

Christ Episcopal Church
Sparta, NC

A home to all sharing God's unconditional love.



The Fourth Sunday of Easter
April 26, 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:

The Rev Martha Honaker for leading us in worship this morning,

Kathy Sugishita for serving as musicians and for being so generous with her talents,

John Franck for opening the Parish Hall and making coffee,

Patti Phelps for the flowers at the altar in loving memory of her son Jacob's birthday, and

Ella Wren 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.

Christ Episcopal Church

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Office hours: Monday-Thursday, 8:00 am - 1:00 pm

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The Gathering

Prelude

Kathy Sugishita

Announcements

Frank Hazard

Please stand, as able.

Processional Hymn #645

The King of love my shepherd is

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.**

Thine Be the Glory

*Thine be the glory, risen, conquering Son;
endless is the vict'ry thou o'er death hast won.
Angels in bright raiment rolled the stone away,
kept the folded grave clothes where they body lay.
Thine be the glory, risen conquering Son;
endless is the vict'ry thou o'er death hast won.*

The Collect

Presider The Lord be with you.

People **And also with you.**

Presider Let us pray,

O God, whose Son Jesus is the good shepherd of your people: Grant that when we hear his voice we may know him who calls us each by name, and follow where he leads; who, with you and the Holy Spirit, lives and reigns, one God, for ever and ever. **Amen.**

Liturgy of the Word

First Reading: A reading from Acts 2:42-47

Those who had been baptized devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and fellowship, to the breaking of bread and the prayers.

Awe came upon everyone, because many wonders and signs were being done by the apostles. All who believed were together and had all things in common; they would sell their possessions and goods and distribute the proceeds to all, as any had need. Day by day, as they spent much time together in the temple, they broke bread at home and ate their food with glad and generous

hearts, praising God and having the goodwill of all the people. And day by day the Lord added to their number those who were being saved.

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

People Thanks be to God.

The Response: A reading from Psalm 23

The LORD is my shepherd; *

I shall not be in want.

He makes me lie down in green pastures *

and leads me beside still waters.

He revives my soul *

and guides me along right pathways for his Name's sake.

Though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death,

I shall fear no evil; *

for you are with me;

your rod and your staff, they comfort me.

You spread a table before me in the presence of those who trouble me; *

you have anointed my head with oil,

and my cup is running over.

Surely your goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life, *

and I will dwell in the house of the LORD for ever.

The Second Reading: A reading from 1 Peter 2:19-25

It is a credit to you if, being aware of God, you endure pain while suffering unjustly. If you endure when you are beaten for doing wrong, what credit is that? But if you endure when you do right and suffer for it, you have God's approval. For to this you have been called, because Christ also suffered for you, leaving you an example, so that you should follow in his steps.

“He committed no sin,
and no deceit was found in his mouth.”

When he was abused, he did not return abuse; when he suffered, he did not threaten; but he entrusted himself to the one who judges justly. He himself bore our sins in his body on the cross, so that, free from sins, we might live for righteousness; by his wounds you have been healed. For you were going astray like sheep, but now you have returned to the shepherd and guardian of your souls.

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

People Thanks be to God.

Please stand, as able.

Gospel Hymn #708

Savior, like a shepherd lead us

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 10:1-10

Jesus said, "Very truly, I tell you, anyone who does not enter the sheepfold by the gate but climbs in by another way is a thief and a bandit. The one who enters by the gate is the shepherd of the sheep. The gatekeeper opens the gate for him, and the sheep hear his voice. He calls his own sheep by name and leads them out. When he has brought out all his own, he goes ahead of them, and the sheep follow him because they know his voice. They will not follow a stranger, but they will run from him because they do not know the voice of strangers." Jesus used this figure of speech with them, but they did not understand what he was saying to them.

So again Jesus said to them, "Very truly, I tell you, I am the gate for the sheep. All who came before me are thieves and bandits; but the sheep did not listen to them. I am the gate. Whoever enters by me will be saved, and will come in and go out and find pasture. The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy. I came that they may have life, and have it abundantly."

Presider The Gospel of the Lord.

People Praise to you, Lord Christ.

Refrain:



All are seated.

The Sermon

The Rev. Martha Honaker

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, our Presider, Martha, 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

Kathy Sugishita

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.**

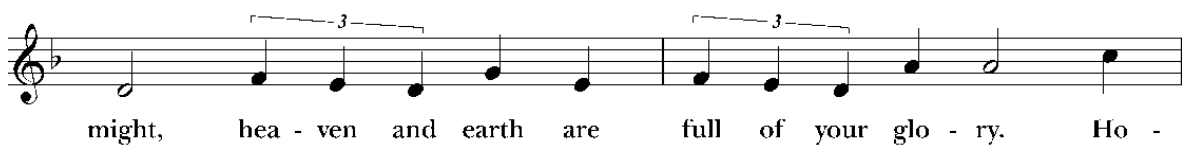
Presider Again and again, you called us to return. Through prophets and sages you revealed your righteous Law. And in the fullness of time you sent your only Son, born of a woman, to fulfill your Law, to open for us the way of freedom and peace.

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*)





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

Kathy Sugishita

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 #174

At the Lamb's high feast we sing

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

Kathy Sugishita

Coming Lessons

Acts 7:55-60

Psalm 31:1-5, 15-16

1 Peter 2:2-10

John 14:1-14

The following people are assisting with the services

Role	This Sunday	Next Sunday
Altar Guild	Bruce Smith	Jane Franck
Chalice Bearer	Elizabeth Barr Bryant	Bruce Smith
Lector I	Patti Phelps	Mary Lee Joines
Lector II	Patti Phelps	Mary Lee Joines
Prayers of the People	Patti Phelps	Mary Lee Joines
Greeter/Usher(s)	Jane & John Franck	Jann Boggs & Les Colvard

Prayer List

Intercessions:

Antje & Bill, Bob Bamberg, Bobbie Clark, Brenda Weems & her family following Kelly's death, Buck Hunnicutt, Carl & Carol Greer, Charles McKelvy, Chris, Cynthia Grant, Donna & Mike Hohnstine, Edwin, Gary Medley, Inza & Blair, Janice Harrison, Jonathan, Lynn Ellis, Lynn & Ajit, Margaret, Maria Chance, Martha A, Mary Denton's family {Phil Kwiatkowski's SIL's mother) following her death, Paula Blevins & family following her daughter Amy's death, Raymond Hindman (Cara Todd's father), Rita Woodruff & Angelia Miller, Rod Pace & Louise Law, Rudy McKnight, Susan & Jim Doss (The Rev), and Vanita. We also pray for all those impacted by violence & war, our local neighbors that fear detention, and we pray for Christ Church, its leaders & ministry teams.

Departed: Mary Denton (April 19), Kelly Weems (April 19)

Birthdays:

Wedding Anniversaries & Thanksgivings:

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

In the Anglican Community: The Church of Nigeria

In the Diocese of WNC: St Philip's in Brevard

In Alleghany County: Elk Creek Primitive Baptist Church

Schedule

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

Sunday, May 3 – The Fifth Sunday of Easter

10:30 am – Holy Eucharist with The Rev Canon Augusta Anderson

Coffee hour follows the service

Tuesday, May 5

1:00 pm – Centering Prayer group

2:00 pm – Book Discussion group

Saturday, May 9

11:00 am – [Jean Callison's Celebration of Life service at CC](#)

Sunday, May 10 – The Sixth Sunday of Easter & Mother's Day

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

Coffee hour follows the service

12:00-1:30 pm – **Confirm, not Conform confirmation class, BYOL**

Tuesday, May 12

1:00 pm – Centering Prayer group

2:00 pm – Book Discussion group

Sunday, May 17 – The Sunday after Ascension

10:30 am – Holy Eucharist with The Rev Torrence Harmon

Coffee hour follows the service

3:00 pm – [Kelly Weems' Celebration of Life service at CC with reception](#)

Announcements

The next Confirm, not Conform class is on Sunday, May 10th, 12:00-1:00 pm; BYOL

The Bishop is coming! ...on Sunday, June 14th. We have 6 friends being confirmed that Sunday and several folks being recognized as new members. So mark that date and plan to be here.

We're going to have a Spring into Summer lunch following the worship service on June 14th. We've put up flyers telling you what we'll need AND we've got a sign-up sheet on the information table. While you're there signing up to bring something on the 14th, add your name to bring coffee hour refreshments one Sunday or flowers for the altar. We need your help!

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 26	Patti Phelps	John Franck	Ella Wren
May 3		John Franck	
May 10	Mary Lee Joines	Marybeth Lentz	Mary Lee Joines
May 17		Jim Halsey	

SAVE-the-DATE!

Spring into Summer Lunch

Sunday, June 14th following the service



June 14th is the Sunday *before* summer begins AND our biennial visit with the bishop. So, we'll spring into summer with a salad lunch and lemon & blueberry dessert options. We'll need lettuce/green salad & all the good additions (tomatoes, onions, mushrooms, carrot strips, cheese, meat, etc.), salad dressing, summer salads like pasta salad, broccoli salad, fruit salad, etc., and for dessert, lemon or blueberry options. We'll also need sweet and unsweetened tea; more sweet than not! Check out the sign-up sheet on the information table in the Parish Hall and sign up to bring an item or two.

Here's the other thing we'll need: *help cleaning up*. So, sign up on that list, too, and we'll clean up after our lunch together.