

November 10, 2020 – The Week ahead at Holy Cross

We are intentional people of God who seek to be used by God for God's purposes – to build up individuals, and communities, to praise God together, to foster goodwill and care for those who may be in need or want at this time. To be God's disciples – following Christ's example. Bless you – Pastor P+

My friends, Daphne Bentson died overnight, her family reports. She has joined the Church Triumphant, and, I am sure she is glad to be reunited with her loved ones who have died. You and I are deeply saddened, though, and will have to imagine a world for ourselves which does not have Daphne in it any longer. It will be hard. The family is grateful for your prayers, and will keep us informed about a planned moment to remember her. Be gentle with yourselves today. - Pastor Patricia

It's the week of Veterans' Day, and I am sure missing the displays we have put up in past years of our church family veterans. This year, a main focus of staying safe in Covid times is being careful when we gather, so we skipped putting up the pictures so we didn't 'entice' a lot of you to come to the building, where you might pass around the virus. But Gee, I miss it. (I've attached a couple of them to this letter). I have also attached a couple videos to Holy Cross' facebook page, too. Take a look.



Our Governor, Kate Brown, has been concerned about the spread of Covid-19 especially in our county, Marion County. She has asked for a pause beginning on Nov 11th. That means venture out of your home less, and be safe all the time. Your council will evaluate what a pause means for us regarding events we have planned. Janet and I stay out of the office as much as possible, (though we forward the phones). Your safety is always paramount to us all.

Here's the week events – Wednesday Nov 11 – Veterans' Day and we will be closed in observance. I hope you call/visit/remember your veterans today.

AND a chance to join our "Better Together – Racial Equality" Book group – join with St Mark and Christ the Good Shepherd to hear a great presentation about Native American history in Oregon – here's the Zoom Link Topic: Better Together Racial Justice Gathering Time: Nov 11, 2020 06:00 PM Pacific Time (US and Canada) Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87207097904?pwd=MnlPaEttVEJYd3dDMWtSN3A2c2xHZz09>

Meeting ID: 872 0709 7904 Passcode: 833178

Thursday, Nov 12 – Bible Study Day! We have two ways to join in Bible Study together - Join us at Holy Cross in person at noon, (masks required, bring your bible – don't come if you don't feel well) or on Zoom at 5 pm for What is God saying today?

(that link is here - <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/78252959541?pwd=NVps>) Read Matthew 25:14-30 and join us.

Sunday, November 15, 2020 Drive Up Communion at 12 noon in the parking lot!!! This is a lot of fun, and people from Holy Cross have been showing up! (Come about 11:45 if you want my suggestion, so you can be early in the line up!) Do not come if you feel ill, please. Bring your own communion elements, wine and bread, or partake of our individually wrapped items (gluten free included). I have so enjoyed offering you the Bread of Life in your cars this summer/fall. I will be masked, as well as the Assisting Minister, and we will be at a distance from you in your vehicle. If you're being extra careful – this is a very careful way to have a worship moment!

If you prefer to worship virtually, check out our 5 worship elements which are posted every week on our website – www.holycrosslutheran-salem.org and our Facebook page, Holy Cross Lutheran –Salem or are available on my YouTube channel Pastor Patricia Hughes. We will mail you a copy of the sermon in next week's mailout.

Tuesday, November 17, 2020 9 am – 11 am
Tuesday Crew meets (socially distanced, and with masks). Church Council is scheduled for Tuesday, November 17th at 6:30 pm. Our current plan is to meet in person, socially distanced. Stay tuned to find out if we adjust that in light of the 'Pause'.

Long range on our calendar – the office will be closed for Thanksgiving, and the next day, November 26 and 27th. We will also not be able to have the Thanksgiving Eve event we have grown to love at Holy Cross. Won't you pray for our Latino Friends who we will miss so much this year? I plan to put a special video up with prayers for thanksgiving for you all.

Just a recap from last time – we had Synod Assembly remotely this year, and you, (Holy Cross) sent delegates – Judith Ruscoe and Lorraine Odell. And I was there too. It was a lot of sitting, but it was nice to see folks (we had a virtual dinner with our Vineyard Cluster led by Pastor Joe Medley – nice). The work of the Oregon Synod goes on, and you are a part of it!



You are a blessing to me, and I am thankful for you. God bless you all

Reverend Patricia Hughes+, Pastor

Sermon – Keep Watch – November 8, 2020 Well, it's been a week, hasn't it? I'm still standing. My husband and I began a habit we've been planning to start for the whole pandemic – we walk the dogs every morning near our home, 2 miles. That was the smartest thing we did this week. Another smart thing was to ration our news watching. You can only take so much. Be gentle with yourselves. And the gospel for this week is Matthew 25 – the waiting of the bridesmaids for the groom to appear. Well. The waiting part is certainly apropos, isn't it? In the middle east, this a custom practiced for hundreds of years – the maidens, the girlfriends or girl family of the bride wait for the bridegroom to come, which is usually at midnight, when the wedding is performed. And in Matthew 25, the bridegroom is late, so of course the maidens are nervous, and concerned. What will happen as they wait? Can they take a nap while they wait or will they miss something? And will the bridegroom be so late that the oil in their lamps will run out – so they should take along extra? You and I are going to be talking about waiting for a few weeks, my friends. We are on the cusp of Advent, the season of waiting. I am not so good at it. But, waiting is important for the Christian community to be aware of. We wait. And we make choices, we make decisions, we take action that we feel the Holy Spirit has led us to take. The church is still the church friends, even though since March 15th we have put safety and health ahead of the strong desire we have to be together. In this time of waiting, the scab has been ripped off of the reality of racial inequality in our world. In this time of waiting, the trees we love have suffered indescribable wildfire, and whole communities have been wiped out, and people whose names we know have died in the fire. In this time of waiting, we have seen division and discord over the wearing of a mask to protect our neighbors. And we have had an election night last for days and days, as the deep divisions in our country are laid bare. And, your church family and leadership continue to produce 5 worship elements a week online, and continue to evaluate if meeting in person is still able to be conducted safely. We wait for a vaccine, surely, and for a safer reality. I for one, yearn for a day when I don't check the body count. I saw a bumper sticker once that said, "Jesus is coming again. Look Busy". Unfortunately I think that's what the church in our lifetime has focused on. Looking busy. Partly cause we're not really sure what the second coming means for us. I don't want to look busy. I don't want to think we have somebody to impress – I want to be busy, as the church, as people of the church – I want us to be about our father's business. I want us to be people who help in times of fear and need. Here's a secret seminary trick my professors taught me – its about audience. Every gospel reading has 3 audiences that are important to us – the audience listening to Jesus at the time it happened – the audience who read the gospel when it was written and distributed to the early struggling church, and the audience right now you and me who are looking at the gospel account today. It's that second audience – the people in the year 85 who get the gospel of Matthew sent to their little community as a letter – that I think we could learn from in our situation today. They were tired. Jesus had died and been resurrected 50 years earlier. Few of them were eyewitnesses to the events we just read. They gathered, they shared the stories of Jesus together, they had communion, they prayed. They were the family of god together, even though they really had no idea what a church should be like, should act like. They were still figuring it out. These people from 85 AD have a lot to teach us right now. You know all those things you think Church is supposed to be like? The things I bet a lot of you are missing? Well, they were what the church was like once. Its not what we're like now. You know that. You feel that. Here's the thing – its not what we'll be like in the future either. We will be new in the coming reality – post pandemic, post election, post wildfire , post new racial realities. We will be new. It's exciting really. It's what Jesus was trying to tell us. Keep Awake, he says in verse 13. Jesus is Coming. But, I don't want, and I don't think God wants you to Look Busy. God wants you to be reinvented. As people who love God. Let that love reinvent you and reinvent the church into what God needs right now. People who love People, and the planet, all of God's creation, with the Love that God shows us through the person of Jesus Christ. Amen. – Pastor Patricia Hughes

WORSHIPPING AT HOME WITH HOLY CROSS
SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 15, 2020 – TWENTY-FOURTH DAY
AFTER PENTECOST
ELW SETTING THREE

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

Blessed be the Holy Trinity, One God, who creates, redeems and sustains us and all of creation. **Amen.**

Faithful God, have mercy on us. We confess that we are captive to sin and cannot free ourselves. We turn from your loving embrace and go our own ways. We pass judgment on one another before examining ourselves. We place our own needs before those of our neighbors. We keep your gift of salvation to ourselves. Make us humble, cast away our transgressions, and turn us again to life in you through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen

God hears the cries of all who call out in need, and through his death and resurrection, Christ has made us his own. Hear the truth that God proclaims: Your sins are forgiven in the name of Jesus Christ. Let by the Holy Spirit, live in Freedom and newness to do God's work in the world with our own hands.

GATHERING HYMN – ELW 785 - When Peace like a River (*It Is Well with My Soul*)

- 1 When peace like a river attendeth my way,
when sorrows like sea billows roll,
whatever my lot, thou hast taught me to say,
it is well, it is well with my soul.

Refrain

It is well (it is well)
with my soul, (with my soul,)
it is well, it is well with my soul.

- 2 Though Satan should buffet, though trials should come,
let this blest assurance control,
that Christ has regarded my helpless estate,
and has shed his own blood for my soul. *Refrain*

- 3 He lives--oh, the bliss of this glorious thought;
my sin, not in part, but the whole,

is nailed to his cross and I bear it no more.
Praise the Lord, praise the Lord, O my soul! *Refrain*

4 Lord, hasten the day when our faith shall be sight,
the clouds be rolled back as a scroll,
the trumpet shall sound and the Lord shall descend;
even so it is well with my soul. *Refrain*

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Righteous God, our merciful master, you own the earth and all its peoples, and you give us all that we have. Inspire us to serve you with justice and wisdom, and prepare us for the joy of the day of your coming, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

Amen.

READINGS AND PSALM

Zephaniah 1:7, 12-18

The day of the LORD

Psalm 90:1-8 [9-11] 12

So teach us to number our days that we may apply our hearts to wisdom. (*Ps. 90:12*)

1 Thessalonians 5:1-11

Be alert for the day of the Lord

Matthew 25:14-30

The story of the slaves entrusted with talents

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

Blessed are you, O God, maker of all things. You have set before us these gifts of your good creation. Prepare us for your heavenly banquet, nourish us with this rich food and drink, and send us forth to set tables in the midst of a suffering world through the bread of life, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. 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

The God of compassion, hope and joy,
Our Creator, Redeemer and Sustainer,
Bless your feet to carry you into places of need.
Bless your lips to proclaim love and mercy.
Bless your heart to love and listen to those you encounter.
Bless your hands to care for the needs of your neighbors.
Bless you to be a blessing to others.
Now and always.
Amen.

Praying together at Holy Cross – November 15th

Longing for Christ's reign to come among us, we pray for the outpouring of God's power on the church, the world, and all in need. Lord of the church, ignite your people with the passion of your love. By the fire of your Holy Spirit, unify us across ministries, congregations, and denominations, and refine us to participate in your activity throughout the world.



God of abundant grace,

Open your healing hands.

Lord of creation, we stand in awe at the works of your hands and praise you for the beauty of nature. Bless the earth for your glory and restore its integrity where exploitation has caused ruin.

God of abundant grace,

Open your healing hands.

Lord of the nations, sound forth your justice in the ears of all leaders. Increase concern for those who are most vulnerable, especially as international leaders forge trade agreements and cooperate to end human rights abuses.

God of abundant grace,

Open your healing hands.

Lord of all in need, search out all who cry to you in distress. Scatter the heavy clouds of depression, chronic illness, unemployment, and loneliness with your radiant light. Send us as encouragement and signs of your healing. Be with those particularly affected by the Covid-19 Pandemic, by illness or by financial reversals and job loss.

God of abundant grace,

Open your healing hands.

Lord of the stranger, stir up holy restlessness in us to extend love to those at the margins. Release our desire for control and open us to learn from the perspectives of others.

God of abundant grace,

Open your healing hands.

Lord of the living and the dead, we give you thanks for all the saints at rest from their labors. Rouse us to live by their example, that saints yet to come may also know your love. Speak to our hearts words that will heal our grief in this time.

God of abundant grace,

Open your healing hands.

Receive our prayers in the name of Jesus Christ our Savior, until that day when you gather all creation around your throne where you will reign forever and ever.

Amen.

2020 Holiday Gift Assistance

Vasquez Family:

Belkin, 15 y/o female

Needs:Jeans, size 0 teen

Shirts, XS size

Wants: Crossbody bag

Briana, 9 y/o female

Needs:Jeans, size 10

Sweatshirt/shirt size 10-12

Wants: Arts and crafts

Jose, 7 y/o male

Needs:Pants, size 7

Shirt/sweatshirt, size 7

Wants: Cars, learning toys, Legos

Jahir, 5 y/o male

Needs:Pants, size 5

Shirt/sweatshirt, size 5-6

Wants: Cars, learning toys, Legos

Macias Family:

Esmerelda, 16 y/o female

Needs:Shoes, size 10

Pants, size 11, shirt/sweater size medium

Wants: Gift card

Lorena, 9 y/o female

Needs:Shoes, size 4-1/2

Clothes, size 10-12

Wants: Toys, art supplies

Dumond Family:

McKayla, 8 y/o female

Needs:Warm clothes, size 8

Warm shoes (possibly boots), size 3

Wants: Board games, arts & crafts

Prisco Family:

Jared, 10 y/o male

Needs:Jeans, size 16 husky

Sweatshirt, size 16

Wants: Legos set

Corey, 7 y/o male

Needs:Jeans, size 6

Sweatshirt, size 7

Wants: Legos set

Kayla, 13 y/o female

Needs:Jeans, size 7

Sweatshirt/shirt, medium

Wants: Scrapbooking supplies, arts & crafts

Choose one item from this list that you would like a child to have. Then please call the office to let Janet know who and what you'll be donating.

You can bring your gift to the church T-W-Th from 9am to 1pm. You can also bring your gifts when we have in-person worship or drive up communion. Please do not wrap the gifts!

You will have until 12/16 to bring you donated item to the church.

OR – Monetary donations for food will be gladly accepted! Please make sure to note that your donation is for "Christmas".