



Crossings

CHURCH OF THE HOLY CROSS ✠ EPISCOPAL
875 COTTON STREET, SHREVEPORT, LOUISIANA
JULY 13, 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
Melissa Fowle
Jo Ann Horton
John Hughes
Meredith Lucius
Kendall Raymond

Monty Walford, Treasurer
(non-vestry)

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

Amos: A Plumb Line and a Basket of Summer Fruit

“This is what the Lord God showed me. . . .”

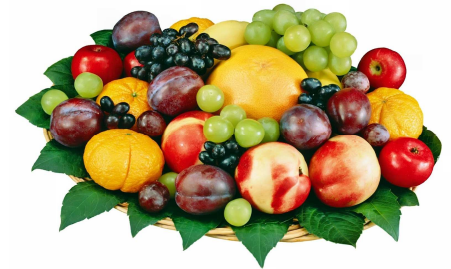
Amos is a prophet of visions; this is the way God spoke to him. As we say, a picture is worth a thousand words, and Amos’ pictures are pretty clear: Israel has strayed far from God’s law, and judgment on her is imminent. Yahweh is leaving her, wants no more to do with her, will never “pass them by” again.

Last Sunday we read Amos’ vision of the plumb line along which Israel could not hope to align herself. We will read another vision this Sunday: a basket of summer fruit about to go rotten. Again, truth hard for Israel to hear. Amos prophesies the end of the relationship between God and the people God has chosen to reveal God’s self to, a people who will be a blessing to the entire world.

Amos is also a poet, and his words of poetry are no less hard; in fact, Amos calls a spade a spade in the true form of the poet-prophet. He begins with God’s judgment on Israel’s enemies, and then comes the shock: Judah and Israel are not immune from judgment. God’s people will be judged by their actions, just as the other nations are judged. Amos proceeds to call God’s people to account for following pagan gods and worshiping at their altars; for their deeds against the poor, the marginalized, the powerless of their own people—sins, ultimately, against the God of Israel. Amos pronounces Yahweh’s judgment. Some of the imagery of his poetry is well known:

Hear this word, you cows of Bashan who are on Mount Samaria, who oppress the poor, who crush the needy, who say to their husbands, “Bring something to drink!” (4:1)

Alas for those who lie on beds of ivory, and lounge on their couches, and eat lambs from the flock, and calves from the stall; who sing idle songs to the sound of the harp, and like David improvise on instruments of music; who drink wine from bowls, and anoint themselves with the finest oils, but are not grieved over the ruin of Joseph! Therefore they shall now be the first to go into exile, and the revelry of the loungers shall pass away. (6:4-7)



Hear this, you that trample on the needy, and bring to ruin the poor of the land . . . and practice deceit with false balances, buying the poor for silver and the needy for a pair of sandals, and selling the sweepings of the wheat. (8:4-6)

But let justice roll down like waters, and righteousness like an ever-flowing stream. (5:24)

After eight and a half chapters of judgment and promised punishment, we begin to see that God's love for Israel will not be consumed by God's anger. The second half of the final chapter of Amos' prophecies tells of the restoration of the House of David, the remnant God will save; of God's will that the goodness God has built into Creation prevail. We have seen God the Judge; we now glimpse God the redeemer.

The eyes of the Lord GOD are upon the sinful kingdom, and I will destroy it from the face of the earth—except that I will not utterly destroy the house of Jacob, says the LORD. . . . On that day I will raise up the booth of David that is fallen, and repair its breaches, and raise up its ruins, and rebuild it as in the days of old . . . says the LORD who does this. The time is surely coming, says the LORD, when the one who ploughs shall overtake the one who reaps, and the trader of grapes the one who sows the seed; the mountains shall drip sweet wine, and all the hills shall flow with it. I will restore the fortunes of my people Israel, and they shall rebuild the ruined cities and inhabit them; they shall plant vineyards and drink their wine, and they shall make gardens and eat their fruit. I will plant them upon their land, and they shall never again be plucked up out of the land that I have given them, says the LORD your God. (9:8, 11-15)

Echoes of Hannah's Song and Mary's Magnificat; road signs pointing to Isaiah and to Jesus' Beatitudes. The servant will "overtake" the master, the laborer the owner. The remnant of the righteous poor will be the seed of the fortunes of Israel's people. Joy and prosperity will be returned to God's people.

Is this just Amos' comment on Israel's fate? Is his prophecy only a piece of history? I don't think so. The choices of writings preserved for Israel and for the world, the writings honored as Scripture, are inspired. There is something here, something critical, for all people to know: human nature, left to its own recourses, cannot be depended upon to love one another and God above all else. Power is too apt to corrupt; the lure of power, the fear of being powerless, are too strong. The weak are always in danger of the strong's self-serving ambitions and desperations.

The voice of doom? Could be. Except that the Creator of all that is has built into the universe the power of goodness, which we believe will prevail. Will there be judgment? Yes, where judgment is called for. And around it all is God's determination that good prevail, God's hope for the world and God's promise of Salvation, the hope we know in the Cross and the Resurrection. And for human beings, a warning: Pay attention to the words of the prophets, search out the places in your heart and in your life where you might lie on a "bed of ivory" and not be grieved over the plight of the poor; search out the laws and practices of our society that "trample on the needy, and bring to ruin the poor of the land."

Believe with all your heart that God's promises are better than any advantages we might be tempted to gain at the expense of our sisters and brothers. And believe with all your heart that God can accomplish God's goodness in you and in our world. This is a decision we make and a trust we choose.

The Rev. Mary B. Richard

Let no one ever come to you without leaving better and happier. Be the living expression of God's kindness, kindness in your face, kindness in your eyes, kindness in your smile, kindness in your warm greeting.

Mother Teresa



Daily Feast: Meditations on the Word, Year B

Louisville: Westminster, John Knox Press, 2012



The Ninth Sunday after Pentecost Proper 11, July 17, 2016

Amos 8:1-12; Psalm 15
Colossians 1:15-28; Luke 10:38-42

(*Amos 8:1-12*) According to Amos, to be a person of faith is to be dependent upon and tethered to the righteous judgments of God. There are presumably religions that are concerned exclusively with personal, private happiness, with individual morality, but neither Judaism nor Christianity is one of those religions. In Judaism and Christianity, God not only creates the world but continues to interact with it and to take care of everything in it. This God makes no distinction between “religious” concerns and “secular, nonreligious” concerns. This God is concerned with everything.

William H. Willimon

The Tenth Sunday after Pentecost Proper 12, July 24, 2016

Hosea 1:2-10; Psalm 85
Colossians 2:6-15, (16-19); Luke 11:1-13

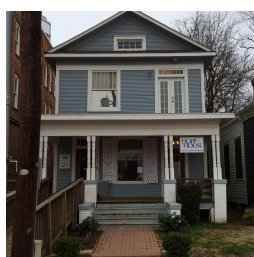
(*Luke 11:1-13*) We are burdened by centuries of exhortation and technique concerning “right” prayer. As a result, one darkly suspects, only a small percentage of avowed Christians actually pray very often, or if we do sometimes pray, we tend to judge our efforts deeply flawed. Our spontaneous, sometimes desperate cries for help seem—by the criteria of the experts on the subject—pathetically lacking in praise, thanksgiving, intercession, and the other components requisite to truly God-centered prayer. That is why the prayer Jesus taught his disciples is so wonderfully refreshing, and perhaps why over the centuries it has remained the one prayer that even lapsed Christians remember. It does not require of us that we become anything that we are not already. It is a deeply human kind of prayer. It is a prayer for human beings, that is, for creatures in need.

Douglas John Hall

Calendar for Summer

Sundays	Informal Eucharist	9:20 AM	Rose Garden or Chapel (depending on weather)
	Choir Rehearsal	9:45 AM	Nave
	Nursery	9:30 AM – noon	Education Building
	Sunday School	11:00 AM	Education Building
	Holy Eucharist II	11:00 AM	Nave
Saturdays	Holy Eucharist	5:00 PM	Chapel
Wednesday, July 20	Vestry meeting	5:30 PM	Undercroft

Hope House URGENTLY needs:



bath towels, hand towels, washcloths
men's deodorant
boxer shorts (M, L, XL)
men's socks

laundry detergent (washing powder)
coffee creamer
disposable cups for coffee and cold drinks
plastic grocery tote bags

Prayer List

Wanda Allen
Warren Bankston
Michael Breedlove
Tyrone Braden
Jay Colvin
Evelyn Corley
Janice Crawford
Ron Dean
Jean Dooley
Elizabeth Eglin
Shirley Enani
Ed Finuf

Floyd "Buzzy" Farrar
Lady Martha Garner
Austin Gleason
J. M. Hardwick
Christine Hennigan
Thomas Hennigan
Terry Hutchinson
Kenneth Jordan
Flo Little
George Love
Kenneth Lowe
Sherry Lowe

Chris Lowery
Mim McCoy
Paige McCranie
Melody Mhyre
Doug Meshell
Ila Riggs
Bob Robinson
Linda Robinson
Sandra Robinson
Brady Sessions
Tommy Simrall
Allyn Stroud

Jack Theuerkauf
Jennifer Theuerkauf
Robert Todd
Cliff Townsend
Mattie Washington
Charlotte Webb
Molly Wilkinson
Roger Wilkinson
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 St. Luke's Episcopal Mobile Medical Ministry; 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 the people of Baton Rouge, Dallas, and places torn by racial strife; for the people of Mexico, South and Central America, the Middle East, and all places where there is war and fear, and for all who seek peace; for migrants in Africa and Europe, for all immigrants seeking acceptance and safety; for candidates seeking 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. David's, Rayville, St. Columba's Winnsboro, and the Rev. Walt Friese (Paulette); and for Good Shepherd, Vidalia, and the Rev. William Phillips (Lynn).

In your love for your people, Jesus, you reached down to the very root of evil, and suffered death all in order to rip it out. Give us the courage and conviction to give evil no quarter in our minds, our hearts, or our hands. *Amen.*

Say Ministries

The Ninth Sunday after Pentecost July 17, 2016

Sat. 5:00 PM Lector: Stephanie Hamblin
Sun. 11:00 AM:

Lectors: Reece Middleton, Lynn Walford
Prayers of the People: Josh Boyte

Eucharistic Ministers: Kendall Raymond, Monty Walford

Acolytes: Audrey Roberts, Hannah Wallace

Ushers: Herschel Richard, Becky Snodgrass

Altar Guild Sat. 5:00: Mary Richard, June Kirkland

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

The Tenth Sunday after Pentecost July 24, 2016: Morning Prayer

Sat. 5:00 PM Lector: Larry Wright
Sun. 11:00 AM:

Lectors: Melissa Fowle, David Richard
Prayers of the People: Maggie Fowle

Eucharistic Ministers: Jo Ann Horton, Nathaniel Means

Acolytes: Aaron Horton, Joe Bob Evanson

Ushers: Lynn Walford, Steve Snodgrass

Altar Guild Sat. 5:00: June Kirkland, Mary Richard

Altar Guild Sun. 11:00: Jo Ann Horton, Ginger Paul

Service Music

The Ninth Sunday after Pentecost Proper 11, July 17

Mass 421 Decius Proulx, and Hurd
Psalm 15 Robert Knox Kennedy
Anthem *All people that on earth do dwell* G. Young
Hymns 423 St. Denio 472 (stanzas 1-3) Donne secours 314 Adoro devote 607 Llangloffan
Organ *Fantasy in C* C. Franck *Adagio* R. Nyquist *Sortie* Lefébure-Wély

The Tenth Sunday after Pentecost Proper 12, July 24

Mass 421 Decius Proulx, and Hurd
Psalm 85 Responsorial, J. B. Dykes/Tone VIII.2
Anthem *Who at my door is standing?* Anon. English, arr. K Lee Scott
Hymns 296 Engleberg 674 Detroit 488 Slane 690 Cwm Rhondda
Organ *The Lord's Prayer* Boehm *The Lord's Prayer* J. S. Bach, BWV 683 *Grand Choeur*, Guilmant

Greater New Orleans Fair Housing Action Center Community Meeting

Where you live determines *how* you live, including access to schools, stores, medical care, and jobs, as well as exposure to environmental hazards and the level of violent crime in your community. *How is where you live affecting your community?* We want to hear from residents of this area and receive your input and ideas.

Please join us for a free, wheelchair-accessible community meeting. Refreshments will be served.

Monday, July 25, 6–8 PM
Church for the Highlands
520 Olive St., Shreveport LA

RSVP at www.gnofairhousing.org/AI, or call Renee Corrigan, 504-717-4571



Walking the Runway for a Cure

The Philadelphia Center's 27th Annual Auction against Aids

Sam's Town Hotel and Casino

Saturday, August 16, 6:00 – 10:00 PM

Tickets \$25 through July 17

\$50 after July 17 and at the door

The latest fashions, avant-garde entertainment, and fabulous food

Live and silent auction

Come, and wear your best couture!

Church of the Holy Cross ✠ Episcopal
P. O. Box 1627
Shreveport, LA 71165-1627

Website: www.holycrossshreveport.com
E-mail: holycrossshr1@bellsouth.net

Non-Profit Organization
U S Postage PAID
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 Austen Place or to the church office. Thank you for your continued support.

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



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