



Crossings

CHURCH OF THE HOLY CROSS ✠ EPISCOPAL
875 COTTON STREET, SHREVEPORT, LOUISIANA
JANUARY 16, 2019

Holy Eucharist

Sunday: 9:30 and 11:00 am
Saturday: 5:00 pm

Book Study and Eucharist

Wednesdays: 11:00 am

Nursery

Sunday
9:45 am – 12:30 pm

Choir Rehearsal

Sunday: 9:45 am

Sunday School

Sunday: 10:30 am

The Vestry

Reece Middleton, Senior Warden
Ginger Paul, Jr. Warden
Steve Snodgrass, Secretary
Tommie Sue Brooks
Shirley Enani
Maggie Fowle
Anna Grace Madden
Reid Raymond
Sara Townsend
Monty Walford, Treasurer
(non-vestry)

Contact Information

Telephone: (318) 222-3325
Fax: (318) 681-9506

Email:
office@holycrossshreveport.com

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

Rebuilding Jerusalem

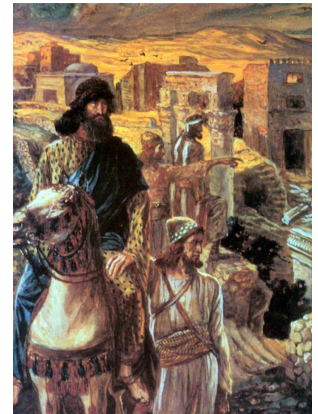
More than one hundred years after the Jews began returning to Jerusalem following the Babylonian Exile (539 BCE) the temple and the city and the city's wall were still in ruins. To say that the Jews of Jerusalem were depressed is a gross understatement. In the ancient world a city without a wall was not only open and vulnerable to its enemies, the people who lived within suffered in constant disgrace in the sight of the nations of the world. Nothing of value could survive there; no defenses existed against robbers. Commerce and everything necessary to a "normal" existence were out of the question; no land or possessions were safe. The temple might be rebuilt, but it would not be the beautiful structure the first temple had been; ornaments or vessels of any value would be pillaged. The people had apparently lost even their connection with their worship and faith traditions and story. They lived in constant fear for their safety, almost without mooring.

Nehemiah petitions Artaxerxes



In 457 BCE Artaxerxes, king of Persia, sent Ezra, a priest living in Babylon, to Jerusalem to teach the laws of God to any who did not know them. Several years later, Nehemiah, cup bearer to the king, became distressed over the situation of his people in Jerusalem. He implored Artaxerxes to allow him to go to Jerusalem to rebuild the city wall. Nehemiah must have been a great leader to do what no one had yet been able to do: he organized the people to build, and in fifty-two days the wall and its gates were secure.

Nehemiah surveys the destruction



In the years following, Nehemiah was successful in defeating several oppositions from within the city and without. The notable thing about Nehemiah's leadership is that at every step, from the time he learned of the distress of his people, to his trip to Jerusalem, to the rebuilding of the city, to defeating the people's enemies Nehemiah was firmly grounded in

his faith in God and in prayer. He made it clear to the people that it would be God who would rebuild the wall, bringing a stricken and fallen people to put their trust, once again, in God.

To think of the state of the Jewish people after years in captivity, returning to a ruined city and temple, is to remember our own country after the attack in 2001 on the World Trade Center towers. This was the first and only time since the attack on Pearl Harbor in 1941 that the United States had been invaded, and we remember the almost paralyzing shock and its underlying fear that lasted months and still reverberates today. The devastation of Lower Manhattan, while on a much smaller scale than that of Jerusalem, brought the same sense of disoriented helplessness that we in the United States knew. The fear of vulnerability is perhaps one of our greatest fears.

The memory that returns to me again and again is that of the many services of worship where people flocked almost immediately. Churches were packed. Special services were scheduled. The unspoken realization was that only in God can we find comfort or safety in the unknown, the unexplainable, the irrational. That in the place of our greatest vulnerability only God is unshakable.

Our lesson from the Book of Nehemiah next week tells us of the joy of the Jews, coming out of devastation into security and rebirth of their trust in God. The scene is described in detail: it was to the Book of the Law they turned, the foundation of Israel's life and worship, the identity of Israel as a people called by God—indeed, the nature of the God in whom they put their trust. They had come through the water and the fire. God had provided for them a leader who could inspire them to rebuild and to trust not in himself but in the God of their fathers.

Just as Nehemiah's people turned to God and found their hope, the people of our country turned to God, almost without thinking, in our places of worship. Hearing the word of God, praying, worshipping together, we found comfort and hope and a sense of security. And in the years since, we have experienced in our churches with every horror that has come, whether natural or human, prayer and hope in the God whom we know to be our only source of hope.

Read the Book of Nehemiah. It's a beautiful story of hardship and faith, a faith not just for the time of despair but for every day; a faith that has sustained the Jews through centuries of joy and terror. A faith for the joys and the sorrows and the fears of our lives every day.

And Ezra opened the book in the sight of all the people, for he was standing above all the people; and when he opened it, all the people stood up. Then Ezra blessed the LORD, the great God, and all the people answered, "Amen, Amen," lifting up their hands. Then they bowed their heads and worshiped the LORD with their faces to the ground. . . .

And Nehemiah, who was the governor, and Ezra the priest and scribe, and the Levites who taught the people said to all the people, "This day is holy to the LORD your God; do not mourn or weep."

For all the people wept when they heard the words of the law. Then he said to them, "Go your way, eat the fat and drink sweet wine and send portions of them to those for whom nothing is prepared, for this day is holy to our LORD; and do not be grieved, for the joy of the LORD is your strength." So the Levites stilled all the people, saying, "Be quiet, for this day is holy; do not be grieved." And all the people went their way to eat and drink and to send portions and to make great rejoicing, because they had understood the words that were declared to them." (8:5-12)

Ezra and Nehemiah



The Rev. Mary B. Richard

More is accomplished in baptism than is accomplished at the moment. The requisite qualities of the baptized, therefore, are openness, expectation, the desire to grow, and the ability to trust in the guidance of the Holy Spirit.

A. Theodore Eastman, in *The Baptizing Community*

Daily Feast: Meditations on the Word, Year B

Louisville: Westminster, John Knox Press, 2012



FEASTING
on the WORD™

The Second Sunday after the Epiphany January 20, 2019

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

(Psalm 36:5-10) The psalmist describes the power of God's grace as it unfolds in community. As we find our safety, our home, in God, we enter a process of discovery. The love that sustains us continually illuminates the world around us. Each time we take a sip from the fountain of life, we are reminded of God's faithfulness, abundance, and gracious embrace. We are at our best as God's gathered people, guests at God's banquet, drinking together from the river of God's delights. The psalmist's prayer for the continued outpouring of this steadfast love thus becomes the prayer of all who seek refuge under God's wings.

April Berends

The Third Sunday after the Epiphany January 27, 2019

Nehemiah 8:1-3, 5-6, 8-10 ✎ *1 Corinthians 12:12-31a* ✎ *Luke 4:14-21* ✎ *Psalms 19*

(Nehemiah 8:1-3, 5-6, 8-10) The covenant renewal of all the people calls them to unity and invites them to renew life in their God. Rather than seeing divine instruction as cramping, restricting legislation, the Jews, then and now, recognize Torah as a compassionate guide, a pathway, a set of wise instructions about how to live together in justice and joy. But that guide and that path have not been sealed forever in concrete at Sinai. Instead, they must be reinterpreted to show the path to community and to joy, as the people worship the God who renews their life. In the season of Epiphany, Ezra reminds us that we too are recipients of divine instruction, a people called to continual renewal and reinterpretation of God's word among us that the word is alive and ever new in the power of the Spirit among us.

Kathleen M. O'Connor

Calendar for January

Saturdays	Holy Eucharist	5:00 pm	Chapel
Sundays	Informal Eucharist	9:20 am	Rose Garden or Chapel
	Sunday School	10:30 am	Education Building
	<i>The children are brought into the church at 11:15 for the sermon and Eucharist</i>		
	Holy Eucharist	11:00 am	Nave
Wednesdays	Study class and Holy Eucharist	11:00 am	Undercroft
Thursdays	Art and Bible Study	1:30 pm	Fairmont Apartments
Sunday, January 20	Annual parish meeting	after the 11:00 service	Church Nave
	Vestry meeting	following the Annual Meeting	Chapel

Prayer List

Wanda Allen	Ron Dean	Maureen Locke	Mary Ann Shemwell
Margaret Boudreaux	Shirley Enani	Eleanor Mangum	Jack Theurkauf
Patti Brabham	Floyd "Buzzy" Farrar	Mim McCoy	Robert Todd
Cary Rhea Brooks	Ed Finuf	Rosemary McKinney	Sara Townsend
Mikey Carlisle	Maggie Fowle	Reed Nations	Barbie Nations Tyler
Georgia Cook	Betty Gossom	Evelyn Powell	Jimmy Wise
Hugh Coyle	Christine Hennigan	Jim Santa Ana	Larry Wright
Sara Lou Coyle	Barbara Hughes	Brady Sessions	Mary Wright

We pray for those who serve and are served by The Fuller Center for Housing;
for all people suffering in the government shutdown;
for refugees fleeing disaster, war, abuse, and famine and hoping for a new life, especially those at our borders;
for families separated, that they may find compassion and be reunited;
for all who grieve or suffer in any way, and for those who care for them; for teachers, parents and children, that our
homes and schools may be places of learning and safety; for the people of our country,
that we may work in unity to overcome our fears and prejudices;
for people in all places where there is war and fear; for those who seek peace and justice;
and for our leaders as we seek solutions to violence and injustice.

In our Diocesan cycle of prayer we pray for Episcopal Church Women, Shetwan Roberison, President; for the Diocesan Altar Guild, Sandy Young; for Daughters of the King, Judy Bordelon; for Non-Parochial and other Clergy, the Rev. James Benbrook (Becky), the Rev. John Campbell (Sarah), the Rev. Stephen Caudle, the Rev. Andrew Comeaux (Eydie), the Rev. Sally Fox, the Rev. Dr. Mitzi George (Kevin), the Rev. Don White (Kathryn), and the Rev. Kenneth White.

In the Anglican cycle of prayer we pray for the united Church of Bangladesh, the Most Rev. Paul Shishir Sarker, Moderator, Church of Bangladesh and Bishop of Dhaka; and for the Igreja Episcopal Anglicana do Brasil, The Most Rev. Naudal Alves Gomes, Primate of Brazil and Bishop of Curitiba.

Say Ministries

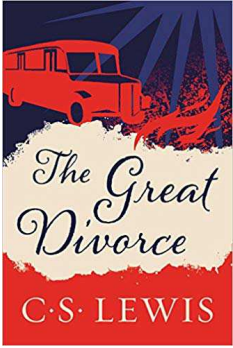
The Second Sunday after the Epiphany: January 20

Sunday 11:00 am:
Lectors: Ginger Paul, Edward Cloyd-Baldwin
Prayers of the People: Melissa Fowle
Eucharistic Ministers: Kendall Raymond, Monty Walford
Acolytes: Jan Jones, Lydia Boudreaux, Alena Soliz
Ushers: Becky Snodgrass, Steve Snodgrass
Altar Guild Saturday 5:00 pm: Margaret Heacock, Edward Cloyd-Baldwin
Altar Guild Sunday 11:00 am: Tommie Sue Brooks, Becky Snodgrass

The Third Sunday after the Epiphany: January 27

Sunday 11:00 am:
Lectors: Maggie Fowle, Deacon Kay Hunter
Prayers of the People: David Richard
Eucharistic Ministers: Ginger Paul, Kendall Raymond
Acolyte: Herschel Richard
Ushers: Sr. Anna Grace Madden, Edward Cloyd-Baldwin
Altar Guild Saturday 5:00 pm: Margaret Heacock, Edward Cloyd-Baldwin
Altar Guild Sunday 11:00 am: Deacon Kay Hunter, Sara Townsend

Wednesday Study Class and Eucharist



The class resumed meeting on January 9 after our Advent/Christmas break. During the Season of Epiphany we will be reading C.S. Lewis' *The Great Divorce*. Please join us on **Wednesdays at 11:00 in the Undercroft**. The study/discussion is followed by a Eucharist at noon. It is informal, at the table in the Undercroft, and **everyone is invited**, whether or not you attend the study group.

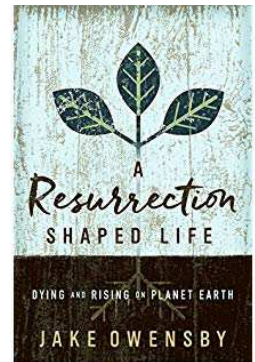
If you would like a mid-week Eucharist, if you will be out of town on the weekend, or for any reason at all, I encourage you to come on Wednesdays to share Communion.

A Resurrection Shaped Life: Dying and Rising on Planet Earth By Bishop Jake Owensby

You probably know that our Bishop has written a new book! It is available on Amazon in hard copy (\$12.46) and on Kindle (\$9.99). Those who have read all or part of the book are raving about it.

In the book "Bishop Owensby leads us through a re-examination of the biblical concept of resurrection and explains how we can begin to experience resurrection in our ordinary life on earth through honest reflection, repentance, and forgiveness to a new life of self-acceptance."

We will read the book together during Lent on **Thursdays at 11:00 in the Undercroft, beginning March 7**. I encourage everyone to buy the book, and, if you are interested in group study and discussion, to come to the study group. We have four copies available for purchase in the church office.



Service Music

The Second Sunday after the Epiphany: January 20

Mass: Mathias and Hurd
Psalm 36:5-10 Metrical setting—Webber-Gardiner
Hymns: 423 St. Denio 138 Carlisle 497 (1 and 3) *Wie schön leuchtet* 599 *Lift Every Voice*
Anthems: *Christ is the world's true light*—Stanton *Send out your light*—Gounod/Power
Organ: *How brightly appears the morning star*—J. Barr, Distler, and Pepping
Ode for the New Year—William Selby

The Third Sunday after the Epiphany: January 27

Mass: Mathias and Hurd
Psalm 19: Responsorial—J. Haydn/Tone VIII.1, adapt. B. Power
Hymns: 530 *Gottsei Dank* 581 Cheshire 318 Nyack 531 *Tidings*
Anthem: *The spacious firmament on high*—J. Haydn; arr. B. Power
Organ: *Angelus*—Dupré *Prelude on an Epiphany Introit*—Durufié Psalm 19—Marcello/Dubois
Fugue in C, Op. 12--Durufié

Our Annual Parish Meeting



Please plan to remain at church **after the 11:00 service this Sunday, January 20.** We will meet in the nave to hear reports from the Rector, the Treasurer, and the Junior and Senior Wardens. We will also elect three new Vestry members to serve three-year terms. Retiring Vestry members are **Reece Middleton**, who has served as Senior Warden; **Steve Snodgrass**, our faithful secretary; and **Shirley Enani**. *Holy Cross is very grateful for their ministry on the vestry. Thank you, Shirley, Steve, and Reece!*

Vestry members are to be in good standing at Holy Cross, which means that they have received Communion at least three times in the past year, are active in and supportive of the church's ministry, and have contributed at least \$1.00 to our operating budget and ministry during the past year, as documented by the church office. Please think about whom you would like to represent you on the Vestry, speak to them to be sure they are willing to serve for three years, and **call Laurie in the church office (222-3325) by Friday, January 18 to give her the name(s).**

So far the following 5 people have been nominated:

Mary Barrett



Rick Hadwin



Donna Neal



Michael Wilkerson



AND, NOT PICTURED, Ann Fellers

The Vestry meets on the third Wednesday of each month at 5:30 pm in the Undercroft. The Vestry consists of nine members, one third of whom are elected each year. They meet with the Rector to make decisions regarding policy, monetary matters, and ministry in the community for our church. We welcome the input and ideas from all Holy Cross members and encourage you to consider prayerfully if you would like to serve or nominate someone to serve.

More love notes to Holy Cross: What do you love about Holy Cross? Why do you come every Sunday? What do you value about Holy Cross' ministry? Here are a few of the things we value:

- ☞ Our inclusive, friendly, welcoming congregation.
- ☞ Our ministry in the community.
- ☞ The spirit of the church: openness.
- ☞ Our organist and choir.
- ☞ Mary—fabulous priest.

Ministry Updates

Each issue of *Crossings* will contain an update of a few of our ministries in the community and within the church. This week the focus is on ministries within the church.

Acolytes, Altar Guild, Lectors, Eucharistic Ministers, and Ushers, both adults and youths, are active in these ministries at Holy Cross. Our tradition of worship would not be possible without their leadership. We always need and are happy to have more involved in these ministries!

Eucharistic Visitors visit and take Communion to people not able to come to church. At present we have only two Eucharistic Visitors; we would love to have more and will offer training soon. This is a very vital and rewarding ministry—vital to those who cannot be active in the congregation, and rewarding to those who visit. Please call the church office if you would like to be trained as a Eucharistic Visitor.

The Episcopal Church Women are dedicated to raising funds to be given to ministries in the larger community: Hope House, the Philadelphia Center, and many others. Soup Days and the Fall Festival are wonderful events that draw people from our area into the church. Every woman who is a member of Holy Cross is also a member of our ECW, and we encourage all women to be active. Some men also come to help with Soup Days and the Fall Festival!

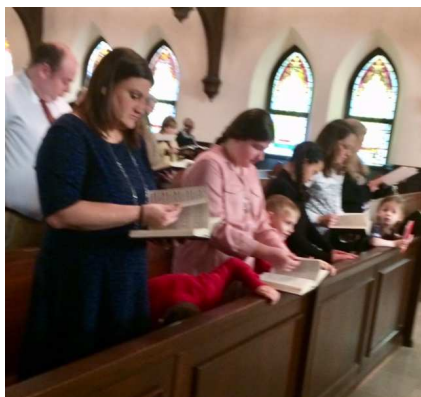
Special Events are gatherings and meals that take place a few times a year; they include **Epiphany, Shrove Tuesday, and Pentecost Picnic**. For these events, as with our monthly **Continuing Feasts**, we can always use help with preparing and setting out the food for the potluck meals, decorating for Epiphany and Shrove Tuesday, and cooking and serving for the barbecues.

Prayer is a very important ministry: praying daily for Holy Cross and our ministry, and for our wider communities of Shreveport and Bossier City.

The church office, Hope House, St. Luke's, and *Crossings* are ministries that always have a place for volunteers!

*If your spirit is moving you to serve in any of these ministries,
please call the church office and let us know: 222-3325*

Scenes from the Epiphany Children's Service



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E-mail: office@holycrossshreveport.com

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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.). Please take your donations to 762 Austen 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.



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. Kay Hunter
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
Deacon
Rector Emeritus
Director, Holy Cross Child Placement
Organist-Choirmaster
Organist-Choirmaster Emeritus
Office Administrator
Sexton