

**Christ Episcopal Church**  
Sparta, NC

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



**The Second Sunday of Easter**  
**April 12, 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:**

**Jonathan Halsey** for serving as musicians and for being so generous with his talents,

**John Franck** for opening the Parish Hall and making coffee, and

**Wanda McKnight** 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](http://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](mailto:christchurchspartanc@gmail.com) (NEW)

Priest Email: [priest.christchurchspartanc@gmail.com](mailto:priest.christchurchspartanc@gmail.com)

Website: [www.christchurchallegghany.org](http://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 Doubt of St Thomas* by He Qi (2001)

# The Gathering

**Prelude**

Jonathan Halsey

**Announcements**

Nancy Wilson

*Please stand, as able.*

**Processional Hymn #191**

*Alleluia, alleluia!*

*Remain standing, as able.*

## Opening Acclamation

Presider Alleluia! Christ is risen.

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

Presider: 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 of Praise: Christ our Passover** *Pascha nostrum*

*1 Corinthians 5:7-8; Romans 6:9-11; 1 Corinthians 15:20-22*

**Alleluia.**

Christ our Passover has been sacrificed for us; \*

therefore let us keep the feast,

Not with the old leaven, the leaven of malice and evil, \*

but with the unleavened bread of sincerity and truth. Alleluia.

Christ being raised from the dead will never die again; \*

death no longer has dominion over him.

The death that he died, he died to sin, once for all; \*

but the life he lives, he lives to God.

So also consider yourselves dead to sin, \*

and alive to God in Jesus Christ our Lord. Alleluia.

Christ has been raised from the dead, \*

the first fruits of those who have fallen asleep.

For since by a man came death, \*

by a man has come also the resurrection of the dead.

For as in Adam all die, \*

so also in Christ shall all be made alive. Alleluia.

## The Collect

Presider The Lord be with you.

People **And also with you.**

Presider Let us pray,

Almighty and everlasting God, who in the Paschal mystery established the new covenant of reconciliation: Grant that all who have been reborn into the fellowship of Christ's Body may show forth in their lives what they profess by their faith; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. **Amen.**

## Liturgy of the Word

### First Reading: A reading from Acts 2:14a,22-32

Peter, standing with the eleven, raised his voice and addressed the crowd, "You that are Israelites, listen to what I have to say: Jesus of Nazareth, a man attested to you by God with deeds of power, wonders, and signs that God did through him among you, as you yourselves know— this man, handed over to you according to the definite plan and foreknowledge of God, you crucified and killed by the hands of those outside the law. But God raised him up, having freed him from death, because it was impossible for him to be held in its power. For David says concerning him,

'I saw the Lord always before me,  
for he is at my right hand so that I will not be shaken;  
therefore my heart was glad, and my tongue rejoiced;  
moreover my flesh will live in hope.

For you will not abandon my soul to Hades,  
or let your Holy One experience corruption.

You have made known to me the ways of life;  
you will make me full of gladness with your presence.'

"Fellow Israelites, I may say to you confidently of our ancestor David that he both died and was buried, and his tomb is with us to this day. Since he was a prophet, he knew that God had sworn with an oath to him that he would put one of his descendants on his throne. Foreseeing this, David spoke of the resurrection of the Messiah, saying,

'He was not abandoned to Hades,  
nor did his flesh experience corruption.'

This Jesus God raised up, and of that all of us are witnesses."

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

People **Thanks be to God.**

## The Response: A reading from Psalm 16

Protect me, O God, for I take refuge in you; \*

**I have said to the LORD, "You are my Lord,  
my good above all other."**

All my delight is upon the godly that are in the land, \*  
**upon those who are noble among the people.**

But those who run after other gods \*  
**shall have their troubles multiplied.**

Their libations of blood I will not offer, \*  
**nor take the names of their gods upon my lips.**

O LORD, you are my portion and my cup; \*  
**it is you who uphold my lot.**

My boundaries enclose a pleasant land; \*  
**indeed, I have a goodly heritage.**

I will bless the LORD who gives me counsel; \*  
**my heart teaches me, night after night.**

I have set the LORD always before me; \*  
**because he is at my right hand I shall not fall.**

My heart, therefore, is glad, and my spirit rejoices; \*  
**my body also shall rest in hope.**

For you will not abandon me to the grave, \*  
**nor let your holy one see the Pit.**

You will show me the path of life; \*  
**in your presence there is fullness of joy,  
and in your right hand are pleasures for evermore.**

## The Second Reading: A reading from 1 Peter 1:3-9

Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! By his great mercy he has given us a new birth into a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, and into an inheritance that is imperishable, undefiled, and unfading, kept in heaven for you, who are being protected by the power of God through faith for a salvation ready to be revealed in the last time. In this you rejoice, even if now for a little while you have had to suffer various trials, so that the genuineness of your faith—being more precious than gold that, though perishable, is tested by fire—may be found to result in praise and glory and honor when Jesus Christ is revealed. Although you have not seen him, you love him; and even though you do not see him now, you believe in him and rejoice with an indescribable and glorious joy, for you are receiving the outcome of your faith, the salvation of your souls.

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

People        **Thanks be to God.**

*Please stand, as able.*

1. Heal me, hands of Je-sus, and search out all my pain: re -  
 2. Cleanse me, blood of Je-sus, take bit - ter-ness a - way; let  
 3. Know me, mind of Je-sus, and show me all my sin; dis -  
 4. Fill me, joy of Je-sus: anx - i - e - ty shall cease and

store my hope, re - move my fear and bring me peace a - gain.  
 me for - give as one for-given and bring me peace to - day.  
 pel the mem - o - ries of guilt, and bring me peace with - in.  
 heaven's se - ren - i - ty be mine, for Je - sus brings me peace!

*Please remain standing, as able.*

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

People Glory to you, Lord Christ.

## The Gospel

### John 20:19-31

When it was evening on that day, the first day of the week, and the doors of the house where the disciples had met were locked for fear of the Jews, Jesus came and stood among them and said, "Peace be with you." After he said this, he showed them his hands and his side. Then the disciples rejoiced when they saw the Lord. Jesus said to them again, "Peace be with you. As the Father has sent me, so I send you." When he had said this, he breathed on them and said to them, "Receive the Holy Spirit. If you forgive the sins of any, they are forgiven them; if you retain the sins of any, they are retained."

But Thomas (who was called the Twin), one of the twelve, was not with them when Jesus came. So the other disciples told him, "We have seen the Lord." But he said to them, "Unless I see the mark of the nails in his hands, and put my finger in the mark of the nails and my hand in his side, I will not believe."

A week later his disciples were again in the house, and Thomas was with them. Although the doors were shut, Jesus came and stood among them and said, "Peace be with you." Then he said

to Thomas, "Put your finger here and see my hands. Reach out your hand and put it in my side. Do not doubt but believe." Thomas answered him, "My Lord and my God!" Jesus said to him, "Have you believed because you have seen me? Blessed are those who have not seen and yet have come to believe."

Now Jesus did many other signs in the presence of his disciples, which are not written in this book. But these are written so that you may come to believe that Jesus is the Messiah, the Son of God, and that through believing you may have life in his name.

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

**Refrain:** *Heal me hands of Jesus, vs. 1*

*Heal me, hands of Jesus, and search out all my pain:  
restore my hope, remove my fear and bring me peace again.*

*All are seated.*

**The Sermon**

The Rev. Karla Woggon

*A time of silence following the sermon.*

*Please stand, as able.*

**The Nicene Creed**

We believe in one God,  
the Father, the Almighty,  
maker of heaven and earth,  
of all that is, seen and unseen.  
We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ,  
the only Son of God,  
eternally begotten of the Father,  
God from God, Light from Light,  
true God from true God,  
begotten, not made,  
of one Being with the Father.  
Through him all things were made.  
For us and for our salvation  
he came down from heaven:  
by the power of the Holy Spirit  
he became incarnate from the Virgin Mary,  
and was made man.  
For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate;  
he suffered death and was buried.  
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.

## Prayers for the People

BCP, pgs 392-393

Leader In peace, we pray to you, Lord God.

*Silence*

Leader For all people in their daily life and work;  
People **For our families, friends, and neighbors, and for those who are alone.**

Leader For this community, the nation, and the world;  
People **For all who work for justice, freedom, and peace.**

Leader For the just and proper use of your creation;  
People **For the victims of hunger, fear, injustice, and oppression.**

Leader For all who are in danger, sorrow, or any kind of trouble;  
People **For those who minister to the sick, the friendless, and the needy.**

Leader For the peace and unity of the Church of God;  
People **For all who proclaim the Gospel, and all who seek the Truth.**

Leader For the Archbishop of Canterbury, Sarah, our Presiding Bishop, Sean, our Bishop,  
José; our Priest-in-charge, Karla, and for all bishops and other ministers;  
People **For all who serve God in his Church.**

Leader For the special needs and concerns of this congregation.  
*Please add your own petitions silently or aloud.*

*Silence*

Leader Hear us, Lord;  
People **For your mercy is great.**

Leader We thank you, Lord, for all the blessings of this life.  
*Please add your own thanksgivings silently or aloud.*

*Silence*

Leader We will exalt you, O God our King;  
People **And praise your Name for ever and ever.**

Leader We pray for all who have died, that they may have a place in your eternal kingdom.

*Silence*

Leader Lord, let your loving-kindness be upon them;  
People **Who put their trust in you.**

Leader We pray to you also for the forgiveness of our sins.

*Silence*

All **Have mercy upon us, most merciful Father;  
in your compassion forgive us our sins,  
known and unknown,  
things done and left undone;  
and so uphold us by your Spirit  
that we may live and serve you in newness of life,  
to the honor and glory of your Name;  
through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

### 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

*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. 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**

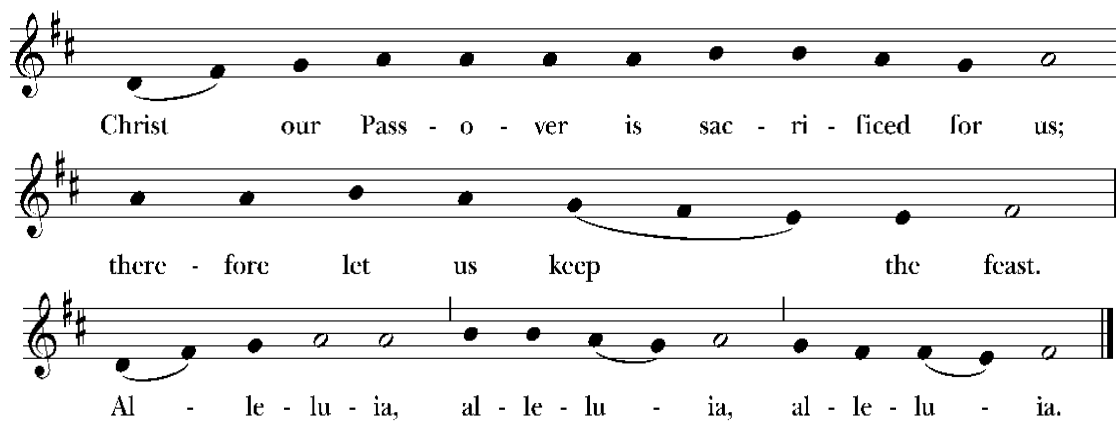
*A period of silence is kept.*

**Fraction: S154** (*sung by all*)

*This setting is not used in Lent.*



Al - lc - lu - ia, al - lc - lu - ia, al - lc - 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

Jonathan Halsey

#### 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

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 #182**

*Christ is alive!*

**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**

Jonathan Halsey

### **Coming Lessons**

Acts 2:14a, 36-41  
Psalm 116:1-3, 10-17  
1 Peter 1:17-23  
Luke 24:13-35

**The following people are assisting with the services**

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

# 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, 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 all those impacted by violence & war, our local neighbors that fear detention, Covenant House, and we pray for Christ Church, its leaders & ministry teams.

## Departed:

## Birthdays:

**Wedding Anniversaries & Thanksgivings:** Allan Joyce & Gary Medley (April 13)

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

**In the Anglican Community:** The Anglican Church of Mozambique and Angola

**In the Diocese of WNC:** Pray for Peace in the Diocese of Jerusalem

**In Alleghany County:** Cornerstone Christian Fellowship

# Schedule

**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

3:30 pm – Outreach meeting

**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

## Announcements

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

**Outreach Meeting has been rescheduled for THIS Tuesday, April 14 at 3:30 pm**

**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 10<sup>th</sup> (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 24<sup>th</sup>. *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](mailto: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](mailto: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 12	<i>Easter lilies</i>	John Franck	Wanda McKnight
April 19	Cynthia Grant	Jim Halsey	Cynthia Grant
April 26		John Franck	Ella Wren
May 3			