

OUTDOOR WORSHIP SERVICE AT HOLY CROSS
SUNDAY, JULY 12, 2020
10:00am

MASKS ARE REQUIRED UNLESS YOU CHOOSE TO STAY IN YOUR CAR. WE HAVE MASKS FOR YOU TO USE IF YOU DO NOT HAVE ONE. WE WILL HAVE HAND SANITIZER AVAILABLE. WE WILL BE FOLLOWING ALL STATE AND FEDERAL GUIDELINES AS WELL AS CDC RECOMMENDATIONS.

Please call Janet in the office at 503/364-6041 to RSVP so we know how many will be coming.

Please enter the parking lot on Lansing Ave. You will be asked if you would like to sit on the patio or if you will be staying in your car.

We have space for approximately 30 people on the patio, depending on family groups, and which includes the 2 picnic tables. Bring your own chairs if you can, but we will have sanitized chairs for you to use if you don't bring your own. You will be directed to an area to place your chairs. Please understand that once you have taken your seats you will not be able to move about and mingle.

If you feel more comfortable staying in your car, you will be directed to the back parking lot where we will you parked a space apart. Roll your windows down and turn your car off so you can best hear the service.

Please bring your own communion elements with you, just like our drive up communion services.

There will be no coffee hour afterwards.

Please call Janet in the office at 503/364-6041 to RSVP so we know how many will be coming.



Holy Cross Lutheran Church is a group of people! (who happen to worship at 1998 Lansing Ave NE, Salem, Or 97301).

I am writing to you today, because, as a group of people, we have emotions, concerns, worries, pride, and so much more going on. That's true all the time, but right now in the time of Covid-19, I think we are collectively feeling drained.

We have isolated (some folks who already live alone have had almost no face to face contact in months!). We have read newspapers and watched news more than at any time since the tragedy 9/11 in 2001. We have shuttered our church building, and made phone calls, sent notes, and more in order to stay connected with each other.

And, as the pastor of this little flock, this is what I see – we are struggling with our identity. Who are we now, if our worship/outreach/caring is blunted in these times? I am very aware that we had to cancel many things – opportunities to be together, but also to help our neighborhood, and more. It's okay to feel sad about all of this. I feel sad. We are entering the time, however, when we can begin to imagine how God can use us in these changing times.

Some of you have heard me preach more than once on this equation – We fill up our tank with worship, and being together, and then we spend it in the week to follow – on being kind, on reaching out, on surviving hard things, and annoying things. Our equation has been disrupted by the need to lockdown and keep others safe during this time of COVID-19

I see the coming weeks as an opportunity to re-orient that equation, just a bit, and imagine both sides getting a lift! We will worship in the parking lot this **Sunday, July 12th at 10 am!** Observing social distancing, we can fit approximately 30 folks on the patio, (Please RSVP to the office 503 364-6041) and up to 11 cars for people who wish to stay in their cars. We will wear masks. I, and the gifted volunteers of Holy Cross, will lead you in a new style of worship, with familiar music, and the joy of seeing people we care about nearby. You will continue to bring bread and wine or juice, and communion will take place family style. *As always, in these days of COVID – you are the best judge of whether it is a good idea for you to attend. Please stay home if you are ill at all.*

Now back to my point – As we come together for worship, It will be my joy to see your cup filled with the Spirit of God's Love. Now, what shall we do with it? How shall we spend God's love in these days when reaching out to our neighbor is so complex? Text me. 5035109976. Email me patriciamakesjam@gmail.com Let me know what God is speaking to your heart as we examine who we are. Let's re-identify ourselves. I will be so glad to hear from you. – Blessings – Pastor Patricia+

WORSHIPPING AT HOME WITH HOLY CROSS
SUNDAY, JULY 12, 2020 – SIXTH 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 – FATHER, I ADORE YOU

- 1 Father, I adore you, lay my life before you; how I love you.
- 2 Jesus, I adore you, lay my life before you; how I love you.
- 3 Spirit, I adore you, lay my life before you; how I love you.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Almighty God, we thank you for planting in us the seed of your word. By your Holy Spirit help us to receive it with joy, live according to it, and grow in faith and hope and love, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

Amen.

READINGS AND PSALM

Genesis 25:19-34

Esau sells his birthright to Jacob

Psalms 119:105-112

Your word is a lamp to my feet and a light upon my path. (Ps. 119:105)

Romans 8:1-11

Live according to the Spirit

Matthew 13:1-9, 18-23

The parable of the sower and the seed

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

ALAN - FREDERICK AMIEL

Sermon for Sunday, July 5, 2020 Oregon Synod Pastor Melissa Reed Text: Matthew 11:16-19, 25-30
Beloveds, **Find your feet on the ground.** If you can, you might even move outside for this portion of the service, especially if you are connecting remotely. **Find your feet on the ground and find the earth** -- even if it is through the floorboards of your home, through the units of the apartment or the basement below. Depending on where you are in Oregon, the earth may be cool and wet, today, or it may be warm and dry. Relish and **remember the beautiful diversity** of the landscapes here in this region and your siblings touching down with you across our Synod on this earth this morning. And **now, remember all of the feet** that have found the earth below you -- all the peoples that have met their earth with this earth throughout the generations. Communities upon communities. I have learned from my indigenous siblings this practice of land acknowledgement. I confess **I have not attended to this practice** often or enough. This is the practice of **re-mem-bering** calling forth the collective memory that we are not the first feet to touch and steward this ground, this sacred earth. Not even close. In fact, if we are not indigenous, we are on stolen land. My feet touches the earth, and makes her home and life with her family, in what's known today as East Portland, on the land of the Multnomah tribe of the Chinookan people. I remember their beloved feet in this moment, and all the feet of those who have come after them -- most often carrying the weight of complexity -- the both/and of oppressor and oppressed. *Silence.* This weekend it feels particularly important to touch this earth and attend to the stories -- those told and those left untold. This weekend we light fireworks in celebration of the birth of a nation, independence won in blood from empire -- AND, if that is where the story ends we have only told **at most** a sliver of the story. We have neglected the eradication of the tribes -- the bodies, hearts, lives, families, children, homes -- from their land for the freedom of white men: **remember**, that is all who won freedom that day. **R-emember** who did not. We have neglected the stealing, objectification, enslavement of black bodies, hearts, lives -- the desolation of families, children, home -- of indigenous African people on which the white wealth of this country was built. Our country enslaved black beloveds for 89 years after the Declaration of Independence was signed -- and what follows is our shared history of no repair, no payment of that debt, and, in fact, policy after policy that afforded white families benefit while stripping black and brown families of land, wealth and freedom. What happens when only parts of the story are told or heard? What happens when parts are ignored and those who would tell them are silence? But, what is possible when we re-member together? What happens when we start to listen? Shame and courage researcher Brene Brown's founded wisdom aligns with recovery wisdom aligns with Jesus wisdom -- She writes, *"When we deny the story it defines us. **When we own the story we can write a brave new ending.**"*

This morning in the gospel of Matthew Jesus is agitated. He is like a lawyer in a courtroom making his closing arguments -- "to what will I compare this generation -- they are like children sitting in a marketplace..." This language in the ancient world conjures up a courtroom scenario, and Jesus' point is that the people have lost their minds, are being played, and are like children (read, immature, impressionable) now playing a ridiculous judge -- on one hand, they indict John the baptist for his fasting, his ascetic, simple lifestyle -- "He has a demon," they say. He's weird. An outcast. And, then turning to Jesus, they indict him FOR his eating and drinking --they cry: "Look, a glutton and a drunkard." You don't eat, there's something wrong with you. You eat, there's something wrong with you. (As someone who struggled with an eating disorder in her early twenties, this feels familiar. You don't eat, you are sick -- feel ashamed. You eat -- you are supposed to be skinny! -- feel ashamed. There is actually no room for a whole human being in this scenario -- which reveals the scenario as bunk,

and those doing the judging as bunk, too.) (And, getting back to the Gospel --) The people, in their immature, irrational judgement, have aligned themselves with those in power, those that judge, arbitrarily, without mercy and oppress. You are poor, sick, foreigner, other -- read too brown, too black, too queer -- or hang with that crowd and we call that "bad." Not because it actually has anything to do with virtue, but because it controls the narrative and allows many people to be deemed "bad" -- and a very certain subset of the population to be deemed good and maintain control. Only, early communities in the way of Jesus listening would have heard this indictment of Jesus' eating and drinking and immediately caught a memory, re-membered into Jesus' meals -- a motley crew of sinners and tax collectors, women, hungry, the rich and despised, those cast out -- all around the same tables and picnic blankets. They would have heard themselves into that meal, all their parts together at the table, and would have experienced a bodily memory of hope. The beginning of a new story. You see, whatever part of ourselves or the world that we or the world would divorce, neglect or erase -- that's the line that Jesus transgresses EVERY TIME -- to spread out the blanket, to set the table and make a meal of life THERE -- broken, yes. And, shared! HEALING on the menu. WHOLENESS on the menu. JOY on the menu. Perhaps that is the reason for what feels like a turn in Jesus' affect and posture. He moves from what feels like anger to one of tenderness -- from frustration with childishness to calling his disciples infants -- a gracious invitation to recline, rest -- for this way of Jesus, of centering the margins -- yours, ours, the world's -- is "good," and yes, that burden IS burden, it's in tension with the false binaries of the world -- but when you are together at the margins you find yourself there with the whole world, you carry it together, and it becomes light. When the margins become the center, nothing is left out. All is included. We are made whole. Perhaps his anger with the people in their judgement is actually grief as they unremember the fullness of their stories, divorce parts of themselves, parts of their community, parts of God's blessed creation -- dismembering what God loves: themselves, and their community. Jesus' own grief that they are missing out on the sweet and savory of the party that they are invited to, literally already in the midst of -- blanket thrown, table set -- but cannot see, cannot hear.

My feet feel heavy on the earth this morning.

If I am honest, part of me wants to un-remember and go back to planting my garden and watching my children play. But, freedom that shackles the other is no freedom at all.

Because, if I do that -- I am also un-remembering a part of me, a part of my own story, and a part of their story. Dis-membering myself, as I continue to participate in the dismembering of my black, brown and indigenous siblings -- And, dis-membering the possibility of a future where I get to be whole and so does my neighbor. Where payment of debt, repair, healing and wholeness and true liberation are the brave new chapter.

Beloveds, Whatever part of your story that the world would silence, whatever part of our collective story we are told to forget -- there, precisely THERE, Jesus spreads the blanket, sets the table and with his body, with our bodies, we start to tell the **whole** story:

of belovedness and crucifixion and re-membering and new life. Beloveds, as we gather around bread and wine as the church, as the communities of Jesus, today, what would it be like to hear ourselves into that motley meal and the promises of that table with no last seat

and in that freedom to find our feet on the ground and re-member the whole story, listen to the cries of those among us long silenced putting us back together -- what repair might we be called to? What might healing look like? What might wholeness feel like? What might this banquet of new life taste like?! Blanket spread, table set! Southern Oregon, find your feet on the ground and re-member the Latgawa. Central Oregon, find your feet on the ground and re-member the Wasco, Warm Springs, and Paiutes. Eastern Oregon, find your feet on the ground and re-member the Walla, Cayuse, Umatilla. Coastal ones, find your feet on the ground and re-member the Suislaw and Kalawatset. Mid-Willamette Valley, find your feet on the ground and re-member the Kalapuya. Amen, Amen, Amen. May it be so. *Prepared by Pastor Melissa Reed, Bishop's Associate, Oregon Synod*

Praying together at Holy Cross – July 12, 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 people struggling with illness, and death in their families and loved ones. Speak kindness to their hearts. (*specific people are mentioned here*)

Lord, in your mercy Hear Our Prayer

We pray for your gift of calm on the waters of relationship and interaction between people. Let us each listen to each other. (*specific people are mentioned here*)

Lord, in your mercy Hear Our Prayer

We pray for the willingness to find a new way to celebrate, and share, where all are safe and cared for. (*specific people are mentioned here*)

Lord, in your mercy Hear Our Prayer

We pray for those trying new ways of doing church, and new ways of expressing our faith and connection with you, God. (*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 we plan the reopening of our place of worship. Thank you, Lord, for loving us. It is what makes all the difference. Amen.

Opportunities at Holy Cross!!

Don't miss this opportunity at Holy Cross – from our Better together Collaboration with Christ the good Shepherd and St. Mark's Lutheran –

Racial Injustice discussion group will meet for the first time Wednesday July 22nd at 6 pm (ask Pastor or Janet for that zoom link)

This week on Tuesday, our Fly Youth Steering Committee is meeting to make big plans about our shared youth focus. If you want to be part of that, let the Pastor or Janet know.

AND, don't forget the "What is god Saying Today?" Group which currently meets on zoom at 5 pm Thursdays. We are discussing the idea of going hybrid – some folks in the physical space of Holy Cross with distancing) and the rest on zoom. We will cover Genesis 25 on July 9th. That zoom link is <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/78252959541?pwd=NVpsSjJhNG9GaldWditKbnlOeW1UQT09> and the meeting ID is: 782 5295 9541 Password: 9ZvcXn

Jacob and Esau – Genesis 25

