

Crossings

Church of the Holy Cross ✠ Episcopal
875 Cotton Street, Shreveport, Louisiana
August 4, 2021

Services

(until further notice)

Please see calendar below.

The Vestry

David Richard, Senior Warden
Ginger Paul, Junior Warden
Mike Wilkerson, Secretary
Donna Neal, Co-Secretary
Georgiana Gleason
Rick Hadwin
Marshall Middleton
Reid Raymond
Jackie Songy
Monty Walford, Treasurer
(non-vestry)

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Church of the Holy Cross
Shreveport

Contact the Editor

Please send material for articles,
along with ideas, suggestions,
or complaints to
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Holiness

“Today you are you; that is truer than true. There is no one alive who is you-er than you!” writes Dr. Seuss in *Happy Birthday to You*, a favored line among elementary school teachers and people who work with children.

It’s important to teach children that who they are is special and unique because we want them to learn that they matter, and that they matter as themselves, not as they pretend to be someone else. Why this is important will vary from person to person. Some might think it’s important because they believe a child’s cultivation of their own personality will lead to greater success. Some might think it’s because a child’s confidence in themselves will lead to a healthier adult life. And these are true.

But for the Christian, it’s important because you are called to holiness, and the way you become holy is by becoming more yourself rather than by pretending to be someone else.

Take Moses, for instance. Most are familiar with the Moses story. Sent adrift by his mother as a last-ditch effort to save his life from Pharaoh, he nonetheless ends up in the hands of Pharaoh, but as a son rather than a victim. He then lives his life as a prince of Egypt until one day he dramatically kills a slavedriver and flees to the desert. He later encounters God.

That scene where God announces himself should also give us a clue about what holiness is. “I AM THAT I AM,” speaks God from the burning bush. The source and summit of holiness announces that he is that he is. God is holy because he is so completely *other*. God is holy because there is none like him. In a sense, God is holy because he cannot be anything but himself. And when we learn to be ourselves we too become holy.

Another instance in Moses’ life is the radiant transformation he undergoes after spending forty days with God on top of Mount Sinai. He comes down from the mountain with the ten commandments, and his face “shone because he had been talking with God.” Standing before the presence of the Almighty, Moses, the former prince of Egypt and now great lawgiver of the Hebrews, has become more fully the person God made him to be.



A great cloud of witnesses



We often think that to be holy we must be like the saints. Pious, devoted, stone-faced and righteous. And this is true to a point. But what the stained glass and icons show us is but a one-dimensional view of the saints. The books and stories go further, but there is more, so much more. Anyone who reads the accounts of the saints, of the Biblical patriarchs and so forth, will learn very quickly that being a “good” person is far from enough, and that holiness often isn’t achieved by those who seek to be merely good.

As we’ve been reading through the David story in Samuel, this has become increasingly evident. David is far from a good person most of the time. He has his moments, but he is a man who continually makes wrong decisions. And yet, he is a “man after God’s own heart.” Moses again is another instance of one who often behaves badly and yet is considered holy. The list goes on. St. Peter denied Christ not once but thrice. St. Thomas doubted the Lord’s resurrection. Jacob lied his way into Isaac’s blessing. Lest we forget, Jacob’s own sons sold their brother into slavery, and St. Paul, at the beginning of his story, did nothing but “breathe threats and murder against the Church.” And yet the writer to the Hebrews calls these and others a “great cloud of witnesses,” and tradition assigns the moniker “saint” to most of these and “holy” to all of them.

So surely being good is not good enough, and if it’s required at all, it’s certainly not required at the start. It would seem, then, that there is something else in play in the holiness of our lives, in becoming holy as our Father is holy. We see in the lives of the saints and the witness of Scripture that what all these holy people have in common is a deep connection to the transforming love of God, and a willingness, an openness to be who God has called them to be. That is holiness. And while holiness looks different within the lives of the people who seek it, it is the same holiness which raised Christ from the dead after having first raised Israel out of Egypt.

Another word for this action of holiness, this openness to be who God has called us to be, is “repentance.” What matters is not that we always get it right, but that when we’ve gotten it wrong we don’t go on in our wrongness. We throw ourselves on the mercy which will not despise a broken and contrite heart. This is how we come to learn the truth of ourselves, by looking deep within the truth of Christ until we learn to see his life reflected in our own.

As I close, I leave you with these words from the first letter of St. Peter:

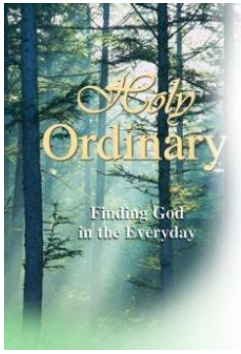
Therefore prepare your minds for action; discipline yourselves; set all your hope on the grace that Jesus Christ will bring you when he is revealed. Like obedient children, do not be conformed to the desires that you formerly had in ignorance. Instead, as he who called you is holy, be holy yourselves in all your conduct; for it is written, “You shall be holy, for I am holy.”

If you invoke as Father the one who judges all people impartially according to their deeds, live in reverent fear during the time of your exile. You know that you were ransomed from the futile ways inherited from your ancestors, not with perishable things like silver or gold, but with the precious blood of Christ, like that of a lamb without defect or blemish. He was destined before the foundation of the world, but was revealed at the end of the ages for your sake. Through him you have come to trust in God, who raised him from the dead and gave him glory, so that your faith and hope are set on God. Now that you have purified your souls by your obedience to the truth so that you have genuine mutual love, love one another deeply from the heart. You have been born anew, not of perishable but of imperishable seed, through the living and enduring word of God. For

“All flesh is like grass
and all its glory like the flower of grass.
The grass withers,
and the flower falls,
but the word of the Lord endures forever.”

That word is the good news that was announced to you.

The Rev. Garrett Boyte



Holy Ordinary

Finding God in the Everyday

The source

(Mark 7:1-23) [Jesus] said to them, “Isaiah prophesied rightly about you hypocrites, as it is written, ‘This people honors me with their lips, but their hearts are far from me. . . .’ You abandon the commandment of God and hold to human tradition.”

Yesterday while reading some posts on Facebook, I realized a very uncomfortable truth about myself. I am quick to discount an idea—no matter how it may resonate with me—if the *source* of that idea has offended me in the past.

Certainly we do have to “consider the source” when we encounter something with the potential to transform us. But we cannot become so anxious to protect ourselves from offense that we can no longer hear God’s truth as spoken by a source previously labeled as hostile.

I understand, for example, why so many people today are resistant to religion. Faith communities and traditions are supposed to be sources of God’s truth, but too often that truth is spoken but not lived out by its proclaimers. Jesus frequently pushed back against religious people for their hypocrisy, saying to them, “You abandon the commandment of God and hold to human tradition.”

I have to strike a balance in my life: always considering the source of ideas and opinions, yet also always being open to hearing uncomfortable truth from unfriendly sources. I have to ask if the truth which discomfits me is actually the deep and profound truth of God.

No matter the source.

**Carol Mead is priest-in-charge at St. Peter’s-by-the-Lake Episcopal Church in Brandon, Mississippi. You can learn more about Carol and her journey to Holy Ordinary on her website: www.holyordinary.com.*

Calendar for August

Saturdays	Holy Eucharist, Rite I	5:00 pm	Chapel
	Evening Prayer, Rite II	6:00 pm	Online
Sundays	Holy Eucharist, Rite II	9:00 am	Chapel
	Confirmation Class	10:00 am	Library
	Holy Eucharist, Rite II	11:00 am	Nave
Mondays, Tuesdays	Evening Prayer, Rite II	6:00 pm	Online
Wednesdays	Book Club	10:30 am	Library
	Holy Eucharist, Rite II	Noon	Chapel
	Evening Prayer, Rite II	6:00 pm	Nave and online
Thursdays, Fridays	Evening Prayer, Rite II	6:00 pm	Online
Tuesday, August 10	Vestry meeting	5:30 pm	Education Building

Following the governor's orders, Holy Cross will require the wearing of masks indoors for all events and visits on all Holy Cross campuses. We thank you in advance for doing your part. Until further notice, events involving eating and drinking will be postponed.

Prayer List

Wanda Allen	Floyd "Buzzy" Farrar	Maureen Locke	Cynthia Walker
Ellen Dunlop Belote	Robin Foster	Mim McCoy	Louis Wallace
Mary Berth	Maggie Fowle	Della McCranie	David Walsh
Margaret Boudreaux	John August Gianforte	Elyane Mergey	Connie Wiggins
Gabriella Brayden	Richard Hadwin	Theresa Mormino	Curtis Williams
Martha Brotherton	Sandra Hadwin	Patsy	Bill Wright
Corinne Campbell	Charles Hall	Juanita Peterson	Mary Wright
Robert Cangelose	Josh Harrell	Linda Sirman and family	Sheryl Wright
Julie Coyle	Barbara Hughes	Brady Sessions	
Sarah Lou Coyle	Elizabeth Ingram	Angela Smith	
Drew Dodson Family	Robson Jenkins	Catherine Spaht	
Jean Dooley	Linda Jordan	Paul Spaht	
Ann Falter	Justin	Robert Todd	

We pray for those who serve and are served by Providence House.

In the diocesan cycle of prayer we pray for St. Paul's, Abbeville, the Very Rev. Madge McLain; for St. James, Alexandria, the Rev. Timothy Heflin (Alexis) and the Rev. Deacon Michael Parham; for St. Timothy's, Alexandria, the Very Rev. Rich Snow (Nikki); and for St. Paul's, Winnfield, the Rev. Frank Fuller.

Say Ministries

The Eleventh Sunday after Pentecost: August 8

Lectors: Becky Snodgrass, Steve Snodgrass
Prayers of the People: Becky Snodgrass
Eucharistic Minister: Ginger Paul
Acolyte: Steve Snodgrass
Ushers: Laura Wilkerson, Mike Wilkerson
Altar Guild: Becky Snodgrass

The Twelfth Sunday after Pentecost: August 15

Lectors: Pembroke Roeder, Kirk Fontenot
Prayers of the People: Kirk Fontenot
Eucharistic Minister: Carolyn Mahlen
Acolyte: Aaron Horton
Ushers: Becky Snodgrass, Steve Snodgrass
Altar Guild: Ginger Paul



Service Music

The Eleventh Sunday after Pentecost: August 8

- Mass:** Matthias and Hurd
Psalm 130: Metrical setting, Hymn 666 St. Bride
Anthem: Bread of Heaven, on Thee we feed—Heinlein; Dornel; arr. B. Power
Hymns: 7 Ratisbon; 343 St. Agnes; 318 Nyack; 475 Tysk
Organ: Novelette I and Communion—Purvis; Cantique—Elgar; Grand Choeur, Op. 84—Guilment

The Twelfth Sunday after Pentecost: August 15

- Mass:** Matthias and Hurd
Psalm 111: Plainsong
Anthem: The spacious firmament on high—J. Haydn
Solos: Ubi caritas—Anon. 8th century hymn; Ave Maria—Schubert
Hymns: 420 Engelberg; 323 Jesu, Jesu, du mein Hirt; 328 Song 46 (1-3); 665 Michael
Organ: Works of J. Haydn; Ubi caritas—Benoit; Marche en Rondeau (Te Deum, H. 146)—M. A. Charpentier

A poster for a music performance. It features two circular portraits of Johannes Brahms and Sergei Rachmaninoff on the left. The text on the right is as follows:

NEW ROMANCES
Music for strings by
Brahms and Rachmaninoff
August 20th at 7:00 pm
Church of the Holy Cross
\$8 suggested donation
Performances by
Michele Gunn, Dan Santelices, Borys Smolaga,
Charles Regauer, Eliot Haas & Brett Andrews

The **Carrefour Chamber Music Project** will present the program *New Romances* at Holy Cross on August 20 at 7:00 pm. The program features the *String Sextet in G Major, Op. 36* of Johannes Brahms, a cryptic love letter to a youthful infatuation, and the unfinished *String Quartet* of Sergei Rachmaninoff, an early work that foreshadows the full-throated lyricism of his mature style. Local musicians Michelle Gunn, Daniel Santelices, Boris Smolaga, Charles Regauer, Eliot Haas, and Brett Andrews will perform. Admission is free, with a suggested donation of \$8.00. The donation may be paid at the door, or in advance by going to www.carrefourcmp.org.

Church of the Holy Cross
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Return service requested

Mission Statement: *The Church of the Holy Cross, Shreveport, Louisiana, strives to be the presence of Jesus Christ in our community and beyond, through worship of Almighty God, open inquiry, sharing fellowship, valued diversity, genuine inclusiveness, and servant leadership—encouraging all to exercise God's gifts and calling as we share the Gospel of Hope in programs, to serve without regard for religious affiliation, race, or economic status.*



Hope House: There is an ongoing need for coffee, sugar, creamer, laundry detergent **pods**, disposable razors, and personal-size hygiene products (soap, shampoo, deodorant, etc.) Please take your donations to 762 Austen Place or to the church office. Thank you for your continued support.

Forward Day by Day for August and September, in both standard and large-print editions, is available in the Narthex and the Undercroft.

The Most Rev. Michael B. Curry, Ph.D., D. D.
The Rt. Rev. Jacob Owensby, Ph.D., D. D.
The Rev. J. Garrett Boyte, M.Div.
The Rev. Mary Richard
The Rev. Kenneth W. Paul
The Rev. Donald D. Heacock
Mr. Bruce Power
Mrs. Laurie Connell
Mr. Charles Alford
Mr. Brian Jackson

XXVII Presiding Bishop
IV Bishop of Western Louisiana
Rector
Rector Emerita
Rector Emeritus
Director, Holy Cross Child Placement Agency
Organist-Choirmaster
Office Administrator
Sexton
Assistant Sexton