

Christ Episcopal Church
Sparta, NC

A home to all sharing God's unconditional love.



The Tenth Sunday after Pentecost
August 2, 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:

Laura Davis for serving as musician and for being so generous with her talents,

Cynthia Grant for opening the Parish Hall and making coffee,

Wanda McKnight for providing the beautiful flowers at the altar, and

Louise Law 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 art: Five loaves & two fish by Audrey Gaines

The Gathering

Prelude

Laura Davis

Announcements

Larry Seckel

Please stand, as able.

Processional Hymn #304

I come with joy to meet my Lord

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,

Let your continual mercy, O Lord, cleanse and defend your Church; and, because it cannot continue in safety without your help, protect and govern it always by your goodness; 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 32:22-31

The same night Jacob got up and took his two wives, his two maids, and his eleven children, and crossed the ford of the Jabbok. He took them and sent them across the stream, and likewise everything that he had. Jacob was left alone; and a man wrestled with him until daybreak. When the man saw that he did not prevail against Jacob, he struck him on the hip socket; and Jacob's hip was put out of joint as he wrestled with him. Then he said, "Let me go, for the day is breaking." But Jacob said, "I will not let you go, unless you bless me." So he said to him, "What is your name?" And he said, "Jacob." Then the man said, "You shall no longer be called Jacob, but Israel, for you have striven with God and with humans, and have prevailed." Then Jacob asked him, "Please tell me your name." But he said, "Why is it that you ask my name?" And there he blessed him. So Jacob

called the place Peniel, saying, "For I have seen God face to face, and yet my life is preserved." The sun rose upon him as he passed Penuel, limping because of his hip.

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

The Response

Psalm 17:1-7, 16

Hear my plea of innocence, O LORD;
give heed to my cry; *
listen to my prayer, which does not come from lying lips.
Let my vindication come forth from your presence; *
let your eyes be fixed on justice.
Weigh my heart, summon me by night, *
melt me down; you will find no impurity in me.
I give no offense with my mouth as others do; *
I have heeded the words of your lips.
My footsteps hold fast to the ways of your law; *
in your paths my feet shall not stumble.
I call upon you, O God, for you will answer me; *
incline your ear to me and hear my words.
Show me your marvelous loving-kindness, *
**O Savior of those who take refuge at your right hand
from those who rise up against them.**
But at my vindication I shall see your face; *
**when I awake, I shall be satisfied, beholding
your likeness.**

The Second Reading: A reading from Romans 9:1-5

I am speaking the truth in Christ~ I am not lying; my conscience confirms it by the Holy Spirit~ I have great sorrow and unceasing anguish in my heart. For I could wish that I myself were accursed and cut off from Christ for the sake of my own people, my kindred according to the flesh. They are Israelites, and to them belong the adoption, the glory, the covenants, the giving of the law, the worship, and the promises; to them belong the patriarchs, and from them, according to the flesh, comes the Messiah, who is over all, God blessed forever. **Amen.**

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

Please stand, as able.

Gospel Hymn #665

All my hope on God is founded

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 14:13-21

Jesus withdrew in a boat to a deserted place by himself. But when the crowds heard it, they followed him on foot from the towns. When he went ashore, he saw a great crowd; and he had compassion for them and cured their sick. When it was evening, the disciples came to him and said, "This is a deserted place, and the hour is now late; send the crowds away so that they may go into the villages and buy food for themselves." Jesus said to them, "They need not go away; you give them something to eat." They replied, "We have nothing here but five loaves and two fish." And he said, "Bring them here to me." Then he ordered the crowds to sit down on the grass. Taking the five loaves and the two fish, he looked up to heaven, and blessed and broke the loaves, and gave them to the disciples, and the disciples gave them to the crowds. And all ate and were filled; and they took up what was left over of the broken pieces, twelve baskets full. And those who ate were about five thousand men, besides women and children.

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

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

Laura Davis

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. _____

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

Laura Davis

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 #390

Praise to the Lord

The Dismissal

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

People Thanks be to God. Alleluia.

Postlude

Laura Davis

Coming Lessons

Genesis 37:1-4, 12-28

Psalm 105:1-6, 16-22, 45b

Romans 10:5-15

Matthew 14:22-33

The following people are assisting with the services

Role	This Sunday	Next Sunday
Altar Guild	Nancy Wilson	Nancy Wilson
Chalice Bearer	Nancy Wilson	Jonathan Halsey
Lector I	Mary Lee Joines	Patti Phelps
Lector II	Mary Lee Joines	Patti Phelps
Prayers of the People	Mary Lee Joines	Patti Phelps
Greeter/Usher(s)	Jann Boggs & Les Colvard	Jane & John Franck

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), Leann & Hywel & Emrys & Lillwen (Ann), Linda Williams & David Williams & family, Mindy (Vanessa's friend), Rita Woodruff, 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: John Ferguson (Aug 7)

Wedding Anniversaries & Thanksgivings: John & Pat Bassett (Aug 3), Libba Evans & Jim Lambie (Aug 6)

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 Uganda

In the Diocese of WNC: Church of the Transfiguration in Bat Cave and Saluda

In Alleghany County: Macedonia Free Will Baptist Church

Schedule

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

3:15 pm – Outreach meeting

Wednesday, August 12

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

Sunday, August 16 – The Twelfth Sunday after Pentecost

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

Coffee hour follows the service

2:00 pm – Graveside service for Jesse Williams

Monday, August 17

10:00 am – Vestry meeting

Tuesday, August 18

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

1:00 pm – Centering Prayer group

2:00 pm – Book Discussion group

Wednesday, August 19

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

Sunday, August 23 – The Thirteenth Sunday after Pentecost

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

Coffee hour follows the service

Tuesday, August 25

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

1:00 pm – Centering Prayer group

2:00 pm – Book Discussion group

Wednesday, August 26

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

Sunday, August 30 – The Fourteenth Sunday after Pentecost

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

Coffee hour follows the service

12:00 – 1:00 pm – Living & Dying Well, The Rev Karla Woggon in the Parish Hall

Announcements

The first Sunday of the month is TODAY, 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!

We are accepting cash donations and/or school supply donations through tomorrow morning, August 3rd. Donations can be left at the office. Our donations will join other churches' donations at the Sheriff's Annual School Supply Event at the end of this week.

The Worship Team meets next Sunday, August 9 following coffee hour.

The 25th Anniversary Planning Team meets on Monday, August 10 at 10:00 am in the Parish Hall.

Outreach Team is meeting on Tuesday, August 11 at 3:15 pm.

The Centering Prayer/Book Discussion groups continue on Tuesdays at 1:00 pm and 2:00 pm The Centering Prayer group will use *The Enneagram of the Soul* by Nhien Vuong to continue learning more about the enneagram. If you have any questions, contact Patti Phelps at frankandpatti@yahoo.com.

Beginning THIS week, our members/friends will be volunteering at 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.

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
Aug 2	Wanda McKnight	Cynthia Grant	Louise Law
Aug 9		Marybeth Lentz	Jane Franck
Aug 16		John Franck	Arnold & Rebecca Gain
Aug 23		Jim Halsey	Barbara Halsey