

Christ Episcopal Church

Sparta, NC

A home to all sharing God's unconditional love.



Christmas Eve
December 24, 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 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, and

Elizabeth Barr Bryant for singing today – your voice is angelic!

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

Email: christchurchspartanc@gmail.com (NEW)

Priest Email: priest.christchurchspartanc@gmail.com

Website: www.christchurchalleghany.org

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: Nativity scene, AI generated

The Gathering

Prelude

Jonathan Halsey

Welcome and Announcements

John Franck

Lighting of the Christ Candle

Patti Phelps

Almighty God, you have poured upon us the new light of your incarnate Word: Grant that this light, enkindled in our hearts, may shine forth in our lives; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

All candles are lit.

Please stand, as able.

Processional Hymn #83, vss 1, 2, 3, 6

O come, all ye faithful

Opening Acclamation

Presider Glory to God in the highest.

People And peace to God's people on earth!

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.**

Remain standing, as able.

Hymn #96

Angels we have heard on high

The Collect of the Day

Presider The Lord be with you.

People And also with you.

Presider Let us pray,

O God, you have caused this holy night to shine with the brightness of the true Light: Grant that we, who have known the mystery of that Light on earth, may also enjoy him perfectly in heaven; where with you and the Holy Spirit he lives and reigns, one God, in glory everlasting. **Amen.**

Please be seated.

Liturgy of the Word

The First Reading

Isaiah 9:2-7

The people who walked in darkness
have seen a great light;

those who lived in a land of deep darkness~
on them light has shined.

You have multiplied the nation,
you have increased its joy;

they rejoice before you
as with joy at the harvest,
as people exult when dividing plunder.

For the yoke of their burden,
and the bar across their shoulders,
the rod of their oppressor,
you have broken as on the day of Midian.

For all the boots of the tramping warriors
and all the garments rolled in blood
shall be burned as fuel for the fire.

For a child has been born for us,
a son given to us;
authority rests upon his shoulders;
and he is named

Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God,
Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.

His authority shall grow continually,
and there shall be endless peace
for the throne of David and his kingdom.

He will establish and uphold it
with justice and with righteousness
from this time onward and forevermore.

The zeal of the LORD of hosts will do this.

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

People Thanks be to God.

The Response

Psalm 96

Sing to the LORD a new song; *
sing to the LORD, all the whole earth.

Sing to the LORD and bless his Name; *
proclaim the good news of his salvation from day to day.

Declare his glory among the nations *
and his wonders among all peoples.

For great is the LORD and greatly to be praised; *
he is more to be feared than all gods.

As for all the gods of the nations, they are but idols; *
but it is the LORD who made the heavens.

Oh, the majesty and magnificence of his presence! *
Oh, the power and the splendor of his sanctuary!

Ascribe to the LORD, you families of the peoples; *

ascribe to the LORD honor and power.

Ascribe to the LORD the honor due his Name; *

bring offerings and come into his courts.

Worship the LORD in the beauty of holiness; *

let the whole earth tremble before him.

Tell it out among the nations: "The LORD is King! *

he has made the world so firm that it cannot be moved;

he will judge the peoples with equity."

Let the heavens rejoice, and let the earth be glad;

let the sea thunder and all that is in it; *

let the field be joyful and all that is therein.

Then shall all the trees of the wood shout for joy

before the LORD when he comes, *

when he comes to judge the earth.

He will judge the world with righteousness *

and the peoples with his truth.

The Second Reading

Titus 2:11-14

For the grace of God has appeared, bringing salvation to all, training us to renounce impiety and worldly passions, and in the present age to live lives that are self-controlled, upright, and godly, while we wait for the blessed hope and the manifestation of the glory of our great God and Savior, Jesus Christ. He it is who gave himself for us that he might redeem us from all iniquity and purify for himself a people of his own who are zealous for good deeds.

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

People **Thanks be to God.**

Please stand, as able.

Gospel Hymn #87

Hark! the herald angels 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 2:1-20

In those days a decree went out from Emperor Augustus that all the world should be registered. This was the first registration and was taken while Quirinius was governor of Syria. All went to their own towns to be registered. Joseph also went from the town of Nazareth in Galilee to Judea, to the city of David called Bethlehem, because he was descended from the house and family of David. He went to be registered with Mary, to whom he was engaged and who was expecting a

child. While they were there, the time came for her to deliver her child. And she gave birth to her firstborn son and wrapped him in bands of cloth, and laid him in a manger, because there was no place for them in the inn.

In that region there were shepherds living in the fields, keeping watch over their flock by night. Then an angel of the Lord stood before them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. But the angel said to them, "Do not be afraid; for see~ I am bringing you good news of great joy for all the people: to you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is the Messiah, the Lord. This will be a sign for you: you will find a child wrapped in bands of cloth and lying in a manger." And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host, praising God and saying,

"Glory to God in the highest heaven,
and on earth peace among those whom he favors!"

When the angels had left them and gone into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, "Let us go now to Bethlehem and see this thing that has taken place, which the Lord has made known to us." So they went with haste and found Mary and Joseph, and the child lying in the manger. When they saw this, they made known what had been told them about this child; and all who heard it were amazed at what the shepherds told them. But Mary treasured all these words and pondered them in her heart. The shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen, as it had been told them.

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.

Hymn: People look East

Jonathan Halsey &
Elizabeth Barr Bryant

Please stand or kneel, 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.

Prayers of the People (*all sing the bold responses*)

Leader: With confidence in the One who came, who is to come, and yet is already here, we gather our prayers into one. We pray for **Antje, Bill, Bob, Brenda, Kelly, Carl, Carol, Charles, Chris, Christine, Chuck, Sally, Diane, John, Donna, Mike, Dottie, Emily, Frank, Ann, Hal, Nancy, Isabel, Janice, Jean, Jesse, JoAnn, Jonathan, Lisa, Lucy, Lynn, Ajit, Margaret, Maria, Martha, Phil & Cynthia, Rita, Angelia, Rudy, Savany, Vanita, and Willie**.

For Archbishop of Canterbury, Sarah; our Presiding Bishop, Sean; our Bishop, José; and for our Priest-in-Charge, Karla.

For our neighbors worried about detention, and the staff, volunteers, and inmates at River North Correctional Center.

For Christ Church, its leaders & ministry teams, the Diocese of São Paulo; Holy Family in Mills River, St Andrew's in Bessemer City and Canton, and Sparta United Methodist Church.

In peace, in peace we pray to you: **God of mercy, hold us in love.**

For peace and salvation, we pray to you: **God of mercy, hold us in love.**

For peace between nations, peace between peoples: **God of mercy, hold us in love.**

For we who are gathered to worship and praise you: **God of mercy, hold us in love.**

For all of your servants who live out your gospel: **God of mercy, hold us in love.**

For all those who govern that justice might guide them: **God of mercy, hold us in love.**

For all those who labor in service to others: **God of mercy, hold us in love.**

Grant weather that nourishes all of creation: **God of mercy, hold us in love.**
Keep watch on our loved ones and keep us from danger: **God of mercy, hold us in love.**
For all the beloved who rest in your mercy: **God of mercy, hold us in love.**
Help us, comfort us, all of our days: **Keep us, hold us, gracious God.**

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

The Little Drummer Boy

Elizabeth Barr Bryant

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.

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.

Because you gave Jesus Christ, your only Son, to be born for us; who, by the Holy Spirit and the Virgin Mary his mother, was made truly man, yet without the stain of sin, that we might be cleansed from sin and given the right to become your children. 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: S130 (*sung by all*)

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of power and
 might, Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord,
 God of power and might, hea - ven and earth are
 full, full of your glo - ry. Ho -
 san - na in the high - est. Ho - san - na
 in the high - est. Bless - ed is he who comes
 in the name of the Lord. Ho - san - na



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, who art in heaven,
hallowed be thy Name,
thy kingdom come,
thy will be done,
on earth as it is in heaven.

Give us this day our daily bread.
 And forgive us our trespasses,
 as we forgive those
 who trespass against us.
 And lead us not into temptation,
 but deliver us from evil.
 For thine is the kingdom,
 and the power, and the glory,
 for ever and ever. Amen.

The Breaking of the Bread

A period of silence is kept.

Fraction: S164 (sung by all)

Je - sus, Lamb of God: have mer - cy on us.

Je - sus, bear - er of our sins: have mer - cy on us.

Je - sus, re - deem - er, re - deem - er of the world:
 give us your peace, give us your peace.

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.*

Candles will be lit as we let silence descend...

Kneel, as able, to sing by candle light.

Hymn #111

Silent night

*Silent night, holy night, all is calm, all is bright,
Round yon virgin mother and child.
Holy infant, so tender and mild,
Sleep in heavenly peace. Sleep in heavenly peace.

Silent night, holy night, shepherds quake at the sight,
Glories stream from heaven afar,
Heavenly hosts sing alleluia;
Christ, the Savior, is born! Christ, the Savior, is born!

Silent night, holy night, Son of God, love's pure light,
Radiant beams from thy holy face,
With the dawn of redeeming grace,
Jesus, Lord, at thy birth. Jesus, Lord, at thy birth.*

Please hum a fourth verse.

Please stand or kneel, as able.

Post Communion Prayer

BCP 365

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

Recessional Hymn #100

Joy to the World!

The Dismissal

Postlude

Jonathan Halsey

Coming Lessons – December 28, 2025

Isaiah 61:10 – 62:3

Psalm 147

Galatians 3:23-25; 4:4-7

John 1:1-18

The poinsettias at the altar are given by:

Rod Pace & Louise Law, in loving memory of Mattie Joe & Liscoe Pace and
Helen & Howard Schuessler

Judy Ritchie, in loving memory of her husband, Joe & son, Bill

Jeanne Green, in honor of Lara and Holly

Marybeth Lentz, in Thanksgiving for our Vestry

Ken & Janice Kleva, in honor of their granddaughter, Leila Josephine Nabet

John & Jane Franck, in loving memory of Carolyn & Bill Franck and
Barbara, Ford & Robert Reilley

Patti & Frank Phelps, in loving memory of their son, Jacob

Mary Lee Joines, in Thanksgiving for our Christ Church family

In loving memory of Rod Bost, Dan & Frances Buckle, Fred Hardee, and Joe Ritchie

The following people are assisting with the services

Role	Christmas Eve service	Next Sunday
Altar Guild	Marybeth Lentz	Marybeth Lentz
Chalice bearer	Nancy Wilson	Elizabeth Barr Bryant
Lector I	Mary Lee Joines	Patti Phelps
Lector II	Mary Lee Joines	Patti Phelps
Prayers of the People	Mary Lee Joines	Patti Phelps
Greeter(s)/Usher(s)	Jann Boggs & Les Colvard	Nancy Wilson

Prayer List

Intercessions:

Antje & Bill, Bill, Bob Bamberg, Brenda & Kelly Weems, Carl & Carol Greer, Charles & Christine McKelvy, Chris Decker (Janice Harrison's SIL), Chuck & Sally Besaw, Diane & John, Donna & Mike Hohnstine, Dottie Maddock, Emily Buck, Frank & Ann W, Hal & Nancy Wilson, Isabel Tomé, Janice Harrison, Jean Callison, Jesse James, JoAnn Andrews, Jonathan, Lisa (Doris's daughter), Lucy, Lynn Ellis, Lynn & Ajit, Margaret, Maria Chance, Martha A, Phil Kwiatkowski & Cynthia Grant, Rita Woodruff & Angelia Miller, Rudy McKnight, Savany Demmink, Vanita, and Willie Coleman (Sally's mother). We also pray for local neighbors that fear detention, and we pray for Christ Church, its leaders & ministry teams.

Departed: Phil Kwiatkowski's brother-in-law; Liz, Doris's daughter, Lisa's dear friend

Birthdays: Jonathan Halsey (Dec 29), Hal Wilson (Jan 1), Ken Kleva (Jan 1)

Wedding Anniversaries & Thanksgivings:

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

In the Anglican Community: The Diocese of São Paulo

In the Diocese of WNC: St Andrews in Bessemer City and Canton

In Alleghany County: Sparta United Methodist Church

Schedule

Wednesday, December 24th – Christmas Eve

4:00 pm – Christmas Eve service

Thursday, December 25 – Christmas Day

The Office will be closed today for the holiday

Sunday, December 28 – The First Sunday after Christmas

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

Coffee hour follows the service

Monday, December 29

11:30 am – Ladies Lunch Out with Karla meets at Barbara's house

Tuesday, December 30

1:00 pm – Centering Prayer group

2:00 pm – Book Discussion group

Thursday, January 1 – New Year's Day

The Office will be closed today

Sunday, January 4 – The Second Sunday after Christmas Day/Epiphany

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

Coffee hour follows the service

Tuesday, January 6

1:00 pm – Centering Prayer group

2:00 pm – Book Discussion group

Sunday, January 11 – The Baptism of our Lord Jesus Christ

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

Coffee hour follows the service

Monday, January 12

10:00 am – Vestry meeting; Cliff & John will be rotating off

Tuesday, January 3

1:00 pm – Centering Prayer group

2:00 pm – Book Discussion group

Announcements

Tomorrow, Thursday, Dec 25th is Christmas Day – the Office will be closed for the holiday.

Monday, Dec 29th is the next Ladies Lunch Out (LLO) with Karla at Barbara's house. If you signed up, please plan to gather at Barbara's house around 11:30 am.

Reminder: The Office will be 'closed' next week while Mary Lee handles end-of-the-year tasks If you have an urgent need, please send a text or email and Mary Lee will get back with you as soon as possible.

The Office will be closed again on Thursday, Jan 1st for the holiday.

COMING SOON: The Rev Karla Woggon will be showing *The Philadelphia Eleven* on Sunday, January 11th We will be having a CHILI lunch and watching this important film after the service on January 11th. *About the film:* In an act defying traditions and norms, a group of eleven women and their supporters organize their ordination to become Episcopal priests in 1974 at the Church of the Advocate in Philadelphia, PA. Despite relentless threats and

harassment, they follow their call with grace and conviction. In the documentary film, we meet the women who succeed in building a movement that challenges patriarchy within Christendom and transforms an age-old institution. **All are welcome!**

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. Priest email address for Karla is: priest.christchurchspartanc@gmail.com.

There will be additional announcements in Sunday's bulletin.

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