

Christ Episcopal Church

Sparta, NC

A home to all sharing God's unconditional love.



The Fifteenth Sunday after Pentecost

September 21, 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:

Jonathan Halsey for serving as musician and for being so generous with his talents,
Janice & Ken Kleva for the beautiful flowers at the altar in celebration and thanksgiving for the birth of their new granddaughter, *Leila Josephine Nabet* born Sept 14th, and
Patti Phelps 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

Christ Episcopal Church

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

Music used by permission CCLI License #11138616

Cover art: *The Weeping Prophet* by Michelangelo, on the ceiling of the Sistine Chapel

The Gathering

Prelude

Jonathan Halsey

Announcements

Louise Law

Please stand, as able.

Processional Hymn #408

Sing praise to God who reigns above

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 us, Lord, not to be anxious about earthly things, but to love things heavenly; and even now, while we are placed among things that are passing away, to hold fast to those that shall endure; 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: Jeremiah 8:18-9:1

My joy is gone, grief is upon me,
 my heart is sick.

Hark, the cry of my poor people
 from far and wide in the land:

"Is the LORD not in Zion?
 Is her King not in her?"

("Why have they provoked me to anger with their images,
 with their foreign idols?")

"The harvest is past, the summer is ended,
and we are not saved."

For the hurt of my poor people I am hurt,
I mourn, and dismay has taken hold of me.

Is there no balm in Gilead?

Is there no physician there?

Why then has the health of my poor people
not been restored?

O that my head were a spring of water,
and my eyes a fountain of tears,

so that I might weep day and night
for the slain of my poor people!

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

People Thanks be to God.

The Response: Psalm 79:1-9

O God, the heathen have come into your inheritance;
they have profaned your holy temple; *

they have made Jerusalem a heap of rubble.

They have given the bodies of your servants as food for the birds of the air, *

and the flesh of your faithful ones to the beasts of the field.

They have shed their blood like water on every side of Jerusalem, *

and there was no one to bury them.

We have become a reproach to our neighbors, *

an object of scorn and derision to those around us.

How long will you be angry, O LORD? *

will your fury blaze like fire for ever?

Pour out your wrath upon the heathen who have not known you *

and upon the kingdoms that have not called upon your Name.

For they have devoured Jacob *

and made his dwelling a ruin.

Remember not our past sins;

let your compassion be swift to meet us; *

for we have been brought very low.

Help us, O God our Savior, for the glory of your Name; *

deliver us and forgive us our sins, for your Name's sake.

The Second Reading

1 Timothy 2:1-7

First of all, I urge that supplications, prayers, intercessions, and thanksgivings be made for everyone, for kings and all who are in high positions, so that we may lead a quiet and peaceable

life in all godliness and dignity. This is right and is acceptable in the sight of God our Savior, who desires everyone to be saved and to come to the knowledge of the truth. For

there is one God;
there is also one mediator between God and humankind,
Christ Jesus, himself human,
who gave himself a ransom for all

~ this was attested at the right time. For this I was appointed a herald and an apostle (I am telling the truth, I am not lying), a teacher of the Gentiles in faith and truth.

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

People **Thanks be to God.**

Please stand, as able.

Gospel Hymn #601, vss 1-3

O day of God, draw nigh

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 16:1-13

Jesus said to the disciples, "There was a rich man who had a manager, and charges were brought to him that this man was squandering his property. So he summoned him and said to him, 'What is this that I hear about you? Give me an accounting of your management, because you cannot be my manager any longer.' Then the manager said to himself, 'What will I do, now that my master is taking the position away from me? I am not strong enough to dig, and I am ashamed to beg. I have decided what to do so that, when I am dismissed as manager, people may welcome me into their homes.' So, summoning his master's debtors one by one, he asked the first, 'How much do you owe my master?' He answered, 'A hundred jugs of olive oil.' He said to him, 'Take your bill, sit down quickly, and make it fifty.' Then he asked another, 'And how much do you owe?' He replied, 'A hundred containers of wheat.' He said to him, 'Take your bill and make it eighty.' And his master commended the dishonest manager because he had acted shrewdly; for the children of this age are more shrewd in dealing with their own generation than are the children of light. And I tell you, make friends for yourselves by means of dishonest wealth so that when it is gone, they may welcome you into the eternal homes.

"Whoever is faithful in a very little is faithful also in much; and whoever is dishonest in a very little is dishonest also in much. If then you have not been faithful with the dishonest wealth, who will entrust to you the true riches? And if you have not been faithful with what belongs to another, who will give you what is your own? No slave can serve two masters; for a slave will either hate the one and love the other, or be devoted to the one and despise the other. You cannot serve God and wealth."

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 (*Congregation sings response: Lord in your mercy hear our prayer*)

You are above us O God, You are beneath.

You are in air, You are in Earth.

You are beside us, You are within.

O God, you are in the betrayed and suffering people of our world,

Just as you were in the broken body of Jesus.

We offer now all our concerns as we gather at your table.

Lord, in your mercy, hear our prayers.

For God's holy church, that it may be a community
of faithful transformation where the Holy Spirit
calls forth boldness and passion.

Lord, in your mercy, hear our prayers.

For all who share leadership in God's church,
and for those who long to live Jesus' way
of compassion and liberating discipline of the Spirit.

Lord, in your mercy, hear our prayers.

For all who seek to follow God
in accordance with their true gifts,
this may unite us together
to honor the belovedness of each person.

Lord, in your mercy, hear our prayers.

For all those who are in the dry places of their lives
that God's living water may nourish and baptize them.

Lord, in your mercy, hear our prayers.

For the peace of the world
that a spirit of courageous compassion and
interconnectedness may move humanity beyond war.

Lord, in your mercy, hear our prayers.

For a blessing upon God's earth
that respect for and understanding of its
complex and fragile nature will fill human beings
with the desire to preserve and protect it.

Lord, in your mercy, hear our prayers.

For the dignity of all human labor
that the world may be freed
from the evils of the domination system and
the gap between the rich and the poor
may be lessened as we are called to
stand in solidarity with the marginalized.

Lord, in your mercy, hear our prayers.

We pray for everyone whose body aches,
whose heart is weary and frightened,
whose mind is confused or clouded or cast down.
Send us your Spirit to fill them with healing
and give us all your Grace to make us instruments of your Peace.

Lord, in your mercy, hear our prayers.

We pray for ourselves, for the Grace we need in our lives.

Lord, in your mercy, hear our prayers.

We pray for the needs of others. Especially we pray for... **Antje & Bill, Bob, Brenda & Kelly, Carl & Carol, Charles & Christine, Chuck & Sally, Deborah, Diane & John, Donna & Mike, Emily, Frank & Ann W, Isabel, Jean, Jennie, Jonathan, Lucy, Lynn, Lynn & Ajit, Maeleigh & Keel & Sara, Margaret, Martha A, Marybeth & Ned, Rita & Angelia, Rod & Louise, Rudy, Sandra, Suzanne's family, Terry & Bess, and Vanita.** *Please add your own petitions silently or aloud...*

Lord, in your mercy, hear our prayers.

We offer our prayers of thanksgiving, *especially for the birth of the Kleva's new granddaughter, Leila Josephine.*

Lord in your mercy, hear our prayers.

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

Jonathan Halsey

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.

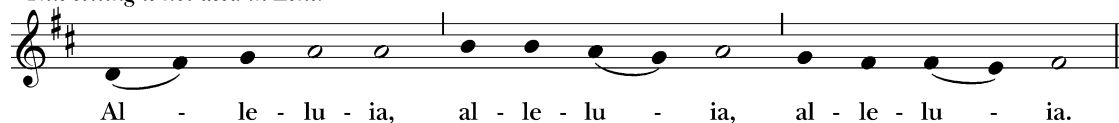
For the kingdom, the power,
and the glory are yours,
now and for ever. Amen.

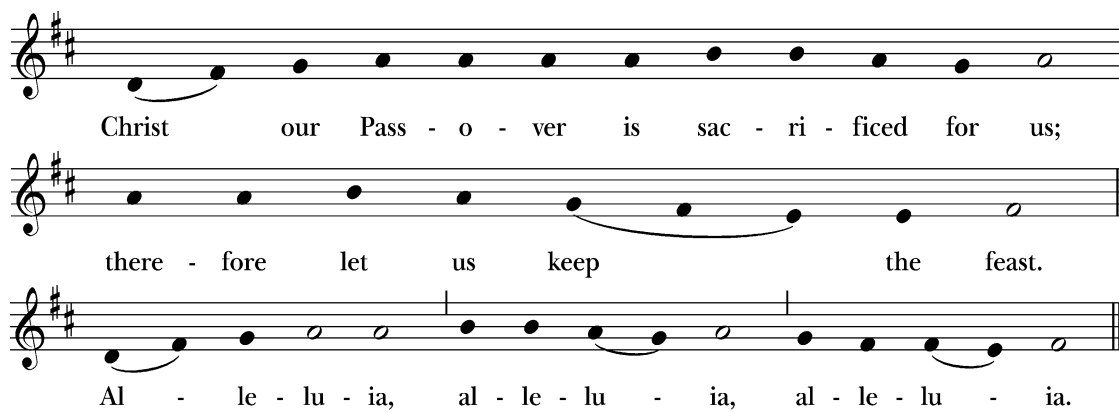
The Breaking of the Bread

A period of silence is kept.

Fraction: S154 (*sung by all*)

This setting is not used in Lent.





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

The Invitation to Holy Communion

Please be seated.

Communion Music

Jonathan Halsey

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 #594

God of grace & God of glory

The Dismissal

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

People Thanks be to God. Alleluia, Alleluia!

Postlude

Jonathan Halsey

Coming Lessons

Jeremiah 32:1-3a, 6-15

Psalm 91:1-6, 14-16

1 Timothy 6:6-19

Luke 16:19-31

The following people are assisting with the services

Role	This Sunday	Next Sunday
Altar Guild	Louise Law	Louise Law
Crucifer	Elizabeth Barr Bryant	Patti Phelps
Lector I	Geoff Jones	Mary Lee Joines
Lector II	Geoff Jones	Mary Lee Joines
Prayers of the People	Geoff Jones	Mary Lee Joines
Sanctus Bell	Elizabeth Barr Bryant	Patti Phelps
Greeter(s)/Usher(s)	Jane Franck	Barbara Halsey

Prayer List

Intercessions:

Antje & Bill, Bob Bamberg, Brenda & Kelly Weems, Carl & Carol Greer, Charles & Christine McKelvy, Chuck & Sally Besaw, Deborah, Diane & John (Judy's sister & BIL), Donna & Mike Hohnstine, Emily Buck, Frank & Ann W, Isabel Tomé, Jean Callison, Jennie Smith, Jonathan, Lucy, Lynn Ellis, Lynn & Ajit, Maeleigh & Keel & Sara, Margaret, Martha A, Marybeth & Ned Lentz, Rita Woodruff & Angelia Miller, Rod Pace & Louise Law, Rudy McKnight, Sandra, Suzanne Mellow Irwin's family, Terry & Bess (Ann's BIL & sister), and Vanita (Ruthie's sister). And we pray for Christ Church, its leaders & ministry teams.

Departed: Mike Davis, Suzanne Mellow Irwin (Sept 15)

Birthdays: Louise Law (Sept 25), Cliff Hudgins (Sept 26)

Wedding Anniversaries & Thanksgivings: Hal & Nancy Wilson (Sept 25)

Schedule

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

Monday, September 29

11:45 am – Ladies Lunch Out (LLO) meets at Mis Arados for lunch with Karla

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

Sunday, October 5 – The Seventeenth Sunday after Pentecost

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

Coffee hour follows the service

2:00 pm – Blessing of the Animals service

Announcements

Office hours are changing again! After a month or so of trying the new office hours, it just didn't work well. As a result, the Office will be open 8:00 am – 1:00 pm, Monday-Thursday beginning October 1st. You *will* see Mary Lee in the office on Sundays because sometimes that's a good day to get a few things done.

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. 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.

Blessing of the Animals service on Sunday, October 5th at 2:00 pm This service is held outside and is open to the community. So, bring your own 4-legged friend or reptile, make sure they're in a crate or on a leash, and invite your neighbors to join us for this special service. *If you have any questions, please ask Karla after the service.*

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 is currently reading, 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 21	Janice & Ken Kleva	Patti Phelps
Sept 28	Ann & Frank Hazard	Patti Phelps
Oct 5	Judy Ritchie	
Oct 12	Jeanne Green	