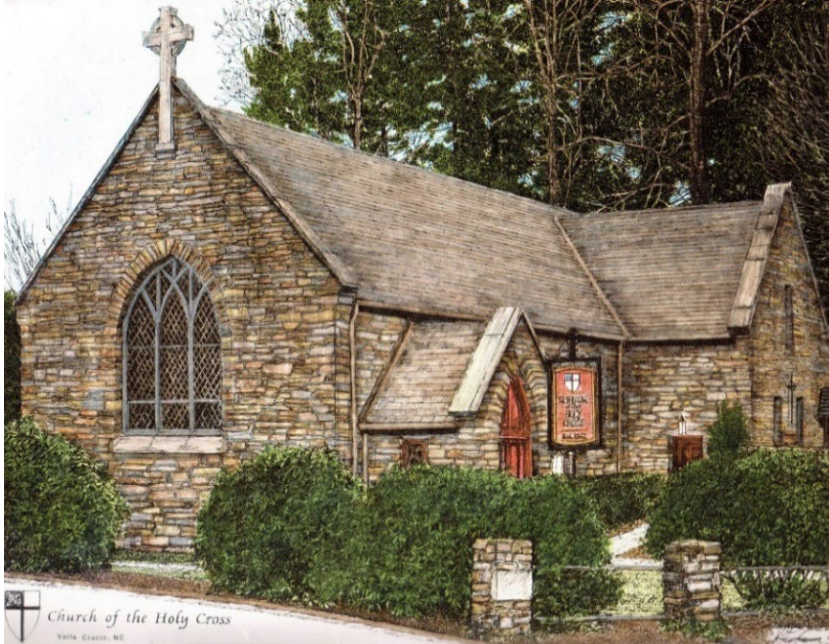


The Church of the Holy Cross Valle Crucis, North Carolina



The Episcopal Church in the Vale of the Cross Since 1842

The Seventh Sunday After the Epiphany

February 23, 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.

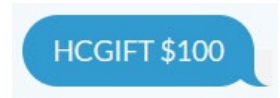
Children are most welcome and encouraged to participate in all services at Holy Cross. Rocking chairs have been provided for caregivers with infants.

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:

Offered by Shane Watson

All stand at the sound of the bell.

The Processional Hymn: #135 “Songs of Thankfulness and Praise”

Salzburg

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: #131 (vs. 5) “When Christ’s Appearing was Made Known”

Vom Himmel kam der Engel Schar

**All glory, Jesus, be to thee
for this thy glad epiphany:
whom with the Father we adore
and Holy Ghost for evermore.**

The Collect of the Day:

The Lord be with you.

People: **And also with you.**

Let us pray.

O Lord, you have taught us that without love whatever we do is worth nothing: Send your Holy Spirit and pour into our hearts your greatest gift, which is love, the true bond of peace and of all virtue, without which whoever lives is accounted dead before you. Grant this for the sake of your only Son Jesus Christ, 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:

Genesis 45:3-11, 15

Joseph said to his brothers, "I am Joseph. Is my father still alive?" But his brothers could not answer him, so dismayed were they at his presence.

Then Joseph said to his brothers, "Come closer to me." And they came closer. He said, "I am your brother, Joseph, whom you sold into Egypt. And now do not be distressed, or angry with yourselves, because you sold me here; for God sent me before you to preserve life. For the famine has been in the land these two years; and there are five more years in which there will be neither plowing nor harvest. God sent me before you to preserve for you a remnant on earth, and to keep alive for you many survivors. So it was not you who sent me here, but God; he has made me a father to Pharaoh, and lord of all his house and ruler over all the land of Egypt. Hurry and go up to my father and say to him, "Thus says your son Joseph, God has made me lord of all Egypt; come down to me, do not delay. You shall settle in the land of Goshen, and you shall be near me, you and your children and your children's children, as well as your flocks, your herds, and all that you have. I will provide for you there -- since there are five more years of famine to come -- so that you and your household, and all that you have, will not come to poverty."

And he kissed all his brothers and wept upon them; and after that his brothers talked with him.

Reader: The Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

A time for silent reflection follows.

The Children's Homily: "Good Mathias the Apostle" **Rev. Robert 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 15:35-38, 42-50

Someone will ask, "How are the dead raised? With what kind of body do they come?" Fool! What you sow does not come to life unless it dies. And as for what you sow, you do not sow the body that is to be, but a bare seed, perhaps of wheat or of some other grain. But God gives it a body as he has chosen, and to each kind of seed its own body.

So it is with the resurrection of the dead. What is sown is perishable, what is raised is imperishable. It is sown in dishonor, it is raised in glory. It is sown in weakness, it is raised in power. It is sown a physical body, it is raised a spiritual body. If there is a physical body, there is also a spiritual body. Thus it is written, “The first man, Adam, became a living being”; the last Adam became a life-giving spirit. But it is not the spiritual that is first, but the physical, and then the spiritual. The first man was from the earth, a man of dust; the second man is from heaven. As was the man of dust, so are those who are of the dust; and as is the man of heaven, so are those who are of heaven. Just as we have borne the image of the man of dust, we will also bear the image of the man of heaven.

What I am saying, brothers and sisters, is this: flesh and blood cannot inherit the kingdom of God, nor does the perishable inherit the imperishable.

Reader: The Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

The Gradual Hymn: #376 “Joyful, Joyful, We Adore Thee”

Hymn to Joy

The Holy Gospel:

Luke 6:27-38

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

People: Glory to you, Lord Christ.

Jesus said, “I say to you that listen, Love your enemies, do good to those who hate you, bless those who curse you, pray for those who abuse you. If anyone strikes you on the cheek, offer the other also; and from anyone who takes away your coat do not withhold even your shirt. Give to everyone who begs from you; and if anyone takes away your goods, do not ask for them again. Do to others as you would have them do to you.

“If you love those who love you, what credit is that to you? For even sinners love those who love them. If you do good to those who do good to you, what credit is that to you? For even sinners do the same. If you lend to those from whom you hope to receive, what credit is that to you? Even sinners lend to sinners, to receive as much again. But love your enemies, do good, and lend, expecting nothing in return. Your reward will be great, and you will be children of the Most High; for he is kind to the ungrateful and the wicked. Be merciful, just as your Father is merciful.

“Do not judge, and you will not be judged; do not condemn, and you will not be condemned. Forgive, and you will be forgiven; give, and it will be given to you.

Continued...

“A good measure, pressed down, shaken together, running over, will be put into your lap; for the measure you give will be the measure you get back.”

The Gospel of the Lord.

People: Praise to you, Lord Christ.

The Sermon:

Rev. Robert 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:

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 12-15)*

Rev. Robert 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: “What Shall I Render to My God?”

A.C. Lovelace

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 follows as printed on the next page.

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:

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

#306 “Come, Risen Lord, and Deign to be Our Guest”

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 prayer on the following page.

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: #423 “Immortal, Invisible, God Only Wise” *St. Denio*

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>	Derek Eggers & Susan Howard
<i>Ushers:</i>	Derek Eggers & Susan Howard
<i>Lector:</i>	John Goodrich
<i>Prayers of the People:</i>	John Goodrich
<i>Chalice:</i>	Ann Iles & Sis Kinney
<i>Acolytes:</i>	Randy McDonough
<i>Linen Fairies:</i>	Jennifer Browning

ANNOUNCEMENTS

TODAY, 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 Bishop Ives Cabin**
10:00 am Valle Crucis United Methodist Church Reception
for Bishop Ken Carter **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 23, 2025

Christian Formation – Discussions on Faith

9:45 am in Bishop Ives Cabin

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. **Due to the reception in Skiles Hall, this discussion will be held in Bishop Ives Cabin starting at 9:45 am. Feel free to grab a coffee and bring it over.**

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 23, 2025

Valle Crucis United Methodist Church Reception

10:00 – 11:30 am in Skiles Hall

Bishop Ken Carter will join the worship at Valle Crucis UMC at 9:00 am this coming Sunday, February 23. Valle Crucis UMC will host a reception **in Skiles Hall from 10:00 am until 11:30 am.** Holy Cross folks are most welcome to attend.

NEXT SUNDAY, MARCH 2, 2025
The Last 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



WEDNESDAY, MARCH 5, 2025
Ash Wednesday Services

- 12:00 pm** Ash Wednesday Liturgy with Imposition of Ashes and Holy Communion
7:00 pm Solemn Liturgy for Ash Wednesday with Imposition of Ashes,
Holy Communion, and Hymnody
(*This service is Live-Streamed via our YouTube Channel*)

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.

SUNDAY, MARCH 16, 2025
Parish Forum – Skiles Hall

Please plan to join the parish forum after the 11:00 am service on Sunday March 16. We will gather in Skiles Hall for food, an update on the Rector search, a hosted conversation with the Vestry, and information on opportunities to join ministry engagements at Holy Cross. The forum will end by 2:00 pm. Childcare will be provided.

St. John’s Summer Concert Series Announcement

The Vestry of Holy Cross is having trouble identifying a person or group who are willing and able to organize the 2025 annual Summer Concert Series at St. John’s. This series brings bands to beautiful St. John’s one evening per month in the summer months and includes sharing, food, and fellowship. If you are interested in organizing this series by booking bands, coordinating set up, and troubleshooting with a small team, Rev. Robert needs to hear from you ASAP. If a team cannot be identified, the Vestry plans to direct funds and energy toward the concert series at the Valle Crucis Community Park revamping the program.

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 23, 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., Edie T., Gini H., Michael H., Bob C., _____.

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

PO Box 645, Hwy 194, Valle Crucis, NC 28691
Phone (828) 963-4609 Fax (828) 963-4619
Email: holy_cross@skybest.com
website: www.holycrossvallecrucis.net

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
