

Christ Episcopal Church

Sparta, NC

A home to all sharing God's unconditional love.



The Tenth Sunday after Pentecost

August 17, 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:

Laura Davis for serving as musician and for being so generous with her talents,
Ella Wren for providing the beautiful flowers at the altar, and
Elizabeth Barr Bryant for providing our refreshments for coffee hour.

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
2543 US Highway 21 South
PO Box 1866
Sparta, North Carolina 28675
Office: 336.372.7983
Priest cell: 828.638.0533

Email: christchurchspartanc@gmail.com (NEW)

Priest Email: priest.christchurchspartanc@gmail.com

Website: www.christchurchallegghany.org

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

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

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Cover art: *Hear my Praise* by Rochelle Blumenfeld

The Gathering

Prelude

Laura Davis

Announcements

Elizabeth Barr Bryant

Please stand, as able.

Processional Hymn #287, vss 1-4

For all the saints

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 - mighty 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,

Almighty God, you have given your only Son to be for us a sacrifice for sin, and also an example of godly life: Give us grace to receive thankfully the fruits of his redeeming work, and to follow daily in the blessed steps of his most holy life; through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

Please be seated.

Liturgy of the Word

First Reading

Jeremiah 23:23-29

Am I a God near by, says the Lord, and not a God far off? Who can hide in secret places so that I cannot see them? says the Lord. Do I not fill heaven and earth? says the Lord. I have heard what the prophets have said who prophesy lies in my name, saying, "I have dreamed, I have dreamed!" How long? Will the hearts of the prophets ever turn back~ those who prophesy lies, and who prophesy the deceit of their own heart? They plan to make my people forget my name by their dreams that they tell one another, just as their ancestors forgot my name for Baal. Let the prophet who has a dream tell the dream, but let the one who has my word speak my word faithfully. What has straw in common with

wheat? says the Lord. Is not my word like fire, says the Lord, and like a hammer that breaks a rock in pieces?

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

People Thanks be to God.

The Response

Psalm 82

God takes his stand in the council of heaven; *
he gives judgment in the midst of the gods:

"How long will you judge unjustly, *
and show favor to the wicked?

Save the weak and the orphan; *
defend the humble and needy;

Rescue the weak and the poor; *
deliver them from the power of the wicked.

They do not know, neither do they understand;
they go about in darkness; *
all the foundations of the earth are shaken.

Now I say to you, 'You are gods, *
and all of you children of the Most High;

Nevertheless, you shall die like mortals, *
and fall like any prince."

Arise, O God, and rule the earth, *
for you shall take all nations for your own.

The Second Reading

Hebrews 11:29-12:2

By faith the people passed through the Red Sea as if it were dry land, but when the Egyptians attempted to do so they were drowned. By faith the walls of Jericho fell after they had been encircled for seven days. By faith Rahab the prostitute did not perish with those who were disobedient, because she had received the spies in peace.

And what more should I say? For time would fail me to tell of Gideon, Barak, Samson, Jephthah, of David and Samuel and the prophets~ who through faith conquered kingdoms, administered justice, obtained promises, shut the mouths of lions, quenched raging fire, escaped the edge of the sword, won strength out of weakness, became mighty in war, put foreign armies to flight. Women received their dead by resurrection. Others were tortured, refusing to accept release, in order to obtain a better resurrection. Others suffered mocking and flogging, and even chains and imprisonment. They were stoned to death, they were sawn in two, they were killed by the sword; they went about in skins of sheep and goats, destitute, persecuted, tormented~ of whom the world was not worthy. They wandered in deserts and mountains, and in caves and holes in the ground.

Yet all these, though they were commended for their faith, did not receive what was promised, since God had provided something better so that they would not, apart from us, be made perfect.

Therefore, since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, let us also lay aside every weight and the sin that clings so closely, and let us run with perseverance the race that is set before us, looking to Jesus the pioneer and perfecter of our faith, who for the sake of the joy that was set before him endured the cross, disregarding its shame, and has taken his seat at the right hand of the throne of God.

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

People **Thanks be to God.**

Please stand, as able.

Gospel Hymn #635

If thou but trust in God to guide thee

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 12:49-56

Jesus said, "I came to bring fire to the earth, and how I wish it were already kindled! I have a baptism with which to be baptized, and what stress I am under until it is completed! Do you think that I have come to bring peace to the earth? No, I tell you, but rather division! From now on five in one household will be divided, three against two and two against three; they will be divided:

father against son
and son against father,
mother against daughter
and daughter against mother,
mother-in-law against her daughter-in-law
and daughter-in-law against mother-in-law."

He also said to the crowds, "When you see a cloud rising in the west, you immediately say, 'It is going to rain'; and so it happens. And when you see the south wind blowing, you say, 'There will be scorching heat'; and it happens. You hypocrites! You know how to interpret the appearance of earth and sky, but why do you not know how to interpret the present time?"

Presider The Gospel of the Lord.

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

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: Lord God, you have promised to be near, be with us now and hear and answer our prayers
as we say, Lord in your mercy,

People: hear our prayer.

Leader: Lead your church, that we might stand in the light of your glory in all that we do. Lord in your mercy,

People: hear our prayer.

Leader: Open the hearts and minds of those with authority in our lives and fill them with wisdom and mercy, that they might always strive only for the greatest good. Lord in your mercy,

People: hear our prayer.

Leader: Guide us and put us to work as laborers for your kingdom, that the world might see your glory and live as the people you created them to be. Lord in your mercy,

People: hear our prayer.

Leader: Give us courageous and willing hearts to be effective stewards of your Creation, that we might learn to use it sustainably. 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 Scottish Episcopal Church; in the Diocese of Western North Carolina, all students, faculty & staff return to school; college and campus ministries at Appalachian State University, Western Carolina University, and University of North Carolina at Asheville, and in our Alleghany Community, New Salem Baptist Church. And please keep Christ Church, the Vestry and Leadership in your prayers...* Lord in your mercy,

People: hear our prayer.

Leader: Push away fear and pain in the lives of those who suffer and bring your healing presence to them. Especially we pray for... **Antje & Bill, Bill, Bob, Brenda & Kelly, Carl & Carol, Carl & Mimi, Charles & Christine, Donna & Mike, Elizabeth, Emily, Frank & Ann W, Isabel, Jay, Jean, Johnny, Jonathan, Lucy, Luke & Cole & Andrew, 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: Enfold the dying in your love, give strength to those who mourn, and comfort those who grieve. Lord in your mercy,

People: hear our prayer.

Presider: Heavenly Father, you have shown us your love again and again, cover us with your blessings and mercy as we move through our lives, that we might reflect your love into the world. All this we ask through Christ, our Lord who with you and the 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

Laura Davis

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.

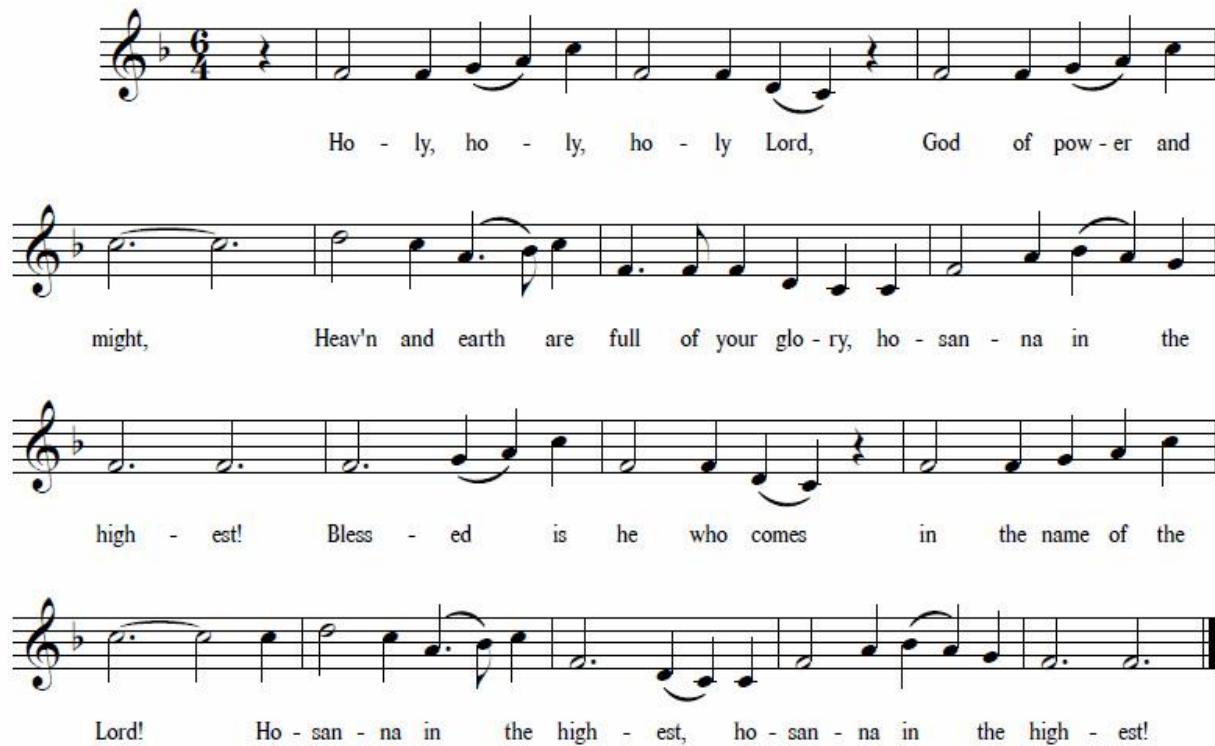
Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.
It is right to give God thanks and praise.

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.

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

Laura Davis

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 #347

Go forth for God

The Dismissal

Presider Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.

People Thanks be to God.

Postlude

Laura Davis

Coming Lessons

Isaiah 58:9b-14

Psalms 103:1-8

Hebrews 12:18-29

Luke 13:10-17

The following people are assisting with the services

| Role | This Sunday | Next Sunday |
|-----------------------|-------------------------------|-----------------------|
| Altar Guild | Bruce Smith | Nancy Wilson |
| Crucifer | Bruce Smith | Elizabeth Barr Bryant |
| Lector I | Jonathan Halsey | Brenda Weems |
| Lector II | Jonathan Halsey | Brenda Weems |
| Prayers of the People | Jonathan Halsey | Brenda Weems |
| Sanctus Bell | Bruce Smith | Nancy Wilson |
| Greeter(s)/Usher(s) | Patti Phelps & Ruthie Maxwell | Cynthia Grant |

Prayer List

Intercessions:

Antje & Bill, Bill Harrison, Bob Bamburg, Brenda & Kelly Weems, Carl & Carol Greer, Carl & Mimi, Charles & Christine McKelvy, Donna & Mike Hohnstine, Elizabeth (Rev Martha's friend), Emily Buck, Frank & Ann W, Isabel Tomé, Jay Woodruff, Jean Callison, Johnny Thompson (Bill Harrison's friend), Jonathan, Lucy, Lynn Ellis, Luke & Cole Baker Bagwell & Andrew Bagwell, 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:

Birthdays:

Wedding Anniversaries & Thanksgivings:

Schedule

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

Sunday, August 24 – The Eleventh Sunday after Pentecost

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

Coffee hour follows the service

Tuesday, August 26

1:00 pm – Centering Prayer group

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

Wednesday, August 27

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

Sunday, August 31 – The Twelfth Sunday after Pentecost

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

Coffee hour follows the service

Tuesday, September 2

1:00 pm – Centering Prayer group

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

Announcements

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.

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 next Ladies Lunch Out (LLO) is scheduled for Monday, Sept 15th at 11:30 am. We'll meet at church and carpool to Mis Arados for lunch. The lunch has moved to Monday so Karla can join us! Please make sure to sign up so we know a head count – the sign-up sheet is on the information table in the Parish Hall.

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 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 17 | Ella Wren | Elizabeth Barr Bryant |
| Aug 24 | | Elizabeth Barr Bryant |
| Aug 31 | Cynthia Grant | Cynthia Grant |
| Sept 7 | Mary Lee Joines | Sara Brown Davis |