

Christ Episcopal Church
Sparta, NC

A home to all sharing God's unconditional love.

fear not,
LITTLE FLOCK.

The Ninth Sunday after Pentecost
August 10, 2025

The Rt. Rev José McLoughlin
Bishop of Western North Carolina

The Rev Karla Woggon
Priest-in-Charge

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 christchurchspartanc@gmail.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 christchurchspartanc@gmail.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:

Kathy Sugishita for serving as musician and for being so generous with her talents, and
Nancy Wilson for providing the beautiful flowers from her garden.

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/CCEpiscopal/give/now>

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

Music used by permission CCLI License #11138616

The Gathering

Prelude

Kathy Sugishita

Announcements

Elizabeth Barr Bryant

Please stand, as able.

Processional Hymn #490

I want to walk as a child of the light

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.

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,

Grant to us, Lord, we pray, the spirit to think and do always those things that are right, that we, who cannot exist without you, may by you be enabled to live according to your will; 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 15:1-6

The word of the Lord came to Abram in a vision, "Do not be afraid, Abram, I am your shield; your reward shall be very great." But Abram said, "O Lord God, what will you give me, for I continue childless, and the heir of my house is Eliezer of Damascus?" And Abram said, "You have given me no offspring, and so a slave born in my house is to be my heir." But the word of the Lord came to him, "This man shall not be your heir; no one but your very own issue shall be your heir." He brought him outside and said, "Look toward heaven and count the stars, if you are able to count them." Then he said to him, "So shall your descendants be." And he believed the Lord; and the Lord reckoned it to him as righteousness.

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

People **Thanks be to God.**

The Response

Psalm 33:12-22

Happy is the nation whose God is the LORD! *
happy the people he has chosen to be his own!
The LORD looks down from heaven, *
and beholds all the people in the world.
From where he sits enthroned he turns his gaze *
on all who dwell on the earth.
He fashions all the hearts of them *
and understands all their works.
There is no king that can be saved by a mighty army; *
a strong man is not delivered by his great strength.
The horse is a vain hope for deliverance; *
for all its strength it cannot save.
Behold, the eye of the LORD is upon those who fear him, *
on those who wait upon his love,
To pluck their lives from death, *
and to feed them in time of famine.
Our soul waits for the LORD; *
he is our help and our shield.
Indeed, our heart rejoices in him, *
for in his holy Name we put our trust.
Let your loving-kindness, O LORD, be upon us, *
as we have put our trust in you.

The Second Reading

Hebrews 11:1-3, 8-16

Now faith is the assurance of things hoped for, the conviction of things not seen. Indeed, by faith our ancestors received approval. By faith we understand that the worlds were prepared by the word of God, so that what is seen was made from things that are not visible.

By faith Abraham obeyed when he was called to set out for a place that he was to receive as an inheritance; and he set out, not knowing where he was going. By faith he stayed for a time in the land he had been promised, as in a foreign land, living in tents, as did Isaac and Jacob, who were heirs with him of the same promise. For he looked forward to the city that has foundations, whose architect and builder is God. By faith he received power of procreation, even though he was too old~ and Sarah herself was barren~ because he considered him faithful who had promised. Therefore from one person, and this one as good as dead, descendants were born, "as many as the stars of heaven and as the innumerable grains of sand by the seashore."

All of these died in faith without having received the promises, but from a distance they saw and greeted them. They confessed that they were strangers and foreigners on the earth, for people who

Speak in this way make it clear that they are seeking a homeland. If they had been thinking of the land that they had left behind, they would have had opportunity to return. But as it is, they desire a better country, that is, a heavenly one. Therefore God is not ashamed to be called their God; indeed, he has prepared a city for them.

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

People Thanks be to God.

Please stand, as able.

Gospel Hymn #472, vss 1-3

Hope of the world

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 12:32-40

Jesus said to his disciples, "Do not be afraid, little flock, for it is your Father's good pleasure to give you the kingdom. Sell your possessions, and give alms. Make purses for yourselves that do not wear out, an unfailing treasure in heaven, where no thief comes near and no moth destroys. For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.

"Be dressed for action and have your lamps lit; be like those who are waiting for their master to return from the wedding banquet, so that they may open the door for him as soon as he comes and knocks. Blessed are those slaves whom the master finds alert when he comes; truly I tell you, he will fasten his belt and have them sit down to eat, and he will come and serve them. If he comes during the middle of the night, or near dawn, and finds them so, blessed are those slaves.

"But know this: if the owner of the house had known at what hour the thief was coming, he would not have let his house be broken into. You also must be ready, for the Son of Man is coming at an unexpected hour."

Presider The Gospel of the Lord.

People Praise to you, Lord Christ.

Gospel Hymn #472, vss 4-5

Hope of the world

All are seated.

The Sermon

The Rev Karla Woggon

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: O God your Word comes to us, and our hearts are uplifted. Listen now, we beseech you, to the needs and thanksgivings of your people as we say, Lord in your mercy,

People: hear our prayer.

Leader: Fill our church with faith, that our hope might embolden us to be your agents of love to all the corners of our lives. Lord in your mercy,

People: hear our prayer.

Leader: Grant wisdom, compassion, and a love of justice to the leaders of our nation that they might work for the good of all. Lord in your mercy,

People: hear our prayer.

Leader: Open our eyes to the possibilities of tomorrow; lead us to focus not just on problems but to search for solutions that we might build a sustainable way of life that honors your abundant creation. Lord in your mercy,

People: hear our prayer.

Leader: We are committed to being your people in this community at this time. Grant us discerning hearts and burning desire to share your Good News that our community might be a place where all people may thrive. 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 Karla Woggon.* 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 Rwanda; in the Diocese of Western North Carolina, La Capilla de Santa Maria in Hendersonville, St Mary of the Hills in Blowing Rock, and St Mary's in Asheville, and in our Alleghany Community, New River Missionary Baptist Church. And please keep Christ Church, the Vestry and Leadership in your prayers...* Lord in your mercy,

People: hear our prayer.

Leader: Let your healing love be present in the lives of all who suffer. Especially we pray for... **Antje & Bill, Bill, Brenda & Kelly, Briona & family, Carl & Carol, Carl & Mimi, Cathy Davis and her family, Charles & Christine, David, Donna & Mike, Elizabeth, Emily, Frank & Ann W, Gary, Isabel, Jean, Jeanne, Johnny, Jonathan, Liz & Sarah and their family, Lucy, Lynn, Lynn & Ajit, Margaret, Mark, Marybeth & Ned, Mr. Whitley, Rita & Angelia, Rod & Louise, Rudy, and Vanita.** *Please add your own petitions silently or aloud...* Lord in your mercy,

People: hear our prayer.

Leader: Welcome the dead into your loving embrace, tend to the souls of those who grieve, and let us hold close the love of those whom we wait to see in your new age. *We pray especially for The Rev Dr Helen Whitener Tester.* Lord in your mercy,

People: hear our prayer.

Presider: O Generous God, you desire that we should live in love and not fear; hear our prayers, be known in our lives, and respond to the needs and hopes of your people; all this we ask through Jesus, our Lord and Savior who with you and Holy Spirit lives and reigns, now and always. **Amen.**

Confession of Sin

EOW, p 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 the grace of 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.*

Please remain standing, as able.

The Great Thanksgiving

EOW1, pp 57-59

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.

Presider It is truly right, and good and joyful,
to give you thanks, all-holy God,
source of life and fountain of mercy.

You have filled us and all creation with your blessing and fed us with your constant love; you have redeemed us in Jesus Christ and knit us into one body. Through your Spirit you replenish us and call

us to fullness of life. Therefore, joining with Angels and Archangels and with the faithful of every generation, we lift our voices with all creation as we sing:

Sanctus: (*sung by all*)

Land of Rest tune



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!

Blessed are you, gracious God, creator of the universe and giver of life. You formed us in your own image and called us to dwell in your infinite love. You gave the world into our care that we might be your faithful stewards and show forth your bountiful grace.

But we failed to honor your image in one another and in ourselves; we would not see your goodness in the world around us; and so we violated your creation, abused one another, and rejected your love. Yet you never ceased to care for us, and prepared the way of salvation for all people.

Through Abraham and Sarah you called us into covenant with you. You delivered us from slavery, sustained us in the wilderness, and raised up prophets to renew your promise of salvation. Then, in the fullness of time, you sent your eternal Word, made mortal flesh in Jesus. Born into the human family, and dwelling among us, he revealed your glory. Giving himself freely to death on the cross, he triumphed over evil, opening the way of freedom and life.

Stand or kneel, as able, for Prayer of Consecration.

On the night before he died for us, Our Savior Jesus Christ took bread, and when he had given thanks to you, he broke it, and gave it to his friends, and said: "Take, eat: This is my Body which is given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me."

As supper was ending, Jesus 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 poured out for you and for all for the forgiveness of sins. Whenever you drink it, do this for the remembrance of me."

Therefore we proclaim the mystery of faith:

Christ has died.

Christ is risen.

Christ will come again.

Remembering his death and resurrection, we now present to you from your creation this bread and this wine. By your Holy Spirit may they be for us the Body and Blood of our Savior Jesus Christ. Grant that we who share these gifts may be filled with the Holy Spirit and live as Christ's Body in the world. Bring us into the everlasting heritage of your daughters and sons, that with all your saints, past, present, and yet to come, we may praise your Name for ever.

Through Christ and with Christ and in Christ, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, to you be honor, glory, and praise, for ever and 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.

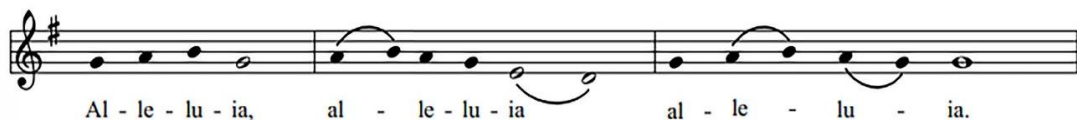
For the kingdom, the power,
and the glory are yours,
now and for ever. Amen.

The Breaking of the Bread

A period of silence is kept.

Fraction: *(sung by all)*

Proulx Alleluia



The Invitation to Holy Communion

Presider: The gifts of God for the People of God, God's holy food for God's holy people.

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.

Post Communion Prayer

EOW, p 70

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

Presider Live without fear: your Creator has made you holy, has always protected you, and loves you as a mother. Go in peace to follow the good road and may God's blessing be with you always. **Amen.**

Please stand, as able.

Recessional Hymn #565

He who would valiant be

The Dismissal

Presider Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.

People Thanks be to God.

Postlude

Kathy Sugishita

Coming Lessons

Jeremiah 23:23-29

Psalm 82

Hebrews 11:29 - 12:2

Luke 12:49-56

The following people are assisting with the services

Role	This Sunday	Next Sunday
Altar Guild	Louise Law	Bruce Smith
Crucifer	Patti Phelps	Bruce Smith
Lector I	Mary Lee Joines	Jonathan Halsey
Lector II	Mary Lee Joines	Jonathan Halsey
Prayers of the People	Mary Lee Joines	Jonathan Halsey
Sanctus Bell	Patti Phelps	Bruce Smith
Greeter(s)/Usher(s)	Nancy Wilson	Patti Phelps & Ruthie Maxwell

Prayer List

Intercessions:

Antje & Bill, Bill Harrison, Brenda & Kelly Weems, Briona Brown & family, Carl & Carol Greer, Carl & Mimi, Charles & Christine McKelvy, David Lee, Donna & Mike Hohnstine, Elizabeth (Rev Martha's friend), Emily Buck, Frank & Ann W, Gary Medley, Isabel Tomé, Jean Callison, Jeanne Green, Johnny Thompson (Bill Harrison's friend), Jonathan, Kate Vermilyea, Liz & Sarah and family as well as parishioners at St Luke's in Boone, Lucy, Lynn Ellis, Lynn & Ajit, Margaret, Mark, Marybeth & Ned Lentz, Mr. Whitley, Rita Woodruff & Angelia Miller, Rod Pace & Louise Law, Rudy McKnight, and Vanita (Ruthie's sister). And we pray for Christ Church, its leaders & ministry teams.

Departed: Alvin Brown (July 31), The Rev Dr Helen Whitener Tester (Aug 3)

Birthdays: Shelley Jones (Aug 12)

Wedding Anniversaries & Thanksgivings:

Schedule

Sunday, August 10 – The Ninth Sunday after Pentecost

10:30 am – Holy Eucharist with The Rev Karla Woggon

Potluck 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 will be reading/discussing *Falling Upward*

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

Sunday, August 17 – The Tenth Sunday after Pentecost

10:30 am – Holy Eucharist with The Rev Karla Woggon

Coffee hour follows the service

Tuesday, August 19

1:00 pm – Centering Prayer group

2:00 pm – Book Discussion group will be reading/discussing *Falling Upward*

Wednesday, August 20

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

Announcements

Welcoming The Rev Karla Woggon! We will be having a **potluck lunch** after our worship service **TODAY, Sunday, August 10th** to officially welcome Karla. We hope you will join us to welcome Karla (& her husband, Steve!) and enjoy a time of fellowship with her & each other!

NEW Christ Church email address is: christchurchspartanc@gmail.com.

NEW Priest email address for Karla is: priest.christchurchspartanc@gmail.com.

Karla would love to get to know everyone! If you'd like to meet for coffee or lunch, meet in her office, or meet at your home, call her at 828.638.0533. She'll reach out on Sunday or Monday to schedule.

Solid Rock Food Closet Volunteers continue! Questions? Contact Jann Boggs at 727.641.4925.

Ladies Lunch Out meets on Friday, August 15th at 11:45 am. Please sign up so we know how big a table to request. We'll meet in the Christ Church parking lot and carpool to The Bluffs for lunch.

Yoga class with Julie meets on Wednesday mornings. Classes are held on Wednesday mornings at 10:00 am. *For more information, read the Good News & Notes.*

The Christian 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 started a new book, Richard Rohr’s *Falling Upward*. If you’re interested in taking part, let Patti Phelps know so she can order you a book. All are invited to attend one or both groups!

The prayer shawls & lap quilts, relocated once again to the narthex under the table, are available for you to give someone who needs our Christ Church love and support. *For more information, read the GNN.*

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
Aug 10	Nancy Wilson	Welcome Karla Lunch!
Aug 17	Ella Wren	Elizabeth Barr Bryant
Aug 24		Elizabeth Barr Bryant
Aug 31	Cynthia Grant	Cynthia Grant