

Christ Episcopal Church Sparta, NC

A home to all sharing God's unconditional love.



The Fifth Sunday after Pentecost June 28, 2026

The Rt. Rev José McLoughlin
Bishop of Western North Carolina

The Rev. Karla Woggon
Priest-in-Charge

Welcome to Christ Episcopal Church

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

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

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

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

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

We extend special thanks today to:

Victoria Fischer Faw for serving as musician and for being so generous with her talents,

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

Wanda McKnight for providing the beautiful flowers at the altar and 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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The Gathering

Prelude

Victoria Fischer Faw

Announcements

Larry Seckel

Please stand, as able.

Processional Hymn #429

I'll praise my Maker while I've breath

Remain standing, as able.

Opening Acclamation

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

People And blessed be God's 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 - might - y 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 God, you have built your Church upon the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Jesus Christ himself being the chief cornerstone: Grant us so to be joined together in unity of spirit by their teaching, that we may be made a holy temple acceptable to you; 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 22:1-14

God tested Abraham. He said to him, "Abraham!" And he said, "Here I am." He said, "Take your son, your only son Isaac, whom you love, and go to the land of Moriah, and offer him there as a burnt offering on one of the mountains that I shall show you." So Abraham rose early in the morning, saddled his donkey, and took two of his young men with him, and his son Isaac; he cut the wood for the burnt offering, and set out and went to the place in the distance that God had shown him. On the third day Abraham looked up and saw the place far away. Then Abraham said to his young men, "Stay here with the donkey; the boy and I will go over there; we will worship, and then we will come back to you." Abraham took the wood of the burnt offering and laid it on his son Isaac, and he himself carried the fire and the knife. So the two of them walked on together. Isaac said to his father Abraham, "Father!" And he said, "Here I am, my son." He said, "The fire

and the wood are here, but where is the lamb for a burnt offering?" Abraham said, "God himself will provide the lamb for a burnt offering, my son." So the two of them walked on together.

When they came to the place that God had shown him, Abraham built an altar there and laid the wood in order. He bound his son Isaac, and laid him on the altar, on top of the wood. Then Abraham reached out his hand and took the knife to kill his son. But the angel of the Lord called to him from heaven, and said, "Abraham, Abraham!" And he said, "Here I am." He said, "Do not lay your hand on the boy or do anything to him; for now I know that you fear God, since you have not withheld your son, your only son, from me." And Abraham looked up and saw a ram, caught in a thicket by its horns. Abraham went and took the ram and offered it up as a burnt offering instead of his son. So Abraham called that place "The Lord will provide"; as it is said to this day, "On the mount of the Lord it shall be provided."

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

The Response

Psalm 13

How long, O LORD?

will you forget me for ever? *

how long will you hide your face from me?

How long shall I have perplexity in my mind,

and grief in my heart, day after day? *

how long shall my enemy triumph over me?

Look upon me and answer me, O LORD my God; *

give light to my eyes, lest I sleep in death;

Lest my enemy say, "I have prevailed over him," *

and my foes rejoice that I have fallen.

But I put my trust in your mercy; *

my heart is joyful because of your saving help.

I will sing to the LORD, for he has dealt with me richly; *

I will praise the Name of the Lord Most High.

The Second Reading: A reading from Romans 6:12-23

Do not let sin exercise dominion in your mortal bodies, to make you obey their passions. No longer present your members to sin as instruments of wickedness, but present yourselves to God as those who have been brought from death to life, and present your members to God as instruments of righteousness. For sin will have no dominion over you, since you are not under law but under grace.

What then? Should we sin because we are not under law but under grace? By no means! Do you not know that if you present yourselves to anyone as obedient slaves, you are slaves of the one whom you obey, either of sin, which leads to death, or of obedience, which leads to righteousness? But thanks be to God that you, having once been slaves of sin, have become obedient from the heart to the form of teaching to which you were entrusted, and that you, having been set free from

sin, have become slaves of righteousness. I am speaking in human terms because of your natural limitations. For just as you once presented your members as slaves to impurity and to greater and greater iniquity, so now present your members as slaves to righteousness for sanctification.

When you were slaves of sin, you were free in regard to righteousness. So what advantage did you then get from the things of which you now are ashamed? The end of those things is death. But now that you have been freed from sin and enslaved to God, the advantage you get is sanctification. The end is eternal life. For the wages of sin is death, but the free gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.

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

People Thanks be to God.

Please stand, as able.

Gospel Hymn #518

Christ is made the sure foundation

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 10:40-42

Jesus said, "Whoever welcomes you welcomes me, and whoever welcomes me welcomes the one who sent me. Whoever welcomes a prophet in the name of a prophet will receive a prophet's reward; and whoever welcomes a righteous person in the name of a righteous person will receive the reward of the righteous; and whoever gives even a cup of cold water to one of these little ones in the name of a disciple~ truly I tell you, none of these will lose their reward."

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.**

Confession of Sin

Presider Let us humbly confess our sins unto Almighty God.

A period of silence will be observed.

**All Most merciful God,
 we confess that we have sinned against thee
 in thought, word, and deed,
 by what we have done,
 and by what we have left undone.
 We have not loved thee with our whole heart;
 we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves.
 We are truly sorry and we humbly repent.
 For the sake of thy Son Jesus Christ,
 have mercy on us and forgive us;
 that we may delight in thy will,
 and walk in thy ways,
 to the glory of thy Name. Amen.**

Presider Almighty God, our heavenly Father, who of his great mercy hath promised
 forgiveness of sins to all those who with hearty repentance and true faith turn unto

him, have mercy upon you, pardon and deliver you from all your sins, confirm and strengthen you in all goodness, and bring you to everlasting life; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Please stand, as able.

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

Victoria Fischer Faw

Please stand, as able.

Doxology

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

The Great Thanksgiving

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

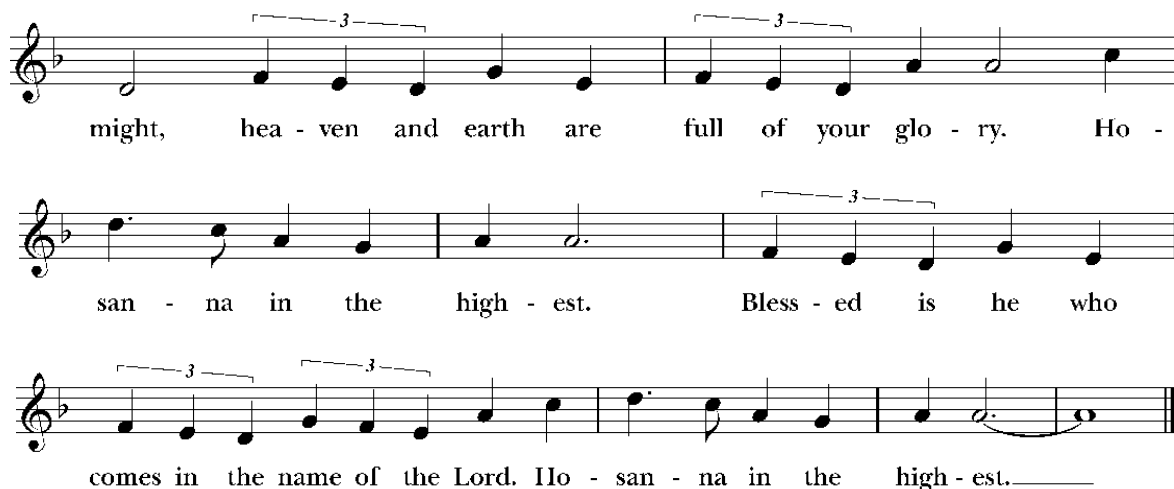
People **It is right to give God thanks and praise.**

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)*





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

Victoria Fischer Faw

Surely the Presence of the Lord

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

Please stand or kneel, as able.

Prayer after Communion

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 #291

We plow the fields

The Dismissal

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

People Thanks be to God. Alleluia, alleluia!

Postlude

Victoria Fischer Faw

Coming Lessons

Genesis 24:34-38, 42-49, 58-67

Psalms 45:11-18

Song of Solomon 2:8-13

Romans 7:15-25a

Matthew 11:16-19, 25-30

Prayer List

Intercessions:

Angie & Shane Sexton (Janice H's friends), Antje & Bill, Bob Matthias (The Rev), Brenda Weems, Buck Hunnicutt, Carl & Carol Greer, Cathy Davis (The Rev) & her family following the death of her mother, Charles McKelvy, Chris, Cliff & Kathy Hudgins, Cora Lee, Cynthia Grant, Diana Asher (Les' friend), Donna & Mike Hohnstine, Edwin, Erin Mohr, Gary Medley, Hannah Mininni and her parents (Bob & Patty), Inza & Blair, Janice Harrison, Jonathan, Karen & Dick (Jann & Les' friends and Erin's parents), Lynn Ellis, Lynn & Ajit, Margaret, Raymond Hindman (Cara Todd's father), Rita Woodruff & Angelia Miller, Rudy McKnight, Terry & Bess, and Vanita. We also pray for all those impacted by violence & war and natural disasters, our local neighbors that fear detention, and we pray for Christ Church, its leaders & ministry teams.

Departed: Elizabeth Edwards Newberry, Cathy Davis's mother (June 22)

Birthdays: Patty Mininni (TODAY!), Nancy Wilson (July 4)

Wedding Anniversaries & Thanksgivings:

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

In the Anglican Community: the Anglican Church of Southern Africa

In the Diocese of WNC: Church of our Saviour in Lincolnton

In Alleghany County: Laurel Springs Missionary Baptist Church

Schedule

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	Jeanne Green
Chalice Bearer	Patti Phelps	Nancy Wilson
Lector I	Elizabeth Barr Bryant	Elizabeth Barr Bryant
Lector II	Elizabeth Barr Bryant	Elizabeth Barr Bryant
Prayers of the People	Elizabeth Barr Bryant	Elizabeth Barr Bryant
Greeter/Usher(s)	Barbara & Jim Halsey	Cynthia Grant

Announcements

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. *Popcorn & soda will be provided.*

A CHANGE in our schedule Our Annual Picnic has been a tumbleweed this year! After getting bumped by the bishop's visit in June, the Vestry decided that the month of August is one of our hottest months here in Sparta so **the date of the picnic has been postponed to Sunday, Sept 13.** And we'll go ahead and have our picnic **here at CC this year to make it convenient for everyone in terms of parking & accessibility.** So ~~mark off Aug 9th~~ and **ink in Sunday, Sept 13th!** *Details and a sign-up sheet will follow in August.*

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 28	Wanda McKnight	Denise Seckel	Wanda McKnight
July 5		Frank Hazard	Stella Daniel
July 12		Jim Halsey	Mary Lee Joines
July 19	Jann Boggs	Rod Pace	