



Dear new friends at Church of the Holy Cross,

Greetings in Christ! I am overjoyed and deeply honored to have been called to serve as your next rector. We have already been warmly greeted several times with the phrase “welcome home to Holy Cross” and that welcome was in truth what drew me to your profile and parish. The space you made for school children and Methodist friends after their spaces were unusable post-Helene spoke to me of a people alive with the spirit of Christ’s call to love our neighbors, just the sort of place I hoped to join in ministry. Such Benedictine hospitality, welcoming all as Christ, only made sense when I learned about the first and early Anglican monastic society in Holy Cross’ history and spiritual D.N.A.

And I do feel a bit that I am coming home, even though I’ve never lived in North Carolina before. Born in the Virginia side of the Blue Ridge, though I did not live in them long, those mountains always felt like a homecoming. I feel blessed to be bringing my family to them. Ali, my wife, grew up in Waukegan, Illinois, though we met and married at Camp McDowell in Alabama. We spent a year in Chicago before Memphis, where I did a deep dive into pastoral care as an ER chaplain, and have spent the last seven years in Memphis, with me at Holy Communion, and Ali teaching gardening science at Hutchison School. We’re eager to make a new home in your gracious rectory, beginning a new chapter with our daughter Georgi, and our twin daughter and son, Maisie and Malcolm. Knowing we will live next to your beautiful church calls to my mind the words of the Psalmist, that even “the sparrow finds a home, and the swallow a nest for herself, where she may lay her young, at your altars, O Lord of hosts.”

Ali and I deeply value community and so will spend a little longer in Memphis this spring, finishing our work and saying goodbye well to the places and people among whom we have served and that have nurtured and supported us so well these past few years. And then, we will come to you with full and eager hearts, ready to jump into life at Holy Cross and in the high country. I will come to you ready to listen and look for the ways God will call us to serve and journey together and all those God will put in our path. I expect many joys, plenty of challenges, and above all, opportunities to live into and bear witness to God’s grace within and without us, that great work of Christian discipleship shared in the rhythms of our liturgy and tradition. Until then, know that I hold you in my prayers with thanksgiving and anticipation to be with you.

Yours in faith,
Jonathan+

