

Christ Episcopal Church

Sparta, NC

A home to all sharing God's unconditional love.



The Fourth Sunday after the Epiphany

February 1, 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, and
Cynthia Grant for providing flowers at the altar and 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.christchurchallegghany.org

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

Email: christchurchspartanc@gmail.com (NEW)

Priest Email: priest.christchurchspartanc@gmail.com

Website: www.christchurchallegghany.org

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: *The sermon on the mount* by Laura James

The Gathering

Prelude

Victoria Fischer Faw

Announcements

Louise Law

Please stand, as able.

Processional Hymn #493

Jesus Christ, our Lord

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,

Almighty and everlasting God, you govern all things both in heaven and on earth: Mercifully hear the
supplications of your people, and in our time grant us your peace; through Jesus Christ our Lord,
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: Micah 6:1-8

Hear what the LORD says:

Rise, plead your case before the mountains,
and let the hills hear your voice.

Hear, you mountains, the controversy of the LORD,
and you enduring foundations of the earth;

for the LORD has a controversy with his people,
and he will contend with Israel.

“O my people, what have I done to you?
In what have I wearied you? Answer me!

For I brought you up from the land of Egypt,
and redeemed you from the house of slavery;
and I sent before you Moses,
Aaron, and Miriam.

O my people, remember now what King Balak of Moab devised,
what Balaam son of Beor answered him,
and what happened from Shittim to Gilgal,
that you may know the saving acts of the LORD.”

“With what shall I come before the LORD,
and bow myself before God on high?

Shall I come before him with burnt-offerings,
with calves a year old?

Will the LORD be pleased with thousands of rams,
with tens of thousands of rivers of oil?

Shall I give my firstborn for my transgression,
the fruit of my body for the sin of my soul?”

He has told you, O mortal, what is good;
and what does the LORD require of you

but to do justice, and to love kindness,
and to walk humbly with your God?

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

The Response: Psalm 15

LORD, who may dwell in your tabernacle? *
who may abide upon your holy hill?

Whoever leads a blameless life and does what is right, *
who speaks the truth from his heart.

There is no guile upon his tongue;
he does no evil to his friend; *
he does not heap contempt upon his neighbor.

In his sight the wicked is rejected, *
but he honors those who fear the LORD.

He has sworn to do no wrong *
and does not take back his word.

He does not give his money in hope of gain, *
nor does he take a bribe against the innocent.
Whoever does these things *
shall never be overthrown.

The Second Reading

1 Corinthians 1:18-31

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. For it is written,

“I will destroy the wisdom of the wise,
and the discernment of the discerning I will thwart.”

Where is the one who is wise? Where is the scribe? Where is the debater of this age? Has not God made foolish the wisdom of the world? For since, in the wisdom of God, the world did not know God through wisdom, God decided, through the foolishness of our proclamation, to save those who believe. For Jews demand signs and Greeks desire wisdom, but we proclaim Christ crucified, a stumbling block to Jews and foolishness to Gentiles, but to those who are the called, both Jews and Greeks, Christ the power of God and the wisdom of God. For God's foolishness is wiser than human wisdom, and God's weakness is stronger than human strength.

Consider your own call, brothers and sisters: not many of you were wise by human standards, not many were powerful, not many were of noble birth. But God chose what is foolish in the world to shame the wise; God chose what is weak in the world to shame the strong; God chose what is low and despised in the world, things that are not, to reduce to nothing things that are, so that no one might boast in the presence of God. He is the source of your life in Christ Jesus, who became for us wisdom from God, and righteousness and sanctification and redemption, in order that, as it is written, “Let the one who boasts, boast in the Lord.”

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

Please stand, as able.

Gospel Hymn #444

Blessed be the God of Israel

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 5:1-12

When Jesus saw the crowds, he went up the mountain; and after he sat down, his disciples came to him. Then he began to speak, and taught them, saying:

“Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.
“Blessed are those who mourn, for they will be comforted.

“Blessed are the meek, for they will inherit the earth.
 “Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they will be filled.
 “Blessed are the merciful, for they will receive mercy.
 “Blessed are the pure in heart, for they will see God.
 “Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called children of God.
 “Blessed are those who are persecuted for righteousness’ sake, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.
 “Blessed are you when people revile you and persecute you and utter all kinds of evil against you
 falsely on my account. Rejoice and be glad, for your reward is great in heaven, for in the same way
 they persecuted the prophets who were before you.”

Presider The Gospel of the Lord.
 People Praise to you, Lord Christ.

Refrain:

Refrain

God is love, and where true love is God him - self is there.

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 God of blessings hear our prayers and act swiftly to answer them as we say, Lord in your mercy, hear our prayer.
- Leader Embolden your church, that it may fearlessly accept its mission to bring light and love into the world without judgement. Lord in your mercy,
ALL hear our prayer.
- Leader Keep the needs of the most vulnerable foremost in the minds and in the intentions of our elected leaders and public servants, that the dignity of all may be preserved and the welfare of our whole nation increased. Lord in your mercy,
ALL hear our prayer.
- Leader Help us to ground our choices in our concern for those most impacted by climate change and in the need to preserve the abundance of creation for future generations. Lord in your mercy,
ALL hear our prayer.
- Leader Shower your blessing on this congregation that they might know and feel your presence in their lives and act in the confidence of your love for the good of all. Lord in your mercy,
ALL hear our prayer.
- Leader Bring wholeness and peace to all who suffer, free them from their afflictions and instill in them the hope of Christ. Especially we pray for... *Antje, Bill, Bob, Bobbie, Brenda, Kelly, Carl, Carol, Cathy, Charles, Christine, Chuck, Sally, Diane, John, Donna, Mike, Emily, Gary, Huber family, 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 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 Church of England; in the Diocese of Western North Carolina, Seminarians, and all students, faculty & staff involved in Theological Education, and in our Alleghany Community, White Plains Union Baptist Church. And please keep Christ Church, the Vestry and Leadership in your prayers...* Lord in your mercy,
ALL hear our prayer.
- Leader Welcome in your embrace all those who have died and so guide our lives that we may confidently look forward to our reunion with them and you. *We pray especially for Frances Huber.* Lord in your mercy,
ALL hear our prayer.

Presider God of true wisdom who through Christ has given us the model of human life, so inspire us that we might live always in the joy of our salvation and greet with joy the day of your coming. **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

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.

Please be seated.

The Invitation to Holy Communion

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 #656

Blest are the pure of heart

The Dismissal

Postlude

Victoria Fischer Faw

Coming Lessons

Isaiah 58:1-12
Psalm 112:1-10
1 Corinthians 2:1-16
Matthew 5:13-20

Prayer List

Intercessions:

Antje & Bill, Bill, Bill Bedrossian, Bob Bamberg, Bobbie Clark, Brenda & Kelly Weems, Carl & Carol Greer, Cathy Davis, Charles & Christine McKelvy, Chuck & Sally Besaw, Diane & John, Donna & Mike Hohnstine, Emily Buck, Frances Huber's family following her death, Gary Medley, Ina, 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 all those impacted by the winter storms, our 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: Frances Huber (Jan 22)

Birthdays:

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 England

In the Diocese of WNC: Seminarians, and all students, staff & faculty involved in Theological Education.

In Alleghany County: White Plains Union Baptist Church

The following people are assisting with the services

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

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
Feb 1	Cynthia Grant	Cynthia Grant
Feb 8		Morning Prayer – coffee only
Feb 15		Wanda McKnight
Feb 22		

Schedule

Sunday, February 1 – The Fourth Sunday after the Epiphany

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

Coffee hour follows the service

Worship team meets after coffee hour

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*

Announcements

TODAY: 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)



Holy Week Schedule

Sunday, March 29 – Palm Sunday

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

Coffee hour follows the service

Thursday, April 2

5:00 pm – Maundy Thursday service

Friday, April 3

12:00 pm – Good Friday service

Sunday, April 5 – Easter Sunday

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

Coffee hour follows the service

