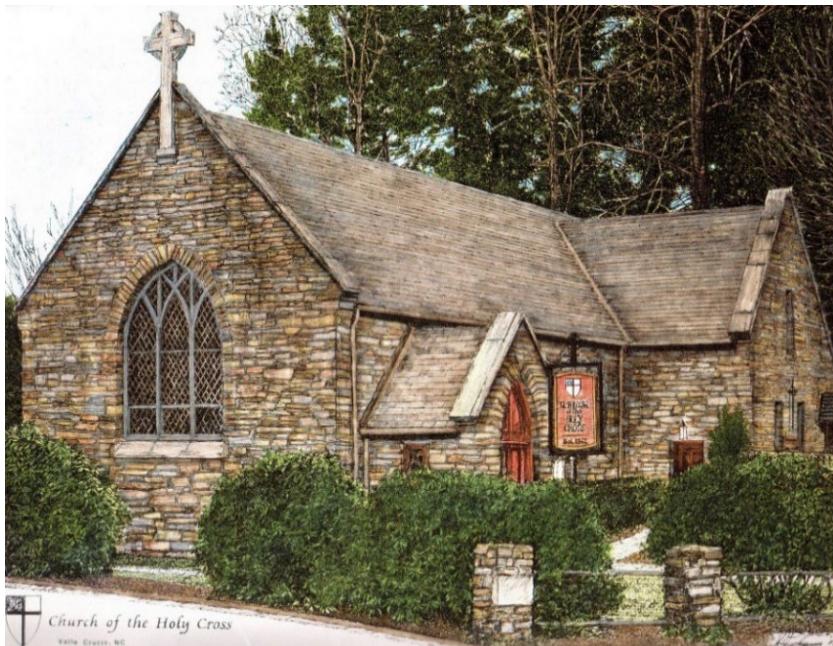


The Church of the Holy Cross Valle Crucis, North Carolina



The Episcopal Church in the Vale of the Cross Since 1842

*The First Sunday After the Epiphany
The Baptism of Our Lord*

January 11, 2026

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

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

HCGIFT \$100

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

(The Hymnody and Music noted in this leaflet is offered at the 11:00 service only.)

Holy Eucharist, Rite II **The Word of God**

The Prelude: *Offered by Shane Watson*

The Announcements: *(Pages 14-16)* **The Rev. Dr. Scott A. Oxford**

The Children's Moment: *(11:00 service only)* **The Rev. Dr. Scott A. Oxford**

All children are welcome to come forward for the Children's Moment. The Priest will dismiss children to follow our volunteers to the weekly Sunday School program, or to remain in the sanctuary with their parents. The Sunday School will rejoin the service at the Passing of the Peace.

The Opening Hymn: #525 (vss. 1-3) “The Church’s One Foundation” *Aurelia*

The Opening Acclamation:

BCP 355

Priest: Blessed be God: (†) Father, Son and Holy Spirit.

People: And blessed be God’s kingdom, now and for ever. Amen.

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 Gloria:

#S-280

Glory to God in the highest,
and peace to his people on earth.

Lord God, heavenly King, almighty God and Father,
we worship you, we give you praise,
we praise you for your glory.

Lord Jesus Christ, only Son of the Father,

Lord God, Lamb of God,

you take away the sin of the world:
have mercy on us;

you are seated at the right hand of the Father:
receive our prayer.

For you alone are the Holy One,

you alone are the Lord, you alone are the Most High,

Jesus Christ, with the Holy Spirit,
in the glory of God the Father.

Amen.

A Prayer for Holy Cross:

Almighty and ever living God, look favorably upon Holy Cross parish during this time of transition as we search for a new rector.

We pray for the life of our parish, that we may continue to be guided by your love and strengthened in our mission to serve you.

Continued...

We pray for the Discernment Committee, the Vestry, and for hearts and minds open to your spirit.

We pray for the priest whose name is known to you alone, that he or she be open to your call. Give us grace to follow where you would lead us and grant us your peace. Amen.

The Collect of the Day:

Priest: The Lord be with you.

People: **And also with you.**

Priest: Father in heaven, who at the baptism of Jesus in the River Jordan proclaimed him your beloved Son and anointed him with the Holy Spirit: Grant that all who are baptized into his Name may keep the covenant they have made, and boldly confess him as Lord and Savior; who with you and the Holy Spirit lives and reigns, one God, in glory everlasting.

People: **Amen.**

All are now seated for the readings from Scripture.

The First Lesson:

Isaiah 42:1-9

Here is my servant, whom I uphold, my chosen, in whom my soul delights; I have put my spirit upon him; he will bring forth justice to the nations. He will not cry or lift up his voice, or make it heard in the street; a bruised reed he will not break, and a dimly burning wick he will not quench; he will faithfully bring forth justice. He will not grow faint or be crushed until he has established justice in the earth; and the coastlands wait for his teaching.

Thus says God, the LORD, who created the heavens and stretched them out, who spread out the earth and what comes from it, who gives breath to the people upon it and spirit to those who walk in it: I am the LORD, I have called you in righteousness, I have taken you by the hand and kept you; I have given you as a covenant to the people, a light to the nations, to open the eyes that are blind, to bring out the prisoners from the dungeon, from the prison those who sit in darkness.

I am the LORD, that is my name; my glory I give to no other, nor my praise to idols. See, the former things have come to pass, and new things I now declare; before they spring forth, I tell you of them.

Reader: The Word of the Lord.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

A time for silent reflection follows.

The Response:

(Prayed responsively at 8:00; Sung at 11:00)

Psalm 29

- 1 Ascribe to the ¹LORD, you ¹gods, *
 ascribe to the ¹LÖRD ¹glory and ¹strength.
- 2 Ascribe to the LORD the ¹glory ¹due his ¹Name; *
 worship the ¹LORD in the ¹beauty of ¹holiness.
- 3 The voice of the LORD is upon the waters;
 the God of ¹glory ¹thunders; *
 the LORD is up ¹on the ¹mighty ¹waters.
- 4 The voice of the LORD is a ¹powerful ¹voice; *
 the voice of the ¹LORD is a ¹voice of ¹splendor.
- 5 The voice of the LORD ¹breaks the ¹cedar trees; *
 the LORD ¹breaks the ¹cedars of ¹Lebanon;
- 6 He makes Lebanon ¹skip like a ¹calf, *
 and Mount Hermon ¹like a ¹young wild ¹ox.
- 7 The voice of the LORD splits the flames of fire;
 the voice of the LORD ¹shakes the ¹wilderness; *
 the LORD ¹shakes the ¹wilderness of ¹Kadesh.
- 8 The voice of the LORD makes the ¹oak trees ¹writhe *
 and ¹strips the ¹forests ¹bare.
- †9 And in the ¹temple of the ¹LORD *
 — ¹all are ¹crying, ¹“Glory!”
- 10 The LORD sits enthroned a ¹bove the ¹flood; *
 the LORD sits enthroned as ¹King for ¹ever ¹more.
- 11 The LORD shall give ¹strength to his ¹people; *
 the LORD shall give his ¹people the ¹blessing of ¹peace.

A time for silent reflection follows.

Peter began to speak to them: “I truly understand that God shows no partiality, but in every nation anyone who fears him and does what is right is acceptable to him. You know the message he sent to the people of Israel, preaching peace by Jesus Christ--he is Lord of all. That message spread throughout Judea, beginning in Galilee after the baptism that John announced: how God anointed Jesus of Nazareth with the Holy Spirit and with power; how he went about doing good and healing all who were oppressed by the devil, for God was with him. We are witnesses to all that he did both in Judea and in Jerusalem. They put him to death by hanging him on a tree; but God raised him on the third day and allowed him to appear, not to all the people but to us who were chosen by God as witnesses, and who ate and drank with him after he rose from the dead. He commanded us to preach to the people and to testify that he is the one ordained by God as judge of the living and the dead. All the prophets testify about him that everyone who believes in him receives forgiveness of sins through his name.”

Reader: The Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

The Gradual Hymn: LEVAS #143 “Wade in the Water” arr. Carl Haywood

Refrain:

Wade in the wa - ter, wade in the wa-ter, chil - dren,

Fine

Wade in the wa - ter, God's a-gon-na trou-ble the wa - ter.

The Gradual Hymn: LEVAS #143

“Wade in the Water”

arr. Carl Haywood

1. See that host all dressed in white,
 2. See that band all dressed in red,
 3. Look o - ver yon-der, what do I see?
 4. If you don't be-lieve I've been re - deemed,

God's a-gon-na trou-ble the

1. The lead - er looks like the Is - ra - elite,
 2. Looks like the band that Mo - ses led,
 3. The Ho - ly Ghost a - com - ing on me,
 4. Just fol - low me down to Jor - dan's stream,

D.C.

God's a - gon - na trou - ble the wa - ter.

The Holy Gospel:

Matthew 3:13-17

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

People: Glory to you, Lord Christ.

Jesus came from Galilee to John at the Jordan, to be baptized by him. John would have prevented him, saying, “I need to be baptized by you, and do you come to me?” But Jesus answered him, “Let it be so now; for it is proper for us in this way to fulfill all righteousness.” Then he consented. And when Jesus had been baptized, just as he came up from the water, suddenly the heavens were opened to him and he saw the Spirit of God descending like a dove and alighting on him. And a voice from heaven said, “This is my Son, the Beloved, with whom I am well pleased.”

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 Renewal of Baptismal Vows:

BCP 304

Priest: Do you reaffirm your renunciation of evil and renew your commitment to Jesus Christ?

People: I do.

Priest: Do you believe in God the Father?

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

Priest: Do you believe in Jesus Christ, the Son of God?

People: I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord.

He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit and born of the Virgin Mary.

He 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, and is seated at the right hand of the Father.

He will come again to judge the living and the dead.

Priest: Do you believe in God the Holy Spirit?

People: 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.

Priest: Will you continue in the apostles' teaching and fellowship, in the breaking of bread, and in the prayers?

People: I will, with God's help.

Priest: Will you persevere in resisting evil, and, whenever you fall into sin, repent and return to the Lord?

People: I will, with God's help.

Priest: Will you proclaim by word and example the Good News of God in Christ?

People: I will, with God's help.

Priest: Will you seek and serve Christ in all persons, loving your neighbor as yourself?

People: I will, with God's help.

Priest: Will you strive for justice and peace among all people, and respect the dignity of every human being?

People: I will, with God's help.

Priest: May Almighty God, the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has given us a new birth by water and the Holy Spirit, and bestowed upon us the forgiveness (†) of sins, keep us in eternal life by his grace, in Christ Jesus our Lord.

People: Amen.

The Priest offers a concluding Collect.

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 Peace closes with the Priest asperging the congregation with the water of Baptism.

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:

“O Beautiful Star”

Offered by The Holy Smokes

The Presentation Hymn: #118 (vs. 4) “Brightest and Best of the Stars” *Star in the East*

Vainly we offer each ample oblation,
vainly with gifts would his favor secure,
richer by far is the heart’s adoration,
dearer to God are the prayers of the poor.

Brightest and best of the stars of the morning,
dawn on our darkness, and lend us thine aid;
star of the east, the horizon adorning,
guide where our infant Redeemer is laid.

The Great Thanksgiving *Eucharistic Prayer B*

BCP 367

The Sursum Corda:

It is right, and a good and joyful thing, always and everywhere to give thanks to you, Father Almighty, Creator of heaven and earth; because in the mystery of the Word made flesh, you have caused a new light to shine in our hearts, to give the knowledge of your glory in the face of your Son Jesus Christ our Lord.

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-125

Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might,
heaven and earth are full of your glory.
Hosanna in the highest. Hosanna in the highest.
Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.
Hosanna in the highest. Hosanna in the highest.

(All may kneel or stand as they are able.)

We give thanks to you, O God, for the goodness and love which you have made known to us in creation; in the calling of Israel to be your people; in your Word spoken through the prophets; and above all in the Word made flesh, Jesus, your Son. For in these last days you sent him to be incarnate from the Virgin Mary, to be the Savior and Redeemer of the world. In him, you have delivered us from evil, and made us worthy to stand before you. In him, you have brought us out of error into truth, out of sin into righteousness, out of death into life.

On the night before he died for us, our Lord Jesus Christ took bread; and when he had given thanks to you, he broke it, and gave it to his disciples, and said, "Take, eat: This is my Body, which is given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me."

After supper he took the cup of wine; and when he had given thanks, he gave it to them, and said, "Drink this, all of you: This is my Blood of the new Covenant, which is shed for you and for all for the forgiveness of sins. Whenever you drink it, do this for the remembrance of me."

Therefore, according to his command, O Father,

***Priest and People: We remember his death,
we proclaim his resurrection,
We await his coming in glory;***

And we offer our sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving to you, O Lord of all; presenting to you, from your creation, this bread and this wine. We pray you, gracious God, to send your Holy Spirit (†) upon these gifts that they may be the Sacrament of the Body of Christ and his Blood of the new Covenant. Unite us to your Son in his sacrifice, that we may be acceptable through him, being sanctified (†) by the Holy Spirit.

In the fullness of time, put all things in subjection under your Christ, and bring us to that heavenly country where, with the Blessed Mother Mary, Brother Skiles, and all your saints, we may enter the everlasting heritage of your sons and daughters; through Jesus Christ our Lord, the firstborn of all creation, the head of the Church, and the author of our salvation.

By (†) him, and with him, and in him, in the unity of the Holy Spirit all honor and glory is yours, Almighty Father, now and for ever.

People: AMEN.

And now, as our Savior Christ has taught us, we are bold to say,

Continued...

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,
 for ever and ever. Amen.

The Breaking of the Bread: (The Fraction)

The Priest breaks the consecrated bread.

A period of silence is kept.

The Fraction Anthem:

#S-164

Jesus, Lamb of God: have mercy on us.
 Jesus, bearer of our sins: have mercy on us.
 Jesus, redeemer of the world, redeemer of the world:
 give us your peace, give us your peace.

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:

#339 “Deck Thyself, My Soul, with Gladness”
 #537 “Christ for the World We Sing!”

*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: #127 (vss. 1-3) “Earth has Many a Noble City” Stuttgart

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: Lord, make us instruments of your peace.

Where there is hatred, let us sow love; where there is injury, pardon; where there is discord, union; where there is doubt, faith; where there is despair, hope; where there is darkness, light; where there is sadness, joy.

Grant that we may not so much seek to be consoled as to console; to be understood as to understand; to be loved as to love.

For it is in giving that we receive; it is in pardoning that we are pardoned; and it is in dying that we are born to eternal life.

People: **Amen.**

Priest: Go into the world in peace. Be of good courage. Hold fast to that which is good. Render to no one evil for evil. Strengthen the fainthearted. Support the weak. Help the afflicted. Honor all persons. Love and serve the Lord, rejoicing in the power of the Spirit.

For life is short, my friends, and we do not have much time to gladden the hearts of those who make the journey with us.

So, be swift to love and make haste to be kind; and the blessing (†) of God, who made us, who loves us and who travels with us be with you now and for ever.

People: **Amen.**

The Closing Hymn: #124 (vss. 1-3)

“What Star is This”

Puer nobis

The Dismissal:

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

People: Thanks be to God.

The Postlude:

Offered by Shane Watson

We thank those who served this morning

8:00 am

11:00 am

Musician:

Shane Watson

Greeters & Ushers:

Karla Prudhomme

Jim & Alicia Toomey

Lectors:

Jane Blackburn

Andrea McDonough

Chalice Bearers:

Sis Kinney

Tav & Kim Gauss

Acolytes:

Sis Kinney

Kim Gauss

Healing Ministers:

Daughters of the King

Linen Fairy:

Karla Prudhomme

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ANNOUNCEMENTS

Join the Holy Cross Chancel Choir!

If you enjoy singing in the car or the shower, consider joining the Holy Cross Chancel Choir. We rehearse on Wednesdays from 7pm-8:30pm in the Skiles Hall Choir Room. Can't read music? No problem. Afraid you can't carry a tune? That's probably false. Afraid of the time commitment? Just talk to Shane. We'd love to have you join this aspect of our music ministry.

2026 Calendars Available!

A limited supply of 2026 Churchman's Ordo Calendars are available for purchase for \$5 in the Parish Office. This calendar offers a full listing of the traditional feasts and devotional days which are frequently celebrated throughout the Anglican Communion.

TODAY, SUNDAY, JANUARY 11, 2026
The First Sunday After the Epiphany
The Baptism of Our Lord

8:00 am Holy Eucharist, Rite II, at Holy Cross (*quiet service with no music*)
9:15 am Fellowship time in Skiles Hall
11:00 am Holy Eucharist, Rite II, at Holy Cross (*with music and Children's Moment*)
 (*This service is Live-Streamed via our YouTube Channel*)
12:15 pm Fellowship time in Skiles Hall

NEXT SUNDAY, JANUARY 18, 2026
The Second Sunday After the Epiphany

8:00 am Holy Eucharist, Rite II, at Holy Cross (*quiet service with no music*)
9:15 am Fellowship time in Skiles Hall
11:00 am Holy Eucharist, Rite II, at Holy Cross (*with music and Children's Moment*)
 (*This service is Live-Streamed via our YouTube Channel*)
12:15 pm Fellowship time in Skiles Hall

Men's Night Out

As is our custom, **MNO** is taking a two-month hiatus over the winter season, resuming for our tenth year of brethren fellowship on St. Patrick's Day, Tuesday, March 17, 2026.

If you are interested in hosting one of our monthly gatherings in 2026, please send an email to KeithTMartin@gmail.com. MNO wishes you a joyous, peaceful, and restorative holiday season.

Note: We will be Updating our Prayer List for the new year.

If you wish for someone to remain on the current list, or to add someone new, **please email the Parish Office at holy_cross@skybest.com.** Be sure to include the person's full name, nature of prayer request, and any other pertinent information. Please do not call the Office with these updates. **Thank you.**

The Parish Prayer List: January 11, 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 Y., Bill B., Julia M., Walter B., Randy M., Shane B., Claire M., Sara P., Tav G., Andrea M., Charles III, Kate M., John N., Floyd T., Ray L., Leslie S., Terry & Jean M., Suzie L., Pam C., Ann G., Rosalie G., Stuart T., Gini H., Michael H., Laura B., Jeff I., Russell, Gabriella F., Troy W., Jim L., Linda B., David F., Mamie M., Courtney K., Stacey D., Gideon E., Skylar P., Bettie B., Mike L., Ann I., Mike M., Susan M., Jacquie M., Arthur L., Joel W., Coleman B., James C., Dylan C., Bo N., McKaleigh N., Greg, _____.

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 Rector

Shane Watson, Director of Music

Ahren Koenig, Parish Administrator
