



# Crossings

CHURCH OF THE HOLY CROSS ✠ EPISCOPAL  
875 COTTON STREET, SHREVEPORT, LOUISIANA  
JANUARY 6, 2016

## Holy Eucharist

Sunday: 9:30 and 11:00 AM  
Saturday: 5:00 PM  
Wednesday: 12:15 and 6:00 PM

## Nursery

Sunday  
9:45 AM – 12:30 PM

## Choir Practice

Sunday: 9:45 AM

## Sunday School

Sunday: 11:00 AM

## The Vestry

Ginger Paul, Senior Warden  
Gerry Brooks, Jr. Warden  
Becky Snodgrass, Secretary  
Monty Walford, Treasurer  
Melissa Fowle  
Stephanie Hamblin  
Robert Henley  
Christine Hennigan  
Kendall Raymond

## Contact Information

Telephone: (318) 222-3325  
Fax: (318) 681-9506  
Email: [holycrossshr1@bellsouth.net](mailto:holycrossshr1@bellsouth.net)

**Please visit our website**  
[www.holycrossshreveport.org](http://www.holycrossshreveport.org)

## Deadline

Material for *Crossings* must be received by **12:00 Wednesday**.  
Please send to  
[lynn.walford@lsus.edu](mailto:lynn.walford@lsus.edu)

## God's Creation and Redemption

Our lesson this Sunday from the Hebrew Scriptures, Isaiah 43:1-7, is one of my favorites. The passage can be a source of great comfort in times when we know we have no control over a devastating situation; times when we know we are in the grasp of a fear we cannot escape. The ancient promise of angels, "Fear not!" is developed in words convincing and irresistible. Comforting his people and giving them hope in exile, the poet's words show us the deep beauty and truth of divine inspiration.

FEAR NOT,  
FOR I HAVE REDEEMED YOU;  
I HAVE CALLED YOU BY NAME,  
YOU ARE MINE.  
Isaiah 43:1

There are other messages there for us, one being the inextricable bond of God's redemption with God's creation. In both the Creation stories of Genesis we sense a love in creating that will not abandon the creation. Isaiah begins with this passage:

*But now thus says the LORD, he who created you, O Jacob, he who formed you, O Israel; do not fear, for I have redeemed you; I have called you by name; you are mine. (v. 1)*

The promise is so dear we can hardly grasp its magnitude. The God who in unequalled power and sovereignty created out of nothing all that is, has called Israel, and by suggestion each person God created, by name. Each of us. Each of all the people of the world. God has called us into the Truth that each of us is beloved of God; each of us, even in all our mis-choosing, our selfish whims, our misguided words and actions, as well as our right intentions and longings, to be free of guilt.

Isaiah's message is to Israel in a particular time: the hopeless time of captivity in Babylon, and we must read his words in the context of his time and place. Isaiah speaks to his people to give them hope. But even as we acknowledge a specific context, we see a deeper message, brought to fullness some five hundred years later in Jesus. Farther along in Chapter 43 we read:

*See, I am doing something new! . . . It is I, I, who wipe out, for my own sake, your offenses; your sins I remember no more. (vv. 19, 25)*

This is what Walter Brueggemann names "Gospel" in the Hebrew Scriptures. God promises not to abandon God's Creation to live in guilt and sin and

self-interest. When God entered, bodily, human space and time, when God gave God's own self so we could know the truth of God's love for us, the truth of Isaiah's words breaks their promise out of the bounds of time and space. All people of all times are redeemed—something we cannot do for ourselves. God remembers our sins no more. We are free to live lives of gratitude and love. We are free to accept our redemption.

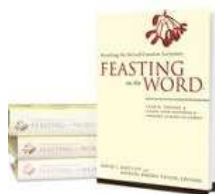
It becomes clear that redemption was God's purpose in God's first words creating the world. St. John brings it all together in his inspired theological statement at the beginning of his gospel:

*In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was in the beginning with God. All things came into being through him, and without him not one thing came into being. What has come into being in him was life, and the life was the light of all people. The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overcome it (John 1:1-4). . . . And the Word became flesh and lived among us, and we have seen his glory, the glory as of a father's only son, full of grace and truth. . . . From his fullness we have all received, grace upon grace (John 1:14, 16).*

**The Rev. Mary B. Richard**

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***Daily Feast: Meditations on the Word, Year B***  
*Louisville: Westminster, John Knox Press, 2012*



**The First Sunday after the Epiphany**  
**January 10, 2016**

*Isaiah 43:1-7 Psalm 29*  
*Acts 8:14-17 John 3:15-17, 21-22*

*(Isaiah 43:1-7)* Who are we? Where do we belong? What makes us worthy? Isaiah 43 speaks not only to us as individuals but also to us as communities of faith. The prophet reminds us that our core identity lies not in our roles as individuals, or in our relative size and wealth as congregations, but in God's identification of us as "precious in my sight, and honored." Our sense of belonging comes not from the acceptance of our peers or the status of our communities but from the One who claims us and will never let us go. What makes us worthy is not our individual achievements or the size of our congregational budgets but God's gracious love.

**W. Carter Lester**

**The Second Sunday after the Epiphany**  
**January 17, 2016**

*Isaiah 62:1-5 Psalm 36:5-10*  
*Corinthians 12:1-11 John 2:1-11*

*(Isaiah 62:1-5)* What happens when we stand up on behalf of a people (in this case, the prophet pleads on behalf of Zion/Jerusalem)? Poet and feminist activist Audre Lorde once proclaimed that our silence will not save us. Lorde spent her life calling marginalized people, especially lesbians, from the corners and closets to speak the truth. This example may seem far-fetched, but surely the prophet cries out in a climate of despair and disbelief, one that does not expect God to change things. Silence usually accompanies such feelings, but the prophet sets an example for us. He declares, "For Zion's sake I will not keep silent, for Jerusalem's sake I will not remain quiet, till her righteousness shines out like the dawn, her salvation like a blazing torch" (v. 1).

**Valerie Bridgeman Davis**

I like the silent church before the service begins, better than any preaching.  
**Ralph Waldo Emerson**

# Epiphany at Holy Cross

Wednesday, January 6, 5:00 PM

The Feast of the Epiphany

Evening Prayer with children's sermon and visitation of Herod and the Angel  
followed by dinner in the Undercroft



and

Wednesday nights, beginning January 13

A study of Luke's Gospel

Supper, Eucharist, Bible Study

6:00 PM in the Undercroft

Please make your reservation by calling the church office, 222-3325



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## Annual Parish Meeting and Election of Vestry Members Sunday, January 17, after the 11:00 service

Our Charter provides that once each year the members of Holy Cross meet to hear reports about the previous year, share our visions and financial state for the coming year, and elect new vestry members.

Four people will be retiring from the vestry:

- **Sr. Warden Ginger Paul**
- **Jr. Warden Gerry Brooks** (as he filled in a one-year term for a member who moved, he is eligible to be re-elected for another term)
- **Secretary Becky Snodgrass**
- **Treasurer Monty Walford** (the Treasurer may be but is not required to be on the vestry)

Six people have been nominated to fill their positions:

- **Gerry Brooks**
- **Jo Ann Horton**
- **John Hughes**
- **Meredith Lucius**
- **Reece Middleton**
- **Steve Snodgrass**

Please plan to stay after the 11:00 service on January 17 for this important meeting. If you would like to nominate someone for the vestry prior to that date, speak with them first to be sure they are willing to serve, then call Laurie at the church office, 222-3325, so we can check eligibility. Nominations are due Thursday, January 14<sup>th</sup>.

To serve on the vestry a person must have:

- been a member of Holy Cross for at least six months
- been a contributor of record of at least \$1.00 during the past year, of which the church's records are the authority
- been active in support of the church's ministry and in regular worship attendance.

The vestry meets on the third Wednesday of each month at 5:30 PM.

## Calendar for January

Sundays	Informal Eucharist	9:20 AM	Rose Garden or Chapel (depending on weather)
	Choir Practice	9:45 AM	Nave
	Nursery	9:45-AM-12:15 PM	Education Building
	Sunday School	11:00 AM	Education Building
	Holy Eucharist II	11:00 AM	Nave
Wednesdays	Holy Eucharist (Enriching Our Worship)	12:15 PM	Chapel
	Beginning January 13: Supper, Eucharist, Bible Study	6:00 PM	Undercroft
Thursdays	Holy Eucharist	11:00 AM	Hope House Back Yard
Saturdays	Holy Eucharist	5:00 PM	Chapel
Second Sunday each month	Morning Prayer	11:00 AM	Nave
<b>Wednesday, January 6</b>	<b>The Feast of the Epiphany: Evening Prayer, children's sermon, visitation of Herod and the Angel, followed by supper</b>	<b>5:00 PM</b>	<b>Nave and Undercroft</b>
<b>Sunday, January 17</b>	<b>Annual Parish Meeting</b>	<b>following the 11:00 service</b>	<b>Nave</b>

## Prayer List

Bill Alexander  
Wanda Allen  
Margaret Boudreaux  
Jim Boyd  
Barbara Campbell  
Charlie Campbell  
Jay Colvin  
Laurie Connell  
Evelyn Corley  
Ron Dean

Jean Dooley  
Elizabeth Eglin  
Shirley Enani  
Floyd "Buzzy" Farrar  
Lady Martha Garner  
Austin Gleason  
Kenneth Jordan  
Elizabeth Joyce  
George Love  
Mim McCoy

Paige McCranie  
Marie Nanco  
Trish Peyton  
Ila Riggs  
Laura Rhoades  
Sandra Robinson  
Brady Sessions  
Jack Theurerkauf  
Gary Thomas  
Jane Thompson

Robert Todd  
Cliff Townsend  
Mattie Washington  
Charlotte Webb  
Bill Wright  
Larry Wright  
Mary Wright

*If you would like to request an addition to the Prayer List, please call the church office, 222-3325. Our practice is to keep names on the list for six weeks. If we have an update at that time requesting that we continue to pray for the person, we will leave the name on the list. If not, we will remove it. You can always call if you would like us to add it again.*

We pray for those who serve and are served by Hope House; for all who are homeless or hungry;  
for the people of Mexico and, the Middle East; for migrants in Africa and Europe;  
for people in all the places where there are war and tension, and for all who seek peace;  
for immigrants seeking acceptance and safety, that our country may be a safe place for all people;  
for the people of our country, that we may find together the way of compassion and peace from our prejudices  
and racial tensions; for law enforcement officers and the people they serve;  
and for our President and Congress, that they may work together to pass legislation to lessen the danger of  
violence and injustice in our country and provide for the needs of the most vulnerable.

In our Diocesan cycle of prayer we pray for Christ Church, Bastrop, and the Rev. Ned Head (Mary Nell);  
and for St. George's, Bossier City, and the Rev. Jaime Flowers (Denise)

Almighty God, grant us courage to be humble and self-giving, even when our world rewards ambition and pride. May any power and glory we hold in the world as God's people arise from our unending efforts to serve the poor, the downtrodden, and the needy. For all those oppressed and powerless, may God's compassion reach them through our efforts to work for justice. *Amen.*

## Day Ministries

### The First Sunday after the Epiphany January 10, 2016

Sat. 5:00 PM: Lector and Eucharistic Minister: Stephanie Hamblin

Sun. 11:00 AM:

Lector: Reid Raymond

Prayers of the People: Maggie Fowle

Eucharistic Ministers: Jo Ann Horton, Reece Middleton

Acolytes, Herschel Richard, Patrick Raymond

Ushers: Lynn Walford, Steve Snodgrass

Altar Guild Sat. 5:00: Margaret Heacock, June Kirkland

Altar Guild Sun. 11:00: Tommie Sue Brooks, Christine Hennigan

### The Second Sunday after the Epiphany January 17, 2016

Sat. 5:00 PM: Lector: Larry Wright

Sun. 11:00 AM:

Lector: Ginger Paul

Prayers of the People: Reece Middleton

Eucharistic Ministers: Monty Walford, Kendall Raymond

Acolytes: Hannah Wallace, Aaron Horton, Audrey

Ushers: Gerry and Tommie Sue Brooks

Altar Guild Sat. 5:00: Margaret Heacock, June Kirkland

Altar Guild Sun. 11:00: June Kirkland, Ginger Paul



## Christmas Flowers



### The Flowers on the High Altar, and at the Lectern and Pulpit, are given to the Glory of God and in loving memory of

Mellie George and Newton Jefferson Paul, Sr., Raymond Davis Millener and Linda Mercer and James Graceton Floyd, Sr., by the Rev. Kenneth W. Paul and Mrs. Virginia M. Paul.

### Poinsettias are given to the Glory of God and in loving memory of

Mr. and Mrs. Burgess McCranie, and Mr. and Mrs. W. R. Brooks, by Tommie Sue and Gerry Brooks

Marjorie T. McCoy and Pamela M. Reeves, by Laurie Connell

Morton and Winifred Braswell, and Weber and Grace Fellers, by Ann and Charles Fellers

Joan W. Fowle, Harry Fowle III, George Burton III, and Vera McCoy, by Maggie and Melissa Fowle

Betty and Travis Madden, by Anna Grace Madden

James R. Carter and Peter Carter, by Patricia Peyton

Clyde Holloway and Arthur Bernstein, by Bruce Power

Charlotte and Herschel Richard, and Mackey and Jack Brownfield, by Mary and Herschel Richard

Cecilia Leonard Ellerbe, Clarence Heber Ellerbe, Mollie Ellerbe Webb, John Skannal Webb, Lucy Ellerbe Egan,

Cecilia Ellerbe Smith, and Cecilia Ellerbe Smith Spitznagle, by Charlotte Ellerbe Webb.

### Poinsettias are given to the Glory of God and in honor of

Ronald Dean, Micki Simms, Elizabeth Sjoberg, and William C. Teague, by Bruce Power.

## The Continuing Feast and Shrove Tuesday Supper

This year, only **two days** separate the first Sunday in February from Shrove Tuesday, so we've had to make some changes. **There will be no Continuing Feast on Sunday, February 7.** Instead we'll celebrate Shrove Tuesday, February 9, with a gumbo supper provided by the Holy Cross gumbo chef. Please see the next issue of Crossings for more information.

Church of the Holy Cross ✠ Episcopal

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E-mail: [holycrossshr1@bellsouth.net](mailto:holycrossshr1@bellsouth.net)

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P A I D

SHREVEPORT, LA

Permit No. 1197

Return Service Requested

**Mission Statement:** *The Church of the Holy Cross, Shreveport, Louisiana, strives to be the presence of Jesus Christ in our community and beyond, through worship of Almighty God, open inquiry, sharing fellowship, valued diversity, genuine inclusiveness, and servant leadership—encouraging all to exercise God's gifts and calling as we share the Gospel of Hope in programs, to serve without regard for religious affiliation, race, or economic status.*

**Hope House:** There is an ongoing need for coffee, sugar, creamer, laundry detergent, disposable razors, and personal size hygiene products (soap, shampoo, deodorant, etc.). Donations can be taken to 762 Austin Place or to the church office. Thank you for your continued support.

**Forward Day by Day** for **January and February**, in both standard and large-print editions, is available in the Narthex and the Undercroft.

**If you cannot get to church** and would like to receive Holy Communion or a visit at your residence or the hospital, please call the church office at 222-3325, and Communion will be brought to you.

**Crossings is now also available via email.** Simply send or call in your email address to the office.



The Most Rev. Michael B. Curry, Ph.D.  
The Rt. Rev. Dr. Jacob Owensby, Ph.D., D. D.  
The Rev. Mary B. Richard  
The Rev. Sally M. Fox  
The Rev. Kenneth W. Paul  
The Rev. Donald D. Heacock  
Mr. Bruce Power  
Mr. Ron Dean  
Mrs. Laurie Connell  
Mr. Charles Alford

XXVII Presiding Bishop  
IV Bishop of Western Louisiana  
Rector  
Assisting Priest  
Rector Emeritus  
Director, Holy Cross Child Placement  
Organist-Choirmaster  
Organist Choirmaster Emeritus  
Office Administrator  
Sexton