Christ Episcopal Church Sparta, NC

A home to all sharing God's unconditional love.

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 Seventh Sunday after Pentecost July 27, 2025

The Rt. Rev José McLoughlin Bishop of Western North Carolina

> The Rev George Greer 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 worshiping 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 cepisopal@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 George Greer for leading us in worship this morning,
Kathy Sugishita for serving as musician and for being so generous with her talents, and
Lisa Aaron, her brother & family for the beautiful flowers at the altar honoring Doris King's birthday today. {See the tribute on the back cover of this bulletin.}

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.christchurchalleghany.org

Christ Episcopal Church

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Email: ccepiscopal@skybest.com
Website: www.christchurchalleghany.org

Online giving link: https://onrealm.org/CCEpiscopal/give/now

Office hours: Monday-Thursday, 8:00 am – 1:00 pm Music used by permission CCLI License #11138616 Cover art: Book of Common Prayer, page 364

The Gathering

Prelude Kathy Sugishita
Announcements Cliff Hudgins

Please stand, as able.

Processional Hymn #388

O worship the King, all glorious above

Remain standing, as able.

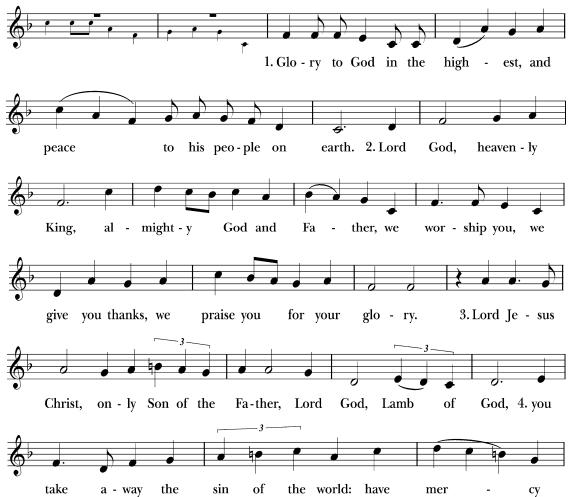
Opening Acclamation

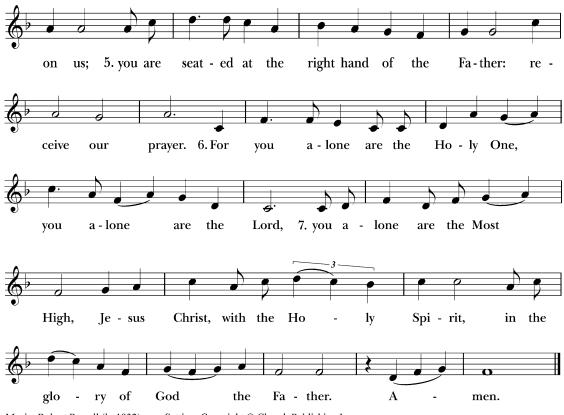
Presider Blessed be God: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

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)





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 God, the protector of all who trust in you, without whom nothing is strong, nothing is holy: Increase and multiply upon us your mercy; that, with you as our ruler and guide, we may so pass through things temporal, that we lose not the things eternal; 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 Genesis 18:20-32

The Lord said to Abraham, "How great is the outcry against Sodom and Gomorrah and how very grave their sin! I must go down and see whether they have done altogether according to the outcry that has come to me; and if not, I will know."

So the men turned from there, and went toward Sodom, while Abraham remained standing before the Lord. Then Abraham came near and said, "Will you indeed sweep away the righteous with the wicked? Suppose there are fifty righteous within the city; will you then sweep away the place and not forgive it for the fifty righteous who are in it? Far be it from you to do such a thing, to slay the righteous with the wicked, so that the righteous fare as the wicked! Far be that from you! Shall not the Judge of all the earth do what is just?" And the Lord said, "If I find at Sodom fifty righteous in the

city, I will forgive the whole place for their sake." Abraham answered, "Let me take it upon myself to speak to the Lord, I who am but dust and ashes. Suppose five of the fifty righteous are lacking? Will you destroy the whole city for lack of five?" And he said, "I will not destroy it if I find forty-five there." Again he spoke to him, "Suppose forty are found there." He answered, "For the sake of forty I will not do it." Then he said, "Oh do not let the Lord be angry if I speak. Suppose thirty are found there." He answered, "I will not do it, if I find thirty there." He said, "Let me take it upon myself to speak to the Lord. Suppose twenty are found there." He answered, "For the sake of twenty I will not destroy it." Then he said, "Oh do not let the Lord be angry if I speak just once more. Suppose ten are found there." He answered, "For the sake of ten I will not destroy it."

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

People Thanks be to God.

The Response Psalm 138

I will give thanks to you, O LORD, with my whole heart; * before the gods I will sing your praise.

I will bow down toward your holy temple and praise your Name, *

because of your love and faithfulness;

For you have glorified your Name * and your word above all things.

When I called, you answered me; * you increased my strength within me.

All the kings of the earth will praise you, O LORD, * when they have heard the words of your mouth.

They will sing of the ways of the LORD, * that great is the glory of the LORD.

Though the LORD be high, he cares for the lowly; * he perceives the haughty from afar.

Though I walk in the midst of trouble, you keep me safe; * you stretch forth your hand against the fury of my enemies; your right hand shall save me.

The LORD will make good his purpose for me; * O LORD, your love endures for ever; do not abandon the works of your hands.

The Second Reading Colossians 2:6-19

As you have received Christ Jesus the Lord, continue to live your lives in him, rooted and built up in him and established in the faith, just as you were taught, abounding in thanksgiving.

See to it that no one takes you captive through philosophy and empty deceit, according to human tradition, according to the elemental spirits of the universe, and not according to Christ. For in him the whole fullness of deity dwells bodily, and you have come to fullness in him, who is the head of every ruler and authority. In him also you were circumcised with a spiritual circumcision, by putting off the body of the flesh in the circumcision of Christ; when you were buried with him in baptism, you were also raised with him through faith in the power of God, who raised him from the dead. And when you were dead in trespasses and the uncircumcision of your flesh, God made you alive together with him, when he forgave us all our trespasses, erasing the record that stood against us with its legal demands. He set this aside, nailing it to the cross. He disarmed the rulers and authorities and made a public example of them, triumphing over them in it.

Therefore do not let anyone condemn you in matters of food and drink or of observing festivals, new moons, or sabbaths. These are only a shadow of what is to come, but the substance belongs to Christ. Do not let anyone disqualify you, insisting on self-abasement and worship of angels, dwelling on visions, puffed up without cause by a human way of thinking, and not holding fast to the head, from whom the whole body, nourished and held together by its ligaments and sinews, grows with a growth that is from God.

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

People Thanks be to God.

Please stand, as able.

Gospel Hymn #47, vs 1-3

On this day, the first of days

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 11:1-13

Jesus was praying in a certain place, and after he had finished, one of his disciples said to him, "Lord, teach us to pray, as John taught his disciples." He said to them, "When you pray, say:

Father, hallowed be your name.

Your kingdom come.

Give us each day our daily bread.

And forgive us our sins,

for we ourselves forgive everyone indebted to us.

And do not bring us to the time of trial."

And he said to them, "Suppose one of you has a friend, and you go to him at midnight and say to him, 'Friend, lend me three loaves of bread; for a friend of mine has arrived, and I have nothing to set before him.' And he answers from within, 'Do not bother me; the door has already been locked, and my children are with me in bed; I cannot get up and give you anything.' I tell you, even though he will not get up and give him anything because he is his friend, at least because of his persistence he will get up and give him whatever he needs.

"So I say to you, Ask, and it will be given you; search, and you will find; knock, and the door will be opened for you. For everyone who asks receives, and everyone who searches finds, and for everyone who knocks, the door will be opened. Is there anyone among you who, if your child asks for a fish, will give a snake instead of a fish? Or if the child asks for an egg, will give a scorpion? If you then, who are evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will the heavenly Father give the Holy Spirit to those who ask him!"

Presider The Gospel of the Lord.

People Praise to you, Lord Christ.

Refrain:



All are seated.

The Sermon

The Rev George Greer

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 of mercy whose care and compassion for us is beyond imagining. Hear us as you heard Abraham and answer our prayers as may be best for us and always to your glory as we say, Lord in your mercy,

People: hear our prayer.

Leader: Guide your church that is might be a bold and fearless champion of the dignity of all people and a place of welcome and respite for the weary, the *oppressed*, and the marginalized. Lord in your mercy,

People: hear our prayer.

Leader: Open the eyes and hearts of all in authority. Grant them wisdom and compassion in the exercise of their responsibilities that they might always pursue the path of greatest good. Lord in your mercy,

People: hear our prayer.

Leader: Allow us to see the good in our neighbors that we might be forceful advocates for human thriving in all the places we call home. Lord in your mercy,

People: hear our prayer.

Leader: Remind us of our call to be the caretakers of creation and embolden us to demand urgent action to ensure environmental sustainability. Lord in your mercy,

People: hear our prayer.

Leader: We pray for all bishops, priests, and deacons... especially our Presiding Bishop, Sean, our Bishop, José, and our Celebrant, The Rev George Greer. Lord in your mercy,

People: hear our prayer.

Leader: Grant that every member of the Church may truly and humbly serve you; especially, in our Anglican community, the Anglican Church of Papua New Guinea; in the Diocese of Western North Carolina, St James in Black Mountain, Hendersonville, and Lenoir, and in our Alleghany Community, New Hope Missionary Baptist Church. And please keep Christ Church, the Vestry and Leadership in your prayers...Lord in your mercy,

People: hear our prayer.

Leader: Bring your healing presence into the lives of all who suffer from any distress. Especially we lift us our prayers for... Antje & Bill, Bobbie, Brenda & Kelly, Cara & LJ, Carl & Carol, Carl & Mimi, Cathy Davis and her family, Charles & Christine, Donna & Mike, Elizabeth, Emily, Frank & Ann W, Gary, Isabel, Jann, Jean, Jeanne, Jonathan, Julia, Kate, Lucy, Lynn, Lynn & Ajit, Margaret, Mark, Marybeth & Ned, Mr. Whitley, Rita & Angelia, Rod & Louise, Rudy, Tammy, and Vanita. Please add your own petitions silently or aloud...Lord in your mercy,

People: hear our prayer.

Leader: Hold the dead in your loving care and grant us also to enter into your eternal love on the day of our death. *Today we remember Pat Bellar & Lisa Di Milo Ditinyak*. Lord in your mercy,

People: hear our prayer.

Presider: Creating and sustaining Lord, you know before we ask the longings of our hearts. Look upon us with compassion and lead us ever deeper into relationship with you so that we might more fully be the people you created us to be. All these we ask in the name of our Lord and savior, Jesus Christ. **Amen**.

Confession of Sin BCP, pg 360

Presider Let us confess our sins against God and our neighbor.

Most merciful God,
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;

and walk in your ways,

to the glory of your Name. Amen.

that we may delight in your will,

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.

Please stand, as able.

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 Kathy Sugishita

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.

The Great Thanksgiving

Eucharistic Prayer B, BCP 367

Presider The Lord be with you.

All And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

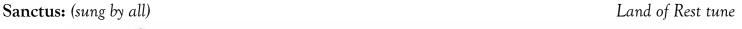
We lift them to the Lord.

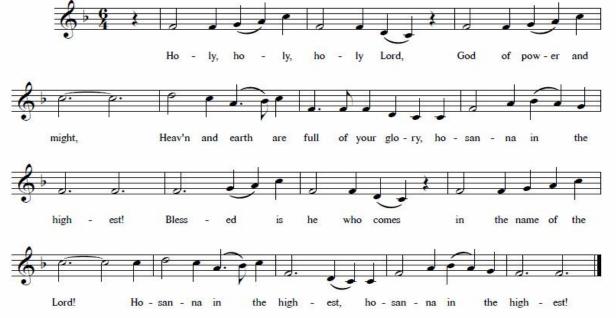
Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

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:





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.

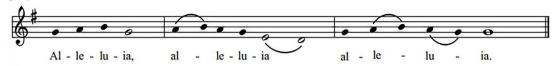
The Breaking of the Bread

A period of silence is kept.

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

Fraction: (sung by all)

Proulx 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

Kathy Sugishita

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

BCP, pg 366

Presider Let us pray,

Almighty and everliving God, we thank you for feeding us with the spiritual food of the most precious Body and Blood of your Son our Savior Jesus Christ; for assuring us in these mysteries that we are living members of the Body of your Son, and heirs of your eternal kingdom. And now, Father, send us out 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 George Green

Please stand, as able.

Recessional Hymn #635

If thou but trust in God to guide thee

The Dismissal

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

People Thanks be to God. Alleluia, alleluia!

Postlude Kathy Sugishita

Coming Lessons

Ecclesiastes 1:2, 12-14; 2:18-23
Psalm 49:1-11
Colossians 3:1-11
Luke 12:13-21

The following people are assisting with the services

Role	This Sunday	Next Sunday
Altar Guild	Doris King	Nancy Wilson
Crucifer	Elizabeth Barr Bryant	Nancy Wilson
Lector I	Les Colvard	Cliff Hudgins
Lector II	Les Colvard	Cliff Hudgins
Prayers of the People	Les Colvard	Cliff Hudgins
Sanctus Bell	Elizabeth Barr Bryant	Nancy Wilson
Greeter(s)/Usher(s)	Mary Lee Joines	Barbara Halsey

Prayer List

Intercessions:

Antje & Bill, Bellar family & the Klevas, Bobbie, Brenda & Kelly Weems, Cara & LJ Todd, Carl & Carol Greer, Carl & Mimi, Cathy Davis (Rev Dr) & her family, Charles & Christine McKelvy, Ditinyak family, Donna & Mike Hohnstine, Elizabeth (Rev Martha's friend), Emily Buck, Frank & Ann W, Gary Medley, Isabel Tomé, Jann Boggs, Jean Callison, Jeanne Green, Jonathan, Julia (Allan's cousin), Kate Vermilyea, Lucy, Lynn Ellis, Lynn & Ajit, Margaret, Mark, Marybeth & Ned Lentz, Mr. Whitley, Rita Woodruff & Angelia Miller, Rod Pace & Louise Law, Rudy McKnight, Tammy, and Vanita (Ruthie's sister). And we pray for Christ Church, its leaders & ministry teams.

Departed: Pat Bellar (dear friend of Janice & Ken Kleva), Lisa Di Milo Ditinyak (July 20)

Birthdays: Doris King (July 27), Gayle Ferguson (July 28)

Wedding Anniversaries & Thanksgivings: Randy & Ceil Watson (July 31)

Schedule

Sunday, July 27 - The Seventh Sunday after Pentecost

10:30 am - Holy Eucharist with The Rev George Greer Coffee hour follows the service

Tuesday, July 29

1:00 pm – Centering Prayer group

2:00 pm - Book Discussion group

Wednesday, July 30

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

Sunday, August 3 - The Eighth Sunday after Pentecost/Welcome Karla Woggon!

 $10{:}30\ \mathrm{am}$ – Holy Eucharist with The Rev Karla Woggon

Coffee hour follows the service

Tuesday, August 5

1:00 pm - Centering Prayer group

2:00 pm - Book Discussion group

Wednesday, August 6

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

Sunday, August 10 - The Ninth Sunday after Pentecost

10:30 am - Holy Eucharist with The Rev Karla Woggon Welcome Karla Lunch follows the service

Monday, August 11

10:00 am – Vestry meeting

Tuesday, August 12

1:00 pm - Centering Prayer group

2:00 pm - Book Discussion group

Wednesday, August 13

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

Friday, August 15

11:45 am - Ladies Lunch Out meets at Christ Church to carpool to The Bluffs

Announcements

The Vestry is thrilled to announce we have a new Priest-in-Charge, The Rev Karla Woggon who starts NEXT Sunday, August 3rd! 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!

Welcoming The Rev Karla Woggon! We will be having a potluck lunch after our worship service on Sunday, August 10th to officially welcome Karla. The Vestry is handling the main dish/meat but asks that you please sign up to bring a side dish or dessert. The sign-up sheet is on the information table in the Parish Hall. We hope you'll all join us to welcome Karla and enjoy a time of fellowship with her & each other!

UPDATED: The Spiritual Formation/Centering Prayer group continues to meet for prayer on Tuesdays at 1:00. Book Discussion begins at 2:00. The book discussion group has finished with the workbook and will be starting a new book in August. THIS Tuesday, July 27th, the group will be watching an interview with The Rt Rev Budde and learning more about the Dignity Index. All are invited to attend on July 27th at 2:00.

Ladies Lunch Out will meet on Friday, August 15th at 11:45 am We will be meeting at Christ Church at 11:45 on the 15th to carpool to The Bluffs. Please sign-up if you'd like to attend so we know how big of a table we'll need.

A reminder that all are invited to attend Vestry meetings to learn more about what's happening here at Christ Church. Vestry meetings are the second Monday of each

month in the Parish Hall, beginning at 10:00 am. If you plan to attend and want to be on the agenda, please let Cliff or Mary Lee know the week before so you can be added. If you don't have time to attend the Vestry meeting but want to see what the Vestry is working on, the minutes are available in a binder on the information table.

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
July 27	Lisa Aaron, her brother & family	Barbara Halsey
Aug 3	Elizabeth Barr Bryant	Elizabeth Barr Bryant
Aug 10	Nancy Wilson	Welcome Karla Lunch!
Aug 17		Elizabeth Barr Bryant

A tribute from Lisa Aaron, her brother & their family in honor of their mother, Doris King:

The beautiful flowers at the altar are dedicated to our mother and mother-in-love, Doris King.

We celebrate her with you on her 85th birthday today!

These flowers represent the beauty and the joy that she has brought to her children, their families and to all those she has served here at Christ Episcopal Church.