

Christ Episcopal Church  
Sparta, NC

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



# The Fifth Sunday of Easter

May 3, 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:**

**The Rev Canon Augusta Anderson** for leading us in worship this morning,  
**Elizabeth Barr Bryant** for serving as musician and for being so generous with her talents,  
**John Franck** for opening the Parish Hall and making coffee, and  
**Jane Franck** 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.**

Please check out our website at [www.christchurchallegghany.org](http://www.christchurchallegghany.org) and  
Like us on Facebook at Christ Episcopal Church – Sparta, NC

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

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*Cover art: I am the way, the truth and the life by Daphne Stephenson (2019)*

# The Gathering

Prelude

Elizabeth Barr Bryant

Announcements

Frank Hazard

*Please stand, as able.*

Processional Hymn #188

*Love's redeeming work is done*

*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,

Almighty God, whom truly to know is everlasting life: Grant us so perfectly to know your Son Jesus Christ to be the way, the truth, and the life, that we may steadfastly follow his steps in the way that leads to eternal life; through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord, who lives and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. **Amen.**

## Liturgy of the Word

**First Reading: A reading from Acts 7:55-60**

Filled with the Holy Spirit, Stephen gazed into heaven and saw the glory of God and Jesus standing at the right hand of God. "Look," he said, "I see the heavens opened and the Son of Man standing at the right hand of God!" But they covered their ears, and with a loud shout all rushed together against him. Then they dragged him out of the city and began to stone him; and the witnesses laid their coats at the feet of a young man named Saul. While they were stoning

Stephen, he prayed, "Lord Jesus, receive my spirit." Then he knelt down and cried out in a loud voice, "Lord, do not hold this sin against them." When he had said this, he died.

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

People Thanks be to God.

### **The Response: A reading from Psalm 31:1-5, 15-16**

In you, O LORD, have I taken refuge;

let me never be put to shame; \*

**deliver me in your righteousness.**

Incline your ear to me; \*

**make haste to deliver me.**

Be my strong rock, a castle to keep me safe,

for you are my crag and my stronghold; \*

**for the sake of your Name, lead me and guide me.**

Take me out of the net that they have secretly set for me, \*

**for you are my tower of strength.**

Into your hands I commend my spirit, \*

**for you have redeemed me,**

**O LORD, O God of truth.**

My times are in your hand; \*

**rescue me from the hand of my enemies,**

**and from those who persecute me.**

Make your face to shine upon your servant, \*

**and in your loving-kindness save me.**

### **The Second Reading: A reading from 1 Peter 2:2-10**

Like newborn infants, long for the pure, spiritual milk, so that by it you may grow into salvation— if indeed you have tasted that the Lord is good.

Come to him, a living stone, though rejected by mortals yet chosen and precious in God's sight, and like living stones, let yourselves be built into a spiritual house, to be a holy priesthood, to offer spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ. For it stands in scripture:

"See, I am laying in Zion a stone,

a cornerstone chosen and precious;

and whoever believes in him will not be put to shame."

To you then who believe, he is precious; but for those who do not believe,

"The stone that the builders rejected

has become the very head of the corner",

and

"A stone that makes them stumble,

and a rock that makes them fall."

They stumble because they disobey the word, as they were destined to do.

But you are a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, God's own people, in order that you may proclaim the mighty acts of him who called you out of darkness into his marvelous light.

Once you were not a people,  
but now you are God's people;  
once you had not received mercy,  
but now you have received mercy.

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

People **Thanks be to God.**

*Please stand, as able.*

**Gospel Hymn #439**

*What wondrous love is this?*

*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 14:1-14**

Jesus said, "Do not let your hearts be troubled. Believe in God, believe also in me. In my Father's house there are many dwelling places. If it were not so, would I have told you that I go to prepare a place for you? And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and will take you to myself, so that where I am, there you may be also. And you know the way to the place where I am going." Thomas said to him, "Lord, we do not know where you are going. How can we know the way?" Jesus said to him, "I am the way, and the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me. If you know me, you will know my Father also. From now on you do know him and have seen him."

Philip said to him, "Lord, show us the Father, and we will be satisfied." Jesus said to him, "Have I been with you all this time, Philip, and you still do not know me? Whoever has seen me has seen the Father. How can you say, 'Show us the Father'? Do you not believe that I am in the Father and the Father is in me? The words that I say to you I do not speak on my own; but the Father who dwells in me does his works. Believe me that I am in the Father and the Father is in me; but if you do not, then believe me because of the works themselves. Very truly, I tell you, the one who believes in me will also do the works that I do and, in fact, will do greater works than these, because I am going to the Father. I will do whatever you ask in my name, so that the Father may be glorified in the Son. If in my name you ask me for anything, I will do it."

Presider The Gospel of the Lord.

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

*All are seated.*

**The Sermon**

The Rev. Canon Augusta Anderson

*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, Canon Augusta, 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

Elizabeth Barr Bryant

*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 - 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

Elizabeth Barr Bryant

#### 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 #691

*My faith looks up to thee*

### 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

Elizabeth Barr Bryant

## Coming Lessons

Acts 17:22-31

Psalm 66:7-18

1 Peter 3:13-22

John 14:15-21

## Prayer List

### **Intercessions:**

Antje & Bill, Bob Bamberg, Bobbie Clark, Brenda Weems & her family, Buck Hunnicutt, Carl & Carol Greer, Charles McKelvy, Chris, Cynthia Grant, Donna & Mike Hohnstine, Edwin, Gary Medley, Inza & Blair, Janice Harrison, Jonathan, Laura Davis, Lynn Ellis, Lynn & Ajit, Margaret, Maria Chance, Martha A, Mary Denton's family, Paula Blevins & family, 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:**

**Birthdays:** Jann Boggs (May 7), Sally Besaw (May 8)

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

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

**In the Anglican Community:** The Church of North India

**In the Diocese of WNC:** Church of the Good Shepherd in Cashiers, Hayesville & Tryon

**In Alleghany County:** Elk Spur Baptist Church

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

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

## Schedule

**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**

*Reception follows at Crouse Park*

**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 Seventh Sunday of Easter

10:30 am – Holy Eucharist with The Rev Torrence Hartman (*new supply priest*)

Coffee hour follows the service

**3:00 pm – Kelly Weems' Celebration of Life service**

*Reception follows in the Parish Hall*

## Monday, May 18

10:00 am – Vestry meeting

## Tuesday, May 19

1:00 pm – Centering Prayer group

2:00 pm – Book Discussion group

**Tuesday, May 19 – Thursday, May 21 – the Office will be closed**

## Sunday, May 24 – Pentecost Sunday

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**

**Monday, May 25 – the Office will be closed for the Memorial Day holiday**

## Tuesday, May 26

1:00 pm – Centering Prayer group

2:00 pm – Book Discussion group

## Sunday, May 31 – Trinity Sunday

10:30 am – Holy Eucharist with The Rev George Greer

Coffee hour follows the service

## Announcements

Today is the first Sunday of the month and we set aside this Sunday to collect for our local food closet, Solid Rock Food Closet (SRFC). You can share non-perishable food, personal care items (most in need right now!), toilet paper, laundry detergent, and/or sweet individually-wrapped treats for the Summer Backpack Pals Program. For more information, make sure you read the *Good News & Notes* (GNN). All donated items can be put in the red wagon in the narthex and they'll be delivered the following week. **We also accept and encourage money gifts on this Sunday.** If you opt to give cash, use an offering envelope (in the pew back) and make sure to write SRFC on it. If you write a check, make sure you write SRFC on the memo line. Every gift helps so give as generously as you're able!

The next Confirm, not Conform class is NEXT Sunday, May 10<sup>th</sup>, 12:00-1:00 pm; BYOL

The Bishop is coming on Sunday, June 14<sup>th</sup>! 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 14<sup>th</sup>.** We've put up flyers telling you what we'll need AND we've got a sign-up sheet on the information table in the Parish Hall. While you're there signing up to bring something on the 14<sup>th</sup>, add your name to bring coffee hour refreshments one Sunday or flowers for the altar.

**Don't we have a picnic in June?** Yes. We have traditionally held the picnic in June but since we'll be having lunch with the Bishop on June 14<sup>th</sup>, the Vestry opted to move the picnic to Sunday, Aug 9<sup>th</sup>. **Save that date!** More will be shared in the future.

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
May 3		John Franck	Jane Franck
May 10	Mary Lee Joines	Marybeth Lentz	Mary Lee Joines
May 17	Wanda McKnight	John Franck	Wanda McKnight
May 24		Jim Halsey	

# SAVE-the-DATE!

## Spring into Summer Lunch

Sunday, June 14<sup>th</sup> following the service



June 14<sup>th</sup> 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.