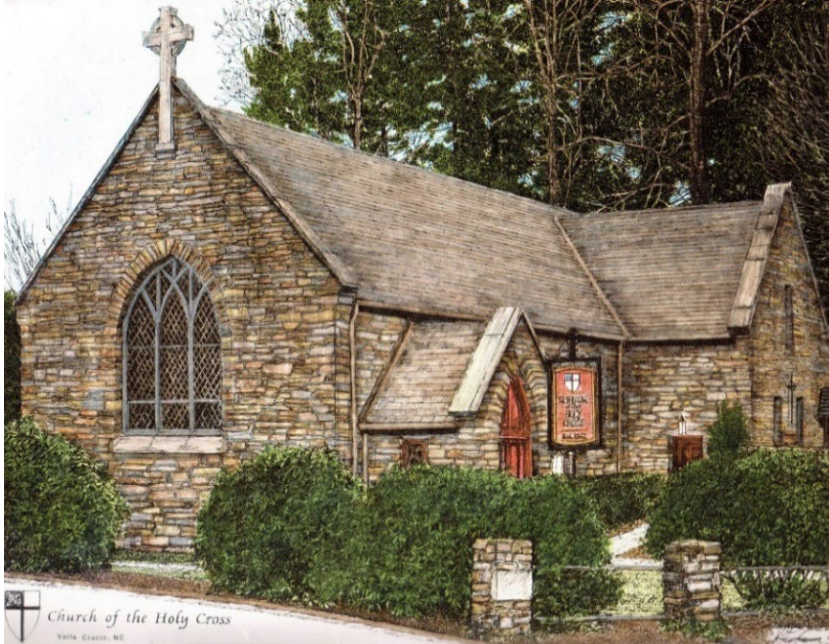


The Church of the Holy Cross Valle Crucis, North Carolina



The Episcopal Church in the Vale of the Cross Since 1842

The Second Sunday of Advent

December 8, 2024

Holy Eucharist, Rite II
11:00 AM

Welcome Home to Holy Cross!

It is our privilege to worship with you this morning! Please know that all baptized Christians regardless of Church denomination, and all who seek a deeper knowledge and love of God in Christ are most welcome to receive the bread and wine of the Holy Eucharist.

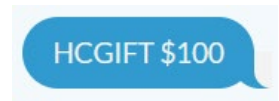
Children are most welcome and encouraged to participate in all services at Holy Cross. Rocking chairs have been provided for caregivers with infants.

If this is your first time at Holy Cross, please complete a *Visitor Card* and let us know about your visit, especially if you have a specific need or prayer request. Visitor Cards are found in the pew racks. If you would like additional information about our many ministries and activities, speak to one of our Ushers or Greeters, or stop by Skiles Hall during the fellowship hour that follows each service. We would be happy to speak with you in person.

If you would like to make a financial offering or contribution, you can do so by scanning this QR Code or via our website at www.holycrossvallecrucis.net



You can also give through online text by sending **HCGIFT** to **73256**, followed by the gift amount
Messages and data rates may apply



It is the custom in The Episcopal Church to prepare for worship by gathering in reverent silence and prayer, and during the worship service, stand for praise, sit for instruction, and, as you are able, kneel for prayer. Please respect the devotional needs of others by turning off cellular telephones and electronic devices, and by speaking with hushed voices.

Again, Welcome Home to Holy Cross! And may God's peace enfold you.

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Holy Eucharist, Rite II

The Word of God

Prelude: “Pifa (Messiah)” G.F. Handel

Parish Announcements Pages 12-16

The Processional Hymn: #65 “Prepare the Way, O Zion” *Beredan väg för Herran*

Opening Acclamation: EOW I 50

Priest: Blessed be the one, holy, and living God.

People: You come to your people and set them free.

The Collect for Purity: BCP 355

Almighty God, to you all hearts are open, all desires known, and from you no secrets are hid: Cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love you, and worthily magnify your holy Name; through Christ our Lord.

People: Amen.

Hymn of Praise: #56 (vs. 2) “O Come, O Come, Emmanuel” *Veni, veni, Emmanuel*

O come, thou Wisdom from on high,
who orderest all things mightily;
to us the path of knowledge show,
and teach us in her ways to go.
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel
shall come to thee, O Israel!

The Collect of the Day:

The Lord be with you.

People: And also with you.

Let us pray.

Merciful God, who sent your messengers the prophets to preach repentance and prepare the way for our salvation: Give us grace to heed their warnings and forsake our sins, that we may greet with joy the coming of Jesus Christ our Redeemer; who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever.

People: Amen.

The Lighting of the Advent Wreath:

Compiled by The Rev. Matthew Kozłowski

The Second Sunday of Advent:

Priest: Today we light the first and second candles of the Advent wreath. Each candle has a meaning. This first candle is HOPE, the second candle is PEACE.

Children are welcome to come up to help light the candles.

Children: Colossians 3:15a – Let the peace of Christ rule in our hearts...

People: Almighty God, you offer rest for our hearts, and peace for our souls. Give us grace to seek peace in our lives, peace in this community, and peace in the world. Through Jesus Christ, the prince of peace. Amen.

All are now seated for the readings from Scripture.

The First Lesson:

Malachi 3:1-4

See, I am sending my messenger to prepare the way before me, and the LORD whom you seek will suddenly come to his temple. The messenger of the covenant in whom you delight--indeed, he is coming, says the LORD of hosts. But who can endure the day of his coming, and who can stand when he appears?

For he is like a refiner's fire and like fullers' soap; he will sit as a refiner and purifier of silver, and he will purify the descendants of Levi and refine them like gold and silver, until they present offerings to the LORD in righteousness. Then the offering of Judah and Jerusalem will be pleasing to the LORD as in the days of old and as in former years.

Reader: The Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

A time for silent reflection follows.

The Children's Homily: "The Mother Mary's Courage and Strength"

The Rev. Robert G. Hartmans

All children are most welcome to come forward for the children's homily.

After the story all are invited to rejoin their parents or to join Patty and Mary for activities in Skiles Hall.

Children will return at the Passing of the Peace.

The Second Lesson:

Philippians 1:3-11

I thank my God every time I remember you, constantly praying with joy in every one of my prayers for all of you, because of your sharing in the gospel from the first day until now.

I am confident of this, that the one who began a good work among you will bring it to completion by the day of Jesus Christ. It is right for me to think this way about all of you, because you hold me in your heart, for all of you share in God's grace with me, both in my imprisonment and in the defense and confirmation of the gospel. For God is my witness, how I long for all of you with the compassion of Christ Jesus. And this is my prayer, that your love may overflow more and more with knowledge and full insight to help you to determine what is best, so that in the day of Christ you may be pure and blameless, having produced the harvest of righteousness that comes through Jesus Christ for the glory and praise of God.

Reader: The Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

A time for silent reflection follows.

The Sequence Hymn: #76 “On Jordan’s Bank the Baptist’s Cry” *Winchester New*

The Holy Gospel: **Luke 3:1-6**

The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Luke.

People: Glory to you, Lord Christ.

In the fifteenth year of the reign of Emperor Tiberius, when Pontius Pilate was governor of Judea, and Herod was ruler of Galilee, and his brother Philip ruler of the region of Ituraea and Trachonitis, and Lysanias ruler of Abilene, during the high priesthood of Annas and Caiaphas, the word of God came to John son of Zechariah in the wilderness. He went into all the region around the Jordan, proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins, as it is written in the book of the words of the prophet Isaiah, “The voice of one crying out in the wilderness: ‘Prepare the way of the Lord, make his paths straight. Every valley shall be filled, and every mountain and hill shall be made low, and the crooked shall be made straight, and the rough ways made smooth; and all flesh shall see the salvation of God.’”

The Gospel of the Lord.

People: Praise to you, Lord Christ.

The Sermon: **Dr. Mike Marcela**

A time of silence follows the Sermon. Please remain seated until the Altar Ministers stand.

The Nicene Creed follows as printed on the next page.

The Nicene Creed:

BCP 358

All stand or kneel for the prayers as they are able.

The Prayers of the People:

*The Prayers of the People are a combination of Form II (BCP 385)
and Advent Prayers from "Liturgy for the Whole Church"*

Leader: I ask your prayers for God's people throughout the world; for our Bishop José; for this gathering; and for all ministers and people. Pray for the Church.

People: God of the prophets, give your church courage to speak truth, and to tell of your love.

Leader: I ask your prayers for peace; for goodwill among nations; and for the well-being of all people. Pray for justice and peace.

People: God of the angels, give your church voice to sing about your presence into the world, give the world a freedom song, and help us to declare the promise of peace.

Leader: I ask your prayers for the poor, the sick, the hungry, the oppressed, and those in prison. Pray for those in need or trouble.

People: God of the magi, give your church gifts, and the will to leave home to find you among the poor.

Leader: I invite prayers for those who are dear to you.

*The people are invited to offer prayers and hopes either in their heart or by saying out loud:
"My prayer is: _____. This is my prayer."*

The people will respond:

People: This is our prayer.

Leader: God of the shepherds, give your church humility, and to all who sit in darkness, alone, and afraid, the inspiration from heaven to go find you born afresh into the world. We pray especially for those whom we name aloud at this time:

The People speak the names of those on their hearts.

The Leader concludes saying,

I ask your prayers for all who seek God, or a deeper knowledge of God.

People: God of Mary and Elizabeth, give your church grace to be pregnant with hope and to bring forth new life for a barren world.

Leader: I ask your prayers for the departed, especially Bill Major,_____.
Pray for those who have died.

The people are invited to offer names either in their heart or out loud. Afterwards, silence is kept.

Priest: God our Sovereign, you are always coming into the world:
Receive our morning prayers and illumine the secrets of our hearts with your healing goodness, that no evil desires may possess us who are made new in the light of your heavenly grace, through Jesus Christ our Savior.

People: Amen.

All stand.

The Peace:

The peace of the Lord be always with you.

People: And also with you.

All greet one another in the Name of the Lord.

The Welcome:

The Rev. Robert G. Hartmans

The Birthday and Anniversary Prayer:

**Watch over your child(ren) O Lord,
as *their* days increase.
Bless and guide *them* wherever *they* may be.
Strengthen *them* when *they* stand.
Comfort *them* when discouraged or sorrowful.
Raise *them* up if *they* fall.
And in *their* heart(s) may your peace
which passes understanding,
abide with *them* all the days of *their* lives;
through Jesus Christ, Our Lord, Amen.**

Concerning The Holy Communion

A reminder that all present are welcome to the Communion regardless of Christian denomination.

We consider it an honor and privilege to commune with all present as one united body of Christ.

To receive the bread, extend your hands towards the priest. To receive the wine, guide the bottom of the chalice with both hands. To receive the bread and wine together via intinction, place your right hand over your left shoulder. To receive a blessing instead of the bread and wine, cross your arms across your chest.

If you have a gluten allergy, simply inform the priest when you come to the rail.

The Holy Communion

The Offertory:

“The King Shall Come”

K. Lee Scott

Presentation Hymn: #380 vs. 3 “The Doxology”

Old 100th

**Praise God from whom all blessings flow.
Praise Him all creatures here below.
Praise Him above ye heavenly hosts.
Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.**

The Great Thanksgiving

Adapted from liturgy of the Iona Community

Priest: The Lord be with you.

People: And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

People: We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord, our God.

People: It is right to give God thanks and praise.

It is indeed right, for you made us, most holy God. And before us, you made the world we inhabit, and before the world, you made the eternal home in which, through Christ, we have a place.

We praise you, O God, whom eternity cannot contain, for coming to earth and entering time in Jesus.

We praise you for his life which informs our living, for his compassion which changes our hearts, for his clear speaking which contradicts our harmless generalities, for his disturbing presence, his innocent suffering, his fearless dying, his rising to life breathing forgiveness and restoring us forever to you. For these gifts we praise and worship you.

All that is spectacular, all that is plain have their origin in you. All that is lovely, all who are loving, point to you as their fulfillment. Therefore we gladly join our voices to the song of the Church on earth and in heaven:

The Sanctus:

#S-130

**Holy, Holy, Holy Lord, God of power and might,
Holy, Holy, Holy Lord, God of power and might,
Heaven and earth are full, full of your glory:
Hosanna in the highest. Hosanna in the highest.**

**Blessed is he who comes in the Name of the Lord:
Hosanna in the highest. Hosanna in the highest.**

All kneel or stand as they are able.

Jesus was always the guest. In the homes of Peter and Jairus, Martha and Mary, Joanna and Susanna, he was always the guest. At the meal tables of the wealthy where he pled the case of the poor, he was always the guest. Upsetting polite company, befriending isolated people, welcoming the stranger, he was always the guest.

But here, at this table, he is the host. Those who wish to serve him must first be served by him. Those who want to follow him must first be fed by him. For this is the table where God intends us to be nourished. This is the time when Christ can make us new.

So come, you who hunger and thirst for a deeper faith, for a better life, for a fairer world. Jesus Christ, who has sat at our tables, now invites us to be guests at his.

On the night in which he was betrayed, our Lord Jesus took bread, and gave thanks; broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying: Take and eat; this is my body, given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me.

Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it for all to drink, saying: This cup is the new covenant in my blood, shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin. Do this for the remembrance of me.

So now we do as Jesus did. We take this bread and this wine, the produce of the earth and the fruit of human labor. In these, Jesus has promised to be present; through these, Christ can make us whole.

Therefore we proclaim the mystery of faith:

People: Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.

We ask, merciful God, that you send, in kindness, your Holy Spirit to settle (†) on this bread and wine and fill them with the fullness of Jesus. Let that same Spirit rest (†) on us, converting us from the patterns of this passing world, until we conform to the shape of him whose food we now share. All this we ask through your Son Jesus Christ.

(†) By him, and with him, and in him, in the unity of the Holy Spirit all honor and glory is yours, Almighty Father, now and for ever.

People: AMEN.

And now, gathered as one in the Spirit, let us pray as Jesus taught us:

The Lord's Prayer:

Traditional Version

BCP 364

**Our Father, who art in heaven,
hallowed be thy Name,
thy kingdom come, thy will be done,
on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread.
And forgive us our trespasses,
as we forgive those
who trespass against us.
And lead us not into temptation,
but deliver us from evil.
For thine is the kingdom,
and the power, and the glory,
for ever and ever. Amen.**

The Breaking of the Bread: (The Fraction)

The Priest breaks the consecrated bread.

A period of silence is kept.

The Fraction Anthem:

#S-164

**Jesus, Lamb of God: have mercy on us.
Jesus, bearer of our sins: have mercy on us.
Jesus, redeemer, redeemer of the world:
give us your peace, give us your peace.**

The Invitation:

The Priest invites the people to Communion.

Please come to the Altar to receive Communion. At the Altar Rail move toward either wall so that those in the center will kneel last. Please wait to be dismissed; those in the center depart first.

Hymns during the Communion:

#54 "Savior of the Nations, Come!"

#75 "There's a Voice in the Wilderness Crying"

*An extended time for silent prayer and reflection precedes and follows each communion hymn.
When all have communed, the hymn on the following page is sung.*

Kneeling Hymn: “Wait for the Lord” (*sung four times*)

Taizé

Wait for the Lord, whose day is near.

Wait for the Lord: be strong, take heart!

The musical score is written for voice and piano. It consists of two systems of staves. The first system has a vocal line and a piano accompaniment line. The second system also has a vocal line and a piano accompaniment line. The key signature is one sharp (F#) and the time signature is 4/4. The piece ends with a double bar line and a repeat sign.

An additional time for silent prayer and reflection precedes the following prayer.

The Post-communion Prayer:

BCP 365

**Eternal God, heavenly Father,
you have graciously accepted us as living members
of your Son our Savior Jesus Christ,
and you have fed us with spiritual food
in the Sacrament of his Body and Blood.
Send us now into the world in peace,
and grant us strength and courage
to love and serve you with gladness and singleness of heart;
through Christ our Lord. Amen.**

All stand.

The Blessing:

The Priest offers a blessing concluding with,

And the Blessing of Almighty God: (†) the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit,
be among you this day and remain with you always.

People: Amen.

The Processional Hymn: #59 “Hark! A Thrilling Voice is Sounding”

Merton

The Dismissal:

Priest: Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

We are delighted to Welcome Home to Holy Cross, Dr. Joby Bell.
Thank you for sharing your musical gifts with us today!

We also thank those who served this morning

<i>Greeters/Oblationers:</i>	Stella Barbato & Sis Kinney
<i>Ushers:</i>	Stella Barbato & Sis Kinney
<i>Lector:</i>	Ann Gerber
<i>Prayers of the People:</i>	Jane Blackburn
<i>Chalice:</i>	John Goodrich & Ann Iles
<i>Acolytes:</i>	Ann Iles
<i>Healing Ministers:</i>	The Rev. Dr. Scott Oxford
<i>Linen Fairies:</i>	Karla Prudhomme

ANNOUNCEMENTS

TODAY, SUNDAY, DECEMBER 8, 2024
The Second Sunday of Advent

- 9:00 am** Valle Crucis United Methodist Church Service
- 10:00 am** Joint Christian Formation (*Upper Skiles*)
- 11:00 am** Holy Eucharist, Rite II, at Holy Cross (*with music and hymnody*)
(*This service is Live-Streamed via our YouTube Channel*)
- 12:30 pm** Fellowship time in Skiles Hall

CHILI AND JELLY SALE

Mark your calendar! Following the 11:00 service **on Sunday, December 8th**, limited quarts of Jeff Williams’s world famous traditional chili (with meat) and white bean chicken chili will be for sale in Skiles Hall (\$20/qt). Also offered for sale are a wonderful assortment of mouthwatering jellies, jams, pickles, and relishes, all prepared by loving hands. All proceeds will go to the Mission and Outreach Commission.

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 8, 2024
ECW Monthly Meeting

Thank you to everyone for supporting our annual bake sale! The ECW meeting in December will be a potluck supper **in Skiles Hall on Sunday December 8 at 5:00 pm.** Bring your favorite dish to share. We'll have a short business meeting and play a Christmas game. Join us for food and fun!

BOOK GROUP SEEKING NEW MEMBERS

Bookies, a book group organized 20-plus years ago, would love to have new members. The group will be meeting at Joyce Zellner's "Party Barn" on December 9th to go over the book list for 2025. Call or email Judy Bondi for more information about Bookies, to RSVP for the pot-luck lunch, and/or for directions to Joyce's house.

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 12, 2024
St. Nicholas Day Celebration
Skiles Hall – 5:00 pm

Please bake some cookies and join the festivities in Skiles Hall **Thursday December 12 at 5pm.** Santa will be there to pass out school supplies, we will enjoy cookies, hot cider, Christmas carols, and good fellowship. This is an opportunity to demonstrate the spirit of welcome and hospitality that is so wonderful at the Church of the Holy Cross.

2025 CALENDARS AVAILABLE

A limited supply of 2025 Churchman's Ordo Calendars are available for purchase for \$5 in the Parish Office. This calendar offers a full listing of the traditional feasts and devotional days which are frequently celebrated throughout the Anglican Communion.

Donations for Christmas Flowers and Greenery

The Altar Guild relies upon donations in order to decorate the Church for Christmas.
Please give generously using the envelopes provided.

REMEMBER: Completed forms must be submitted by 4:00 pm Sunday, December 15, 2024 in order to be included in all Christmas Service Leaflets.

Thank you!

IT'S ANGEL TREE TIME!!

This year our community needs us more than ever! There are several children at Valle Crucis school and several residents of The Life Care Center in Banner Elk for whom Holy Cross Church is their only Santa Claus. We also are helping our Valle Crucis Teachers with gift cards this year as well. Thank you all in advance for your generosity!

Please follow this link for this year's "Virtual Angel Tree" registry and sign-up for gift donations: <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/508084FADAC23A2FB6-holy1#/>

Here is how the Angel Tree gift donations will work this year:

- Sign-up for gift(s) donations via Sign-Up Genius
- Bring your wrapped and tagged gift(s) to the Christmas tree in Skiles Hall.
 - Please continue to bring wrapped and tagged gifts.
 - All gifts and teacher gift cards need to be delivered to Skiles Hall no later than Wednesday December 18th.
 - For those buying gifts Life Care Persons please add a few nice toiletries (lotions, creams, body washes, etc.)
 - If you need help shopping, please let Tracey Heiss or Susan Howard know. You can reach us on our cell phones (see numbers below). Since our local Walmart is not open, and if you do not want to shop online, we want to offer our help with personal shopping if needed.
 - Tracey cell: 703-919-9767 • Susan cell: 828-260-4740

THANK YOU so much for your help!

NEXT SUNDAY, DECEMBER 15, 2024 ***The Third Sunday of Advent***

- | | |
|-----------------|--|
| 9:00 am | Valle Crucis United Methodist Church Service |
| 10:00 am | Joint Christian Formation (<i>Upper Skiles</i>) |
| 11:00 am | Holy Eucharist, Rite II, at Holy Cross (<i>with music and hymnody</i>)
(<i>This service is Live-Streamed via our YouTube Channel</i>) |
| 12:30 pm | Fellowship time in Skiles Hall |

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 17, 2024
Men's Night Out
Valle Crucis Conference Center Dining Hall

The final *Men's Night Out* gathering for 2024 -- and the conclusion of our eighth year of fellowship -- is a festive holiday gathering and "roast beast feast" beginning with BYO cocktails **at 5:30 p.m. on Tuesday, December 17** in the dining room at the historic Valle Crucis Conference Center with dinner served promptly at 6:15 p.m. The cost is a suggested **\$22** contribution per person. In light of the holiday spirit, and in honor of VCCC providing such heroic hurricane relief assistance and a welcoming home to Valle Crucis School, MNO participants are asked to prayerfully consider a contribution above and beyond that amount in support of VCCC's unparalleled "Ministry of Hospitality."

MNO is an opportunity for men from within the parish and in our community to enjoy having an evening of fellowship together. We're very flexible and inclusive, so feel free to bring a friend... or three! In order to let our gracious hosts know how many will be in attendance from Holy Cross, please RSVP by noon on Tuesday, December 10 (note the early deadline) via email to KeithTMartin@gmail.com by text or phone to (704) 608-2755.

Remember that after this meeting, we'll be taking a two-month hiatus over the winter season, resuming in March 2025.

CHRISTMAS AT HOLY CROSS

Gather for the joyous celebration of *The Nativity of our Lord Jesus Christ* amid the quiet beauty of The Church of the Holy Cross.

Christmas Eve: *Tuesday, December 24*

5:00 pm: Holy Communion and celebration of Christmas

7:30 pm: Holy Eucharist and celebration of Christmas
with Special Music and Carol Singing

O Come, let us adore Him, Christ, the Lord!

The Parish Prayer List: December 8, 2024

Please keep the following in your prayers this week:

For Healing: Our injured and disabled military personnel, our veterans, all civilians harmed in conflict, and for Dayton C., Laura B., Wendell S., Noyes L., Marilyn W., Gerry P., Rebecca M., Sam Y., Bill B., Roberta T., Gail T., Julia M., Walter B., Randy M., Shane B., Claire M., Sara P., Tav G., Andrea M., Charles III, Mack G., Janis B., Steve S., Nick H., Pat & Linda H., Kate M., John N., Floyd T., Ray L., Leslie S., Hope L., David S., Terry & Jean M., Suzie L., Pam C., Mary M., Cornelia S., Ann G., Mary Jane M., Dave & Pat P., Jan H., Kelly C., Jesse H., Joe U., Rosalie G., _____.

For those in Harm's Way: All who serve with the armed forces at home & abroad, all who serve in the Peace Corps, and all health & relief workers throughout the world.

The Church of the Holy Cross

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Diocese of Western North Carolina

The Rt. Rev. José McLoughlin, Bishop

Clergy & Staff

The Rev. Robert G. Hartmans, Interim Rector

Ahren Koenig, Parish Administrator
