

Christ Episcopal Church

Sparta, NC

A home to all sharing God's unconditional love.



The Third Sunday after Pentecost

June 14, 2026

The Rt. Rev José McLoughlin
Bishop of Western North Carolina

The Rev. Karla Woggon
Priest-in-Charge

Welcome to Christ Episcopal Church

We are delighted God has brought you to this special place.

What do you need to know about worship? Everything you need for your worship today is in the booklet you are holding. Our service is based on the Book of Common Prayer, using music from sources including the Hymnal 1982 and Taizé.

Are you worshipping with us for the first time? We would love to get to know you! Please email our office at christchurchspartanc@gmail.com with your name and contact information, and let us know if we can call you, answer questions, or pray for you. And know that wherever you are on your journey of faith, there is a place for you at Christ Church.

Newsletter: Sign-up today to receive our electronic newsletter, the weekly *Good News & Notes*. Email the church office at christchurchspartanc@gmail.com.

Do you need prayer? We have an active prayer ministry here at Christ Church. If prayer would be helpful to you, please fill out a prayer request card (found in the pew back), making sure you include your name and contact information (email and/or phone). We'll include you in our weekly prayers. Just complete the card & put it in the offering plate during the Offertory or share your request with the greeter.

We extend special thanks today to:

The Rt Rev José McLoughlin for leading our worship today,
Jonathan Halsey for serving as musician and for being so generous with his talents, and
John Franck for opening the Parish Hall and making coffee.

Please enter the Sanctuary in silence to respect those who are preparing for worship. Save conversations, whispered or out loud, for outside or Coffee Hour.

Please silence your cell phone, too.

Christ Episcopal Church

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Office hours: Monday, Tuesday, Thursday 8:00-1:00, Wednesday remote

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Confirmation and Reaffirmation of Baptismal Vows

Prelude

Jonathan Halsey

Announcements

Larry Seckel

Please stand, as able.

Processional Hymn #391

Before the Lord's eternal throne

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,

Keep, O Lord, your household the Church in your steadfast faith and love, that through your grace we may proclaim your truth with boldness, and minister your justice with compassion; for the sake of our Savior Jesus Christ, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

Liturgy of the Word

First Reading: A reading from Genesis 18:1-15

The Lord appeared to Abraham by the oaks of Mamre, as he sat at the entrance of his tent in the heat of the day. He looked up and saw three men standing near him. When he saw them, he ran from the tent entrance to meet them, and bowed down to the ground. He said, “My lord, if I find favor with you, do not pass by your servant. Let a little water be brought, and wash your feet, and rest yourselves under the tree. Let me bring a little bread, that you may refresh yourselves, and after that you may pass on—since you have come to your servant.” So they said, “Do as you have said.” And Abraham hastened into the tent to Sarah, and said, “Make ready quickly three measures of choice flour, knead it, and make cakes.” Abraham ran to the herd, and took a calf, tender and good, and gave it to the servant, who hastened to prepare it. Then

he took curds and milk and the calf that he had prepared, and set it before them; and he stood by them under the tree while they ate.

They said to him, "Where is your wife Sarah?" And he said, "There, in the tent." Then one said, "I will surely return to you in due season, and your wife Sarah shall have a son." And Sarah was listening at the tent entrance behind him. Now Abraham and Sarah were old, advanced in age; it had ceased to be with Sarah after the manner of women. So Sarah laughed to herself, saying, "After I have grown old, and my husband is old, shall I have pleasure?" The Lord said to Abraham, "Why did Sarah laugh, and say, 'Shall I indeed bear a child, now that I am old?' Is anything too wonderful for the Lord? At the set time I will return to you, in due season, and Sarah shall have a son." But Sarah denied, saying, "I did not laugh"; for she was afraid. He said, "Oh yes, you did laugh."

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

The Response

Psalm 116:1, 10-17

I love the LORD, because he has heard the voice of my supplication, *
because he has inclined his ear to me whenever I called upon him.

How shall I repay the LORD *
for all the good things he has done for me?

I will lift up the cup of salvation *
and call upon the Name of the LORD.

I will fulfill my vows to the LORD *
in the presence of all his people.

Precious in the sight of the LORD *
is the death of his servants.

O LORD, I am your servant; *
**I am your servant and the child of your handmaid;
you have freed me from my bonds.**

I will offer you the sacrifice of thanksgiving *
and call upon the Name of the LORD.

I will fulfill my vows to the LORD *
in the presence of all his people,

In the courts of the LORD'S house, *
**in the midst of you, O Jerusalem.
Hallelujah!**

The Second Reading: A reading from Romans 5:1-8

Since we are justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ, through whom we have obtained access to this grace in which we stand; and we boast in our hope of sharing the glory of God. And not only that, but we also boast in our sufferings, knowing that

suffering produces endurance, and endurance produces character, and character produces hope, and hope does not disappoint us, because God's love has been poured into our hearts through the Holy Spirit that has been given to us. For while we were still weak, at the right time Christ died for the ungodly. Indeed, rarely will anyone die for a righteous person~ though perhaps for a good person someone might actually dare to die. But God proves his love for us in that while we still were sinners Christ died for us.

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

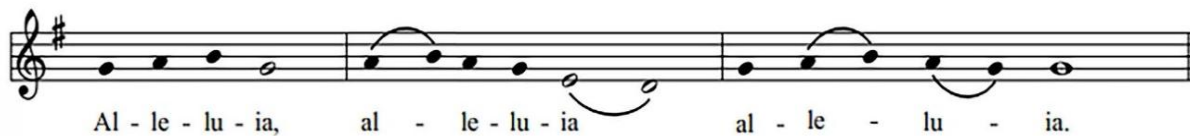
People Thanks be to God.

Please stand, as able.

Gospel Hymn #439

What wondrous love it this

Proulx Alleluia (sung twice before the Gospel and once after)



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 9:35-10:8

Jesus went about all the cities and villages, teaching in their synagogues, and proclaiming the good news of the kingdom, and curing every disease and every sickness. When he saw the crowds, he had compassion for them, because they were harassed and helpless, like sheep without a shepherd. Then he said to his disciples, "The harvest is plentiful, but the laborers are few; therefore ask the Lord of the harvest to send out laborers into his harvest."

Then Jesus summoned his twelve disciples and gave them authority over unclean spirits, to cast them out, and to cure every disease and every sickness. These are the names of the twelve apostles: first, Simon, also known as Peter, and his brother Andrew; James son of Zebedee, and his brother John; Philip and Bartholomew; Thomas and Matthew the tax collector; James son of Alphaeus, and Thaddaeus; Simon the Cananaean, and Judas Iscariot, the one who betrayed him.

These twelve Jesus sent out with the following instructions: "Go nowhere among the Gentiles, and enter no town of the Samaritans, but go rather to the lost sheep of the house of Israel. As you go, proclaim the good news, 'The kingdom of heaven has come near.' Cure the sick, raise the dead, cleanse the lepers, cast out demons. You received without payment; give without payment.

Celebrant The Gospel of the Lord.

People Praise to you, Lord Christ.

Proulx Alleluia (sung once)



All are seated.

The Sermon

The Rt Rev José McLoughlin

A time of silence following the sermon.

Please stand, as able.

Presentation and Examination of the Candidates

BCP 413

Bishop The Candidate for Reaffirmation will now be presented.

Presenter I present Sara Brown Davis who desires to reaffirm her baptismal vows.

Bishop The Candidates for Confirmation will now be presented.

Presenter I present Maeleigh Davis, Keel Davis, Joan Hoffman, Les Colvard, Carole Lentz and Isabel Tomé, to be confirmed into this Communion.

Bishop Do you reaffirm your renunciation of evil?

Candidates **I do.**

Bishop Do you renew your commitment to Jesus Christ?

Candidates **I do, and with God's grace I will follow him as my Savior and Lord.**

After the candidates have been presented, the Bishop addresses the congregation and says,

Bishop Will you who witness these vows do all in your power to support these persons in their life in Christ?

People **We will.**

Bishop Let us join with those who are committing themselves to Christ and renew our own baptismal covenant.

The Baptismal Covenant

Bishop Do you believe in God the Father?

People **I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth.**

Bishop Do you believe in Jesus Christ, the Son of God?

People **I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord.
He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit
and born of the Virgin Mary.
He suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, died, and was buried.
He descended to the dead.
On the third day he rose again.**

He ascended into heaven,
and is seated at the right hand of the Father.
He will come again to judge the living and the dead.

Bishop Do you believe in God the Holy Spirit?
People **I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic Church,
the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting.**

Bishop Will you continue in the apostles' teaching and
fellowship, in the breaking of bread, and in the prayers?
People **I will, with God's help.**

Bishop Will you persevere in resisting evil, and, whenever
you fall into sin, repent and return to the Lord?
People **I will, with God's help.**

Bishop Will you proclaim by word and example the Good
News of God in Christ?
People **I will, with God's help.**

Bishop Will you seek and serve Christ in all persons, loving
your neighbor as yourself?
People **I will, with God's help.**

Bishop Will you strive for justice and peace among all
people, and respect the dignity of every human being?
People **I will, with God's help.**

Prayers for the Candidates

Bishop Let us now pray for these persons who have renewed their commitment to Christ.
Silence.

Leader Deliver them, O Lord, from the way of sin and death.
People **Lord, hear our prayer.**

Leader Open their hearts to your grace and truth.
People **Lord, hear our prayer.**

Leader Fill them with your holy and life-giving Spirit.
People **Lord, hear our prayer.**

Leader Keep them in the faith and communion of your holy Church.
People **Lord, hear our prayer.**

Leader Teach them to love others in the power of the Spirit.
People **Lord, hear our prayer.**

Leader Send them into the world in witness to your love.
People **Lord, hear our prayer.**

Leader Bring them to the fullness of your peace and glory.

People **Lord, hear our prayer.**

Almighty God, we thank you that by the death and resurrection of your Son Jesus Christ you have overcome sin and brought us to yourself, and that by the sealing of your Holy Spirit you have bound us to your service. Renew in these your servants the covenant you made with them at their Baptism. Send them forth in the power of that Spirit to perform the service you set before them; through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

The Bishop lays hands on each Candidate for Confirmation and says,

Strengthen, O Lord, your servant Maeleigh with your Holy Spirit; empower her for your service; and sustain her all the days of her life. **Amen.**

Strengthen, O Lord, your servant Keel with your Holy Spirit; empower him for your service; and sustain him all the days of his life. **Amen.**

Strengthen, O Lord, your servant Joan with your Holy Spirit; empower her for your service; and sustain her all the days of her life. **Amen.**

Strengthen, O Lord, your servant Les with your Holy Spirit; empower him for your service; and sustain him all the days of his life. **Amen.**

Strengthen, O Lord, your servant Carole with your Holy Spirit; empower her for your service; and sustain her all the days of her life. **Amen.**

Strengthen, O Lord, your servant Isabel with your Holy Spirit; empower her for your service; and sustain her all the days of her life. **Amen.**

The Bishop lays hands on the Candidate for Reaffirmation and says,

Sara, may the Holy Spirit, who has begun a good work in you, direct and uphold you in the service of Christ and his kingdom. **Amen.**

Bishop Let us pray,

Almighty and everliving God, let your fatherly hand ever be over these your servants; let your Holy Spirit ever be with them; and so lead them into the knowledge and obedience of your Word, that they may serve you in this life, and dwell with you in the life to come; 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

Today's undesignated offering supports the Bishop's Discretionary Fund.

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

BCP, Eucharistic Prayer A, pgs 361-365

Presider The Lord be with you.
People **And also with you.**
Presider Lift up your hearts.
People **We lift them to the Lord.**
Presider Let us give thanks to the Lord our God
People **It is right to give God 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.

It is right, and a good and joyful thing, always and everywhere to give thanks to you, Father Almighty, Creator of heaven and earth. Through Jesus Christ our Lord; who on the first day of the week overcame death and the grave, and by his glorious resurrection opened to us the way of everlasting life. Therefore we praise you, joining our voices with Angels and Archangels and with all the company of heaven, who for ever sing this hymn to proclaim the glory of your Name:

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.

Please stand or kneel, as able.

Holy and gracious Father: In your infinite love you made us for yourself, and, when we had fallen into sin and become subject to evil and death, you, in your mercy, sent Jesus Christ, your only and eternal Son, to share our human nature, to live and die as one of us, to reconcile us to you, the God and Father of all.

He stretched out his arms upon the cross, and offered himself, in obedience to your will, a perfect sacrifice for the whole world.

On the night he was handed over to suffering and death, our Lord Jesus Christ 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."

Therefore we proclaim the mystery of faith:

Christ has died.

Christ is risen.

Christ will come again.

We celebrate the memorial of our redemption, O Father, in this sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving. Recalling his death, resurrection, and ascension, we offer you these gifts.

Sanctify them by your Holy Spirit to be for your people the Body and Blood of your Son, the holy food and drink of new and unending life in him. Sanctify us also that we may faithfully receive this holy Sacrament, and serve you in unity, constancy, and peace; and at the last day bring us with all your saints into the joy of your eternal kingdom.

All this we ask through your Son Jesus Christ: By him, and with him, and in him, in the unity of the Holy Spirit all honor and glory is yours, Almighty Father, now and for 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 Rt Rev José McLoughlin

Please stand, as able.

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 21:8-21

Psalms 86:1-10, 16-17

Romans 6:1b-11

Matthew 10:24-39

Prayer List

Intercessions:

Antje & Bill, Bob Bamberg, Bobbie Clark, Brenda Weems, Buck Hunnicutt, Carl & Carol Greer, Cathy Davis (The Rev), Charles McKelvy, Chris, Cliff & Kathy Hudgins, Cora Lee, Cynthia Grant, Diana Asher (Les' friend), Donna & Mike Hohnstine, Edwin, Erin Mohr, Gary Medley, Inza & Blair, Janice Harrison, Jonathan, Karen & Dick (Jann & Les' friends and Erin's parents), Laura Davis, Lora & Ray Neal, Lynn Ellis, Lynn & Ajit, Mackenzie Smythers, Margaret, Maria Chance, Raymond Hindman (Cara Todd's father), Rita Woodruff & Angelia Miller, Rod Pace & Louise Law, Rudy McKnight, Sue H (Nancy's friend), Ted Burcaw & family, 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: Cliff's father (June 10); David Piner, Ted Burcaw's husband;

Tom Wilson, Lora Neal's father

Birthdays: Ruthie Maxwell (June 18)

Wedding Anniversaries & Thanksgivings: Geoff & Shelley Jones (June 17)

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

In the Anglican Community: the Church of the Province of South East Asia

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

In Alleghany County: Landmark Union Baptist Church

Schedule

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

Tuesday, June 16

1:00 pm – Centering Prayer group

2:00 pm – Book Discussion group

Sunday, June 21 – The Fourth Sunday after Pentecost & Father’s Day

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

Coffee hour follows the service

Monday, June 22

10:00 am – Vestry meeting

Tuesday, June 23

1:00 pm – Centering Prayer group

2:00 pm – Book Discussion group

Sunday, June 28 – The Fifth Sunday after Pentecost

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

Coffee hour follows the service

Monday, June 29

1:00-3:00 pm – Golden Gamesters at the Social Scene

The following people are assisting with the services

Role	This Sunday	Next Sunday
Altar Guild	Louise Law	Louise Law
Chalice Bearer	Nancy Wilson	Bruce Smith
Lector I	Patti Phelps	Ann Hazard
Lector II	Patti Phelps	Ann Hazard
Prayers of the People	Patti Phelps	Ann Hazard
Greeter/Usher(s)	Jane & John Franck	Jann Boggs & Les Colvard

Please join us for lunch following the service.

Announcements

The Coffee Guild needs you! After a strong start, our Coffee Guild is struggling with not enough help and a few members out due to surgery recovery (Rod) or travel (Cynthia). This is a Sunday morning role. You would be responsible for opening the Parish Hall by 9:45 am (unlocking the doors and turning on the lights) and making the coffee. We use paper cups and supplies (sugar, sugar substitutes, dry creamer, stir sticks, etc) are stored in a lower cabinet or the fridge (creamer). If you think this is something you'd be interested and able to do, please let Mary Lee know.

Philadelphia 11 will be shown during coffee hour on Sunday, July 12th. We hope you'll join us in viewing this documentary film about the eleven women who defied Episcopal church leadership in the early 1970s and proceeded with their ordination service. At the time, the church system was still patriarchal and women were not considered appropriate or able to be called to the priesthood. These women followed their call and paved the way for others who came after them.

This year's Annual Parish Picnic will be on Sunday, Aug 9th. 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.

The 2026 Annual Diocesan Convention is scheduled for Saturday, November 7th and it will be held at Lake Logan Conference Center. If you'd like to attend the convention and serve as a delegate, please let Karla, a Vestry member or Mary Lee know. *More details are available in the GNN.*

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
June 14	Nancy Wilson	John Franck	<i>Spring into Summer lunch</i>
June 21			Nancy Wilson
June 28	Wanda McKnight		Wanda McKnight
July 5		Jim Halsey	Stella Daniel