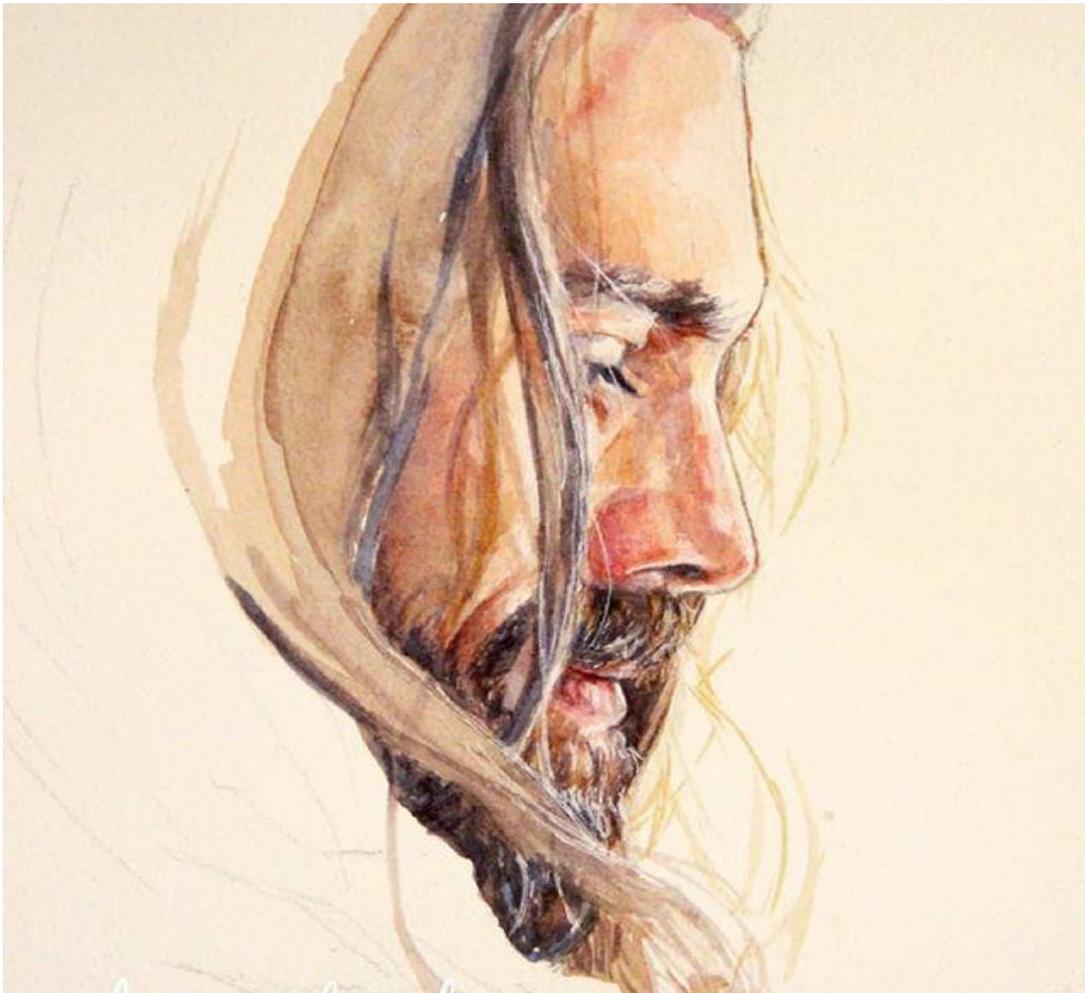


# Christ Episcopal Church

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 Seventeenth Sunday after Pentecost**

**September 27, 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 #411

*O bless the Lord, my soul!*

1 O bless the Lord, my soul! His grace to thee pro - claim!  
2 O bless the Lord, my soul! His mer - cies bear in mind!  
3 He will not al - ways chide; he will with pa - tience wait;  
4 He par - dons all thy sins, pro - longs thy fee - ble breath;  
5 He clothes thee with his love, up - holds thee with his truth;

1 And all that is with - in me join to bless his ho - ly Name!  
2 For - get not all his ben - e - fits! The Lord to thee is kind.  
3 his wrath is ev - er slow to rise and rea - dy to a - bate.  
4 he heal - eth thine in - fir - mi - ties and ran - soms thee from death.  
5 and like the ea - gle he re - news the vi - gor of thy youth.

- 6 Then bless his holy Name,  
whose grace hath made thee whole,  
whose loving-kindness crowns thy days:  
O bless the Lord, my soul!

*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 declare your almighty power chiefly in showing mercy and pity: Grant us the fullness of your grace, that we, running to obtain your promises, may become partakers of your heavenly treasure; 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

**Ezekiel 18:1-4,25-32**

The word of the Lord came to me: What do you mean by repeating this proverb concerning the land of Israel, "The parents have eaten sour grapes, and the children's teeth are set on edge"? As I live, says the Lord God, this proverb shall no more be used by you in Israel. Know that all lives are mine; the life of the parent as well as the life of the child is mine: it is only the person who sins that shall die.

Yet you say, "The way of the Lord is unfair." Hear now, O house of Israel: Is my way unfair? Is it not your ways that are unfair? When the righteous turn away from their righteousness and commit iniquity, they shall die for it; for the iniquity that they have committed they shall die. Again, when the wicked turn away from the wickedness they have committed and do what is lawful and right, they shall save their life. Because they considered and turned away from all the transgressions that they

had committed, they shall surely live; they shall not die. Yet the house of Israel says, "The way of the Lord is unfair." O house of Israel, are my ways unfair? Is it not your ways that are unfair?

Therefore I will judge you, O house of Israel, all of you according to your ways, says the Lord God. Repent and turn from all your transgressions; otherwise iniquity will be your ruin. Cast away from you all the transgressions that you have committed against me, and get yourselves a new heart and a new spirit! Why will you die, O house of Israel? For I have no pleasure in the death of anyone, says the Lord God. Turn, then, and live.

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

People Thanks be to God.

## The Response

### Psalm 25:1-8

To you, O Lord, I lift up my soul;  
my God, I put my trust in you; \*  
let me not be humiliated,  
nor let my enemies triumph over me.

Let none who look to you be put to shame; \*  
let the treacherous be disappointed in their schemes.

Show me your ways, O Lord, \*  
and teach me your paths.

Lead me in your truth and teach me, \*  
for you are the God of my salvation;  
in you have I trusted all the day long.

Remember, O Lord, your compassion and love, \*  
for they are from everlasting.

Remember not the sins of my youth and my transgressions; \*  
remember me according to your love  
and for the sake of your goodness, O Lord.

Gracious and upright is the Lord; \*  
therefore he teaches sinners in his way.

He guides the humble in doing right \*  
and teaches his way to the lowly.

## The Second Reading

### Philippians 2:1-13

If then there is any encouragement in Christ, any consolation from love, any sharing in the Spirit, any compassion and sympathy, make my joy complete: be of the same mind, having the same love, being in full accord and of one mind. Do nothing from selfish ambition or conceit, but in humility regard others as better than yourselves. Let each of you look not to your own interests, but to the interests of others. Let the same mind be in you that was in Christ Jesus,

who, though he was in the form of God,  
did not regard equality with God  
as something to be exploited,  
but emptied himself,  
taking the form of a slave,  
being born in human likeness.  
And being found in human form,  
he humbled himself  
and became obedient to the point of death—  
even death on a cross.  
Therefore God also highly exalted him  
and gave him the name  
that is above every name,  
so that at the name of Jesus  
every knee should bend,  
in heaven and on earth and under the earth,  
and every tongue should confess  
that Jesus Christ is Lord,  
to the glory of God the Father.

Therefore, my beloved, just as you have always obeyed me, not only in my presence, but much more now in my absence, work out your own salvation with fear and trembling; for it is God who is at work in you, enabling you both to will and to work for his good pleasure.

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 21:23-32**

When Jesus entered the temple, the chief priests and the elders of the people came to him as he was teaching, and said, "By what authority are you doing these things, and who gave you this authority?" Jesus said to them, "I will also ask you one question; if you tell me the answer, then I will also tell you by what authority I do these things. Did the baptism of John come from heaven, or was it of human origin?" And they argued with one another, "If we say, 'From heaven,' he will say to us, 'Why then did you not believe him?' But if we say, 'Of human origin,' we are afraid of the crowd; for all regard John as a prophet." So they answered Jesus, "We do not know." And he said to them, "Neither will I tell you by what authority I am doing these things.

"What do you think? A man had two sons; he went to the first and said, 'Son, go and work in the vineyard today.' He answered, 'I will not'; but later he changed his mind and went. The father went to the second and said the same; and he answered, 'I go, sir'; but he did not go. Which of the two did the will of his father?" They said, "The first." Jesus said to them, "Truly I tell you, the tax collectors

and the prostitutes are going into the kingdom of God ahead of you. For John came to you in the way of righteousness and you did not believe him, but the tax collectors and the prostitutes believed him; and even after you saw it, you did not change your minds and believe him.

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.

## 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**

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

Isaiah 5:1-7  
Psalm 80:7-14  
Philippians 3:4b-14  
Matthew 21:33-46

## Schedule

**Sunday, September 27 – The Seventeenth Sunday after Pentecost**

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

**Sunday, October 4 – The Eighteenth Sunday after Pentecost**

10:30 am – Holy Eucharist with The Rev. Mike Tanner – via YouTube & Facebook

## Prayer List

**Intercessions:** Amy Jones, Ben & Laura Davis, Brenda Weems, Chuck & Sally Besaw, Frank Withrow (Laura Davis' brother-in-law), Gina Davis, Jann Boggs, Jean Callison, Jonathan, Julie Ottesen, Laura, Lorene Ramsey, Martha Willie Coleman, Nancy Meredith (Laura Davis' sister), Ned Lentz, 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:**

**Wedding Anniversaries & Thanksgivings:**

## Announcements

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

As of September 4, 2020, the NC Governor has moved North Carolinians into Phase 2.5 of restrictions. This means that the number of individuals that gather either indoors or outdoors has increased, more businesses are able to reopen, and wearing a face mask remains mandatory.

The National and Diocesan offices have not released any updated restrictions to-date but continue to 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

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*Cover art: Jesus Christ by Justine Peterson*