Christ Episcopal Church

Sparta, NC

A home to all sharing God's unconditional love.



The Twenty-second Sunday after Pentecost

October 25, 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 worshiping 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, and

Barbara & Jim Halsey for providing the beautiful flowers at the altar in honor of Isabel Tomé and for 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

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Office hours: Monday, Tuesday, Thursday 8:00-1:00, Wednesday remote
All other music used by permission CCLI License #11138616
Cover art: *The Commandment of the Cross: 'The Pharisees Question Jesus' by James Tissot*

The Gathering

Prelude Jonathan Halsey

Announcements Louise Law

Please stand, as able.

Processional Hymn #688 *A mighty fortress is our God*

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

Almighty and everlasting God, increase in us the gifts of faith, hope, and charity; and, that we may obtain what you promise, make us love what you command; 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 Deuteronomy 34:1-12

Moses went up from the plains of Moab to Mount Nebo, to the top of Pisgah, which is opposite Jericho, and the LORD showed him the whole land: Gilead as far as Dan, all Naphtali, the land of Ephraim and Manasseh, all the land of Judah as far as the Western Sea, the Negeb, and the Plain—that is, the valley of Jericho, the city of palm trees—as far as Zoar. The LORD said to him, "This is the land of which I swore to Abraham, to Isaac, and to Jacob, saying, 'I will give it to your

descendants'; I have let you see it with your eyes, but you shall not cross over there." Then Moses, the servant of the LORD, died there in the land of Moab, at the LORD's command. He was buried in a valley in the land of Moab, opposite Beth-peor, but no one knows his burial place to this day. Moses was one hundred twenty years old when he died; his sight was unimpaired and his vigor had not abated. The Israelites wept for Moses in the plains of Moab thirty days; then the period of mourning for Moses was ended.

Joshua son of Nun was full of the spirit of wisdom, because Moses had laid his hands on him; and the Israelites obeyed him, doing as the LORD had commanded Moses.

Never since has there arisen a prophet in Israel like Moses, whom the LORD knew face to face. He was unequaled for all the signs and wonders that the LORD sent him to perform in the land of Egypt, against Pharaoh and all his servants and his entire land, and for all the mighty deeds and all the terrifying displays of power that Moses performed in the sight of all Israel.

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

The Response
Psalm 90:1-6, 13-17

Lord, you have been our refuge *
from one generation to another.

Before the mountains were brought forth,
or the land and the earth were born, *
from age to age you are God.

You turn us back to the dust and say, *
"Go back, O child of earth."

For a thousand years in your sight are like yesterday when it is past *
and like a watch in the night.

You sweep us away like a dream; *
we fade away suddenly like the grass.

In the morning it is green and flourishes; *
in the evening it is dried up and withered.

Return, O LORD; how long will you tarry? *
be gracious to your servants.

Satisfy us by your loving-kindness in the morning; *
so shall we rejoice and be glad all the days of our life.

Make us glad by the measure of the days that you afflicted us *
and the years in which we suffered adversity.

Show your servants your works *
and your splendor to their children.

May the graciousness of the LORD our God be upon us; *
prosper the work of our hands;
prosper our handiwork.

The Second Reading: A reading from 1 Thessalonians 2:1-8
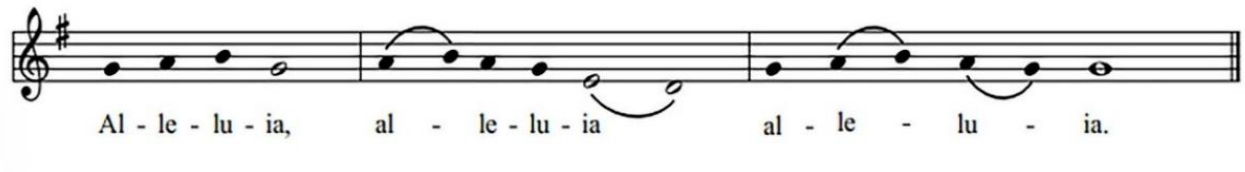
You yourselves know, brothers and sisters, that our coming to you was not in vain, but though we had already suffered and been shamefully mistreated at Philippi, as you know, we had courage in our God to declare to you the gospel of God in spite of great opposition. For our appeal does not spring from deceit or impure motives or trickery, but just as we have been approved by God to be entrusted with the message of the gospel, even so we speak, not to please mortals, but to please God who tests our hearts. As you know and as God is our witness, we never came with words of flattery or with a pretext for greed; nor did we seek praise from mortals, whether from you or from others, though we might have made demands as apostles of Christ. But we were gentle among you, like a nurse tenderly caring for her own children. So deeply do we care for you that we are determined to share with you not only the gospel of God but also our own selves, because you have become very dear to us.

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

Please stand, as able.

Gospel Hymn #493 *O for a thousand tongues to sing*

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 22:34-46
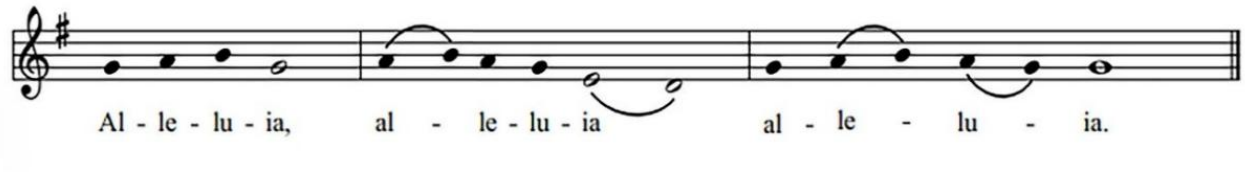
When the Pharisees heard that Jesus had silenced the Sadducees, they gathered together, and one of them, a lawyer, asked him a question to test him. "Teacher, which commandment in the law is the greatest?" He said to him, "'You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your mind.' This is the greatest and first commandment. And a second is like it: 'You shall love your neighbor as yourself.' On these two commandments hang all the law and the prophets."

Now while the Pharisees were gathered together, Jesus asked them this question: "What do you think of the Messiah? Whose son is he?" They said to him, "The son of David." He said to them, "How is it then that David by the Spirit calls him Lord, saying,

'The Lord said to my Lord,
"Sit at my right hand,
until I put your enemies under your feet"'?

If David thus calls him Lord, how can he be his son?" No one was able to give him an answer, nor from that day did anyone dare to ask him any more questions.

Celebrant The Gospel of the Lord.
People **Praise to you, Lord Christ.**



All are seated.

The Sermon

The Rev Karla Woggon

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, 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.**

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

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

Eucharistic Prayer I, EOW, pg 114

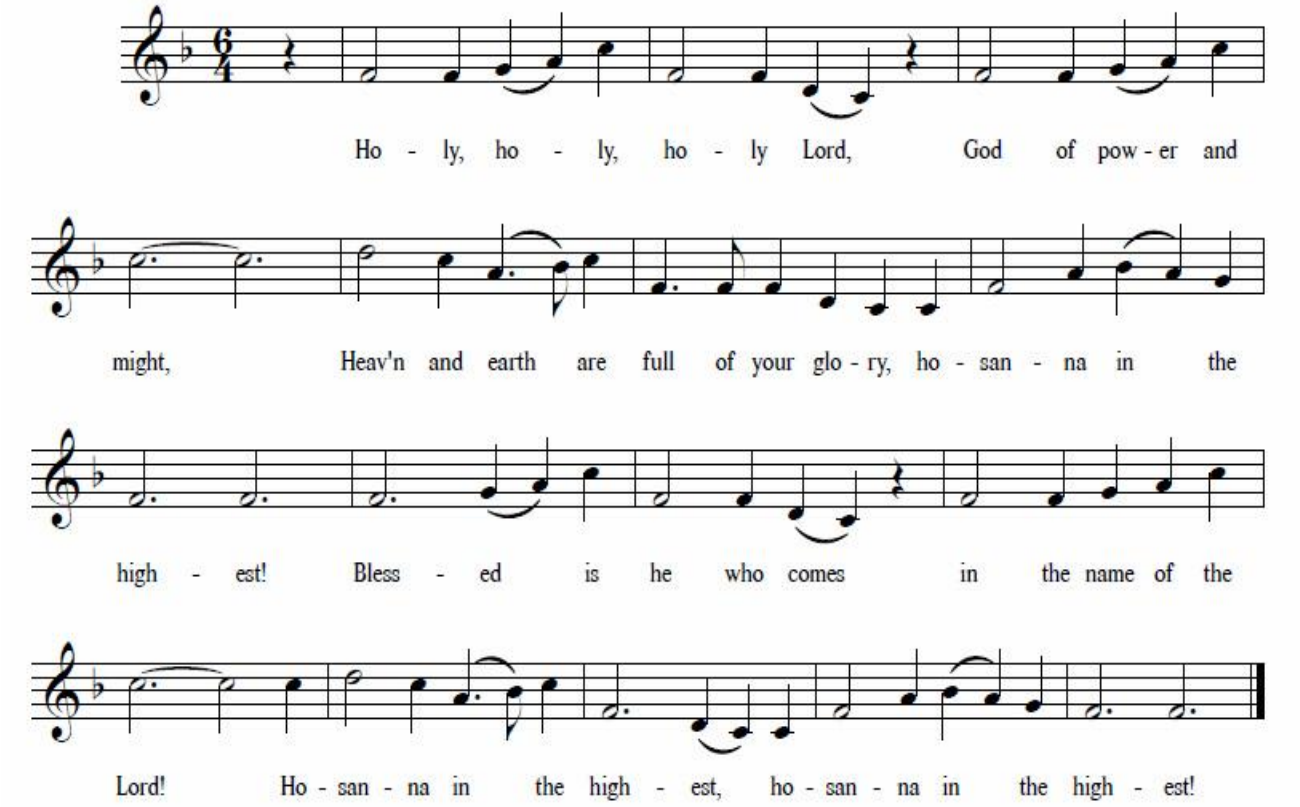
Celebrant The Lord be with you.
People **And also with you.**
Celebrant Lift up your hearts.
People **We lift them to the Lord.**
Celebrant Let us give thanks to the Lord our God
People **It is right to give God thanks and praise.**

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*



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**.

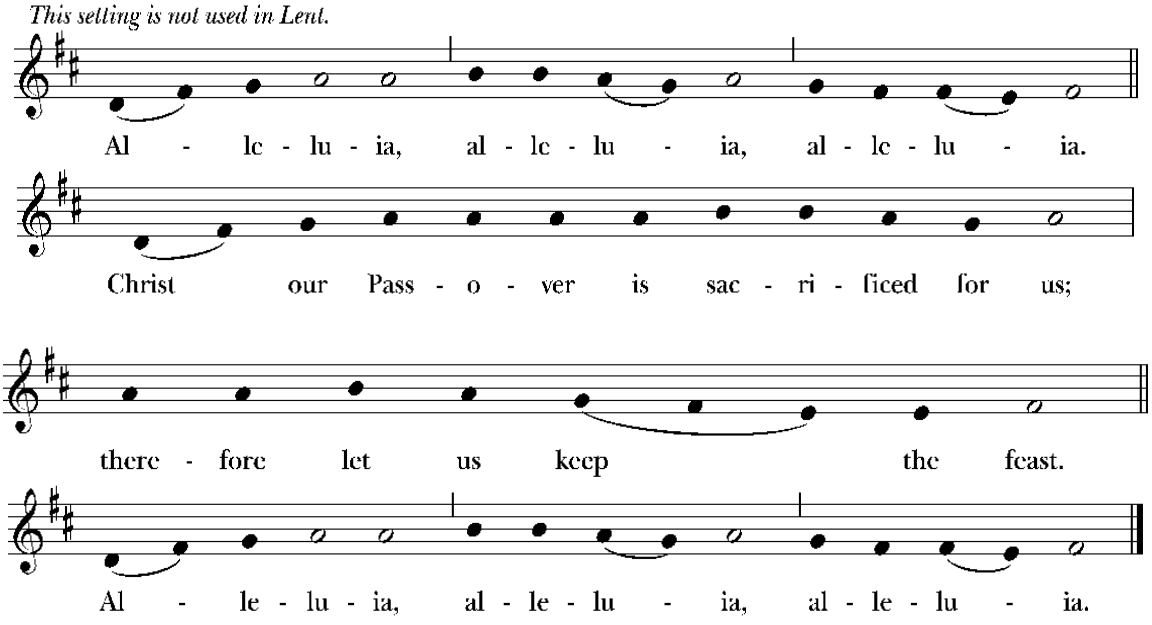
The Lord's Prayer

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)*



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 *(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 Karla Woggon

Please stand, as able.

Recessional Hymn #535 *Ye servants of God*

The Dismissal

Celebrant Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.
People **Thanks be to God.**

Postlude Jonathan Halsey

Coming Lessons – All Saints Sunday

Revelation 7:9-17
Psalm 34:1-10, 22
1 John 3:1-3
Matthew 5:1-12

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, and Marybeth as they grieve.

Intercessions for Community Friends & our Family Members:
Antje & Bill, Carol Greer, Cathy Davis (The Rev), Chris, Debbie & Doug Bebber (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, Paul Norman, 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: Ann Hazard (Oct 26)

Wedding Anniversaries & Thanksgivings:
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 Central Africa

In the Diocese of WNC: St Francis in Rutherfordton

In Alleghany County: New River Missionary Baptist Church

The following people are assisting with the services

Role	This Sunday	Next Sunday
Altar Guild	Marybeth Lentz	Nancy Wilson
Chalice Bearer	Bruce Smith	Jeanne Green
Lector	Elizabeth Barr Bryant	Jann Boggs
Prayers of the People	Elizabeth Barr Bryant	Jann Boggs
Greeter/Usher(s)	John & Jane Franck	Barbara & Jim Halsey

Schedule

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 – 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 Saint's Sunday
10:30 am – Holy Eucharist with The Rev Karla Woggon
Coffee hour follows the service

Tuesday, November 3
1:00 pm – Centering Prayer group
2:00 pm – Book Discussion group

Saturday, November 7 – Diocesan Convention

Sunday, November 8 – The Twenty-fourth Sunday after Pentecost
10:30 am – Holy Eucharist with The Rev Karla Woggon
Coffee hour follows the service

Tuesday, November 10
1:00 pm – Centering Prayer group
2:00 pm – Book Discussion group

Sunday, November 15 – The Twenty-fifth Sunday after Pentecost
10:30 am – Holy Eucharist with The Rev Dr Katherine Shaner
Coffee hour follows the service

Tuesday, November 17
1:00 pm – Centering Prayer group
2:00 pm – Book Discussion group

Sunday, November 22 – Christ the King
10:30 am – Holy Eucharist with The Rev Karla Woggon {*pledge cards are blessed*}
Coffee hour follows the service

Announcements

TODAY: 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.

TODAY: 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 or humans, let us know and stay with your animal in your vehicle. Also, if you have a pet who might be frightening to others, please let us know and stay with them in your vehicle.

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 **THIS 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. If you're interested in attending, please let Patti Phelps or Mary Lee know. **ALL are WELCOME!**

NEXT SUNDAY: 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.*

NEXT SUNDAY: 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.*

Pledge cards 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. Our pledge cards will be blessed on Sunday, Nov 22nd – Christ the King Sunday.

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 Hour
Oct 25	Barbara Halsey	Barbara Halsey
Nov 1	Marybeth Lentz	Marybeth Lentz
Nov 8	Cynthia Grant	
Nov 15		Patti Phelps