



Crossings

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

DECEMBER 6, 2017

In Advent We Wait

Advent is the season of waiting. In theological time we wait for the Savior of the world to be born. We wait for Christmas. In theological real time we wait for the Savior of the world to come – again. In real secular time we wait for Christmas. Waiting is never easy, especially in the 21st century when life is speeded up so we barely sense its passing. There's no time for waiting in our busy lives, and so when we are told to wait we don't know how to do that.

There are two kinds of waiting: active and passive. Passive waiting is just that: waiting passively with no thought that we can do anything about the waiting. Carrying on with our lives and letting come what will come, expecting little if any change, letting waiting be part of life without giving it its own space.

Active waiting is different, and there are several ways to go about it. Active waiting focuses on living in the moment, whatever that moment is. It's a decision we make to sharpen our senses and our attention to changes in the world around us, to the voices and needs of friends, to the cries for help and recognition coming from various places in our world. Active waiting can be something of a paradox. As we live in the present moment we live also in hopeful expectation of the future, of that for which we wait.

I have to admit, I'm not good at living in the moment. My mind is always racing ahead or behind, trying to figure things out, trying to construct my next response. My attention, then, is taken away from the words being said to me in the moment, and my response is tailored more to my own need than to the need of another.

Waiting actively, we have a purpose: to appreciate, to prepare intentionally for something – in this case, for the coming of our Savior. We journey through a medium to aid our preparation. All the media for waiting are vulnerable to distractions, as anyone who has tried to wait for something knows. Active waiting's purpose can help keep our minds on track.

Our culture teaches us to race from one thing to another, and the internet and especially the cell phone are no help if we want to slow down. So much information is available to us that we can't process it before going right on to the next piece. Our minds are conditioned to race ahead or to dwell on another concern even while we try to listen to something a friend is telling us. How many times have you been telling someone something when, instead of a helpful response, they either interrupt or jump on your last word to recount a similar story of their own? The whole time you've been talking, your friend was thinking about their experience, not what you were saying.

Active waiting is like active listening. During this season we might identify one way we wish to slow down, pay attention, be more attentive to the needs of the world. One way is to choose to listen intentionally, actively, keeping your mind on the words of another without judging, trying to figure out a “fix,” worrying about all you have to do in the next two hours, remembering your own experience.

Being quiet, for its own sake, is good. Time washes over us; new thoughts and insights may or may not permeate our waiting. Setting aside a time for waiting, being still without distractions, is a medium, its end being to know our Savior as a long time companion, mentor, when comes at the end of our waiting.

Another way is to set aside time to watch the changes in nature. Nature is an old, experienced teacher. Appreciating her changes, caring for her creatures, places us in a larger picture. Our worries become part of a longer life. Our wonder becomes the wonder of God and God’s plan that was from the beginning to redeem the world. Slowly, the precious birth of Christmas becomes the story of God’s abiding presence with us and assurance that all is in God’s loving hands.

Some people find that cutting out some of the distractions that contribute to busy-ness is helpful: turning off the TV; turning off the computer; turning off the cell phone. One IT guru advocates “no screen time” for the entire weekend, every weekend of the year! My mother used to take the phone off the hook. Do we stop to consider how many times our conversations or our thoughts are interrupted by the ever present cell phone? We are always “on call.” Even just getting out of the house and walking around the neighborhood or the yard – without the cell phone or the radio – brings peace and quiet, time to listen for God’s voice.

Prayer and contemplation are always good ways to grow, and so is reaching out beyond our daily concerns, breaking our patterns of busy-ness and crowdedness with efforts to do just a bit of the “work” God has given us to do: to touch and look into the eyes of someone who may be lonely or in need. To give an extra portion of our resources for someone else’s benefit. To do something we think we’re too busy to do. In the eyes of others, we see the tears and the joy of the Christ Child, and we when we come to Christmas Day we know in a new way Emmanuel, God is with us.

Paradoxically, the medium we choose for waiting in “real time” teaches us and fortifies us for waiting in eschatological time. When Christ comes again we will not be unaware. We will know him because we will have prepared in our waiting and our hoping. We will know the Holy because we have made room for the Holy in the days of waiting in our lives.

The Rev. Mary B. Richard

*When the year dies in preparation for the birth
Of other seasons, not the same, on the same earth,
Then saving and calamity together make
The Advent gospel, telling how the heart will break.*

—C. S. Lewis in "Launcelot" (Narrative Poems).

The Second Sunday of Advent
Year B
December 10, 2017

Isaiah 40:1-11

Psalms 85:1-2, 8-13

2 Peter 3:8-15a Mark 1:1-8

(*Mark 1:1-8*) Clearly, this is not the birth story of Matthew or Luke. No manger scenes derive from this Gospel. Yet, here in the opening lines of Mark we have a “birth story” of sorts. On this second Sunday in Advent, it is good to tell of new beginnings, to tell about a God who breaks into our time with good news. In this Advent season he comes. Perhaps not as might be expected; perhaps not in the time frame desired – but he comes.

Judy Yates Siker

The Third Sunday of Advent

Year B

December 17, 2017

Isaiah 61:1-4, 8-11

Psalm 126

1 Thessalonians 5:16-24

John 1:6-8, 19-28

(*Isaiah 61:1-4, 8-11*) Mission is not primarily something that goes out from God's people – by sending money or sending missionaries – but something that defines God's people, as existing for the sake of the oppressed, brokenhearted, imprisoned, and mournful.

Scott Bader-Saye

PRAYER LIST

Wanda Allen	Shirley Enani	Jim McCranie	Sara Townsend
Michael Atwood	Buzzy Farrar	Allison Moncla	Mike Wilkerson
Debbie Atwood	Ed Finuf	Bob Morris	Laura Wilkerson
Claudette Branson	Warren Fontenot	Jim Santa Ana	Michael Winburn
Michael Breedlove	Christine Hennigan	Brady Sessions	Larry Wright
Tommy Breedlove	Kenneth Jordan	Tommy Simrall	Bill Wright
Cary Rhea Brooks	Doris Lewis	Jack Theuerkauf	Mary Wright
Evelyn Corley	Flo Little	Sonny Thomas	
Hugh Coyle	Mim McCoy	Kim Tobin	
Ron Dean	Pat McCoy	Robert Todd	

We pray for those who serve and are served by Providence House;
for all who live in the devastation of hurricanes and fires, and for those who will rebuild; for the people
of our country, that we may 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;
and for the leaders and the people of our country, that a spirit of hospitality, respect and compassion for
all people may lead us to enact laws that serve those who are most vulnerable.

In our Diocesan cycle of prayer we pray for Hardtner Camp and Conference Center; for the Episcopal
School of Acadiana, Headmaster Dr. Paul Baker (Lauren), Dr. Andrew Armond, John Campbell, the
Rev. Brandt Montgomery; for all Parish Day Schools, and for all Canterbury Ministers and Chaplains.

In the Anglican cycle of prayer we pray for Wad Medani (Northern Sudan), the Rt. Rev. Saman
Farajalla Mahdi;
and for West Buganda (Uganda), the Rt. Rev. Henry Katumba-Tamale

*O Come, Desire of nations, bind
In one the hearts of humankind;
Bid thou our sad divisions cease,
And be, Thyself, our King of peace.*

—*From O Come, O Come, Emmanuel (1854).*

SERVICE MUSIC

The Second Sunday of Advent December 10

Daily Morning Prayer with The Holy Eucharist: Rite II

Introit *O come, thou Branch of Jesse's tree* Plainsong, Mode I
Invitatory Antiphon *Our King and Savior draweth nigh* Tone VIII.2
Canticles *Venite* S 35 Jack Noble White
The Third Song of Isaiah-Surge, illuminare R. N. Kennedy
The Song of Zechariah-Benedictus Dominus Deus Hymn 444 Thornbury
Mass Schubert and Hurd
Trisagion S 102 Archangelsky
Duet *He shall feed his flock (Messiah)* Handel
Hymn 65 Berenden väg för Herran
Herald, sound the note of judgement Ronald Dean
75 Ascension 57 Helmsley
Organ *Behold, the Lord comes, Op. 48* Dupré
The heavenly Word proceeding forth de Grigny and Dupré

The Third Sunday of Advent December 17

Introit *O come, O come, thou Lord of might* Plainsong, Mode I
Mass Trisagion S 102 Archangelsky, Schubert, and Hurd
Psalm 126 Tone Ia.2
Anthem *Creator of the Stars of night* J. Scott, arr.
Hymn 72 Richmond 76 Winchester New 54 Nun komm der Heiden Heiland
73 St. Stephen
Organ *Drop down ye heavens from above* Demessieux
Partita on Savior of the Nations, come! Heiller
Savior of the nations, come!, BWV 661 J. S. Bach

Christmas Eve Music

4:30 p.m. Music for Violin and Organ with Mary Eileen Grant, Violin

Mary Eileen Grant plays violin in area symphonies and ensembles. With her husband, Zack, she is co-owner of All Strings for Granted. Ms. Grant, a Shreveport area native, is the part-time music teacher at Ascension Classical School, and a full time mother.

Ms. Grant graduated from the University of Alabama with a degree in Music Therapy. She worked as a music therapist across the country prior to returning home in 2008, and then worked at Willis Knighton Hospice until the birth of her first child.

5:00 p.m. The Holy Eucharist: Rite II with Sermon with music for Choir, Organ, Harpsichord, and Violin

LAY MINISTRIES

December 10:

Eucharistic Ministers: Ginger Paul, Kendall Raymond
Ushers: Edwin Cloyd-Baldwin, Becky Snodgrass
Lectors: Reece Middleton, Melissa Fowle
Prayers of the People: JoAnn Horton
Acolytes, Joe Bob Evanson, Herschel Richard
Altar Guild Sunday: JoAnn Horton, Ginger Paul
Altar Guild Saturday: June Kirkland, Margaret Heacock

December 17:

Eucharistic Ministers: Aaron Horton, Herschel Richard
Ushers: Gerry Brooks, Bill Richard
Lectors: Reece Middleton, Ginger Paul
Prayers of the People: Maggie Fowle
Acolyte: Steve Snodgrass
Altar Guild Sunday: Tommie Sue Brooks
Altar Guild Saturday: June Kirkland, Margaret Heacock

IN THE NARTHEX:

Advent materials from Episcopal Relief and Development: Please consider giving an “alternative gift” to someone you love this year. Episcopal Relief and Development is giving aid to people suffering from poverty and natural disasters. A gift to ERD will help in their ministry.

This arm of our church goes into underdeveloped places with resources and teaching to lift people out of poverty and starvation. Domesticated animals of all kinds and sizes can be bought with your gift to provide people with husbandry skills that can improve their lives and those of many others in their village.

Giving a gift of this kind is a great way to teach children and grandchildren about the needs of people in other places and how we can reach out to them. Please take a gift catalog home and consider how you might support ERD’s ministry.

The Fuller Center for Housing Christmas Store: The first Christmas Store last year was a great success, and the Fuller Center is opening it again this year. The idea is to offer a place where families with limited incomes can shop for their children. Toys, games, art materials, jewelry costing no more than \$35 can be donated, and they will be sold for under \$10. Each family can purchase a limited number of gifts, which will be wrapped for them at the store. All proceeds will go to the Fuller Center general fund.

This is a wonderful and much needed ministry to help families and also to fund the houses built by The Fuller Center for people who never believed they could be homeowners. There are several opportunities

for us to help: donating gifts and bringing them to The Fuller Center, organizing and pricing the gifts, assisting shoppers, to wrapping gifts. The calendar is below – please help in whatever way you can.

Flyers with more detailed information and suggestions for gifts are on the tables in the Narthex and Undercroft.

Monday-Friday, December 11-15 8:00-5:00
Donations may be brought to the Surplus Store

Wednesday-Friday, December 13-15 8:00-5:00
Organizing and pricing of items – *Volunteers needed*

The Christmas Store Saturday, December 16 9:00 am-2:00 pm
The Fuller Center Surplus Store 4221 Linwood Avenue
Volunteers needed – Please contact:

Lois Mayberry 318.286.5414 Lois@stmarkscathedral.net
Marie Kalmbach 318.426.9686 Marie.Kalmbach@gmail.com

You will be given a shift time to work.

Preparations for Christmas

Each year we share one of our lively and cherished traditions: decorating our church for Christmas! Occasionally, Christmas falls on Monday, making Sunday a quick transition from the Fourth Sunday of Advent to Christmas Eve. Because of the short time between our services, we will need to hang the greenery earlier in the week, on WEDNESDAY, December 20, at 10:00 AM. We will need lots of help, as always, so if you can lend a hand, please do! Call the church office, or let Ginger Paul know if we can count on you. Thank you!

Pledge cards and ministry sheets are coming in! If you have not returned yours, please either mail it to Holy Cross or place it in the offering plate. We will be working on the church's budget for 2018, and having your pledge will be a great help. Thank you!

POINSETTIAS: If you would like to honor or remember a loved one by donating toward our Poinsettias please contact us via phone, email, or note with payment of any amount in the offering plate as to whom you wish to honor or remember. Make sure “Poinsettias” is in memo. All honorees and memorials will be placed in the Christmas Eve, service leaflet.

Hope House Christmas Gifts and T-Shirts

New fall T-shirts in bright blue are available for sale in the church office! At \$15 these will make great Christmas gifts. Please buy some and help spread the good news of Hope House's ministry far and wide.

We would love to give Christmas gifts to our neighbors who come to Hope House. Socks and men's underwear are always appreciated, or toiletries that can be taken to the camps: hand cleanser, shampoo, etc. These can be taken to Hope House or brought to the church office. Or you may wish to donate money, and we will buy the gifts for you. Please be sure to mark your checks clearly “Hope House Christmas.” Thank you for including our neighbors on your Christmas list.

Calendar for December

Thursdays	Bible study, history of the Apartments Episcopal Church	1:30 PM	Fairmont Community Meeting Room
Saturdays	Holy Eucharist II	5:00 PM	Chapel
Sundays	Informal Eucharist	9:20 AM	Rose Garden or Chapel (depending on weather)
	Choir Rehearsal	9:45 AM	Nave
	Nursery Building	9:30 AM – noon	Education
	Sunday School Building	10:00 AM	Education
	Holy Eucharist II	11:00 AM	Nave
* December 10	<i>The Continuing Feast</i>	after the 11:00 service	Undercroft
* Wednesday, December 13	Our last Soup Day this year	11:00-1:00	Undercroft
* Sunday, December 24, The Fourth Sunday of Advent	Christmas Eve	11:00 Eucharist	Church Nave
	Music for organ, harpsichord, violin	4:30 pm	Church Nave
	Holy Eucharist	5:00 pm	Church Nave
Wednesday, January 3	Book study resumes	11:00 am	Undercroft

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

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

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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.). Please take your donations to 762 Austen Place or to the church office. Thank you for your continued support.

Forward Day by Day for **October** and **November**, 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
Laurie Connell
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