

Crossings

CHURCH OF THE HOLY CROSS ✠ EPISCOPAL
875 COTTON STREET, SHREVEPORT, LOUISIANA
NOVEMBER 16, 2016

Holy Eucharist

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

Nursery

Sunday
9:45 AM – 12:30 PM

Choir Rehearsal

Sunday: 9:45 AM

Sunday School

Sunday: 10:00 AM

The Vestry

Reece Middleton, Senior Warden
Gerry Brooks, Jr. Warden
Steve Snodgrass, Secretary
Greg Criddle
Melissa Fowle
Jo Ann Horton
John Hughes
Meredith Lucius
Kendall Raymond

Monty Walford, Treasurer
(non-vestry)

Contact Information

Telephone: (318) 222-3325
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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

Pentecost into Advent

With this issue of *Crossings* we move into a new year in the life of the Church. The lessons we will read are full of God's promises—many of them seem impossible to fill.

... they shall beat their swords into ploughshares, and their spears into pruning-hooks; nation shall not lift up sword against nation, neither shall they learn war any more (Isaiah 2). The wolf shall live with the lamb, the leopard shall lie down with the kid, the calf and the lion and the fatling together, and a little child shall lead them.

The cow and the bear shall graze, their young shall lie down together; and the lion shall eat straw like the ox. The nursing child shall play over the hole of the asp, and the weaned child shall put its hand on the adder's den (Isaiah 11).

He shall come down like rain upon the mown field, like showers that water the earth. In his time shall the righteous flourish; there shall be abundance of peace till the moon shall be no more (Psalm 72).

Then the eyes of the blind shall be opened, and the ears of the deaf unstopped; then the lame shall leap like a deer, and the tongue of the speechless sing for joy (Isaiah 35).

In this time of our people's polarization after our national elections, God's promises can sound like wishful thinking. It's hard for us to grasp that there are so many of our fellow citizens who feel ignored, forgotten, disenfranchised, and that we didn't recognize it before. It's harder to believe that in this day misogyny, xenophobia, name-calling, lying, and racism have been elevated to

the level of national intolerance and irresponsibility. It seems that many people either hold these sins to be acceptable or they just don't care that they persist. What does our faith say to us in this time of confusion and disappointment—in this time of outrage?

Our lessons from the Hebrew Scriptures in this season are drawn from the writings of Isaiah and Jeremiah, both of whom lived in times of national fear and danger. The Epistles were written in

Christ the King



the years just after the Resurrection, when life for those who followed Jesus was uncertain and sometimes extremely dangerous. Our Gospel lessons make clear to us how fearful was the time of Jesus' life and death. If we fail to see the terrors of those times we miss the deepest messages and hopes that have been preserved for us.

Understanding those times, we realize the depth of the faith that has been given to us. Fear of the future pervaded the times before, during and after Jesus' birth, death, and Resurrection. Uncertainty, disappointment, and dread are part of the daily life of people in any age. Yet God's promises of a rule of justice and righteousness and peace, however out of reach they may seem, have prevailed for almost four thousand years. God's faithfulness and the trust of countless numbers of people keep the hope alive.

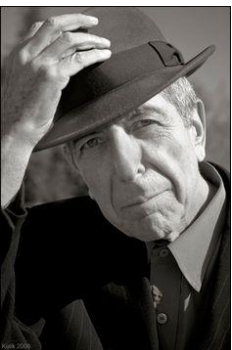
It's too soon for me at this point to say when I will receive complete comfort. Comfort in times of distress is not the same comfort as when there is more light. This is a time when our hope may be that our faith is strong enough to allow us to cling to the words of God's promises, even when we are so discouraged that we find it hard to hold onto their spirit. This is one of those times when we must look especially faithfully for that glimmer of light that shines in the darkness.

The promise of God's reign of universal love and respect shines through the ages. The lessons of these last six weeks before Christmas beckon us into a closer reading as we grope for a deeper relationship with God and the comfort of God's promises. Indeed, we may hear God's Word more clearly as we are more vulnerable, more in need this year.

Musician and songwriter Leonard Cohen died last week. Perhaps his most well-known song is *Anthem*, whose words have touched me the past few days:

Ring the bells that still can ring
Forget your perfect offering
There is a crack in everything
That's how the light gets in.

Leonard Cohen



We all hope and strive for perfection in our personal lives and in our national life, and our desire for perfection can blind us to a fault. A great, bright light has been shined on the sins of indifference, neglect, blindness to the lives of others; on the sins of misogyny, intolerance, name-calling, lying, and racism. In the facade of our imperfect society a crack has occurred; we can't ignore our faults. We can commit ourselves to let the light that has come through the crack continue to shine and to grow brighter as our corporate sins are illuminated. With God's help we can pray and work with new hope to keep that light shining as we move closer to the time when God's "impossible" promises are fulfilled.

Blessed be the Lord GOD, the God of Israel, who alone does wondrous deeds! And blessed be his glorious Name forever! And may all the earth be filled with his glory. Amen. Amen (Ps 72).

The Rev. Mary B. Richard

The saints are the sinners who keep on going.
Robert Louis Stevenson

2017 STEWARDSHIP COMMITMENTS: THANK YOU!

... for the commitments you have made, are making, and will make to Holy Cross' ministry in 2017! Your vestry and I appreciate so much your love and support of your church. If you haven't yet returned your pledge card, please do so this week so our Finance Committee can have an idea of the church's income next year. Again, THANK YOU!

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



The Last Sunday after Pentecost
Christ the King, Year C, Proper 29
November 20, 2016

Jeremiah 23:1-6; Psalm 46
Colossians 1:11-20; Luke 23:33-43

As we look to Christ as the model shepherd or king, what can we learn for living in and engaging the world? As our world struggles with war, famine, and fuel shortages, how do we consider our call to live as God's people? Are there really shortages, or is God's abundance simply unevenly distributed? What are useful responses to the underlying issues of poverty, health care, hunger, clean water, violence, and power? How do we get in on God's restorative justice?

Mary Eleanor Johns

The First Sunday of Advent, Year A
November 27, 2016

Isaiah 2:1-5; Psalm 122
Romans 13:11-14; Matthew 24:36-44

Consumerist visions of the good life may seem to prevail in our culture at this time of year, but Isaiah's prophecy will stand up to any of them. This picture of unity, of justice, of shared openness to the divine way, and of peace speaks to some of our deepest hopes. . . . How might the nostalgia for Christmases past and the idolization of childhood wonder represent our desire to believe again in things that seem impossible to us as adults—like peace on earth and good will for all?

Stacey Simpson Duke

Calendar for November and December

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	10:00 AM	Education Building
	Holy Eucharist II	11:00 AM	Nave
Saturdays	Holy Eucharist	5:00 PM	Chapel
Wednesdays	Holy Eucharist	12:15 PM	Chapel
Wednesdays Nov. 30-Dec. 14	SOUP DAYS	11:00 AM-1:00 PM	Undercroft
Sunday, December 4	<i>The Continuing Feast</i>	after the 11:00 service	Undercroft
Sunday, December 13	Advent Lessons and Carols	11:00 AM	Nave
Saturday, December 24	Christmas Eve Eucharist	5:00 PM	Nave
Sunday, December 25	Christmas Day Eucharist	9:20 AM	Rose Garden or Chapel (depending on weather)
	Christmas Day Choral Eucharist	11:00 AM	Nave

Prayer List

Wanda Allen
Michael Breedlove
Jay Colvin
Evelyn Corley
Janice Crawford
Tricia Davis
Ron Dean
Jean Dooley
Elizabeth Eglin
Shirley Enani
Floyd "Buzzy" Farrar
Ed Finuf

Reggie Gant
Lady Martha Garner
Ken George
J. M. Hardwick
Christine Hennigan
Mary Hill
Terry Hutchinson
Kenneth Jordan
Flo Little
Kenneth Lowe
Sherry Lowe
Chris Lowery

Mim McCoy
Paige McCranie
Melody Mhyre
Doug Meshell
Reed Nations
Randy Piedrahita
Ila Riggs
Bob Robinson
Linda Robinson
Sandra Robinson
Jenni Scarce
Brady Sessions

Tommy Simrall
Jack Theuerkauf
Jennifer Theuerkauf
Robert Todd
Cliff Townsend
Mattie Washington
Molly Wilkinson
Roger Wilkinson
Bill Wright
Larry Wright
Mary Wright

We pray for those who serve and are served by The Northwest Louisiana Interfaith Pharmacy; for the people of our country, that we may listen with compassion to those who feel forgotten and work with renewed purpose to overcome our fears and prejudices; for law enforcement officers and the people they serve; for people in all places where there is war and fear, and for those who seek peace; for migrants in Africa and Europe, for all immigrants seeking acceptance and safety; for people elected to office this year, and for our President and Congress, that they may work together to pass legislation to end violence and injustice in our country and provide for the needs of the most vulnerable. In our Diocesan cycle of prayer we pray for Episcopal Church Women, Sharlotte Finley, President; for the Diocesan Altar Guild, Sandy Young; and for Daughters of the King, Judy Bordelon.

Give us the courage, Lord, to speak when others won't—to love when others refuse to do so. *Amen.*

Say Ministries

The Last Sunday after Pentecost Christ the King: November 20, 2016

Sat. 5:00 PM Lector: Larry Wright

Sun. 11:00 AM:

Lectors: Reid Raymond, Nathaniel Means

Prayers of the People: Greg Criddle

Eucharistic Ministers: Kendall Raymond, Monty Walford

Acolytes: Aaron Horton, Audrey Roberts, Hannah Wallace

Ushers: Lynn Walford, Bill Richard

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

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

The First Sunday of Advent November 27, 2016

Sat. 5:00 PM Lector: Trish Peyton

Sun. 11:00 AM:

Lectors: David Richard, Maggie Fowle

Prayers of the People: Reid Raymond

Eucharistic Ministers: Jo Ann Horton, Ginger Paul

Acolytes: Steve Snodgrass, Patrick Raymond, Joe BobEvanson

Ushers: Herschel Richard, Bill Richard

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

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

Rhythms of Grace

A ministry of St. Matthias' Episcopal Church and the Rev. Sally Fox

In their ongoing discernment, the people of St. Matthias' have found that in our area there is a need for worship services for families with children who have special needs. At 4:00 PM on the first and third Sundays each month the Rev. Sally Fox leads services at St. Matthias'. The services are nondenominational, with Communion, lessons, and activities.

All are welcome!

Sally has placed flyers in our narthex; please pick one up if you are interested. For more information call St. Matthias' at 635-5354, or email mail@saint-matthias.com.



Service Music

East Sunday after Pentecost: Christ the King

Proper 29: November 20

St. Cecilia Music Sunday commemorating John Merbecke

Introit Tone VIII.2

Mass *Kyrie, Sanctus, and Agnus Dei* Merbecke *Gloria* Merbecke

Canticle *The Song of Zechariah—Benedictus Dominus Deus* chant: Kennedy

Anthem *King of glory, King of peace* K. Lee Scott

Hymns 494 *Diademata* (1-3) 477 *Engelberg* 480 *Kingsfold* 460 *Hyfrydol*

Organ *A Fancy*, Byrd *Christ the King* Benoit *Antiphon and Hymn* Tallis *Te Deum* Demessieux

The First Sunday of Advent

November 27

Introit Plainsong, Mode 1

Mass Archangelsky, Schubert, and Hurd

Psalm 122 Tone I.2

Anthem *Canticle of Peace* Clokey

Hymns 59 *Merton* 68 *Llangloffan* 66 *Stuttgart* 57 *Helmsley*

Organ *Cantabile* Clokey *Ecce Dominus veniet, Op. 48* Dupré

March of the Night Watchman J. S. Bach/Widor *Sleepers, wake*, Karg-Elert

This Sunday morning, November 20: a cornucopia of music commemoration

St. Cecilia



November 22 is the feast day of St. Cecilia, patroness of musicians. It is most fitting that three of Anglicanism's most prominent early composers are commemorated by the Episcopal Church on November 21, so close to St. Cecilia's feast day: **Thomas Tallis**, **William Byrd**, and **John Merbecke**.

John Merbecke (c. 1510 – c. 1585) was an English theological writer and musician who produced a standard musical setting of the Anglican liturgy. Merbecke's non-musical life was very dramatic: if not for the intervention of the Bishop of Winchester, Merbecke would have been burned at the stake for owning theological writings not suited to the taste of an ever-changing theological climate in England.

When the first Book of Common Prayer was published in 1549, a need was felt for service music similar to that which had been used for the old Latin rites. So Archbishop Cranmer engaged one John Merbecke to provide such a collection of service music "containing so much of the Order of Common Prayer as is to be sung in Churches." Cranmer desired a simpler form of service music than was then current, urging Merbecke to have "for every syllable a note." (from www.justus.anglican.org)

This Sunday morning, November 20, in addition to celebrating the feast of Christ the King, we will celebrate and commemorate the life and times of John Merbecke.

*Blessed Cecilia, appear in visions
To all musicians, appear and inspire:
Translated Daughter, come down and startle
Composing mortals with immortal fire*

W. H. Auden, "Hymn to St. Cecilia"

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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 **November and December**, 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