

News and Information about Holy Cross and Covid-19 June 16, 2020

This week at Holy Cross, we are convening a task force to plan reopening. That's pretty exciting. And arduous. That group will be coming to terms with several important factors –

Government guidelines are meant to help us plan to safely reopen, but of course the conversation is should we reopen? There are members of our church family who will choose not to attend worship once we reopen, due to valid concerns about their own health and safety. *The CDC has repeatedly classified people over 65 and people of any age who have serious underlying medical conditions separately, and suggested these people **make decisions about going out of the house with more care and thought.***

But, should we wait to reopen to in person worship dependent upon the most vulnerable among us? Well, friends, it seems true that people have always self-excluded for worship. I would personally rather have people at church who **want** to be there than anyone who feels forced! But, of course, the church should not reopen capriciously just because they can! So, our task force is designed to address needs of: sanitizing the facility, minimizing opportunities for the spread of the virus, and proscribing such changes to the furnishing that will accomplish those goals. We have another group redesigning the worship service taking into account the recommendations to suspend congregational singing and responsive readings, as well as social distancing within the worship space. Holy Communion, an intrinsic part of our worship must also be redesigned with an emphasis on safety.

Holy Cross offers use of its space to many and diverse groups, also, and, as a good host, must offer rules and expect compliance on these rules by our partners in ministry. Lots of details.

So, while those groups are working (call Bryan Struve or the office to volunteer), we will continue to worship as we have – with mailed worship services and sermon copies, etc, and youtube recorded elements of worship (sermons, readings, prayers, music) offered on both the website (www.holycrosslutheran-salem.org) and the Facebook Page – Holy Cross Lutheran-Salem. Even after we 'open' for in person worship, those elements will continue, at least for awhile. If you have thoughts about this plan, won't you share them with Bryan Struve or the Pastor?

Blessings – Pastor Patricia+

Coming up! Fun things, and solemn things – from Pastor P 6/16/2020

Holy Cross folks – want to have some fun?

Let's celebrate a 50th wedding anniversary! Put on your calendar **Saturday June 27th! It's Jack and Bev Tincknell's 50th anniversary** that day! We are developing plans for a **Drive Up Anniversary Celebration! Stay tuned for more info, but the plan is to drive to Willamette Lutheran Retirement community 7693 Wheatland Rd N, Keizer, OR 97303** – and wave and honk and say congratulations! We'll have a basket for you to drop your anniversary card or whatever into to help them celebrate. We can't let a 50th anniversary go by uncelebrated! Call Pastor P for info! 5035109976

Other important things to celebrate – **Bev Tincknell has a milestone birthday on June 23rd** (you go ahead and ask her how many). Who else has a special birthday coming up? Call the office and let us know so we can post it in here.

Another item we are working on is **creating an addendum to our directory with corrected phone numbers etc included**. Lots of folks forgot to tell us when they changed phone numbers, so we're working on it now! Call the office with this won't you? 5033646041 **AND give us an emergency contact** who doesn't live with you that we can keep on file. **AND give us your birthdate** (year included) for our records.

Our next **Better Together** Zoom meeting is coming up on **June 23rd at 6 pm**.

If you want to attend Better Together – here's how:.

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89700484912> Meeting ID: 897 0048 4912

Then – **NOISY OFFERING! PUT this label (in your envelope) on a jar or a can or a plastic bag or an envelope** and start collecting your LOOSE CHANGE! When we are back together the kids will be collecting all summer! Don't miss it!

Here's some solemn things –

Manuel Borbon was ordained to Word and Sacrament on June 13, 2020, under call to the Oregon Synod, though his ministry is still being defined. Many folks attended and viewed on the Livestream. God bless you, Manuel.

Wednesday, June 17th, is the Commemoration of the Emanuel 9 – and we've been planning a zoom worship <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83429720238> We are planning to record the zoom worship on youtube and make that available afterwards. Thank you for making an attempt to view this worship service.

WORSHIPPING AT HOME WITH HOLY CROSS
SUNDAY, JUNE 14, 2020 – SECOND SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

Blessed be the holy Trinity, † one God,
whose steadfast love is everlasting,
whose faithfulness endures from generation to generation.

Amen.

Trusting in the mercy of God, let us confess our sin.

Reconciling God,

**we confess that we do not trust your abundance,
and we deny your presence in our lives.**

**We place our hope in ourselves
and rely on our own efforts.**

We fail to believe that you provide enough for all.

We abuse your good creation for our own benefit.

**We fear difference and do not welcome others
as you have welcomed us.**

We sin in thought, word, and deed.

By your grace, forgive us;

through your love, renew us;

and in your Spirit, lead us;

so that we may live and serve you in newness of life. Amen.

Beloved of God,

by the radical abundance of divine mercy

we have peace with God through † Christ Jesus,
through whom we have obtained grace upon grace.

Our sins are forgiven.

Let us live now in hope.

For hope does not disappoint,

because God's love has been poured into our hearts
through the Holy Spirit. **Amen.**

GATHERING HYMN - THERE'S A WIDENESS IN GOD'S MERCY ELW 588

- 1 There's a wideness in God's mercy,
like the wideness of the sea;
there's a kindness in God's justice
which is more than liberty.
There is no place where earth's sorrows
are more felt than up in heav'n.
There is no place where earth's failings

have such kindly judgment giv'n.

- 2 There is welcome for the sinner,
and a promised grace made good;
there is mercy with the Savior;
there is healing in his blood.
There is grace enough for thousands
of new worlds as great as this;
there is room for fresh creations
in that upper home of bliss.
- 3 For the love of God is broader
than the measures of our mind;
and the heart of the Eternal
is most wonderfully kind.
But we make this love too narrow
by false limits of our own;
and we magnify its strictness
with a zeal God will not own.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Almighty Creator and ever-living God: we worship your glory, eternal Three-in-One, and we praise your power, majestic One-in-Three. Keep us steadfast in this faith, defend us in all adversity, and bring us at last into your presence, where you live in endless joy and love, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Amen.

READINGS AND PSALM

Genesis 18:1-15 [21:1-7]

The LORD appears to Abraham and Sarah

Psalms 116:1-2, 12-19

I will call on the name of the LORD. (*Ps. 116:13*)

Romans 5:1-8

While we were sinners, Christ died for us

Matthew 9:35--10:8 [9-23]

The sending of the Twelve

APOSTLES' CREED

**I believe in God, the Father almighty,
creator of heaven and earth.**

**I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord,
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,**

**born of the virgin Mary,
suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, died, and was buried;
he descended to the dead.*
On the third day he rose again;
he ascended into heaven,
he is seated at the right hand of the Father,
and he will come to judge the living and the dead.**

**I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the holy catholic church,
the communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body,
and the life everlasting. Amen.**

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION (see attached prayers)

OFFERING PRAYER

God of goodness and growth,
all creation is yours,
and your faithfulness is as firm as the heavens.
Water and word, wine and bread:
these are signs of your abundant grace.
Nourish us through these gifts,
that we might proclaim your steadfast love
in our communities and in the world,
through Jesus Christ, our strength and our song.
Amen.

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

When our congregation gathered for the celebration of Holy Communion, we heard again the story of God's mighty acts and of the love shown us in the death and resurrection of our Lord Jesus Christ. With thanksgiving we remembered that "in the night in which he was betrayed, our Lord Jesus took bread, and gave thanks; broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying: Take and eat; this my body, given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me. Again, after supper, he took the cup gave thanks, and gave it for all to drink, saying: This cup is the new covenant in my blood, shed for you and all people for the forgiveness of sin. Do this for the remembrance of me."

The people of our congregation were given assurance of our Lord's presence through the gift of his Holy Spirit. As you worship in your homes, we remember the gift of communion that we share.

Jesus said, "I am the bread of life, whoever comes to me shall never hunger, and whoever believes in me shall never thirst."

At this time, you may remember the gift of holy communion with your own bread and cup.

Communion Blessing The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in His grace. **Amen**

COMMUNION BLESSING

God of the welcome table,
in this meal we have feasted on your goodness
and have been united by your presence among us.
Empower us to go forth sustained by these gifts
so that we may share your neighborly love with all,
through Jesus Christ, the giver of abundant life.
Amen.

THE LORD'S PRAYER Lord, remember us in your kingdom and teach us to pray.

**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,
forever and ever. Amen.**

BLESSING

**LIFE IS SHORT
AND WE DO NOT HAVE
MUCH TIME TO
GLADDEN
THE HEARTS
OF THOSE WHO
TRAVEL WITH US
SO BE SWIFT TO LOVE
MAKE HASTE TO BE KIND
AND GO IN PEACE
TO LOVE AND SERVE
THE LORD**

ANNE - FREDERIC AMIEL

Sermon for June 14, 2020 And Sarah laughed within herself. This is Genesis 18:12. The translation from the Hebrew for me, the word is best translated within her belly. 3 holy individuals, have come to the tents where Abraham and Sarah are living. They are probably in their 90s. God spoke to Abraham nearly 30 years earlier, telling him that he would make of him a great nation. these two follow God's commands, and make the journey to the place God has sent them. The family, the children they were expecting God to bless them with have never materialized. Sarah swallows her pride and her self worth and gives Abraham her maid, Hagar, and they have a child together, Ishmael. It looks like they've solved that problem, when the 3 holy personages show up and say, when we're back here next year, Sarah will have borne you a son. And Sarah laughed within herself. God had made them a promise, which appeared to be incomplete. Sarah was left out of the promise – God would make of them a great nation, and all nations would be blessed through them, but Sarah had been sidelined in that promise. And so she laughs within herself. This summer, We're going to start in Genesis to look at the narratives from the very beginning of the bible that a lot of you remember. The Abraham story begins 2000 years before Christ is born, before the pharaohs, 1500 years before Alexander the great unites much of the area. But the search for significance is real, and alive in the men and women of the region. Scratching out a living from a largely barren land will dominate much of the search for significance in these years. Creating a family that will live on after us is key. When the creator of the universe offers you a legacy – a family and the opportunity to bless all nations, it must have exceeded all dreams they ever had. They begin to follow God's lead, stumbling so many times, but here at the Oaks of Mamre they entertain 3 holy individuals, , and the ancient demands of kindness to strangers are strong here. Abraham fetches and bows, and asks Sarah to prepare cakes, and they roll out the red carpet for the 3. Then there is a moment, an acknowledgment of Abraham and Sarah and their life of following the Lord. "I will surely return to you I due season, and your wife Sarah shall bear a son". And Sarah laughs. It seems to me there was pain in that laugh. She laughs, because she and her husband are old now, it seems silly to expect a child now – but the visitor says, Is anything too wonderful for the lord? Even when we feel dismissed, like Sarah did, even when we feel that history is being written around us, God can be with us in our emptiness, and bless us. Now let's move the timeline forward 2000 years to the time of Jesus. 9:35 Then Jesus went about all the cities and villages, teaching in their synagogues, and proclaiming the good news of the kingdom, and curing every disease and every sickness. When he saw the crowds, he had compassion for them, because they were harassed and helpless, like sheep without a shepherd. Jesus the son of God is in the world, bearing what the people need in that place and time. They are harassed and helpless. He is curing every disease and every sickness. Again we see that the God of love attempts to meet people where they are in their search for significance. As long as hunger and disease stalk the land, no one is at peace, no one can find significance. And so Jesus sends his disciples out to continue the work he has begun. Move your timeline forward another 2000 years, my friends, and you will find the times we live in now. The search for significance continues. We strive to find meaning even when we are isolated from each other in the hopes of preventing disease. We strive to find meaning as we march for the rights of the marginalized. We strive to find meaning as we cook dinner, raise children, and earn a living. We strive to find meaning in our advanced years, when it seems like no one needs us, that we are more like an afterthought in the history of the world. My friends, God hears your desire for significance, God honors your search for significance – whether you are a nomad like Abraham, a disciple of Jesus or a senior citizen still capable of helping others. We will talk about this search for significance this summer, friends, because God honors it, honors you. You can find significance as you work for the worth of each person as we come to terms with systemic racism in our world. You can find significance as you extend yourself for people whose jobs have disappeared. You can find significance as you imagine what God is calling Holy cross to do and to be in this emerging reality. Pray. Serve. Expect God to do great things. Amen.

Praying together at Holy Cross – June 21, 2020

This summer, we are ‘searching for significance’ in this life of faith. When the world is full of change, we could choose to ‘lay low’ and wait for things to blow over. Or we could search for our own significance as the Body of Christ. We pray, Lord, for your help and guidance as we journey together toward that goal.



Lord, in your mercy Hear Our Prayer

We pray for those in leadership in our country, our state and our cities. May God sustain them and continue to point them to compassionate, quick and well-informed response.

Lord, in your mercy Hear Our Prayer

We pray for those ill during this time – whether by Covid 19 or something else. Help them find the care they need. *(specific people are mentioned here)*

Lord, in your mercy Hear Our Prayer

We pray discernment and wisdom in these days of easy escalation of conversations on social media. *(specific people are mentioned here)*

Lord, in your mercy Hear Our Prayer

We pray for teachers and administrators planning for the new year. *(specific people are mentioned here)*

Lord, in your mercy Hear Our Prayer

We pray for those who are alone a lot – give them your comfort now. *(specific people are mentioned here)*

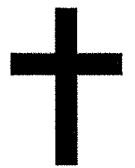
Lord, in your mercy Hear Our Prayer

For this and all those matters, circumstances and individuals whose needs are brought to mind at this time. *(specific people are mentioned here)*

Lord, in your mercy Hear Our Prayer

We pray for Holy Cross leadership as we plan the reopening of our place of worship. Thank you, Lord, for loving us. It is what makes all the difference. Amen.

**Hagar and Ishmael in the desert – God cares for us
even in scary times. Genesis 21:8-21**



From Abraham and his family, come all 3 of the major religions – Judaism, Christianity and Islam.