Christ Episcopal Church

Sparta, NC

A home to all sharing God's unconditional love.



The Twentieth Sunday after Pentecost October 26, 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 worshiping 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 chirchspartanc@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, Louise Law & Rod Pace for the beautiful flowers at the altar in loving memory of their mothers, Helen Schuessler and Mattie Jo Pace, and 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.christchurchalleghany.org

Christ Episcopal Church

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

Office hours: Monday-Thursday, 8:00 am – 1:00 pm Music used by permission CCLI License #11138616

Cover art: The Parable of the Pharisee and the Tax Collector engraved by Julius Schnorr von Carolsfeld

The Gathering

Prelude
Announcements & Intercessions

Jonathan Halsey

Cliff Hudgins

Please stand, as able.

Processional Hymn #688

A mighty fortress is our God

Remain standing, as able.

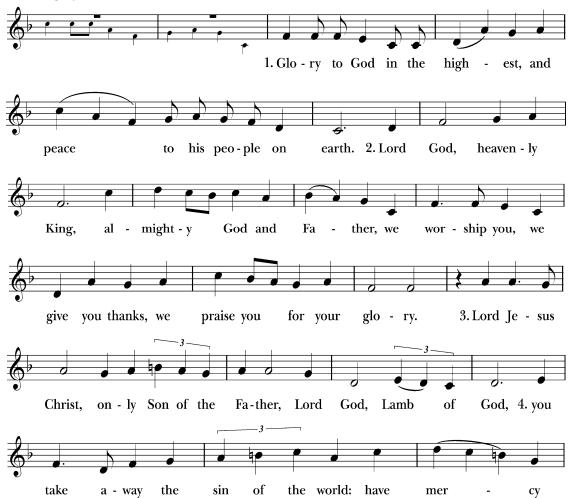
Opening Acclamation

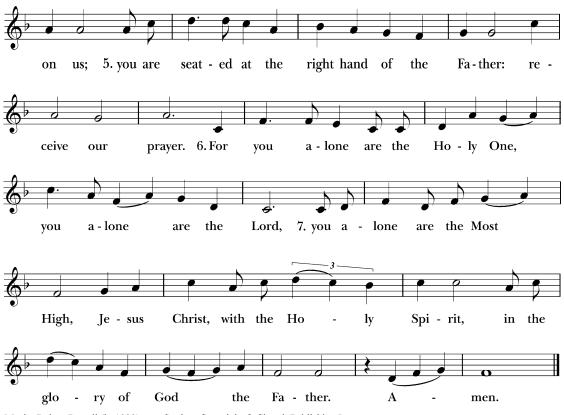
Presider Blessed be God: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

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)





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 and everlasting God, increase in us the gifts of faith, hope, and charity; and, that we may obtain what you promise, make us love what you command; 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: Joel 2:23-32

O children of Zion, be glad and rejoice in the LORD your God;

for he has given the early rain for your vindication, he has poured down for you abundant rain, the early and the later rain, as before.

The threshing floors shall be full of grain, the vats shall overflow with wine and oil.

I will repay you for the years that the swarming locust has eaten,

the hopper, the destroyer, and the cutter, my great army, which I sent against you.

You shall eat in plenty and be satisfied, and praise the name of the LORD your God, who has dealt wondrously with you.

And my people shall never again be put to shame.

You shall know that I am in the midst of Israel, and that I, the LORD, am your God and there is no other.

And my people shall never again be put to shame.

Then afterward

I will pour out my spirit on all flesh; your sons and your daughters shall prophesy, your old men shall dream dreams, and your young men shall see visions.

Even on the male and female slaves, in those days, I will pour out my spirit.

I will show portents in the heavens and on the earth, blood and fire and columns of smoke. The sun shall be turned to darkness, and the moon to blood, before the great and terrible day of the LORD comes. Then everyone who calls on the name of the LORD shall be saved; for in Mount Zion and in Jerusalem there shall be those who escape, as the LORD has said, and among the survivors shall be those whom the LORD calls.

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

People Thanks be to God.

The Response: Psalm 65

You are to be praised, O God, in Zion; * to you shall vows be performed in Jerusalem.

To you that hear prayer shall all flesh come, *

because of their transgressions.

Our sins are stronger than we are, *

but you will blot them out.

Happy are they whom you choose and draw to your courts to dwell there! *

they will be satisfied by the beauty of your house, by the holiness of your temple.

Awesome things will you show us in your righteousness,

O God of our salvation, *

O Hope of all the ends of the earth and of the seas that are far away.

You make fast the mountains by your power; *

they are girded about with might.

You still the roaring of the seas, *

the roaring of their waves, and the clamor of the peoples.

Those who dwell at the ends of the earth will tremble at your marvelous signs; * you make the dawn and the dusk to sing for joy.

You visit the earth and water it abundantly;

you make it very plenteous; *

the river of God is full of water.

You prepare the grain, *

for so you provide for the earth.

You drench the furrows and smooth out the ridges; *

with heavy rain you soften the ground and bless its increase.

You crown the year with your goodness, *

and your paths overflow with plenty.

May the fields of the wilderness be rich for grazing, * and the hills be clothed with joy.

May the meadows cover themselves with flocks, and the valleys cloak themselves with grain; *

let them shout for joy and sing.

The Second Reading 2 Timothy 4:6-8,16-18

I am already being poured out as a libation, and the time of my departure has come. I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, I have kept the faith. From now on there is reserved for me the crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous judge, will give me on that day, and not only to me but also to all who have longed for his appearing.

At my first defense no one came to my support, but all deserted me. May it not be counted against them! But the Lord stood by me and gave me strength, so that through me the message might be fully proclaimed and all the Gentiles might hear it. So I was rescued from the lion's mouth. The Lord will rescue me from every evil attack and save me for his heavenly kingdom. To him be the 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 #498

O for a thousand tongues to sing

Please remain standing, as able.

Presider The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ, according to Luke.

People Glory to you, Lord Christ.

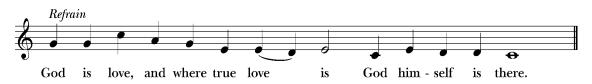
The Gospel Luke 18:9-14

Jesus told this parable to some who trusted in themselves that they were righteous and regarded others with contempt: "Two men went up to the temple to pray, one a Pharisee and the other a tax collector. The Pharisee, standing by himself, was praying thus, 'God, I thank you that I am not like other people: thieves, rogues, adulterers, or even like this tax collector. I fast twice a week; I give a tenth of all my income.' But the tax collector, standing far off, would not even look up to heaven, but was beating his breast and saying, 'God, be merciful to me, a sinner!' I tell you, this man went down to his home justified rather than the other; for all who exalt themselves will be humbled, but all who humble themselves will be exalted."

Presider The Gospel of the Lord.

People Praise to you, Lord Christ.

Refrain:



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 prayer.

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 prayer.

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 prayer.

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

Lord, in your mercy, hear our prayer.

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 prayer.

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 prayer.

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 prayer.

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 prayer.

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 prayer.

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

Lord, in your mercy, hear our prayer.

We pray for the needs of others.

Lord, in your mercy, hear our prayer.

We offer our prayers of thanksgiving.

Lord in your mercy, hear our prayer.

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

What wondrous love is this

Jonathan Halsey &

Tom Dillon

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

Eucharist Prayer B, BCP

Presider The Lord be with you.

People And also with you.

Presider Lift up your hearts.

People We lift them to the Lord.

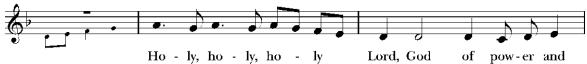
Presider Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

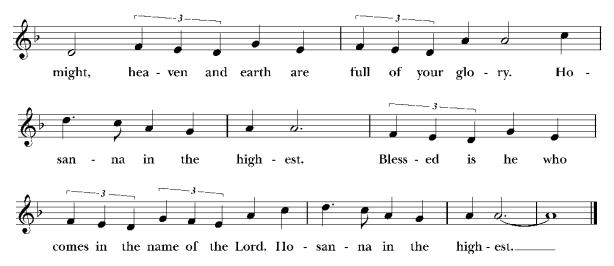
People It is right to give our thanks and praise.

It is right, and a good and joyful thing, always and everywhere to give thanks to you, Father Almighty, Creator of heaven and earth.

For you are the source of light and life, you made us in your image, and called us to new life in Jesus Christ our Lord. 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: 129 (sung by all)





Music: Robert Powell (b. 1932). Setting: Copyright © Church Publishing Inc.

Please stand or kneel, as able.

We give thanks to you, O God, for the goodness and love which you have made known to us in creation; in the calling of Israel to be your people; in your Word spoken through the prophets; and above all in the Word made flesh, Jesus, your Son. For in these last days you sent him to be incarnate from the Virgin Mary, to be the Savior and Redeemer of the world. In him, you have delivered us from evil, and made us worthy to stand before you. In him, you have brought us out of error into truth, out of sin into righteousness, out of death into life.

On the night before he died for us, 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 all for the forgiveness of sins. Whenever you drink it, do this for the remembrance of me."

Therefore, according to his command, O Father,

We remember his death,

We proclaim his resurrection,

We await his coming in glory;

And we offer our sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving to you, O Lord of all; presenting to you, from your creation, this bread and this wine. We pray you, gracious God, to send your Holy Spirit upon these gifts that they may be the Sacrament of the Body of Christ and his Blood of the new Covenant. Unite us to your Son in his sacrifice, that we may be acceptable through him, being sanctified by the Holy Spirit. In the fullness of time, put all things in subjection under your Christ, and bring us to that heavenly country where, with all your saints, we may enter the everlasting heritage of your sons and daughters; through Jesus Christ our Lord, the firstborn of all creation, the head of the Church, and the author of our salvation.

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 pray,

The Lord's Prayer

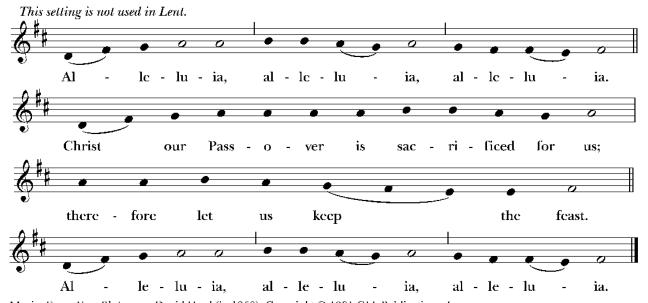
Our Father in heaven,
hallowed be your Name,
your kingdom come,
your will be done,
on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us today our daily bread.
Forgive us our sins,
as we forgive those
who sin against us.
Save us from the time of trial,
and deliver us from evil.
For the kingdom, the power,
and the glory are yours,

now and for ever. Amen.

The Breaking of the Bread

A period of silence is kept.

Fraction: S154 (sung by all)



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 #535

Ye servants of God

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 - All Saints Sunday

Daniel 7:1-3, 15-18
Psalm 149
Ephesians 1:11-23
Luke 6:20-31

The following people are assisting with the services

Role	This Sunday	Next Sunday
Altar Guild	Marybeth Lentz	Nancy Wilson
Crucifer	Patti Phelps	Patti Phelps
Lector I	Cliff Hudgins	Barbara Halsey
Lector II	Cliff Hudgins	Barbara Halsey
Prayers of the People	Cliff Hudgins	Barbara Halsey
Sanctus Bell	Patti Phelps	Patti Phelps
Greeter(s)/Usher(s)	Barbara Halsey	Jane & John Franck

Prayer List

Intercessions:

Antje & Bill, Bob Bamberg, Brenda & Kelly Weems, Carl & Carol Greer, Charles & Christine McKelvy, Chuck & Sally Besaw, Deborah, Diane & John, Donna & Mike Hohnstine, Dottie Maddock, Emily Buck, Frank & Ann W, Hal Wilson, Isabel Tomé, Janice Harrison, Jean Callison, Jill Hardee, Jonathan, Lucy, Lynn Ellis, Lynn & Ajit, Margaret, Maria Chance, Martha A, Mike Tanner (The Rev), Rita Woodruff & Angelia Miller, Rudy McKnight, Savany Demmink, Terry & Bess, and Vanita (Ruthie's sister). And we pray for Christ Church, its leaders & ministry teams.

Departed:

Birthdays: Ann Hazard (Today!)

Wedding Anniversaries & Thanksgivings:

Archbishop of Canterbury, Sarah, Presiding Bishop, Sean, our Bishop, José, and our Priest-in-Charge, The Rev Karla Woggon

In the Anglican Community: the Church in Wales

In the Diocese of WNC: St Francis in Rutherfordton

In Alleghany County: Saddle Mountain Union Baptist Church

Schedule

Sunday, October 26 - The Twentieth Sunday after Pentecost

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

Worship Team meets with Karla following the service

Coffee hour follows the service

Tuesday, October 28

1:00 pm - Centering Prayer group

2:00 pm - Book Discussion group, Falling Upward

Wednesday, October 29

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

Sunday, November 2 - All Saints' Sunday AND Daylight-saving time ends

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

LEMs meet with Karla following the service

Coffee hour follows the service

Monday, November 3

11:45 am - Ladies Lunch Out with Karla meet at Tex Mex

Tuesday, November 4

1:00 pm - Centering Prayer group

2:00 pm - Book Discussion group, Falling Upward

Wednesday, November 5

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

Announcements

Worship Team meets with Karla following the service TODAY.

NEXT Sunday, Nov 2nd **is All Saints' Sunday.** We'll acknowledge those we've lost this year and as part of that, we invite you to (1) email Mary Lee with the name/relation to you of the person you'd like to acknowledge. We'll include his/her name in the bulletin next week, and (2) bring a photo of that person to put on one of the window sills in the sanctuary. *Please let Mary Lee know* **no later than Wed, Oct** 29th *if you'd like a name included.*

LEMs meet with Karla following the service NEXT Sunday, Nov 2nd.

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.

Next Ladies Lunch Out (LLO) is scheduled for Monday, November 3rd at 11:45 am at the Tex Mex restaurant. A sign-up sheet is on the information table in the Parish Hall. Please sign-up if you're able to attend so Barbara has a head count.

First Apple Harvest luncheon on Sunday, November 9th, following our church service. Our luncheon will feature appetizers, soups, salads, main courses, and desserts *all* featuring apples. Our sign-up sheet will be located downstairs. Please put your creative juices to work creating your favorite apple dish to share with all of us.

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.

Monthly Altar Flowers and Coffee Hour sign-ups:

Date	Altar Flowers	Coffee Hour
Oct 26	Louise Law & Rod Pace	Louise Law
Nov 2	Mary Lee Joines	Mary Lee Joines
Nov 9	Jesse James	Fall luncheon
Nov 16		

If you would like a copy of today's sermon, please ask Karla or Mary Lee and they'll make a copy for you.

Shape Note Music from the Sacred Harp

Shape note music is one of the oldest musical styles in America. In the 18th and especially 19th centuries, it was one of our most popular musical forms, yet until recent decades it was little known outside a small region of Georgia and Alabama, where it survived as a living tradition. *The Sacred Harp* has been the best-known collection of shape note music ever since its first publication in 1844, and it has been republished many times, most recently just this year. Other books of the period include *Christian Harmony* (1805) and *Southern Harmony* (1835).

The term "shape note" has two meanings. The first refers to the practice, originating in Colonial America, of printing music notes on the staff in shapes – diamonds, triangles, squares, circles. The shapes permit untrained singers to follow melody lines more easily. Obviously, any music can be printed in shapes, and even today many hymnals in rural churches print standard hymns in either the four shapes used by *Sacred Harp* or the seven shapes used by *Christian Harmony*. There is much of the latter in western North Carolina.

The second meaning of "shape note" refers to a compositional style and performance characteristic of 18th century New England Congregational churches. The idea was full participation by all members; therefore, unlike modern music with the melody in the high soprano, the melody of shape note is in the tenor (third line down) and is sung by men and women. That means the melody is often obscured for casual listeners by the strong harmony lines. The music is loud, vigorous, and meant to be sung, not listened to. Full of modal melodies, gapped scales and old folk tunes, the tunes of *Sacred Harp* are a direct link to nearly-buried traditions of American and British music.

The Winston-Salem Shape Note singers meet the second Sunday of the month at St. Anne's Episcopal Church, 2690 Fairlawn Drive in Winston-Salem. Also, occasionally at other locations. Songbooks are available, and beginners are welcome. For information, visit ncshapenote.org or contact Tom Dillon at 336-725-2760 or Bill Lowry at 336-413-3660.

REFERENCES:

Buell Cobb, "The Sacred Harp: A Tradition and its Music," University of Georgia Press, 1978. George Pullen Jackson, "White Spirituals in the Southern Uplands," University of North Carolina Press, 1933.

Robert Stevenson, "Protestant Church Music in America," W.W. Norton and Co., Inc., 1966.