MESSAGE FROM THE RECTOR:

In the last few years as we approached the Season of Advent and the Christmas holidays, I have written about anticipation, celebration, and the craziness of the holiday season. So, as I contemplated what to reflect on this Advent and Christmas season, the Lord put in front of me “love” and “worship.” Those words are loaded terms, both culturally and spiritually, as they play such critically important roles in our lives. Love and worship are particularly relevant during the season in which we find ourselves.

First there is Love! Of all the seasons, both in the church and in our culture, Advent and Christmas hit us square in the face with love. God, in His merciful love for humanity, sent His only Son, Jesus, who took on human flesh and dwelt among us. He then lived the perfect sinless life and died on a cross to pay the price for sins we were unwilling and unable to pay. Most would agree that this was the ultimate act of love from God, as He first loved us so that in return we would know how to love. It was sacrificial! Love is probably one of the most used terms in the world but, unfortunately, it has become distorted and lost much of its real meaning.

Jesus came to love us where we are, but also to move us from our present state of brokenness to a new state of wholeness. Paul says it this way, “If anyone is in Christ, they are a new creation, the old is gone the new has come.” (2 Cor. 5:17). Putting the old aside literally means putting to death the very thing that hinders us from both experiencing the Gospel and displaying it in our lives. Let’s be honest, we all have found ourselves in habits that may not be healthy, but because we like them, we certainly don’t want to put them to death. That, however, is the very thing Jesus came to do for us. His love redeems and draws us to Him making it impossible for us to remain in the old self if we truly choose to walk in His light. This love does not condone our sinful habits and behaviors but, instead, leads us mercifully toward renewal. Knowing Christ’s love in this way means that our hearts are drawn to Him in worship. His redemptive and transformative love are the very things to which we attribute worth, which is the very definition of worship.

As we enter into this season that reminds us how God’s love has been abundantly poured out upon us, may it draw our hearts to be true worshippers according to John 4:24, “...they that worship Him must worship Him in spirit and in truth.” May you and your family abundantly experience the Lord’s blessings during this Advent and Christmas seasons, and the coming new year.

God’s Peace,

Wes

IF ANYONE IS IN CHRIST, THEY ARE A NEW CREATION, THE OLD IS GONE THE NEW HAS COME.

2 Cor. 5:17
what’s HAPPENING? DEC 2019

JENNIE JUNE CROLY STUDY CLUB...
has invited Church of the Holy Cross to attend their 49th Annual Christmas Coffee this Thursday, December 5th from 11:00am until 2:00pm at the Trussville Civic Center. Please come and bring family and friends!

ECW ANNUAL CHRISTMAS PARTY
will be catered this year and is scheduled for Wednesday, December 11th at 6:30pm in the Genesis Room. We hope all the Holy Cross ladies will set aside this date and come decked out in your favorite Christmas colors to celebrate and extend the blessings of the season to each other. There will be a “Dirty Santa” gift exchange ($15 limit) and, for this time only, it will be okay to “covet.” We will also be remembering our veterans from all the US Armed Forces who reside at 3 Hots and a Cot in Clay. Please bring a long-sleeved t-shirt or Henley and candy, which we will place in Christmas bags to be delivered before Christmas Day. REMINDER: ECW annual membership fees of $12 are due for the upcoming year. Make checks payable to Holy Cross ECW and place in the ECW mail slot outside of the Rector’s office or give directly to Karen Bain. This money helps fund many of the ECW projects for Holy Cross and other ministries. Thanks to all who participate.

TRUSSVILLE CHRISTMAS PARADE
Saturday, December 14th starting at 3:00pm. Holy Cross will be serving our complimentary hot chocolate and donut holes as the parade travels down Parkway right past our parish. If you would like to volunteer, please contact Cindy Wester at 1-205-706-7187.

A FESTIVAL OF NINE LESSONS & CAROLS
will be presented by the Holy Cross Choir on Saturday, December 14th at 6:00pm. In this historic service, we will “read and mark in Holy Scripture the tale of the loving purposes of God from the first days of our disobedience unto the glorious Redemption brought us by this Holy Child.” Lessons, interspersed with carols from the choir and hymns from the congregation, will help us prepare for the birth of our Lord. Nursery will be available, and a reception for our Music Director/Organist, Justin, will follow. We hope you will make plans to attend.

JUSTIN FINCH - A NEW CHAPTER
After serving Holy Cross as Organist and Music Director for the past six years, Justin Finch will be resigning his post following the Christmas Eve services of 2019. Justin and his family will be starting a new chapter of ministry and music as they make their way to be part of another church in our diocese. We will hold a celebration and farewell for Justin, Susan, and Ella on Saturday evening, December 14th immediately following the service of Lessons and Carols which begins at 6pm. All are invited to join us for service and celebration.

MERRY CHRISTMAS & HAPPY NEW YEAR!

upcoming EVENTS

DECEMBER

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<th>Date</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>Thursday</td>
<td>11:00am</td>
<td>Jennie June Croly Study Club Annual Christmas Coffee</td>
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<td>8</td>
<td>Sunday</td>
<td>after 10:30am Service</td>
<td>Children &amp; EYC Shop for &amp; Fill Angel Tree Stockings</td>
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<tr>
<td>11</td>
<td>Wednesday</td>
<td>6:30pm</td>
<td>ECW Annual Christmas Party</td>
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<td>14</td>
<td>Saturday</td>
<td>3:00pm</td>
<td>Trussville Christmas Parade</td>
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<tr>
<td>14</td>
<td>Saturday</td>
<td>6:00pm</td>
<td>A Festival of Nine Lessons and Carols</td>
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<tr>
<td>14</td>
<td>Saturday</td>
<td>after lessons &amp; Carols</td>
<td>Celebration &amp; Farewell for Justin, Susan, and Ella Finch</td>
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<tr>
<td>18</td>
<td>Wednesday</td>
<td>6:00pm</td>
<td>Christmas Fellowship Meal/Caroling/Cookie Making</td>
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<tr>
<td>23</td>
<td>Monday</td>
<td>9:00am</td>
<td>Greening of the Church</td>
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<tr>
<td>24</td>
<td>Tuesday</td>
<td>5:30pm &amp; 10:30pm</td>
<td>Candlelight Christmas Eve Service</td>
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JANUARY

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<tr>
<th>Date</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>22</td>
<td>Wednesday</td>
<td>11:15am</td>
<td>ECW January Luncheon Meeting</td>
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<tr>
<td>23</td>
<td>Thursday</td>
<td>6:30pm</td>
<td>Ladies’ Night Out: at The Palace (5899 Trussville Crossings Parkway, Trussville)</td>
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<td>26</td>
<td>Sunday</td>
<td>10:30am</td>
<td>Confirmation and Bishop’s Visit</td>
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*NOTE: THIS IS NOT A FULL CALENDAR OF EVENTS, ONLY EVENTS MENTIONED IN THE PATHWAY ARE LISTED*
ADVENT SCHEDULE FOR ALTAR GUILD TEAMS

- Dec. 1st – Team 2 - Laurie Nabors, Deanna Booth
- Dec. 8th – Team 3 - Cindy Cole, Camille Turner, Andrea Mathews
- Dec.15th – Team 1 - Charlotte Scarborough, Chris Patterson, Jo Grove
- Dec. 22nd – Team 2 - Laurie Nabors, Sue Peterson, Deanna Booth
- Dec. 23rd – All Teams – Greening of the Church*
- Dec. 24th – All Teams – 5:30 & 10:30pm Christmas services*
- Dec. 29th – Team 3 – Cindy Cole, Camille Turner, Andrea Mathews

* THE GREENING OF THE CHURCH will be on Monday, December 23rd at 9:00am.

All altar and flower guild members are to bring a snack to share, and Cindy will bring the beverage. Christmas Eve services at 5:30 and 10:30pm will need to be covered as well.

A MESSAGE FROM OUR senior WARDEN

Congratulations to Jennifer and Michael Alexander on the November 1st birth of their son Ethan, our newest Holy Cross member. Also, congratulations to Anderson ‘Andie’ Pitts, daughter of Brittany and Nick Pitts, who was baptized Sunday, November 24th.

It was wonderful to see so many of our parish family participate in our Trunk-or-Treat event last month—special Kudos go to Tyler Johnson, James Patterson, and ‘Willie Nelson’ Rick Rogers for grilling the 600 hotdogs we handed out during the evening! Thank you to Father Wes for cooking his delicious turkeys and dressing for our third Wednesday Fellowship Dinner—this month a potluck Thanksgiving meal. Additional thanks to Charlotte Scarborough and her meal team for their set-up/and cleanup.

Please join us Saturday Dec 14th as we serve complimentary hot chocolate and donut holes during the Trussville Christmas Parade. The parade starts at 3:00pm and travels down Parkway right past Holy Cross. If you would like to volunteer, please contact me at 1-205-706-7187.

I am happy to welcome our newly affirmed 2020 Vestry members: Brenda Jean, Laurie Nabors, and Matthew Pate. As I rotate off our Vestry the end of this month, I want to thank you for the opportunity to serve as your Senior Warden this past year. I am so very grateful for your prayers, encouragement, support, and your generous helping hands at every turn!

Wishing you a Very Merry Christmas and a Blessed & Happy New Year, Cindy Wester, Senior Warden
(205) 706-7187

POINSETTIA ORDERS

A sign-up sheet is in the Narthex for Poinsettia orders. The cost is $15.00 each and 25 plants will be available for purchase. Checks should be made to Holy Cross and indicate “poinsettia.” This is a great way to honor and/or commemorate a loved one as well as beautify the nave during Christmas.

CHRISTMAS FELLOWSHIP MEAL/ CAROLING/ COOKIE MAKING

Wednesday, December 18th at 6:00pm. After our meal, we will go caroling in the neighborhood surrounding the church and then return to make our famous Christmas cookies. Don’t miss this fun-filled holiday family evening!

MEN’S BREAKFAST & BIBLE STUDY

This group is now studying the Old Testament book of II Samuel. It meets on Friday mornings 6:30-7:30am in the Genesis Room. Breakfast (BYO – “bring your own”) is during the first half hour, and Bible study is during the second half hour. However, we will not meet on the Friday after Christmas (December 27th.) As always, newcomers are welcome!

ANGEL TREE MINISTRY

Church of the Holy Cross will be assisting needy families in our area who are currently experiencing hardships this Christmas season. This year, we will give each family a gift card to go shop for their children, a holiday ham with all the trimmings, and stockings stuffed with goodies. Angel tree ornaments will be in increments of $10, $20, $30, $40 all the way to $100. You can be a blessing to one or more of these families by taking one or more angels from the tree and replacing it with an ornament. Then drop your check, indicating Angel Tree in the memo line, into the Angel Tree Box on the ministry table. Cash donations are accepted as well. You may participate in this ministry by volunteering to shop for food items and/or delivering our gifts to one of the families. Our youth and children (EYC) will be in charge of stuffing the children’s stockings and will shop for angel tree stocking stuffers on Sunday, December 8th, after the 10:30am service. For further details, contact Heather Johnson – heather@holycrosstrussville.org.

A MESSAGE FROM OUR WARDEN

CONGRATULATIONS TO:

- Ethan Williamson  Dec 11
- Nolan Amberson  Dec 17
- Aaron O’Leary  Dec 17
- Bill Fyfe  Jan 15
- Andrea Raps  Jan 19
- Joan Arnold  Jan 29
- Thomas Mann  Dec 2
- Mary Mize  Jan 26
- Melissa Williamson  Dec 5
- Camille Turner  Jan 25
- Jo Grove  Dec 5
- Faye Kinstler  Jan 23
- Ethan Williamson  Dec 11
- Mary Shaw  Jan 20
- Aiden Johnson  Dec 16
- Ethan Williamson  Dec 16
- Aiden Johnson  Dec 16
- Melissa Williamson  Dec 5
- Andrea Raps  Jan 19
- John Arnold  Jan 29
- Ethan Williamson  Dec 11
- Mary Shaw  Jan 20
- Ethan Williamson  Dec 11
- Melissa Williamson  Dec 5
- John Arnold  Jan 29
what’s HAPPENING? JAN 2020

ECW JANUARY 2020 LUNCHEON MEETING will be Wednesday, January 22nd at 11:15am in the Genesis Room. Bring your “sandwich” and we’ll provide the sides and beverages. This will be our only chance to discuss and make plans for our Super Bowl Soup & Sweets Sale for Sunday, February 2nd.

LADIES’ NIGHT OUT will start the New Year with our first “night out” scheduled for Thursday, January 23rd, 6:30pm at The Palace (5899 Trussville Crossings Parkway, Trussville). Our thanks to Brenda Jean who will be arranging our dinners this year. Sometimes, just a change of scenery can lift your spirits, so don’t forget to join us for this time together.

CONFIRMATION AND BISHOP’S VISIT Bishop Sloan is scheduled to be at Holy Cross on Sunday, January 26th at the 10:30am service during which time he will confirm four of our youth and five adults. There will be a reception after the service during the coffee fellowship hour in honor of our confirmands and the Bishop.

NEW VESTRY MEMBERS

As we welcome the new members of our vestry listed below, whose terms are effective January 1, 2020, we also extend a grateful “thank you” for the dedication and service of our outgoing vestry members Jo Grove, Bob Peterson, and Cindy Wester, Sr. Warden.

- Brenda Jean
- Laurie Nabors
- Matthew Pate

HOLY CROSS WELCOMES OUR new MEMBERS

- **the Pitts Family**
  Nick and Brittany Pitts, with Claxton (5) and Andie (2), are originally from Gardendale and moved to Trussville in 2015. They live in the Carrington community and have been attending Holy Cross steadily since August. They have tried many churches of many different denominations in and around Trussville and none felt like “home”. Something told them to try Holy Cross and they finally found a church that gave them a sense of belonging. Nick and Brittany both work at Alabama Power and enjoy doing anything with their kids, as there is “no time for anything else.”

- **the Alexander Family**
  Michael and Jennifer have been married for three years and have two children, Alaina and Ethan. Jennifer is from Montgomery and grew up in the Episcopal Church. Michael is from Oak Grove and grew up in the Baptist Church. Jennifer went to the University of Mississippi and works as a Geriatric Social Worker for Viva Health. Michael is a Human Resources Director for a Long-Term Care Facility. They live in Hayden and have three dogs. Both enjoy spending time with family at the Beach and at the Lake whenever they get a chance. They began attending Holy Cross in May of 2019 and are so happy their spiritual needs are being met.

- **the Womack Family**
  Chris and Christina, along with their daughters Audrey (14) and Ava (10) moved to the Birmingham area in 2016 and then to Trussville in 2017. Christina and Chris are both University of Alabama graduates and have been married for 22 years. Chris in Information Security Manager for Guidewire Software, Inc and Christina home-schools both Audrey and Ava. They first got involved at Holy Cross this summer with the youth group and Vacation Bible School. Since then they have enjoyed getting to know the congregation through Sunday morning worship, Wednesday night events, youth group events, and confirmation classes. “We are thrilled to be a part of the Holy Cross family and look forward to getting to know each of you better.”