

Christ Episcopal Church

Sparta, NC

A home to all sharing God's unconditional love.



Easter Sunday

April 5, 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 and Mike Weddington for serving as musicians and for being so generous with their talents,

Marybeth Lentz for opening the Parish Hall and making coffee, and

Sara Brown Davis for providing refreshments for coffee hour.

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, Tuesday, Thursday, 8:00 am - 1:00 pm, works remotely on Wednesdays

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The Creation, from God's Trombones by James Weldon Johnson

The Lighting of the Paschal Candle

In the darkness fire is kindled; after which the Celebrant addresses the people in these words

Dear friends in Christ: On this most holy night, in which our Lord Jesus passed over from death to life, the Church invites her members, dispersed throughout the world, to gather in vigil and prayer. For this is the Passover of the Lord, in which, by hearing his Word and celebrating his Sacraments, we share in his victory over death.

Let us pray.

O God, through your Son you have bestowed upon your people the brightness of your light: Sanctify this new fire, and grant that in this Paschal feast we may so burn with heavenly desires, that with pure minds we may attain to the festival of everlasting light; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

The Paschal Candle is then lighted from the newly kindled fire, and the Candle is carried in procession around the sanctuary, pausing three times while the cantor sings “The Light of Christ” and the people respond, “Thanks be to God.”



At the second and third pause, the Versicle and Response is sung successively a step higher.

The Paschal Candle is placed in its stand.

The Exultet

BCP 286

The Liturgy of the Word

Celebrant Let us hear the record of God’s saving deeds in history, how he saved his people in ages past; and let us pray that our God will bring each of us to the fullness of redemption.

The Creation by James Weldon Johnson

Elizabeth Barr Bryant

Presider Let us pray. Silence

O God, who wonderfully created, and yet more wonderfully restored the dignity of human nature: Grant that we may share the divine life of him who humbled himself to share one humanity, your Son Jesus Christ, our Lord. **Amen.**

The Renewal of Baptismal Covenant

Presider: Through the Paschal mystery, dear friends, we are buried with Christ by Baptism into his death, and raised with him to newness of life. I call upon you, therefore, now that our Lenten observance is ended, to renew the solemn promises and vows of Holy Baptism, by which we once renounced Satan and all his works, and promised to serve God faithfully in his holy Catholic Church.

Presider Do you reaffirm your renunciation of evil and renew your commitment of Jesus Christ?
 People **I do.**

Presider Do you believe in God the Father?
 People **I believe in God, the Father Almighty, creator of heaven and earth.**

Presider Do you believe in Jesus Christ, the Son of God?
 People **I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord.
 He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit
 and born of the Virgin Mary.
 He suffered under Pontius Pilate,
 was crucified, died, and was buried.
 He descended to the dead.
 On the third day he rose again.
 He ascended into heaven,
 and is seated at the right hand of the Father.
 He will come again to judge the living and the dead.**

Presider Do you believe in God the Holy Spirit?
 People **I believe in the Holy Spirit,
 the holy catholic Church,
 the communion of saints,
 the forgiveness of sins,
 the resurrection of the body,
 and the life everlasting.**

Presider Will you continue in the apostles' teaching and fellowship, in the breaking of bread, and
 in the prayers?
 People **I will, with God's help.**

Presider Will you persevere in resisting evil, and, whenever you fall into sin, repent and return to
 the Lord?
 People **I will, with God's help.**

Presider Will you proclaim by word and example the Good News of God in Christ?
 People **I will, with God's help.**

Presider Will you seek and serve Christ in all persons, loving your neighbor as yourself?
 People **I will, with God's help.**

Presider Will you strive for justice and peace among all people, and respect the dignity of every
 human being?
 People **I will, with God's help.**

Presider May Almighty God, the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has given us a new birth by
 water and the Holy Spirit, and bestowed upon us the forgiveness of sins, keep us in
 eternal life by his grace, in Christ Jesus our Lord. **Amen.**

Thanksgiving over the Water

The Presider blesses the water, first saying,

Presider The Lord be with you.

People **And also with you.**

Presider Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

People **It is right to give him thanks and praise.**

Presider We thank you, Almighty God, for the gift of water. Over it the Holy Spirit moved in the beginning of creation. Through it you led the children of Israel out of their bondage in Egypt into the land of promise. In it your Son Jesus received the baptism of John and was anointed by the Holy Spirit as the Messiah, the Christ, to lead us, through his death and resurrection, from the bondage of sin into everlasting life.

We thank you, Father, for the water of Baptism. In it we are buried with Christ in his death. By it we share in his resurrection. Through it we are reborn by the Holy Spirit. Therefore in joyful obedience to your Son, we bring into his fellowship those who come to him in faith, baptizing them in the Name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

Now sanctify this water, we pray you, by the power of your Holy Spirit, that those who here are cleansed from sin and born again may continue for ever in the risen life of Jesus Christ our Savior.

To him, to you, and to the Holy Spirit, be all honor and glory, now and for ever. **Amen.**

The Presider will move throughout the people, sprinkling the congregation with the Baptismal Water.

The Great Alleluia and The Eucharist

Presider Alleluia. Christ is risen.

People **The Lord is risen indeed. Alleluia.**

Hymn #207

Jesus Christ is risen today

Please remain standing, as able.

The Collect

Presider The Lord be with you.

People **And also with you.**

Presider Let us pray,

O God, who made this most holy night to shine with the glory of the Lord's resurrection: Stir up in your Church that Spirit of adoption which is given to us in Baptism, that we, being renewed both in body and mind, may worship you in sincerity and truth; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

Gospel Hymn #179

Welcome, happy morning!

The Holy Gospel

Matthew 28:1-10

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

People **Glory to You, Lord Christ.**

After the sabbath, as the first day of the week was dawning, Mary Magdalene and the other Mary went to see the tomb. And suddenly there was a great earthquake; for an angel of the Lord, descending from heaven, came and rolled back the stone and sat on it. His appearance was like lightning, and his clothing white as snow. For fear of him the guards shook and became like dead men. But the angel said to the women, "Do not be afraid; I know that you are looking for Jesus who was crucified. He is not here; for he has been raised, as he said. Come, see the place where he lay. Then go quickly and tell his disciples, 'He has been raised from the dead, and indeed he is going ahead of you to Galilee; there you will see him.' This is my message for you." So they left the tomb quickly with fear and great joy, and ran to tell his disciples. Suddenly Jesus met them and said, "Greetings!" And they came to him, took hold of his feet, and worshiped him. Then Jesus said to them, "Do not be afraid; go and tell my brothers to go to Galilee; there they will see me."

Presider The Gospel of the Lord.

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

Please be seated.

The Sermon

The Rev. Karla Woggon

A time of silence following the sermon.

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

Easter Alleluia Medley

Victoria Fischer Faw
& Mike Weddington

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.*

The Great Thanksgiving

Eucharistic Prayer C, BCP 369

Presider The Lord be with you.
All **And also with you.**
Lift up your hearts.
We lift them to the Lord.
Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.
It is right to give God thanks and praise.

Presider God of all power, Ruler of the Universe, you are worthy of glory and praise.
People **Glory to you for ever and ever.**

Presider At your command all things came to be: the vast expanse of interstellar space, galaxies, suns, the planets in their courses, and this fragile earth, our island home.
People **By your will they were created and have their being.**

Presider From the primal elements you brought forth the human race, and blessed us with memory, reason, and skill. You made us the rulers of creation. But we turned against you, and betrayed your trust; and we turned against one another.
People **Have mercy, Lord, for we are sinners in your sight.**

Presider Again and again, you called us to return. Through prophets and sages you revealed your righteous Law. And in the fullness of time you sent your only Son, born of a woman, to fulfill your Law, to open for us the way of freedom and peace.
People **By his blood, he reconciled us.**
By his wounds, we are healed.

Presider And therefore we praise you, joining with the heavenly chorus, with prophets, apostles, and martyrs, and with all those in every generation who have looked to you in hope, to proclaim with them your glory, in their unending hymn:

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

Music: Robert Powell (b. 1932). Setting: Copyright © Church Publishing Inc.

And so, Father, we who have been redeemed by him, and made a new people by water and the Spirit, now bring before you these gifts. Sanctify them by your Holy Spirit to be the Body and Blood of Jesus Christ our Lord.

On the night he was betrayed he took bread, said the blessing, broke the bread, and gave it to his friends, 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, gave thanks, 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."

Remembering now his work of redemption, and offering to you this sacrifice of thanksgiving,

**People We celebrate his death and resurrection,
as we await the day of his coming.**

Lord God of our Fathers and Mothers; God of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob; God of Sarah, Rebekah and Leah; God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ: Open our eyes to see your hand at work in the world about us. Deliver us from the presumption of coming to this Table for solace only, and not for strength; for pardon only, and not for renewal. Let the grace of this Holy Communion make us one body, one spirit in Christ, that we may worthily serve the world in his name.

People Risen Lord, be known to us in the breaking of the Bread.

Accept these prayers and praises, Father, through Jesus Christ our great High Priests, to whom, with you and the Holy Spirit, your Church gives honor, glory, and worship, from generation to generation.
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.**

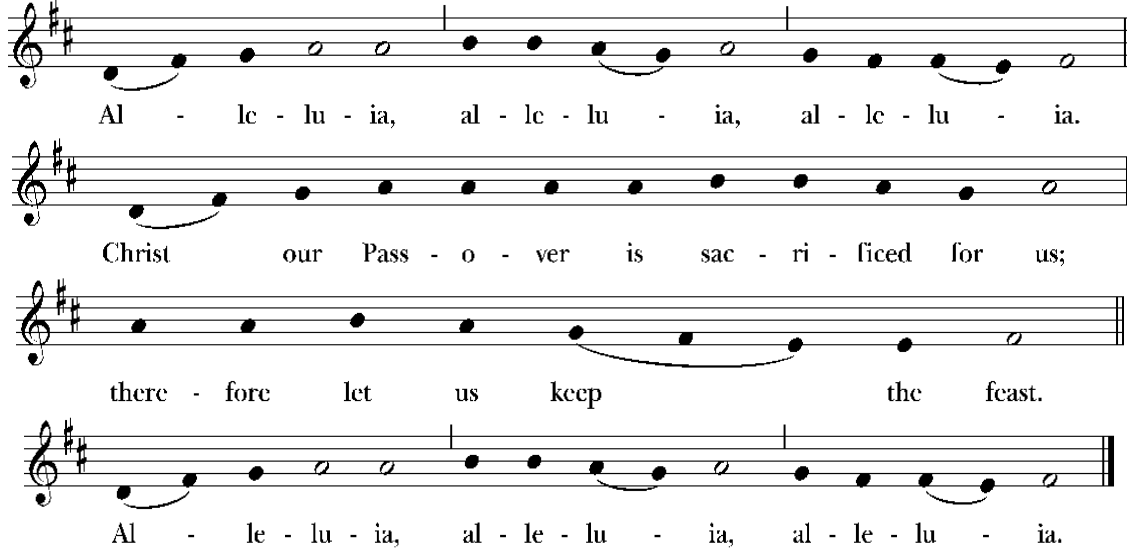
For thine is the kingdom,
and the power, and the glory,
for ever and ever. Amen.

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.

The Invitation to Holy Communion

*All who seek God and are drawn to Christ are welcome at the Lord's Table.
If you are gluten allergic, please ask for a rice wafer at the distribution.*

Please be seated.

Communion Music

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.

Prayer after Communion

BCP 365

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.

Easter Blessing

The Rev. Brian Baker, A Black Rock Prayer Book

The world now is too dangerous and too beautiful for anything but love.

I bless your eyes so you see God in everyone.

I bless your ears so you hear the cry of the poor.

I bless your lips so you speak nothing but the truth with love.

I bless your hands so that everything you give and everything you receive,
is a sacrament,

I bless your feet so you run to those who need you.

And may your heart be so opened, so set on fire that your love, your love, changes...everything.

Please stand, as able.

Recessional Hymn #180

He is risen, he is risen!

The Dismissal

Presider Let us go forth into the world rejoicing in the power of the Spirit. Alleluia, Alleluia!

People Thanks be to God! Alleluia! Alleluia!

Postlude

Hallelujah (from *The Messiah*)

G.F. Handel

Coming Lessons

Acts 2:14a, 22-32

Psalm 16

1 Peter 1:3-9

John 20:19-31

The following people are assisting with the services

Role	This Sunday	Next Sunday
Altar Guild	Bruce Smith	Bruce Smith
Chalice Bearer	Bruce Smith/Elizabeth Barr Bryant	Jeanne Green
Lector I	Jonathan Halsey	Ann Hazard
Lector II	Jonathan Halsey	Ann Hazard
Prayers of the People	Jonathan Halsey	Ann Hazard
Greeter/Usher(s)	Nancy Wilson/Patti Phelps	Barbara & Jim Halsey

Easter lilies on the altar today are given by:

Judy Ritchie, in loving memory of her husband, Joe, and her son, Bill

Anonymously in thanksgiving for Bruce Smith and all he does at Christ Church

Patricia & Bob Mininni, in loving memory of Bob's parents, Bob & Eleanor Mininni

Barbara & Jim Halsey, in honor of their two beautiful granddaughters,

Flora & Lucy, who are visiting today!

Anonymously in honor of Karla and Mary Lee

Sara Brown Davis, in honor of Kimmie & Big Rick and Lynn Ellis (parents/grandparents and aunt)

Sara Brown Davis, in memory of D (grandmother) and Mike Davis (Maeleigh & Keel's father)

Jeanne Green, in honor of Lara and Holly

Mary Lee Joines, in loving memory of her mother & grandparents

Cliff & Kathy Hudgins, in honor of their mothers, Sue Woelfel and Sandy Barker

Leslie Colvard, in loving memory of his mother, Peggy Colvard

Ruth Maxwell, in honor of son, Wayne

Wanda McKnight, in loving memory of her parents, James D. & Rhumell McKnight

Joan Hoffman, in loving memory of her grandparents, Mr & Mrs Albert G Wineland

Schedule

Sunday, April 5 – Easter Sunday

10:15 am – Arrive to add your fresh flowers, greenery or tree blossoms on the wire cross

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

Coffee hour follows the service

Monday, April 6 – The office will be closed today for the Easter holiday

Tuesday, April 7

1:00 pm – Centering Prayer group

2:00 pm – Book Discussion group

Sunday, April 12 – The Second Sunday of Easter

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

Coffee hour follows the service

12:00 – 2:00 – **Confirm, not Conform confirmation class, BYOL** (*bring your own lunch*)

Tuesday, April 14

1:00 pm – Centering Prayer group

2:00 pm – Book Discussion group

Sunday, April 19 – The Third Sunday of Easter

10:30 am – Morning Prayer with Patti Phelps

Coffee hour follows the service

Monday, April 20

10:00 am – Vestry meeting

Tuesday, April 21

1:00 pm – Centering Prayer group

2:00 pm – Book Discussion group

Sunday, April 26 – The Fourth Sunday of Easter

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

Coffee hour follows the service

Tuesday, April 28

1:00 pm – Centering Prayer group

2:00 pm – Book Discussion group

Prayer List

Intercessions:

Antje & Bill, Bill, Bill Bedrossian, Bob Bamberg, Bobbie Clark, Brenda & Kelly Weems, Carl & Carol Greer, Charles McKelvy, Chris, Chuck & Sally Besaw, Donna & Mike Hohnstine, Emily Buck, Gary Medley, Inza & Blair, Isabel Tomé & Vanessa Cottrell, James, Janice Harrison, JoAnn Andrews, Jonathan, Kevin & Jane, Lynn Ellis, Lynn & Ajit, Margaret, Maria Chance, Martha A, Rita Woodruff & Angelia Miller, Rudy McKnight, Savany Demmink, Stella Daniel, Sue & Jim Doss (The Rev), 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: Sara Brown Davis (April 9)

Wedding Anniversaries & Thanksgivings:

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

In the Anglican Community: The Anglican Church of Mexico

In the Diocese of WNC: Calvary in Fletcher

In Alleghany County: Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints

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.

The Office will be closed tomorrow, Monday, April 6th.

Confirm not Conform: Intergenerational Confirmation classes led by The Rev Karla Woggon The next class is scheduled for **NEXT Sunday, April 12, 12:00 – 2:00(ish) pm**. This is a **BYOL (Bring Your Own Lunch)** event. **ALL are welcome!**

Confirm, not Conform class schedule is changing in May. To all who plan to attend the class, Karla needs to know if you're able to meet on May 10th (Mother's Day). Please let her know as soon as possible. If that date doesn't work, the class will be held on Sunday, May 24th. *We'll confirm the date in the Good News & Notes and the bulletin.*

Prayer requests & updates We email weekly prayer requests and updates on Monday mornings. If you have a **prayer request**, please email it to Mary Lee *no later than noon the Sunday prior* (if possible). And more importantly, if you have a **prayer update** about someone we've been praying for, please relay that information as soon as possible. We try to share appropriate details and only those that the requester is comfortable with. Occasionally, you'll see a first name or initials and nothing else – that's by request and we honor that. If you're not receiving the prayer requests & updates and would like to join us in prayer, just send a note to Mary Lee at christchurchspartanc@gmail.com.

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.

Centering Prayer group meets on Tuesdays at 1:00 pm and the Book Discussion group meets on Tuesdays at 2:00 pm. The book group is currently reading Richard Rohr's book, *Falling Upwards*. All are welcome!

The Prayer Shawls & Lap Blankets are available for you to give someone who needs our Christ Church love and support. *For more information, read the GNN.*

Monthly Altar Flowers and Coffee Hour sign-ups:

Date	Altar Flowers	Coffee Guild	Coffee Hour
April 5	<i>Easter lilies</i>	Marybeth Lentz	Sara Davis
April 12	<i>Easter lilies</i>	John Franck	Wanda McKnight
April 19		Jim Halsey	Cynthia Grant
April 26		John Franck	Ella Wren

