

Christ Episcopal Church

Sparta, NC

A home to all sharing God's unconditional love.



The Ninth Sunday after Pentecost

July 26, 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,

Rod Pace for opening the Parish Hall and making coffee,

Doris King's family for providing the beautiful flowers at the altar in honor of her birthday,
and

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

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Cover – Teacher by J Kirk Richards

The Gathering

Prelude

Jonathan Halsey

Announcements

Frank Hazard

Please stand, as able.

Processional Hymn #594

God of grace and God of glory

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 - 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 God, the protector of all who trust in you, without whom nothing is strong, nothing is holy: Increase and multiply upon us your mercy; that, with you as our ruler and guide, we may so pass through things temporal, that we lose not the things eternal; 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 29:15-28

Laban said to Jacob, "Because you are my kinsman, should you therefore serve me for nothing? Tell me, what shall your wages be?" Now Laban had two daughters; the name of the elder was Leah, and the name of the younger was Rachel. Leah's eyes were lovely, and Rachel was graceful and beautiful. Jacob loved Rachel; so he said, "I will serve you seven years for your younger daughter Rachel." Laban said, "It is better that I give her to you than that I should give her to any other man; stay with me." So Jacob served seven years for Rachel, and they seemed to him but a few days because of the love he had for her.

Then Jacob said to Laban, "Give me my wife that I may go in to her, for my time is completed." So Laban gathered together all the people of the place, and made a feast. But in the evening he took his daughter Leah and brought her to Jacob; and he went in to her. (Laban gave his maid Zilpah to

his daughter Leah to be her maid.) When morning came, it was Leah! And Jacob said to Laban, "What is this you have done to me? Did I not serve with you for Rachel? Why then have you deceived me?" Laban said, "This is not done in our country—giving the younger before the firstborn. Complete the week of this one, and we will give you the other also in return for serving me another seven years." Jacob did so, and completed her week; then Laban gave him his daughter Rachel as a wife.

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

People Thanks be to God.

The Response

Psalm 105:1-11, 45b

Give thanks to the LORD and call upon his Name; *
 make known his deeds among the peoples.

Sing to him, sing praises to him, *
 and speak of all his marvelous works.

Glory in his holy Name; *
 let the hearts of those who seek the LORD rejoice.

Search for the LORD and his strength; *
 continually seek his face.

Remember the marvels he has done, *
 his wonders and the judgments of his mouth,

O offspring of Abraham his servant, *
 O children of Jacob his chosen.

He is the LORD our God; *
 his judgments prevail in all the world.

He has always been mindful of his covenant, *
 the promise he made for a thousand generations:

The covenant he made with Abraham, *
 the oath that he swore to Isaac,

Which he established as a statute for Jacob, *
 an everlasting covenant for Israel,

Saying, "To you will I give the land of Canaan *
 to be your allotted inheritance."

Hallelujah!

The Second Reading: A reading from Romans 8:26-39

The Spirit helps us in our weakness; for we do not know how to pray as we ought, but that very Spirit intercedes with sighs too deep for words. And God, who searches the heart, knows what is the mind of the Spirit, because the Spirit intercedes for the saints according to the will of God.

We know that all things work together for good for those who love God, who are called according to his purpose. For those whom he foreknew he also predestined to be conformed to the image of his Son, in order that he might be the firstborn within a large family. And those whom he predestined he also called; and those whom he called he also justified; and those whom he justified he also glorified.

What then are we to say about these things? If God is for us, who is against us? He who did not withhold his own Son, but gave him up for all of us, will he not with him also give us everything else? Who will bring any charge against God's elect? It is God who justifies. Who is to condemn? It is Christ Jesus, who died, yes, who was raised, who is at the right hand of God, who indeed intercedes for us. Who will separate us from the love of Christ? Will hardship, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or peril, or sword? As it is written,

“For your sake we are being killed all day long;
we are accounted as sheep to be slaughtered.”

No, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him who loved us. For I am convinced that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor rulers, nor things present, nor things to come, nor powers, nor height, nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God 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 #513

Like the murmurs of the dove's song

Proulx Alleluia (sung twice)



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 13:31-33,44-52

Jesus put before the crowds another parable: “The kingdom of heaven is like a mustard seed that someone took and sowed in his field; it is the smallest of all the seeds, but when it has grown it is the greatest of shrubs and becomes a tree, so that the birds of the air come and make nests in its branches.”

He told them another parable: “The kingdom of heaven is like yeast that a woman took and mixed in with three measures of flour until all of it was leavened.”

“The kingdom of heaven is like treasure hidden in a field, which someone found and hid; then in his joy he goes and sells all that he has and buys that field.

“Again, the kingdom of heaven is like a merchant in search of fine pearls; on finding one pearl of great value, he went and sold all that he had and bought it.

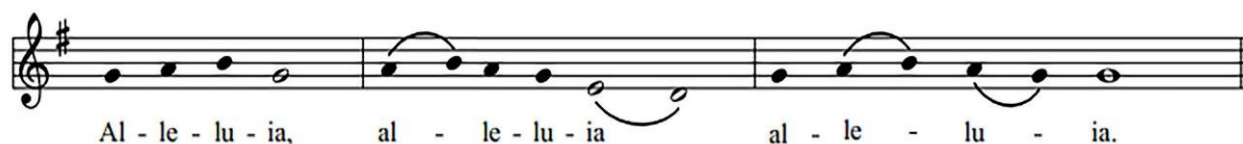
“Again, the kingdom of heaven is like a net that was thrown into the sea and caught fish of every kind; when it was full, they drew it ashore, sat down, and put the good into baskets but threw out the bad. So it will be at the end of the age. The angels will come out and separate the evil from the righteous and throw them into the furnace of fire, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.

“Have you understood all this?” They answered, “Yes.” And he said to them, “Therefore every scribe who has been trained for the kingdom of heaven is like the master of a household who brings out of his treasure what is new and what is old.”

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. <i>Please add your own petitions silently or aloud.</i>

Silence

Confession of Sin

Celebrant Let us confess our sins against God and our neighbor.

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

Celebrant Almighty God have mercy on you, forgive you all your sins through our Lord Jesus Christ, strengthen you in all goodness, and by the power of the Holy Spirit keep you in eternal life. 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

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

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 right, and a good and joyful thing, always and everywhere to give thanks to you, Father Almighty, Creator of heaven and earth.

Proper Preface of the day

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.

The musical score is written on four staves in G-clef (treble clef) and 4/4 time. The melody is simple and hymn-like. The lyrics are written below the notes. There are three triplets marked with a '3' and a bracket. The first triplet is on the first staff, the second on the second staff, and the third on the fourth staff. The score ends with a double bar line.

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 Rev Karla Woggon

Please stand, as able.

Recessional Hymn #488

Be thou my vision

The Dismissal

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

People Thanks be to God. Alleluia.

Postlude

Jonathan Halsey

Coming Lessons

Genesis 32:22-31

Psalm 17:1-7, 16

Romans 9:1-5

Matthew 14:13-21

Prayer List

Intercessions:

Allan Joyce, Buck Hunnicutt, Chris, Denise Seckel, Denise & Larry's friend, Diana Asher (Les' friend), Edwin (Nancy's brother), Erin Mohr & her family, Karen & Dick Dewald (Erin's parents), Linda Williams & David Williams & family, Mindy (Vanessa's friend), Rita Woodruff (Jay's mother), Shannan Roark, Steve (Vanessa's friend), Terry & Bess (Ann's BIL & sister). We also pray for all those impacted by violence, war and/or weather disasters, our local neighbors that fear detention, and Christ Church, its leaders & ministry teams.

Long-term prayers:

Angelia Miller, Antje & Bill, Brenda Weems, Carl & Carol Greer, Cathy Davis (The Rev), Coralie & her mother, Mary, Donna & Mike Hohnstine, Gary Medley, Inza & Blair, Isabel (Vanessa's mother), Janice Harrison, Jonathan, Linda/Cindy/Trent (Ann's friends), Lynn Ellis, Lynn & Ajit, Margaret, Raymond Hindman (Cara Todd's father), Rudy McKnight, Susan & Jim Doss (The Rev), Tom & Kate Warndorf (Larry & Denise's friends), and Vanita.

Departed:

Birthdays: Doris King (July 27), Gayle Ferguson (July 28)

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 Tanzania

In the Diocese of WNC: St James in Black Mountain, Hendersonville, and Lenoir

In Alleghany County: Little River Primitive Baptist Church

The following people are assisting with the services

Role	This Sunday	Next Sunday
Altar Guild	Jeanne Green	Jeanne Green
Chalice Bearer	Patti Phelps	Nancy Wilson
Lector I	Cliff Hudgins	Mary Lee Joines
Lector II	Cliff Hudgins	Mary Lee Joines
Prayers of the People	Cliff Hudgins	Mary Lee Joines
Greeter/Usher(s)	Barbara & Jim Halsey	Jann Boggs & Les Colvard

Schedule

Sunday, July 26 – The Ninth Sunday after Pentecost

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

Coffee hour follows the service

Monday, July 27

10:00 am – Vestry meeting

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

Tuesday, July 28

1:00-4:00 pm – *a deep dive into the Enneagram with Julie Smith*

Sunday, August 2 – The Tenth Sunday after Pentecost

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

Coffee hour follows the service

Tuesday, August 4

9:30 am – 2:00 pm – *Volunteers are at SRFC*

1:00 pm – Centering Prayer group

2:00 pm – Book Discussion group

Wednesday, August 5

9:30 am – 2:00 pm – *Volunteers are at SRFC*

11:00 am – Audit team meets in the narthex

Sunday, August 9 – The Eleventh Sunday after Pentecost

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

Coffee hour follows the service

Worship team meets

Monday, August 10

10:00 am – 25th Anniversary Planning meeting in the Parish Hall

Tuesday, August 11

9:30 am – 2:00 pm – *Volunteers are at SRFC*

1:00 pm – Centering Prayer group

2:00 pm – Book Discussion group

Announcements

The Centering Prayer/Book Discussion group will be hosting, Julie Smith, an Enneagram Consultant and someone who works at the Center on Action and Contemplation. She will lead a workshop for us **THIS Tuesday, July 28 from 1:00-4:00 pm**. This workshop is *for those who know the type they identify with and who are committed to growing using the Enneagram*. After the workshop, the Centering Prayer group will use *The Enneagram of the Soul* by Nhien Vuong to continue this path. If you are interested in attending, please let Patti Phelps know **TODAY** – frankandpatti@yahoo.com. *The registration is limited*. For more information, read the GNN.

The first Sunday of the month is **NEXT Sunday, August 2nd**, and we'll collect money gifts, nonperishable food and/or personal care items for our local food closet, Solid Rock Food Closet (SRFC). You can share non-perishable food and/or personal care items (*most in need right now are toilet paper, laundry detergent, and/or sweet individually-wrapped treats for the Summer Backpack Pals Program*). 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!

A big THANK YOU to all who signed up to help at the Solid Rock Food Closet! Volunteers will be helping **every Tuesday and Wednesday of August** and the hours are **9:30-2:00**. A copy of the schedule is posted on the office door and on the information table bulletin board. If you have any questions, contact Wanda McKnight at 615.707.0266 or wandagmcknight@gmail.com.

Living & Dying Well – Sundays: Aug 30, Sept 27, and Oct 25 from 12:00 – 1:00 pm
What does it mean to live well, even as we near the end of life? Have you made arrangements for your funeral? Does your family know where all your important documents are? Do you know where your parents' or loved ones' important documents are? Or what their wishes are?

Join us for a three-week series exploring the acclaimed PBS Frontline documentary *Being Mortal*, based on surgeon and writer Atul Gawande's bestselling book. Through intimate stories of patients, families, and doctors, the film asks hard but important questions about aging, illness, autonomy, and what truly matters when time is limited. The first two sessions include a portion of the film followed by open, faith-grounded conversation. The third session will include practical handouts for planning your funeral and making sure your family has all the documents they need. You're welcome to attend one or all three weeks. This is a gentle, thoughtful space to reflect on mortality, care for loved ones, and hope. Led by The Rev Karla Woggon. *Please sign up for each session so we can plan accordingly.*

Our Annual Picnic is scheduled for Sunday, Sept 13 here at Christ Church following the service. *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 finishing up Richard Rohr's book, *Falling Upwards*.

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
July 26	Doris King's family	Rod Pace	Cynthia Grant
Aug 2		John Franck	Louise Law
Aug 9		Marybeth Lentz	Jane Franck
Aug 16		Cynthia Grant	Arnold & Rebecca Gain