

**Christ Episcopal Church**  
Sparta, NC

*A home to all sharing God's unconditional love.*



**The Second Sunday in Lent**  
**March 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](mailto: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](mailto: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,  
**Louise Law** for providing refreshments for coffee hour today, and  
**Rod Pace** for opening the Parish Hall and preparing the coffee.

**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](http://www.christchurchallegghany.org)

### **Christ Episcopal Church**

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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: *Study of Nicodemus coming to Christ* by Henry Ossawa Tanner

# The Gathering

Prelude

Victoria Fischer Faw

Announcements

Elizabeth Barr Bryant

*Please stand, as able.*

Processional Hymn #680

*O God our help in ages past*

Opening Acclamation

*BCP, pg 323*

Presider Bless the Lord who forgiveth all our sins.

People His mercy endureth for ever.

Presider Almighty God, unto whom all hearts are open, all desires known, and from whom no secrets are hid: Cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of thy Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love thee, and worthily magnify thy holy Name; through Christ our Lord.  
**Amen.**

Presider Hear what our Lord Jesus Christ saith:

Thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy mind. This is the first and great commandment. And the second is like unto it: Thou shalt love thy neighbor as thyself. On these two commandments hang all the Law and the Prophets.

Kyrie: S91

Lord, have mer - cy up - on us. Lord, have mer - cy up -  
on us. Lord, have mer - cy up - on us. Christ, have mer - cy up -  
on us. Christ, have mer - cy up - on us. Christ, have mer - cy up -  
on us. Lord, have mer - cy up - on us.  
Lord, have mer - cy up - on us. Lord, have mer - cy up - on us.

Music: From *Missa de Sancta Maria Magdalena*, Healey Willan (1880-1968). By permission of Oxford University Press.

*Please remain standing, as able.*

## The Collect

Presider     The Lord be with you.

People       **And with thy spirit.**

Presider     Let us pray,

O God, whose glory it is always to have mercy: Be gracious to all who have gone astray from your ways, and bring them again with penitent hearts and steadfast faith to embrace and hold fast the unchangeable truth of your Word, Jesus Christ your Son; who with you and the Holy Spirit lives and reigns, one God, for ever and ever. **Amen.**

*Please be seated.*

## Liturgy of the Word

### First Reading: Genesis 12:1-4a

The Lord said to Abram, “Go from your country and your kindred and your father’s house to the land that I will show you. I will make of you a great nation, and I will bless you, and make your name great, so that you will be a blessing. I will bless those who bless you, and the one who curses you I will curse; and in you all the families of the earth shall be blessed.”

So Abram went, as the Lord had told him; and Lot went with him.

Reader       The Word of the Lord.

People       **Thanks be to God.**

### The Response: Psalm 121

I lift up my eyes to the hills; \*  
    **from where is my help to come?**

My help comes from the LORD, \*  
    **the maker of heaven and earth.**

He will not let your foot be moved \*  
    **and he who watches over you will not fall asleep.**

Behold, he who keeps watch over Israel \*  
    **shall neither slumber nor sleep;**

The LORD himself watches over you; \*  
    **the LORD is your shade at your right hand,**

So that the sun shall not strike you by day, \*  
    **nor the moon by night.**

The LORD shall preserve you from all evil; \*  
    **it is he who shall keep you safe.**

The LORD shall watch over your going out and your coming in, \*  
    **from this time forth for evermore.**

## The Second Reading

### Romans 4:1-5, 13-17

What then are we to say was gained by Abraham, our ancestor according to the flesh? For if Abraham was justified by works, he has something to boast about, but not before God. For what does the scripture say? “Abraham believed God, and it was reckoned to him as righteousness.” Now to one who works, wages are not reckoned as a gift but as something due. But to one who without works trusts him who justifies the ungodly, such faith is reckoned as righteousness.

For the promise that he would inherit the world did not come to Abraham or to his descendants through the law but through the righteousness of faith. If it is the adherents of the law who are to be the heirs, faith is null and the promise is void. For the law brings wrath; but where there is no law, neither is there violation.

For this reason it depends on faith, in order that the promise may rest on grace and be guaranteed to all his descendants, not only to the adherents of the law but also to those who share the faith of Abraham (for he is the father of all of us, as it is written, “I have made you the father of many nations”) –in the presence of the God in whom he believed, who gives life to the dead and calls into existence the things that do not exist.

Reader        The Word of the Lord.

People        Thanks be to God.

*Please stand, as able.*

### Gospel Hymn #668

*I to the hills will lift mine eyes*

*Please remain standing, as able.*

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

People        Glory be to thee, O Lord.

## The Gospel

### John 3:1-17

There was a Pharisee named Nicodemus, a leader of the Jews. He came to Jesus by night and said to him, “Rabbi, we know that you are a teacher who has come from God; for no one can do these signs that you do apart from the presence of God.” Jesus answered him, “Very truly, I tell you, no one can see the kingdom of God without being born from above.” Nicodemus said to him, “How can anyone be born after having grown old? Can one enter a second time into the mother’s womb and be born?” Jesus answered, “Very truly, I tell you, no one can enter the kingdom of God without being born of water and Spirit. What is born of the flesh is flesh, and what is born of the Spirit is spirit. Do not be astonished that I said to you, ‘You must be born from above.’ The wind blows where it chooses, and you hear the sound of it, but you do not know where it comes from or where it goes. So it is with everyone who is born of the Spirit.” Nicodemus said to him, “How can these things be?” Jesus answered him, “Are you a teacher of Israel, and yet you do not understand these things?”



On the third day he rose again  
in accordance with the Scriptures;  
he ascended into heaven  
and is seated at the right hand of the Father.  
He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead,  
and his kingdom will have no end.

We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life,  
who proceeds from the Father and the Son.  
With the Father and the Son he is worshiped and glorified.  
He has spoken through the Prophets.  
We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic Church.  
We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins.  
We look for the resurrection of the dead,  
and the life of the world to come. Amen.

*Please stand or kneel, as able.*

### **Prayers of the People (all read the bold text)**

Leader Let us pray for the whole state of Christ's Church and the world.

Leader Almighty and everliving God, who in thy holy Word hast taught us to make prayers, and supplications, and to give thanks for all people: Receive these our prayers which we offer unto thy divine Majesty, beseeching thee to inspire continually the Universal Church with the spirit of truth, unity, and concord; and grant that all those who do confess thy holy Name may agree in the truth of thy holy Word, and live in unity and godly love.

*Silence*

Leader Give grace, O heavenly Father, to all bishops and other ministers, *especially Sarah, the Archbishop of Canterbury, Sean, our Presiding Bishop, José, our Bishop, and Karla, our Priest-in-Charge* that they may, both by their life and doctrine, set forth thy true and lively Word, and rightly and duly administer thy holy Sacraments.

*Silence*

Leader And to all thy people give thy heavenly grace, and especially to this congregation here present; that, with meek heart and due reverence, they may hear and receive thy holy Word, truly serving thee in holiness and righteousness all the days of their life.

*Silence*

Leader We beseech thee also so to rule the hearts of those who bear the authority of government in this and every land that they may be led to wise decisions and right actions for the welfare and peace of the world.

*Silence*

Leader Open, O Lord, the eyes of all people to behold thy gracious hand in all thy works, that, rejoicing in thy whole creation, they may honor thee with their substance, and be faithful stewards of thy bounty.

Silence

Leader And we most humbly beseech thee, of thy goodness, O Lord, to comfort and succor... *all those suffering in places of violence or natural disaster, and all those on our prayer list including... Antje, Bill, Bob, Bobbie, Brenda, Kelly, Carl, Carol, Cathy, Charles, Christine, Chuck, Sally, Cynthia, Phil, Diane, John, Donna, Mike, Emily, Gary, Ina, Inza, Blair, Isabel, Jacki, Jana, Janice, Jesse, JoAnn, Johnson family, Jonathan, Leann, Lucy, Lynn, Ajit, Margaret, Maria, Martha, Rita, Angelia, Rudy, Savany, Stella, Sue, Jim, Vanita, and Wes, and all those who, in this transitory life, are in trouble, sorrow, need, sickness, or any other adversity.*

Silence

Leader And we also bless thy holy Name for all thy servants departed this life in thy faith and fear beseeching thee to grant them continual growth in thy love and service; and to grant us grace so to follow the good examples of all thy saints, that with them we may be partakers of thy heavenly kingdom.

Silence

Presider Grant these our prayers, O Father, for Jesus Christ's sake, our only Mediator and Advocate. **Amen.**

## Confession of Sin

Presider Let us humbly confess our sins unto Almighty God.

*A period of silence will be observed.*

**All Most merciful God,  
we confess that we have sinned against thee  
in thought, word, and deed,  
by what we have done,  
and by what we have left undone.  
We have not loved thee with our whole heart;  
we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves.  
We are truly sorry and we humbly repent.  
For the sake of thy Son Jesus Christ,  
have mercy on us and forgive us;  
that we may delight in thy will,  
and walk in thy ways,  
to the glory of thy Name. Amen.**

Presider Almighty God, our heavenly Father, who of his great mercy hath promised forgiveness of sins to all those who with hearty repentance and true faith turn unto him, have mercy upon you, pardon and deliver you from all your sins, confirm and strengthen you in all goodness, and bring you to everlasting life; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Come unto me, all ye that travail and are heavy laden, and I will refresh you. *Matthew 11:28*

*Please stand, as able.*

## The Peace

Presider The peace of the Lord be always with you.

People **And with thy spirit.**

*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

BCP, Eucharistic Prayer I

Presider The Lord be with you.

People **And with thy spirit.**

Presider Life up your hearts

People **We lift them up unto the Lord.**

Presider Let us give thanks unto our Lord God.

People **It is meet and right so to do.**

It is very meet, right, and our bounden duty, that we should at all times, and in all places, give thanks unto thee, O Lord, holy Father, almighty, everlasting God. Through Jesus Christ our Lord; who was tempted in every way as we are, yet did not sin. By his grace we are able to triumph over every evil, and to live no longer for ourselves alone, but for him who died for us and rose again. Therefore with Angels and Archangels, and with all the company of heaven, we laud and magnify thy glorious Name; evermore praising thee, and singing,

**Sanctus: S125** (*sung by all*)

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow - er and might,  
heaven and earth are full of your glo - ry. Ho -

san - na in the high - est. Ho - san - na in the high - est.

Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Ho -

san - na in the high - est. Ho - san - na in the high - est.

All glory be to thee, Almighty God, our heavenly Father, for that thou, of thy tender mercy, didst give thine only Son Jesus Christ to suffer death upon the cross for our redemption; who made there, by his one oblation of himself once offered, a full, perfect, and sufficient sacrifice, oblation, and satisfaction, for the sins of the whole world; and did institute, and in his holy Gospel commanded us to continue, a perpetual memory of that his precious death and sacrifice, until his coming again.

For in the night in which he was betrayed, he took bread; and when he had given thanks, he brake it, and gave it to his disciples, saying, "Take, eat, this is my Body, which is given for you. Do this in remembrance of me."

Likewise, after supper, he took the cup; and when he had given thanks, he gave it to them, saying, "Drink ye all of this; for this is my Blood of the New Testament, which is shed for you, and for all, for the remission of sins. Do this, as oft as ye shall drink it, in remembrance of me."

Wherefore, O Lord and heavenly Father, according to the institution of thy dearly beloved Son our Savior Jesus Christ, we, thy humble servants, do celebrate and make here before thy divine Majesty, with these thy holy gifts, which we now offer unto thee, the memorial thy Son hath commanded us to make; having in remembrance his blessed passion and precious death, his mighty resurrection and glorious ascension; rendering unto thee most hearty thanks for the innumerable benefits procured unto us by the same.

And we most humbly beseech thee, O merciful Father, to hear us; and, of thy almighty goodness, vouchsafe to bless and sanctify, with thy Word and Holy Spirit, these thy gifts and creatures of bread and wine; that we, receiving them according to thy Son our Savior Jesus Christ's holy institution, in remembrance of his death and passion, may be partakers of his most blessed Body and Blood.

And we earnestly desire thy fatherly goodness mercifully to accept this our sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving; most humbly beseeching thee to grant that, by the merits and death of thy Son Jesus Christ, and through faith in his blood, we, and all thy whole Church, may obtain remission of our sins, and all other benefits of his passion.

And here we offer and present unto thee, O Lord, our selves, our souls and bodies, to be a reasonable, holy, and living sacrifice unto thee; humbly beseeching thee that we, and all others who shall be partakers of this Holy Communion, may worthily receive the most precious Body and Blood

of thy Son Jesus Christ, be filled with thy grace and heavenly benediction, and made one body with him, that he may dwell in us, and we in him.

And although we are unworthy, through our manifold sins, to offer unto thee any sacrifice, yet we beseech thee to accept this our bounden duty and service, not weighing our merits, but pardoning our offenses, through Jesus Christ our Lord; By whom, and with whom, in the unity of the Holy Ghost, all honor and glory be unto thee, O Father Almighty, world without end. **AMEN.**

And now, as our Savior Christ hath taught us, we are bold to say,

**Our Father in heaven,**  
hallowed be your Name,  
your kingdom come,  
your will be done,  
on earth as it is in heaven.

Give us today our daily bread.

Forgive us our sins,  
as we forgive those  
who sin against us.

Save us from the time of trial,  
and deliver us from evil.

For the kingdom, the power,  
and the glory are yours,  
now and for ever. Amen.

## The Breaking of the Bread

*A period of silence is kept.*

**Fraction: S161** (*sung by all*)

Lamb of God, you take a - way the sins of the world:  
have mer - cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a - way the  
sins of the world: have mer - cy on us. Lamb of God,  
you take a - way the sins of the world: grant us peace.

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

We do not presume to come to this thy Table, O merciful Lord, trusting in our own righteousness, but in thy manifold and great mercies. We are not worthy so much as to gather up the crumbs under thy Table. But thou art the same Lord whose property is always to have mercy. Grant us therefore, gracious Lord, so to eat the flesh of thy dear Son Jesus Christ, and to drink his blood, that we may evermore dwell in him, and he in us. Amen.

*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

BCP 366

Presider Let us pray.

People Almighty and everliving God, we most heartily thank thee for that thou dost feed us, in these holy mysteries, with the spiritual food of the most precious Body and Blood of thy Son our Savior Jesus Christ; and dost assure us thereby of thy favor and goodness towards us; and that we are very members incorporate in the mystical body of thy Son, the blessed company of all faithful people; and are also heirs, through hope, of thy everlasting kingdom. And we humbly beseech thee, O heavenly Father, so to assist us with thy grace, that we may continue in that holy fellowship, and do all such good works as thou hast prepared for us to walk in; through Jesus Christ our Lord, to whom with thee and the Holy Ghost, be all honor and glory, world without end. Amen.

### The Blessing

*Please stand, as able.*

### Recessional Hymn #398

*I sing the almighty power of God*

**The Dismissal** (*During the season of Lent, "Alleluia" is omitted*)

Presider ...

People Thanks be to God.

### Postlude

Victoria Fischer Faw

## Coming Lessons

Exodus 17:1-7

Psalm 95

Romans 5:1-11

John 4:5-42

## 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, Cynthia Grant & Phil Kwiatkowski, Diane & John, Donna & Mike Hohnstine, Emily Buck, Gary Medley, Ina, Inza & Blair (Martha's friends), Isabel Tomé & Vanessa Cottrell, Jacki Sloop, Jana, Janice Harrison, Jesse James, JoAnn Andrews, Jonathan, Leann, Lucy, Lynn Ellis, Lynn & Ajit, Margaret, Maria Chance, Martha A, Rita Woodruff & Angelia Miller, Rudy McKnight, Sam Johnson family, Savany Demmink, Stella Daniel, Sue & Jim Doss (The Rev), Vanita, and Wes Brinegar. 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:** Mary Lee Joines (March 5)

### **Wedding Anniversaries & Thanksgivings:**

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

**In the Anglican Community:** The Anglican Church in Japan

**In the Diocese of WNC:** St David's in Cullowhee

**In Alleghany County:** Antioch United Methodist Church

The following people are assisting with the services

Role	This Sunday	Next Sunday
Altar Guild	Bruce Smith	Bruce Smith
Chalice bearer	Patti Phelps	Bruce Smith
Lector I	Louise Law	Mary Lee Joines
Lector II	Louise Law	Mary Lee Joines
Prayers of the People	Louise Law	Mary Lee Joines
Greeter(s)/Usher(s)	Jann Boggs & Les Colvard	Patti Phelps & Ruthie Maxwell

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 Guild	Coffee Hour
March 1	<i>Altar Guild</i>	Rod Pace	Louise Law
March 8	<i>Altar Guild</i>	Marybeth Lentz	Patti Phelps
March 15	<i>Altar Guild</i>	Marybeth Lentz	Marybeth Lentz
March 22	<i>Altar Guild</i>	Marybeth Lentz	

## Schedule

### Sunday, March 1 – The Second Sunday in Lent

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

Coffee hour follows the service

### Tuesday, March 3

1:00 pm – Centering Prayer group

2:00 pm – Book Discussion group

### Sunday, March 8 – The Third Sunday in Lent

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, BYOL

## **Tuesday, March 10**

1:00 pm – Centering Prayer group

2:00 pm – Book Discussion group

## **Sunday, March 15 – The Fourth Sunday in Lent**

10:30 am – Holy Eucharist with The Rev Martha Honaker\*

Coffee hour follows the service

## **Tuesday, March 17**

1:00 pm – Centering Prayer group

2:00 pm – Book Discussion group

## **Sunday, March 22 – The Last Sunday in Lent**

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

Coffee hour follows the service

## **Announcements**

**TODAY:** The first Sunday of each month, we take donations for the Solid Rock Food Closet. Bring non-perishable food, personal care items, cleaning supplies, etc and put them in the red wagon. Or write a check with SRFC on the memo line or on the outside of a cash offering envelope. Christ Church has been generous in its support of the Food Closet; last year we contributed \$5300. **We're asking you to expand that donation.** In addition to providing funds, which are critical, we ask that you bring a personal care item such as toothbrushes and toothpaste or other toiletries.

**NEXT SUNDAY: 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 about something that happens during the Sunday worship services or why the altar has different linen colors or when was the first Episcopal Church established? Bring any of your questions and plan to attend these classes. **The classes are monthly, and the next class is scheduled for NEXT Sunday, March 8, 12:00 – 1:30 pm. BYOL – Bring Your Own Lunch! Coffee & water will be available.**

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](mailto: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.**

\*I had The Rev Rick Lawler on the March 15<sup>th</sup> schedule but it was a mistake. The Rev Martha Honaker will be with us that Sunday.



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## 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

