

# Christ Episcopal Church

Sparta, NC

*A home to all sharing God's unconditional love.*



## The Twelfth Sunday after Pentecost

August 31, 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](mailto: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](mailto: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:**

**The Rev Martha Honaker** for leading our worship this morning,

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

**Cynthia Grant** for the beautiful flowers at the altar in loving memory of Sara Shoemaker, and  
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](http://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](mailto:christchurchspartanc@gmail.com) (NEW)

Priest Email: [priest.christchurchspartanc@gmail.com](mailto:priest.christchurchspartanc@gmail.com)

Website: [www.christchurchallegghany.org](http://www.christchurchallegghany.org)

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*

*Cover art: The Banquet mural by Hyatt Moore*

# The Gathering

Prelude

Victoria Fischer Faw

Announcements

Elizabeth Barr Bryant

*Please stand, as able.*

Processional Hymn #609

*Where cross the crowded ways of life*

*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,

Lord of all power and might, the author and giver of all good things: Graft in our hearts the love of your Name; increase in us true religion; nourish us with all goodness; and bring forth in us the fruit of good works; 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

#### Sirach 10:12-18

The beginning of human pride is to forsake the Lord;  
 the heart has withdrawn from its Maker.

For the beginning of pride is sin,  
 and the one who clings to it pours out abominations.

Therefore the Lord brings upon them unheard-of calamities,  
 and destroys them completely.

The Lord overthrows the thrones of rulers,  
 and enthrones the lowly in their place.

The Lord plucks up the roots of the nations,  
and plants the humble in their place.

The Lord lays waste the lands of the nations,  
and destroys them to the foundations of the earth.

He removes some of them and destroys them,  
and erases the memory of them from the earth.

Pride was not created for human beings,  
or violent anger for those born of women.

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

People        Thanks be to God.

## The Response

### Psalm 112

Hallelujah!

Happy are they who fear the Lord \*  
**and have great delight in his commandments!**

Their descendants will be mighty in the land; \*  
**the generation of the upright will be blessed.**

Wealth and riches will be in their house, \*  
**and their righteousness will last for ever.**

Light shines in the darkness for the upright; \*  
**the righteous are merciful and full of compassion.**

It is good for them to be generous in lending \*  
**and to manage their affairs with justice.**

For they will never be shaken; \*  
**the righteous will be kept in everlasting remembrance.**

They will not be afraid of any evil rumors; \*  
**their heart is right;**  
**they put their trust in the Lord.**

Their heart is established and will not shrink, \*  
**until they see their desire upon their enemies.**

They have given freely to the poor, \*  
**and their righteousness stands fast for ever;**  
**they will hold up their head with honor.**

The wicked will see it and be angry;  
they will gnash their teeth and pine away; \*  
**the desires of the wicked will perish.**

## The Second Reading

### Hebrews 13:1-8, 15-16

Let mutual love continue. Do not neglect to show hospitality to strangers, for by doing that some have entertained angels without knowing it. Remember those who are in prison, as though you were in prison with them; those who are being tortured, as though you yourselves were being tortured. Let marriage be held in honor by all, and let the marriage bed be kept undefiled; for God will judge fornicators and adulterers. Keep your lives free from the love of money, and be content with what you have; for he has said, "I will never leave you or forsake you." So we can say with confidence,

"The Lord is my helper;  
I will not be afraid.

What can anyone do to me?"

Remember your leaders, those who spoke the word of God to you; consider the outcome of their way of life, and imitate their faith. Jesus Christ is the same yesterday and today and forever.

Through him, then, let us continually offer a sacrifice of praise to God, that is, the fruit of lips that confess his name. Do not neglect to do good and to share what you have, for such sacrifices are pleasing to God.

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

**People** Thanks be to God.

*Please stand, as able.*

## Gospel Hymn #325

*Let us break bread together on our knees*

*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 14:1, 7-14

On one occasion when Jesus was going to the house of a leader of the Pharisees to eat a meal on the sabbath, they were watching him closely.

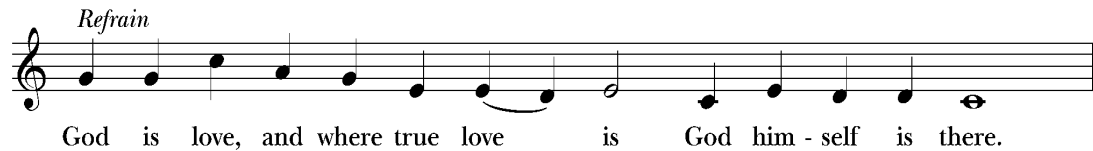
When he noticed how the guests chose the places of honor, he told them a parable. "When you are invited by someone to a wedding banquet, do not sit down at the place of honor, in case someone more distinguished than you has been invited by your host; and the host who invited both of you may come and say to you, 'Give this person your place,' and then in disgrace you would start to take the lowest place. But when you are invited, go and sit down at the lowest place, so that when your host comes, he may say to you, 'Friend, move up higher'; then you will be honored in the presence of all who sit at the table with you. For all who exalt themselves will be humbled, and those who humble themselves will be exalted."

He said also to the one who had invited him, “When you give a luncheon or a dinner, do not invite your friends or your brothers or your relatives or rich neighbors, in case they may invite you in return, and you would be repaid. But when you give a banquet, invite the poor, the crippled, the lame, and the blind. And you will be blessed, because they cannot repay you, for you will be repaid at the resurrection of the righteous.”

Presider      The Gospel of the Lord.

People        Praise to you, Lord Christ.

Refrain:



*All are seated.*

**The Sermon**

The Rev Martha Honaker

*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 Lord our God, grant that we might see the majesty of your glory in our lives and hear our prayers as we say, Lord in your mercy,

**People: hear our prayer.**

Leader: Lead your church into humility and may her leaders be first her servants, seeking only and always to glorify you in their lives. Lord in your mercy,

**People: hear our prayer.**

Leader: Give us selfless civil leaders who are zealous for truth, justice, and mercy and whose efforts build up the whole community and bring people together. Lord in your mercy,

**People: hear our prayer.**

Leader: Embolden us to make the difficult choices to ensure the continued abundance of your Creation. Lord in your mercy,

**People: hear our prayer.**

Leader: Make us good neighbors and open our eyes to see you in the eyes of those we encounter, that together we might build a community where everyone can thrive and live into their potential. 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 Martha Honaker.* 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 Church of South India; in the Diocese of Western North Carolina, All Saint's in Linville and Church of the Resurrection in Little Switzerland, and in our Alleghany Community, Osborne Memorial Missionary Baptist Church. And please keep Christ Church, the Vestry and Leadership in your prayers...* Lord in your mercy,

**People: hear our prayer.**

Leader: Give peace and strength to those who are sick or injured or who endure suffering in all its myriad forms. Especially we lift up... **Antje & Bill, Bob, Brenda & Kelly, Carl & Carol, Carl & Mimi and their family, Charles & Christine, Chuck & Sally, Donna & Mike, Emily, Frank & Ann W, Isabel, Jamey, Jay, Jean, Jonathan, Liz, Lucy, Luke & Cole & Andrew, Lynn, Lynn & Ajit, Margaret, Mark, Martha A, Marybeth & Ned, Rita &**



Angelia, Rod & Louise, Rudy, Sandra, Sue, and Vanita. *Please add your own petitions silently or aloud...* Lord in your mercy,

**People:** hear our prayer.

Leader: Grant the dead entrance into your eternal embrace and grant us also to enter and join them there when we leave this world. *We pray especially for Elizabeth.* Lord in your mercy,

**People:** hear our prayer.

Presider: God of Glory, through your Son, you have showed us the strength of your love, grant that we might follow in His path and continue His ministry until His return; through the same Son, our Lord, who with you and the Holy Spirit lives and reigns, one God, for ever.  
**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

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.*

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

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.*

## 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 #592

*Teach me, my God and King*

**The Dismissal**

Presider     Go in peace to love and serve the Lord. Alleluia, alleluia.  
People       Thanks be to God. Alleluia, alleluia.

**Postlude**

Victoria Fischer Faw

**Coming Lessons**

Jeremiah 18:1-11  
Psalm 139:1-5, 12-17  
Philemon 1-21  
Luke 14:25-33

**The following people are assisting with the services**

Role	This Sunday	Next Sunday
Altar Guild	Bruce Smith	Louise Law
Crucifer	Jonathan Halsey	Nancy Wilson
Lector I	Patti Phelps	Elizabeth Barr Bryant
Lector II	Patti Phelps	Elizabeth Barr Bryant
Prayers of the People	Patti Phelps	Elizabeth Barr Bryant
Sanctus Bell	Jonathan Halsey	Nancy Wilson
Greeter(s)/Usher(s)	Nancy Wilson	Jann Boggs & Les Colvard

# Prayer List

## **Intercessions:**

Antje & Bill, Bob Bamberg, Brenda & Kelly Weems, Carl & Carol Greer, Carl & Mimi and their family following Elizabeth's death, Charles & Christine McKelvy, Chuck & Sally, Donna & Mike Hohnstine, Emily Buck, Frank & Ann W, Isabel Tomé, Jamey Bass, Jay Woodruff, Jean Callison, Jonathan, Liz, Lucy, Luke & Cole & Andrew Bagwell, Lynn Ellis, Lynn & Ajit, Margaret, Mark, Martha Adams, Marybeth & Ned Lentz, Rita Woodruff & Angelia Miller, Rod Pace & Louise Law, Rudy McKnight, Sandra, Sue, and Vanita (Ruthie's sister). And we pray for Christ Church, its leaders & ministry teams.

**Departed:** Elizabeth (Rev Martha's friend)

## **Birthdays:**

## **Wedding Anniversaries & Thanksgivings:**

# Schedule

## **Sunday, August 31 – The Twelfth Sunday after Pentecost**

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

Coffee hour follows the service

## **Monday, September 1 – Labor Day holiday, the Office will be closed**

## **Tuesday, September 2**

1:00 pm – Centering Prayer group

2:00 pm – Book Discussion group, *Falling Upward*

## **Wednesday, September 3**

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

## **Sunday, September 7 – The Thirteenth Sunday after Pentecost**

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

Coffee hour follows the service

## **Monday, September 8**

10:00 am – Vestry meeting

## **Tuesday, September 9**

1:00 pm – Centering Prayer group

2:00 pm – Book Discussion group, *Falling Upward*

Wednesday, September 10

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

## Announcements

**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.

**NEW Christ Church email address is:** [christchurchspartanc@gmail.com](mailto:christchurchspartanc@gmail.com).

**NEW Priest email address for Karla is:** [priest.christchurchspartanc@gmail.com](mailto: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.

**Save-the-Date!** Rebecca Gain will be sharing her experience living in and working in a community in Abu Dubai, in the United Arab Emirates on **Sunday, Oct 19<sup>th</sup>** during coffee hour. *For more information, read the Good News & Notes.*

**Yoga class with Julie meets on Wednesday mornings thru November** 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 15<sup>th</sup> 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.*

**Monthly Altar Flowers and Coffee Hour sign-ups:**

Date	Altar Flowers	Coffee Hour
Aug 31	Cynthia Grant	Cynthia Grant
Sept 7	Mary Lee Joines	Sara Brown Davis
Sept 14	Judy Ritchie	Kathy Hudgins
Sept 21		