

The Church of the Holy Cross Valle Crucis, North Carolina



Image Credit: The Rev. Jeanne Kaliszewski

The Episcopal Church in the Vale of the Cross Since 1842

The Presentation of Our Lord (Candlemas)

February 2, 2025

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.

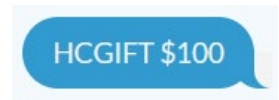
Children are most welcome and encouraged to participate in all services at Holy Cross. Rocking chairs have been provided for caregivers with infants.

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:

“Beautiful Star”

The Holy Smokes

The priest, holding a candle lit from the paschal candle, begins the service with these words:

Priest: Light and peace, in Jesus Christ our Savior.

People: Thanks be to God.

The priest lights the candles held by the choir.

Priest: Dear people of God, forty days ago we celebrated the joyful feast of the Incarnation of Jesus. Today we recall the day on which he was presented in the temple, fulfilling the law of Moses. Led by the Spirit, Simeon and Anna came to the temple, recognized the child as the Christ, and proclaimed him with joy. United by the same Spirit, we now enter the house of God, where we shall recognize Christ in the breaking of bread.

Let us pray.

O eternal God, who has created all things; on this day you fulfilled the petitions of the just Simeon: We humbly ask you to bless and sanctify these candles for our use. Graciously hear our prayers and be merciful to us, whom you have redeemed by your Son, who is the light of the world, and who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God for ever and ever.

People: Amen.

The Opening Procession: Canticle 5 “The Song of Simeon”

Nunc demittus

**Lord, now lettest thou thy servant depart in peace,
according to thy word;
for mine eyes have seen thy salvation,
which thou hast prepared before the face of all people,
To be a light to lighten the Gentiles,
and to be the glory of thy people Israel.**

Priest: O God, source of all light, today you revealed to the aged Simeon your light which enlightens the nations. Fill our hearts with the light of faith, that we who bear these candles may walk in the path of goodness, through Jesus Christ the Light of the World.

People: Amen.

The Hymn of Praise: #76 (vs.4) “On Jordan’s Bank the Baptist’s Cry” *Winchester New*

**To heal the sick stretch out thine hand,
and bid the fallen sinner stand;
shine forth, and let thy light restore
earth’s own true loveliness once more.**

The Collect of the Day:

The Lord be with you.

People: **And also with you.**

Let us pray.

Almighty and ever-living God, we humbly pray that, as your only-begotten Son was this day presented in the temple, so we may be presented to you with pure and clean hearts by Jesus Christ our Lord; who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever.

People: **Amen.**

All are now seated for the readings from Scripture.

The Lesson from the Old Testament:

Malachi 3:1-4

Thus says the Lord, 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: “Simeon and Anna: Expecting the Messiah”

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 Lesson from the New Testament:

Hebrews 2:14-18

Since God's children share flesh and blood, Jesus himself likewise shared the same things, so that through death he might destroy the one who has the power of death, that is, the devil, and free those who all their lives were held in slavery by the fear of death. For it is clear that he did not come to help angels, but the descendants of Abraham. Therefore he had to become like his brothers and sisters in every respect, so that he might be a merciful and faithful high priest in the service of God, to make a sacrifice of atonement for the sins of the people. Because he himself was tested by what he suffered, he is able to help those who are being tested.

Reader: The Word of the Lord.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

The Gradual Hymn: #694

"God be in My Head"

Lytlington

The Holy Gospel:

Luke 2:22-40

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

People: **Glory to you, Lord Christ.**

When the time came for their purification according to the law of Moses, the parents of Jesus brought him up to Jerusalem to present him to the Lord (as it is written in the law of the Lord, "Every firstborn male shall be designated as holy to the Lord"), and they offered a sacrifice according to what is stated in the law of the Lord, "a pair of turtledoves or two young pigeons."

Now there was a man in Jerusalem whose name was Simeon; this man was righteous and devout, looking forward to the consolation of Israel, and the Holy Spirit rested on him. It had been revealed to him by the Holy Spirit that he would not see death before he had seen the Lord's Messiah. Guided by the Spirit, Simeon came into the temple; and when the parents brought in the child Jesus, to do for him what was customary under the law, Simeon took him in his arms and praised God, saying, "Master, now you are dismissing your servant in peace, according to your word; for my eyes have seen your salvation, which you have prepared in the presence of all peoples, a light for revelation to the Gentiles and for glory to your people Israel."

And the child's father and mother were amazed at what was being said about him. Then Simeon blessed them and said to his mother Mary, "This child is destined for the falling and the rising of many in Israel, and to be a sign that will be opposed so that the inner thoughts of many will be revealed -- and a sword will pierce your own soul too."

Continued...

There was also a prophet, Anna the daughter of Phanuel, of the tribe of Asher. She was of a great age, having lived with her husband seven years after her marriage, then as a widow to the age of eighty-four. She never left the temple but worshiped there with fasting and prayer night and day. At that moment she came, and began to praise God and to speak about the child to all who were looking for the redemption of Jerusalem.

When they had finished everything required by the law of the Lord, they returned to Galilee, to their own town of Nazareth. The child grew and became strong, filled with wisdom; and the favor of God was upon him.

The Gospel of the Lord.

People: Praise to you, Lord Christ.

The Sermon:

The Rev. Robert G. Hartmans

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

The Prayers of the People:

Leader: On God's creation in infinite diversity,

All: Jesus, have mercy.

Leader: For those who represent us to God's world,

All: Jesus, inspire.

Leader: For those who dare to proclaim God's love,

All: Jesus, give courage.

Leader: On the hopes and decisions of this community,

All: Jesus, grant wisdom.

Leader: On those who suffer and those in any trouble,

All: Jesus, have mercy.

Leader: I invite your prayers silently or out loud.

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:

All: This is our prayer.

Leader: On those who have departed this life,

All: Jesus, have mercy.

Leader: For all the blessings of this life,

All: Jesus, we give you thanks.

Leader: I invite you to name those blessings silently or aloud.

The people are invited to offer thanksgivings either in their heart or by saying out loud:

“My thanksgiving is: _____. This is my thanksgiving.”

The people will respond:

People: This is our thanksgiving.

Leader: On those who humble themselves in your presence,

All: Jesus, give grace.

The Confession of Sin:

Priest: Now let us confess our sins against God and our neighbor.

For all that separates our hearts from God and from all that closes our eyes to God’s love.

All: Jesus, forgive us. Create in us clean hearts, O God, and renew a right spirit within us.

Priest: For what we have done, left undone, and what has been done on our behalf.

All: Jesus, forgive us. Create in us clean hearts, O God, and renew a right spirit within us.

Priest: For the pride that prevents us from forgiving others, as we have been forgiven.

All: Jesus, forgive us. Create in us clean hearts, O God, and renew a right spirit within us.

The Absolution:

Priest: Hear the word of Jesus,

‘Come to me, all you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you and learn from me, for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. For my yoke is easy and my burden is light.’

Priest: God has put away our sins.

All: Amen!

All stand.

Continued...

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 and Announcements: (Pages 12-14)

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 Anthem:

“Brightest & Best”

Richard Shephard

The 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
Eucharistic Prayer B

BCP 367

The Sursum Corda:

Priest: The Lord be with you.

***People:* And also with you.**

Priest: Lift up your hearts.

***People:* We lift them to the Lord.**

Priest: Let us give thanks to the Lord, our God.

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

It is right, and a good and joyful thing, always and everywhere to give thanks to you, Father Almighty, Creator of heaven and earth. Because in the mystery of the Word made flesh, you have caused a new light to shine in our hearts, to give the knowledge of your glory in the face of your Son Jesus Christ our Lord.

Therefore we praise you, joining our voices with angels and archangels and with all the company of heaven, who forever sing this hymn to proclaim the glory of your Name:

The Sanctus:

#S-124

**Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might,
heaven and earth are full of your glory.**

Hosanna in the highest.

Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.

Hosanna in the highest.

(All may kneel or stand as they are able.)

We give thanks to you, O God, for the goodness and love which you have made known to us in creation; in the calling of Israel to be your people; in your Word spoken through the prophets; and above all in the Word made flesh, Jesus, your Son. For in these last days you sent him to be incarnate from the Virgin Mary, to be the Savior and Redeemer of the world. In him, you have delivered us from evil, and made us worthy to stand before you. In him, you have brought us out of error into truth, out of sin into righteousness, out of death into life.

On the night before he died for us, our Lord Jesus Christ took bread; and when he had given thanks to you, he broke it, and gave it to his disciples, and said, "Take, eat: This is my Body, which is given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me."

Continued...

After supper he took the cup of wine; and when he had given thanks, he gave it to them, and said, “Drink this, all of you: This is my Blood of the new Covenant, which is shed for you and for many for the forgiveness of sins. Whenever you drink it, do this for the remembrance of me.”

Therefore, according to his command, O Father,

***Priest and People:* We remember his death,
we proclaim his resurrection,
We await his coming in glory;**

And we offer our sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving to you, O Lord of all; presenting to you, from your creation, this bread and this wine. We pray you, gracious God, to send your Holy Spirit (†) upon these gifts that they may be the Sacrament of the Body of Christ and his Blood of the new Covenant. Unite us to your Son in his sacrifice, that we may be acceptable through him, being sanctified (†) by the Holy Spirit.

In the fullness of time, put all things in subjection under your Christ, and bring us to that heavenly country where, with the Blessed Virgin Mary, Brother Skiles, and all your saints, we may enter the everlasting heritage of your sons and daughters; through Jesus Christ our Lord, the firstborn of all creation, the head of the Church, and the author of our salvation.

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, as our Savior Christ has taught us, we are bold to say,

The Lord's Prayer:	<i>Traditional Version</i>	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-154

Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia,
Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us;
therefore let us keep the feast.
Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.

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:

#82 “Of the Father’s Love Begotten”

#337 “And Now, O Father, Mindful of the Love”

An extended time for silent prayer and reflection precedes and follows each communion hymn.

When all have communed, the following hymn is sung.

Kneeling Hymn: #304 (vs. 3-4) “I Come with Joy to Meet My Lord”

Land of Rest

As Christ breaks bread and bids us share,
each proud division ends.

That love that made us makes us one,
and strangers now are friends.

And thus with joy we meet our Lord.

His presence, always near,
is in such friendship better known:
we see and praise him here.

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: #436 “Lift Up Your Heads, Ye Mighty Gates”

Truro

The Dismissal:

Priest: Alleluia, alleluia! Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God. Alleluia, alleluia!

Postlude:

Offered by Shane Watson

We thank those who served this morning

<i>Organist:</i>	Shane Watson
<i>Greeters/Oblationers:</i>	Jim & Darby Logan
<i>Ushers:</i>	Jim & Darby Logan
<i>Lector:</i>	Judy Bondi
<i>Prayers of the People:</i>	Judy Bondi
<i>Chalice:</i>	Sis Kinney & Andrea McDonough
<i>Acolytes:</i>	Randy McDonough
<i>Healing Ministers:</i>	Ron McInnes
<i>Linen Fairies:</i>	Kim Gauss

ANNOUNCEMENTS

TODAY, SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 2, 2025

The Presentation of Our Lord

(Candlemas)

9:00 am	Valle Crucis United Methodist Church Service
9:45 am	Christian Formation (<i>Bishop Ives Cabin</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

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 2, 2025
9:45 am in Bishop Ives Cabin
Christian Formation – Discussions on Faith

You are invited to a series of discussions about how our faith impacts our lives. The discussion topics will be focused on the basic of the Episcopal Church and the wider Anglican Communion. We will start in January with discussions on the Old Testament/Hebrew Scriptures. Some questions that we will take up:

- What is the difference between the parts of Scripture?
- What makes a text Sacred?
- Are the Old Testament or Hebrew Scriptures relevant to my life?
- Why do we call it the Old Testament?

This inquirers style class is open to youth and adults. It is designed to help each other learn about our faith tradition while providing an opportunity to contribute with your own learnings, ideas, and faith experiences.

Hospitality Announcement

After consulting with the senior warden and others, a decision is made to have parish brunch after church on the days of the quarterly parish meetings. Some days there will be hot food. Other days some Vestry members will provide a simple meal. Coffee, tea and juice will be available.

Regular Sundays will include snacks after mass as usual. A word about treats and snacks after mass: There is no rule on how much or how little should be brought for parish food sharing. **There is no expectation to provide lunch every Sunday.** On regular Sundays a cookie, doughnut or small sandwich and coffee is absolutely okay. With notable exceptions such as holidays or celebrations, keep regular Sundays easy and simple. We can upscale on parish meeting days since people will be hungry and will be in attendance for a while. For regular Sundays, just sign up and bring an appetizer or sweet treat. Store bought is just fine. The joy is in the fellowship, not a groaning board! If you have questions or comments, please email me at dixie4641@aol.com.

Happy New Year! -- Radie Armstrong, Vestry Foodie

NEXT SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 9, 2025
The Fifth Sunday After the Epiphany

- 9:00 am** Valle Crucis United Methodist Church Service
9:45 am Christian Formation (*Bishop Ives Cabin*)
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

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 9, 2025
ECW Monthly Meeting

ECW will reconvene in Skiles Hall at 12:45 on Sunday, February 9. Please join us!

The Parish Prayer List: February 2, 2025

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., Wendell S., Noyes L., Marilyn W., Gerry P., Rebecca M., Sam Y., Bill B., Gail T., Julia M., Walter B., Randy M., Shane B., Claire M., Sara P., Tav G., Andrea M., Charles III, Kate M., John N., Floyd T., Ray L., Leslie S., Terry & Jean M., Suzie L., Pam C., Ann G., Jan H., Joe U., Rosalie G., Stuart T., Joe V., Jocelyn, Hattie Y., _____.

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

Shane Watson, Interim Organist

Ahren Koenig, Parish Administrator

Vestry

Terry Fulton (2026), Senior Warden

Darby Logan (2025), Junior Warden

Tav Gauss (2025)

Nina-Jo Moore (2025), completing vacant term

Doris Boulton (2026)

Angela Williams (2026)

Radie Armstrong (2027)

Derek Eggers (2027)

Sis Kinney (2027)

Officers

Jan Skopecek, Treasurer

Dedy Traver, Clerk
