



## Episcopal Church of the Holy Cross



### **BLUE CHRISTMAS, ANOTHER ADVENT**

December 19, 2021

5:00 p.m.

*Wherever you are on your journey of faith,  
Holy Cross welcomes you, just as you are,  
to share in the transforming power of God's love.*

THE USES OF SORROW  
(In my sleep I dreamed this poem)  
Someone I loved once gave me  
a box full of darkness.  
It took me years to understand  
that this, too, was a gift.  
— Mary Oliver

The sacrifice of God is a troubled spirit;  
a broken and contrite heart,  
O God, you will not despise.  
— Psalm 51:18

### **About Blue Christmas**

Advent is often a joyous preparation for Christmas. But for many of us—and for many of us this year especially—Advent isn't joyous, and Christmas isn't likely merry. Perhaps, we've lost someone close. Perhaps, we're unable to be with those we care about. Perhaps, there are times when we're just not feeling "it," whatever that's supposed to be. For one reason or another, the season isn't what we'd hoped or expected. Our Christmas isn't white but blue.

Joy and peace are Christmas spirits, but so too are grief and a troubled heart. Churches often mark this time with a special service of prayer, a "Blue Christmas," "Longest Night," Another Advent for those marking an other Advent. We mark this holy time, whatever its color. It is a time of quiet, a time of prayer, a time of healing. It is time with God.

## ***Prelude***

### **WELCOME**

*Presider* The Lord Almighty grant us a peaceful night and a perfect end.

*People* **Amen.**

*Presider* Our help is in the Name of the Lord;

*People* **The maker of heaven and earth.**

*Presider* O God, make speed to save us.

*People* **O Lord, make haste to help us.**

**Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit: as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be for ever. Amen. Alleluia.**

*Presider* God of mercy, hear our prayer this Advent season for ourselves and for our families who live with painful thoughts and memories of loss. We ask for strength for today, courage for tomorrow and peace for the past. We ask these things in the name of you Christ who shares our life in joy and sorrow, death and new birth, despair and promise.

*People* **Amen.**

## ***Psalm 121***

I lift up my eyes to the hills; \*  
from where is my help to come?

My help comes from the Lord, \*  
the maker of heaven and earth.

He will not let your foot be moved \*  
and he who watches over you will not fall asleep.

Behold, he who keeps watch over Israel \*  
shall neither slumber nor sleep;

The Lord himself watches over you; \*  
the Lord is your shade at your right hand,

So that the sun shall not strike you by day, \*  
nor the moon by night.

The Lord shall preserve you from all evil; \*  
it is he who shall keep you safe.

The Lord shall watch over your going out and your coming in, \*  
from this time forth for evermore.

Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit: \*  
as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be for ever. Amen.

***A Reading from Mark***

Mark 5: 21-43

When Jesus had crossed again in the boat to the other side, a great crowd gathered around him; and he was by the sea. Then one of the leaders of the synagogue named Jairus came and, when he saw him, fell at his feet and begged him repeatedly, "My little daughter is at the point of death. Come and lay your hands on her, so that she may be made well, and live." So he went with him.

And a large crowd followed him and pressed in on him. Now there was a woman who had been suffering from hemorrhages for twelve years. She had endured much under many physicians, and had spent all that she had; and she was no better, but rather grew worse. She had heard about Jesus, and came up behind him in the crowd and touched his cloak, for she said, "If I but touch his clothes, I will be made well." Immediately her hemorrhage stopped; and she felt in her body that she was healed of her disease.

Immediately aware that power had gone forth from him, Jesus turned about in the crowd and said, "Who touched my clothes?" And his disciples said to him, "You see the crowd pressing in on you; how can you say, 'Who touched me?'" He looked all around to see who had done it. But the woman, knowing what had happened to her, came in fear and trembling, fell down before him, and told him the whole truth. He said to her, "Daughter, your faith has made you well; go in peace, and be healed of your disease."

While he was still speaking, some people came from the leader's house to say, "Your daughter is dead. Why trouble the teacher any further?" But overhearing what they said, Jesus said to the leader of the synagogue, "Do not fear, only believe." He allowed no one to follow him except Peter, James, and John, the brother of James. When they came to the house of the leader of the synagogue, he saw a commotion, people weeping and wailing loudly. When he had entered, he said to them, "Why do you make a commotion and weep? The child is not dead but sleeping." And they laughed at him. Then he put them all outside, and took the child's father

and mother and those who were with him, and went in where the child was. He took her by the hand and said to her, “Talitha cum,” which means, “Little girl, get up!” And immediately the girl got up and began to walk about (she was twelve years of age). At this they were overcome with amazement. He strictly ordered them that no one should know this, and told them to give her something to eat.

Here ends the reading.

### ***Candle-Lighting***

*Presider* This first candle we light to remember those whom we have loved and lost, those we fear we may lose, those from who we are estranged, those who are distant. We pause to remember their name, their face, their voice, the memory that binds them to us in this season.

***People* May God’s eternal love surround them.**

*Presider* This second candle we light is to redeem the pain of loss; the loss of relationships, the loss of jobs, the loss of relationships, the loss of security and safety, the loss of health. We pause to gather up the pain of the past and offer it to God, asking that from God’s hands we receive the gift of peace.

***People* Refresh, restore, renew us O God, and lead us into your future.**

*Presider* This third candle we light is to remember ourselves this Christmas time. We pause and remember these past weeks and months: the fear, the disbelief, the anger, the down times, the poignancy of reminiscing, the pain of distance, the cry of injustice, the weight of the world. We give thanks for all the support we have known.

***People* Let us remember that dawn defeats darkness.**

*Presider* This fourth candle is lit to remember our faith and the gift of hope which the Christmas story offers to us. We remember that God who gave us our life and promises us a place and time of no more pain and suffering.

***People* Let us remember the one who shows the way, who brings the truth and who bears the light.**

**HYMN 82**

*Of the father's love begotten*

**Divinum Mysterium**



1 Of the Fa - ther's love be - got - ten, ere the worlds be -  
 2 O that birth for ev - er bless - ed, when the Vir - gin,  
 3 Let the heights of heaven a - dore him; an - gel hosts, his  
 4 Christ, to thee with God the Fa - ther, and, O Ho - ly



gan to be, he is Al - pha and O - me - ga,  
 full of grace, by the Ho - ly Ghost con - ceiv - ing,  
 prais - es sing; powers, do - min - ions, bow be - fore him,  
 Ghost, to thee, hymn and chant and high thanks - giv - ing,



he the source, the end - ing he, of the things that  
 bore the Sa - vior of our race; and the Babe, the  
 and ex - tol our God and King; let no tongue on  
 and un - wea - ried prais - es be; hon - or, glo - ry



are, that have \_\_\_\_\_ been, and that fu - ture  
 world's Re - deem - er, first re - vealed his  
 earth be si - lent, ev - ery voice in  
 and do - min - ion, and e - ter - nal



years shall see, ev - er - more and ev - er - more! \_\_\_\_\_  
 sa - cred face, ev - er - more and ev - er - more! \_\_\_\_\_  
 con - cert ring, ev - er - more and ev - er - more! \_\_\_\_\_  
 vic - to - ry, ev - er - more and ev - er - more! \_\_\_\_\_

*Presider* Into your hands, O Lord, I commend my spirit;  
***People*** For you have redeemed me, O Lord, O God of truth.  
*Presider* Keep us, O Lord, as the apple of your eye;

*Presider* Hide us under the shadow of your wings.  
Lord, have mercy.

***People* Christ, have mercy.**

*Presider* Lord, have mercy.

### ***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.**

*Presider* Lord, hear our prayer;

***People* And let our cry come to you.**

*Presider* Let us pray.

Keep watch, dear Lord, with those who work, or watch, or weep this night, and give your angels charge over those who sleep. Tend the sick, Lord Christ; give rest to the weary, bless the dying, soothe the suffering, pity the afflicted, shield the joyous; and all for your love's sake.

***People* Amen.**

### ***Prayers of the People***

*Presider* In the spirit of this season let us now confidently ask God for all the things we need; For ourselves as we participate in whatever way we can this Christmas. God, hear our prayer,

***People* And in your mercy answer.**

*Presider* For our families and friends that they may continue to help and support us. God, hear our prayer,

***People* And in your mercy answer.**

*Presider* For the person we have loved that has died. For all the losses that we know, that all may be redeemed by your Easter promise. God, hear our prayer,

***People* And in your mercy answer.**

*Presider* For all our family and friends that they may know love and peace and happiness in you. God, hear our prayer,

***People* And in your mercy answer.**

*Presider* For the peace proclaimed by the Christmas angels, to come throughout the whole world. God, hear our prayer,

***People* And in your mercy answer.**

*Presider and People*

**Guide us waking, O Lord, and guard us sleeping; that awake we may watch with Christ, and asleep we may rest in peace.**

**Lord, you now have set your servant free \***

**to go in peace as you have promised;**

**For these eyes of mine have seen the Savior, \***

**whom you have prepared for all the world to see:**

**A Light to enlighten the nations, \***

**and the glory of your people Israel.**

**Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit: \***

**as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be for ever. Amen.**

**Guide us waking, O Lord, and guard us sleeping; that awake we may watch with Christ, and asleep we may rest in peace.**

*Presider* Let us bless the Lord.

***People* Thanks be to God.**

*Presider* Go in peace, knowing that the God whose love created this world, sent Jesus into the same world to be our friend, companion, and Savior. The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has never put it out!

The almighty and merciful Lord, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, bless us and keep us. **Amen.**

**CHRISTMAS AT HOLY CROSS**

CHRISTMAS EVE, DEC. 24

**Pageant & Holy Eucharist, 4:00pm**

**Musical Prelude, 10:00pm**

**Festival Eucharist, 10:30pm**

CHRISTMAS DAY, DEC. 25

**Holy Eucharist, 10:00 am**

SUNDAY, DEC. 26

**Christmas Lessons & Carols,**

10:00 am (No Eucharist)

*one service this day*

SUNDAY, JAN. 2

**Feast of the Epiphany observed**

Holy Eucharist, 10:00am

*one service this day*

## **Remembering Loved Ones This Christmas**

At Christmas, we often remember our loved ones or give thanks for those in our lives. While we are not having the usual poinsettia and music dedications this year, if you would like to remember a loved one in the Christmas bulletin, you are invited to send a message to [office@holycrossepisopal.org](mailto:office@holycrossepisopal.org) by Tuesday, December 22.

## **Advent Bible Study— The Messiah**

*December 22nd*

*7 – 8:30pm on Zoom*

Wonderful Counselor. Mighty God. Everlasting Father. Prince of Peace. These titles are familiar to anyone who knows Handel's *Messiah*, and they are drawn from a prophecy in the 9th chapter of Isaiah. Inspired by the work of Biblical Scholar Walter Brueggemann, join Rev. Kelly for a deep dive into the history of the prophet Isaiah, what those titles meant when they were written, and what they mean to us today.

## **Confirmation, Reception, Reaffirmation**

Are you or someone in your family interested in being Confirmed? Did you grow up in another Christian tradition and you'd like to be received into the Episcopal Church? Have you come to a new place in your faith journey that makes you want to renew your commitment to Christ? **On March 27, 2022, Bishop Susan Goff will**

**be making her visitation to Holy Cross**, and we plan to run a class in the new year for those interested in being confirmed, received, or reaffirmed, or for anyone else who might be interested in learning more about the Episcopal Church. If you are interested in participating, please email Rev. Kelly to let her know ([kelly.moughty@holycrossepisopal.org](mailto:kelly.moughty@holycrossepisopal.org)).

## **Toiletries for Lamb Center**

Guests of The Lamb Center are allowed to shower, so there is a continuous need for hotel/travel size soap, body wash, shampoo, conditioner, lotion, toothpaste, floss and toothbrushes.

Parishioners are invited to donate such toiletries at any time in the marked basket on the counter by the stairs. Contact Sue Wheeler at [sswheeler26@gmail.com](mailto:sswheeler26@gmail.com) if you have questions.

## **The Red Wagon**

The Committee for Helping Others (CHO) maintains a food closet to serve the working poor in our area. Please consider putting something in the red wagon to support CHO's work. Here is a list of current needs: **tuna, tomato sauce, Spam, canned fruit, pancake mix, syrup, grape jelly, cooking oil, shampoo, baby shampoo, dish soap, medium size laundry detergent.** Thank you for your continued support! Questions? Contact Sue Wheeler at [sswheeler26@gmail.com](mailto:sswheeler26@gmail.com).

**Remember in your prayers this week—**

**For those in need of healing and support:** We lift up Tom Gentile, brother-in-law of Phil Long; Aucelia Corliss, friend of Wendy Hoskins; Mary Ellen and John, friends of Wade Hinkle; Lynn Olander, friend of Glynne Reeves-Haines, Paula Naegele, sister of Mary Hinkle; Mia McCombs, goddaughter of Sonya Marsden; Sarah Moughty, sister of Kelly Moughty; Bill Saari, brother of Sue Wheeler; Keith Harpster, uncle of Becky Stahl; Dan Smith, friend of Rex Hayes; Maureen McDonnell-Weschler  
*Names remain on the healing list for four weeks unless you request an extension.*

**For those in the Armed Forces and others who are serving at home and abroad:** Mark Straub, son of John and Karol Straub; Jacob Levit, nephew of John & Wendy Hoskins and Andy & Megan Hoskins; Gavin Harpster, nephew of Becky Stahl; Katherine Green, friend of Sherri Arnaiz; Cameron Addleton, friend of Richard and Sadia Adams; Adam Santley, grandson of Jennifer Santley; Charles Matthews, friend of Eileen Foyle; Alfredo Piedrahita, friend of Brianna Elder; Evan Brown, nephew of Lane Abernathy and Doug Gehley; Nathan Potter, friend of McKey Weschler; Leonard (McKey) Weschler; Zachary March, friend of John and Wendy Hoskins; Leslie Tsou, daughter of Carol and Ed Tsou; Bryce, nephew of Rebecca Stahl

**For those who have died:** We pray for the repose of the soul of Retta Sparano, friend of Nick Kierstead. We pray for the Sparano family as they mourn.

**To request prayer** for yourself or someone else please contact the parish office at [office@holycrossepcopal.org](mailto:office@holycrossepcopal.org) or 703-698-6991.

# **HOLY CROSS MISSION**

The Episcopal Church of the Holy Cross is an inclusive, supportive, spiritual community that celebrates the diversity and dignity of all God's people. We strive to offer inspiring worship, serious engagement with questions of faith, commitment to serving our neighbors and the world, and opportunities for fun and fellowship. We encourage all to participate in God's purpose and plan for this church. Join us in this great adventure and share in the blessings of God so freely given!

## **Worship and Education at Holy Cross**

### **SUNDAY**

8:00 a.m. – Holy Eucharist in person

9:00 a.m. 1<sup>st</sup> & 3<sup>rd</sup> Sundays – Formation for children, youth & adults

10:00 a.m. – Holy Eucharist in person and online

### **WEDNESDAY**

10:15 a.m. Bible/Book Study

## **Holy Cross Staff**

The Rev. Kelly Moughty, Priest-in-Charge  
kelly.moughty@holycrossepiscopal.org

Kevin Laskowski, Minister for Discipleship  
kevin.laskowski@holycrossepiscopal.org

Nick Lodico-Keirstead, Minister of Music  
nick.lodico@holycrossepiscopal.org

Maude Hales, Parish Administrator  
maude.hales@holycrossepiscopal.org

Lori Poli, Accountant  
lori.poli@holycrossepiscopal.org



## **Episcopal Church of the Holy Cross**

2455 Gallows Road, Dunn Loring, Virginia 22027  
703.698.6991 [www.HolyCrossEpiscopal.org](http://www.HolyCrossEpiscopal.org)