



August 11, 2020

Summer is winding down, and so our hearts turn to scholarships! Do you remember how wonderful it felt here at Holy Cross to finish fundraising for our Endowment Fund, which is earmarked for education? We pushed over the \$25,000 required to move this fund to a

place where it could continue earning money which we can distribute to deserving young people, who are nominated by a Holy Cross member.

That was just two years ago. Last year, with help from special designated donations, we awarded 7 scholarships! And this year, we are awarding 3 scholarships of \$500 each to amazing young people who are embarked on educational adventures – they are McKenna Falkenstein-Barker, Caleb Sell, and Victoria Odell. When we gather in our garden again for worship on **August 23rd**, we will take time to thank God for each of them, and for the gifts of stewardship this congregation has enjoyed. I am grateful.

Holy Cross' giving is again visible in our movement to **gather school supplies** for the next year (we don't know everything about how school will happen, but we know there will be supplies needed and we want to be ready!). Please consider dropping some by the church on **Tues – Thursday during office hours** or at our Patio Worship on August 23rd at 10 am.

As your pastor, I am pleased to say that I am being allowed onto some of our folks' patios for visiting (care facilities, too) where that was unadvised until recently. Let me know if you or someone you know needs a visit!

This week's events include **Finance on Tuesday, 8/11 at 6:30 pm** a **Better Together workgroup on Wed the 12th at 6** and our **Bible Study, "What is God Saying today?"** (both on zoom and in person in our gym) **Thursday at 5 pm**. We're busy here at Holy Cross. Stay well, and pray without ceasing!

Pastor Patricia!

A sermon for August 9, 2020 In life there are peaks and there are valleys. Wouldn't you agree? There are mountaintop experiences, high points, where we feel God's love and almost feel the hand of God lifting us up into the heavens – maybe it's a great worship experience, maybe it's a wonderful family time, but it's a high. And then there are low points, where we look around and say, Where is God when these awful things happen to me? We feel low because of illness, or loss, and so I ask you, Where Is God in each of these instances, the peaks and the valleys? Well, let's look at that gospel reading, God is there in the details, the feeding of the 5000 has just happened, a miracle, and then Jesus goes away to pray and the men go out in the boat, and suddenly there is Jesus walking on water, and Peter asks him to command him to walk out there too, and it's blissful, until Peter loses heart, and begins sinking. Jesus scoops him up, of course - peaks and valleys in this life we live. But the story in Genesis for today which begins this is the story of the family of Jacob – there's some big peaks and valleys. Last week Jacob finally coming to terms with God, as they wrestle, and showing some real personal growth. here he is with 11 of his sons, and he is showing favoritism to Joseph, not the eldest, but the son of the wife he loved. Joseph has picked up this thread and begins to tattle on his brothers to daddy. And then, he has dreams where he is the star, and all his brothers bow down to him. And he tells the brothers this. He thinks he is pretty cool. We have a peak for Joseph, and Jacob too. All is well. But not for the other brothers. They are in a valley, of jealousy – feeling unloved by their father. And so, they take steps. They are out working, and Joseph has to go a long way about 20 miles to find them in a place he doesn't know. And the brothers are not happy to see him, and they throw him in a pit. (Do you see the peaks and the valleys?) Things are bad for him, but they are about to be worse, as the brothers chat about killing him, but decide to sell him instead, and tell their father a lie about him being killed. Big valley for Joseph, big Valley for Jacob, something of a peak for the other boys – yay, the snitch is gone, but you know, friends that kind of peak doesn't really feel very good. Next week, we'll pick up the story at the end, for Joseph. So, we stop today here – in this deep valley. Joseph and of course his father has been treated very unjustly. the brothers were treated pretty unjustly for quite a while as their father made one of them an obvious favorite and showed him more love than the others. So, I bring you today to this visual of a family, struggling with peaks and valleys. Just like Peter did that day with Jesus. Just like you and I are experiencing today. It's a good time to talk about God's role in the peaks and valleys in our life. Jesus is clearly a redeemer in the Peter story – rescuing him from Peter's own fears, and pointing them out at the same time. How is God calling us to be redeemers in the stories we find ourselves in right now? I think a way God acts in the world, is to call us to seek to do Justice. To be able to recognize injustice when we see it, as in the Joseph epic. Next week, we will resolve the Joseph story, but today, all is unsettled. Wrong has been done and no angel has swooped down to stop it. I feel that about the pandemic around us. How long, o lord, must we suffer? And, a lot of us are just inconvenienced, not really suffering, but we keep seeing and hearing about others suffering mightily – death, loss of income, loss of health, loss of jobs. This 'at a distance' suffering can be unsettling in its own way. Loss and guilt. Why does a just God allow this? And what am I supposed to do about it? What are your thoughts about our 'at a distance' suffering when we see and hear about horrific suffering – the indignities visited upon people of color for hundreds of years, the inequalities we see in neighborhoods where latinos or immigrants are in the majority? I think These epic sagas of redemption point us toward action. I point you to Reuben's role in this story Reuben uses his influence to persuade his brothers not to kill Joseph, but just to throw him in a pit. text says Reuben was planning to rescue him later. But no the caravan passes and Judah sees an opportunity, too – to sell Joseph, get rid of him, and make a few bucks. how often have we been Reuben, well intentioned, but part of the problem. A moment came, where he could have stepped up. He missed it. What is God calling churches, and church people to be about in these days of fear and isolation? Surely we are to be on the side of comfort and care. How can we, a small church in a small neighborhood be part of direct action in our time? I think that's the question for today. How is God calling you, and me to be redeemers? Amen – Blessings to you, Pastor Patricia+



IT'S THAT TIME OF YEAR AGAIN!

We don't know when schools will reopen, or what it will look like. Will we be in the classrooms? Or online? Or a hybrid version? In any scenario, the kids at Washington Elementary need supplies. Here's a list of what's needed. Supplies can be dropped off at the church on Tues-Wed-Thurs from 9am to 1pm, or you can bring them to the Outdoor Worship service on August 9th & 23rd, and on Sept 6th.

Backpack

Pencil case

24 count colored Crayola pencils

24 count colored markers

24 count Crayola crayons

3 boxes (1 dz. each) #2 Ticonderoga pencils

Pkg of fine tip black Expo dry erase markers

Primary composition notebook

Wide rule composition notebook

Red ink pens

Large boxes of Kleenex

Pkg of wide ruled notebook paper

Pkg of Huggies unscented wipes

Earbud headphones

Ream of copy paper

Thank you in advance for your generosity!

WORSHIPPING AT HOME WITH HOLY CROSS
SUNDAY, AUGUST 16, 2020 – ELEVENTH 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 – Healer of Our Every Ill ELW 612

Refrain

Healer of our ev'ry ill,
light of each tomorrow,
give us peace beyond our fear,
and hope beyond our sorrow.

- 1 You who know our fears and sadness,
grace us with your peace and gladness;
Spirit of all comfort, fill our hearts. *Refrain*
- 2 In the pain and joy beholding
how your grace is still unfolding,
give us all your vision, God of love. *Refrain*
- 3 Give us strength to love each other,
ev'ry sister, ev'ry brother;
Spirit of all kindness, be our guide. *Refrain*
- 4 You who know each thought and feeling,
teach us all your way of healing;
Spirit of compassion, fill each heart. *Refrain*

PRAYER OF THE DAY

God of all peoples, your arms reach out to embrace all those who call upon you. Teach us as disciples of your Son to love the world with compassion and constancy, that your name may be known throughout the earth, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

Amen.

READINGS AND PSALM

Genesis 45:1-15

Joseph reconciles with his brothers

Psalms 67

Let all the peoples praise you, O God. (Ps. 67:3)

Romans 11:1-2a, 29-32

God's mercy to all, Jew and Gentile

Matthew 15:[10-20] 21-28

The healing of the Canaanite woman's daughter

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**

PHILIP FREDERIC AMIEL

Praying together at Holy Cross – August 16, 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 families and individuals displaced by storm and flood – and especially for those suffering in Beirut. *(specific people are mentioned here)*

Lord, in your mercy Hear Our Prayer

We pray for researchers and doctors, nurses and all those involved in caring for individuals in these days of pandemic. *(specific people are mentioned here)*

Lord, in your mercy Hear Our Prayer

We pray for all who are ill or injured, and we pray for healing. *(specific people are mentioned here)*

Lord, in your mercy Hear Our Prayer

We pray for innovation and ideas as we learn how to be church in new times. *(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 they imagine new ways of being of service in your community, Lord. Thank you, Lord, for loving us. It is what makes all the difference. Amen.

Zoom opportunities coming up!

We really are *Better Together in Salem, Oregon*. The three ELCA churches, St. Mark, Christ the Good Shepherd and Holy Cross have a few Zoom opportunities scheduled for the near future. Have you avoided learning how to do zoom? Worried that it's just too complicated to learn? Well, give us a call at Holy Cross, to walk you through how to use your computer or phone to connect. Once you get it to work once, you'll be amazed how simple it can be!

Here are opportunities to participate through zoom going forward-

Thursday August 13, and 20th at 5 pm **What is God Saying Today
Zoom Bible Study Join Zoom Meeting**

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84055018008?pwd=SlJHN0lkZWlUVF3aWE4MkEzV1BRdz09>

Meeting ID: 840 5501 8008 Passcode: 569519

Better Together Racial Equality Discussion Group - Wednesday, August 19:6:00 – 7:30pm Meeting ID: 891 6674 3015

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89166743015> This group is reading the book "White Fragility" and are gathering to try to learn more about how we can make changes for racial equality in our world.

Sunday, August 23 at 3 pm, (zoom address pending) with a theme, **"Where in the World would YOU be if you could? Zoom event"**
Are you missing traveling? Come to this Better Together Zoom event to share pictures from trips past or items that remind you of travels you have enjoyed. This time of sharing is offered as a 'get together' event for folks feeling the isolation of these days.

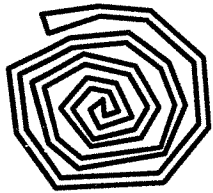
Into your spacious

heart

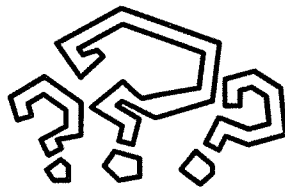
AND LOVING HANDS

dear God

I place



my fears,



my "what ifs,"



my spinning world and mind

Comfort me with the

TRUTH

NO FEAR

is too big for the

GREAT ONE

who is always with me.



am never alone.

CALMING GOD, BRING COURAGE

TENDER SPIRIT, BREATHE PEACE

GENTLE JESUS, BE CLOSE

Amen