

Christ Episcopal Church

Sparta, NC

A home to all sharing God's unconditional love.



The Fourteenth Sunday after Pentecost

August 30, 2026

The Rev. Karla Woggon
Priest-in-Charge
Episcopal Diocese of Western North Carolina

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,

Rod Pace for opening the Parish Hall and making coffee,

Ann & Frank Hazard for the beautiful flowers at the altar in celebration of their daughter,
Bonnie Renee's 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 art: My burning bush by Ain Vares

The Gathering

Prelude

Laura Davis

Announcements

Larry Seckel

Please stand, as able.

Processional Hymn #609

Where cross the crowded ways of life

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,

Lord of all power and might, the author and giver of all good things: Graft in our hearts the love of your Name; increase in us true religion; nourish us with all goodness; and bring forth in us the fruit of good works; 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 Exodus 3:1-15

Moses was keeping the flock of his father-in-law Jethro, the priest of Midian; he led his flock beyond the wilderness, and came to Horeb, the mountain of God. There the angel of the Lord appeared to him in a flame of fire out of a bush; he looked, and the bush was blazing, yet it was not consumed. Then Moses said, "I must turn aside and look at this great sight, and see why the bush is not burned up." When the Lord saw that he had turned aside to see, God called to him out of the bush, "Moses, Moses!" And he said, "Here I am." Then he said, "Come no closer! Remove the sandals from your feet, for the place on which you are standing is holy ground." He said further, "I am the God of your father, the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob." And Moses hid his face, for he was afraid to look at God.

Then the Lord said, "I have observed the misery of my people who are in Egypt; I have heard their cry on account of their taskmasters. Indeed, I know their sufferings, and I have come down to deliver them from the Egyptians, and to bring them up out of that land to a good and broad land, a land flowing with milk and honey, to the country of the Canaanites, the Hittites, the Amorites, the Perizzites, the Hivites, and the Jebusites. The cry of the Israelites has now come to me; I have also seen how the Egyptians oppress them. So come, I will send you to Pharaoh to bring my people, the Israelites, out of Egypt."

But Moses said to God, "Who am I that I should go to Pharaoh, and bring the Israelites out of Egypt?" He said, "I will be with you; and this shall be the sign for you that it is I who sent you: when you have brought the people out of Egypt, you shall worship God on this mountain." But Moses said to God, "If I come to the Israelites and say to them, 'The God of your ancestors has sent me to you,' and they ask me, 'What is his name?' what shall I say to them?" God said to Moses, "I am who I am." He said further, "Thus you shall say to the Israelites, 'I am has sent me to you.'" God also said to Moses, "Thus you shall say to the Israelites, 'The Lord, the God of your ancestors, the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob, has sent me to you':

This is my name forever,
and this my title for all generations.

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

The Response

Psalm 105:1-6, 23-26, 45c

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.

Israel came into Egypt, *
 and Jacob became a sojourner in the land of Ham.

The LORD made his people exceedingly fruitful; *
 he made them stronger than their enemies;

Whose heart he turned, so that they hated his people, *
 and dealt unjustly with his servants.

He sent Moses his servant, *
and Aaron whom he had chosen.
Hallelujah!

The Second Reading: A reading from Romans 12:9-21

Let love be genuine; hate what is evil, hold fast to what is good; love one another with mutual affection; outdo one another in showing honor. Do not lag in zeal, be ardent in spirit, serve the Lord. Rejoice in hope, be patient in suffering, persevere in prayer. Contribute to the needs of the saints; extend hospitality to strangers.

Bless those who persecute you; bless and do not curse them. Rejoice with those who rejoice, weep with those who weep. Live in harmony with one another; do not be haughty, but associate with the lowly; do not claim to be wiser than you are. Do not repay anyone evil for evil, but take thought for what is noble in the sight of all. If it is possible, so far as it depends on you, live peaceably with all. Beloved, never avenge yourselves, but leave room for the wrath of God; for it is written, "Vengeance is mine, I will repay, says the Lord." No, "if your enemies are hungry, feed them; if they are thirsty, give them something to drink; for by doing this you will heap burning coals on their heads." Do not be overcome by evil, but overcome evil with good.

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

People Thanks be to God.

Please stand, as able.

Gospel Hymn #325

Let us break bread together

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 16:21-28

Jesus began to show his disciples that he must go to Jerusalem and undergo great suffering at the hands of the elders and chief priests and scribes, and be killed, and on the third day be raised. And Peter took him aside and began to rebuke him, saying, "God forbid it, Lord! This must never happen to you." But he turned and said to Peter, "Get behind me, Satan! You are a stumbling block to me; for you are setting your mind not on divine things but on human things."

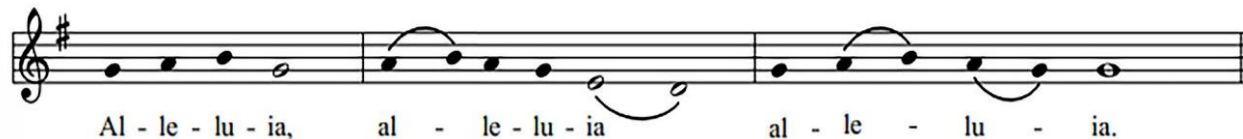
Then Jesus told his disciples, "If any want to become my followers, let them deny themselves and take up their cross and follow me. For those who want to save their life will lose it, and those who lose their life for my sake will find it. For what will it profit them if they gain the whole world but forfeit their life? Or what will they give in return for their life?"

“For the Son of Man is to come with his angels in the glory of his Father, and then he will repay everyone for what has been done. Truly I tell you, there are some standing here who will not taste death before they see the Son of Man coming in his kingdom.”

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 Search Committee, 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

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.

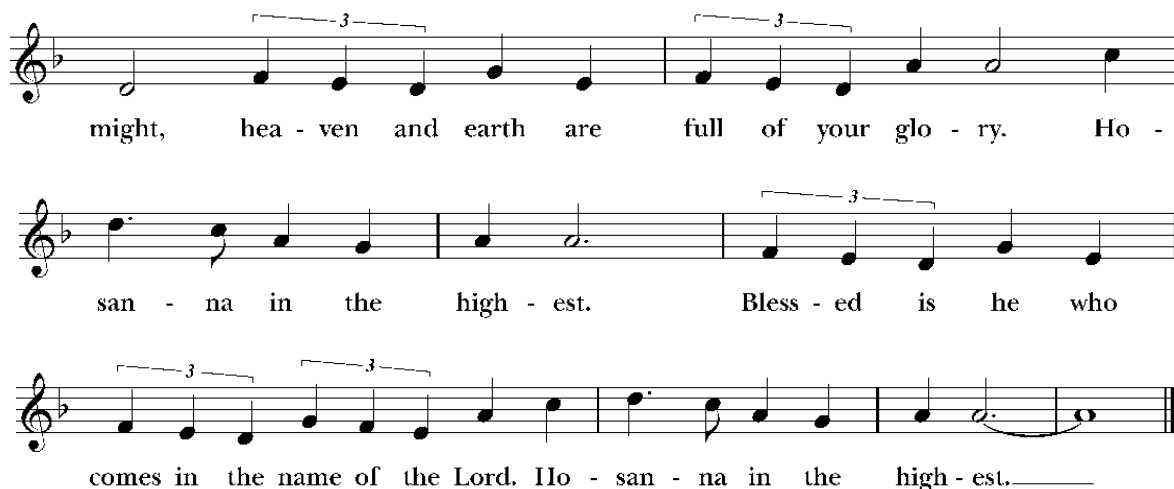
It is right, and a good and joyful thing, always and everywhere to give thanks to you, Father
Almighty, Creator of heaven and earth.

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)*





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

Exodus 12:1-14

Psalms 149

Romans 13:8-14

Matthew 18:15-20

The following people are assisting with the services

Role	This Sunday	Next Sunday
Altar Guild	Nancy Wilson	Louise Law
Chalice Bearer	Elizabeth Barr Bryant	Nancy Wilson
Lector I	Geoff Jones	Cliff Hudgins
Lector II	Geoff Jones	Cliff Hudgins
Prayers of the People	Geoff Jones	Cliff Hudgins
Greeter/Usher(s)	Barbara & Jim Halsey	Patti Phelps & Ruthie Maxwell

Prayer List

Intercessions:

Antje & Bill, Bob & Emma Caswell, Brenda Weems, Chris, Denise Seckel, Diana Asher (Les' friend), Donald & Audrey Carter (Denise & Larry's friend), Erin Mohr & her family, Janice & Ken Kleva, Jeff (community friend) & his wife Karen, John & Diane (Judy's BIL & sister), John & Jane Gehring, Karen & Dick Dewald (Erin's parents), Louise Law, Martha Honaker, Marybeth Lentz, Michael, and Sally & Chuck Besaw. We also pray for all those impacted by violence, war, fires, and weather disasters, our local neighbors that fear detention, and Christ Church, its leaders & ministry teams.

Long-term prayers:

Buck Hunnicutt, Carl & Carol Greer, Cathy Davis (The Rev), Coralie & her mother Mary, Donna & Mike Hohnstine, Edwin (Nancy's brother), Gary Medley & Allan Joyce, Gwen (Ann), Inza & Blair, Isabel, Janice Harrison, Jonathan, Linda/Cindy/Trent, Lynn Ellis, Lynn & Ajit, Margaret, Raymond Hindman, Rita Woodruff, Rudy McKnight, Susan & Jim Doss (The Rev), Tom & Kate Warndorf, and Vanita.

Departed:

Birthdays: Marybeth Lentz (Today! Aug 30)

Wedding Anniversaries & Thanksgivings: Cliff & Kathy Hudgins (Sept 3)

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

In the Anglican Community: the Church of the Province of West Indies

In the Diocese of WNC: All Saint's in Linville and Church of the Resurrection in Little Switzerland

In Alleghany County: Mt Carmel Church of the Brethren, the Main Street businesses & individuals impacted by the fire this past week

Schedule

Sunday, August 30 – The Fourteenth Sunday after Pentecost

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

Coffee hour follows the service

Ten Thousand Villages sale in the Parish Hall during coffee hour

12:00 – 1:00 pm – Living & Dying Well

Tuesday, September 1

1:00 pm – Centering Prayer group

2:00 pm – Book Discussion group

Sunday, September 6 – The Fifteenth Sunday after Pentecost

10:30 am – Holy Eucharist with The Rev Martha Honaker

Coffee hour follows the service

Ten Thousand Villages sale in the Parish Hall during coffee hour

Monday, September 7 – Labor Day – the office will be closed today

Tuesday, September 8

1:00 pm – Centering Prayer group

2:00 pm – Book Discussion group

Sunday, September 13 – The Sixteenth Sunday after Pentecost

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

Annual Picnic follows the service

Tuesday, September 15

1:00 pm – Centering Prayer group

2:00 pm – Book Discussion group

Announcements

Living & Dying Well – Begins TODAY, Sunday: Aug 30! The other two classes will be on **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.

TODAY: Ten Thousand Villages items will be sold in the Parish Hall during coffee hour. *Cash or check only. All the proceeds will benefit our outreach efforts.*

NEXT SUNDAY: The first Sunday of the month we 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. 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!

There's a new shopping list for the Solid Rock Food Closet in the red wagon. See what's most needed and contribute what you can. *A new notice from the food closet asks that we double-check expiration dates because they cannot accept expired items.*

The Season of Creation will be honored on Sundays beginning September 13th and finishing up October 4th. *For more information, please read further in the bulletin.*

Our Annual Picnic is scheduled for Sunday, Sept 13 here at Christ Church following the service. *The sign-up sheet is available on the information table.*

Do you want to participate more fully during our worship services? There are different ways you can participate from serving as a greeter/usher, a crucifer, an Altar Guild member or a lector. *For more information, please read the GNN.*

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. All are welcome to join either or both groups.

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 30	Ann & Frank Hazard	Rod Pace	Cynthia Grant
Sept 6	Wanda McKnight	Rod Pace	Wanda McKnight
Sept 13	Mary Lee Joines	Rod Pace	Annual Picnic!
Sept 20	Judy Ritchie	Rod Pace	

The Season of Creation

The Season of Creation is celebrated by Christians around the world as a time for renewing, repairing, and restoring our relationship with God, one another, and all of creation. **At Christ Church, we will celebrate Creation Season from September 13 – October 4 with special liturgies and activities.**

Our Sunday morning liturgy will reflect the focus on creation. We will be using new prayers, a creed, confession, and Eucharistic Prayer recommended by the National Episcopal Church. The hymns will also reflect creation themes.

Additional celebrations:

Sunday September 13: Annual Parish Picnic here at Christ Church.

Sunday September 20 at 4:00 pm: Outdoor Celtic Christian Eucharist marking the fall equinox. We will meet at **Wildcat Rock**, which is just past the Bluffs Lodge in Doughton Park on the BRP. *{You keep bearing to the left and drive to the parking lot beyond the Lodge. We'll meet right at the base of the water tower.}* Bring a camp chair to sit on and invite a friend.

October 4 at 2:00 pm: Blessing of the Animals will be held in the lower parking lot of Christ Church. We encourage all who would like their pet to be blessed to arrive before 2:00 pm and make sure you have control of them at all times. If your animal friend is *not able* to be around other animals, let us know and stay with your animal in your vehicle.