

**Christ Episcopal Church**  
Sparta, NC

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



**The Seventh Sunday of Easter**  
**May 17, 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 Torrence Harman** for leading us in worship this morning,  
**Kathy Sugishita** for serving as musician and for being so generous with her talents,  
**John Franck** for opening the Parish Hall and making coffee, and  
**Wanda McKnight** for providing the flowers at the altar, 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.**

## **Christ Episcopal Church**

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Online giving link: <https://onrealm.org/CCEpiscopal/give/now>

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 #178**

*Alleluia, 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.**

**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, the King of glory, you have exalted your only Son Jesus Christ with great triumph to your kingdom in heaven: Do not leave us comfortless, but send us your Holy Spirit to strengthen us, and exalt us to that place where our Savior Christ has gone before; who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, in glory everlasting. **Amen.**

## Liturgy of the Word

**First Reading: A reading from Acts 1:6-14**

When the apostles had come together, they asked Jesus, "Lord, is this the time when you will restore the kingdom to Israel?" He replied, "It is not for you to know the times or periods that the Father has set by his own authority. But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth." When he had said this, as they were watching, he was lifted up, and a cloud took him out of their sight. While he was going and they were gazing up toward heaven, suddenly two men

in white robes stood by them. They said, "Men of Galilee, why do you stand looking up toward heaven? This Jesus, who has been taken up from you into heaven, will come in the same way as you saw him go into heaven."

Then they returned to Jerusalem from the mount called Olivet, which is near Jerusalem, a sabbath day's journey away. When they had entered the city, they went to the room upstairs where they were staying, Peter, and John, and James, and Andrew, Philip and Thomas, Bartholomew and Matthew, James son of Alphaeus, and Simon the Zealot, and Judas son of James. All these were constantly devoting themselves to prayer, together with certain women, including Mary the mother of Jesus, as well as his brothers.

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

People Thanks be to God.

### **The Response: A reading from Psalm 68:1-10, 33-36**

Let God arise, and let his enemies be scattered; \*

**let those who hate him flee before him.**

Let them vanish like smoke when the wind drives it away; \*

**as the wax melts at the fire, so let the wicked perish at the presence of God.**

But let the righteous be glad and rejoice before God; \*

**let them also be merry and joyful.**

Sing to God, sing praises to his Name;

exalt him who rides upon the heavens; \*

**YAHWEH is his Name, rejoice before him!**

Father of orphans, defender of widows, \*

**God in his holy habitation!**

God gives the solitary a home and brings forth prisoners into freedom; \*

**but the rebels shall live in dry places.**

O God, when you went forth before your people, \*

**when you marched through the wilderness,**

The earth shook, and the skies poured down rain,

at the presence of God, the God of Sinai, \*

**at the presence of God, the God of Israel.**

You sent a gracious rain, O God, upon your inheritance; \*

**you refreshed the land when it was weary.**

Your people found their home in it; \*

**in your goodness, O God, you have made provision for the poor.**

Sing to God, O kingdoms of the earth; \*

**sing praises to the Lord.**

He rides in the heavens, the ancient heavens; \*

**he sends forth his voice, his mighty voice.**

Ascribe power to God; \*  
**his majesty is over Israel;**  
**his strength is in the skies.**

How wonderful is God in his holy places! \*  
**the God of Israel giving strength and power to his people!**  
**Blessed be God!**

### **The Second Reading: A reading from 1 Peter 4:12-14; 5:6-11**

Beloved, do not be surprised at the fiery ordeal that is taking place among you to test you, as though something strange were happening to you. But rejoice insofar as you are sharing Christ's sufferings, so that you may also be glad and shout for joy when his glory is revealed. If you are reviled for the name of Christ, you are blessed, because the spirit of glory, which is the Spirit of God, is resting on you.

Humble yourselves therefore under the mighty hand of God, so that he may exalt you in due time. Cast all your anxiety on him, because he cares for you. Discipline yourselves, keep alert. Like a roaring lion your adversary the devil prowls around, looking for someone to devour. Resist him, steadfast in your faith, for you know that your brothers and sisters in all the world are undergoing the same kinds of suffering. And after you have suffered for a little while, the God of all grace, who has called you to his eternal glory in Christ, will himself restore, support, strengthen, and establish you. To him be the power forever and ever. **Amen.**

Reader        Hear what the Spirit is saying to God's people.  
People        **Thanks be to God.**

*Please stand, as able.*

### **Gospel Hymn #692**

*I heard the voice of Jesus say*

*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 17:1-11**

Jesus looked up to heaven and said, "Father, the hour has come; glorify your Son so that the Son may glorify you, since you have given him authority over all people, to give eternal life to all whom you have given him. And this is eternal life, that they may know you, the only true God, and Jesus Christ whom you have sent. I glorified you on earth by finishing the work that you gave me to do. So now, Father, glorify me in your own presence with the glory that I had in your presence before the world existed.

"I have made your name known to those whom you gave me from the world. They were yours, and you gave them to me, and they have kept your word. Now they know that everything you have given me is from you; for the words that you gave to me I have given to them, and they have received them and know in truth that I came from you; and they have believed that you sent me. I



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, Torrence, 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**

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*)

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.**

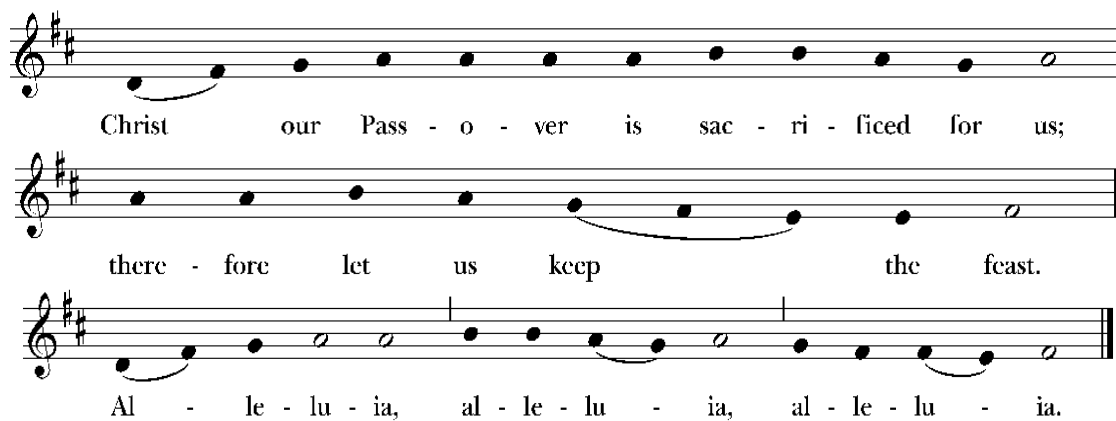
### **The Breaking of the Bread**

*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.



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 #512**

*Come, Gracious Spirit, heavenly Dove*

**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**

Numbers 11:24-30

Psalm 104:25-35, 37

Acts 2:1-21

John 20:19-23

**Prayer List**

**Intercessions:**

Aaron Decker, Antje & Bill, Betty, Bob Bamberg, Bobbie Clark, Brenda Weems & her family following Kelly's death, Buck Hunnicutt, Carl & Carol Greer, Charles McKelvy, Chris, Cliff's mother, Cynthia Grant, 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:** Janice Kleva (TODAY, May 17), Matthew Bryant (May 18)

**Wedding Anniversaries & Thanksgivings:** Frank & Ann Hazard (May 22)

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

**In the Anglican Community:** The Anglican Church of Papua New Guinea

**In the Diocese of WNC:** Camp Henry and all the children & youth in the diocese

**In Alleghany County:** Free Worship Community Church

### The following people are assisting with the services

Role	This Sunday	Next Sunday
Altar Guild	Jane Franck	Jane Franck
Chalice Bearer	Jonathan Halsey	Nancy Wilson
Lector I	Cliff Hudgins	Geoff Jones
Lector II	Cliff Hudgins	Geoff Jones
Prayers of the People	Cliff Hudgins	Geoff Jones
Greeter/Usher(s)	Barbara & Jim Halsey	Cynthia Grant

## Schedule

### 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, The Rev Karla Woggon presiding  
Reception in the Parish Hall follows the service*

### 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 – Tuesday, May 26 – 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 – LAST Confirm, not Conform confirmation class, BYOL**

**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**

**We will be Celebrating the Life of Kelly Weems, Brenda’s husband, and supporting Brenda and their family this afternoon at 3:00 pm.** Christ Church members & friends are invited to attend. The Committal will be in the Memorial Garden and a reception will follow in the Parish Hall.

**NEEDED: Two volunteers for the SRFC** One member is working both days but we need a second person each day to help. **Tuesday, June 16 or Wednesday, June 17** The time commitment is 9:30 am – 2:00 pm. Wear closed-toe shoes. And no worries about lifting – they have a paid person who helps with that and loading the cars. **Please let Jeanne know asap if you’re able to help one of those days.**

**The office will be closed this week, Tuesday, May 19 – Thursday, May 21 and because the following Monday (May 25) is Memorial Day, the office will not re-open until Tuesday, May 26.** If you need anything in next week’s GNN or the May 24<sup>th</sup> bulletin, please make sure you get it to Mary Lee by tomorrow at 10:00 am. There is an amazing group of Bulletin Preppers in charge of getting the bulletins ready for Sunday, May 24.

**The LAST Confirm, not Conform class is NEXT Sunday, May 24<sup>th</sup>, 12:00-1:00 pm; BYOL.**

**The Bishop is coming on Sunday, June 14<sup>th</sup>.** We have several 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. 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. 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 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.christchurchspartan@gmail.com](mailto:priest.christchurchspartan@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 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
June 7	Mary Lee Joines	Marybeth Lentz	

# Spring into Summer Lunch

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



June 14<sup>th</sup> is 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.