

# 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-Fourth Sunday after Pentecost**  
**November 15, 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:**

**Jann Boggs**, for leading us in worship this morning, and

**Jo Ellen Carson**, 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 – [christchurchallegghany.com](http://christchurchallegghany.com).

**Christ Episcopal Church**

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

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# The Gathering

Prelude

Jo Ellen Carson

Processional Hymn #437

*Tell out, my soul*

*All stand, as able.*

## Opening Acclamation

Leader I was glad when they said to me,

People **“Let us go to the house of the Lord.”**

*Please kneel, as able.*

## 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 forever. Amen.**

*All stand, as able.*

## Psalm 95:1-7

Come, let us sing to the Lord; \*

let us shout for joy to the Rock of our salvation.

Let us come before his presence with thanksgiving \*

and raise a loud shout to him with psalms.

For the Lord is a great God, \*

and a great King above all gods.

In his hand are the caverns of the earth, \*  
and the heights of the hills are his also.  
The sea is his, for he made it, \*  
and his hands have molded the dry land.  
Come, let us bow down, and bend the knee, \*  
and kneel before the Lord our Maker.  
For he is our God,  
and we are the people of his pasture and the sheep of his hand. \*  
Oh, that today you would hearken to his voice!

*Please be seated.*

## Liturgy of the Word

### A Reading from Zephaniah 1:7,12-18

Be silent before the Lord GOD!  
For the day of the LORD is at hand;  
the LORD has prepared a sacrifice,  
he has consecrated his guests.  
At that time I will search Jerusalem with lamps,  
and I will punish the people  
who rest complacently on their dregs,  
those who say in their hearts,  
“The LORD will not do good,  
nor will he do harm.”  
Their wealth shall be plundered,  
and their houses laid waste.  
Though they build houses,  
they shall not inhabit them;  
though they plant vineyards,  
they shall not drink wine from them.  
The great day of the LORD is near,  
near and hastening fast;  
the sound of the day of the LORD is bitter,  
the warrior cries aloud there.  
That day will be a day of wrath,  
a day of distress and anguish,  
a day of ruin and devastation,  
a day of darkness and gloom,  
a day of clouds and thick darkness,  
a day of trumpet blast and battle cry

against the fortified cities  
and against the lofty battlements.  
I will bring such distress upon people  
that they shall walk like the blind;  
because they have sinned against the LORD,  
their blood shall be poured out like dust,  
and their flesh like dung.  
Neither their silver nor their gold  
will be able to save them  
on the day of the LORD's wrath;  
in the fire of his passion  
the whole earth shall be consumed;  
for a full, a terrible end  
he will make of all the inhabitants of the earth.

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

### **Psalm 90:1-12**

Lord, you have been our refuge \*  
from one generation to another.  
Before the mountains were brought forth,  
or the land and the earth were born, \*  
from age to age you are God.  
You turn us back to the dust and say, \*  
"Go back, O child of earth."  
For a thousand years in your sight are like yesterday when it is past \*  
and like a watch in the night.  
You sweep us away like a dream; \*  
we fade away suddenly like the grass.  
In the morning it is green and flourishes; \*  
in the evening it is dried up and withered.  
For we consume away in your displeasure; \*  
we are afraid because of your wrathful indignation.  
Our iniquities you have set before you, \*  
and our secret sins in the light of your countenance.  
When you are angry, all our days are gone; \*  
we bring our years to an end like a sigh.

The span of our life is seventy years,  
perhaps in strength even eighty; \*  
yet the sum of them is but labor and sorrow,  
for they pass away quickly and we are gone.

Who regards the power of your wrath? \*  
who rightly fears your indignation?

So teach us to number our days \*  
that we may apply our hearts to wisdom.

*All stand, as able.*

### **The First Song of Isaiah 12:2-6**

**Surely, it is God who saves me; \***

**I will trust in him and not be afraid.**

**For the Lord is my stronghold and my sure defense, \*  
and he will be my Savior.**

**Therefore you shall draw water with rejoicing \*  
from the springs of salvation.**

**And on that day you shall say, \***

**Give thanks to the Lord and call upon his Name;**

**Make his deeds known among the peoples; \***

**see that they remember that his Name is exalted.**

**Sing the praises of the Lord, for he has done great things, \*  
and this is known in all the world.**

**Cry aloud, inhabitants of Zion, ring out your joy, \***

**for the great one in the midst of you is the Holy One of Israel.**

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

**as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be forever. Amen.**

*Please be seated.*

### **The Second Reading**

#### **1 Thessalonians 5:1-11**

Now concerning the times and the seasons, brothers and sisters, you do not need to have anything written to you. For you yourselves know very well that the day of the Lord will come like a thief in the night. When they say, "There is peace and security," then sudden destruction will come upon them, as labor pains come upon a pregnant woman, and there will be no escape! But you, beloved, are not in darkness, for that day to surprise you like a thief; for you are all children of light and children of the day; we are not of the night or of darkness. So then let us not fall asleep as others do, but let us keep awake and be sober; for those who sleep sleep at night, and those who are drunk get drunk at night. But since we belong to the day, let us be sober, and put on the breastplate of faith and love, and for a helmet the hope of salvation. For God has destined us not for wrath but for obtaining salvation through our Lord Jesus Christ, who died for us, so

that whether we are awake or asleep we may live with him. Therefore encourage one another and build up each other, as indeed you are doing.

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

People Thanks be to God.

*All stand, as able.*

## **The Song of Simeon – Luke 2:29-32**

Lord, you now have set your servant free \*

to go in peace as you have promised;

For these eyes of mine have seen the Savior, \*

whom you have prepared for all the world to see:

A Light to enlighten the nations, \*

and the glory of your people Israel.

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

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

*Remain standing, as able.*

## **A Reading from the Gospel of Matthew**

### **Matthew 25:14-30**

Jesus said, "It is as if a man, going on a journey, summoned his slaves and entrusted his property to them; to one he gave five talents, to another two, to another one, to each according to his ability. Then he went away. The one who had received the five talents went off at once and traded with them, and made five more talents. In the same way, the one who had the two talents made two more talents. But the one who had received the one talent went off and dug a hole in the ground and hid his master's money. After a long time the master of those slaves came and settled accounts with them. Then the one who had received the five talents came forward, bringing five more talents, saying, 'Master, you handed over to me five talents; see, I have made five more talents.' His master said to him, 'Well done, good and trustworthy slave; you have been trustworthy in a few things, I will put you in charge of many things; enter into the joy of your master.' And the one with the two talents also came forward, saying, 'Master, you handed over to me two talents; see, I have made two more talents.' His master said to him, 'Well done, good and trustworthy slave; you have been trustworthy in a few things, I will put you in charge of many things; enter into the joy of your master.' Then the one who had received the one talent also came forward, saying, 'Master, I knew that you were a harsh man, reaping where you did not sow, and gathering where you did not scatter seed; so I was afraid, and I went and hid your talent in the ground. Here you have what is yours.' But his master replied, 'You wicked and lazy slave! You knew, did you, that I reap where I did not sow, and gather where I did not scatter? Then you ought to have invested my money with the bankers, and on my return I would have received what was my own with interest. So take the talent from him, and give it to the one with the ten talents.

For to all those who have, more will be given, and they will have an abundance; but from those who have nothing, even what they have will be taken away. As for this worthless slave, throw him into the outer darkness, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.”

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

People Thanks be to God.

*Please be seated.*

## Reflections

Jann Boggs

*Please stand, as able.*

## 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.

*Please stand or kneel, as able.*

## 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 forever. 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**

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,  
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 they rest in peace and rise in glory, 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...

let us pray to the Lord:

**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 forever. **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 Justice & Liberty**

Lord God Almighty, you have made all the peoples of the earth for your glory, to serve you in freedom and in peace: Give to the people of our country a zeal for justice and the strength of forbearance, that we may use our liberty in accordance with your gracious will; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. **Amen.**

## Prayer for Peace & Wisdom

Almighty God, kindle, we pray, in every heart the true love of peace, and guide with your wisdom those who take counsel for the nations of the earth, that in tranquility your dominion may increase until the earth is filled with the knowledge of your love; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

*Please stand, as able, and read in unison.*

## A General Thanksgiving

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.**

*Remain standing, as able.*

## 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.

People        **Thanks be to God.**

## 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.**

**Coming Lessons**

Ezekiel 34:11-16, 20-24

Psalm 95:1-7a

Ephesians 1:15-23

Matthew 25:31-46

**Prayer List**

**Intercessions:** Allan Joyce, 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, Jann Boggs, Jean Callison, Jonathan, Julie Ottesen, Laura, Lorene Ramsey, Margaret Blanck, Martha Willie Coleman, Marybeth Lentz, Mary Beth Adams, Nancy Meredith (Laura Davis' sister), Sheila Pfaender, Smitty Hughes (Charles Besaw's friend), and Willie Plummer. We also pray for all those affected by the COVID-19 pandemic and natural disasters around the world

**Departed:** Bill Adams (Nov 9)

**Birthdays:**

**Wedding Anniversaries & Thanksgivings:**

**Schedule**

**Sunday, November 15 – Twenty-fourth Sunday after Pentecost**

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

**Sunday, November 22 – The Last Sunday after Pentecost/Christ the King**

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

## Announcements

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

“During a press conference on Nov. 10, newly reelected Governor Roy Cooper announced that due to the latest data, the state would stay paused in its current Phase 3 and that the indoor gathering limit would be adjusted from 25 to 10 people.

Executive Order 176 will go into effect on Friday, Nov. 13 and will be in place through Friday, Dec. 4.”

This updated information about COVID-19 restrictions in NC will unfortunately change our recently re-started, in-person services. When we count the musician, readers, and clergy (on the weeks we have a supply clergy leading the service), it only leaves a few spaces for members and to be fair to all who want to attend, *we will be suspending our in-person services beginning next week until the Governor updates his Order early in December.* We will hope, along with you, that the COVID-19 cases will decrease over those weeks and the Governor will be able to increase our indoor numbers back to 25. We will keep you posted!

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.

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