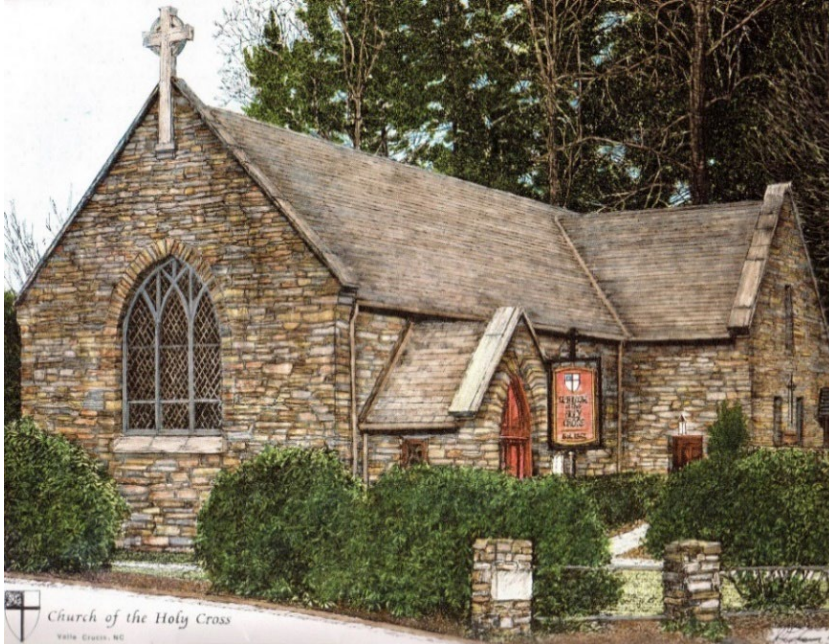


The Church of the Holy Cross Valle Crucis, North Carolina



The Episcopal Church in the Vale of the Cross Since 1842

The Sixth Sunday After the Epiphany

February 16, 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.

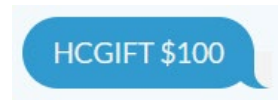
Children are most welcome and encouraged to participate in all services at Holy Cross. Rocking chairs have been provided for caregivers with infants.

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

The Prelude:

Offered by Shane Watson

The Processional Hymn: #440 “Blessed Jesus, at Thy Word”

Liebster Jesu

The Opening Acclamation:

EOW I 50

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

People: Glory to God for ever and ever. Amen.

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.

The Hymn of Praise: #127 (vs. 5) “Earth Has Many a Noble City”

Stuttgart

**Jesus, whom the Gentiles worshiped at thy glad epiphany,
unto thee, with God the Father and the Spirit, glory be.**

The Collect of the Day:

The Lord be with you.

People: And also with you.

O God, the strength of all who put their trust in you: Mercifully accept our prayers; and because in our weakness we can do nothing good without you, give us the help of your grace, that in keeping your commandments we may please you both in will and deed; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever.

People: Amen.

All are now seated for the readings from Scripture.

The Lesson from the Old Testament:

Jeremiah 17:5-10

Thus says the LORD: Cursed are those who trust in mere mortals and make mere flesh their strength, whose hearts turn away from the LORD. They shall be like a shrub in the desert, and shall not see when relief comes. They shall live in the parched places of the wilderness, in an uninhabited salt land.

Continued...

Blessed are those who trust in the LORD, whose trust is the LORD. They shall be like a tree planted by water, sending out its roots by the stream. It shall not fear when heat comes, and its leaves shall stay green; in the year of drought it is not anxious, and it does not cease to bear fruit.

The heart is devious above all else; it is perverse -- who can understand it? I the LORD test the mind and search the heart, to give to all according to their ways, according to the fruit of their doings.

Reader: The Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

A time for silent reflection follows.

The Children's Homily: "Blessings by Jesus on the Mountain"

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:

1 Corinthians 15:12-20

Now if Christ is proclaimed as raised from the dead, how can some of you say there is no resurrection of the dead? If there is no resurrection of the dead, then Christ has not been raised; and if Christ has not been raised, then our proclamation has been in vain and your faith has been in vain. We are even found to be misrepresenting God, because we testified of God that he raised Christ--whom he did not raise if it is true that the dead are not raised. For if the dead are not raised, then Christ has not been raised. If Christ has not been raised, your faith is futile and you are still in your sins. Then those also who have died in Christ have perished. If for this life only we have hoped in Christ, we are of all people most to be pitied.

But in fact Christ has been raised from the dead, the first fruits of those who have died.

Reader: The Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

The Gradual Hymn: #656

"Blest Are the Pure in Heart"

Franconia

The Gospel Reading follows as printed on the next page.

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

People: Glory to you, Lord Christ.

Jesus came down with the twelve apostles and stood on a level place, with a great crowd of his disciples and a great multitude of people from all Judea, Jerusalem, and the coast of Tyre and Sidon. They had come to hear him and to be healed of their diseases; and those who were troubled with unclean spirits were cured. And all in the crowd were trying to touch him, for power came out from him and healed all of them.

Then he looked up at his disciples and said:

“Blessed are you who are poor, for yours is the kingdom of God.

“Blessed are you who are hungry now, for you will be filled.

“Blessed are you who weep now, for you will laugh.

“Blessed are you when people hate you, and when they exclude you, revile you, and defame you on account of the Son of Man. Rejoice in that day and leap for joy, for surely your reward is great in heaven; for that is what their ancestors did to the prophets.

“But woe to you who are rich, for you have received your consolation.

“Woe to you who are full now, for you will be hungry.

“Woe to you who are laughing now, for you will mourn and weep.

“Woe to you when all speak well of you, for that is what their ancestors did to the false prophets.”

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.

Continued...

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:

All: 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.’

God has put away our sins.

All: 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 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: “God Be in My Head” 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; for by water and the Holy Spirit you have made us a new people in Jesus Christ our Lord, to show forth your glory in all the world.

Therefore we praise you, joining our voices with Angels and Archangels and with all the company of heaven, who for ever 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."

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 Mother 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:

Traditional Version

BCP 364

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:

#317 “This is the Hour of Banquet and of Song”

#346 “Completed, Lord, the Holy Mysteries”

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: #690 “Guide Me, O Thou Great Jehovah” *Cwm Rhondda*

The Dismissal:

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

People: Thanks be to God. Alleluia, alleluia!

The Postlude:

Offered by Shane Watson

We thank those who served this morning

<i>Organist:</i>	Shane Watson
<i>Greeters/Oblationers:</i>	The Beck Family
<i>Ushers:</i>	The Beck Family
<i>Lector:</i>	Edie Tugman
<i>Prayers of the People:</i>	Edie Tugman
<i>Chalice:</i>	Sis Kinney & Karla Prudhomme
<i>Acolytes:</i>	Sis Kinney
<i>Linen Fairies:</i>	Sis Kinney

**The flowers on the Altar and throughout the Church
are given to the Glory of God
and in loving memory of Hattie Yates
by long-time friends**

ANNOUNCEMENTS

TODAY, SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 16, 2025

The Sixth Sunday After the Epiphany

- 9:00 am** Valle Crucis United Methodist Church Service
- 9:45 am** Christian Formation in Skiles Hall
- 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 16, 2025

9:45 am in Skiles Hall

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 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.

Continued...

Hospitality Announcement (cont.)

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

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 22, 2025

Poetry of Faith Retreat

Johnson Hall: 10:00 am – 3:00 pm

The times are troubling. Nightmares follow us even in the daytime. The news is designed to bring chaos upon us. Where do we turn? Some of us turn to Amos; others to St. Paul's hymn to Aga'pe—Love. Many of us find that Poetry helps—the poetry of faith, of awe, of hope.

Join Katerina Whitley, Barbara Presnell, and Lisa Underwood on February 22 from 10:00 am to 3:00 pm in Johnson Hall. We will meet for a few hours, ignoring chaos and darkness in order to focus on order and light in the healing spaces of Valle Crucis. We will examine your favorite poems together and then we will try to find ways to express our own feeling in writing poems. Men, women, and young people are welcome.

NEXT SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 23, 2025

The Seventh Sunday After the Epiphany

- 9:00 am** Valle Crucis United Methodist Church Service
- 9:45 am** Christian Formation **in Skiles Hall**
- 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

SATURDAY, MARCH 15, 2025
St. Patrick's Day Dinner & Auction
Skiles Hall – 6:00 pm

ECW are asking for donations of small items that might be appropriate for a Silent/Live auction during our annual St. Patrick's Day Dinner in honor of Tom McDonough on Saturday March 15th. We could take items that could be combined together to make a gift basket like gift cards, or that stand alone. Call or text Patty Dilley at (508) 450-1604 or email me at hatch108@charter.net and reference St. Patrick's Day Dinner.

Centennial Celebration Announcement

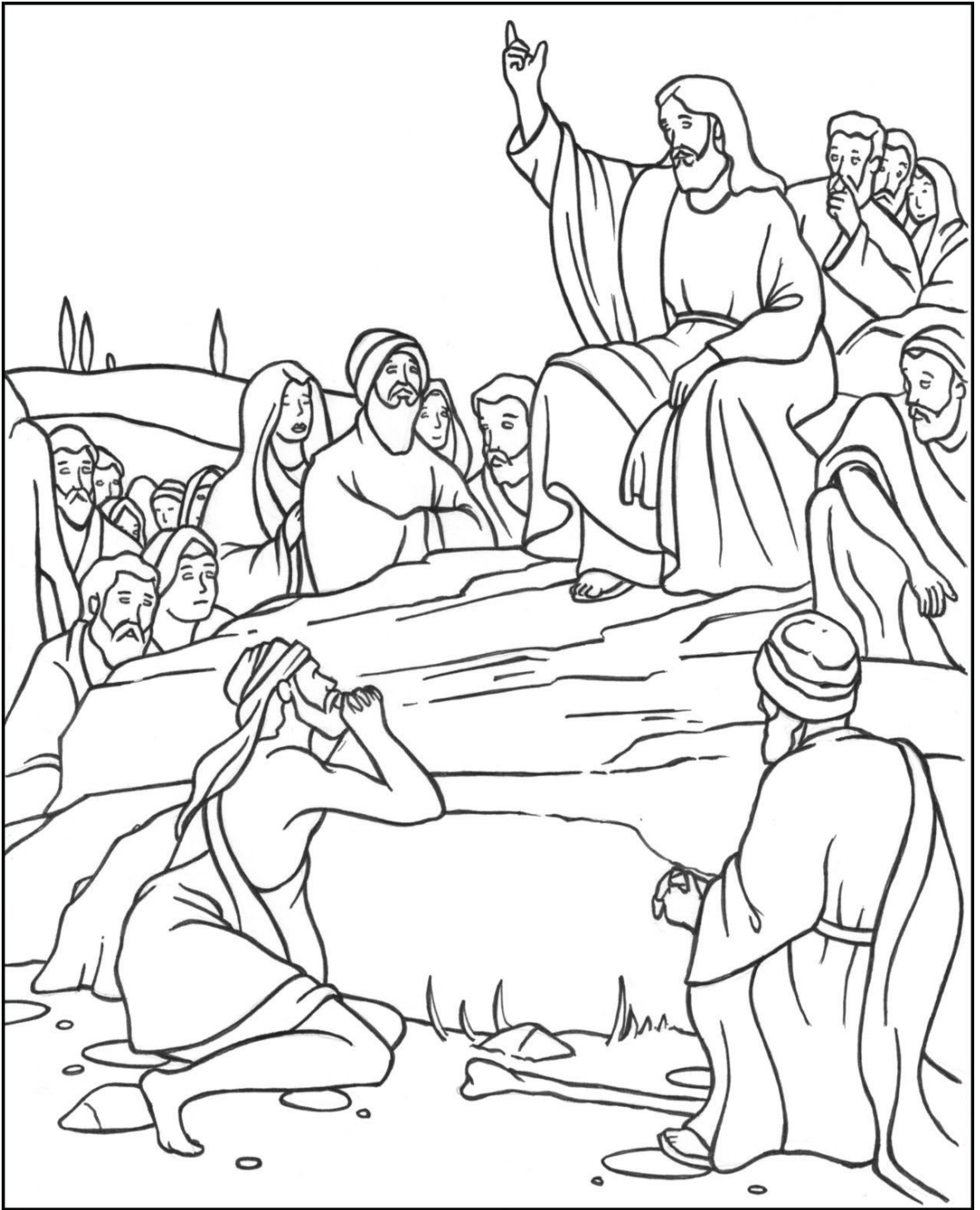
This year marks one hundred years since our community set the cornerstone of the sanctuary that would house our growing closer to God, each other, and our salvation. A small team has been working since last year to plan how we will commemorate this centennial year. We are hoping to provide historical tours, worship events, artistic engagements, storytelling, food, dancing, and celebrating with each other and with the greater community. *We need your help.* The fun work of planning and executing this event will require many hands. If you would like to help, please reach out to Rev Robert via phone at 423-400-0826 or email at hartmansrobert@gmail.com.

The Parish Prayer List: February 16, 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, Edie T., _____.

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
