

Christ Episcopal Church
Sparta, NC

A home to all sharing God's unconditional love.



The Sixth Sunday of Easter

May 10, 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 for serving as musician and for being so generous with her talents, and
Marybeth Lentz for opening the Parish Hall and making coffee, and
Mary Lee Joines for providing the flowers at the altar in honor of our PIC, The Rev
Karla Woggon turning 60 yesterday, and for providing coffee hour refreshments.

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 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: Christ among the spirits by J Kirk Richards

The Gathering

Prelude

Victoria Fischer Faw

Announcements

Frank Hazard

Please stand, as able.

Processional Hymn #416

For the beauty of the earth

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, you have prepared for those who love you such good things as surpass our understanding: Pour into our hearts such love towards you, that we, loving you in all things and above all things, may obtain your promises, which exceed all that we can desire; 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 17:22-31

Paul stood in front of the Areopagus and said, "Athenians, I see how extremely religious you are in every way. For as I went through the city and looked carefully at the objects of your worship, I found among them an altar with the inscription, 'To an unknown god.' What therefore you worship as unknown, this I proclaim to you. The God who made the world and everything in it, he who is Lord of heaven and earth, does not live in shrines made by human hands, nor is he

served by human hands, as though he needed anything, since he himself gives to all mortals life and breath and all things. From one ancestor he made all nations to inhabit the whole earth, and he allotted the times of their existence and the boundaries of the places where they would live, so that they would search for God and perhaps grope for him and find him—though indeed he is not far from each one of us. For ‘In him we live and move and have our being’; as even some of your own poets have said,

‘For we too are his offspring.’

Since we are God’s offspring, we ought not to think that the deity is like gold, or silver, or stone, an image formed by the art and imagination of mortals. While God has overlooked the times of human ignorance, now he commands all people everywhere to repent, because he has fixed a day on which he will have the world judged in righteousness by a man whom he has appointed, and of this he has given assurance to all by raising him from the dead.”

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

People **Thanks be to God.**

The Response: A reading from Psalm 66:7-18

Bless our God, you peoples; *

make the voice of his praise to be heard;

Who holds our souls in life, *

and will not allow our feet to slip.

For you, O God, have proved us; *

you have tried us just as silver is tried.

You brought us into the snare; *

you laid heavy burdens upon our backs.

You let enemies ride over our heads;

we went through fire and water; *

but you brought us out into a place of refreshment.

I will enter your house with burnt-offerings

and will pay you my vows, *

which I promised with my lips

and spoke with my mouth when I was in trouble.

I will offer you sacrifices of fat beasts

with the smoke of rams; *

I will give you oxen and goats.

Come and listen, all you who fear God, *

and I will tell you what he has done for me.

I called out to him with my mouth, *

and his praise was on my tongue.

If I had found evil in my heart, *

the Lord would not have heard me;

But in truth God has heard me; *

he has attended to the voice of my prayer.

Blessed be God, who has not rejected my prayer, *

nor withheld his love from me.

The Second Reading: A reading from 1 Peter 3:13-22

Now who will harm you if you are eager to do what is good? But even if you do suffer for doing what is right, you are blessed. Do not fear what they fear, and do not be intimidated, but in your hearts sanctify Christ as Lord. Always be ready to make your defense to anyone who demands from you an accounting for the hope that is in you; yet do it with gentleness and reverence. Keep your conscience clear, so that, when you are maligned, those who abuse you for your good conduct in Christ may be put to shame. For it is better to suffer for doing good, if suffering should be God's will, than to suffer for doing evil. For Christ also suffered for sins once for all, the righteous for the unrighteous, in order to bring you to God. He was put to death in the flesh, but made alive in the spirit, in which also he went and made a proclamation to the spirits in prison, who in former times did not obey, when God waited patiently in the days of Noah, during the building of the ark, in which a few, that is, eight persons, were saved through water. And baptism, which this prefigured, now saves you~ not as a removal of dirt from the body, but as an appeal to God for a good conscience, through the resurrection of Jesus Christ, who has gone into heaven and is at the right hand of God, with angels, authorities, and powers made subject to him.

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

People **Thanks be to God.**

Please stand, as able.

Gospel Hymn #204, vss 1-3

Now the green blade riseth

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 14:15-21

Jesus said, "If you love me, you will keep my commandments. And I will ask the Father, and he will give you another Advocate, to be with you forever. This is the Spirit of truth, whom the world cannot receive, because it neither sees him nor knows him. You know him, because he abides with you, and he will be in you.

"I will not leave you orphaned; I am coming to you. In a little while the world will no longer see me, but you will see me; because I live, you also will live. On that day you will know that I am in my Father, and you in me, and I in you. They who have my commandments and keep them are those who love me; and those who love me will be loved by my Father, and I will love them and reveal myself to them."

Presider The Gospel of the Lord.

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

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.**

Presider Almighty God, by your Holy Spirit you have made us one
with your saints in heaven and on earth: Grant that in our
earthly pilgrimage we may always be supported by this
fellowship of love and prayer, and know ourselves to be
surrounded by their witness to your power and mercy. We
ask this for the sake of Jesus Christ, in whom all our
intercessions are acceptable through the Spirit, and who lives
and reigns for ever and ever. **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

Victoria Fischer Faw

Please stand, as able.

Doxology

*Praise God from whom all blessings flow;
praise God, all creatures here below;
Praise God above, ye heav'nly host;
praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.*

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

Victoria Fischer Faw

Surely the Presence of the Lord

*Surely the presence of the Lord is in this place,
I can feel God's mighty power and God's grace,
I can hear the brush of angels' wings,
I see glory on each face.
Surely the presence of the Lord is in this place.*

Please stand or kneel, as able.

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 #405

All things bright and beautiful

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

Victoria Fischer Faw

Coming Lessons

Acts 1:6-14

Psalm 68:1-10; 33-36

1 Peter 4:12-14; 5:6-11

John 17:1-11

Prayer List

Intercessions:

Antje & Bill, Betty, Bob Bamberg, Bobbie Clark, Brenda Weems & her family following Kelly's death, Buck Hunnicutt, Carl & Carol Greer, Charles McKelvy, Chris, Cynthia Grant, Cliff's mother, Donna & Mike Hohnstine, Edwin, Gary Medley, Inza & Blair, Janice Harrison, Jonathan, Laura Davis, Lynn Ellis, Lynn & Ajit, Margaret, Maria Chance, Martha A, Raymond Hindman (Cara Todd's father), Rita Woodruff & Angelia Miller, Rod Pace & Louise Law, Rudy McKnight, Susan & Jim Doss (The Rev), Terry & Bess, Tom Rush, 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:

Wedding Anniversaries & Thanksgivings: John & Jane Franck (May 16)

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

In the Anglican Community: The Church of Pakistan

In the Diocese of WNC: Trinity Church in Spruce Pine and Trinity in Asheville

In Alleghany County: First Baptist Church

The following people are assisting with the services

Role	This Sunday	Next Sunday
Altar Guild	Jane Franck	Jane Franck
Chalice Bearer	Elizabeth Barr Bryant	Jonathan Halsey
Lector I	Jann Boggs	Cliff Hudgins
Lector II	Jann Boggs	Cliff Hudgins
Prayers of the People	Jann Boggs	Cliff Hudgins
Greeter/Usher(s)	Patti Phelps & Ruthie Maxwell	Barbara & Jim Halsey

Schedule

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 Harman

Coffee hour follows the service

3:00 pm – Kelly Weems’ Celebration of Life service at CC with reception

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**

Announcements

The next Confirm, not Conform class is TODAY 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!

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 14th, the Vestry opted to move the picnic to Sunday, Aug 9th. **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 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.*

The first Sunday of the month, we set aside 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!

Monthly Altar Flowers and Coffee Hour sign-ups:

Date	Altar Flowers	Coffee Guild	Coffee Hour
May 10	Mary Lee Joines	Marybeth Lentz	Mary Lee Joines
May 17	Wanda McKnight	John Franck	Wanda McKnight
May 24	<i>Bette McGee Pentecost Flower Fund</i>	Jim Halsey	Jeanne Green
May 31	Jeanne Green	Jim Halsey	Barbara 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.



Happy Mother's Day to all the mothers, grandmothers, stepmothers, adoptive mothers, aunts, foster mothers, and soon-to-be mothers. Wishing a happy day to all those women who have never birthed a baby but who have mothered many. And blessings to those women who struggle to get pregnant, and to those who have lost a child.