

January 5, 2021 Today is the 12th day of Christmas – tomorrow we enter a new season – Epiphany – where our theme is “God Calls”. How is God Calling you this year? How is God Calling Holy Cross? Where do we need to change, where do we need to adapt?

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+

The Week ahead at Holy Cross - We’re mailing out on Tuesday this week –The office will be open Tues – Thursday 9 – 1 and our phones and email are answered Mon – Friday 9 – 1.

Tuesday, January 5, – Folks who take care of our building may be in the building 9 – 1. Our congregation is continually blessed by these folk

Wednesday is the Epiphany of our Lord – January 6th – the Coming of the Three Kings! Join the Oregon Synod and Bishop Laurie Larson Caesar and all the bishops elected in 2018 in the ELCA for a worship service at 5 pm at this web address <https://www.facebook.com/events/859003451585924>

Thursday – January 7 at noon – in Person Bible Study – What is God Saying Today? Please do not come if you don’t feel well. We maintain Social distancing and wear masks, and study the bible! This week – Mark 1:4-11

Thursday – January 7 on Zoom at 5 pm. We’ll cover Mark 1:4-11 In our online study, “What is God Saying Today?” Here’s the link for zoom Bible Study <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84055018008?pwd=SIJHN0lkcWhlUVF3aWE4MkEzV1BRdz09>

Sunday, January 10, 2021 – 12 noon – DRIVE UP COMMUNION AND BAPTISM OF OUR LORD CELEBRATED! Bring your communion elements – bread and wine or grape juice, and line up in your car in the parking lot. We will celebrate the Baptism of Our Lord Jesus on this day, by a joyful affirmation of our own baptism!

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

Reverend Patricia Hughes+, Pastor



God Come Down - I am a person who enjoys travel. Perhaps you are, also. I own a Rick Steves backpack, and have become a person who packs everything for a two week trip in this backpack and one carry on bag. That means, I can jump on and off of a train without needing help with my "stuff". Ever since I started doing this, which is a Rick Steves suggestion (Rick is an ELCA Lutheran with a travel business in Washington state), I have looked at my own 'stuff' in my life with something of the same eye. What Stuff do I really need on a trip? In my home? In my life? These days of the Covid19 pandemic have meant very little travel for most of us – as we attempt to keep infection at bay. But, perhaps yearning for travel brought some of these thoughts to mind for me this week as I studied our scripture for January 3rd. The first Chapter of the Gospel of John is a creation story, actually. A bit like Genesis 1, but quite unlike it in many ways. I think you are familiar with this text. In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. ² He was in the beginning with God. ³ All things came into being through him, and without him not one thing came into being. What has come into being ⁴ in him was life,^[a] and the life was the light of all people. ⁵ The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overcome it. Are you surprised this is a Christmas text? The wonderful account in Luke of the journey to Bethlehem, and the birth of Jesus, visited by shepherds who were sent by angels is the essence of Christmas Eve. But, everything is connected. The son, Jesus was sent by a loving God, who yearns for humanity to flourish, to have the best life possible, and to be connected to their God. John chapter 1 goes on. ⁹ The true light, which enlightens everyone, was coming into the world.^[b]¹⁰ He was in the world, and the world came into being through him; yet the world did not know him. ¹¹ He came to what was his own,^[a] and his own people did not accept him. ¹² But to all who received him, who believed in his name, he gave power to become children of God, ¹³ who were born, not of blood or of the will of the flesh or of the will of man, but of God.

Everything is connected in John's gospel. God creates the world, and reaches out to the people of the world through this child, this flesh of his own flesh, God himself, in earthly form. He came to what was his own and his own people did not accept him. Well, suddenly we're moving from Christmas the gift of love from God all the way to the ministry of Jesus, with the world given the opportunity to align with him, to join with him, and be gifted power. Here, on this second Sunday of Christmas we journey all the way from creation to the ministry of Jesus on earth. But we're not finished yet. ¹⁴ And the Word became flesh and lived among us, and we have seen his glory, the glory as of a father's only son,^[b] full of grace and truth. ¹⁶ From his fullness we have all received, grace upon grace. ¹⁷ The law indeed was given through Moses; grace and truth came through Jesus Christ. Grace upon grace. That's the essence of Christ's birth. A loving God offers humanity the chance to draw near, to be part of Christ's loving mission on earth. I have shared a picture on our website, and facebook called the Isenheim Altarpiece, in Alsace, a little sliver of land where Germany and France join, a piece of land fought over for generations. That altarpiece, painted in the year before Luther started the Reformation, depicts the body of Jesus as he goes to the cross. His body is covered with sores, like from a plague. This piece of art was painted for the Monastery of St. Anthony, near this church, which specialized in caring for plague victims of that time, who were routinely covered in sores from the pandemic in their midst. And so, the artist, Matthias Grunewald, painted the savior, going to his death, covered in sores as well. Perhaps the pandemic sufferers of the day were able to connect with Jesus, God's son, whose life and death are gifts to the suffering. Perhaps you and I can find something to connect their as well. This Wednesday is the Feast of Epiphany, the day when the 3 wise men visited the baby Jesus, signifying that all nations come to this- God's son, a gift to us all. You and I are invited to accept this gift. God come down. To us. To be like us. To suffer like us. The gospel concludes: No one has ever seen God. It is God the only Son,^[c] who is close to the Father's heart,^[d] who has made him known. Amen. – Pastor Patricia Hughes

WORSHIPPING AT HOME WITH HOLY CROSS

Baptism of Our Lord

January 10, 2021

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

Blessed be the holy Trinity, † one God,
whose voice is upon the waters,
whose mercy is poured out upon all people,
whose goodness cascades over all creation.

Amen.

Let us confess our sin, trusting in the abundant grace of God.
Holy God,

you search us and know us.

You are acquainted with all our ways.

**We confess that our hearts are burdened by sin—
our own sins and the broken systems that bind us.**

**We turn inward, failing to follow
your outward way of love.**

We distrust those who are not like us.

**We exploit the earth and its resources
and fail to consider generations to come.**

Forgive us, gracious God,

for all we have done and left undone.

**Even before the words are on our tongues,
you know them;**

receive them in your divine mercy.

Amen.

How vast is God's grace!

Through the power and promise of † Christ Jesus,
our sins are washed away
and we are claimed as God's own beloved.

Indeed, we are forgiven.

In the wake of God's forgiveness,
we are called to be the beloved community
living out Christ's justice
and the Spirit's reconciling peace.

Amen.

Gathering Hymn – ELW 305 “When Jesus Came to Jordan”

1 When Jesus came to Jordan
to be baptized by John,

he did not come for pardon
but as the Sinless One.
He came to share repentance
with all who mourn their sins,
to speak the vital sentence
with which good news begins.

2 He came to share temptation,
our utmost woe and loss,
for us and our salvation
to die upon the cross.
So when the dove descended
on him, the Son of Man,
the hidden years had ended,
the age of grace began.

Prayer of the Day: Prayer of the Day

Holy God, creator of light and giver of goodness, your voice moves over the waters. Immerse us in your grace, and transform us by your Spirit, that we may follow after your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Amen.

Readings and Psalm

- **Genesis 1:1-5**

God creates light God creates light

- **Psalm 29**

The voice of the LORD is upon the waters. (Ps. 29:3)

- **Acts 19:1-7**

Baptized in the name of the Lord Jesus

- **Mark 1:4-11**

Revelation of Christ as God's servant

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 power of 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**

The Prayers of Intercession (see attached prayers)

OFFERING PRAYER

O God,
receive these gifts as you receive us:
like a mother receives her child, with arms open wide.
Nourish us anew in your tender care,
and empower us in faithful service
to tend to others with this same love,
through Jesus Christ, our saving grace.

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. Now we bring to you this same bread of life

and this same cup of blessing, that you may be strengthened through your participation in the body of Christ.

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.

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

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Christ Jesus,
at this table we have feasted on your very life
and are strengthened for our journey.
Send us forth from this banquet
nourished in body and in spirit
to proclaim your good news
and serve others in your name.
Amen.

The Lord's Prayer

Lord remember us in your kingdom and teach us to pray.

**Our Father in heaven,
hallowed be your name, your kingdom come,
your will be done, on earth as in heaven.
Give us today our daily bread.
Forgive us our sins
as we forgive those who sin against us.
Save us from the time of trial and deliver us from evil.
For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours,
now and forever. Amen.**

BLESSING

God the creator strengthen you;
Jesus the beloved fill you;
and the Holy Spirit the comforter † keep you in peace.
Amen.

DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Be the light of Christ.
Thanks be to God.

Praying together at Holy Cross –

January 10, 2021- 2nd Sunday of Epiphany

Guided by Christ made known to the nations, let us offer our prayers for the church, the world, and all people in need.



For the church throughout the world and its leaders, that guided by the Holy Spirit they proclaim the forgiveness of sins, Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

For wilderness and water, wind and wild beasts, and all living things on earth, that God's goodness is revealed through creation and faithful stewards care for all God has made, Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

For the nations of the world and their leaders, for laborers busy both day and night, and for peacemakers amid strife, that God inspire all people to use their strength wisely, Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

For the sick and those who provide medical care, for the imprisoned and those who show them mercy, for the lonely and those who provide companionship, for all who suffer in our current Pandemic, that God shower compassion, Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

For all who feel called to worship Our Lord, out of yearning for connection, desire for renewal, or out of desperation, that all God-seekers experience grace and peace, Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

In thanksgiving for the faithful departed who now rest from their labors, that their witness inspire us in our baptismal vocations, Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

Merciful God, hear the prayers of your people, spoken or silent, for the sake of the one who dwells among us, your Son, Jesus Christ our Savior.

Amen.

AND JUST AS
HE WAS COMING UP OUT OF THE WATER

HE SAW THE HEAVENS

TORN APART
and the
SPIRIT

DESCENDING
LIKE A
DOVE
on Him