



July 28, 2020

How did you spend your Saturday this week? Well, your council president, Bryan Struve, and I spent 3 hours on a zoom call. Yep, I was dreading it. But, the idea intrigued me – “Imagining Life Together – Examining Ecumenical Partnerships”. So I showed up, and I was excited to find Bryan showed up too!

Why was I interested? I remember 7 years ago when I first got the paperwork from Holy Cross to consider being your pastor. I was excited by your willingness to do new things – unusual things – to connect, and to be Christ in your community.

The La Casita house was a big win. You can all be so proud of that ministry that has thrived for more than 9 years – a ministry to our neighbors, with an emphasis on Spanish speaking neighbors.

Your involvement in Family Promise (Interfaith Hospitality Network) which really began in Salem with your pastor and your church’s impetus. Making space for homeless families for a week at a time is a great use of the space with which God has entrusted us.

Your involvement with Washington School (which has evolved and grown the whole time I’ve been with you – thanks to committed volunteers) which addresses practical needs of the young people that we can address.

This year, we added involvement with Capital Baptist, which used our space (until the pandemic) for their education hour and we all enjoyed the collaboration.

So, Bryan and I learned this week from other churches who have found connection with Methodist and Presbyterian neighbors and more – some of the examples we heard were about *food banks and affordable housing coalitions* which exist solely due to ecumenical partnerships.

I think it’s time for us to look for new partnerships, especially in this time of change and loss. If Holy Cross could reach more people, could help more people through a carefully crafted ecumenical partnership, we might be able to be a force for change in our neighborhood in the years to come.

Want to talk about this? Contact Bryan or me, 503 510 9976 just to chat, as we begin conversation to move in this direction. We will begin calling some of you soon to begin conversation. Blessings – Pastor Patricia Hughes+

## **What is God Saying Today? (our 5pm Thursday Bible Study with a Covid-19 response)**

Friends, have you been thinking about joining our Bible Study? Holy Cross has a long history (almost 4 years) of meeting weekly (Verse by Verse Bible Study)

After Covid became an issue, we moved to Zoom for Bible Study (and put it at 5 pm in order to allow our worship members to attend), and we moved the focus to What is God saying today? Looking at the Old Testament readings for our lectionary and connecting them to our current world view.

On July 16 we took the class HYBRID! Some folks have a rough time with zoom, so this group is now Zoom AND in person (6 ft apart with social distancing – in the gym with lots of air movement). *I purchased a microphone that may help us hear each other better!*

Here's the info on the zoom

Topic: What is God saying today?

Time: Jul 30, 2020 05:00 PM Pacific Time (US and Canada)

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84055018008?pwd=SlJHN0lkcWhlUVF3aWE4MkEzV1BRdz09>

Meeting ID: 840 5501 8008

Passcode: 569519

Here's our topics for the next few weeks:

July 30 **Genesis 32:22-31**

August 6 **Genesis 37:1-4, 12-28**

August 13 **Genesis 45:1-15**

August 20 **Exodus 1:8--2:10**

August 27 – Sept 3 class on 2 week vacation

See you there! – Pastor Patricia+

**WORSHIPPING AT HOME WITH HOLY CROSS**  
**SUNDAY, AUGUST 2, 2020 – NINTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST**

**CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS**

Blessed be the holy Trinity, † one God,  
whose steadfast love is everlasting,  
whose faithfulness endures from generation to generation.

**Amen.**

Trusting in the mercy of God, let us confess our sin.

Reconciling God,

**we confess that we do not trust your abundance,  
and we deny your presence in our lives.**

**We place our hope in ourselves  
and rely on our own efforts.**

**We fail to believe that you provide enough for all.**

**We abuse your good creation for our own benefit.**

**We fear difference and do not welcome others  
as you have welcomed us.**

**We sin in thought, word, and deed.**

**By your grace, forgive us;**

**through your love, renew us;**

**and in your Spirit, lead us;**

**so that we may live and serve you in newness of life. Amen.**

Beloved of God,

by the radical abundance of divine mercy

we have peace with God through † Christ Jesus,

through whom we have obtained grace upon grace.

Our sins are forgiven.

Let us live now in hope.

For hope does not disappoint,

because God's love has been poured into our hearts

through the Holy Spirit. **Amen.**

**GATHERING HYMN – Lord, Whose Love in Humble Service ELW 712**

1 Lord, whose love in humble service  
bore the weight of human need,  
who upon the cross, forsaken,  
worked your mercy's perfect deed:  
we, your servants, bring the worship  
not of voice alone, but heart;

consecrating to your purpose  
ev'ry gift which you impart.

- 2 Still your children wander homeless;  
still the hungry cry for bread;  
still the captives long for freedom;  
still in grief we mourn our dead.  
As you, Lord, in deep compassion  
healed the sick and freed the soul,  
by your Spirit send your power  
to our world to make it whole.
- 3 As we worship, grant us vision,  
till your love's revealing light  
in its height and depth and  
greatness  
dawns upon our quickened sight,  
making known the needs and  
burdens  
your compassion bids us bear,  
stirring us to ardent service,  
your abundant life to share.

### **PRAYER OF THE DAY**

Beloved and sovereign God, through the death and resurrection of your Son you bring us into your kingdom of justice and mercy. By your Spirit, give us your wisdom, that we may treasure the life that comes from Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

**Amen.**

### **READINGS AND PSALM**

#### **Genesis 32:22-31**

*Jacob receives a blessing from God*

#### **Psalm: Psalm 145:8-9, 14-21**

#### **Matthew 14:13-21**

*Christ feeding five thousand*

### **APOSTLES' CREED**

**I believe in God, the Father almighty,  
creator of heaven and earth.**

**I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord,  
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,  
born of the virgin Mary,  
suffered under Pontius Pilate,  
was crucified, died, and was buried;  
he descended to the dead.\***

**On the third day he rose again;  
he ascended into heaven,  
he is seated at the right hand of the Father,**

**and he will come to judge the living and the dead.  
I believe in the Holy Spirit,  
the holy catholic church,  
the communion of saints,  
the forgiveness of sins,  
the resurrection of the body,  
and the life everlasting. Amen.**

## **PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION (see attached prayers)**

### **OFFERING PRAYER**

God of goodness and growth,  
all creation is yours,  
and your faithfulness is as firm as the heavens.  
Water and word, wine and bread:  
these are signs of your abundant grace.  
Nourish us through these gifts,  
that we might proclaim your steadfast love  
in our communities and in the world,  
through Jesus Christ, our strength and our song.  
**Amen.**

### **THE GREAT THANKSGIVING**

When our congregation gathered for the celebration of Holy Communion, we heard again the story of God's mighty acts and of the love shown us in the death and resurrection of our Lord Jesus Christ. With thanksgiving we remembered that "in the night in which he was betrayed, our Lord Jesus took bread, and gave thanks; broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying: Take and eat; this my body, given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me. Again, after supper, he took the cup gave thanks, and gave it for all to drink, saying: This cup is the new covenant in my blood, shed for you and all people for the forgiveness of sin. Do this for the remembrance of me."

The people of our congregation were given assurance of our Lord's presence through the gift of his Holy Spirit. As you worship in your homes, we remember the gift of communion that we share.

Jesus said, "I am the bread of life, whoever comes to me shall never hunger, and whoever believes in me shall never thirst."

***At this time, you may remember the gift of holy communion with your own bread and cup.***

**Communion Blessing** The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in His grace. **Amen**

## COMMUNION BLESSING

God of the welcome table,  
in this meal we have feasted on your goodness  
and have been united by your presence among us.  
Empower us to go forth sustained by these gifts  
so that we may share your neighborly love with all,  
through Jesus Christ, the giver of abundant life.

**Amen.**

**THE LORD'S PRAYER** Lord, remember us in your kingdom and teach us to 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,  
forever and ever. Amen.**

## BLESSING

**LIFE IS SHORT  
AND WE DO NOT HAVE  
MUCH TIME TO  
GLADDEN  
THE HEARTS  
OF THOSE WHO  
TRAVEL WITH US  
SO BE SWIFT TO LOVE  
MAKE HASTE TO BE KIND  
AND GO IN PEACE  
TO LOVE AND SERVE  
THE LORD**

A sermon for July 26, 2020 This summer, in this time of unprecedented change in our world – our lives, I am so pleased to be able to offer to you, each of you, personally, the opportunity to worship together. To sit in a shared space, sometimes virtually, where we are part of the family of God, and can feel, can connect to that sharing. We are indeed family. I never feel that sense of family so much as when we receive a new member. It is the closest thing to a birth we experience in worship. Thank you Deanna Tipton Noon for sharing this day with us. And so, as we share this space, the readings for this summer focus on Genesis, and the ancient stories of family, of betrayal, of God leading and God encouraging. The stories of that first family in the founding of Israel are filled with the majesty of God, as well as the infighting and pettiness and cheating and scheming so vividly portrayed in this the first family of the old testament. Father Abraham has one son, Isaac, and Isaac has two sons Esau and Jacob, who don't get along. And Jacob is a cheater, and a schemer and you can read all about it in Genesis. But today, we hear the account of Jacob back in Haran, with his uncle Laban. He was sent there to find a wife, and partly to get him away from his brother Esau who wants him dead. Literally. And so, he starts over, with his Uncle Laban, tending his flocks. And he loves one of Laban's daughters, but apparently not the other one. And Jacob, that cheater, that trickster, is cheated himself. Laban makes a bargain with him for 7 years of work, and then he can have what he wants – marriage to Rachel. But, and here's the twist in the plot, he give him Leah as wife (yes, it sounds odd but between the veils the wife wore and the wine the wedding party served – Jacob is completely tricked.)Cutting to the chase, Laban makes another bargain and give Jacob his daughter Rachel as well (yes, polygamy was a thing then) for just 7 more years of work. So, we search for a moral in a story like that. Is it One trickster deserves another? Is the moral – aren't we glad women aren't treated as chattel anymore? What is the point of a family story like this? Stay with me now. Remember, we are in a time of upheaval, of uncertainty, and we are comforted by just seeing the faces of each other, and by the breath of new life we breath at a new member's reception. And we hear a family story from Genesis. That is filled with hard things hard moments. In families. In life, filled with relationships of all kinds, we always have choices. Choices like Laban's -treacherous, unkind, are always one way to go. The gospel reading for today is another "The kingdom of heaven is like treasure hidden in a field, which someone found and hid; then in his joy he goes and sells all that he has and buys that field." One more story. This one a colleague told me. Let's call him Jim. When he was a little boy, his father, who was a woodworker, tried to teach him how to repair the leg of a table that had split and was no good – had to be replaced. His dad helped him choose a nice piece of wood, and the two of them used the lathe, and sander, and worked for a long time fashioning a lovely leg that would match the others. And just as Jim, the little boy was finishing it up, he got excited, and pushed too hard and shattered the leg he was making. Stunned, the tears began to fall, and he looked up at his father remorsefully, expecting the worst for his carelessness. But the father smiled a bit and said, oh well, there's more wood – go get another piece and we'll start again! I forgot to tell you Jim was a pastor, and when he told this story in a sermon illustration, he had several people come up to him afterwards, vividly recounting to him how they had experienced similar moments as a child, and the yelling, and the punishment that had been meted out to them by their parent. And it was then that Jim realized his story was not complete, and from then on, whenever he told the story, finishing with the part where he broke the leg and his own worry about retribution, but his father saying, "oh well, there's more wood, go get another piece and we'll start again" that there was one more thing to say, and it is this. Each of you has the opportunity to make a memory the next time someone you know makes a mistake, screws up, or even makes a bad choice. You can say, "Oh well, there's more wood or whatever there is, let's start again." Because God's love is like that, not scheming like Laban or Jacob, but like the gospel – the kingdom of heaven is like treasure hidden in a field. May you experience God's treasure this week, and always, my friends. Amen. – Pastor Patricia Hughes

**Praying together at Holy Cross – August 2, 2020**

**This summer, we are ‘searching for significance’ in this life of faith. When the world is full of change, we could choose to ‘lay low’ and wait for things to blow over. Or we could search for our own significance as the Body of Christ. We pray, Lord, for your help and guidance as we journey together toward that goal.**



**Lord, in your mercy**      Hear Our Prayer

**We pray for those in leadership in our country, our state and our cities. May God sustain them and continue to point them to compassionate, quick and well-informed response.**

**Lord, in your mercy**      Hear Our Prayer

**We pray for your intervention in the pandemic in our country and the world. Help researchers to develop a vaccine soon. *(specific people are mentioned here)***

**Lord, in your mercy**      Hear Our Prayer

**We pray for your loving touch on hurting communities and individuals who may be covering their fears with anger. *(specific people are mentioned here)***

**Lord, in your mercy**      Hear Our Prayer

**We pray for moments of connection, care and love even in our times of social distancing and quarantine. *(specific people are mentioned here)***

**Lord, in your mercy**      Hear Our Prayer

**We pray for musicians, singers and all who grieve the changes in our worship life. *(specific people are mentioned here)***

**Lord, in your mercy**      Hear Our Prayer

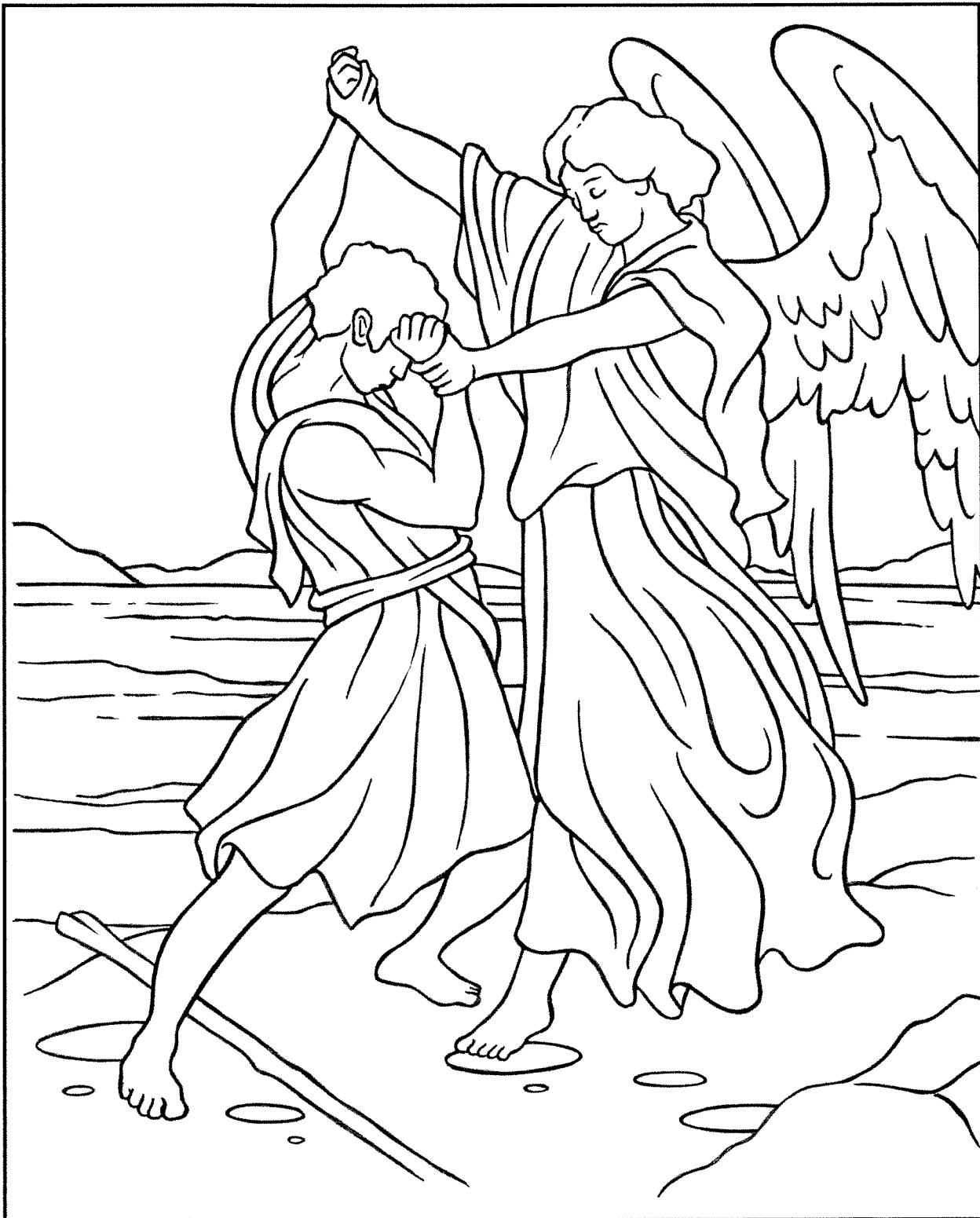
**For this and all those matters, circumstances and individuals whose needs are brought to mind at this time. *(specific people are mentioned here)***

**Lord, in your mercy**      Hear Our Prayer

**We pray for Holy Cross leadership as they imagine new ways of being of service in your community, Lord. Thank you, Lord, for loving us. It is what makes all the difference. Amen.**



In Genesis, Jacob wrestles with an angel, or is it God? Then Jacob begs to be blessed. And then God (or an angel) blesses him. What do you think this means? Do you ever 'wrestle' with doing something you don't want to do? And when you end up doing the right thing, doesn't it seem like God blesses you?



Jacob Wrestling with an Angel (Genesis 32:22-31) - © TheCatholicKid.com



## IT'S THAT TIME OF YEAR AGAIN!

We don't know when schools will reopen, or what it will look like. Will we be in the classrooms? Or online? Or a hybrid version? In any scenario, the kids at Washington Elementary need supplies. Here's a list of what's needed. Supplies can be dropped off at the church on Tues-Wed-Thurs from 9am to 1pm, or you can bring them to the Outdoor Worship service on August 9<sup>th</sup> & 23<sup>rd</sup>, and on Sept 6<sup>th</sup>.

Backpack

Pencil case

24 count colored Crayola pencils

24 count colored markers

24 count Crayola crayons

3 boxes (1 dz. each) #2 Ticonderoga pencils

Pkg of fine tip black Expo dry erase markers

Primary composition notebook

Wide rule notebook

Red ink pens

Large boxes of Kleenex

Pkg of wide ruled notebook paper

Pkg of Huggies unscented wipes

Earbud headphones

Ream of copy paper

Thank you in advance for your generosity!