



Crossings

Church of the Holy Cross ✠ Episcopal
875 Cotton Street, Shreveport, Louisiana
January 12, 2022

Services

(until further notice)

Please see calendar.

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

lynn.walford@lsus.edu

A Beloved Child of God

Van Gogh, *The Raising of Lazarus*



Last week I presided over a funeral in the rose garden of the church, as I have many times before, for one of our homeless neighbors. Langley Workman was found dead in early December by the train tracks. We're unsure of how he died, but it seems as if it was related to his health.

Langley didn't have many friends at all, and was largely unknown even to the other people who live around the church.

I had never met him personally. I cannot testify as to the kind of person he was. I cannot claim that he was good or bad. I only know that he was largely unknown, and that when he died his death went largely unnoticed.

There were four people present at his funeral. Half were staff at Hope House. It was not my first funeral like this, and it will not be the last. We read from John's gospel the story of Martha admonishing Jesus, "Lord, if you had been here, my brother would not have died" (John 11:21).

In my sermon, I mentioned that Martha was right. We'd seen time and again that Jesus could heal the sick. And he was even told that his friend Lazarus was not doing well. But he didn't show up until Lazarus' body was in the tomb and a stench was coming from it because he had been there for four days. We knew Jesus could heal him, but he didn't. Lazarus died. Jesus wept. And Martha in her mourning spoke to Christ with a tone and fervor that I don't think we'd seen any of his followers use. And she was right.

But the point that was made is that this event, while tragic enough to make our Lord weep, was not about healing the sick. It was not about offering comforting words. It was not even really about Lazarus at all. It was about the glory of God, because just when things seem most lost, darkest, unwinnable, fearsome, God strolls into town. It's just when all hope is lost that God shows up. It's just when Lazarus is already dead that Christ walks into the tomb and declares that Death is not the ruler he recognizes. As one preacher puts it, "Death is not the Lord of time, but 'I AM. Lazarus, come out!'"

Holy Cross Rose Garden



As Christmas and Epiphany have shown us, God chooses the most ludicrous and absurd and implausible of times and seasons and people and places to accomplish his purposes in the world. A stable in Bethlehem and the Word became flesh, witnessed by field hands and attested to by foreign wizards who read it in the sky. A cross and death somehow became for us the way of life and peace. The rotting, smelly body of Lazarus became an opportunity for the glory of God. The life and death of a homeless gentleman and a funeral attended by four people could very well have been as revolutionary.

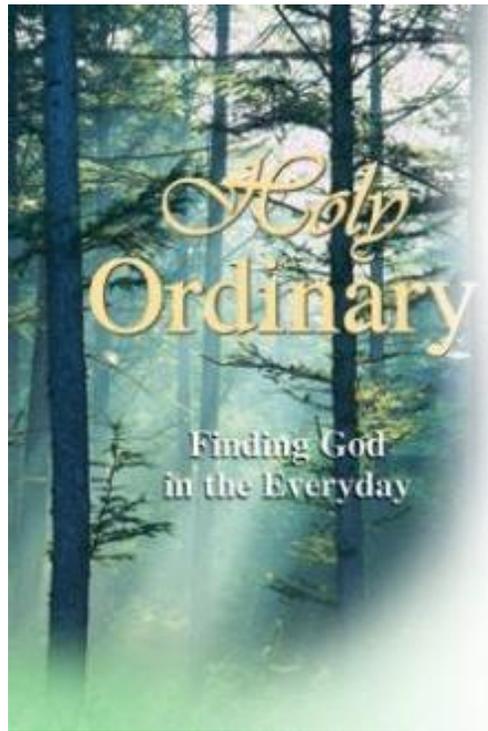
We may never know exactly which of God’s purposes were being fulfilled in the cold January wind in our rose garden, when this man was buried in the dirt. We may never know the fruit that his life bore or the witness that his life will yet bear. But we do know, we can say, we will claim, that Langley Workman was a beloved child of God, and that at the last, Christ will raise him, as he will raise all who cling to him in faith, to perpetual joy, everlasting felicity, eternal peace.

May our brother Langley and all the departed, through the mercies of God, rest in peace.

The Rev. Garrett Boyte

Calendar for January

Saturdays	Evening Prayer, Rite II	6:00 pm	Online
Sundays	Morning Prayer, Rite II	9:00 am	Chapel
	Holy Eucharist, Rite II	11:00 am	Nave
	Christian Education	10:00 am	Education Building
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
	Bible Study	6:30 pm	Library
Thursdays, Fridays	Evening Prayer, Rite II	6:00 pm	Online
Sunday, January 16	Annual Parish Meeting	after the 11:00 service	Nave
Sunday, January 23	Acolyte training session	after the 11:00 service	Nave



Holy Ordinary
Finding God in the Everyday
By Carol Mead

But why?

(John 9:1-12, 35-38) As he walked along, he saw a man blind from birth. His disciples asked him, “Rabbi, who sinned, this man or his parents, that he was born blind?”

Like most people, I have on occasion been frustrated by a small child who kept asking the question, “Why?” I believe that children who do it mostly want the adult to stay engaged rather than giving an abrupt answer and turning attention to something else.

But for adults, knowing *why* something happened is critical and comforting. The need to know why, to establish a cause-and-effect relationship with the world, is as old as humankind, and asking “Why?” is probably a key element in the rise of religion. If I know *why* I was dealt tragedy or difficulty, the possibility remains that I can change the outcome the next time.

Scripture often contains—or implies—the human search for cause and effect. Jesus’ disciples, encountering “a man blind from birth,” wanted to know, “Rabbi, who sinned, this man or his parents, that he was born blind?” They did not even question that human sin had caused the blindness, but only wanted to know *whose* sin was to blame.

For my part, I see the meanness, the selfishness, and the violence in our world today, and I’m desperate to make it all stop. I want to know something particular caused it so that we can fix it. Mostly, though, I feel helpless. I feel like a child again.

I can’t stop asking *why*.

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.

Prayer List

Steve Abramson	Joe Bob Evanson	Peggy Kirkland and family	Catherine Spaht
Paula Bedenbender	Floyd "Buzzy" Farrar	David Lewis	Paul Spaht
Ellen Dunlop Belote	Maggie Fowle	Maureen Locke	Wally Springerley
Mary Berth	John August Gianforte	Mim McCoy	Robert Todd
Margaret Boudreaux	James Edward Griffith	Della McCranie	Cynthia Walker
Martha Brotherton	Richard Hadwin	Kelly Rutz	Louis Wallace
Nikki Brown	Sandra Hadwin	Brady Sessions	David Walsh
Mikey Carlisle	Chris Harper	Irene Sharp	Connie Wiggins
Sarah Lou Coyle	Josh Harrel	Ralph Sharp	Bill Wright
John Craig	John Hellyer	Mary Ann Shemwell	Mary Wright
Drew Dodson Family	Peggy Hellyer	Linda Sirman and family	Sheryl Wright
Addylaide Evanson	Elizabeth Ingram	Angela Smith	

We pray for those who serve and are served by Hope House

In the diocesan cycle of prayer we pray for St. Andrew's, Mer Rouge, Redeemer, Oak Ridge, the Rev. Geoff Schmitt (Brenda); for Trinity, Tallulah, Grace, Lake Providence, the Rev. William Echols (Linda); for St. John's, Minden, the Rev. Wayne Carter; and for Grace, Monroe, the Rev. Donald Smith (Lloyd), Deacon Bette Jo Kauffman

Say Ministries

The Second Sunday after the Epiphany: January 16, 2022

Lectors: Melissa Fowle, Kirk Fontenot
Prayers of the People: Melissa Fowle
Eucharistic Ministers: Sr. Cecilia Horton, Ginger Paul
Acolyte: Aaron Horton
Ushers: Carolyn Mahlen, Bill Richard
Altar Guild: Laura Wilkerson, Mike Wilkerson

The Third Sunday after the Epiphany: January 23, 2022

Lectors: Robert Henley, David Richard
Prayers of the People: Sr. Cecilia Horton
Eucharistic Ministers: Sr. Cecilia Horton, Robert Henley
Acolyte: Aaron Horton
Ushers: Laura Wilkerson, Mike Wilkerson
Altar Guild: Ginger Paul



Service Music

The Second Sunday after Epiphany: January 16, 2022

- Mass:** Powell and Hurd
Psalm 36:5-10: Metrical setting—Gardiner; C. L. Webber
Hymns: 423 St. Denio; 138 Carlisle; 497 Wie schön leuchtet (1,3); 599 Lift Every Voice
Anthem: Christ is the world's true light—W. K. Stanton
Hymn-Anthem: Lights abode celestial Sale--Rhuddlan
Organ: How bright appears the morning star—J. Barr; Buxtehude; Armsdorff

The Third Sunday after the Epiphany: January 23, 2022

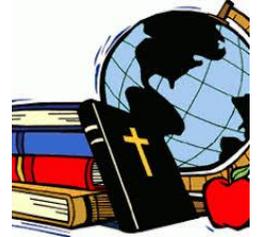
- Mass:** Powell and Hurd
Psalm 19: J. Haydn/Tone VIII.1; adapt. B. Power
Hymns: 530 Gott sei Dank; 539 Tidings; 318 Nyack; 544 Duke Street
Anthem: The spacious firmament on high—J. Haydn; arr. B. Power
Organ: Prelude on an Epiphany Introit—Duruflé; Suite in the First Tone excerpts)—Boyvin



ANNOUNCEMENTS AND UPCOMING EVENTS

Christian Education Resumes

Christian Education courses, along with Children's Sunday School, will resume the week of January 16. If you are interested in this ministry, please contact Fr. Garrett at rector@churchholycross.org.



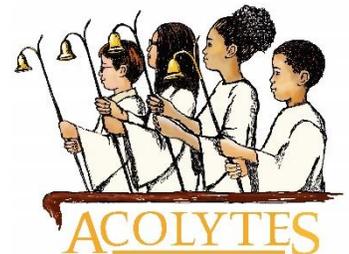
Annual Parish Meeting

Holy Cross' Annual Meeting is scheduled for January 16 following the 11:00 service. Please make plans to attend. We will elect three new vestry members, and hear reports on the various ministries of Holy Cross. Members rotating off the vestry are **Rick Hadwin**, **Donna Neal**, and **Mike Wilkerson**. We thank them for their dedicated service. Nominees to date are **Tommie Sue Brooks** and **Lyman McKellar**. All members in good standing are eligible to vote at the parish meeting. To be a member in good standing means that your baptism is recorded in the parish register, that in the previous year you received the Eucharist at least three times, and that you are a giver of record (minimum of one dollar) to the parish in the previous year. If you're unsure whether you qualify to vote, please contact Fr. Garrett at rector@churchholycross.org, or call the office at 318-222-3325.



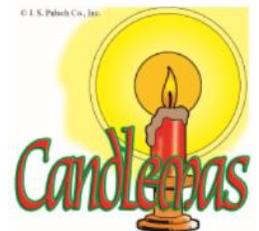
Acolyte Training

Those interested in becoming or remaining as acolytes should make plans to attend an acolyte training session on January 23 following the 11:00 service. Children ages 6-92 are welcome. Our older acolytes should come prepared to assist the younger ones in learning and performing their duties. Fr. Garrett will be making a smaller cross for the little ones to carry, so do not fear!



Candlemas

Join us online or in person on February 2 at 6:00 pm for a special midweek evening Eucharist to celebrate the Feast of the Presentation, also known as Candlemas.



Non-Vestry Opportunities

If any members are interested in joining one or more of our standing committees or ministries, please contact Fr. Garrett. We are looking to involve the wider membership in the various activities of the church. This type of service also offers a great opportunity to learn more about the workings of the church in Shreveport and beyond. We are asking for a one-year commitment, which can be renewed annually if desired. For a list and description of these opportunities, please visit our website:

<https://churchholycross.org>, and click on *About Us*, then *Staff and Committees*, or *Ministries*.



Garden Group

It's almost church gardening time again! You're invited to join the garden group as we gather on **Saturdays, February 12 and February 18, from 8:00 to 11:00 am** (or anytime in between if you can't stay the whole time), to clean out the beds, trim the hedges, deadhead the roses, and prune the pomegranate trees in anticipation of spring. If the weather doesn't cooperate, we'll reschedule. Please bring any gardening tools you have, along with a sun hat and water. If you've never gardened before, don't worry. We can show you what to do!



Reunite Immigrants with their Families through Louisiana Advocates for Immigrants in Detention!

We've assisted 2,000 asylum seekers and need your help to reach even more



Be a Transportation Hotline Volunteer

Must speak English and Spanish

Volunteer from your own home, whenever you are available

Give a few hours a week or a few hours a month-anything helps!

**For more info and to sign-up, visit:
laaid.org/volunteer/transport-hotline**

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Shreveport, LA 71165-1627

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church@churchholycross.org
Facebook: www.facebook.com/holycrossdowntown

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 **January** and **February**, 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