



Episcopal Church of the Holy Cross



*Let Every Heart  
Prepare Him Room*

The First Sunday after Christmas  
Service of Lessons & Carols

December 26, 2021  
10:00 a.m.

## WELCOME

I am delighted that you are worshipping with Church of the Holy Cross this Christmas season. Please know that no matter where you are on your journey of faith, you are welcome in this community, just as you are, to share in the transforming nature of Christ's love.

Our worship at Holy Cross continues to be impacted by the evolving Covid-19 pandemic, and as a result, we ask you to follow what are now familiar pieces of public health guidance:

- Please wear a mask the entire time you are indoors at Holy Cross.
- Please follow all instructions from our ushers.
- If you haven't pre-registered for our service on Sign-up Genius, please sign-in on the paper sheet so we can initiate contact tracing should we need it. If you worship with us in person and then later receive a positive Covid test, please notify the church so we can let others know.

Thank you for joining Church of the Holy Cross as we celebrate the ways in which Christ is always breaking into our world and inviting us to make it a more loving and more just place.

Blessings,

Kelly+

**This Christmas, we remember our loved ones who are no longer with us and give thanks for those who are bless our lives.**

### *In Memory*

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Andy Pickholtz  
Charlie and Jean Campbell  
Walt and Kitty Golden  
Rex and Maryann Hayes  
Ed Tsou  
Barbara Neil  
Doris Stokes

Kate Hayes  
Carol Tsou  
The Drenkard family  
Maude Hales

### *In Thanksgiving*

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Our children and  
three granddaughters,  
Skylar, Riley and Hailey

Karen & Graham  
Drenkard

*The poinsettia trees on the Altar are given to the glory of God and in loving memory of Rev. and Mrs. Alfred and Saloma Powell.*

**FIRST SUNDAY AFTER CHRISTMAS**  
DECEMBER 26, 2021 - 10:00 A.M.  
SERVICE OF LESSONS AND CAROLS

**Prelude**

*Please stand as the procession enters*

**HYMN 105**

*God rest you merry, gentlemen*      **God Rest You Merry**



1 God rest you mer - ry, gen - tle - men, let noth - ing you dis - may;  
2 From God our heaven - ly Fa - ther a bless - ed an - gel came  
3 "Fear not, then," said the an - gel, "Let noth - ing you af - fright;  
4 Now to the Lord sing prais - es, all you with - in this place,



re - mem - ber Christ our Sa - vior was born on Christ - mas Day,  
and un - to cer - tain shep - herds brought tid - ings of the same:  
this day is born a Sa - vior of a pure vir - gin bright,  
and with true love and char - i - ty each o - ther now em - brace;



to save us all from Sa - tan's power when we were gone a - stray.  
how that in Beth - le - hem was born the Son of God by name.  
to free all those who trust in him from Sa - tan's power and might."  
this ho - ly tide of Christ - mas doth bring re - deem - ing grace.

*Refrain*



O tid - ings of com - fort and joy, com - fort and



joy; O tid - ings of com - fort and joy!

## ***Opening Acclamation***

*Presider* Unto us a child is born;

***People* Unto us a Son is given!**

*Presider* And his name shall be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God,

***People* Everlasting Father, the Prince of Peace!**

## ***Bidding Prayer***

Dear People of God: In this Christmas Season, let it be our duty and delight to hear once more the message of the Angels, to go to Bethlehem and see the Son of God lying in a manger.

Let us hear and heed in Holy Scripture the story of God's loving purpose from the time of our rebellion against him until the glorious redemption brought to us by his holy Child Jesus, and let us make this place glad with our carols of praise.

But first, let us pray for the needs of his whole world, for peace and justice on earth, for the unity and mission of the Church for which he died, and especially for his Church in our country and in this city.

And because he particularly loves them, let us remember in his name the poor and helpless, the cold, the hungry and the oppressed, the sick and those who mourn, the lonely and unloved, the aged and little children, as well as all those who do not know and love the Lord Jesus Christ.

Finally, let us remember before God his pure and lowly Mother, and that whole multitude which no one can number, whose hope was in the Word made flesh, and with whom, in Jesus, we are one for evermore.

The Almighty God bless us with his grace; Christ give us the joys of everlasting life; and to the fellowship of the citizens above, may the King of Angels bring us all. **Amen.**

FIRST LESSON

Isaiah 9:2-7

## ***The People Walked in Darkness***

The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light; those who lived in a land of deep darkness—on them light has shined. You have multiplied the nation, you have increased its joy; they rejoice before you as with joy at the harvest, as people exult when dividing plunder. For the yoke of their burden, and the bar across their shoulders, the rod of their oppressor, you

have broken as on the day of Midian. For all the boots of the tramping warriors and all the garments rolled in blood shall be burned as fuel for the fire. For a child has been born for us, a son given to us; authority rests upon his shoulders; and he is named Wonderful Counsellor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace. His authority shall grow continually, and there shall be endless peace for the throne of David and his kingdom. He will establish and uphold it with justice and with righteousness from this time onwards and for evermore. The zeal of the Lord of hosts will do this.

The Word of the Lord.

**People Thanks be to God.**

CAROL (Lighting of first candle)

**HYMN 66** *Come, thou long-expected Jesus* Stuttgart

1 Come, thou long - ex - pect-ed Je - sus, born to set thy peo - ple free;  
 2 Is - rael's strength and con - so - la - tion, hope of all the earth thou art;  
 3 Born thy peo - ple to de - liv - er, born a child, and yet a king,  
 4 By thine own e - ter - nal Spi - rit rule in all our hearts a - lone;

from our fears and sins re - lease us, let us find our rest in thee.  
 dear de - sire of ev - ery na - tion, joy of ev - ery long - ing heart.  
 born to reign in us for ev - er, now thy gra - cious king - dom bring.  
 by thine all - suf - fi - cient mer - it raise us to thy glo - rious throne.

***The Birth of Jesus Foretold***

In the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent by God to a town in Galilee called Nazareth, to a virgin engaged to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David. The virgin's name was Mary. And he came to her and said, 'Greetings, favoured one! The Lord is with you.' But she was much perplexed by his words and pondered what sort of greeting this might be. The angel said to her, 'Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favour with God. And now, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you will name him Jesus. He will be great, and will be called the Son of the Most High, and the Lord God will give to him the throne of his ancestor David. He will reign over the house of Jacob for ever, and of his kingdom there will be no end.' Mary said to the angel, 'How can this be, since I am a virgin?' The angel said to her, 'The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you; therefore the child to be born will be holy; he will be called Son of God. And now, your relative Elizabeth in her old age has also conceived a son; and this is the sixth month for her who was said to be barren. For nothing will be impossible with God.' Then Mary said, 'Here am I, the servant of the Lord; let it be with me according to your word.' Then the angel departed from her.

In those days Mary set out and went with haste to a Judean town in the hill country, where she entered the house of Zechariah and greeted Elizabeth. When Elizabeth heard Mary's greeting, the child leapt in her womb. And Elizabeth was filled with the Holy Spirit and exclaimed with a loud cry, 'Blessed are you among women, and blessed is the fruit of your womb. And why has this happened to me, that the mother of my Lord comes to me? For as soon as I heard the sound of your greeting, the child in my womb leapt for joy. And blessed is she who believed that there would be a fulfillment of what was spoken to her by the Lord.'

And Mary said, 'My soul magnifies the Lord, and my spirit rejoices in God my Saviour, for he has looked with favour on the lowliness of his servant. Surely, from now on all generations will call me blessed; for the Mighty One has done great things for me, and holy is his name. His mercy is for those who fear him from generation to generation. He has shown strength with his arm; he has scattered the proud in the thoughts of their hearts. He has brought down the powerful from their thrones, and lifted up the lowly; he

has filled the hungry with good things, and sent the rich away empty. He has helped his servant Israel, in remembrance of his mercy, according to the promise he made to our ancestors, to Abraham and to his descendants for ever.' And Mary remained with her for about three months and then returned to her home.

Now the time came for Elizabeth to give birth, and she bore a son. Her neighbours and relatives heard that the Lord had shown his great mercy to her, and they rejoiced with her.

The Word of the Lord.

**People Thanks be to God.**

CAROL (Lighting of second candle)

**HYMN 265**

*The Angel Gabriel*

Gabriel's Message

1 The an - gel Ga - bri - el from hea - ven came,  
 2 "For know a bless - ed Mo - ther thou shalt be,  
 3 Then gen - tle Ma - ry meek - ly bowed her head,  
 4 Of her, Em - man - u - el, the Christ, was born

his wings as drift - ed snow, his eyes as flame;  
 all gen - er - a - tions laud and hon - or thee,  
 "To me be as it pleas - eth God," she said,  
 in Beth - le - hem, all on a Christ - mas morn,

"All hail," said he, "thou low - ly maid - en Ma - ry,  
 thy Son shall be Em - man - u - el, by seers fore - told,  
 "my soul shall laud and mag - ni - fy his ho - ly Name."  
 and Chris - tian folk through - out the world will ev - er say—

most high - ly fa - vored la - dy," Glo - ri - a!  
 most high - ly fa - vored la - dy," Glo - ri - a!  
 Most high - ly fa - vored la - dy, Glo - ri - a!  
 "Most high - ly fa - vored la - dy," Glo - ri - a!

THIRD LESSON

Luke 2:1-7

***St. Luke tells of the birth of Jesus***

In those days a decree went out from Emperor Augustus that all the world should be registered. This was the first registration and was taken while Quirinius was governor of Syria. All went to their own towns to be registered. Joseph also went from the town of Nazareth in Galilee to Judea, to the city of David called Bethlehem, because he was descended from the house and family of David. He went to be registered with Mary, to whom he was engaged and who was expecting a child. While they were there, the time came for her to deliver her child. And she gave birth to her firstborn son and wrapped him in bands of cloth, and laid him in a manger, because there was no place for them in the inn.

The Word of the Lord.

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

CAROL (Lighting of third candle)

HYMN 101

*Away in a manger*

Cradle Song



1 A - way in a man-ger, no crib for his bed,  
2 The cat - tle are low - ing, the ba - by a - wakes,  
\* 3 Be near me, Lord Je - sus; I ask thee to stay



the lit - tle Lord Je - sus laid down his sweet head.  
but lit - tle Lord Je - sus no cry - ing he makes.  
close by me for ev - er, and love me I pray.



The stars in the bright sky looked down where he lay,  
I love thee, Lord Je - sus! Look down from the sky,  
Bless all the dear chil - dren in thy ten - der care,



the lit - tle Lord Je - sus a - sleep on the hay.  
and stay by my side un - til morn - ing is nigh.  
and fit us for hea - ven to live with thee there.

THE FOURTH LESSON

Luke 2:8–20

***The shepherds go to the manger***

In that region there were shepherds living in the fields, keeping watch over their flock by night. Then an angel of the Lord stood before them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. But the angel said to them, ‘Do not be afraid; for see—I am bringing you good news of great joy for all the people: to you is born this day in the city of David a Saviour, who is the Messiah, the Lord. This will be a sign for you: you will find a child wrapped in bands of cloth and lying in a manger.’ And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host, praising God and saying, ‘Glory to God in the highest heaven, and on earth peace among those

whom he favours!’ When the angels had left them and gone into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, ‘Let us go now to Bethlehem and see this thing that has taken place, which the Lord has made known to us.’ So they went with haste and found Mary and Joseph, and the child lying in the manger. When they saw this, they made known what had been told them about this child; and all who heard it were amazed at what the shepherds told them. But Mary treasured all these words and pondered them in her heart. The shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen, as it had been told them.

The Word of the Lord.

**People Thanks be to God.**

CAROL (Lighting of fourth candle)

**HYMN 94** *While shepherds watched their flocks* Winchester Old

1 While shep-herds watched their flocks by night, all seat-ed on the ground,  
 2 “Fear not,” said he, for might-y dread had seized their trou-bled mind;  
 3 “To you, in Da-vid’s town, this day is born of Da-vid’s line  
 4 “The heaven-ly Babe you there shall find to hu-man view dis-played,  
 5 Thus spake the ser-aph, and forth-with ap-peared a shin-ing thron-

1 the an-gel of the Lord came down, and glo-ry shone a-round.  
 2 “Glad tid-ings of great joy I bring to you and all man-kind.  
 3 the Sa-rior, who is Christ the Lord; and this shall be the sign:  
 4 all mean-ly wrapped in swath-ing bands, and in a man-ger laid.”  
 5 of an-gels prais-ing God, who thus ad-dressed their joy-ful song:

6 “All glory be to God on high  
 and on the earth be peace;  
 good will henceforth from heaven to men  
 begin and never cease.”

***The Wise men are led by the star to Jesus***

In the time of King Herod, after Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea, wise men from the East came to Jerusalem, asking, “Where is the child who has been born king of the Jews? For we observed his star at its rising, and have come to pay him homage.” When King Herod heard this, he was frightened, and all Jerusalem with him; and calling together all the chief priests and scribes of the people, he inquired of them where the Messiah was to be born. They told him, “In Bethlehem of Judea; for so it has been written by the prophet: ‘And you, Bethlehem, in the land of Judah, are by no means least among the rulers of Judah; for from you shall come a ruler who is to shepherd my people Israel.’”

Then Herod secretly called for the wise men and learned from them the exact time when the star had appeared. Then he sent them to Bethlehem, saying, “Go and search diligently for the child; and when you have found him, bring me word so that I may also go and pay him homage.” When they had heard the king, they set out; and there, ahead of them, went the star that they had seen at its rising, until it stopped over the place where the child was. When they saw that the star had stopped, they were overwhelmed with joy. On entering the house, they saw the child with Mary his mother; and they knelt down and paid him homage. Then, opening their treasure-chests, they offered him gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh. And having been warned in a dream not to return to Herod, they left for their own country by another road.

The Word of the Lord.

***People***   **Thanks be to God.**

CAROL (Lighting of fifth candle)

**HYMN 128**

*We three kings of Orient are*

Three Kings of Orient



1 We three kings of O - ri - ent are, bear - ing  
 2 Born a King on Beth - le - hem's plain, gold I  
 3 Frank - in - cense to of - fer have I: in - cense  
 4 Myrrh is mine; its bit - ter per - fume breathes a  
 5 Glo - rious now be - hold him a - rise, King and



1 gifts we tra - verse a - far, field and foun - tain,  
 2 bring to crown him a - gain, King for ev - er,  
 3 owns a De - i - ty nigh; prayer and prais - ing,  
 4 life of gath - er - ing gloom; sor - rowing, sigh - ing,  
 5 God and Sac - ri - fice; heaven sings al - le -



1 moor and moun - tain, fol - low - ing yon - der star.  
 2 ceas - ing nev - er o - ver us all to reign.  
 3 glad - ly rais - ing, wor - ship him, God Most High.  
 4 bleed - ing, dy - ing, sealed in the stone - cold tomb.  
 5 lu - ia: al - le - lu - ia the earth re - plies.

*Refrain*

O star of won - der, star of night,

star with roy - al beau - ty bright; west - ward lead - ing,  
 still pro - ceed - ing, guide us to thy per - fect light!

THE SIXTH LESSON

Matthew 2:13-23

*The Escape to Egypt and the Return to Nazareth*

Now after they had left, an angel of the Lord appeared to Joseph in a dream and said, “Get up, take the child and his mother, and flee to Egypt, and remain there until I tell you; for Herod is about to search for the child, to destroy him.” Then Joseph got up, took the child and his mother by night, and went to Egypt, and remained there until the death of Herod. This was to fulfill what had been spoken by the Lord through the prophet, “Out of Egypt I have called my son.”

When Herod saw that he had been tricked by the wise men, he was infuriated, and he sent and killed all the children in and around Bethlehem who were two years old or under, according to the time that he had learned from the wise men. Then was fulfilled what had been spoken through the prophet Jeremiah: “A voice was heard in Ramah, wailing and loud lamentation, Rachel weeping for her children; she refused to be consoled, because they are no more.”

When Herod died, an angel of the Lord suddenly appeared in a dream to Joseph in Egypt and said, “Get up, take the child and his mother, and go to the land of Israel, for those who were seeking the child’s life are dead.” Then

Joseph got up, took the child and his mother, and went to the land of Israel. But when he heard that Archelaus was ruling over Judea in place of his father Herod, he was afraid to go there. And after being warned in a dream, he went away to the district of Galilee. There he made his home in a town called Nazareth, so that what had been spoken through the prophets might be fulfilled, "He will be called a Nazorean."

The Word of the Lord.

**People Thanks be to God.**

CAROL (Lighting of sixth candle)

**HYMN 247**

*O sisters, too*

Coventry Carol

*Burden*

Lul - ly, lul - lay, thou lit - tle tin - y child, bye - bye, lul -

ly lul - lay.

1 O sis - ters, too, how may we do  
 2 He - rod the King, in his rag - ing  
 3 That woe is me, poor child for thee!

for to pre - serve this day this poor young - ling for  
 charg - ed he hath this day his men of might, in  
 And ev - ery morn and day, for thy part - ing nor

*Repeat Burden after verse 3*

whom we sing bye - bye, lul - ly lul - lay?  
his own sight, all young chil - dren to slay.  
say nor sing bye - bye, lul - ly lul - lay?

## THE PRAYERS

BCP p. 97

*Presider* The Lord be with you.

***People*** And also with you.

*Presider* Let us pray.

**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.**

### ***Suffrages A***

V. Show us your mercy, O Lord;

R. **And grant us your salvation.**

V. Clothe your ministers with righteousness;

R. **Let your people sing with joy.**

V. Give peace, O Lord, in all the world;

R. **For only in you can we live in safety.**

V. Lord, keep this nation under your care:

R. **And guide us in the way of justice and truth.**

V. Let your way be known upon earth;

R. **Your saving health among all nations;**

V. Let not the needy, O Lord, be forgotten;

R. **Nor the hope of the poor be taken away.**

V. Create in us clean hearts, O God;  
R. **And sustain us with your Holy Spirit.**

### ***Intercessions***

We pray for those in need of healing and support, especially Harriet, Marcos, Tom, Aucelia, Mary Ellen, John, Lynn, Paula, Mia, Dave, Pat, Piper, Sarah, Bill, Keith, Dan, Maureen, Loran, and our neighboring residents of Iliff Nursing Home. Are there others?

*Please take a moment to pray for your own concerns.*

We pray for those serving at home and abroad, especially Mark, Jacob, Gavin, Katherine, Cameron, Adam, Charles, Alfredo, Evan, Nathan, Leonard, Zachary, Leslie, and Bryce. Are there others?

*Please take a moment to pray for your own concerns.*

We pray for all who have died, that they may have a place in your eternal kingdom.

### ***Presider***

Lord Jesus Christ, you said to your apostles, "Peace I give to you; my own peace I leave with you." Regard not our sins, but the faith of your Church, and give to us the peace and unity of that heavenly City, where with the Father and the Holy Spirit you live and reign, now and for ever. **Amen.**

### ***The Collect of the Day***

Almighty God, you have poured upon us the new light of your incarnate Word: Grant that this light, enkindled in our hearts, may shine forth in our lives; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

### ***A Collect for the Renewal of Life***

O God, the King eternal, whose light divides the day from the night and turns the shadow of death into the morning: Drive far from us all wrong desires, incline our hearts to keep your law, and guide our feet into the way of peace; that, having done your will with cheerfulness during the day, we may, when night comes, rejoice to give you thanks; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

### ***The General Thanksgiving***

**Almighty God, Father of all mercies,  
we your unworthy servants give you humble thanks  
for all your goodness and loving-kindness  
to us and to all whom you have made.  
We bless you for our creation, preservation,  
and all the blessings of this life;  
but above all for your immeasurable love  
in the redemption of the world by our Lord Jesus Christ;  
for the means of grace, and for the hope of glory.  
And, we pray, give us such an awareness of your mercies,  
that with truly thankful hearts we may show forth your praise,  
not only with our lips, but in our lives,  
by giving up our selves to your service,  
and by walking before you  
in holiness and righteousness all our days;  
through Jesus Christ our Lord,  
to whom, with you and the Holy Spirit,  
be honor and glory throughout all ages. Amen.**

### ***A Prayer of St. Chrysostom***

Almighty God, you have given us grace at this time with one accord to make our common supplication to you; and you have promised through your well-beloved Son that when two or three are gathered together in his Name you will be in the midst of them: Fulfill now, O Lord, our desires and petitions as may be best for us; granting us in this world knowledge of your truth, and in the age to come life everlasting. **Amen.**

HYMN 115

What child is this

Greensleeves

*Unison or harmony*

1 What child is this, who, laid to rest, on  
 2 Why lies he in such mean es - tate where  
 3 So bring him in - cense, gold, and myrrh, come,

Ma - ry's lap is sleep - ing? Whom an - gels greet with  
 ox and ass are feed - ing? Good Chris - tian, fear: for  
 peas - ant, king, to own him; the King of kings sal -

an - thems sweet, while shep - herds watch are keep - ing?  
 sin - ners here the si - lent Word is plead - ing.  
 va - tion brings, let lov - ing hearts en - throne him.

*Refrain*

This, this is Christ the King, whom shep - herds

guard and an - gels sing; haste, haste to  
bring him laud, the babe, the son of Ma - ry.

***Dismissal***

*Presider* Let us bless the Lord.

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

*Presider* The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God, and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit, be with us all evermore. **Amen.**

# **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**

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