughes (Charles Besaw's friend). We also pray for all those affected by the COVID-19 epidemic, those affected by the recent earthquake, those affected by the fires in the West, and the hurricanes in the Gulf area.
- Departed:** Dean Stoker (Gary Medley's friend)
- Birthdays:** Fonda Hale (September 6)
- Wedding Anniversaries & Thanksgivings:**

Schedule

Sunday, September 6 – Fourteenth Sunday after Pentecost

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

Sunday, September 13 – The Fifteenth Sunday after Pentecost

10:30 am – Holy Eucharist with The Rev. Martha Honaker – via YouTube & Facebook

Announcements

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

The NC Governor has **extended Phase II until the middle of September** 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. With the rising numbers of positive cases in our county, it is even more important that we follow state guidelines and mandates.

Again, guidelines from the National and Diocesan office ask that no one come into the church building 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 building, 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

Christ Episcopal Church

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