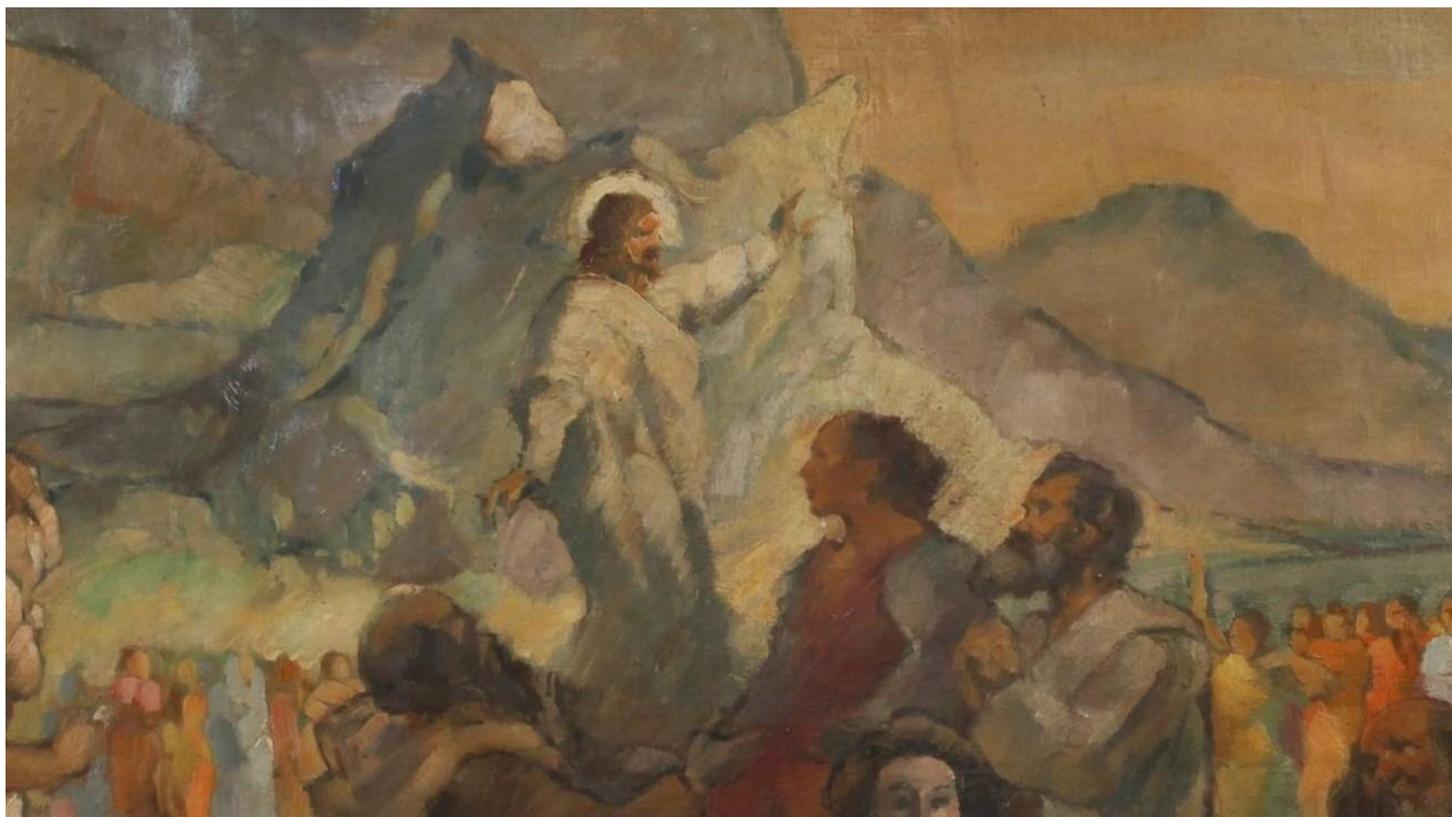


Christ Episcopal Church

Sparta, NC

A home to all sharing God's unconditional love.



The Fifth Sunday after the Epiphany

February 08, 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 **Jane & John Franck** 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.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: *Sermon on the Mount* by Friedrich Peterson

Gathering

Prelude

Victoria Fischer Faw

Announcements

John Franck

Please stand, as able.

Processional Hymn #404

We will extol you

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,

Set us free, O God, from the bondage of our sins, and give us the liberty of that abundant life which you have made known to us in your Son our Savior Jesus Christ; who lives and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

Please be seated.

Liturgy of the Word

First Reading: Isaiah 58:1-12

Shout out, do not hold back!

Lift up your voice like a trumpet!

Announce to my people their rebellion,
to the house of Jacob their sins.

Yet day after day they seek me
and delight to know my ways,
as if they were a nation that practiced righteousness
and did not forsake the ordinance of their God;
they ask of me righteous judgments,
they delight to draw near to God.
“Why do we fast, but you do not see?
Why humble ourselves, but you do not notice?”
Look, you serve your own interest on your fast day,
and oppress all your workers.
Look, you fast only to quarrel and to fight
and to strike with a wicked fist.
Such fasting as you do today
will not make your voice heard on high.
Is such the fast that I choose,
a day to humble oneself?
Is it to bow down the head like a bulrush,
and to lie in sackcloth and ashes?
Will you call this a fast,
a day acceptable to the LORD?
Is not this the fast that I choose:
to loose the bonds of injustice,
to undo the thongs of the yoke,
to let the oppressed go free,
and to break every yoke?
Is it not to share your bread with the hungry,
and bring the homeless poor into your house;
when you see the naked, to cover them,
and not to hide yourself from your own kin?
Then your light shall break forth like the dawn,
and your healing shall spring up quickly;
your vindicator shall go before you,
the glory of the LORD shall be your rear guard.
Then you shall call, and the LORD will answer;
you shall cry for help, and he will say, Here I am.
If you remove the yoke from among you,
the pointing of the finger, the speaking of evil,
if you offer your food to the hungry
and satisfy the needs of the afflicted,

then your light shall rise in the darkness
and your gloom be like the noonday.

The LORD will guide you continually,
and satisfy your needs in parched places,
and make your bones strong;
and you shall be like a watered garden,
like a spring of water,
whose waters never fail.

Your ancient ruins shall be rebuilt;
you shall raise up the foundations of many generations;
you shall be called the repairer of the breach,
the restorer of streets to live in.

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

The Response: Psalm 112:1-10

Hallelujah!

Happy are they who fear the Lord *
and have great delight in his commandments!

Their descendants will be mighty in the land; *
the generation of the upright will be blessed.

Wealth and riches will be in their house, *
and their righteousness will last for ever.

Light shines in the darkness for the upright; *
the righteous are merciful and full of compassion.

It is good for them to be generous in lending *
and to manage their affairs with justice.

For they will never be shaken; *
the righteous will be kept in everlasting remembrance.

They will not be afraid of any evil rumors; *
their heart is right;
they put their trust in the Lord.

Their heart is established and will not shrink, *
until they see their desire upon their enemies.

They have given freely to the poor, *
and their righteousness stands fast for ever;
they will hold up their head with honor.

The wicked will see it and be angry;
they will gnash their teeth and pine away; *
the desires of the wicked will perish.

The Second Reading

1 Corinthians 2:1-16

When I came to you, brothers and sisters, I did not come proclaiming the mystery of God to you in lofty words or wisdom. For I decided to know nothing among you except Jesus Christ, and him crucified. And I came to you in weakness and in fear and in much trembling. My speech and my proclamation were not with plausible words of wisdom, but with a demonstration of the Spirit and of power, so that your faith might rest not on human wisdom but on the power of God.

Yet among the mature we do speak wisdom, though it is not a wisdom of this age or of the rulers of this age, who are doomed to perish. But we speak God's wisdom, secret and hidden, which God decreed before the ages for our glory. None of the rulers of this age understood this; for if they had, they would not have crucified the Lord of glory. But, as it is written,

“What no eye has seen, nor ear heard,
nor the human heart conceived,
what God has prepared for those who love him”—

these things God has revealed to us through the Spirit; for the Spirit searches everything, even the depths of God. For what human being knows what is truly human except the human spirit that is within? So also no one comprehends what is truly God's except the Spirit of God. Now we have received not the spirit of the world, but the Spirit that is from God, so that we may understand the gifts bestowed on us by God. And we speak of these things in words not taught by human wisdom but taught by the Spirit, interpreting spiritual things to those who are spiritual.

Those who are unspiritual do not receive the gifts of God's Spirit, for they are foolishness to them, and they are unable to understand them because they are spiritually discerned. Those who are spiritual discern all things, and they are themselves subject to no one else's scrutiny.

“For who has known the mind of the Lord
so as to instruct him?”

But we have the mind of Christ.

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

People **Thanks be to God.**

Please stand, as able.

Gospel Hymn #550, vss 1-3

Jesus calls us; o'er the tumult

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 5:13-20

Jesus said, “You are the salt of the earth; but if salt has lost its taste, how can its saltiness be restored? It is no longer good for anything, but is thrown out and trampled underfoot.

“You are the light of the world. A city built on a hill cannot be hid. No one after lighting a lamp puts it under the bushel basket, but on the lampstand, and it gives light to all in the house. In the same way, let your light shine before others, so that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father in heaven.

“Do not think that I have come to abolish the law or the prophets; I have come not to abolish but to fulfill. For truly I tell you, until heaven and earth pass away, not one letter, not one stroke of a letter, will pass from the law until all is accomplished. Therefore, whoever breaks one of the least of these commandments, and teaches others to do the same, will be called least in the kingdom of heaven; but whoever does them and teaches them will be called great in the kingdom of heaven. For I tell you, unless your righteousness exceeds that of the scribes and Pharisees, you will never enter the kingdom of heaven.”

Presider The Gospel of the Lord.

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

Gospel Hymn #550, vss 4-5

Jesus calls us; o'er the tumult

All are seated.

The Sermon

The Rev Karla Woggon

A time of silence following the sermon.

Please stand, as able.

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 Creating God, you have made us in your image that we might reflect your glory, hear us now as we say, Lord in your mercy, hear our prayer.

Leader Be present in and guide your church that it might always stand for the way that leads to life and light. Lord in your mercy,

ALL hear our prayer.

Leader Grant wisdom and mercy to all who hold authority in our lives that their leadership might benefit all people and bring about a just and equitable world. Lord in your mercy,

ALL hear our prayer.

Leader We offer to you the deepest needs and longings of our own hearts, help us to grow into the people you created us to be and take up the work you have given us to do. Lord in your mercy,

ALL hear our prayer.

Leader Open our eyes to behold the glory of your Creation that we might take up our responsibilities to preserve and protect it with joy. Lord in your mercy,

ALL hear our prayer.

Leader Extend your healing presence to all who suffer and restore them to a sense of wholeness. Especially we pray for... *Antje, Bill, Bob, Bobbie, Brenda, Kelly, Carl, Carol, Cathy, Charles, Christine, Chuck, Sally, Diane, John, Donna, Mike, Emily, Gary, Holyfield family, Ina, Isabel, Jana, Janice, Jean, Jesse, JoAnn, Jonathan, Lucy, Lynn, Ajit, Margaret, Maria, Martha, Rita, Angelia, Rudy, Savany, Stella, Vanita, and Wes.* 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 Hong Kong Anglican Church; in the Diocese of Western North Carolina, Church of the Redeemer in Asheville and Shelby, and in our Alleghany Community, Zion Primitive Baptist Church. And please keep Christ Church, the Vestry and Leadership in your prayers...* Lord in your mercy,

ALL hear our prayer.

Leader Welcome all who have died into your loving presence and bring us also into that new kingdom in your new age. Lord in your mercy,

ALL hear our prayer.

Presider You have offered us the gift of grace and reconciliation through the life, death, and resurrection of Christ. Let us live into your Son's example that we might also know abundant life in your presence. All we ask, we ask through our Lord and intercessor, who with you and Holy Spirit lives, reigns eternally. **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

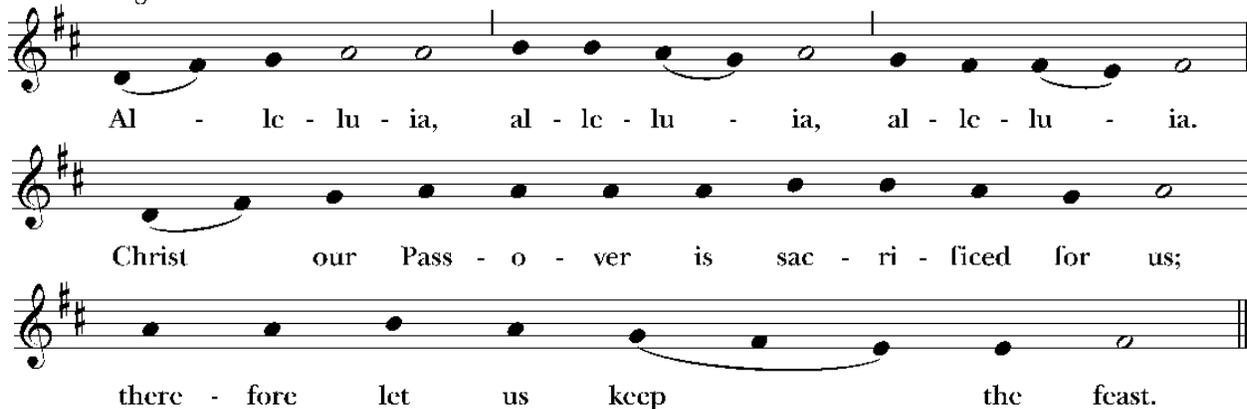
Our Father, who art in heaven,
hallowed be thy Name,
thy kingdom come,
thy will be done,
on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread.
And forgive us our trespasses,
as we forgive those
who trespass against us.
And lead us not into temptation,
but deliver us from evil.
For thine is the 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

Kathy Sughista

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 #628

Help us, O Lord

The Dismissal

Postlude

Victoria Fischer Faw

Coming Lessons

Exodus 24:12-18

2 Peter 1:16-21

Matthew 17:1-9

Psalm 2 or 99

The following people are assisting with the services

Role	This Sunday	Next Sunday
Altar Guild	Jeanne Green	Jeanne Green
Chalice Bearer	Jeanne Green	Bruce Smith
Lector I	Patti Phelps	Jann Boggs
Lector II	Patti Phelps	Jann Boggs
Prayers of the People	Patti Phelps	Jann Boggs
Greeter(s)/Usher(s)	Patti Phelps	Patti Phelps & Ruthie Maxwell

Prayer List

Intercessions:

Antje & Bill, Bill, Bill Bedrossian, Bob Bamberg, Bobbie Clark, Brenda & Kelly Weems, Carl & Carol Greer, Cathy Davis (The Rev Dr), Charles & Christine McKelvy, Chuck & Sally Besaw, Diane & John, Donna & Mike Hohnstine, Emily Buck, 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, Vanita, and Wes Brinegar. We also pray for our friends & neighbors dealing with icy conditions and being homebound, 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:

Birthdays: Darrell Duncan (Feb 8), Les Colvard (Feb 11)

Wedding Anniversaries & Thanksgivings:

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

In the Anglican Community: the Hong Kong Anglican Church

In the Diocese of WNC: Church of the Redeemer in Asheville and Shelby

In Alleghany County: Zion Primitive Baptist Church

Monthly Altar Flowers and Coffee Hour sign-ups:

Date	Altar Flowers	Coffee Hour
Feb 8		Jane Franck
Feb 15		Wanda McKnight
Feb 22	<i>Altar Guild</i>	
March 1	<i>Altar Guild</i>	

Schedule

Sunday, February 8 – The Fifth Sunday after the Epiphany

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

Coffee hour follows the service

Tuesday, February 10

1:00 pm – Centering Prayer group

2:00 pm – Book Discussion group

3:30 pm – Outreach meeting

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

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.

Confirm, not Conform: 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? Join us **NEXT Sunday, February 15th from 12:00 – 1:30 pm** to learn more.

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.christchurchspartane@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.

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.