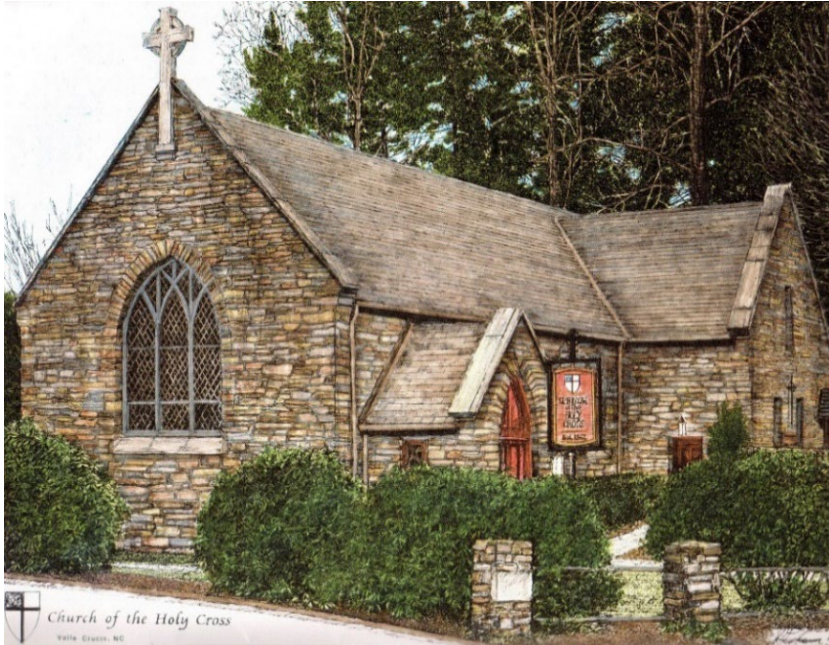


The Church of the Holy Cross Valle Crucis, North Carolina



The Episcopal Church in the Vale of the Cross Since 1842

The Fourth Sunday in Lent

March 15, 2026

Holy Eucharist, Rite II
8:00 & 11:00 AM

(The Hymnody and Music noted in this leaflet is offered at the 11 AM service only.)

Welcome Home to Holy Cross!

It is our privilege to worship with you this morning! Please know that all baptized Christians regardless of Church denomination, and all who seek a deeper knowledge and love of God in Christ are most welcome to receive the bread and wine of the Holy Eucharist.

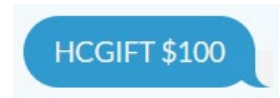
Children are most welcome and encouraged to participate in all services at Holy Cross. Rocking chairs have been provided for caregivers with infants.

If this is your first time at Holy Cross, please complete a *Visitor Card* and let us know about your visit, especially if you have a specific need or prayer request. Visitor Cards are found in the pew racks. If you would like additional information about our many ministries and activities, speak to one of our Ushers or Greeters, or stop by Skiles Hall during the fellowship hour that follows each service. We would be happy to speak with you in person.

If you would like to make a financial offering or contribution, you can do so by scanning this QR Code or via our website at www.holycrossvallecrucis.net



You can also give through online text by sending **HCGIFT** to **73256**, followed by the gift amount
Messages and data rates may apply



It is the custom in The Episcopal Church to prepare for worship by gathering in reverent silence and prayer, and during the worship service, stand for praise, sit for instruction, and, as you are able, kneel for prayer. Please respect the devotional needs of others by turning off cellular telephones and electronic devices, and by speaking with hushed voices.

Again, Welcome Home to Holy Cross! And may God's peace enfold you.

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“O Lord, Hear My Prayer” Tune: Jacques Berthier, © 1982, Les Presses de Taizé, GIA Publications, Inc., agent. Text: Taizé Community, © 1982, Les Presses de Taizé, GIA Publications, Inc., agent. Reprinted/Podcast/Streamed with permission under OneLicense.net #A-718736. All rights reserved.

Holy Eucharist, Rite II The Word of God

The Prelude: *Offered by Shane Watson*

The Announcements: *(Pages 14-20)* **The Rev. Dr. Scott A. Oxford**

The Prayer for the Care of Children: *(11:00 service only)* BCP 829

Priest: Let us pray.

People: Almighty God, heavenly Father, you have blessed us with the joy and care of children: Give us calm strength and patient wisdom as we bring them up, that we may teach them to love whatever is just and true and good, following the example of our Savior Jesus Christ. Amen.

All stand.

On this day, the Choir and Altar Ministers enter in silence.

The Opening Acclamation: BCP 355

Priest: Bless (†) the Lord who forgives all our sins;

People: God's mercy endures forever.

The Collect for Purity: BCP 355

Priest: Almighty God, to you all hearts are open, all desires known, and from you no secrets are hid: Cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love you, and worthily magnify your holy Name; through Christ our Lord.

People: Amen.

The Kyrie: *#S-91*

Lord, have mercy upon us.

Lord, have mercy upon us.

Lord, have mercy upon us.

Christ, have mercy upon us.

Christ, have mercy upon us.

Christ, have mercy upon us.

Lord, have mercy upon us.

Lord, have mercy upon us.

Lord, have mercy upon us.

The Collect of the Day:

Priest: The Lord be with you.

People: And also with you.

Priest: Gracious Father, whose blessed Son Jesus Christ came down from heaven to be the true bread which gives life to the world: Evermore give us this bread, that he may live in us, and we in him; who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever.

People: Amen.

All are now seated for the readings from Scripture.

The First Lesson:

1 Samuel 16:1-13

The LORD said to Samuel, “How long will you grieve over Saul? I have rejected him from being king over Israel. Fill your horn with oil and set out; I will send you to Jesse the Bethlehemite, for I have provided for myself a king among his sons.” Samuel said, “How can I go? If Saul hears of it, he will kill me.” And the LORD said, “Take a heifer with you, and say, ‘I have come to sacrifice to the LORD.’ Invite Jesse to the sacrifice, and I will show you what you shall do; and you shall anoint for me the one whom I name to you.” Samuel did what the LORD commanded, and came to Bethlehem. The elders of the city came to meet him trembling, and said, “Do you come peaceably?” He said, “Peaceably; I have come to sacrifice to the LORD; sanctify yourselves and come with me to the sacrifice.” And he sanctified Jesse and his sons and invited them to the sacrifice.

When they came, he looked on Eliab and thought, “Surely the LORD’s anointed is now before the LORD.” But the LORD said to Samuel, “Do not look on his appearance or on the height of his stature, because I have rejected him; for the LORD does not see as mortals see; they look on the outward appearance, but the LORD looks on the heart.” Then Jesse called Abinadab, and made him pass before Samuel. He said, “Neither has the LORD chosen this one.” Then Jesse made Shammah pass by. And he said, “Neither has the Lord chosen this one.” Jesse made seven of his sons pass before Samuel, and Samuel said to Jesse, “The LORD has not chosen any of these.” Samuel said to Jesse, “Are all your sons here?” And he said, “There remains yet the youngest, but he is keeping the sheep.” And Samuel said to Jesse, “Send and bring him; for we will not sit down until he comes here.” He sent and brought him in. Now he was ruddy, and had beautiful eyes, and was handsome. The LORD said, “Rise and anoint him; for this is the one.”

Then Samuel took the horn of oil, and anointed him in the presence of his brothers; and the spirit of the LORD came mightily upon David from that day forward. Samuel then set out and went to Ramah.

Reader: The Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

A time for silent reflection follows.

The Response: *(Prayed responsively as noted in bold type)*

Psalm 23

1 The LORD is my shepherd; *
I shall not be in want.

2 **He makes me lie down in green pastures *
and leads me beside still waters.**

3 He revives my soul *
and guides me along right pathways for his Name's sake.

4 **Though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death,
I shall fear no evil; *
for you are with me;
your rod and your staff, they comfort me.**

5 You spread a table before me in the presence of those who trouble me; *
you have anointed my head with oil,
and my cup is running over.

6 **Surely your goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life, *
and I will dwell in the house of the LORD for ever.**

A time for silent reflection follows.

The Second Lesson:

Ephesians 5:8-14

Once you were darkness, but now in the Lord you are light. Live as children of light — for the fruit of the light is found in all that is good and right and true. Try to find out what is pleasing to the Lord. Take no part in the unfruitful works of darkness, but instead expose them. For it is shameful even to mention what such people do secretly; but everything exposed by the light becomes visible, for everything that becomes visible is light. Therefore it says, “Sleeper, awake! Rise from the dead, and Christ will shine on you.”

Reader: The Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

The Holy Gospel:

John 9:1-41

The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to John.

People: Glory to you, Lord Christ.

As Jesus 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?" Jesus answered, "Neither this man nor his parents sinned; he was born blind so that God's works might be revealed in him. We must work the works of him who sent me while it is day; night is coming when no one can work. As long as I am in the world, I am the light of the world." When he had said this, he spat on the ground and made mud with the saliva and spread the mud on the man's eyes, saying to him, "Go, wash in the pool of Siloam" (which means Sent). Then he went and washed and came back able to see. The neighbors and those who had seen him before as a beggar began to ask, "Is this not the man who used to sit and beg?" Some were saying, "It is he." Others were saying, "No, but it is someone like him." He kept saying, "I am the man." But they kept asking him, "Then how were your eyes opened?" He answered, "The man called Jesus made mud, spread it on my eyes, and said to me, 'Go to Siloam and wash.' Then I went and washed and received my sight." They said to him, "Where is he?" He said, "I do not know."

They brought to the Pharisees the man who had formerly been blind. Now it was a sabbath day when Jesus made the mud and opened his eyes. Then the Pharisees also began to ask him how he had received his sight. He said to them, "He put mud on my eyes. Then I washed, and now I see." Some of the Pharisees said, "This man is not from God, for he does not observe the sabbath." But others said, "How can a man who is a sinner perform such signs?" And they were divided. So they said again to the blind man, "What do you say about him? It was your eyes he opened." He said, "He is a prophet."

The Jews did not believe that he had been blind and had received his sight until they called the parents of the man who had received his sight and asked them, "Is this your son, who you say was born blind? How then does he now see?" His parents answered, "We know that this is our son, and that he was born blind; but we do not know how it is that now he sees, nor do we know who opened his eyes. Ask him; he is of age. He will speak for himself." His parents said this because they were afraid of the Jews; for the Jews had already agreed that anyone who confessed Jesus to be the Messiah would be put out of the synagogue. Therefore his parents said, "He is of age; ask him."

So for the second time they called the man who had been blind, and they said to him, "Give glory to God! We know that this man is a sinner." He answered, "I do not know whether he is a sinner. One thing I do know, that though I was blind, now I see." They said to him, "What did he do to you? How did he open your eyes?" He answered them, "I have told you already, and you would not listen. Why do you want to hear it again? Do you also want to become his disciples?" Then they reviled him, saying, "You are his disciple, but we are disciples of Moses. We know that God has spoken to Moses, but as for this man, we do not know where he comes from." The man answered, "Here is an astonishing thing! You do not know where he comes from, and yet he opened my eyes. We know that God does not listen to sinners, but he does listen to one who worships him and obeys his will. Never since the world began has it been heard that anyone opened the eyes of a person born blind. If this man were not from God, he could do nothing." They answered him, "You were born entirely in sins, and are you trying to teach us?" And they drove him out.

Jesus heard that they had driven him out, and when he found him, he said, "Do you believe in the Son of Man?" He answered, "And who is he, sir? Tell me, so that I may believe in him." Jesus said to him, "You have seen him, and the one speaking with you is he." He said, "Lord, I believe." And he worshiped him. Jesus said, "I came into this world for judgment so that those who do not see may see, and those who do see may become blind." Some of the Pharisees near him heard this and said to him, "Surely we are not blind, are we?" Jesus said to them, "If you were blind, you would not have sin. But now that you say, 'We see,' your sin remains."

The Gospel of the Lord.

People: Praise to you, Lord Christ.

The Sermon:

The Rev. Dr. Scott A. Oxford

A time of silence follows the Sermon. Please remain seated until the Altar Ministers stand.

The Nicene Creed:

BCP 358

**We believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty,
maker of heaven and earth,
of all that is, seen and unseen.**

**We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only Son of God,
eternally begotten of the Father,
God from God, Light from Light,
true God from true God,
begotten, not made, of one Being with the Father.**

Continued...

Through him all things were made.
For us and for our salvation
 he came down from heaven:
by the power of the Holy Spirit
 he became incarnate from the Virgin Mary,
 and was made man.
For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate;
 he suffered death and was buried.
On the third day he rose again
 in accordance with the Scriptures;
 he ascended into heaven
 and is seated at the right hand of the Father.
He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead,
 and his kingdom will have no end.

We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life,
 who proceeds from the Father and the Son.
With the Father and the Son he is worshiped and glorified.
He has spoken through the Prophets.

We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic Church.
We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins.
We look for the resurrection of the dead,
 and the life of the world to come.

Amen.

All stand or kneel for the prayers as they are able.

The Prayers of the People:

Form II

BCP 385

In the course of the silence after each bidding, the People offer their own prayers, either silently or aloud.

Leader: I ask your prayers for God's people throughout the world; for our Bishop, José;
for this gathering; and for all ministers and people. Pray for the Church.

A time of silence is kept.

Leader: I ask your prayers for peace; for goodwill among nations; and for the well-being
of all people. Pray for justice and peace.

A time of silence is kept.

Leader: I ask your prayers for the poor, the sick, the hungry, the oppressed, and those in prison. Pray for those in any need or trouble, especially those whom we name aloud at this time:

The people speak the names of those on their hearts.

When you arrived at the service, you received a stick with a name on it. That is the name of someone who has requested our prayers. Please call out the name of the person on that stick as well as anyone else on your heart, and keep them in your daily prayers through the coming week.

At the Offertory, simply drop the sticks in the offering plate. This is a wonderful way for all of us to share in the prayer ministry of our Parish.

The Leader concludes saying,

Leader: I ask your prayers for all who seek God, or a deeper knowledge of God. Pray that they may find and be found by God.

A time of silence is kept.

Leader: I ask your prayers for the departed, especially Jeff Ingram, _____.
Pray for those who have died.

A time of silence is kept.

Leader: Praise God for those in every generation in whom Christ has been honored.
Pray that we may have grace to glorify Christ in our own day.

A time of silence is kept.

The Priest offers a concluding Collect saying,

BCP 394

Almighty God, to whom our needs are known before we ask: Help us to ask only what accords with your will; and those good things which we dare not, or in our blindness cannot ask, grant us for the sake of your Son Jesus Christ our Lord.

People: Amen.

The Confession of Sin: *(Prayed by all present)*

BCP 360

**Most merciful God,
we confess that we have sinned against you
in thought, word, and deed,
by what we have done,
and by what we have left undone.
We have not loved you with our whole heart;
we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves.**

Continued...

**We are truly sorry and we humbly repent.
For the sake of your Son Jesus Christ,
have mercy on us and forgive us;
that we may delight in your will,
and walk in your ways,
to the glory of your Name.
Amen.**

The Absolution:

Priest: Almighty God have mercy on you, forgive (†) you all your sins through our Lord Jesus Christ, strengthen you in all goodness, and by the power of the Holy Spirit, keep you in eternal life.

People: **Amen.**

All stand as they are able.

The Peace:

Priest: The peace of the Lord be always with you.

People: **And also with you.**

All greet one another in the Name of the Lord.

The Birthday and Anniversary Prayer:

**Watch over your child(ren) O Lord, as *their* days increase.
Bless and guide *them* wherever *they* may be. Strengthen *them* when *they* stand.
Comfort *them* when discouraged or sorrowful. Raise *them* up if *they* fall.
And in *their* heart(s) may your peace which passes understanding,
abide with *them* all the days of *their* lives; through Jesus Christ, Our Lord, Amen.**

Concerning The Holy Communion

A reminder that all present are welcome to the Communion regardless of Christian denomination.

We consider it an honor and privilege to commune with all present as one united body of Christ.

To receive the bread, extend your hands towards the priest. To receive the wine, guide the bottom of the chalice with both hands. To receive the bread and wine together via intinction, place your right hand over your left shoulder. To receive a blessing instead of the bread and wine, cross your arms across your chest.

If you have a gluten allergy, simply inform the priest when you come to the rail.

When at the Altar Rail, move toward either wall so that those in the center will kneel last.

Please wait to be dismissed; those in the center depart first.

The Holy Communion

The Offertory Anthem: “Anthem for Lent” Jay Althouse

The Presentation Hymn: #439 “What Wondrous Love is This” *Wondrous Love*

When I was sinking down, sinking down, sinking down,
when I was sinking down, O my soul!
When I was sinking down beneath God's righteous frown,
Christ laid aside His crown for my soul, for my soul,
Christ laid aside His crown for my soul.

The Great Thanksgiving *Eucharistic Prayer A*

BCP 361

The Sursum Corda:

Priest: The Lord be with you.

People: And also with you.

Priest: Lift up your hearts.

People: We lift them to the Lord.

Priest: Let us give thanks to the Lord, our God.

People: It is right to give God thanks and praise.

It is right, and a good and joyful thing, always and everywhere to give thanks to you, Father Almighty, Creator of heaven and earth; you bid your faithful people cleanse their hearts, and prepare with joy for the Paschal feast; that, fervent in prayer and in works of mercy, and renewed by your Word and Sacraments, they may come to the fullness of grace which you have prepared for those who love you.

Therefore we praise you, joining our voices with Angels and Archangels and with all the company of heaven, who for ever sing this hymn to proclaim the glory of your Name:

The Sanctus: *#S-124*

**Holy, Holy, Holy Lord, God of power and might,
heaven and earth are full of your glory.**

Hosanna in the highest.

Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.

Hosanna in the highest.

All kneel or stand as they are able.

Continued...

The Fraction Anthem:

#S-156

Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us;
therefore let us keep the feast.

The Invitation:

The Priest invites the people to Communion saying,

The Gifts of God for the People of God. Take them in remembrance that Christ died for you, and feed on him in your hearts by faith, with thanksgiving.

Hymns during the Communion:

#152 “Kind Maker of the World”

#149 “Eternal Lord of Love”

An extended time for silent prayer and reflection precedes and follows each communion hymn.

When all have communed, the following hymn is sung.

Kneeling Hymn:

“O Lord, Hear My Prayer”

Taizé 20

O Lord, hear my prayer, O Lord, hear my prayer. When I call an - swer me. O
The Lord is my song, the Lord is my praise: All my hope comes from God. The

Lord, hear my prayer, O Lord, hear my prayer. Come and lis - ten to me. O
Lord is my song, the Lord is my praise: God, the well - spring of life. The

An additional time for silent prayer and reflection precedes the prayer on the following page.

Eternal God, heavenly Father,
 you have graciously accepted us as living members
 of your Son our Savior Jesus Christ,
 and you have fed us with spiritual food
 in the Sacrament of his Body and Blood.
 Send us now into the world in peace,
 and grant us strength and courage
 to love and serve you with gladness and singleness of heart;
 through Christ our Lord. Amen.

All stand as they are able.

The Blessing:

Priest: The God of peace, who brought again from the dead our Lord Jesus Christ, the great Shepherd of the sheep, through the blood of the everlasting covenant: Make you perfect in every good work to do his will, working in you that which is well-pleasing in his sight; and the Blessing of Almighty God: (†) the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, be among you this day and remain with you always.

People: Amen.

The Closing Hymn: #490 “I Want to Walk as a Child of the Light”

Houston

The Dismissal:

Priest: Let us go forth in peace to love God, love our neighbor, and change the world.

People: Thanks be to God.

Please depart in silence.

We thank those who served this morning

8:00 am

11:00 am

Musician:

Shane Watson

Greeters & Ushers:

Angela Williams

Derek Eggers & Randy McDonough

Lectors & Prayers:

Jane Blackburn

Judy Bondi

Chalice Bearers:

Sis Kinney

Tav Gauss & Nina-Jo Moore

Acolytes:

Sis Kinney

Nina-Jo Moore

Healing Ministers:

The Daughters of the King

Linen Fairy:

Radie Armstrong

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Donations for Easter Flowers and Memorials

Easter will soon be here, and the church will be arrayed with beautiful fresh flowers. **The Altar Guild relies upon donations** in order to decorate the Church. Please consider donating using the envelopes provided to the Flower Fund for Easter flowers.

Completed forms must be submitted by 3:00 pm Sunday, March 29
in order to be included in all Easter Service Leaflets.

Thank you!

TODAY, SUNDAY, MARCH 15, 2026 *The Fourth Sunday in Lent*

- 8:00 am Holy Eucharist, Rite II, at Holy Cross (*quiet service with no music*)
- 8:45 am Fellowship time in Skiles Hall
- 9:00 am Valle Crucis United Methodist Church Service
- 10:00 am **Lenten Adult Christian Education** in Skiles Hall (*details below*)
- 11:00 am Holy Eucharist, Rite II, at Holy Cross (*with music and Children's Prayer*)
(*Sunday School is available during this service*)
(*This service is Live-Streamed via our YouTube Channel*)
- 12:15 pm Fellowship time in Skiles Hall

SUNDAYS, FEBRUARY 22 – MARCH 22, 2026 *10:00 am in Skiles Hall*

Lenten Adult Christian Education Series *Maturing in the Spirit: Spiritual Formation for Daily Life*

Father Scott+ will be our guide.

This series will provide an introduction to the Spiritual Life with teachings, reflections and conversations. We will use examples from Scripture, the writing of the saints, and our own stories to find the many ways in which God calls us to grow and to mature, in our individual and community journeys.

Come join, fellow sojourners!

TUESDAY, MARCH 17, 2026
Men's Night Out at the Zellner Party Barn

After a two month mid-winter hiatus, the **Men's Night Out** (MNO) group begins its **TENTH** year of brethren fellowship **from 5:30 to 7:30 p.m. on Tuesday, March 17** in the Party Barn at the home of Jim Zellner, located at 3664 Winkler's Creek Road in Blowing Rock, NC 28605. Parking is available, but carpooling is strongly encouraged. In honor of St. Patrick's Day, our meal will consist of beef and lamb shepherd's pie -- along with a poultry alternative, both infused with Guinness! -- with a fresh green salad, Irish soda bread, and dessert. As always, bring your favorite beverage to enjoy and share (think Irish whisky and beer). The suggested donation is **\$10** per person and your RSVP is due **no later than 5:30 p.m. on Sunday, March 15** to KeithTMartin@gmail.com.

THURSDAY – SATURDAY, MARCH 19-21, 2026
March Women Writers Workshop with Katerina Whitley
Valle Crucis Conference Center

Writing is often a lonely pursuit. You may find that it's much easier to write in the company of like-minded people and with the guidance of a professional who loves to encourage others in the craft of writing. The March Women Writers Workshop invites women of all backgrounds to step away from daily noise and into a quiet mountain setting. Over several days, you'll write, listen, and share in a small, supportive circle. Join this group of women writers to capture memories, define thoughts, express emotions, and bring order out of chaos. New writers are most welcome!

Join master author Katerina Whitley as we explore ways to express ourselves in writing. This is a full two-day retreat, with options for commuter and one-day pricing. The program will be held in Crab Orchard Hall, with lodging in the Mission House. The program begins with an afternoon gathering and potluck on Thursday March 19 and concludes the afternoon of Saturday March 21. All meals are included.

A native of Thessaloniki, Greece, Katerina Whitley has worked as a church journalist on the diocesan and national levels, taught at universities, and is the author of eight books and hundreds of articles, including a stunning new memoir, ***Myth and Memory: My Childhood in WWII Greece***.

Please contact the Valle Crucis Conference Center to register for this workshop, or follow this link to sign up: <https://www.zeffy.com/en-US/ticketing/women-writers-2026-march-workshop>.

NEXT SUNDAY, MARCH 22, 2026
The Fifth Sunday in Lent

- 8:00 am** Holy Eucharist, Rite II, at Holy Cross (*quiet service with no music*)
- 8:45 am** Fellowship time in Skiles Hall
- 9:00 am** Valle Crucis United Methodist Church Service
- 10:00 am** **Lenten Adult Christian Education** in Skiles Hall (*details below*)
- 11:00 am** Holy Eucharist, Rite II, at Holy Cross (*with music and Children's Prayer*)
(*Sunday School is available during this service*)
(*This service is Live-Streamed via our YouTube Channel*)
- 12:15 pm** Fellowship time in Skiles Hall

SUNDAY – FRIDAY, MARCH 22-27, 2026
Soul Sauntering: A Celtic Retreat with the Rev. Karla Woggon
Valle Crucis Conference Center

Honor the Celtic feast of Imbolc, marking the midpoint between winter and spring, and St. Brigid, the saint of liminal threshold places. Reflect on transitional moments through various spiritual practices, including contemplative walking in nature, group and individual reflection, dream work, reflection on the sacred stories of our lives, and creative expression. Nature will serve as our Spiritual Director, guiding us into deeper awareness and connection. The retreat offers a sacred space to honor transition, discover new insights, and embrace the grace found in the in-between moments of life. Come and find your place in the sacred flow of nature and spirit.

Facilitated by The Rev. Karla Woggon, a retired Episcopal Priest and seasoned spiritual director, dream worker, pilgrimage leader, and lover of stories. Please contact the Valle Crucis Conference Center to register for this workshop, or follow this link to sign up: <https://www.zeffy.com/en-US/ticketing/soul-sauntering-celtic-retreat>.

FRIDAY, MARCH 27, 2026

*Evergreen: The Spirituality of Aging with Rebecca Husband Maynard
Valle Crucis Conference Center*

You're invited to a contemplative retreat exploring the sacred dimensions of growing older. Through guided reflection, spiritual practices, and small groups, participants discover how aging can be a time of deepening wisdom, renewed purpose, and spiritual flourishing. Like the evergreen that remains vital through all seasons, we explore how to cultivate resilience, find meaning in life's transitions, and embrace the gifts that come with accumulated years. This gathering offers space to honor both the challenges and possibilities of aging, drawing on contemplative traditions and the lived wisdom of the group to illuminate the spiritual journey of our later chapters.

Please contact the Valle Crucis Conference Center to register for this workshop, or follow this link to sign up: <https://www.zeffy.com/en-US/ticketing/evergreen-the-spirituality-of-aging>.

It's Time for ECW's "MARCH" for Diapers!

We will be collecting all sizes of new, unopened packages of diapers (both adult **and** child!) through the entire month of March. Please leave your donations in the labeled boxes in Skiles Hall.

With an early Easter, the ECW is sad to announce that our annual St. Patrick's Day party will NOT be held. Since this is a large money-making event, please send donations to Holy Cross and put ECW in the memo line. Andrea is working on a small recipe booklet to encourage donations. Any contribution large or small is greatly appreciated.

Will you help with this year's Valle Country Fair?

The VCF team has a few vacancies this year. We are searching for a **Volunteer Coordinator**, an **Outside Vendor Coordinator**, and a **Road Sign team**. Can you help? These roles do not take much time, most are physically low impact AND are critically important to the success of the fair. *(More information on all roles can be found on the church website.)*

Please contact Tracey Heiss (703) 919-9767 and Julie Gates (704) 906-2269 by emailing them at vcf.chairs@gmail.com or by calling directly. Thank you for your consideration!

Schedule of Services in Holy Week

March 29 – *The Sunday of the Passion*

- 8:00 am** The Liturgy of the Palms, Great Procession, and Holy Eucharist, Rite II
(quiet service with no music)
- 9:00 am** Valle Crucis United Methodist Church Service
- 9:45 am** Crafting of Palm Crosses in Skiles Hall
- 11:00 am** The Liturgy of the Palms, Great Procession, and Holy Eucharist, Rite II,
and the recitation of the Passion Story
(Sunday School is available during this service)
(This service is Live-Streamed via our YouTube Channel)

April 1 – *Holy Wednesday*

- 4:30 pm** “Mary’s Way of the Cross” – presented by Holy Cross DOK,
and Holy Eucharist
*The “Stations of the Cross” from Mary’s point of view, the mother of our Lord.
It is poignant, emotional, and beautifully stated. All are welcome.*

April 2 – *Maundy Thursday*

- 7:00 pm** Holy Eucharist with foot-washing and stripping of the altars
(This service is Live-Streamed via our YouTube Channel)
- Silent vigil before the Blessed Sacrament 9:00 pm – midnight.*

April 3 – *Good Friday*

- 12:00 pm** Walking the Stations of the Cross
- 7:00 pm** Solemn Liturgy for Good Friday
(This service is Live-Streamed via our YouTube Channel)

April 5 – *Easter Sunday*

The Feast of the Resurrection of Our Lord Jesus Christ

- 8:00 am** Festival Celebration of the Holy Eucharist, Rite II
- 9:30 am** Annual Parish Easter Brunch in Skiles Hall
- 11:00 am** Festival Celebration of the Holy Eucharist, Rite II
(Sunday School is available during this service)
(This service is Live-Streamed via our YouTube Channel)

The Parish Prayer List: **March 8, 2026**

Please keep the following in your prayers this week:

For Healing: Our injured and disabled military personnel, our veterans, all civilians harmed in conflict, and for Dayton C., Wendell S., Noyes L., Marilyn W., Gerry P., Rebecca M., Sam, Bill B., Julia M., Randy M., Shane B., Claire M., Tav G., Andrea M., Charles III, Kate M., Floyd T., Ray L., Leslie S., Suzie L., Pam C., Ann G., Rosalie G., Stuart T., Michael H., Laura B., Mike L., Ann I., Mike M., Susan M., Jacquie M., Arthur L., Coleman B., James C., Dylan C., David, Michael T., Nicole B., Steve S., Wayne W.,
_____.

For those in Harm's Way: All who serve with the armed forces at home & abroad, all who serve in the Peace Corps, and all health & relief workers throughout the world.

The Church of the Holy Cross

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Diocese of Western North Carolina

The Rt. Rev. José McLoughlin, Bishop

Clergy & Staff

The Rev. Dr. Scott A. Oxford, Interim Priest-in-Charge

Shane Watson, Director of Music

Ahren Koenig, Parish Administrator
