

Christ Episcopal Church

Sparta, NC

A home to all sharing God's unconditional love.



The Twenty-first Sunday after Pentecost

October 18, 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:

The Rev Dr Katherine Shaner for leading our worship this morning.

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

Marybeth Lentz for opening the Parish Hall and making coffee,

Doris King for the beautiful flowers at the altar in loving memory of her father's birthday, and

Mary Lee Joines for providing our 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: Render unto Caesar by J Kirk Richards

The Gathering

Prelude

Kathy Sugishita

Announcements

Louise Law

Please stand, as able.

Processional Hymn #448

O love, how deep

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.**

Song of Praise, hymn #376, vs 1

Joyful, joyful, we adore thee

*Joyful, joyful, we adore thee,
God of glory, Lord of love;
hearts unfold like flowers before thee,
praising thee, their sun above.
Melt the clouds of sin and sadness;
drive the dark of doubt away;
giver of immortal gladness,
fill us with the light of day.*

Celebrant The Lord be with you.

People **And also with you.**

Celebrant Let us pray.

The Collect of the Day

Almighty and everlasting God, in Christ you have revealed your glory among the nations: Preserve the works of your mercy, that your Church throughout the world may persevere with steadfast faith in the confession of your Name; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. **Amen.**

Please be seated.

Liturgy of the Word

First Reading: A reading from Exodus 33:12-23

Moses said to the Lord, "See, you have said to me, 'Bring up this people'; but you have not let me know whom you will send with me. Yet you have said, 'I know you by name, and you have also found favor in my sight.' Now if I have found favor in your sight, show me your ways, so that I may know you and find favor in your sight. Consider too that this nation is your people."

He said, "My presence will go with you, and I will give you rest." And he said to him, "If your presence will not go, do not carry us up from here. For how shall it be known that I have found favor in your sight, I and your people, unless you go with us? In this way, we shall be distinct, I and your people, from every people on the face of the earth."

The Lord said to Moses, "I will do the very thing that you have asked; for you have found favor in my sight, and I know you by name." Moses said, "Show me your glory, I pray." And he said, "I will make all my goodness pass before you, and will proclaim before you the name, 'The Lord'; and I will be gracious to whom I will be gracious, and will show mercy on whom I will show mercy. But," he said, "you cannot see my face; for no one shall see me and live." And the Lord continued, "See, there is a place by me where you shall stand on the rock; and while my glory passes by I will put you in a cleft of the rock, and I will cover you with my hand until I have passed by; then I will take away my hand, and you shall see my back; but my face shall not be seen."

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

The Response

Psalm 99

The LORD is King;
let the people tremble; *

**he is enthroned upon the cherubim;
let the earth shake.**

The LORD is great in Zion; *
he is high above all peoples.

Let them confess his Name, which is great and awesome; *
he is the Holy One.

"O mighty King, lover of justice,
you have established equity; *
you have executed justice and righteousness in Jacob."

Proclaim the greatness of the LORD our God
and fall down before his footstool; *
he is the Holy One.

Moses and Aaron among his priests,
and Samuel among those who call upon his Name, *
they called upon the LORD, and he answered them.

He spoke to them out of the pillar of cloud; *
they kept his testimonies and the decree that he gave them.

O LORD our God, you answered them indeed; *
**you were a God who forgave them,
yet punished them for their evil deeds.**

Proclaim the greatness of the LORD our God
and worship him upon his holy hill; *
for the LORD our God is the Holy One.

The Second Reading: A reading from 1 Thessalonians 1:1-10

Paul, Silvanus, and Timothy, To the church of the Thessalonians in God the Father and the Lord Jesus Christ:

Grace to you and peace.

We always give thanks to God for all of you and mention you in our prayers, constantly remembering before our God and Father your work of faith and labor of love and steadfastness of hope in our Lord Jesus Christ. For we know, brothers and sisters beloved by God, that he has chosen you, because our message of the gospel came to you not in word only, but also in power and in the Holy Spirit and with full conviction; just as you know what kind of persons we proved to be among you for your sake. And you became imitators of us and of the Lord, for in spite of persecution you received the word with joy inspired by the Holy Spirit, so that you became an example to all the believers in Macedonia and in Achaia. For the word of the Lord has sounded forth from you not only in Macedonia and Achaia, but in every place your faith in God has become known, so that we have no need to speak about it. For the people of those regions report about us what kind of welcome we had among you, and how you turned to God from idols, to serve a living and true God, and to wait for his Son from heaven, whom he raised from the dead - Jesus, who rescues us from the wrath that is coming.

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 22: 15-22

The Pharisees went and plotted to entrap Jesus in what he said. So they sent their disciples to him, along with the Herodians, saying, "Teacher, we know that you are sincere, and teach the way of God in accordance with truth, and show deference to no one; for you do not regard

people with partiality. Tell us, then, what you think. Is it lawful to pay taxes to the emperor, or not?" But Jesus, aware of their malice, said, "Why are you putting me to the test, you hypocrites? Show me the coin used for the tax." And they brought him a denarius. Then he said to them, "Whose head is this, and whose title?" They answered, "The emperor's." Then he said to them, "Give therefore to the emperor the things that are the emperor's, and to God the things that are God's." When they heard this, they were amazed; and they left him and went away.

Celebrant The Gospel of the Lord.

People Praise to you, Lord Christ.



All are seated.

The Sermon

The Rev Dr Katherine Shaner

A time of silence following the sermon.

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.

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, our Priest in Charge, Karla, and our Celebrant, Katherine.
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.

The Peace

Celebrant The peace of God is with you.

People And also with you.

Please greet one another in a way that is comfortable as a sign of our participation in Christ's reconciling work in the world.

Please be seated.

Offertory Music

Kathy Sugishita

Please stand, as able.

Doxology

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

The Great Thanksgiving

Eucharistic Prayer I, EOW, pg 114

Celebrant The Lord be with you.

People And also with you.

Celebrant Lift up your hearts.

People We lift them to the Lord.

Celebrant Let us give thanks to the Lord our God

People It is right to give God thanks and praise.

Praise and thanks are yours, our Creating God. From the dust of the earth you shaped human beings in your own image, and you filled the earth and seas and skies with a myriad of wonders. Yet we consistently turn your generosity into our scarcity, your elegance into our meanness, and your simplicity into our corruption. Though we poison and destroy your good Creation, you continue to offer us your abundance. In your mercy, you have redeemed us through your Son, Jesus, transforming death into life.

Through the Spirit you continue to call us into covenant with you—for the restoration of Creation and the reconciliation of all people.

And so we give you thanks, rejoicing with all of Creation, as we join the saints and angels in their unending hymn:

Sanctus: (*sung by all*)

The Land of Rest tune

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow - er and

might, Heav'n 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, ho - san - na in the high - est!

The musical score is written on four staves in G major (one sharp) and 4/4 time. The melody is simple and hymn-like, with lyrics printed below each staff. The first staff ends with a double bar line, and the fourth staff ends with a double bar line and repeat dots.

In the night that Jesus was betrayed, he took bread, and gave thanks to God. He broke the bread, gave it to his friends and said: “Take and eat, for this is my body, given for you. Do this in remembrance of me.”

He took the wine, and gave thanks to God, Creator. He gave it to his friends saying: “This is my blood of the new covenant, shed for you and for all creation for the forgiveness of sins. Every time you drink of the wine, do this in remembrance of me.”

So we proclaim the mystery of faith:

Christ has died.

Christ is risen.

Christ will come again.

Merciful God, we come to this table seeking reconciliation: with you, with one another, and with all creation. Through these mysteries reconcile us to our world and empower us to restore your Creation and fulfill your will. Send your life-giving Spirit upon us, and upon this bread and wine. Stir in us the creative and redeem the destructive.

Heal your stricken world, that the soil, the skies, and the seas may be filled with your life anew.

Fill every heart with the sure and certain hope that we shall enter into the fullness of your joy, when your whole Creation is justified by faith and sanctified by love, and you are all in all. Through Christ and with Christ and in Christ, in the unity of the Spirit, all honor and glory is yours, everlasting God, now and forever. **AMEN.**

The Lord's Prayer

Our Father, who art in heaven,
hallowed be thy Name,
thy kingdom come,
thy will be done,
on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread.
And forgive us our trespasses,
as we forgive those
who trespass against us.
And lead us not into temptation,
but deliver us from evil.
For thine is the kingdom,
and the power, and the glory,
for ever and ever. Amen.

The Breaking of the Bread

A period of silence is kept.

Fraction: S154 (*sung by all*)

This setting is not used in Lent.

Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.
Christ our Pass - o - ver is sac - ri - ficed for us;
there - fore let us keep the feast.
Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.

Music: From *New Plainsong*; David Hurd (b. 1950). Copyright © 1981 GIA Publications, Inc.

The Invitation to Holy Communion

All who seek God and are drawn to Christ are welcome at the Lord's Table.

If you are gluten allergic, please ask for a rice wafer at the distribution.

Please be seated.

Communion Music

Kathy Sugishita

Surely the Presence of the Lord *(sing twice)*

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

EOW, pg 58

Celebrant Let us pray,

Loving God, we give you thanks for restoring us in your image and nourishing us with Spiritual food in the Sacrament of Christ's Body and Blood. Now send us forth a people, forgiven, healed, renewed; that we may proclaim your love to the world and continue in the risen life of Christ our Savior. Amen.

Blessing

The Rev Dr Katherine Shaner

Please stand, as able.

Recessional Hymn #455

O Love of God

The Dismissal

Celebrant Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.

People Thanks be to God.

Postlude

Kathy Sugishita

Coming Lessons

Deuteronomy 34:1-12

Psalm 90:1-6, 13-17

1 Thessalonians 2:1-8

Matthew 22:34-46

Prayer List

Intercessions for Members & Friends:

Allan Joyce, Brenda Weems, Buck Hunnicutt, Cara Todd, Denise Seckel, Gary Medley, Janice Harrison, John & Jane Gehring, Ken & Janice Kleva, Margaret, Martha Honaker (The Rev), Sally & Chuck Besaw, Sara Brown Davis, Rita Woodruff, and Susan & Jim Doss (The Rev). We also pray for Cliff & Kathy, Geoff & his family, Jeanne, Marybeth, and the Reid/Williams' families as they grieve.

Intercessions for Community Friends & our Family Members:

Antje & Bill, Carol Greer, Cathy Davis (The Rev), Chris, Debbie & Doug Bebbler (Cynthia's friends), Coralie & her mother Mary, Diana Asher, Donald & Audrey Carter, Donna & Mike Hohnstine, Edwin (Nancy's brother), Erin Mohr & her family, Gwen (Ann), Inza & Blair, Isabel Tomé, Jeff & his wife Karen, Jerry & Theresa (Ann's friends), Jim & Diane (Nancy's BIL & sister), John & Diane (Judy's BIL & sister), Karen & Dick Dewald, Jonathan, Langhorne Jones, Linda/Cindy/Trent, Liz Lee Williamson (Mary Lee's cousin), Lynn Ellis, Lynn & Ajit, Michael, Raymond Hindman (Cara Todd's father), Rudy McKnight, Tom Warndorf, and Vanita. And we pray for all those impacted by violence, war and weather disasters; our local neighbors that fear detention; and Christ Church, its leaders & ministry teams.

Departed:

Birthdays: John Bassett (TODAY – Oct 18)

Wedding Anniversaries & Thanksgivings: David & Mary Lee Joines (Oct 22)

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

In the Anglican Community: the Anglican Church of Canada

In the Diocese of WNC: St Luke's in Asheville, Boone, and Lincolnton

In Alleghany County: New Home Freewill Baptist Church

The following people are assisting with the services

Role	This Sunday	Next Sunday
Altar Guild	Marybeth Lentz	Marybeth Lentz
Chalice Bearer	Jeanne Green	Bruce Smith
Lector	Patti Phelps	Elizabeth Barr Bryant
Prayers of the People	Patti Phelps	Elizabeth Barr Bryant
Greeter/Usher(s)	Patti Phelps & Ruthie Maxwell	Barbara & Jim Halsey

Schedule

Sunday, October 18 – The Twenty-first Sunday after Pentecost

10:30 am – Holy Eucharist with The Rev Dr Katherine Shaner

Coffee hour follows the service

Monday, October 19

11:00 am – Vestry meeting

Tuesday, October 20

1:00 pm – Centering Prayer group

2:00 pm – Book Discussion group

3:15 pm – Outreach Team meeting

Sunday, October 25 – The Twenty-second 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 with The Rev Karla Woggon

2:00 pm – Blessing of the Animals in the lower lot

Monday, October 26

10:00 am – 25th Anniversary Planning Team meeting

12:00 pm – 2027 Budget Prep meeting

Tuesday, October 27

1:00 – 4:00 pm – Follow-up class on the Enneagram & Spirituality led by Julie Smith

Sunday, November 1 – All Saints Sunday

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

Coffee hour follows the service

Announcements

NEXT Sunday: Living & Dying Well – Sunday, Oct 25 from 12:00 – 1:00 pm The third session will include practical handouts for planning your funeral and making sure your family has all the documents they need. We hope you'll join us. This is a gentle, thoughtful space to reflect on mortality, care for loved ones, and hope. Led by The Rev Karla Woggon.

NEXT Sunday: Blessing of the Animals service – Sunday, Oct 25th at 2:00 pm. 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.

REMINDER: Outreach team meeting THIS Tuesday, Oct 20th at 3:00 pm.

COMING SOON: Julie Smith, the Enneagram Teacher who was with us in August, is coming back to lead a follow up class. She will meet with us on **Tuesday, Oct 27th from 1:00-4:00 pm** to explore spirituality and the enneagram. The Centering Prayer group has been reading the *Enneagram of the Soul* which also teaches about how to grow in our understanding of God in our lives through the enneagram. **REMEMBER** to let Patti Phelps or Mary Lee know if you plan to attend. **ALL are WELCOME!**

All Saints Sunday is November 1st. We like to acknowledge those we've lost by listing their names in the November 1st bulletin and by bringing a photo of that person to put on one of the window sills in the sanctuary. If you'd like to include someone in the bulletin, please send an email to Mary Lee with the person's name and how they're related to you. *We'll need the names no later than Wed, October 28th.*

Pledge cards were mailed out recently. Please contact Mary Lee if you *did not* receive yours or if you have questions. We encourage you to prayerfully consider making a pledge. Completed pledge cards can be put in the offering plate, mailed to PO Box 1866, or dropped off at the office.

REMINDER: If you have any Christ Church memorabilia (old photos, newsletters, etc), please bring it to the Parish Hall and drop it off in the marked area. The 25th Anniversary Planning Team are working to gather important items for display and to share.

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.*

We take an offering for the Solid Rock Food Closet the first Sunday of each month. If you'd like to give, make sure you write 'SRFC' or 'food closet' on your check or offering envelope. Another way to give is with a donation of non-perishable food, cleaning supplies, paper products, and/or personal care products. Just bring those items and leave them in the red wagon in the narthex. Wanda will make sure they get to the food closet. Periodically, the food closet will share a list of what they need most. **There's a mini shopping list in the red wagon.** *A new notice from the food closet asks that we double-check expiration dates because they cannot accept expired items.*

Monthly Altar Flowers and Coffee Hour sign-ups:

Date	Altar Flowers	Coffee Guild	Coffee Hour
Oct 18	Doris King	Marybeth Lentz	Mary Lee Joines
Oct 25	Barbara Halsey	Marybeth Lentz	Barbara Halsey
Nov 1	Marybeth Lentz	Cynthia Grant	Marybeth Lentz
Nov 8	Cynthia Grant	Jim Halsey	