

Christ Episcopal Church

Sparta, NC

A home to all sharing God's unconditional love.



The Feast of the Epiphany

January 4, 2026

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:

Victoria Fischer Faw for serving as musician and for being so generous with her talents.

Please enter the Sanctuary in silence to respect those who are preparing for worship. Save conversations, whispered or out loud, for outside or Coffee Hour.

Please silence your cell phone, too.

Social media:

For more information about Christ Church, please visit our website –
www.christchurchallegghany.org

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

Office hours: Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, 8:00 am – 1:00 pm

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Cover art: Three Kings worship Christ by William Brassey Hole

The Gathering

Prelude

Victoria Fischer Faw

Announcements

Barbara Halsey

Please stand, as able.

Processional Hymn #128

We three kings

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 #410, vs 1

Praise, my soul, the King of heaven

Praise, my soul, the King of heaven;

To his feet thy tribute bring;

Ransomed, healed, restored, forgiven,

Evermore his praises sing:

Alleluia, alleluia!

Praise the everlasting King.

The Collect

Presider The Lord be with you.

People And also with you.

Presider Let us pray,

O God, by the leading of a star you manifested your only Son to the peoples of the earth: Lead us,
who know you now by faith, to your presence, where we may see your glory face to face; through Jesus
Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever.
Amen.

Please be seated.

Liturgy of the Word

First Reading: Isaiah 60:1-6

Arise, shine; for your light has come,
and the glory of the LORD has risen upon you.

For darkness shall cover the earth,
and thick darkness the peoples;

but the LORD will arise upon you,
and his glory will appear over you.
Nations shall come to your light,
and kings to the brightness of your dawn.
Lift up your eyes and look around;
they all gather together, they come to you;
your sons shall come from far away,
and your daughters shall be carried on their nurses' arms.
Then you shall see and be radiant;
your heart shall thrill and rejoice,
because the abundance of the sea shall be brought to you,
the wealth of the nations shall come to you.
A multitude of camels shall cover you,
the young camels of Midian and Ephah;
all those from Sheba shall come.
They shall bring gold and frankincense,
and shall proclaim the praise of the LORD.

Reader Hear what the Spirit is saying to God's people.
People **Thanks be to God.**

The Response: Psalm 72:1-7,10-14

Give the King your justice, O God, *
and your righteousness to the King's Son;
That he may rule your people righteously *
and the poor with justice;
That the mountains may bring prosperity to the people, *
and the little hills bring righteousness.
He shall defend the needy among the people; *
he shall rescue the poor and crush the oppressor.
He shall live as long as the sun and moon endure, *
from one generation to another.
He shall come down like rain upon the mown field, *
like showers that water the earth.
In his time shall the righteous flourish; *
there shall be abundance of peace till the moon shall be no more.
The kings of Tarshish and of the isles shall pay tribute, *
and the kings of Arabia and Saba offer gifts.
All kings shall bow down before him, *
and all the nations do him service.

For he shall deliver the poor who cries out in distress, *
and the oppressed who has no helper.

He shall have pity on the lowly and poor; *
he shall preserve the lives of the needy.

He shall redeem their lives from oppression and violence, *
and dear shall their blood be in his sight.

The Second Reading

Ephesians 3:1-12

This is the reason that I Paul am a prisoner for Christ Jesus for the sake of you Gentiles~ for surely you have already heard of the commission of God's grace that was given me for you, and how the mystery was made known to me by revelation, as I wrote above in a few words, a reading of which will enable you to perceive my understanding of the mystery of Christ. In former generations this mystery was not made known to humankind, as it has now been revealed to his holy apostles and prophets by the Spirit: that is, the Gentiles have become fellow heirs, members of the same body, and sharers in the promise in Christ Jesus through the gospel.

Of this gospel I have become a servant according to the gift of God's grace that was given me by the working of his power. Although I am the very least of all the saints, this grace was given to me to bring to the Gentiles the news of the boundless riches of Christ, and to make everyone see what is the plan of the mystery hidden for ages in God who created all things; so that through the church the wisdom of God in its rich variety might now be made known to the rulers and authorities in the heavenly places. This was in accordance with the eternal purpose that he has carried out in Christ Jesus our Lord, in whom we have access to God in boldness and confidence through faith in him.

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

People **Thanks be to God.**

Please stand, as able.

Gospel Hymn #115

What child is this?

Please remain standing, as able.

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

People **Glory to you, Lord Christ.**

The Gospel

Matthew 2:1-12

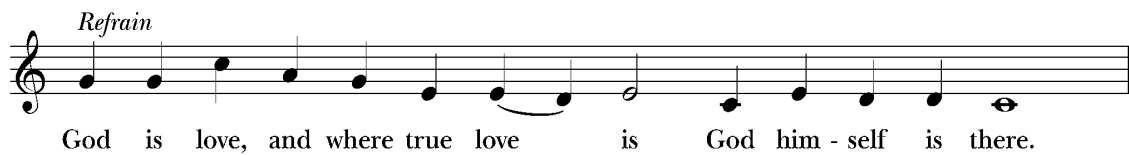
In the time of King Herod, after Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea, wise men from the East came to Jerusalem, asking, "Where is the child who has been born king of the Jews? For we observed his star at its rising, and have come to pay him homage." When King Herod heard this, he was frightened, and all Jerusalem with him; and calling together all the chief priests and scribes of the people, he inquired of them where the Messiah was to be born. They told him, "In Bethlehem of Judea; for so it has been written by the prophet:

‘And you, Bethlehem, in the land of Judah,
are by no means least among the rulers of Judah;
for from you shall come a ruler
who is to shepherd my people Israel.’”

Then Herod secretly called for the wise men and learned from them the exact time when the star had appeared. Then he sent them to Bethlehem, saying, “Go and search diligently for the child; and when you have found him, bring me word so that I may also go and pay him homage.” When they had heard the king, they set out; and there, ahead of them, went the star that they had seen at its rising, until it stopped over the place where the child was. When they saw that the star had stopped, they were overwhelmed with joy. On entering the house, they saw the child with Mary his mother; and they knelt down and paid him homage. Then, opening their treasure chests, they offered him gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh. And having been warned in a dream not to return to Herod, they left for their own country by another road.

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

WLP 768

1. I be - lieve in God al - might - y, Au - thor of all things that
 2. I be - lieve that Je - sus suf - fered, scourged and scorned and cru - ci -
 3. I be - lieve in God's own Spir - it, bond - ing all the saints with-

be, Mak - er of the earth and heav - ens, Keep - er of the sky and
 fied; tak - en from the cross, was bur - ied— True Life there had tru - ly
 in One church, cath - o - lic and ho - ly, where for - give - ness frees from

sea. I be - lieve in God's Son, Je - sus, now for
 died. I be - lieve that on the third day Christ was
 sin; in the bod - y's res - ur - rec - tion, for the

us both Lord and Christ, of the Spir - it and of
 raised up from the grave, then as - cend - ed to God
 break - ing of death's chain gives the life that's ev - er -

Mar - y born to bring a - bun - dant life.
 right hand. He will come to judge and save.
 last - ing. This the faith that I have claimed.

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, Frances, 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 Bob Dixon who is celebrating a birthday this week.

For the staff, volunteers, and inmates at River North Correctional Center, our neighbors who fear detention, and Covenant House.

For Christ Church, its leaders & ministry teams, the Church of the Province of Central Africa; Church of the Epiphany in Newton, and West Side Independent Baptist 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

Victoria Fischer Faw

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 in the mystery of the Word made flesh, you have caused a new light to shine in our hearts, to give the knowledge of your glory in the face of your Son 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)

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._____

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

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: S154 (sung by all)

This setting is not used in Lent.

Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.
Christ our Pass - o - ver is sac - ri - ficed for us;
there - fore let us keep the feast.
Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.

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

The Invitation to Holy Communion

Please be seated.

Communion Music

Victoria Fischer Faw

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 #105

God rest ye, merry gentlemen

The Dismissal

Postlude

Victoria Fischer Faw

Coming Lessons

Isaiah 42:1-9
Psalm 29
Acts 10:34-43
Matthew 3:13-17

Monthly Altar Flowers and Coffee Hour sign-ups:

Date	Altar Flowers	Coffee Hour
Jan 4	<i>Poinsettias</i>	Undecorating gathering
Jan 11		
Jan 18	Ken & Janice Kleva	Annual Congregational meeting
Jan 25		

The following people are assisting with the services

Role	This Sunday	Next Sunday
Altar Guild	Jane Franck	Jane Franck
Chalice bearer	Nancy Wilson	Bruce Smith
Lector I	Louise Law	Cliff Hudgins
Lector II	Louise Law	Cliff Hudgins
Prayers of the People	Louise Law	Cliff Hudgins
Greeter(s)/Usher(s)	Jane Franck & Ruthie Maxwell	John & Jane Franck

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, Bill Bedrossian, Bob Bamberg, Brenda & Kelly Weems, Carl & Carol Greer, Charles & Christine McKelvy, Chris Decker, Chuck & Sally Besaw, Diane & John, Donna & Mike Hohnstine, Dottie Maddock, Emily Buck, Frances, Frank & Ann W, 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. We also pray for local neighbors that fear detention, the inmates & staff at River North Correction Center, Covenant House, and we pray for Christ Church, its leaders & ministry teams.

Departed:

Birthdays: Bob Dixon (Jan 10)

Wedding Anniversaries & Thanksgivings:

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

In the Anglican Community: The Church of the Province of Central Africa

In the Diocese of WNC: Church of the Epiphany in Newton

In Alleghany County: West Side Independent Baptist Church

Schedule

Sunday, January 4 – The Feast of the Epiphany

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

Undecorating the church with coffee & cookies

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

Tuesday, January 13

1:00 pm – Centering Prayer group

2:00 pm – Book Discussion group

Sunday, January 18 – The Second Sunday after the Epiphany

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

Lunch & Annual Congregational Meeting following the service

Tuesday, January 20

1:00 pm – Centering Prayer group

2:00 pm – Book Discussion group

Announcements

The first Sunday of each month, we take donations for the Solid Rock Food Closet. If you're able to contribute, please either write a check to "Christ Church" with SRFC on your memo line or if you prefer to give a cash donation, please use one of the envelopes in the pew backs and write your name & SRFC on the envelope. Any amount is helpful! We also encourage you to bring non-perishable food and/or personal care items to donate. If you decide to do that, just place your donated items in the red wagon in the narthex. Jeanne Green, our long-time liaison to SRFC picks up the donations and delivers them each week. Again, anything you can give will help our local community.

Please stay after the service today and help us ‘undecorate’ our church – wreaths & bows, greenery & candles, table decorations & tablecloths, tree ornaments & the tree, too, all need to be carefully put away. We’ll have coffee & cookies in the narthex.

POSTPONED: The showing of “The Philadelphia Eleven” has been postponed. *Date to be determined.*

Please plan to attend our Annual Congregational Meeting & lunch on Sunday, January 18 following the worship service. This is a great way to hear what’s happening in our church, to ask questions, and to think about the new year ahead. We encourage all members & friends to join us in the Parish Hall for lunch and reports from our priest, wardens, and ministry team leaders following the service. *This year, the annual report will be emailed to all members on Thursday, Jan 15th so you have time to review it prior to the meeting.* Bring your questions! We’ll see you on the 18th!

REMINDER: All Ministry Team leaders & Wardens – your annual reports are due no later than **NEXT Sunday, Jan 11th**. Please email Mary Lee with your report as soon as possible.

Intergenerational Confirmation classes will be held in February & March led by The Rev Karla Woggon. The classes will be held following worship services, and will be a place to ask questions about what it means to be an Episcopalian. Do you have questions about something that happens during the Sunday worship services? Most of us came from different denominations so whether or not you’re actually being confirmed, you’re encouraged to attend. *Specific dates will be shared soon.*

Office hour changes: Monday, Tuesday, and Thursday, 8:00 am – 1:00 pm. On Wednesdays, Mary Lee will work from home and can be reached by email or text.

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.

Important dates as we look ahead:

- **Wednesday, Feb 18 at noon** – Ash Wednesday service
- **Sunday, Feb 22** – First Sunday in Lent
- **Sunday, March 29** – Palm Sunday
- **Friday, April 3 at noon** – Good Friday service
- **Sunday, April 5** – Easter Sunday
- **Sunday, April 19** – Labyrinth Walk with The Rev Karla Woggon (*date is tentative*)
- **Sunday, June 14** – Bishop José will be leading our worship followed by lunch

Annual Congregational Meeting & Lunch is on Sunday, January 18th following the service

This year, for lunch, we want to have **soup & chili** available. We have a **sign-up sheet on the information table** and we encourage all who are interested to bring their favorite chili or soup recipe to share with others. For those of you who don't like to cook, **we'll need other items like chips, bread, sour cream & shredded cheese for the chili, and brownies or cookies for dessert.** The other thing we'll need are individuals to help clean up afterwards – not heavy lifting but gathering trash, wiping surfaces, washing utensils, etc.