

Christ Episcopal Church

Sparta, NC

A home to all sharing God's unconditional love.



The Baptism of Our Lord Jesus Christ

January 11, 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:

Jonathan Halsey for serving as musician and for being so generous with his talents, and
Elizabeth Barr Bryant 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: *Baptism of Christ* by Jacopo Tintoretto

The Gathering

Prelude

Jonathan Halsey

Announcements

Barbara Halsey

Please stand, as able.

Processional Hymn #135

Songs of thankfulness & praise

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,

Father in heaven, who at the baptism of Jesus in the River Jordan proclaimed him your beloved Son
and anointed him with the Holy Spirit: Grant that all who are baptized into his Name may keep the
covenant they have made, and boldly confess him as Lord and Savior; who with you and the Holy
Spirit lives and reigns, one God, in glory everlasting. **Amen.**

Please be seated.

Liturgy of the Word

First Reading: Isaiah 42:1-9

Here is my servant, whom I uphold,
my chosen, in whom my soul delights;
I have put my spirit upon him;
he will bring forth justice to the nations.

He will not cry or lift up his voice,
or make it heard in the street;
a bruised reed he will not break,
and a dimly burning wick he will not quench;
he will faithfully bring forth justice.
He will not grow faint or be crushed
until he has established justice in the earth;
and the coastlands wait for his teaching.
Thus says God, the LORD,
who created the heavens and stretched them out,
who spread out the earth and what comes from it,
who gives breath to the people upon it
and spirit to those who walk in it:
I am the LORD, I have called you in righteousness,
I have taken you by the hand and kept you;
I have given you as a covenant to the people,
a light to the nations,
to open the eyes that are blind,
to bring out the prisoners from the dungeon,
from the prison those who sit in darkness.
I am the LORD, that is my name;
my glory I give to no other,
nor my praise to idols.
See, the former things have come to pass,
and new things I now declare;
before they spring forth,
I tell you of them.

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

The Response: Psalm 29

Ascribe to the LORD, you gods, *
ascribe to the LORD glory and strength.
Ascribe to the LORD the glory due his Name; *
worship the LORD in the beauty of holiness.
The voice of the LORD is upon the waters;
the God of glory thunders; *
the LORD is upon the mighty waters.
The voice of the LORD is a powerful voice; *
the voice of the LORD is a voice of splendor.

The voice of the LORD breaks the cedar trees; *
the LORD breaks the cedars of Lebanon;
 He makes Lebanon skip like a calf, *
and Mount Hermon like a young wild ox.
 The voice of the LORD splits the flames of fire;
 the voice of the LORD shakes the wilderness; *
the LORD shakes the wilderness of Kadesh.
 The voice of the LORD makes the oak trees writhe *
and strips the forests bare.
 And in the temple of the LORD *
all are crying, "Glory!"
 The LORD sits enthroned above the flood; *
the LORD sits enthroned as King for evermore.
 The LORD shall give strength to his people; *
the LORD shall give his people the blessing of peace.

The Second Reading

Acts 10:34-43

Peter began to speak to them: "I truly understand that God shows no partiality, but in every nation anyone who fears him and does what is right is acceptable to him. You know the message he sent to the people of Israel, preaching peace by Jesus Christ—he is Lord of all. That message spread throughout Judea, beginning in Galilee after the baptism that John announced: how God anointed Jesus of Nazareth with the Holy Spirit and with power; how he went about doing good and healing all who were oppressed by the devil, for God was with him. We are witnesses to all that he did both in Judea and in Jerusalem. They put him to death by hanging him on a tree; but God raised him on the third day and allowed him to appear, not to all the people but to us who were chosen by God as witnesses, and who ate and drank with him after he rose from the dead. He commanded us to preach to the people and to testify that he is the one ordained by God as judge of the living and the dead. All the prophets testify about him that everyone who believes in him receives forgiveness of sins through his name."

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

Please stand, as able.

Gospel Hymn #121, vss 1-3

Christ, when from us you were baptized

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 3:13-17

Jesus came from Galilee to John at the Jordan, to be baptized by him. John would have prevented him, saying, "I need to be baptized by you, and do you come to me?" But Jesus answered him, "Let it be so now; for it is proper for us in this way to fulfill all righteousness." Then he consented. And when Jesus had been baptized, just as he came up from the water, suddenly the heavens were opened to him and he saw the Spirit of God descending like a dove and alighting on him. And a voice from heaven said, "This is my Son, the Beloved, with whom I am well pleased."

Presider The Gospel of the Lord.

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

Gospel Hymn #121, vss 4

Christ, when from us you were baptized

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 read the bold text)

- Leader Heavenly Father, in gratitude for the message of love you sent to us in the word made flesh, Jesus, your Son, we offer you the longings of our hearts as we say, Lord, in your mercy, hear our prayer.
- Leader We pray for your church, for all who find you there, for those who love you and for those who long to love you more. Give us a spirit of invitation, and the courage to find new ways to be good news to all your people. Lord in your mercy,
- ALL hear our prayer.**
- Leader We pray for the nation and for all who govern. We pray for our future and the future of all nations and peoples, that we may be united in the desire for peace and life for everyone. Lord in your mercy,
- ALL hear our prayer.**
- Leader We pray for the world and its needs, for the state of the oceans and soil; the survival of your creatures and the safety of all people and that those who are able will work diligently for liberation and sustenance. Lord in your mercy,
- ALL hear our prayer.**
- Leader We pray for the needs of the communities we call home and our neighbors, for those we know and those who are strangers to us. We give you thanks for our adoption, which makes us brothers and sisters in Christ. Lord in your mercy,
- ALL hear our prayer.**
- Leader: We pray for all bishops, priests, and deacons... *especially the Archbishop of Canterbury, Sarah, our Presiding Bishop, Sean, our Bishop, José, and our Priest in Charge, Karla.* Lord in your mercy,
- ALL hear our prayer.**
- Leader We pray for *Jane Franck & Vanessa Cottrell* who are celebrating their birthdays today, and *Geoff Jones and Maeleigh Davis* who are celebrating their birthdays this week.
- ALL hear our prayer.**
- Leader: Grant that every member of the Church may truly and humbly serve you; *especially, in our Anglican community, The Anglican Church in Central America; in the Diocese of Western North Carolina, Episcopal Church Women and Daughters of the King, and in our Alleghany Community, Woodruff Primitive Baptist Church. And please keep Christ Church, the Vestry and Leadership in your prayers...* Lord in your mercy,
- ALL hear our prayer.**
- Leader We pray for those who are ill or injured, and for those who are depressed and anxious, that they may know the comfort of your healing love and the joy of each new day. Especially we ask healing for... *Antje, Bill, Bob, Brenda, Kelly, Carl, Carol, Charles, Christine, Chuck, Sally, Diane, John, Donna, Mike, Dottie, Emily, Frances, Gary, Isabel, Janice, Jean, Jesse, JoAnn, Jonathan, Lucy, Lynn, Ajit, Margaret, Maria, Martha, Rita, Angelia, Rudy, Savany, Vanita, and Willie.* Lord in your mercy,
- ALL hear our prayer.**

Leader We pray for the dying, for those who labor to leave this world, that their departing may be peaceful and fearless. We pray also for those who weep this day and those who mourn the dead. Lord in your mercy,
ALL hear our prayer.

Presider Offering you these prayers and praises we acknowledge our dependence on you alone. Uphold us this day and every day and to bless our endeavors as we strive to bring about your kingdom vision for this world. We ask all this in the name of your Son, who lives and reigns with you, and the Holy Spirit, one God now and for ever. **Amen.**

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 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.

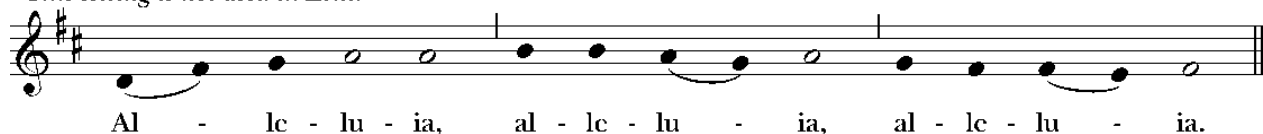
For thine is the kingdom,
and the power, and the glory,
for ever and ever. Amen.

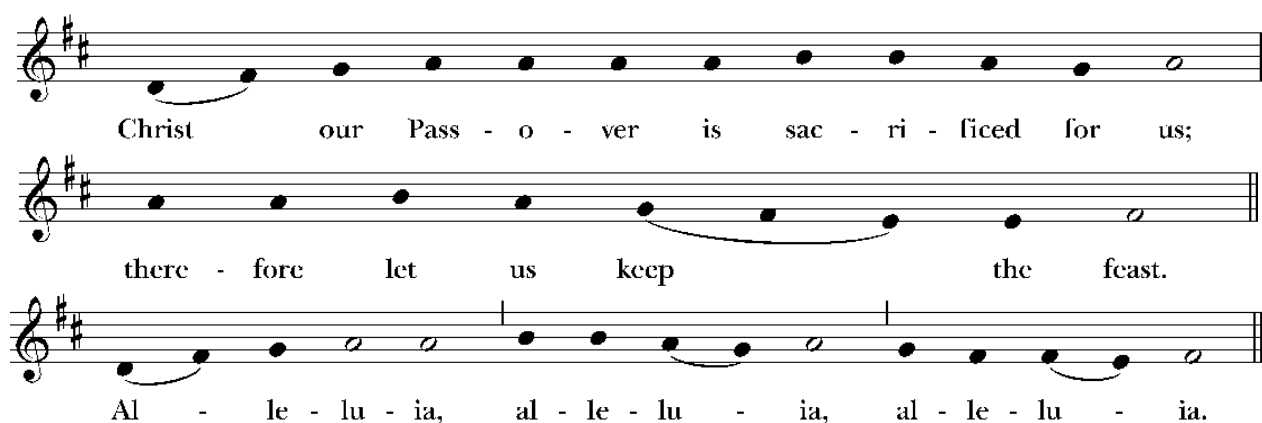
The Breaking of the Bread

A period of silence is kept.

Fraction: S154 *(sung by all)*

This setting is not used in Lent.





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

Please stand, as able.

Recessional Hymn #450

All hail the power of Jesus' Name!

The Dismissal

Postlude

Jonathan Halsey

Coming Lessons

Isaiah 49:1-7
Psalm 40:1-12
1 Corinthians 1:1-9
John 1:29-42

Monthly Altar Flowers and Coffee Hour sign-ups:

| Date | Altar Flowers | Coffee Hour |
|--------|--------------------|-------------------------------|
| Jan 11 | | Elizabeth Barr Bryant |
| Jan 18 | Ken & Janice Kleva | Annual Congregational meeting |
| Jan 25 | | Wanda McKnight |
| Feb 1 | | |

The following people are assisting with the services

| Role | This Sunday | Next Sunday |
|-----------------------|--------------------|-----------------|
| Altar Guild | Jane Franck | Jane Franck |
| Chalice bearer | Bruce Smith | Patti Phelps |
| Lector I | Cliff Hudgins | Mary Lee Joines |
| Lector II | Cliff Hudgins | Mary Lee Joines |
| Prayers of the People | Cliff Hudgins | Mary Lee Joines |
| Greeter(s)/Usher(s) | John & Jane Franck | Cynthia Grant |

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, Chuck & Sally Besaw, Diane & John, Donna & Mike Hohnstine, Dottie Maddock, Emily Buck, Frances, Gary Medley, Isabel Tomé, Janice Harrison, Jean Callison, Jesse James, JoAnn Andrews, Jonathan, 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: Jane Franck (Today!), Vanessa Cottrell (Today!), Geoff Jones (Jan 12), and Maeleigh Davis (Jan 14)

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 in Central America

In the Diocese of WNC: Episcopal Church Women and Daughters of the King

In Alleghany County: Woodruff Primitive Baptist Church

Schedule

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

Showing of “Philadelphia 11” has been postponed

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

Monday, January 19

10:00 am – Altar Guild meeting

Tuesday, January 20

1:00 pm – Centering Prayer group

2:00 pm – Book Discussion group

Sunday, January 25 – The Third Sunday after the Epiphany

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

Coffee hour follows the service

Tuesday, January 27

1:00 pm – Centering Prayer group

2:00 pm – Book Discussion group

Announcements

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

Please plan to attend our Annual Congregational Meeting & lunch NEXT 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!

Chili & Soup for lunch NEXT Sunday, Jan 18th! Before you leave today, please sign up to bring chili or soup or another item to share. The sign-up sheet is on the information table.

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.

If you have a pastoral need or would like home communion or a visit when you are sick or homebound, please contact Karla at priest.christchurchspartanc@gmail.com or 828.638.0533.

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.

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
- **Thursday, April 2 at 5:00 pm** – Maundy Thursday
- **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