

Christ Episcopal Church

Sparta, NC

A home to all sharing God's unconditional love.



The Fourth Sunday after Pentecost

June 21, 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:

Kathy Sugishita for serving as musician and for being so generous with her talents,

Louise Law for providing the beautiful flowers at the altar in honor of all fathers,

Denise Seckel for opening the Parish Hall and making coffee, and

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

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Cover art: Hagar & Ishmael in the desert by Jean Charles Cazin

The Gathering

Prelude

Kathy Sugishita

Announcements

Larry Seckel

Please stand, as able.

Processional Hymn #8

Morning has broken

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,

O Lord, make us have perpetual love and reverence for your holy Name, for you never fail to help and govern those whom you have set upon the sure foundation of your loving-kindness; 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 Genesis 21:8-21

The child grew, and was weaned; and Abraham made a great feast on the day that Isaac was weaned. But Sarah saw the son of Hagar the Egyptian, whom she had borne to Abraham, playing with her son Isaac. So she said to Abraham, "Cast out this slave woman with her son; for the son of this slave woman shall not inherit along with my son Isaac." The matter was very distressing to Abraham on account of his son. But God said to Abraham, "Do not be distressed because of the boy and because of your slave woman; whatever Sarah says to you, do as she tells you, for it is through Isaac that offspring shall be named for you. As for the son of the slave woman, I will make a nation of him also, because he is your offspring." So Abraham rose early in the morning, and took bread and a skin of water, and gave it to Hagar, putting it on her shoulder, along with the child, and sent her away. And she departed, and wandered about in the wilderness of Beer-sheba.

When the water in the skin was gone, she cast the child under one of the bushes. Then she went and sat down opposite him a good way off, about the distance of a bowshot; for she said, “Do not let me look on the death of the child.” And as she sat opposite him, she lifted up her voice and wept. And God heard the voice of the boy; and the angel of God called to Hagar from heaven, and said to her, “What troubles you, Hagar? Do not be afraid; for God has heard the voice of the boy where he is. Come, lift up the boy and hold him fast with your hand, for I will make a great nation of him.” Then God opened her eyes and she saw a well of water. She went, and filled the skin with water, and gave the boy a drink.

God was with the boy, and he grew up; he lived in the wilderness, and became an expert with the bow. He lived in the wilderness of Paran; and his mother got a wife for him from the land of Egypt.

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

People Thanks be to God.

The Response

Psalm 86:1-10, 16-17

Bow down your ear, O LORD, and answer me, *
for I am poor and in misery.

Keep watch over my life, for I am faithful; *
save your servant who puts his trust in you.

Be merciful to me, O LORD, for you are my God; *
I call upon you all the day long.

Gladden the soul of your servant, *
for to you, O LORD, I lift up my soul.

For you, O LORD, are good and forgiving, *
and great is your love toward all who call upon you.

Give ear, O LORD, to my prayer, *
and attend to the voice of my supplications.

In the time of my trouble I will call upon you, *
for you will answer me.

Among the gods there is none like you, O LORD, *
nor anything like your works.

All nations you have made will come and worship you, O LORD, *
and glorify your Name.

For you are great;
you do wondrous things; *
and you alone are God.

Turn to me and have mercy upon me; *
**give your strength to your servant;
and save the child of your handmaid.**

Show me a sign of your favor,
so that those who hate me may see it and be ashamed; *
because you, O LORD, have helped me and comforted me.

The Second Reading: A reading from Romans 6:1b-11

Should we continue in sin in order that grace may abound? By no means! How can we who died to sin go on living in it? Do you not know that all of us who have been baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into his death? Therefore we have been buried with him by baptism into death, so that, just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, so we too might walk in newness of life.

For if we have been united with him in a death like his, we will certainly be united with him in a resurrection like his. We know that our old self was crucified with him so that the body of sin might be destroyed, and we might no longer be enslaved to sin. For whoever has died is freed from sin. But if we have died with Christ, we believe that we will also live with him. We know that Christ, being raised from the dead, will never die again; death no longer has dominion over him. The death he died, he died to sin, once for all; but the life he lives, he lives to God. So you also must consider yourselves dead to sin and alive to God in Christ Jesus.

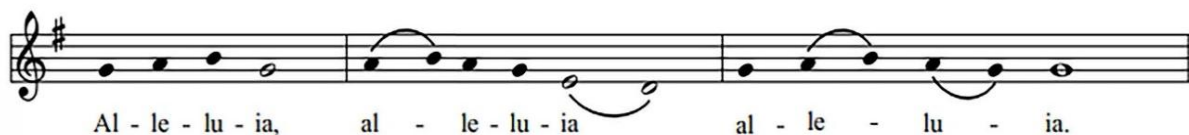
Reader Hear what the Spirit is saying to God's people.
People Thanks be to God.

Please stand, as able.

Gospel Hymn #686

Come, thou fount of every blessing

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 10:24-39

Jesus said to the twelve disciples, "A disciple is not above the teacher, nor a slave above the master; it is enough for the disciple to be like the teacher, and the slave like the master. If they have called the master of the house Beelzebul, how much more will they malign those of his household!

"So have no fear of them; for nothing is covered up that will not be uncovered, and nothing secret that will not become known. What I say to you in the dark, tell in the light; and what you hear whispered, proclaim from the housetops. Do not fear those who kill the body but cannot kill the soul; rather fear him who can destroy both soul and body in hell. Are not two sparrows sold for a penny? Yet not one of them will fall to the ground apart from your Father. And even the hairs of your head are all counted. So do not be afraid; you are of more value than many sparrows.

“Everyone therefore who acknowledges me before others, I also will acknowledge before my Father in heaven; but whoever denies me before others, I also will deny before my Father in heaven.

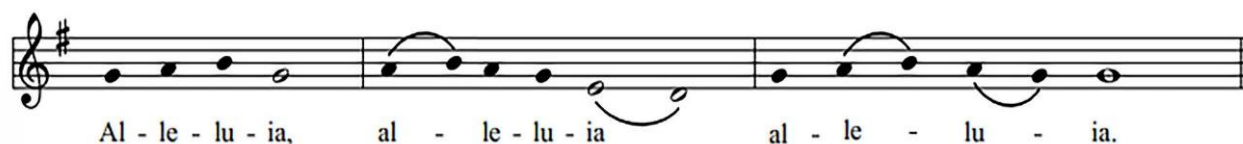
“Do not think that I have come to bring peace to the earth; I have not come to bring peace, but a sword.

For I have come to set a man against his father,
and a daughter against her mother,
and a daughter-in-law against her mother-in-law;
and one’s foes will be members of one’s own household.

Whoever loves father or mother more than me is not worthy of me; and whoever loves son or daughter more than me is not worthy of me; and whoever does not take up the cross and follow me is not worthy of me. Those who find their life will lose it, and those who lose their life for my sake will find it.”

Celebrant The Gospel of the Lord.
People Praise to you, Lord Christ.

Proulx *Alleluia* (sung once)



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.

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, and our Priest in Charge, Karla.
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

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

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

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

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 Karla Woggon

Please stand, as able.

Recessional Hymn #473

Lift high the cross

The Dismissal

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

People Thanks be to God. Alleluia, alleluia!

Postlude

Kathy Sugishita

Coming Lessons

Genesis 22:1-14

Psalm 13

Romans 6:12-23

Matthew 10:40-42

Prayer List

Intercessions:

Angie & Shane Sexton (Janice H's friends), Antje & Bill, Bob Bamberg's family, Bobbie Clark, Brenda Weems, Buck Hunnicutt, Carl & Carol Greer, Cathy Davis (The Rev), Charles McKelvy, Chris, Cliff & Kathy Hudgins, Cora Lee, Cynthia Grant, Denise & Larry Seckel's friend, Diana Asher (Les' friend), Donna & Mike Hohnstine, Edwin, Erin Mohr, Gary Medley, Hannah Mininni & her parents (Bob & Patty), Inza & Blair, Janice Harrison, Jonathan, Karen & Dick (Jann & Les' friends and Erin's parents), Laura Davis, Lora & Ray Neal, Lynn Ellis, Lynn & Ajit, 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: Thomas Hudgins (June 10), Bob Bamberg (June 13)

Birthdays: Gary Medley (June 22), Jim Halsey (June 26), Buck Hunnicutt (June 26)

Wedding Anniversaries & Thanksgivings:

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

In the Anglican Community: the Church of South India

In the Diocese of WNC: St John in the Wilderness at Flat Rock

In Alleghany County: Laurel Fork Presbyterian Church

Schedule

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

Tuesday, June 30

1:00 pm – Centering Prayer group

2:00 pm – Book Discussion group

Sunday, July 5 – The Sixth Sunday after Pentecost

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

Coffee hour follows the service

Monday, July 6 – the Office will be closed for the July 4th holiday

Tuesday, July 7

1:00 pm – Centering Prayer group

2:00 pm – Book Discussion group

Sunday, July 12 – The Seventh Sunday after Pentecost

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

Philadelphia 11 will be shown following the service during coffee hour

Tuesday, July 14

1:00 pm – Centering Prayer group

2:00 pm – Book Discussion group

The following people are assisting with the services

Role	This Sunday	Next Sunday
Altar Guild	Louise Law	Louise Law
Chalice Bearer	Bruce Smith	Patti Phelps
Lector I	Ann Hazard	Elizabeth Barr Bryant
Lector II	Ann Hazard	Elizabeth Barr Bryant
Prayers of the People	Ann Hazard	Elizabeth Barr Bryant
Greeter/Usher(s)	Jann Boggs & Les Colvard	Barbara & Jim Halsey

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 21	Louise Law	Denise Seckel	Nancy Wilson
June 28	Wanda McKnight	Denise Seckel	Wanda McKnight
July 5		Jim Halsey	Stella Daniel
July 12		Jim Halsey	

Happy Father's Day!

