



Crossings

CHURCH OF THE HOLY CROSS ✠ EPISCOPAL
875 COTTON STREET, SHREVEPORT, LOUISIANA
FEBRUARY 17, 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

Reece Middleton, Senior Warden
Gerry Brooks, Jr. Warden
Christine Hennigan, Secretary
Monty Walford, Treasurer
Melissa Fowle
Stephanie Hamblin
Jo Ann Horton
John Hughes
Kendall Raymond

Contact Information

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

Please visit our website

www.holycrossshreveport.org

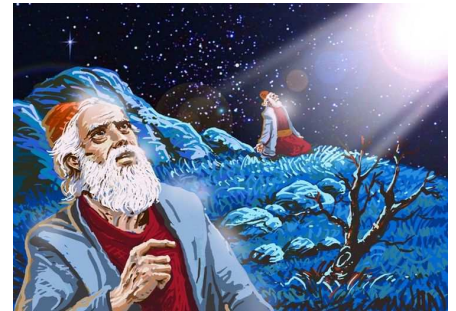
Deadline

Material for *Crossings* must be received by **12:00 Wednesday**.

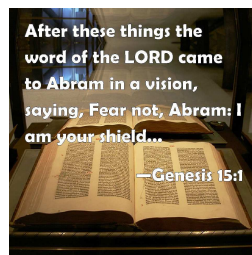
Please send to
lynn.walford@lsus.edu

God's Faithfulness

Abraham is full of questions for God: How can I have descendants when you've given me no offspring? How do I know I'll possess the land you're promising me? How can I know your promises are true? That you'll keep them?



We have to say, these are reasonable questions. God had called Abram out of his homeland to wander with his wife, servants, and livestock, but about all Abram had to hold on to were the call and the promises. Nothing tangible. Nothing that could be proved beyond a doubt.



And then, there's God's opening statement: Do not be afraid, Abram. I am your shield; your reward will be very great. So some fear must have mixed with Abram's doubt. A powerful force. A force that fights against faith.

We don't have to search deep to find our identity with Abram. In our obligations, our possessions, our livelihood, we seek and need security. Money in the bank, the surety of a paycheck, the assurance that our house will not fall down around our heads, the means to pay our bills and feed others who depend on us. A contract. A legal document. Insurance. Something more than a verbal covenant.

But when we get right down to it, there are many assurances that won't hold up. Disaster may come, sickness, a devastating accident, paralyzing grief, national or international financial crisis. Our best-laid plans and securities can be spoiled, and we can find that our carefully protected resources are gone. Abram didn't have all the "things" we have today, but he had the same fears, and they may have been more prominent in his consciousness than they are in ours, as he lived day to day, close to the earth.

And so God made a covenant with Abram, in the way binding promises were made 4,000 years ago. God would keep God's word. Abraham could depend on it.

The story goes that this covenant was made about the land God would provide for Abraham's children, the land of Canaan, Israel—the land that is treasured today by Abraham's descendants: Jews, Christians, and Muslims. But as the descendants of Abraham and Isaac, and Jacob, whose name God changed to Israel, found as they journeyed with God and came to know more fully the God who had called them on this journey, the promise was really not for a tangible commodity: not land, not descendants, not prosperity. No, the covenant was for something much more valuable, something everlasting. God's promise is to be with us, to stay with us, forever. Through thick and thin, through disaster and prosperity, through sickness and health. Even through our failure to be faithful in our trust and journey with God.

Abram could not know the end of the story; his call was to believe the promise, and we can believe that would be hard, seeing that the God making the promise had been known to him only for a short time and so far had disrupted his life completely. Abram could not know that God's own Son would endure suffering and death as horrible as human beings can inflict on one another, and that through it all God would remain faithful to God's people, just as God promised. Surely, Abram did find peace and trust in God's presence, the fulfilment of another promise God made, whose implications he may not have dreamed: you will be my people, and I will be your God. Forever.

And so as we twenty-first-century followers of Jesus journey through Lent, God calls us into a deeper faith: Do not be afraid, even though doubt and fear linger in the shadows. The end of the story, Jesus' Resurrection, is the assurance of God's everlasting faithfulness. God is with us in all that can come to us in this life. God is with us as we walk with one another and seek to be God's love and faithfulness to one another. We can say with the psalmist: The LORD is my light and my salvation; whom then shall I fear? * The LORD is the strength of my life; of whom then shall I be afraid? (Psalm 27)

The Rev. Mary B. Richard

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



The Second Sunday in Lent
February 21, 2016

Genesis 15:1-12, 17-18 ☞ *Psalm 27*
Philippians 3:17-4:1 ☞ *Luke 13:31-35*

(*Luke 13:31-35*) Luke saw a persistent intent on the part of Jesus to bring in those cast out, to raise up those beaten down, to bring those on the extremities of the social order close to the heart of God. Luke sees this at the heart of Jesus' messianic message. . . . As the good news of Jesus is declared and the Holy Spirit of God that was on Jesus is poured forth, a new human community emerges from the great variety and diversity of humanity.

Michael B. Curry

The Third Sunday in Lent
February 28, 2016

Exodus 3:1-15 ☞ *Psalm 63:1-8*
1 Corinthians 10:1-13 ☞ *Luke 13:1-9*

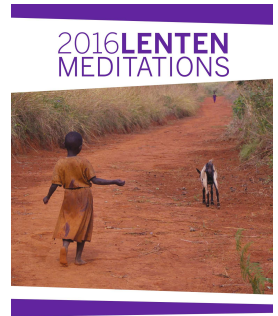
(*Psalm 63:1-8*) The psalmist needs immediate help and protection. The psalm juxtaposes his physical need for water with his spiritual thirst for God. Surprisingly, the latter dominates! Although his body wastes from dehydration, his spiritual longing for God takes precedence. Hunted and afraid for his life, the psalmist remembers God's protection and loving kindness. The psalmist recalls seeing God's power and glory in the sanctuary (v. 2). His soul longs for God. The psalm presents the ideas that longing is healthy, that thirsting for God's presence invites and brings God's presence, and that God's presence satisfies longings. In addition, God's presence, because of God's nature, always brings more blessings than a supplicant seeks.

Robin Gallaher Branch

Remember those who are in prison, as though you were in prison with them; those who are being tortured, as though you yourselves were being tortured.

Hebrews 13:3

2016 Lenten Meditations from Episcopal Relief and Development are on tables in the Narthex, along with envelopes that make it easy to send ERD a donation. Please take one of the booklets and use it during Lent to grow in your knowledge and love of God and of one another.



Episcopal Relief & Development
hearing & sharing words

SUNDAY SCHOOL!

Our Sunday School is in full swing! Greg Criddle and David Richard have volunteered to teach two levels of Sunday School on Sunday mornings at 11:00. Sally Fox is guiding them with materials and with her background in Christian Education. We would love some help! If you feel called to be a part of the formation of our young people, please jump in. Call Laurie in the church office, 222-3325, for more information or to volunteer. Thank you!

Calendar for Lent

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
	Soup Days	11:00 AM-1:00 PM	Undercroft
Saturdays	Holy Eucharist	5:00 PM	Chapel
Maundy Thursday, March 24	Holy Eucharist and Foot Washing	TBA	Hope House

Prayer List

Bill Alexander
Wanda Allen
Warren Bankston
Jim Boyd
Laurie Connell
Evelyn Corley
"Buzzy" Farrar
Lady Martha
Garner

Amy Crone
Ron Dean
Jean Dooley
Elizabeth Eglin
Shirley Enani
Kevin Hall
Austin Gleason
Larrisa Hall
Chris Lowery

George Love
Mim McCoy
Paige McCrainie
Ila Riggs
Robert Todd
Mattie Washington
Linda Robinson
Sandra Robinson
Brady Sessions

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 the Holy Cross Villas and Holy Cross Villas West;
for all who are homeless or hungry;
for the people of Mexico, the Middle East, and all places where there are war, oppression and fear;
for migrants in Africa and Europe; and for all who seek peace;
for all 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;
for candidates running for office this year, 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 St. Andrew's, Moss Bluff, for the Rev. Boo Kay;
and for Christ Church, Mansfield, the Rev. Michael Millard (Samantha)

Remind us, O Christ who suffered for us, that the Church is one body, and that the suffering of one part is the suffering of all. *Amen.*

Lay Ministries

The Second Sunday of Lent February 21

Sat. 5:00 PM: Lector: Trish Peyton

Sun. 11:00 AM:

Lector: Steve Snodgrass

Prayers of the People: Reid Raymond

Eucharistic Ministers: Fred Ogunyemi, Reece Middleton

Acolytes: Patrick Raymond, Hannah Wallace, Audrey Roberts

Ushers: Lynn Walford, Monty Walford

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

Altar Guild Sun. 11:00 Tommie Sue Brooks, Becky Snodgrass

The Third Sunday of Lent February 28

Sat. 5:00 PM: Lector: Larry Wright

Sun. 11:00 AM:

Lector: Reece Middleton

Prayers of the People: Melissa Fowle

Eucharistic Ministers: Nathaniel Means, Ginger Paul

Acolytes: Steve Snodgrass, Aaron Horton, Herschel Richard

Ushers: Becky Snodgrass, Bill Richard

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

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

Service Music

The Second Sunday in Lent: February 21

Mass: Merbecke, *Christ our Passover* Ambrosian Chant; Martens, adapt.

Psalm 27:1-9 Chant tune: R. K. Kennedy

Anthem: *Lord, who throughout these forty days* anon. English; R. Shephard, arr.

Hymns: 455 Dunedin 148 Uffingham 598 *Mit Freuden zart*

Organ: *Prelude (Suite, Op. 5)*, Duruflé *Prelude on "Mit Freuden zart,"*, Distler *Elevation I, Op. 32*, Dupré

The Third Sunday in Lent: February 28

Mass: Merbecke, *Christ our Passover* Ambrosian Chant; Martens, adapt.

Psalm 63:1-8: Metrical setting: Scottish Psalter St. Flavian

Anthem: *Who at my window is standing?* F. Lee Scott

Hymns: 574 *St. Petersburg* 309 *O Welt, ich muss dich lassen* 344 *Sicilian Mariners*

Organ: *Lamento*, Dupré *Elevation II, Op. 32*, Dupré *Solemn March*, T. Tertius Noble

Socks for our Neighbors



Reminder: During Lent we are collecting socks for our neighbors, to be given to them on Maundy Thursday during the Eucharist and foot washing. Men's "tube" socks are recommended, but any new socks are good. Please remember to pick up a package or two and place them in the Hope House baskets in the Narthex.

. . .and please remember the Fasting Fund for Lent

Baskets are in the Narthex, the Chapel, and the Chancel steps.

Memorials

One of the nicest ways to remember and honor someone who has meant a lot to you—a relative, a teacher, a mentor, a friend—is to give flowers for our altar in their name. We all appreciate the beautiful flowers given to the glory of God who created them, and we all give our thanksgivings for the lives God blessed us with when they are remembered in worship. We encourage you to honor those you love—living or deceased—with the gift of flowers to enhance our worship and feed our prayers. You may call the church office, 222-3325, and ask Laurie Connell about dates that are open for altar flowers. Thank you!



Soup Days are Here!



The Holy Cross ECW is once again hosting the now famous Soup Days each Wednesday during Lent: Remaining dates are February 24, and March 2, 9, and 16. For only \$4.00 you can enjoy a delicious lunch of homemade vegetable beef soup, crackers, and homemade dessert. All proceeds will go to Holy Cross ministries. If you'd like to help, please make a pot of soup (you can freeze it until it's needed), or make a pie or cake. Servers are also welcome!

Church of the Holy Cross ✠ Episcopal

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Shreveport, LA 71165-1627

Website: www.holycrossshreveport.org

E-mail: holycrossshr1@bellsouth.net

Non-Profit Organization

U. S. Postage

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 **February** and **March**, 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