

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 Twenty-First Sunday after Pentecost

October 25, 2020 – 10:30 AM

The Rt. Rev José McLoughlin
Bishop of Western North Carolina

Jann Boggs, Senior Warden

The Reverend Michael Tanner, Guest Celebrant

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 ccepiscopal@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 ccepiscopal@skybest.com.

We extend special thanks today to:

The Rev. Mike Tanner, for leading us in worship this morning,

Tom Dillon, for sharing his stewardship story,

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

Jann Boggs, for the flowers at the altar in loving memory of her & Vilder's wedding anniversary.

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.

Christ Episcopal Church

2543 US Highway 21 South

PO Box 1866

Sparta, North Carolina 28675

Office: 336.372.7983

Email: ccepiscopal@skybest.com

Office hours: Monday-Thursday, 8:30 am – 12:30 pm

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The Gathering

Prelude

Betty Upchurch

All stand, as able.

Processional Hymn #529

In Christ there is no East or West

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 (spoken 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 and everlasting God, increase in us the gifts of faith, hope, and charity; and, that we may
obtain what you promise, make us love what you command; 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

Leviticus 19:1-2,15-18

The LORD spoke to Moses, saying:

Speak to all the congregation of the people of Israel and say to them: You shall be holy, for I the LORD your God am holy.

You shall not render an unjust judgment; you shall not be partial to the poor or defer to the great: with justice you shall judge your neighbor. You shall not go around as a slanderer among your people, and you shall not profit by the blood of your neighbor: I am the LORD.

You shall not hate in your heart anyone of your kin; you shall reprove your neighbor, or you will incur guilt yourself. You shall not take vengeance or bear a grudge against any of your people, but you shall love your neighbor as yourself: I am the LORD.

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

People Thanks be to God.

The Response

Psalm 1

Happy are they who have not walked in the counsel of the wicked, *
nor lingered in the way of sinners,
nor sat in the seats of the scornful!

Their delight is in the law of the LORD, *
and they meditate on his law day and night.

They are like trees planted by streams of water,
bearing fruit in due season, with leaves that do not wither; *
everything they do shall prosper.

It is not so with the wicked; *
they are like chaff which the wind blows away.

Therefore the wicked shall not stand upright when judgment comes, *
nor the sinner in the council of the righteous.

For the LORD knows the way of the righteous, *
but the way of the wicked is doomed.

The Second Reading

1 Thessalonians 2:1-8

You yourselves know, brothers and sisters, that our coming to you was not in vain, but though we had already suffered and been shamefully mistreated at Philippi, as you know, we had courage in our God to declare to you the gospel of God in spite of great opposition. For our appeal does not spring from deceit or impure motives or trickery, but just as we have been approved by God to be entrusted with the message of the gospel, even so we speak, not to please mortals, but to please God who tests our hearts. As you know and as God is our witness, we never came with words of flattery or with a

pretext for greed; nor did we seek praise from mortals, whether from you or from others, though we might have made demands as apostles of Christ. But we were gentle among you, like a nurse tenderly caring for her own children. So deeply do we care for you that we are determined to share with you not only the gospel of God but also our own selves, because you have become very dear to us.

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 22:34-46

When the Pharisees heard that Jesus had silenced the Sadducees, they gathered together, and one of them, a lawyer, asked him a question to test him. "Teacher, which commandment in the law is the greatest?" He said to him, "You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your mind.' This is the greatest and first commandment. And a second is like it: 'You shall love your neighbor as yourself.' On these two commandments hang all the law and the prophets."

Now while the Pharisees were gathered together, Jesus asked them this question: "What do you think of the Messiah? Whose son is he?" They said to him, "The son of David." He said to them, "How is it then that David by the Spirit calls him Lord, saying,

'The Lord said to my Lord,
'Sit at my right hand,
until I put your enemies under your feet'?"

If David thus calls him Lord, how can he be his son?" No one was able to give him an answer, nor from that day did anyone dare to ask him any more questions.

Presider The Gospel of the Lord.

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

All are seated.

The Sermon

The Rev. Mike Tanner

A time of silence following the sermon.

Please stand or kneel, as able.

The Nicene Creed

We believe in one God,
the Father, the Almighty,
maker of heaven and earth,
of all that is, seen and unseen.

We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ,
the only Son of God,
eternally begotten of the Father,
God from God, Light from Light,
true God from true God,
begotten, not made,
of one Being with the Father.

Through him all things were made.

For us and for our salvation

he came down from heaven:

by the power of the Holy Spirit

he became incarnate from the Virgin Mary,
and was made man.

For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate;

he suffered death and was buried.

On the third day he rose again

in accordance with the Scriptures;

he ascended into heaven

and is seated at the right hand of the Father.

He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead,
and his kingdom will have no end.

We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life,
who proceeds from the Father and the Son.

With the Father and the Son he is worshiped and glorified.

He has spoken through the Prophets.

We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic Church.

We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins.

We look for the resurrection of the dead,

and the life of the world to come. Amen.

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 Mike Tanner.*

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.**

Please remain standing or kneeling, as able.

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

Please stand, as able.

Presider All things come of thee, O Lord.
People **And of thine own have we given thee.**

The Great Thanksgiving

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.

For by water and the Holy Spirit you have made us a new people in Jesus Christ our Lord, to show forth your glory in all the world. 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 (spoken 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.**

The Breaking of the Bread

Presider Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us;
People therefore let us keep the feast.

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.

Presider: The gifts of God for the People of God; God's holy food, for God's holy people.
All who seek God and are drawn to Christ are welcome at the Lord's Table.

Communion Music

Betty Upchurch

Stand or kneel, as able.

Post Communion Prayer

BCP 366

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. Mike Tanner

Please stand, as able.

The Dismissal

Presider Let us go forth rejoicing in the power of the Holy Spirit!
People Thanks be to God!

Postlude

Betty Upchurch

Coming Lessons

Revelations 7:9-17

Psalm 34:1-10, 22

1 John 3:1-3

Matthew 5:1-12

Schedule

Sunday, October 25 – The Twenty-First Sunday after Pentecost

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

Sunday, November 1 – The Twenty-Second 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, Donna Hohnstein (Jann Bogg's cousin), Frank Withrow (Laura Davis' brother-in-law), Gary Medley, Grace Mauney, Jann Boggs, Jean Callison, Jonathan, Julie Ottesen, Laura, Lorene Ramsey, Margaret Blanck, Marybeth Lentz, Martha Willie Coleman, Nancy Meredith (Laura Davis' sister), and Smitty Hughes (Chuck Besaw's friend). Also, pray for all those affected by the COVID-19 pandemic and all the natural disasters around the world. And we pray for Christ Church, its leadership & ministry teams.

Departed:

Birthdays: Ann Hazard (October 26)

Wedding Anniversaries & Thanksgivings:

Announcements

****NEW**Office and Church Guidelines during Phase III of COVID-19:**

If you come into the church, you must wear a face mask, 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.

“In-person” services resumed this week and will continue on Thursday mornings to allow time for recording/sharing with those who don't attend. Attendees are asked to contact the church office to “reserve” a seat and to arrive by 10:30 am.

Please read the Good News & Notes weekly for more updates.

Freely giving our all to God

“Teacher, which commandment in the law is the greatest?” Jesus said to him, “ ‘You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your mind’ . . .

And . . . ‘You shall love your neighbor as yourself.’ ” - MATTHEW 22:36-39

BY ROB TOWNES



There’s a saying that the chicken who lays an egg makes a contribution, but the chicken who makes a sandwich offers a sacrifice. One could say that Jesus was alluding to the latter when he responded to the question as to which was the greatest commandment, “*You shall love the Lord your God with all of who you are.*” He was asking for more than a contribution;

he was asking for the sacrifice of our all.

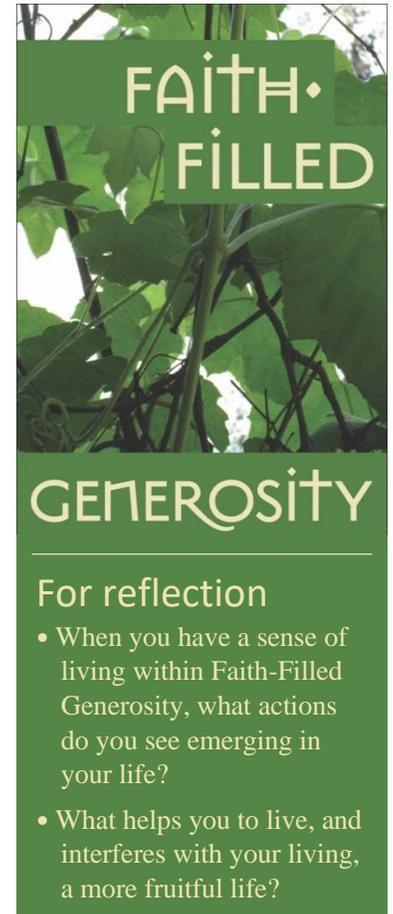
As the Latin root of the word suggests, a sacrifice — a *sacrum facere* — makes one holy. Giving generously of that of which you are a steward — your heart, soul, mind and all your possessions — is life giving. And it is countercultural. As the bumper sticker declares, “S/He who dies with the most toys wins.” That’s a powerfully seductive statement. Only with God’s help can we avoid being allured into thinking that it is in acquiring possessions that our life gains meaning. May we grow in the wisdom that a rich life results in trusting that it is in God we live and move and have our being.

This reflection is written while visiting Green Bough House of Prayer in Scott, Georgia. Here the three residents, with the company of 77 associates, have dedicated their lives, their all, to God and have taken on a Rule of Life to embrace silence, prayer, simplicity and living in the present moment, and accept all as coming from God. Do all for God. Offer all to God. This to me is a beautiful example of Faith-Filled Generosity.

Very few members of the Church dedicate themselves to full-time contemplative living, but all of us are invited to learn to live Jesus’ greatest commandment, trusting that in so doing, Faith-Filled Generosity will flourish in our lives.

As we move back into our church buildings, remembering only too well the COVID-19-caused absence of normalcy, may we re-enter with a renewed commitment to freely giving our all to God and faithfully loving our neighbors as ourselves.

Rob Townes received his Master of Divinity degree from Emory University’s Candler School of Theology and has spent his professional career as a nonprofit and church fundraising consultant.



FAITH
FILLED

GENEROSITY

For reflection

- When you have a sense of living within Faith-Filled Generosity, what actions do you see emerging in your life?
- What helps you to live, and interferes with your living, a more fruitful life?