

Christ Episcopal Church

Sparta, NC

A home to all sharing God's unconditional love.



Trinity Sunday

May 31, 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:

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

Jim Halsey for opening the Parish Hall and making coffee,

Barbara Halsey for providing coffee hour refreshments, and

Jeanne Green for providing the beautiful flowers at the altar in loving memory of her husband, Walton Green, and her father, William M Reindollar.

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, Tuesday, Thursday 8:00-1:00, Wednesday remote

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Cover art: In this together – all in by Annett Schaper

The Gathering

Prelude

Jonathan Halsey

Announcements

Frank Hazard

Please stand, as able.

Processional Hymn #362

Holy, holy, holy!

Remain standing, as able.

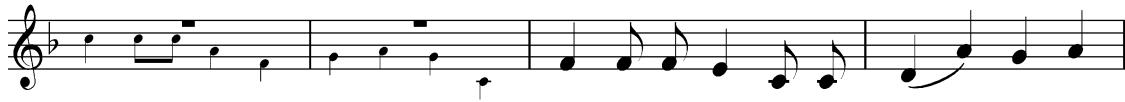
Opening Acclamation

Celebrant Blessed be God: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

People **And blessed be his kingdom, now and for ever. Amen.**

Celebrant 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.**

Gloria: S280 (*sung by all*)



1. Glo - ry to God in the high - est, and



peace to his peo - ple on earth. 2. Lord God, heaven - ly



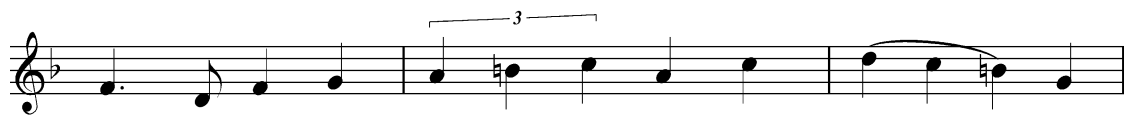
King, al - mighty God and Fa - ther, we wor - ship you, we



give you thanks, we praise you for your glo - ry. 3. Lord Je - sus



Christ, on - ly Son of the Fa - ther, Lord God, Lamb of God, 4. you



take a - way the sin of the world: have mer - cy

on us; 5. you are seat - ed at the right hand of the Fa - ther: re -
 ceive our prayer. 6. For you a - lone are the Ho - ly One,
 you a - lone are the Lord, 7. you a - lone are the Most
 High, Je - sus Christ, with the Ho - ly Spi - rit, in the
 glo - ry of God the Fa - ther. A - men.

Music: Robert Powell (b. 1932), rev. Setting: Copyright © Church Publishing Inc.

The Collect

Celebrant The Lord be with you.

People **And also with you.**

Celebrant Let us pray,

Almighty and everlasting God, you have given to us your servants grace, by the confession of a true faith, to acknowledge the glory of the eternal Trinity, and in the power of your divine Majesty to worship the Unity: Keep us steadfast in this faith and worship, and bring us at last to see you in your one and eternal glory, O Father; who with the Son and the Holy Spirit live and reign, one God, for ever and ever. **Amen.**

Liturgy of the Word

First Reading: A reading from Genesis 1:1-2:4a

In the beginning when God created the heavens and the earth, the earth was a formless void and darkness covered the face of the deep, while a wind from God swept over the face of the waters. Then God said, "Let there be light"; and there was light. And God saw that the light was good; and God separated the light from the darkness. God called the light Day, and the darkness he called Night. And there was evening and there was morning, the first day.

And God said, "Let there be a dome in the midst of the waters, and let it separate the waters from the waters." So God made the dome and separated the waters that were under the dome from the waters that were above the dome. And it was so. God called the dome Sky. And there was evening and there was morning, the second day.

And God said, “Let the waters under the sky be gathered together into one place, and let the dry land appear.” And it was so. God called the dry land Earth, and the waters that were gathered together he called Seas. And God saw that it was good. Then God said, “Let the earth put forth vegetation: plants yielding seed, and fruit trees of every kind on earth that bear fruit with the seed in it.” And it was so. The earth brought forth vegetation: plants yielding seed of every kind, and trees of every kind bearing fruit with the seed in it. And God saw that it was good. And there was evening and there was morning, the third day.

And God said, “Let there be lights in the dome of the sky to separate the day from the night; and let them be for signs and for seasons and for days and years, and let them be lights in the dome of the sky to give light upon the earth.” And it was so. God made the two great lights—the greater light to rule the day and the lesser light to rule the night—and the stars. God set them in the dome of the sky to give light upon the earth, to rule over the day and over the night, and to separate the light from the darkness. And God saw that it was good. And there was evening and there was morning, the fourth day.

And God said, “Let the waters bring forth swarms of living creatures, and let birds fly above the earth across the dome of the sky.” So God created the great sea monsters and every living creature that moves, of every kind, with which the waters swarm, and every winged bird of every kind. And God saw that it was good. God blessed them, saying, “Be fruitful and multiply and fill the waters in the seas, and let birds multiply on the earth.” And there was evening and there was morning, the fifth day.

And God said, “Let the earth bring forth living creatures of every kind: cattle and creeping things and wild animals of the earth of every kind.” And it was so. God made the wild animals of the earth of every kind, and the cattle of every kind, and everything that creeps upon the ground of every kind. And God saw that it was good.

Then God said, “Let us make humankind in our image, according to our likeness; and let them have dominion over the fish of the sea, and over the birds of the air, and over the cattle, and over all the wild animals of the earth, and over every creeping thing that creeps upon the earth.”

So God created humankind in his image,
in the image of God he created them;
male and female he created them.

God blessed them, and God said to them, “Be fruitful and multiply, and fill the earth and subdue it; and have dominion over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the air and over every living thing that moves upon the earth.” God said, “See, I have given you every plant yielding seed that is upon the face of all the earth, and every tree with seed in its fruit; you shall have them for food. And to every beast of the earth, and to every bird of the air, and to everything that creeps on the earth, everything that has the breath of life, I have given every green plant for food.” And it was so. God saw everything that he had made, and indeed, it was very good. And there was evening and there was morning, the sixth day.

Thus the heavens and the earth were finished, and all their multitude. And on the seventh day God finished the work that he had done, and he rested on the seventh day from all the work

that he had done. So God blessed the seventh day and hallowed it, because on it God rested from all the work that he had done in creation.

These are the generations of the heavens and the earth when they were created.

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

People Thanks be to God.

The Response

Canticle 13 A Song of Praise *Benedictus es, Domine* Song of the Three Young Men, 29-34

Glory to you, Lord God of our fathers; *

you are worthy of praise; glory to you.

Glory to you for the radiance of your holy Name; *

we will praise you and highly exalt you for ever.

Glory to you in the splendor of your temple; *

on the throne of your majesty, glory to you.

Glory to you, seated between the Cherubim; *

we will praise you and highly exalt you for ever.

Glory to you, beholding the depths; *

in the high vault of heaven, glory to you.

Glory to you, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit; *

we will praise you and highly exalt you for ever.

The Second Reading: A reading from 2 Corinthians 13:11-13

Finally, brothers and sisters, farewell. Put things in order, listen to my appeal, agree with one another, live in peace; and the God of love and peace will be with you. Greet one another with a holy kiss. All the saints greet you.

The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with all of you.

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

People Thanks be to God.

Please stand, as able.

Gospel Hymn #368

Holy Father, great Creator

Proulx Alleluia



Please remain standing, as able.

Celebrant The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ, according to Matthew.

People Glory to you, Lord Christ.

The Gospel

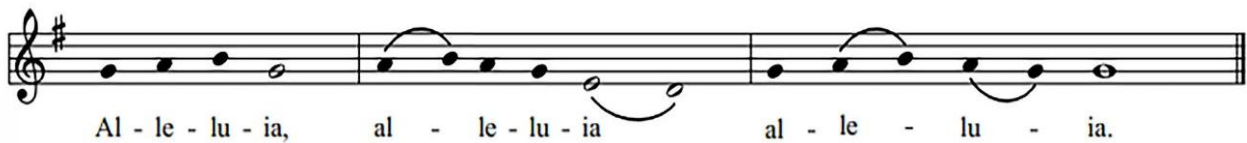
Matthew 28:16-20

The eleven disciples went to Galilee, to the mountain to which Jesus had directed them. When they saw him, they worshiped him; but some doubted. And Jesus came and said to them, "All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything that I have commanded you. And remember, I am with you always, to the end of the age."

Celebrant The Gospel of the Lord.

People Praise to you, Lord Christ.

Proulx *Alleluia*



All are seated.

The Sermon

The Rev. George Greer

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.

Please stand or kneel, as able.

Prayers of the People

BCP, Form III, pg 387

Leader Father, we pray for your holy Catholic Church;
People **That we all may be one.**

Leader Grant that every member of the Church may truly and humbly serve you;
People **That your Name may be glorified by all people.**

Leader We pray for all bishops, priests, and deacons; especially Archbishop of
Canterbury, Sarah, our Presiding Bishop, Sean, our Bishop, José, our Priest in
Charge, Karla, and our Celebrant, George.
People **That they may be faithful ministers of your Word and Sacraments.**

Leader We pray for all who govern and hold authority in the nations of the world;
People **That there may be justice and peace on the earth.**

Leader Give us grace to do your will in all that we undertake;
People **That our works may find favor in your sight.**

Leader Have compassion on those who suffer from any grief or trouble;
People **That they may be delivered from their distress.**

Leader Give to the departed eternal rest.
People **Let light perpetual shine upon them.**

Leader We praise you for your saints who have entered into joy;
People **May we also come to share in your heavenly kingdom.**

Leader Let us pray for our own needs and those of others. *Please add your own petitions
silently or aloud.*

Silence

Celebrant Almighty and eternal God, ruler of all things in heaven and earth: Mercifully accept the prayers of your people, and strengthen us to do your will; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

The Peace

Celebrant 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

Jonathan Halsey

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 D, BCP 372-374

Celebrant The Lord be with you.

People **And also with you.**

Celebrant Lift up your hearts.

People **We lift them to the Lord.**

Celebrant Let us give thanks to the Lord our God

People **It is right to give him thanks and praise.**

It is truly right to glorify you, Father, and to give you thanks; for you alone are God, living and true, dwelling in light inaccessible from before time and for ever.

Fountain of life and source of all goodness, you made all things and fill them with your blessing; you created them to rejoice in the splendor of your radiance.

Countless throngs of angels stand before you to serve you night and day; and, beholding the glory of your presence, they offer you unceasing praise. Joining with them, and giving voice to every creature under heaven, we acclaim you, and glorify your Name, as we sing,

Sanctus: 129 (*sung by all*)



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.

Please stand or kneel, as able.

We acclaim you, holy Lord, glorious in power. Your mighty works reveal your wisdom and love. You formed us in your own image, giving the whole world into our care, so that, in obedience to you, our Creator, we might rule and serve all your creatures. When our disobedience took us far from you, you did not abandon us to the power of death. In your mercy you came to our help, so that in seeking you we might find you. Again and again you called us into covenant with you, and through the prophets you taught us to hope for salvation.

Father, you loved the world so much that in the fullness of time you sent your only Son to be our Savior. Incarnate by the Holy Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary, he lived as one of us, yet without sin. To the poor he proclaimed the good news of salvation; to prisoners, freedom; to the sorrowful, joy. To fulfill your purpose he gave himself up to death; and, rising from the grave, destroyed death, and made the whole creation new.

And, that we might live no longer for ourselves, but for him who died and rose for us, he sent the Holy Spirit, his own first gift for those who believe, to complete his work in the world, and to bring to fulfillment the sanctification of all.

When the hour had come for him to be glorified by you, his heavenly Father, having loved his own who were in the world, he loved them to the end; at supper with them he took bread, and when he had given thanks to you, he broke it, and gave it to his disciples, 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; and when he had given thanks, he gave it to them, 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."

Father, we now celebrate this memorial of our redemption. Recalling Christ's death and his descent among the dead, proclaiming his resurrection and ascension to your right hand, awaiting his coming in glory; and offering to you, from the gifts you have given us, this bread and this cup, we praise you and we bless you.

**We praise you, we bless you,
we give thanks to you,
and we pray to you, Lord our God.**

Lord, we pray that in your goodness and mercy your Holy Spirit may descend upon us, and upon these gifts, sanctifying them and showing them to be holy gifts for your holy people, the bread of life and the cup of salvation, the Body and Blood of your Son Jesus Christ.

Grant that all who share this bread and cup may become one body and one spirit, a living sacrifice in Christ, to the praise of your Name.

Remember, Lord, your one holy catholic and apostolic Church, redeemed by the blood of your Christ. Reveal its unity, guard its faith, and preserve it in peace.

Remember all who minister in your Church.

Remember all your people, and those who seek your truth.

Remember all who have died in the peace of Christ, and those whose faith is known to you alone; bring them into the place of eternal joy and light.

And grant that we may find our inheritance with the Blessed Virgin Mary, with patriarchs, prophets, apostles, and martyrs, and all the saints who have found favor with you in ages past. We praise you in union with them and give you glory through your Son Jesus Christ our Lord.

Through Christ, and with Christ, and in Christ, all honor and glory are yours, Almighty God and Father, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, for ever and ever. **AMEN.**

And now, as our Savior Christ has taught us, we are bold to pray,

The Lord's Prayer

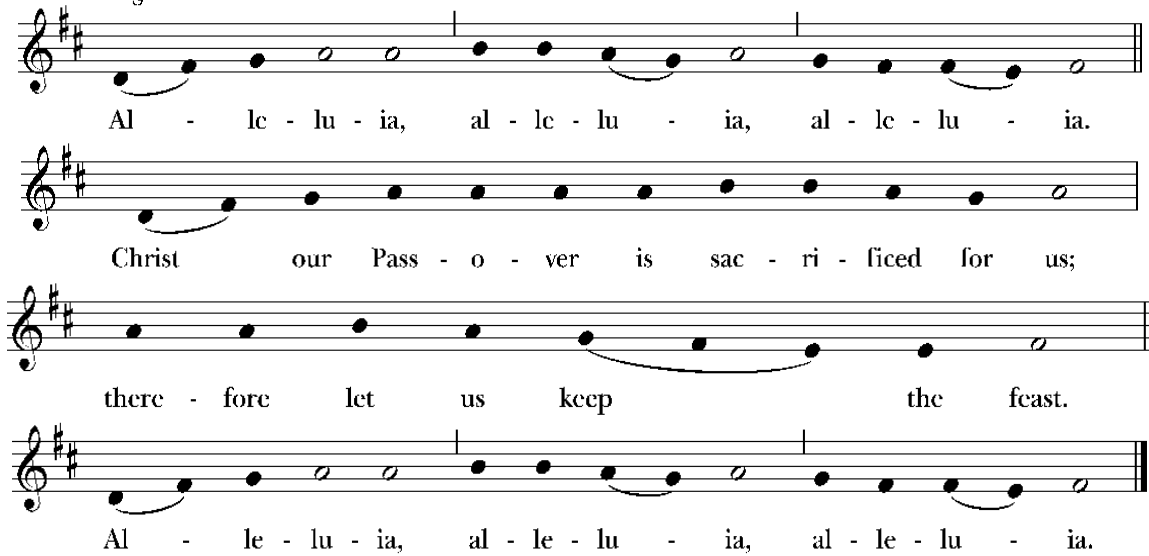
**Our Father, who art in heaven,
hallowed be thy Name,
thy kingdom come,
thy will be done,
on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread.
And forgive us our trespasses,
as we forgive those
who trespass against us.
And lead us not into temptation,
but deliver us from evil.
For thine is 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

Jonathan Halsey

Surely the Presence of the Lord

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

Please stand or kneel, as able.

Prayer after Communion

Celebrant 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.

Blessing

The Rev George Greer

Please stand, as able.

Recessional Hymn #371

Thou, whose almighty word

The Dismissal

Celebrant Let us go forth in the name of Christ. Alleluia, alleluia.

People Thanks be to God. Alleluia, alleluia!

Postlude

Jonathan Halsey

Coming Lessons

Genesis 12:1-9

Psalm 33:1-12

Romans 4:13-25

Matthew 9:9-13, 18-26

The following people are assisting with the services

Role	This Sunday	Next Sunday
Altar Guild	Jane Franck	Louise Law
Chalice Bearer	Jeanne Green	Bruce Smith
Lector I	Mary Lee Joines	Louise Law
Lector II	Mary Lee Joines	Louise Law
Prayers of the People	Mary Lee Joines	Louise Law
Greeter/Usher(s)	Jane & John Franck	Jann Boggs & Les Colvard

Prayer List

Intercessions:

Aaron Decker (Janice Harrison's grandson), Antje & Bill, Betty, Bob Bamberg, Bobbie Clark, Brenda Weems, Buck Hunnicutt, Carl & Carol Greer, Cathy Davis (The Rev), Charles McKelvy, Chris, Cliff's mother, Cora Lee, Cynthia Grant, Donna & Mike Hohnstine, Edwin, Gary Medley, Inza & Blair, Janice Harrison, Jonathan, Laura Davis, Lynn Ellis, Lynn & Ajit, Mackenzie Smythers & family, 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, 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: Sandra Sander, Cliff's mother (May 22), Mike Smythers (May 19)

Birthdays:

Wedding Anniversaries & Thanksgivings:

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

In the Anglican Community: the Anglican Church of Rwanda

In the Diocese of WNC: St George's in Asheville

In Alleghany County: Full Gospel Church

Schedule

Sunday, May 31 – Trinity Sunday

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

Coffee hour follows the service

Tuesday, June 2

1:00 pm – Centering Prayer group

2:00 pm – Book Discussion group

Sunday, June 7 – The Second Sunday after Pentecost

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

Coffee hour follows the service

Tuesday, June 9

1:00 pm – Centering Prayer group

2:00 pm – Book Discussion group

Sunday, June 14 – The Third Sunday after Pentecost & Bishop’s visit

10:30 am – Holy Eucharist with The Rt Rev José McLoughlin & The Rev Karla Woggon

Spring into Summer Lunch follows the service

Announcements

NEXT SUNDAY: 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!

The Bishop’s visit is fast approaching! Have you signed up to bring something for our Spring into Summer Lunch? We’ve got a sign-up sheet on the information table.

The loose plate offering on June 14th will be given to the Bishop’s Discretionary Fund. If you’d like to make a donation via check, please write “Bishop” on your memo line and we’ll direct the funds accordingly.

Save-the-Date! This year’s Annual Parish Picnic will be on Sunday, Aug 9th. This year, we will be returning to an old tradition of holding our service & picnic at someone’s home – Barbara & Jim Halsey will be hosting us! We’ll have a sign-up sheet out in late June/early July and more details will follow.

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
May 31	Jeanne Green	Jim Halsey	Barbara Halsey
June 7	Mary Lee Joines	Marybeth Lentz	Cynthia Grant
June 14		John Franck	<i>Spring into Summer lunch</i>
June 21		Cynthia Grant	

Worship Notes for the Summer (1st half of the season after Pentecost, June-August)

During the Summer, we will use *Prayers of the People Form II* from the *Book of Common Prayer* and *Eucharistic Prayer A*. The service music will include a sung *Alleluia* for the gospel procession. We will continue to use the more traditional form of the Lord's Prayer. In order to reduce our use of paper, we are also going to use the *Book of Common Prayer* in the pew backs rather than printing out the full service in the bulletin. Having the full service in the bulletin makes it easier for newcomers and visitors, but uses a great deal of paper. **I therefore encourage you to look around the church on Sunday Morning and if you see someone struggling to find their way in the service, reach out and help.**

If you have comments, questions, or complaints about the liturgy I encourage you to bring them directly to me. Part of my work here among you as your priest in charge is to guide & lead worship.
Karla

You may have noticed that from time to time the worship on Sunday morning changes. For each season of the church, we change the prayers of the people, the Eucharistic Prayer (Holy Communion) and service music. Sometimes we use the more traditional form of the Lord's Prayer and sometimes the one that is considered more contemporary but is actually closer to the biblical text. Sometimes we sing the prayers of the people and the creed, sometimes we speak them. You may like some of the changes, and you may dislike some. The likes and dislikes are, I believe, part of the corporate worship experience. When we pray alone, we can pray in the way that is most comfortable for us as individuals, when we come together to pray corporately, we have the opportunity to stretch and grow in ways that are sometimes comfortable and sometimes uncomfortable. In the Episcopal Church we believe that our praying shapes our believing. I encourage you to ponder how the liturgy shapes your believing from season to season. **Karla**