

Christ Episcopal Church

Sparta, NC

A home to all sharing God's unconditional love.



First Sunday after Christmas Day
December 28, 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, and
Nancy Wilson for providing coffee hour refreshments.

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, 8:00 am – 1:00 pm

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Cover art: Nativity by Sadao Watanabe

The Gathering

Prelude

Jonathan Halsey

Announcements

John Franck

Please stand, as able.

Processional Hymn #93

Angels from the realm of glory

Remain standing, as able.

Opening Acclamation

Presider Glory to God on highest!

People And peace to God's people on earth!

Presider Let us pray,

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.

Hymn #96, refrain

Angels we have heard on high

Refrain

Glo - - - - - ri - a

in ex - cel - sis De - o. Glo - - - - -

- - - - - ri - a in ex - cel - sis De - o.

Words: French carol; tr. James Chadwick (1813-1882), alt. Music: *Gloria*, French carol; arr. Edward Shippen Barnes (1887-1958).

The Collect

Presider The Lord be with you.

People **And also with you.**

Presider Let us pray,

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.**

Please be seated.

Liturgy of the Word

First Reading: Isaiah 61:10-62:3

I will greatly rejoice in the Lord,
my whole being shall exult in my God;

for he has clothed me with the garments of salvation,
he has covered me with the robe of righteousness,

as a bridegroom decks himself with a garland,
and as a bride adorns herself with her jewels.

For as the earth brings forth its shoots,
and as a garden causes what is sown in it to spring up,
so the Lord God will cause righteousness and praise
to spring up before all the nations.

For Zion's sake I will not keep silent,
and for Jerusalem's sake I will not rest,
until her vindication shines out like the dawn,
and her salvation like a burning torch.

The nations shall see your vindication,
and all the kings your glory;

and you shall be called by a new name
that the mouth of the Lord will give.

You shall be a crown of beauty in the hand of the Lord,
and a royal diadem in the hand of your God.

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

People **Thanks be to God.**

The Response: Psalm 147

Hallelujah!

How good it is to sing praises to our God! *

how pleasant it is to honor him with praise!

The LORD rebuilds Jerusalem; *
 he gathers the exiles of Israel.

He heals the brokenhearted *
 and binds up their wounds.

He counts the number of the stars *
 and calls them all by their names.

Great is our LORD and mighty in power; *
 there is no limit to his wisdom.

The LORD lifts up the lowly, *
 but casts the wicked to the ground.

Sing to the LORD with thanksgiving; *
 make music to our God upon the harp.

He covers the heavens with clouds *
 and prepares rain for the earth;

He makes grass to grow upon the mountains *
 and green plants to serve mankind.

He provides food for flocks and herds *
 and for the young ravens when they cry.

He is not impressed by the might of a horse; *
 he has no pleasure in the strength of a man;

But the LORD has pleasure in those who fear him, *
 in those who await his gracious favor.

Worship the LORD, O Jerusalem; *
 praise your God, O Zion;

For he has strengthened the bars of your gates; *
 he has blessed your children within you.

He has established peace on your borders; *
 he satisfies you with the finest wheat.

He sends out his command to the earth, *
 and his word runs very swiftly.

He gives snow like wool; *
 he scatters hoarfrost like ashes.

He scatters his hail like bread crumbs; *
 who can stand against his cold?

He sends forth his word and melts them; *
 he blows with his wind, and the waters flow.

He declares his word to Jacob, *
 his statutes and his judgments to Israel.

He has not done so to any other nation; *
to them he has not revealed his judgments.
Hallelujah!

The Second Reading

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

Now before faith came, we were imprisoned and guarded under the law until faith would be revealed. Therefore the law was our disciplinarian until Christ came, so that we might be justified by faith. But now that faith has come, we are no longer subject to a disciplinarian.

But when the fullness of time had come, God sent his Son, born of a woman, born under the law, in order to redeem those who were under the law, so that we might receive adoption as children. And because you are children, God has sent the Spirit of his Son into our hearts, crying, "Abba! Father!" So you are no longer a slave but a child, and if a child then also an heir, through God.

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

People Thanks be to God.

Please stand, as able.

Gospel Hymn

I wonder as I wander

*I wonder as I wander out under the sky
How Jesus the Savior did come for to die*

*For poor on'ry people like you and like I
I wonder as I wander out under the sky*

When Mary birthed Jesus, 'twas in a cow's stall

*With wise men and farmers and shepherds and all
But high from God's heaven a star's light did fall
And the promise of ages, it then did recall*

*If Jesus had wanted for any wee thing
A star in the sky or a bird on the wing
Or all of God's angels in heaven to sing
He surely could have had it, 'cause He was the King*

*I wonder as I wander out under the sky
How Jesus the Savior did come for to die
For poor on'ry people like you and like I
I wonder as I wander out under the sky*

Please remain standing, as able.

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

People Glory to you, Lord Christ.

The Gospel

John 1:1-18

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was in the beginning with God. All things came into being through him, and without him not one thing came into being. What has come into being in him was life, and the life was the light of all people. The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overcome it.

There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. He came as a witness to testify to the light, so that all might believe through him. He himself was not the light, but he came to testify to the light. The true light, which enlightens everyone, was coming into the world.

He was in the world, and the world came into being through him; yet the world did not know him. He came to what was his own, and his own people did not accept him. But to all who received him, who believed in his name, he gave power to become children of God, who were born, not of blood or of the will of the flesh or of the will of man, but of God.

And the Word became flesh and lived among us, and we have seen his glory, the glory as of a father's only son, full of grace and truth. (John testified to him and cried out, "This was he of whom I said, 'He who comes after me ranks ahead of me because he was before me.'") From his fullness we have all received, grace upon grace. The law indeed was given through Moses; grace and truth came through Jesus Christ. No one has ever seen God. It is God the only Son, who is close to the Father's heart, who has made him known.

Presider The Gospel of the Lord.

People Praise to you, Lord Christ.

Gospel Hymn

I wonder as I wander

*I wonder as I wander out under the sky
How Jesus the Savior did come for to die
For poor on'ry people like you and like I
I wonder as I wander out under the sky*

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 *(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, 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 Jonathan Halsey, Hal Wilson and Ken Kleva as they celebrate their birthdays this
 week.
 For the staff, volunteers, and inmates at River North Correctional Center.

For Christ Church, its leaders & ministry teams, the Anglican Church of Canada; St John's Cartoogechaye in Franklin, and St John's in Asheville, Marion, and Sylva, 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.**

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.

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

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. Because you sent your beloved Son to redeem us from sin and death, and to make us heirs in him of everlasting life; that when he shall come again in power and great triumph to judge the world, we may without shame or fear rejoice to behold his appearing. 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

in the high - est. Ho - san - na in the high - est.

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.



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

Please stand, as able.

Recessional Hymn #99

Go tell it on the mountain!

The Dismissal

Postlude

Jonathan Halsey

Coming Lessons

Isaiah 60:1-6
 Psalm 72:1-7, 10-14
 Ephesians 3:1-12
 Matthew 2:1-12

Monthly Altar Flowers and Coffee Hour sign-ups:

Date	Altar Flowers	Coffee Hour
Dec 28	<i>Poinsettias</i>	Nancy Wilson
Jan 4	<i>Poinsettias</i>	
Jan 11		Chili lunch
Jan 18		

The following people are assisting with the services

Role	This Sunday	Next Sunday
Altar Guild	Marybeth Lentz	Jane Franck
Chalice bearer	Elizabeth Barr Bryant	Nancy Wilson
Lector I	Patti Phelps	Louise Law
Lector II	Patti Phelps	Louise Law
Prayers of the People	Patti Phelps	Louise Law
Greeter(s)/Usher(s)	Nancy Wilson	Patti Phelps & Ruthie Maxwell

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

Prayer List

Intercessions:

Antje & Bill, Bill, Bob Bamberg, Brenda & Kelly Weems, Carl & Carol Greer, Charles & Christine McKelvy, Chris Decker (Janice H'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, JoAnn Andrews, Jonathan, Lisa (Doris' daughter), Lucy, Lynn Ellis, Lynn & Ajit, Margaret, Maria Chance, Martha A, Rita Woodruff & Angelia Miller, Rudy McKnight, Savany Demmink, Vanita, and Willie Coleman (Sally Besaw's mother). We also pray for local neighbors that fear detention, the inmates & staff at River North Correction Center, and we pray for Christ Church, its leaders & ministry teams.

Departed: Liz, a dear friend of Lisa, Doris King's daughter

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 Anglican Church of Canada

In the Diocese of WNC: St John's Cartoogechaye in Franklin, and St John's in Asheville, Marion, and Sylva

In Alleghany County: Sparta United Methodist Church

Schedule

Sunday, December 28 – The First Sunday after Christmas

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

Coffee hour follows the service

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/Epiphany service

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

Chili lunch following the service and The Rev Karla Woggon will be showing

The Philadelphia Eleven

Monday, January 12

10:00 am – Vestry meeting

Announcements

Tomorrow, December 29th is the next Ladies Lunch Out (LLO) with Karla at Barbara's house. If you signed up, please plan to arrive around 11:30 am and enjoy a festive meal together.

NEXT SUNDAY: On the first Sunday of each month, we collect offering for our local food closet – Solid Rock Food Closet (SRFC). If you would like to contribute to this cause, there are a few ways you can do that: (1) bring non-perishable food and/or personal care items (eg, shampoo, soap, toilet paper, etc) and put them in our red wagon in the narthex, (2) bring a check addressed to “Christ Church” with SRFC written on the memo line, or (3) bring cash, put it in an offering envelope located in your pew backs, and put your name and SRFC on the envelope. Any gift you're able to give will make a big difference.

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.