

Christ Episcopal Church

Sparta, NC

A home to all sharing God's unconditional love.



The Second Sunday after Pentecost

June 22, 2025

The Rt. Rev José McLoughlin
Bishop of Western North Carolina

The Rev Dr Katherine Shaner
Presider

Cliff Hudgins
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.

Do you need prayer? We have an active prayer ministry here at Christ Church. If prayer would be helpful to you, please fill out a prayer request card (found in the pew back), making sure you include your name and contact information (email and/or phone). We'll include you in our weekly prayers. Just complete the card & put it in the offering plate during the Offertory or share your request with the greeter.

We extend special thanks today to:

The Rev Dr Katherine Shaner for leading us in worship this morning,

Victoria Fischer Faw for serving as musician and for being so generous with her talents,

Judy Ritchie for providing the beautiful flowers at the altar in honor of her daughter Lynn's birthday, and

Kimberly Frazier for providing the picnic food and serving us today.

Please enter the Sanctuary in silence to respect those who are preparing for worship. Save conversations, whispered or out loud, for outside or Coffee Hour.

Please silence your cell phone, too.

Social media:

For more information about Christ Church, please visit our website –
www.christchurchallegghany.org

Christ Episcopal Church

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Online giving link: <https://onrealm.org/CCEpisopal/give/now>

Office hours: Monday-Thursday, 8:00 am – 1:00 pm

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The Gathering

Prelude

Victoria Fischer Faw

Announcements

Cliff Hudgins

Please stand, as able.

Processional Hymn #695

By gracious powers

Remain standing, as able.

Opening Acclamation

Presider Blessed be God: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

People And blessed be his kingdom, now and for ever. Amen.

All 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*)



1. Glo - ry to God in the high - est, and



peace to his peo - ple on earth. 2. Lord God, heaven - ly



King, al - might - y God and Fa - ther, we wor - ship you, we



give you thanks, we praise you for your glo - ry. 3. Lord Je - sus



Christ, on - ly Son of the Fa - ther, Lord God, Lamb of God, 4. you



take a - way the sin of the world: have mer - cy

on us; 5. you are seat - ed at the right hand of the Fa - ther: re -

ceive our prayer. 6. For you a - lone are the Ho - ly One,

you a - lone are the Lord, 7. you a - lone are the Most

High, Je - sus Christ, with the Ho - ly Spi - rit, in the

glo - ry of God the Fa - ther. A - men.

Music: Robert Powell (b. 1932), rev. Setting: Copyright © Church Publishing Inc.

The Collect

Presider The Lord be with you.

People **And also with you.**

Presider Let us pray,

O Lord, make us have perpetual love and reverence for your holy Name, for you never fail to help and govern those whom you have set upon the sure foundation of your loving-kindness; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. **Amen.**

Please be seated.

Liturgy of the Word

First Reading

Isaiah 65:1-9

I was ready to be sought out by those who did not ask,
to be found by those who did not seek me.

I said, "Here I am, here I am,"
to a nation that did not call on my name.

I held out my hands all day long to a rebellious people,
who walk in a way that is not good,
following their own devices;

a people who provoke me
to my face continually,

sacrificing in gardens
 and offering incense on bricks;
 who sit inside tombs,
 and spend the night in secret places;
 who eat swine's flesh,
 with broth of abominable things in their vessels;
 who say, "Keep to yourself,
 do not come near me, for I am too holy for you."
 These are a smoke in my nostrils,
 a fire that burns all day long.
 See, it is written before me:
 I will not keep silent, but I will repay;
 I will indeed repay into their laps
 their iniquities and their ancestors' iniquities together,
 says the LORD;
 because they offered incense on the mountains
 and reviled me on the hills,
 I will measure into their laps
 full payment for their actions.
 Thus says the LORD:
 As the wine is found in the cluster,
 and they say, "Do not destroy it,
 for there is a blessing in it,"
 so I will do for my servants' sake,
 and not destroy them all.
 I will bring forth descendants from Jacob,
 and from Judah inheritors of my mountains;
 my chosen shall inherit it,
 and my servants shall settle there.

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

The Response

Psalm 22:18-27

Be not far away, O LORD; *
 you are my strength; hasten to help me.
 Save me from the sword, *
 my life from the power of the dog.
 Save me from the lion's mouth, *
 my wretched body from the horns of wild bulls.

I will declare your Name to my brethren; *

in the midst of the congregation I will praise you.

Praise the LORD, you that fear him; *

stand in awe of him, O offspring of Israel;

all you of Jacob's line, give glory.

For he does not despise nor abhor the poor in their poverty;

neither does he hide his face from them; *

but when they cry to him he hears them.

My praise is of him in the great assembly; *

I will perform my vows in the presence of those who worship him.

The poor shall eat and be satisfied,

and those who seek the LORD shall praise him: *

"May your heart live for ever!"

All the ends of the earth shall remember and turn to the LORD, *

and all the families of the nations shall bow before him.

For kingship belongs to the LORD; *

he rules over the nations.

The Second Reading

Galatians 3:23-29

Now before faith came, we were imprisoned and guarded under the law until faith would be revealed. Therefore the law was our disciplinarian until Christ came, so that we might be justified by faith. But now that faith has come, we are no longer subject to a disciplinarian, for in Christ Jesus you are all children of God through faith. As many of you as were baptized into Christ have clothed yourselves with Christ. There is no longer Jew or Greek, there is no longer slave or free, there is no longer male and female; for all of you are one in Christ Jesus. And if you belong to Christ, then you are Abraham's offspring, heirs according to the promise.

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

People **Thanks be to God.**

Please stand, as able.

Gospel Hymn #686

Come, thou fount of every blessing

Please remain standing, as able.

Presider The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ, according to Luke.

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

The Gospel

Luke 8:26-39

Jesus and his disciples arrived at the country of the Gerasenes, which is opposite Galilee. As he stepped out on land, a man of the city who had demons met him. For a long time he had worn no clothes, and he did not live in a house but in the tombs. When he saw Jesus, he fell down before him

and shouted at the top of his voice, "What have you to do with me, Jesus, Son of the Most High God? I beg you, do not torment me" ~ for Jesus had commanded the unclean spirit to come out of the man. (For many times it had seized him; he was kept under guard and bound with chains and shackles, but he would break the bonds and be driven by the demon into the wilds.) Jesus then asked him, "What is your name?" He said, "Legion"; for many demons had entered him. They begged him not to order them to go back into the abyss.

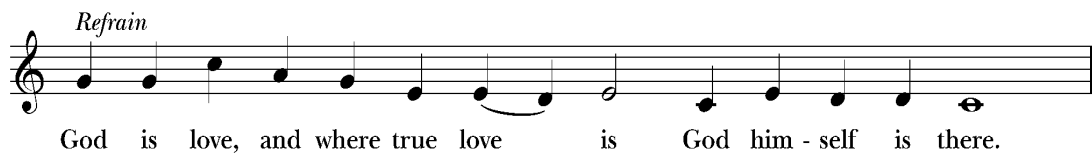
Now there on the hillside a large herd of swine was feeding; and the demons begged Jesus to let them enter these. So he gave them permission. Then the demons came out of the man and entered the swine, and the herd rushed down the steep bank into the lake and was drowned.

When the swineherds saw what had happened, they ran off and told it in the city and in the country. Then people came out to see what had happened, and when they came to Jesus, they found the man from whom the demons had gone sitting at the feet of Jesus, clothed and in his right mind. And they were afraid. Those who had seen it told them how the one who had been possessed by demons had been healed. Then all the people of the surrounding country of the Gerasenes asked Jesus to leave them; for they were seized with great fear. So he got into the boat and returned. The man from whom the demons had gone begged that he might be with him; but Jesus sent him away, saying, "Return to your home, and declare how much God has done for you." So he went away, proclaiming throughout the city how much Jesus had done for him.

Presider The Gospel of the Lord.

People Praise to you, Lord Christ.

Refrain:



All are seated.

The Sermon

The Rev Dr Katherine Shaner

A time of silence following the sermon.

Please stand, 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.

Please stand or kneel, as able.

Prayers of the People

Leader: God there are no places your love cannot penetrate; give us eyes to see you in darkness, ears to hear you in silence, and minds that rest in your stillness. Hear these prayers and the prayers of our deepest hearts as we say, Lord in your mercy,

People: hear our prayer.

Leader: Grant to those who love you, and those who long to love you more, the deep desire to do your will and seek you in all times and circumstances. Lord in your mercy,

People: hear our prayer.

Leader: Inspire our hearts to carry your message to all those who long for your good news and send us to be your hands at work in this world and in the world to come. Lord in your mercy,

People: hear our prayer.

Leader: Give to those who have authority over us the desire to serve your people with mercy and justice. Lord in your mercy,

People: hear our prayer.

Leader: Bless us with a great unease in the face of hunger, poverty, injustice, and persecution that we might find peace only in the way of Love as demonstrated by your son Jesus, our Lord. Lord in your mercy,

People: hear our prayer.

Leader: Comfort the afflicted, the wounded, the sick and the dying with the certain promise of your constant love in this life and the next. Especially we pray for... **Antje & Bill, Bob, Brenda & Kelly, Bud, Carl & Carol, Cathy Davis and her family, Charles & Christine, Donna & Mike, Douglas, Elizabeth, Emily, Frank & Ann W, Gary, Isabel, Jonathan, Julia, Lucy, Lynn, Lynn & Ajit, Margaret, Mark, Marybeth & Ned, Mr. Whitley, PM, Rita & Angelia, Rod & Louise, Roger, Rudy, and Vanita.** *Please add your own petitions silently or aloud...* Lord in your mercy,

People: hear our prayer.

Leader: Welcome the dying and comfort the grieving; let their entrance into the land of light and life give us comfort and hope for our future. Lord in your mercy,

People: hear our prayer.

Presider: Glory and honor to you O Lord, for you are the one who seeks us out, provides for our needs, and directs our path. Bless us and keep us this day and always through the grace of your Son and the power of your Holy Spirit. **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.

Please greet one another in a way that is comfortable as a sign of our participation in Christ's reconciling work in the world.

Please be seated.

Offertory Music

Victoria Fischer Faw

Please stand, as able.

Doxology

*Praise God from whom all blessings flow;
praise God, all creatures here below;
Praise God above, ye heav'nly host;
praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.*

Remain standing, as able.

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 to you, Father Almighty, Creator of heaven and earth.

Through Jesus Christ our Lord and in fulfillment of his true promise, the Holy Spirit came down from heaven, lighting upon the disciples, to teach them and to lead them into all truth; uniting peoples of many tongues in the confession of one faith, and giving to your Church the power to serve you as a royal priesthood, and to preach the Gospel to all nations. 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: *(sung by all)*

Land of Rest

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow - er and

might, Heav'n and earth are full of your glo - ry, ho - san - na in the

high - est! Bless - ed is he who comes in the name of the

Lord! Ho - san - na in the high - est, ho - san - na in the high - est!

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.**

And now, as our Savior Christ has taught us, we are bold to pray,

The Lord's Prayer

**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.**

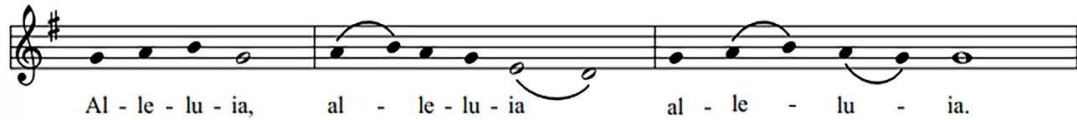
For the kingdom, the power,
and the glory are yours,
now and for ever. Amen.

The Breaking of the Bread

A period of silence is kept.

Fraction: (sung by all)

Proulx Alleluia



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

The Invitation to Holy Communion

Presider: The gifts of God for the People of God. Take them in remembrance that Christ died for you, and feed on him in your hearts by faith, with thanksgiving.

*All who seek God and are drawn to Christ are welcome at the Lord's Table.
If you are gluten allergic, please ask for a rice wafer at the distribution.*

Please be seated.

Communion Music

Victoria Fischer Faw

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.*

Please stand or kneel, as able.

Prayer after Communion

EOW1

Presider Let us pray,
Loving God, we give you thanks for restoring us in your image and nourishing us with spiritual food in the Sacrament of Christ's Body and Blood. Now send us forth a people, forgiven, healed, renewed; that we may proclaim your love to the world and continue in the risen life of Christ our Savior. Amen.

The Blessing

The Rev Dr Katherine Shaner

Please stand, as able.

Recessional Hymn #8

Morning has broken

The Blessing of our Lunch

originally written by Edward Hays

Lord God and Giver of all good gifts, we are grateful as we pause before our meal, for all the blessings of life that you give to us. Daily, we are fed with good things, nourished by friendship and care, feasted with forgiveness and understanding. And so, mindful of your continuous care, we pause to be grateful for the blessings of our table. May your presence be the extra taste to this meal which we eat in the name of your son, Jesus. **Amen.**

The Dismissal

Presider

Let us go forth in the name of Christ. Alleluia, alleluia.

People

Thanks be to God. Alleluia, alleluia!

Postlude

Victoria Fischer Faw

Coming Lessons

1 Kings 19:15-16, 19-21

Psalm 16

Galatians 5:1, 13-25

Luke 9:51-62

The following people are assisting with the services

Role	This Sunday	Next Sunday
Altar Guild	Nancy Wilson	Marybeth Lentz
Crucifer	Nancy Wilson	Elizabeth Barr Bryant
Lector I	Louise Law	Geoff Jones
Lector II	Louise Law	Geoff Jones
Prayers of the People	Louise Law	Geoff Jones
Sanctus Bell	Nancy Wilson	Elizabeth Barr Bryant
Greeter(s)/Usher(s)	Patti Phelps & Ruthie Maxwell	Barbara Halsey

Prayer List

Intercessions:

Antje & Bill, Bob Bamburg, Brenda & Kelly Weems, Bud, Carl & Carol Greer, Cathy Davis (Rev Dr) & her family, Charles & Christine McKelvy, Donna & Mike Hohnstine, Douglas, Elizabeth (Rev Martha's friend), Emily Buck, Frank & Ann W, Gary Medley, Isabel Tomé, Jonathan, Julia (Allan's cousin), Lucy, Lynn Ellis, Lynn & Ajit, Margaret, Mark, Marybeth & Ned Lentz, Mr. Whitley, PM, Rita Woodruff & Angelia Miller, Rod Pace & Louise Law, Roger, Rudy McKnight, and Vanita (Ruthie's sister). And we pray for Christ Church, its leaders & ministry teams.

Departed:

Birthdays: Gary Medley (June 22), Jim Halsey (June 26), Buck Hunnicutt (June 26)

Wedding Anniversaries & Thanksgivings:

Schedule

Sunday, June 22 – The Second Sunday after Pentecost

10:30 am – Holy Eucharist with The Rev Dr Katherine Shaner

Annual Picnic follows the service

Tuesday, June 24

1:00 pm – Centering Prayer group

2:00 pm – Book discussion group

Thursday, June 26

1:00-4:00 pm – Lap quilt-making activity & fellowship

Sunday, June 29 – The Third Sunday after Pentecost

10:30 am – Holy Eucharist with The Rev Martha Honaker

Coffee hour follows the service

Tuesday, July 1

1:00 pm – Centering Prayer group

2:00 pm – Book Discussion group

Sunday, July 6 – The Fourth Sunday after Pentecost

10:30 am – Holy Eucharist with The Rev George Greer

Coffee hour follows the service

Monday, July 7 – The Office will be closed in observance of the July 4th holiday

Tuesday, July 8

1:00 pm – Centering Prayer group

2:00 pm – Book Discussion group

Wednesday, July 9

10:00 am – Yoga with Julie in the Parish Hall

Announcements

Our Annual Picnic will be held TODAY!! The picnic will be held outside, weather permitting, near our Parish Hall following our worship service in the sanctuary. Please join us for a good time of fellowship & food!

The Vestry is thrilled to announce we have a new Priest-in-Charge, The Rev Karla Woggon who will start in August! If you haven't already received a letter about this, you will soon. It was included in the *Good News & Notes* this week, too. The Vestry will continue the search for a permanent part-time priest but are excited about having a steady pulpit presence among other things. If you have questions, please ask!

Great Fellowship Opportunity! Are you interested in learning some basics of quilting or putting your skills to use? The Prayer Shawl/Prayer Quilt Ministry will be teaching and working on lap quilts **THIS Thursday afternoon June 26, from 1:00-4:00 in the Parish Hall**. We'd love to have help pinning, cutting, ironing, sewing. Easy peasy! Let the office or Patti Phelps know if you can join us.

Revised Ministry Teams are being introduced in the *Good News & Notes*.

NEW Yoga class with Julie will begin on Wednesday, July 9th at 10:00 am in the Parish Hall. Classes will be held on Wednesday mornings at 10:00 am in July & August. If you haven't completed a form, please do asap so Julie will know what arrangements need to be made. Completed forms need to be put in the yellow file on the Office door. This class is open to both males & females and at whatever level you need.

The Spiritual Formation/Centering Prayer group continues to meet for prayer on Tuesdays at 1:00. Book Discussion begins at 2:00. We are using a workbook written by Carl Greer, PhD, Jungian psychologist. If you're interested in joining us, please talk to Patti Phelps so she can have materials available. If you are only interested in Centering Prayer, come at 1:00.

Ladies Lunch Out (LLO) has resumed! The next LLO will be Friday, July 18th at 11:45 am. Location will be announced soon. If you’d like to join in, please sign up. The new sign-up sheet is on the information table in the Parish Hall.

The prayer shawls & lap quilts, now located in the Community Resource Room downstairs, are available for you to give someone who needs our Christ Church love and support. *For more information, read the GNN.*

NEXT SUNDAY: First Sunday Donation Day benefits the Solid Rock Food Closet If you’re donating cash or check, please make sure you write “food closet” or SRFC so we know that’s where you want your gift to go. There are envelopes in each pew back that can be used if you want to give cash. We’ll collect donations the first Sunday of the month and then send one check to the Solid Rock Food Closet, our local food closet. We also welcome non-perishable food and personal care items. If you brought items, please put them in the red wagon located in our narthex.

Monthly Altar Flowers and Coffee Hour sign-ups:

Date	Altar Flowers	Coffee Hour
June 22	Judy Ritchie	Annual Picnic
June 29	Patti Phelps	Louise Law
July 6		Stella Daniel
July 13		Elizabeth Barr Bryant