

November 3, 2020 – The Week ahead at Holy Cross



Every year, I sit and pray and look up at our “Great Cloud of Witnesses” This is a great gift to our congregation from the Worship Arts Task Force (Gary Strand was the woodworker, and Doug Odell the strategist!) The names are those from the family of Holy Cross who have died. Nearly 400 names now. We add every year, those who have died, and I hope this tradition never ends.

We pray on All Saints Day in remembrance of those who did their best. It is this moment of connection for each of us that I hope will make us better people. Better friends. Better neighbors.

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+

I am mailing this to you on Election Day, 2020. This year feels momentous. What will the world be like when you open your mail to read this on Wednesday, or Thursday or even Friday of this week?

Here’s the week events – Wednesday Nov 4 – Pastor P is taking this day off as compensation for the Synod Assembly which is later this week! (Odds are I’m either in the garden, or kitchen!) Office open 9 – 1 as usual.

Thursday, Nov 5 – 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 25:1-13 and join us.

Friday, November 6 Synod Assembly happens on Zoom! 3 pm to 8:30pm Our registered delegates are myself, Judy Ruscoe and Lorraine Odell. If you want to know more go to this link - <http://oregonsynod.org/index.php/calendar/2020-synod-assembly/>

Bishop Laurie says that she will also have a facebooklive feed for those who are not registered voters to watch. Check out the Oregon Synod Facebook page for more info.

Saturday, November 7 Synod Assembly happens on Zoom 8:30 am to 4 pm.

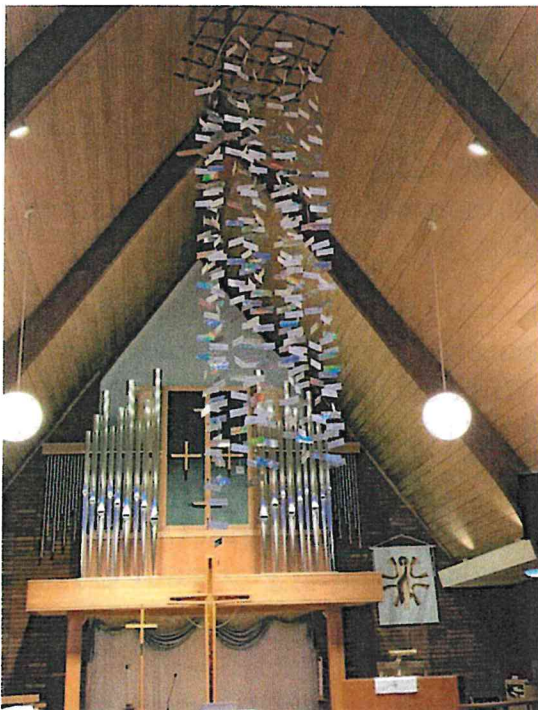
Sunday, November 8, 2020 Worship with Holy Communion at 9:30 am (our regular time for many years) in the Gym. Wear masks. Social Distance. Do not come if you feel ill, please. Bring your own communion elements, wine and bread, or partake of our individually wrapped items (gluten free included). We will have music, with a masked singer, Lonnie Jensen, and Gail Struve will play the piano. 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 10, 2020 9 am – 11 am Tuesday Crew meets (socially distanced, and with masks) and a Property Committee meeting is on the calendar, too.

Wednesday, November 11, 2020, All Day – The Office is closed and staff is off to commemorate Veterans Day (All veterans are honored this day – on Memorial day, we honor those who died while serving their country).

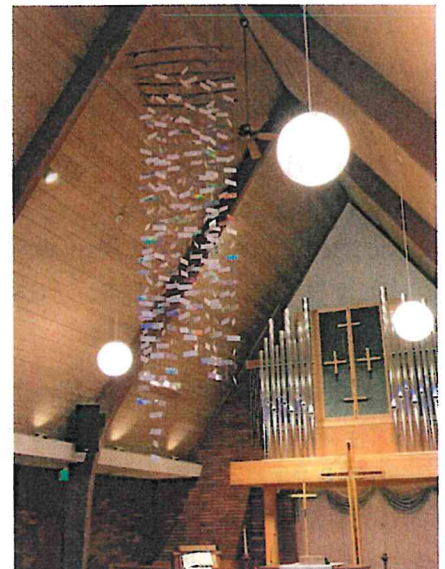
Long range on our calendar we have Drive Up Communion on Sunday November 15 at 12 noon in the parking lot!

Church Council is scheduled for Tuesday, November 17th at 6:30 pm.



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

Reverend Patricia Hughes+, Pastor



Inaugural –Good morning, friends, It's All Saints Day, and we at Holy Cross have commemorated the great cloud of witnesses for several years now. It's up in our sanctuary, and we will have a special come and go devotional service today from noon to 1:30. The idea is you come in, put a memento of a loved one at the ofrenda for dia de los Muertos, light a candle in remembrance of someone who has died, and then come into the sanctuary to pray silently and listen to great music, then leave so someone else can come in to pray – since we're social distancing, we will only let 10 in at a time. And so, we think about those who have died today, we remember their legacy. The gospel reading for today from Matthew takes that thought a bit further. It's Matthew's first big sermon- The beatitudes. "Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven. 4 "Blessed are those who mourn, for they will be comforted. The list goes on, and you and I are pretty familiar with it (check out the recording of the readings for today to listen to them all). Here's the scene in Matthew – things are just getting going in Jesus' ministry. Matthew begins with Jesus' geology, proceeds to his birth, then to the John the Baptist account. Adult Jesus then calls the disciples, and boom we are here- at the beatitudes. This movement Jesus is leading is just getting started – there's been some healing, and speaking, and all of a sudden, a huge crowd is following him. He retreats a bit, gathers the disciples, sits down and tells them this – Blessed are the meek for they will inherit the earth. This moment with those who are closest to him are in fact, Jesus' inaugural address. He's been recognized by the crowds as a force to be reckoned with, the ministry is about to really get going, and so he takes the time to give an inaugural address – a laying out of what's most important to him, before hitting his stride. And as you notice, his address is filled with the verb blessed. It's an active inaugural address. Bless are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness for they will be filled. Blessed are the merciful for they will receive mercy.

It's a time in our country where an inaugural address is on our minds. We are about to elect a president, an important moment that has the opportunity to draw us together as people who care. Many people are praying for the way forward for our country. I think it's a good time to look at inaugural addresses of the past – Thomas Jefferson, in his inaugural said this but every difference of opinion is not a difference of principle. We have called by different names brethren of the same principles. We are all Republicans; we are all Federalists. Abraham Lincoln's inaugural seems very important as we as a country have buried more than 220,000 people from Covid 19 I am loath to close. We are not enemies, but friends. We must not be enemies. Though passion may have strained it must not break our bonds of affection. The mystic chords of memory, stretching from every battlefield and patriot grave to every living heart and hearthstone all over this broad land, will yet swell the chorus of the Union, when again touched, as surely, they will be, by the better angels of our nature.

Theodore Roosevelt said, in his inaugural, shortly after being shot. Never before have men tried so vast and formidable an experiment as that of administering the affairs of a continent under the forms of a Democratic republic.... Upon the success of our experiment much depends, not only as regards our own welfare, but as regards the welfare of mankind.

It's a momentous time in our country, and so we turn to this momentous moment in Jesus' ministry, when he calls together his disciples, to charge them with what was most important about being one of his followers - "Blessed are the pure in heart, for they will see God. "Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called children of God. So, friends, pray, and remember our dead today, and, just as important, know that you are the children of God, blessed to be a blessing. Go and change the world. Amen. – Pastor Patricia Hughes

WORSHIPPING AT HOME WITH HOLY CROSS
SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 8, 2020 – TWENTY-THIRD 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 – “Wake, Awake, the Night is Flying” ELW 436

1 Wake, awake, for night is flying,
the watchmen on the heights are crying;
awake, Jerusalem, at last.
Midnight hears the welcome voices,
and at the thrilling cry rejoices:
"Come forth, you maidens! Night is past.
The bridegroom comes! Awake;
your lamps with gladness take!"
Alleluia!
Rise and prepare the feast to share;
go, meet the bridegroom, who draws near.

2 Zion hears the watchmen singing,
and all her heart with joy is springing.
She wakes, she rises from her gloom.
Her dear friend comes down, all glorious,
the strong in grace, in truth victorious:

her star is ris'n; her light is come.
Now come, O Blessed One,
Lord Jesus, God's own Son.
Oh, hear the call! Come one, come all,
and follow to the banquet hall.

3 Gloria! Let heav'n adore you!
Let saints and angels sing before you,
with harp and cymbal's clearest tone.
Gates of pearl, twelve portals gleaming,
lead us to bliss beyond all dreaming,
with angel choirs around your throne.
No eye has caught the light,
no ear the thund'ring might
of such glory.
There we will go: what joy we'll know!
There sweet delight will ever flow.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

O God of justice and love, you illumine our way through life with the words of your Son. Give us the light we need, and awaken us to the needs of others, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

Amen.

READINGS AND PSALM

Amos 5:18-24

Let justice roll down like waters

Psalm 70

You are my helper and my deliverer; O LORD, do not tarry. (Ps. 70:5)

1 Thessalonians 4:13-18

The promise of the resurrection

Matthew 25:1-13

The story of the wise and foolish bridesmaids

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 8, 2020

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. Holy God, rouse us to deep praise as we gather for worship, both in person and online. Enliven our worship with sincere and heartfelt song. Sustain the work of all church musicians and artists who lead us in praise and prayer



God of abundant grace,

Open your healing hands.

Holy Creator, surprise and delight us with the beauty of the world you have made. Bless the work of landscapers, architects, and artists whose work invites us into harmonious living with your creation.

God of abundant grace,

Open your healing hands.

Holy Judge, let justice roll down like waters over this world. Reign over the courtrooms of every land, in the hearts of those who guard the law and those who stand accused of crimes. Be present in cases where we long for both justice and mercy to prevail.

God of abundant grace,

Open your healing hands.

Holy Companion, console those who feel lonely or abandoned. In this time of Pandemic, we are especially aware of how alone we are. Share the hours of those who live and eat alone. Comfort those who see few people or who struggle with their identity and place in this world.

God of abundant grace,

Open your healing hands.

Holy Protector, be with all observing Veterans Day. Guard the lives of active duty and retired military personnel. Comfort all who mourn those who have died in the line of duty. Heal the wounds, both physical and mental, experienced by service members.

God of abundant grace,

Open your healing hands.

Holy and Immortal One, we pray in thanksgiving for the lives of all who have died. Remind us of the frailty and shortness of our own lives and inspire us to use our lives for the building up of your kingdom.

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.