

# 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 Fifteenth Sunday after Pentecost September 13, 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](mailto: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](mailto:ccepisopal@skybest.com).

**We extend special thanks today to:**

**The Rev. Martha Honaker**, for leading us in worship this morning, and  
**Laura Davis**, for serving as musician and for being so generous with her talents.

**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 – [christchurchallegany.com](http://christchurchallegany.com).

# The Gathering

## Prelude

Laura Davis

All stand, as able.

## Processional Hymn #400, vss 1-4

All creatures of our God and King



- 1 All crea - tures of our God and King, lift up your voic - es, let us
- \*2 Great rush - ing winds and breez - es soft, you clouds that ride the heavens a -
- \*3 Swift flow - ing wa - ter, pure and clear, make mu - sic for your Lord to
- 4 Dear mo - ther earth, you day by day un - fold your bless - ings on our
- 5 All you with mer - cy in your heart, for - giv - ing o - thers, take your
- \*6 And ev - en you, most gen - tle death, wait - ing to hush our fi - nal
- 7 Let all things their cre - a - tor bless, and wor - ship him in hum - ble -



- 1 sing: Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia! Bright burn - ing
- 2 loft, O — praise him, Al - le - lu - ia! Fair ris - ing
- 3 hear, Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia! Fire, so in -
- 4 way, O — praise him, Al - le - lu - ia! All flowers and
- 5 part, O — sing now: Al - le - lu - ia! All you that
- 6 breath, O — praise him, Al - le - lu - ia! You lead back
- 7 ness, O — praise him, Al - le - lu - ia! Praise God the



- 1 sun with gold - en beams, pale sil - ver moon that gen - tly gleams,
- 2 morn, with praise re - joice, stars night - ly shin - ing, find a voice,
- 3 tense and fierce - ly bright, you give to us both warmth and light,
- 4 fruits that in you grow, let them his glo - ry al - so show:
- 5 pain and sor - row bear, praise God, and cast on him your care:
- 6 home the child of God, for Christ our Lord that way has trod:
- 7 Fa - ther, praise the Son, and praise the Spi - rit, Three in One:

### Refrain



O praise him, O praise him, Al - le - lu - ia,



al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia!

*The refrain may be sung antiphonally, by phrase; all join in the final Alleluia.*

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, because without you we are not able to please you, mercifully grant that your Holy Spirit may in all things direct and rule our hearts; through 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

### Genesis 50:15-21

Realizing that their father was dead, Joseph's brothers said, "What if Joseph still bears a grudge against us and pays us back in full for all the wrong that we did to him?" So they approached Joseph, saying, "Your father gave this instruction before he died, 'Say to Joseph: I beg you, forgive the crime of your brothers and the wrong they did in harming you.' Now therefore please forgive the crime of the servants of the God of your father." Joseph wept when they spoke to him. Then his brothers also wept, fell down before him, and said, "We are here as your slaves." But Joseph said to them, "Do not be afraid! Am I in the place of God? Even though you intended to do harm to me, God intended it for good, in order to preserve a numerous people, as he is doing today. So have no fear; I myself will provide for you and your little ones." In this way he reassured them, speaking kindly to them.

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

People        Thanks be to God.

## The Response

### Psalm 103:1-13

Bless the LORD, O my soul, \*  
and all that is within me, bless his holy Name.

Bless the LORD, O my soul, \*  
and forget not all his benefits.

He forgives all your sins \*  
and heals all your infirmities;

He redeems your life from the grave \*  
and crowns you with mercy and loving-kindness;

He satisfies you with good things, \*  
and your youth is renewed like an eagle's.

The LORD executes righteousness \*  
and judgment for all who are oppressed.

He made his ways known to Moses \*  
and his works to the children of Israel.

The LORD is full of compassion and mercy, \*  
slow to anger and of great kindness.

He will not always accuse us, \*  
nor will he keep his anger for ever.

He has not dealt with us according to our sins, \*  
nor rewarded us according to our wickedness.

For as the heavens are high above the earth, \*  
so is his mercy great upon those who fear him.

As far as the east is from the west, \*  
so far has he removed our sins from us.

As a father cares for his children, \*  
so does the LORD care for those who fear him.

## **The Second Reading**

### **Romans 14:1-12**

Welcome those who are weak in faith, but not for the purpose of quarreling over opinions. Some believe in eating anything, while the weak eat only vegetables. Those who eat must not despise those who abstain, and those who abstain must not pass judgment on those who eat; for God has welcomed them. Who are you to pass judgment on servants of another? It is before their own lord that they stand or fall. And they will be upheld, for the Lord is able to make them stand.

Some judge one day to be better than another, while others judge all days to be alike. Let all be fully convinced in their own minds. Those who observe the day, observe it in honor of the Lord. Also those who eat, eat in honor of the Lord, since they give thanks to God; while those who abstain, abstain in honor of the Lord and give thanks to God.

We do not live to ourselves, and we do not die to ourselves. If we live, we live to the Lord, and if we die, we die to the Lord; so then, whether we live or whether we die, we are the Lord's. For to this end Christ died and lived again, so that he might be Lord of both the dead and the living.

Why do you pass judgment on your brother or sister? Or you, why do you despise your brother or sister? For we will all stand before the judgment seat of God. For it is written,

"As I live, says the Lord, every knee shall bow to me,  
and every tongue shall give praise to God."

So then, each of us will be accountable to God.

**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 18:21-35**

Peter came and said to Jesus, "Lord, if another member of the church sins against me, how often should I forgive? As many as seven times?" Jesus said to him, "Not seven times, but I tell you, seventy-seven times.

"For this reason the kingdom of heaven may be compared to a king who wished to settle accounts with his slaves. When he began the reckoning, one who owed him ten thousand talents was brought to him; and, as he could not pay, his lord ordered him to be sold, together with his wife and children and all his possessions, and payment to be made. So the slave fell on his knees before him, saying, 'Have patience with me, and I will pay you everything.' And out of pity for him, the lord of that slave

released him and forgave him the debt. But that same slave, as he went out, came upon one of his fellow slaves who owed him a hundred denarii; and seizing him by the throat, he said, 'Pay what you owe.' Then his fellow slave fell down and pleaded with him, 'Have patience with me, and I will pay you.' But he refused; then he went and threw him into prison until he would pay the debt. When his fellow slaves saw what had happened, they were greatly distressed, and they went and reported to their lord all that had taken place. Then his lord summoned him and said to him, 'You wicked slave! I forgave you all that debt because you pleaded with me. Should you not have had mercy on your fellow slave, as I had mercy on you?' And in anger his lord handed him over to be tortured until he would pay his entire debt. So my heavenly Father will also do to every one of you, if you do not forgive your brother or sister from your heart."

**Presider**      The Gospel of the Lord.

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

*All are seated.*

**The Sermon**

The Rev. Martha Honaker

*A time of silence following the sermon.*

*Please stand or kneel, as able, for the Nicene Creed.*

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

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...*especially our Presiding Bishop Michael, our Bishop José and The Reverend Martha Honaker.*

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... We give thanks for all those named 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.**

## Interlude

Laura Davis

## 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 to 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.*

### 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. Martha Honaker

*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

Laura Davis

## Coming Lessons

Jonah 3:10-4:11  
Psalm 145:1-8  
Philippians 1:21-30  
Matthew 20:1-16

## Schedule

### Sunday, September 13 – The Fifteenth Sunday after Pentecost

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

### Sunday, September 20 – The Sixteenth Sunday after Pentecost

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

## Prayer List

**Intercessions:** Amy Jones, Ben & Laura Davis, Brenda Weems, Chuck & Sally Besaw, Family of Dean Stoker, Jann Boggs, Jean Callison, Jonathan, Julie Ottesen, Lorene Ramsey, Martha Willie Coleman, Sheila Pfaender, and Smitty Hughes (Chuck Besaw's friend). Also, pray for all those affected by the COVID-19 epidemic, the earthquake here, the fires in the West and the hurricanes in the Gulf area. And we pray for Christ Church, its leadership & ministry teams.

### Departed:

**Birthdays:** Sally Williamson (Sept 14), Larry Seckel (Sept 16), Pat Bassett (Sept 18)

### Wedding Anniversaries & Thanksgivings:

## 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**

2543 US Highway 21 South,

PO Box 1866, Sparta,

North Carolina 28675

Office: 336.372.7983

Email: [ccepiscopal@skybest.com](mailto:ccepiscopal@skybest.com)

Website: [christchurchallegghany.org](http://christchurchallegghany.org)

Office hours: Monday-Thursday, 11:30 am – 3:30 pm

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