

Christ Episcopal Church

Sparta, NC

A home to all sharing God's unconditional love.



The Third Sunday after the Epiphany
January 25, 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 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:

Kathy Sugishita for serving as musician and for being so generous with her talents, and

Wanda McKnight for providing refreshments for coffee hour today.

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

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

Office hours: Monday-Thursday, 8:00 am - 1:00 pm

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Cover art: Come, follow me by Jorge Cocco

The Gathering

Prelude

Kathy Sugishita

Announcements

Barbara Halsey

Please stand, as able.

Processional Hymn #423

Immortal, invisible, God only wise

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,

Give us grace, O Lord, to answer readily the call of our Savior Jesus Christ and proclaim to all people the Good News of his salvation, that we and the whole world may perceive the glory of his marvelous works; who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. Amen.

Please be seated.

Liturgy of the Word

First Reading: Isaiah 9:1-4

There will be no gloom for those who were in anguish. In the former time he brought into contempt the land of Zebulun and the land of Naphtali, but in the latter time he will make glorious the way of the sea, the land beyond the Jordan, Galilee of the nations.

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.

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

The Response: Psalm 27:1, 5-13

The LORD is my light and my salvation;
whom then shall I fear? *

**the LORD is the strength of my life;
of whom then shall I be afraid?**

One thing have I asked of the LORD;
one thing I seek; *
that I may dwell in the house of the LORD all the days of my life;

To behold the fair beauty of the LORD *
and to seek him in his temple.

For in the day of trouble he shall keep me safe in his shelter; *
**he shall hide me in the secrecy of his dwelling
and set me high upon a rock.**

Even now he lifts up my head *
above my enemies round about me.

Therefore I will offer in his dwelling an oblation
with sounds of great gladness; *

I will sing and make music to the LORD.

Hearken to my voice, O LORD, when I call; *
have mercy on me and answer me.

You speak in my heart and say, "Seek my face." *
Your face, LORD, will I seek.

Hide not your face from me, *
nor turn away your servant in displeasure.

You have been my helper;
cast me not away; *
do not forsake me, O God of my salvation.

The Second Reading 1 Corinthians 1:10-18

Now I appeal to you, brothers and sisters, by the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, that all of you be in agreement and that there be no divisions among you, but that you be united in the same mind and the same purpose. For it has been reported to me by Chloe's people that there are quarrels among you, my brothers and sisters. What I mean is that each of you says, "I belong to Paul," or "I belong to Apollos," or "I belong to Cephas," or "I belong to Christ." Has Christ been divided? Was Paul crucified for you? Or were you baptized in the name of Paul? I thank God that I baptized none of you except Crispus and Gaius, so that no one can say that you were baptized in my name. (I did baptize also the household of Stephanas; beyond that, I do not know whether I baptized anyone else.) For Christ did not send me to baptize but to proclaim the gospel, and not with eloquent wisdom, so that the cross of Christ might not be emptied of its power.

For the message about the cross is foolishness to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God.

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

Please stand, as able.

Gospel Hymn #525, vss 1-3

The Church's one foundation

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 4:12-23**

When Jesus heard that John had been arrested, he withdrew to Galilee. He left Nazareth and made his home in Capernaum by the sea, in the territory of Zebulun and Naphtali, so that what had been spoken through the prophet Isaiah might be fulfilled:

“Land of Zebulun, land of Naphtali,
on the road by the sea, across the Jordan, Galilee of the Gentiles—
the people who sat in darkness
have seen a great light,
and for those who sat in the region and shadow of death
light has dawned.”

From that time Jesus began to proclaim, “Repent, for the kingdom of heaven has come near.”

As he walked by the Sea of Galilee, he saw two brothers, Simon, who is called Peter, and Andrew his brother, casting a net into the sea—for they were fishermen. And he said to them, “Follow me, and I will make you fish for people.” Immediately they left their nets and followed him. As he went from there, he saw two other brothers, James son of Zebedee and his brother John, in the

boat with their father Zebedee, mending their nets, and he called them. Immediately they left the boat and their father, and followed him.

Jesus went throughout Galilee, teaching in their synagogues and proclaiming the good news of the kingdom and curing every disease and every sickness among the people.

Presider The Gospel of the Lord.

People Praise to you, Lord Christ.

Gospel Hymn #525, vss 4-5

The Church's one foundation

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 that judge and save.
last ing. This the faith I have claimed.

Prayers of the People (all read the bold text)

Leader We pray to you Holy God, in the confidence of our belovedness as we say, Lord in your mercy, hear our prayer.

Leader We give thanks for the multitude of the faithful who have offered you their lives in faith. Bless the universal church with a resounding chorus of affirmation and fill us with shared affection and true purpose to bring your kingdom nearer still. Lord in your mercy,

ALL
hear our prayer.

Leader We pray to you for our nation and for our elected leaders in city, state, and national government, that our country and all countries might look to you and your way of love. Lord in your mercy,

ALL
hear our prayer.

Leader We pray for the welfare of all people, for those we see as allies and for those we fear, that all might know peace in their heart. Lord in your mercy,

ALL
hear our prayer.

Leader We pray for the concerns and worries of our hearts. Be present to us and lead us into faith, contentment, and joy. Lord in your mercy,

ALL
hear our prayer.

Leader We pray for those who suffer in body, mind, or spirit that they will seek and find you in their distress. Especially we pray for... *Antje, Bill, Bob, Bobbie, Brenda, Kelly, Carl, Carol, Charles, Christine, Chuck, Sally, Diane, John, Donna, Mike, Emily, Frances, Gary, Ina, Isabel, Jana, Janice, Jean, Jesse, JoAnn, Jonathan, Lucy, Lynn, Ajit, Margaret, Maria, Martha, Rita, Angelia, Rudy, Savany, Stella, and Vanita.* Lord in your mercy,

ALL
hear our prayer.

Leader: We pray for *Bob & Roddy Dixon* who are celebrating their anniversary today, and *Grace Mauney* who will be celebrating her birthday this week. 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: Grant that every member of the Church may truly and humbly serve you; *especially, in our Anglican community, The Anglican Church of the Chile; in the Diocese of Western North Carolina, St Peter by the Lake in Denver, and in our Alleghany Community, Whitehead Union 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 the departed, for those who are dying and those who watch and weep. Bring peace and comfort to the grieving and the hope of life eternal to those who labor on toward your kingdom. Lord in your mercy,

ALL hear our prayer.

Presider Be our strong shield and certain companion in this and every day, that we might know and love you more: Father Son and Holy Spirit. **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

Kathy Sugishita

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;
 therefore 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

Surely the Presence of the Lord

Kathy Sugishita

*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 #539

O Zion, haste

The Dismissal

Postlude

Kathy Sugishita

Coming Lessons

Micah 6:1-8

Psalm 15

1 Corinthians 1:18-31

Matthew 5:1-12

Prayer List

Intercessions:

Antje & Bill, Bill, Bill Bedrossian, Bob Bamberg, Bobbie Clark, Brenda & Kelly Weems, Carl & Carol Greer, Charles & Christine McKelvy, Chuck & Sally Besaw, Diane & John, Donna & Mike Hohnstine, Emily Buck, Frances Huber, Gary Medley, Ina (Ann Hazard's cousin), Isabel Tomé, Jana, 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, Stella Daniel, and Vanita. 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: Grace Mauney (Jan 30)

Wedding Anniversaries & Thanksgivings: Bob & Rod Dixon (today!)

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

In the Anglican Community: The Anglican Church of the Chile

In the Diocese of WNC: St Peter by the Lake in Denver

In Alleghany County: Whitehead Union Baptist Church

The following people are assisting with the services

Role	This Sunday	Next Sunday
Altar Guild	Jane Franck	Jeanne Green
Chalice bearer	Bruce Smith	Jonathan Halsey
Lector I	Jonathan Halsey	Geoff Jones
Lector II	Jonathan Halsey	Geoff Jones
Prayers of the People	Jonathan Halsey	Geoff Jones
Greeter(s)/Usher(s)	Louise Law & Rod Pace	Barbara & Jim Halsey

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

Monthly Altar Flowers and Coffee Hour sign-ups:

Date	Altar Flowers	Coffee Hour
Jan 25		Wanda McKnight
Feb 1	Cynthia Grant	Cynthia Grant
Feb 8		Jane Franck
Feb 15		

Schedule

Sunday, January 25 – The Third Sunday after the Epiphany

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

Coffee hour follows the service

Worship Team meets following coffee hour

Tuesday, January 27

1:00 pm – Centering Prayer group

2:00 pm – Book Discussion group

3:30 pm – Community Outreach team meeting

Sunday, February 1 – The Fourth Sunday after the Epiphany

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

Coffee hour follows the service

Tuesday, February 3

1:00 pm – Centering Prayer group

2:00 pm – Book Discussion group

Sunday, February 8 – The Fifth Sunday after the Epiphany

10:30 am – Morning Prayer with Bruce Smith

Coffee hour follows the service

Tuesday, February 10

1:00 pm – Centering Prayer group

2:00 pm – Book Discussion group

Sunday, February 15 – The Last Sunday after the Epiphany

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

Coffee hour follows the service

12:00 – 1:30 pm – *Confirm not Conform* Intergenerational class

Monday, February 16

10:00 am – Vestry meeting

Tuesday, February 17

1:00 pm – Centering Prayer group

2:00 pm – Book Discussion group

Wednesday, February 18 – Ash Wednesday

12:00 pm – Ash Wednesday service

Sunday, February 22 – The First Sunday in Lent

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

Coffee hour follows the service

6:00 pm – Taizé service

Tuesday, February 24

1:00 pm – Centering Prayer group

2:00 pm – Book Discussion group

Sunday, March 1 – The Second Sunday in Lent

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

Coffee hour follows the service

Announcements

NEXT SUNDAY: 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.

We will be having an Ash Wednesday service on February 18th at noon, and we invite you to join us as we begin the Lenten season.

Intergenerational Confirmation classes led by The Rev Karla Woggon The classes will be held once a month 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? **The classes will be held once a month beginning Sunday, February 15th from 12:00 – 1:30 pm.**

We will be having a Lenten Taizé service on Sunday, February 22nd at 6:00 pm. Set your intention for a holy Lent while resting in God's loving presence. Rooted in simple chant, silence, and contemplative prayer, the Taizé service offers you a time to listen, to rest, and to open your heart to God's presence.

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.

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.

Confirm Not Conform

Rooted in Scripture, shaped by worship, and informed by reason and lived experience, this series invites participants not to memorize beliefs, but to discover how the Episcopal Church holds faith with humility, beauty, and depth. The class will serve as intergenerational confirmation preparation as well as a welcoming introduction to the Episcopal Church for those who are new, returning, or simply seeking a deeper understanding of our shared life of faith.

Monthly meetings Sunday from 12:00-1:30

Sunday Feb. 15: So, What's Our Story: The History of the Episcopal Church

Sunday March 8: The Book of Common Prayer

Sunday April 19: Sacraments and the Church Year

Sunday May 17: The Baptismal Covenant

Sunday June 7: From Pain into Power (The Eucharist)

More information about Holy Week services will appear in future bulletins and the weekly Good News & Notes.