

Christ Episcopal Church

Sparta, NC

A home to all sharing God's unconditional love.



The Fourteenth Sunday after Pentecost

September 14, 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,
Judy Ritchie for the beautiful flowers at the altar in loving memory of Joe's birthday, and
Kathy Hudgins for providing 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

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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: *Jesus left the 99*, online creation, artist unknown

The Gathering

Prelude

Kathy Sugishita

Announcements

Louise Law

Please stand, as able.

Processional Hymn #470

There's a wideness in God's mercy

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



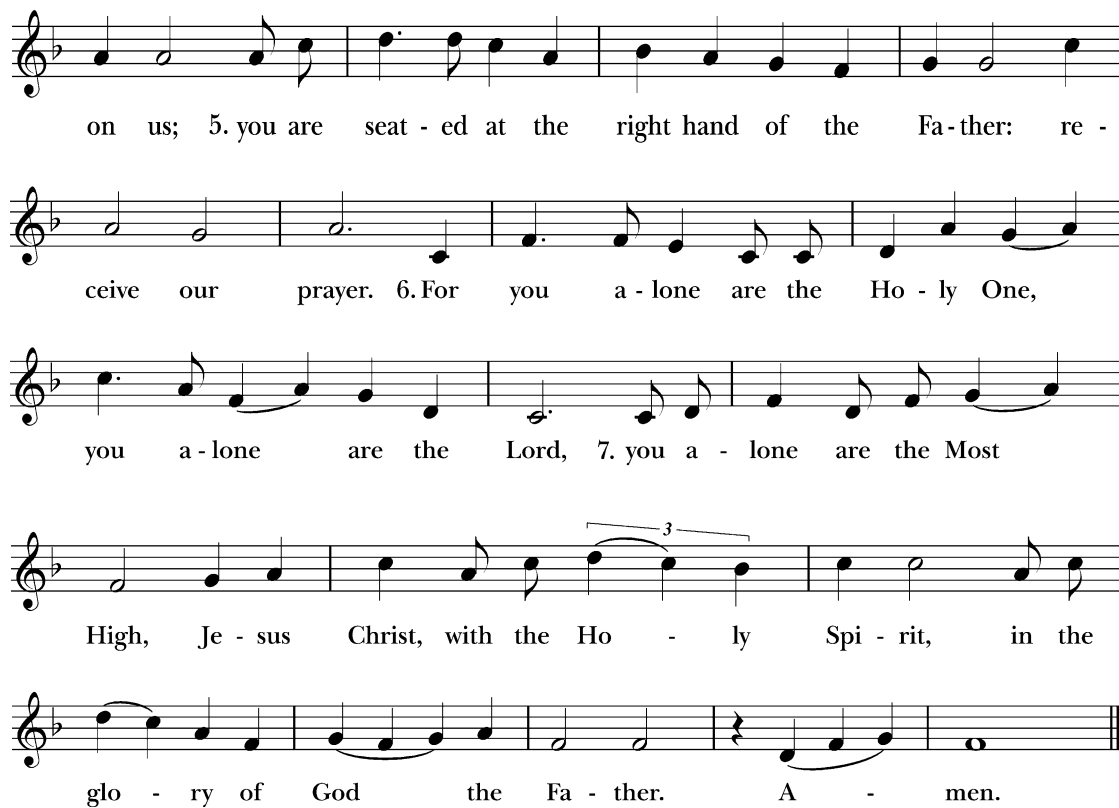
give you thanks, we praise you for your glo - ry. 3. Lord Je - sus



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



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, because without you we are not able to please you, mercifully grant that your Holy Spirit may in all things direct and rule our hearts; through Jesus Christ 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 4:11-12, 22-28

At that time it will be said to this people and to Jerusalem: A hot wind comes from me out of the bare heights in the desert toward my poor people, not to winnow or cleanse~ a wind too strong for that. Now it is I who speak in judgment against them.

"For my people are foolish,
they do not know me;

they are stupid children,
they have no understanding.

They are skilled in doing evil,
but do not know how to do good."

I looked on the earth, and lo, it was waste and void;
and to the heavens, and they had no light.

I looked on the mountains, and lo, they were quaking,
and all the hills moved to and fro.

I looked, and lo, there was no one at all,
and all the birds of the air had fled.

I looked, and lo, the fruitful land was a desert,
and all its cities were laid in ruins
before the LORD, before his fierce anger.

For thus says the LORD: The whole land shall be a desolation; yet I will not make a full end.

Because of this the earth shall mourn,
and the heavens above grow black;

for I have spoken, I have purposed;
I have not relented nor will I turn back.

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

People Thanks be to God.

The Response: Psalm 14

The fool has said in his heart, "There is no God." *
**All are corrupt and commit abominable acts;
there is none who does any good.**

The LORD looks down from heaven upon us all, *
**to see if there is any who is wise,
if there is one who seeks after God.**

Every one has proved faithless;
all alike have turned bad; *
there is none who does good; no, not one.

Have they no knowledge, all those evildoers *
**who eat up my people like bread
and do not call upon the LORD?**

See how they tremble with fear, *
because God is in the company of the righteous.

Their aim is to confound the plans of the afflicted, *
but the LORD is their refuge.

Oh, that Israel's deliverance would come out of Zion! *
**when the LORD restores the fortunes of his people,
Jacob will rejoice and Israel be glad.**

The Second Reading

1 Timothy 1:12-17

I am grateful to Christ Jesus our Lord, who has strengthened me, because he judged me faithful and appointed me to his service, even though I was formerly a blasphemer, a persecutor, and a man of violence. But I received mercy because I had acted ignorantly in unbelief, and the grace of our Lord overflowed for me with the faith and love that are in Christ Jesus. The saying is sure and worthy of full acceptance, that Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners~ of whom I am the foremost. But for that very reason I received mercy, so that in me, as the foremost, Jesus Christ might display the utmost patience, making me an example to those who would come to believe in him for eternal life. To the King of the ages, immortal, invisible, the only God, be honor and glory forever and ever. Amen.

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

People Thanks be to God.

Please stand, as able.

Gospel Hymn #389, vss 1-4

Let us, with a gladsome mind, praise the Lord

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 15:1-10

All the tax collectors and sinners were coming near to listen to Jesus. And the Pharisees and the scribes were grumbling and saying, "This fellow welcomes sinners and eats with them."

So he told them this parable: "Which one of you, having a hundred sheep and losing one of them, does not leave the ninety-nine in the wilderness and go after the one that is lost until he finds it? When he has found it, he lays it on his shoulders and rejoices. And when he comes home, he calls together his friends and neighbors, saying to them, 'Rejoice with me, for I have found my sheep that was lost.' Just so, I tell you, there will be more joy in heaven over one sinner who repents than over ninety-nine righteous persons who need no repentance.

"Or what woman having ten silver coins, if she loses one of them, does not light a lamp, sweep the house, and search carefully until she finds it? When she has found it, she calls together her friends and neighbors, saying, 'Rejoice with me, for I have found the coin that I had lost.' Just so, I tell you, there is joy in the presence of the angels of God over one sinner who repents."

Presider The Gospel of the Lord.

People Praise to you, Lord Christ.

Gospel Hymn #389, vss 5-7

Let us, with a gladsome mind, praise the Lord

All are seated.

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: Patient and Gracious Lord, enter our hearts and move our desires to your glory as we say,
Lord in your mercy,

People: hear our prayer.

Leader: May your church always be a place of refuge and renewal, a place for the healing of lost and wounded souls. Lord in your mercy,

People: hear our prayer.

Leader: Remind us that Christian freedom is freedom from fear, from anxiety, from hate, and embolden us in our civic lives that we might build a nation of peace, justice, and mercy.
Lord in your mercy,

People: hear our prayer.

Leader: You created us so that we might be your partners in sustaining the abundance of creation. Grant us wisdom and a sense of urgency in addressing our environmental and climate challenges. Lord in your mercy,

People: hear our prayer.

Leader: Strengthen our parish, embolden us to share your glory in every part of our lives that the Good News of Christ might be known to all who know us. 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 Priest-in-Charge, Karla.* 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 South America; in the Diocese of Western North Carolina, Holy Cross in Tryon and Valle Crucis, and in our Alleghany Community, Piney Creek United Methodist Church. And please keep Christ Church, the Vestry and Leadership in your prayers...* Lord in your mercy,

People: hear our prayer.

Leader: Bring healing and strength to all who suffer and let us be healers and comforters to those in need. Especially we pray for... **Antje & Bill, Bob, Brenda & Kelly, Carl & Carol, Charles & Christine, Chuck & Sally, Donna & Mike, Emily, Frank & Ann W, Isabel, Jamey, Jay, Jean, Jennie, Jonathan, Lucy, Luke & Cole & Andrew, Lynn, Lynn & Ajit, Margaret, Martha A, Marybeth & Ned, Rita & Angelia, Rod & Louise, Rudy, Sandra, and Vanita.** *Please add your own petitions silently or aloud...* Lord in your mercy,

People: hear our prayer.

Leader: Embrace the dying, usher them into your eternal care and grant us an entrance into your light and love at our last day. Lord in your mercy,

People: hear our prayer.

Presider: You have worked from the beginning to urge us onto the path of abundant life, continue to guide us on the Way and welcome us back whenever we stray. Through Christ our Lord who with you and the Holy Spirit live and reign, forever and always. **Amen.**

Confession of Sin

BCP, pg 360

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

All 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; that we may delight in your will, and walk in your ways, to the glory of your Name. **Amen.**

Presider Almighty God have mercy on you, forgive you all your sins through our Lord Jesus Christ, strengthen you in all goodness, and by the power of the Holy Spirit keep you in eternal life. **Amen.**

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.

Presider Walk in love as Christ loves us and gave himself as an offering and sacrifice to God.

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

Eucharistic Prayer A, BCP

Presider The Lord be with you.

People And also with you.

Celebrant Lift up your hearts.

People We lift them to the Lord.

Celebrant Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

People It is right to give him 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. Therefore we praise you, joining our voices with Angels and Archangels and with all the company of heaven, who for ever sing this hymn to proclaim the glory of your Name:

Sanctus: S129 (*sung by all*)

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

might, hea - ven 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. _____

Holy and gracious Father: In your infinite love you made us for yourself; and, when we had fallen into sin and become subject to evil and death, you, in your mercy, sent Jesus Christ, your only and eternal Son, to share our human nature, to live and die as one of us, to reconcile us to you, the God and Father of all. He stretched out his arms upon the cross, and offered himself in obedience to your will, a perfect sacrifice for the whole world.

On the night he was handed over to suffering and death, 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 many 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.

We celebrate the memorial of our redemption, O Father, in this sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving. Recalling his death, resurrection, and ascension, we offer you these gifts. Sanctify them by your Holy Spirit to be for your people the Body and Blood of your Son, the holy food and drink of new and unending life in him. Sanctify us also that we may faithfully receive this holy Sacrament, and serve you in unity, constancy, and peace; and at the last day bring us with all your saints into the joy of your eternal kingdom.

All this we ask through your Son Jesus Christ. 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 say,

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: S154 (*sung by all*)

This setting is not used in Lent.

Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.

Christ our Pass - o - ver is sac - ri - ficed for us;

there - fore let us keep the feast.

Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.

Music: From *New Plainsong*; David Hurd (b. 1950). Copyright © 1981 GIA Publications, Inc.

The Invitation to Holy Communion

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

Presider Let us pray,

Eternal God, heavenly Father, you have graciously accepted us as living members of your Son our Savior Jesus Christ, and you have fed us with spiritual food in the Sacrament of his Body and Blood. Send us now into the world in peace, and grant us strength and courage to love and serve you with gladness and singleness of heart; through Christ our Lord. 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 #691

My faith looks up to thee

The Dismissal

Presider Go in peace, glorifying the Lord by your life. Alleluia, alleluia.

People Thanks be to God. Alleluia, Alleluia!

Postlude

Kathy Sugishita

Coming Lessons

Jeremiah 8:18 - 9:1

Psalm 79:1-9

1 Timothy 2:1-7

Luke 16:1-13

The following people are assisting with the services

Role	This Sunday	Next Sunday
Altar Guild	Louise Law	Louise Law
Crucifer	Bruce Smith	Elizabeth Barr Bryant
Lector I	Louise Law	Geoff Jones
Lector II	Louise Law	Geoff Jones
Prayers of the People	Louise Law	Geoff Jones
Sanctus Bell	Bruce Smith	Elizabeth Barr Bryant
Greeter(s)/Usher(s)	Jane Franck	Jane Franck

Prayer List

Intercessions:

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

Departed:

Birthdays: Larry Seckel (Sept 16), Pat Bassett (Sept 17)

Wedding Anniversaries & Thanksgivings:

Schedule

Sunday, September 14 – The Fourteenth Sunday after Pentecost

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

Coffee hour follows the service

Monday, September 15

11:30 am – Ladies Lunch Out (LLO) – Mis Arados arrival by 11:45 am

Tuesday, September 16

1:00 pm – Centering Prayer group

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

Wednesday, September 17

9:30 am – Yoga with Julie in the Parish Hall

Sunday, September 21 – The Fifteenth Sunday after Pentecost

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

Coffee hour follows the service

Tuesday, September 23

1:00 pm – Centering Prayer group

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

Wednesday, September 24

9:30 am – Yoga with Julie in the Parish Hall

Sunday, September 28 – The Sixteenth Sunday after Pentecost

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

Coffee hour follows the service

Tuesday, September 30

1:00 pm – Centering Prayer group

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

Wednesday, October 1

9:30 am – Yoga with Julie in the Parish Hall

Announcements

Prayers for healing: if you would like anointing and prayers for healing for yourself or others, please stay at the altar rail after receiving communion and Karla will stop and pray with you. *Healing prayers will be offered on the second Sunday of each month.*

Ushers are back! We occasionally try new things and the no-usher effort during communion just did not work. So, we will return to having ushers TODAY. They'll let pews go a few at a time. Approach the altar as you always have with those on the right side pews moving to the far right of the altar and those on the left side pews, moving to the middle of the altar.

The next Ladies Lunch Out (LLO) is scheduled for TOMORROW, Monday, Sept 15th. Either meet at church by 11:30 am and carpool to Mis Arados for lunch **OR** meet at Mis Arados by 11:45 am. 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 in on the information table in the Parish Hall.*

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.

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 19th** during coffee hour. *For more information, read the Good News & Notes.*

Yoga class with Julie meets on Wednesday mornings thru November Classes are now held on Wednesday mornings at 9:30 am. Please note the time change! *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 currently uses 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
Sept 14	Judy Ritchie	Kathy Hudgins
Sept 21	Janice & Ken Kleva	Patti Phelps
Sept 28		Patti Phelps
Oct 5	Judy Ritchie	