

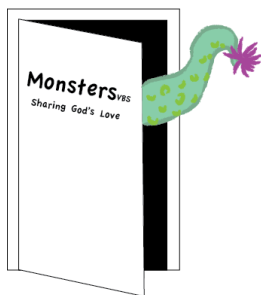
HOLY CROSS EPISCOPAL CHURCH

Of Hayward and Castro Valley

You've got questions... We've got questions!
Let's go on a journey together...

MONSTERS

"WE SHARE BECAUSE WE CARE..."



LION KING

Sharing God's Love Royally...

VBS Sunday, Year B
July 25, 2021
8:30 A.M.

RECTOR: The Rev. Mark Spaulding, Email: mark@holycrosscv.org
In case of pastoral emergency please contact a priest at (510) 889-7233
ASSOCIATE RECTOR: The Rev. Martha Kuhlmann
PASTORAL ASSOCIATE: The Rev. Pamela Cranston & The Rev. Kathy Trapani
DEACON: The Rev. Deacon Patricia Pearson
DIRECTOR OF MUSIC: Ray Hickman
RECTOR'S WARDEN: Diane Granlund PEOPLE'S WARDEN: Janet Williams
NURSERY: Eli Spaulding
BOOKKEEPER: Diane Granlund & Pat Oakman
OFFICE MANAGER: Bonnie Pikul, office hours: 9:00 am – 3:00 pm, Mon. – Fri

Holy Eucharist

8:30 a.m.

*W*elcome to Holy Cross Episcopal Church. We are glad you are here and hope you enjoy your time with us. Today is a special Sunday—it is Vacation Bible School (VBS) Sunday. Today we conclude our adventures with “Monsters”: *We Share Because We Care*, and “Lion King”: *Sharing God’s Love Royally*. Please visit our VBS online experience at <https://www.vbsonline.org/vbs2021/>, and see what our talented team has worked hard to produce. In person or online, Holy Cross VBS continues to share our message that “*I Love and God Loves You, and That’s the Way It Should Be!*”. We are VERY delighted to share some of the VBS experience this morning with you.

A special note to parents with young children: Relax! Your children are most welcome and encouraged to share our worship time! We expect children to make noise and behave as God has created them—as children!

❖ *There are two toy boxes located at the back of the church. One is in front of the Baptismal Font and the other is by the rocker in the left corner of the church (the rocker is for parents and babes in arms), both are full of soft toys and books for the children’s use during the service. Please see that the toys are returned after the service for use next Sunday.*

❖ *Children’s Worship Bulletins: KidsWord and Little KidsWord for the pre-schoolers are available on clipboards at the back table of the church. Please encourage children to pick one up as they enter the church and return the clipboards to the entrance table before they leave.*

Again, we are delighted that you are here to worship with us.

BCP: Book of Common Prayer (The solid red book with a gold cross on the cover.)

Hymnal: The Hymnal 1982 (blue) Please note that all the music for today’s service may be found in this bulletin.

WELCOME AND HIGHLIGHTS

The Gathering Rite

Please stand as the altar party enters.

When necessary we begin our liturgy with the tolling of our prayer gong. We ring the bell once for each child of God taken from this world by the latest gun violence. We pray that we will, very soon, never have to ring our gong again.

Presider Blessed be God: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.
People **And blessed be God's kingdom, now and for ever. Amen.**

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. Amen.

People The Lord be with you.
Presider **And also with you.**
Presider Let us pray.

THE COLLECT OF THE DAY

Presider The Lord be with you.
People **And also with you.**
Presider Let us pray.

Grant to us, Lord, we pray, the spirit to think and do always those things that are right, that we, who cannot exist without you, may by you be enabled to live according to your will; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. **Amen.**

*You shall know they are
Christians by their Love*



The Creation Story

(adapted from Genesis 1:1-2:2)

The congregation is invited to say the refrain, in bold type.

In the beginning when God created the heavens and the earth, the earth was a formless void and a great dimness covered the face of the deep. then a wind from God swept over the face of the waters.

On the first day, God created light and darkness.

All: And God saw that it was good.

On the second day, God created the sky above and the waters below.

All: And God saw that it was good.

On the third day, God formed the land and called it Earth, and gathered the water and called it Sea. God blessed the earth with vegetation and food.

All: And God saw that it was good.

On the fourth day, God separated the day from the night, creating the sun, the moon, and the stars.

All: And God saw that it was good.

On the fifth day, God brought forth swarms of living creatures in the air, in the water, and on the land, and God bid them to be fruitful and multiply.

All: And God saw that it was good.

On the sixth day, God created humankind, you and me, in God's image, giving us dominion over the animals. God blessed them and us.

All: And God saw that it was VERY GOOD!

On the seventh day, God had finished the work of creation, and God rested. So God blessed the seventh day and made it sacred.

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

- ⁸The Lord is gracious and merciful,
slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love.**
- ⁹The Lord is good to all,
and his compassion is over all that he has made.**
- ¹⁵The eyes of all look to you,
and you give them their food in due season.**
- ¹⁶You open your hand,
satisfying the desire of every living thing.**
- ¹⁷The Lord is just in all his ways,
and kind in all his doings.**
- ¹⁸The Lord is near to all who call on him,
to all who call on him in truth.**
- ¹⁹He fulfils the desire of all who fear him;
he also hears their cry, and saves them.**
- ²⁰The Lord watches over all who love him,
but all the wicked he will destroy.**
- ²¹My mouth will speak the praise of the Lord,
and all flesh will bless his holy name for ever and ever.**

People The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to John.
Glory to you, Lord Christ.

Jesus said to the disciples, “This is my commandment, that you love one another as I have loved you. No one has greater love than this, to lay down one’s life for one’s friends. You are my friends if you do what I command you. I do not call you servants any longer, because the servant does not know what the master is doing; but I have called you friends, because I have made known to you everything that I have heard from my Father. You did not choose me but I chose you. And I appointed you to go and bear fruit, fruit that will last, so that the Father will give you whatever you ask him in my name. I am giving you these commands so that you may love one another.”

People The Gospel of the Lord.
Praise to you, Lord Christ.

SERMON

THE REV. MARK SPAULDING

OUR AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

Said together, standing

**You, O God, are supreme and holy.
You created our world and give us life.
Your purpose overarches everything we do.
You have always been with us.
You are God.**

**You, O God, are infinitely generous,
Good beyond all measure.
You came to us before we came to you.
You have revealed and proved
your love for us in Jesus Christ,
who lived and died and rose again.
You are with us now.
You are God.**

**You, O God, are Holy Spirit.
You empower us to be your gospel in the world.
You reconcile and heal; you overcome death.**

You are our God. We worship you.

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

Standing, kneeling or sitting, the people pray responsively.

Gracious God, we, your people, thank you for the many ways you have inspired us these months to intentionally build a joyful community in the cloud. Our Vacation Bible School included participants from diverse countries, races, ages, self-identities, and beliefs; your love inspired our best efforts and wove us together. “And God said, it was very good”.

Lord of Love, **hear our prayer**

We pray for the leaders of the world that they also seek your guidance to work for the good of all, without exception.

Lord of power, **hear our prayer**

We pray for our clergy, the people of Holy Cross, and our local communities that we use your infinite generosity and creativity to care for each other and serve in the fun, respectful and responsible ways we practiced this week.

Lord of abundance, **hear our prayer**

We pray for all who suffer in body, mind or spirit, and that your grace will encourage us to reach out to provide relief and hospitality to all in need.

Lord of Compassion, **hear our prayer.**

We pray for those who have died and those who grieve so that faith in your everlasting love in all its forms will invite the gentle presence of others and sweet memories to provide comfort.

Lord of eternity, **hear our prayer.**

Today we celebrate the joy of the VBS community. May our time together bring us closer to you and our lives closer to heaven on earth.

Amen

THE PEACE

Presider The Peace of the Lord be always with you
People **And also with you**

Please exchange the peace with your neighbors.

THE PRAYER OF THE COMMUNITY

Almighty and gracious God, giver of every good and perfect gift, we give you thanks for your servants as they celebrate a special milestone or anticipate a time of travel. Watch over them and protect them. Bless and guide them wherever they go and surround them with your loving care on every side. Grant them wisdom in the living of their lives, and grace to keep the vows and promises they have made. And may your peace, which passes all understanding, abide in their hearts all the days of their lives, through our Savior Jesus Christ. Amen.

The Holy Communion

OFFERTORY *While the table is being set a collection will be taken for the work of the church. The ushers then bring the offerings to the Presider who says:*

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

The people remain standing. The Presider says

The Lord be with you.

People **And also with you.**

Presider Lift up your hearts.

People **We lift them to the Lord.**

Presider Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

People **It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

The Presider proceeds

It is right, and a good and joyful thing, always and everywhere to give thanks to you, Father Almighty, Creator of heaven and earth.

For in the multitude of your saints, you have surrounded us with a great cloud of witnesses, that we might rejoice in their fellowship, and run with endurance the race that is set before us; and, together with them, receive the crown of glory that never fades away.

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:

SANCTUS

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 God's Name.

Hosanna in the highest.

The people remain standing as the Presider continues

Holy and gracious Father: In your infinite love you made us for yourself; and, when we had fallen into sin and become subject to evil and death, you, in your mercy, sent Jesus Christ, your only and eternal Son, to share our human nature, to live and die as one of us, to reconcile us to you, the God and Father of all.

He stretched out his arms upon the cross, and offered himself in obedience to your will, a perfect sacrifice for the whole world.

On the night he was handed over to suffering and death, 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 poured out for you and for all for the forgiveness of sins. Whenever you drink it, do this for the remembrance of me."

Therefore we proclaim the mystery of faith:

Presider and People

Christ has died.

Christ is risen.

Christ will come again.

The Celebrant continues

We celebrate the memorial of our redemption, O Father, in this sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving. Recalling his death, resurrection, and ascension, we offer you these gifts.

Sanctify them by your Holy Spirit to be for your people the Body and Blood of your Son, the holy food and drink of new and unending life in him. Sanctify us also that we may faithfully receive this holy Sacrament, and serve you in unity, constancy, and peace; and at the last day bring us with all your saints into the joy of your eternal kingdom.

All this we ask through your Son Jesus Christ. 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. **AMEN.**

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

THE LORD'S PRAYER

**Our Father in heaven,
hallowed be your Name,
your kingdom come,
your will be done,
on earth as in heaven.
Give us today our daily bread.
Forgive us our sins
as we forgive those
who sin against us.
Save us from the time of trial,
and deliver us from evil.
For the kingdom, the power,
and the glory are yours,
now and for ever. Amen.**



THE BREAKING OF THE BREAD

Presider Alleluia. Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us.

People **Therefore, let us keep the feast. Alleluia.**

Presider The Gifts of God for the People of God.

ADMINISTRATION OF THE COMMUNION

All are most welcome to come forward to receive communion.

The communion meal is the central act of hospitality and community for the Christian Church and in this spirit, we invite all who would like to receive communion today to come forward to partake of this feast of feasts!

Adults and Children are invited to receive the bread. Please keep your hand flat when you approach a preset for communion and refrain from grabbing the offering hand.

If you are unable to come forward to receive Communion or a prayer of blessing, please notify an usher and Eucharistic Ministers will come to you.

POSTCOMMUNION PRAYER

The People Stand

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

A Eucharistic Visitor will be sent out with following rite...

Presider In the Name of God, we send you forth to share communion with those who are absent from this table.

People **As you have been fed, now feed others.**

Presider Our prayers are with you, go in peace.

People **Thanks be to God.**

THE BLESSING

Go forth into the world in peace; be of good courage; hold fast to that which is good; render no one evil for evil ... but make no peace with oppression; strengthen the faint-hearted; support the weak; help the afflicted; honor everyone; rejoice always; pray without ceasing, giving thanks in all circumstances; and the blessing of God almighty, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, be among you and remain with you always. **Amen.**

DISMISSAL

Presider Let us go forth in the name of Christ.

People **Thanks be to God.**

SERVING AT 8:30

PRESIDING: The Rev. Martha Kuhlmann

PREACHING: The Rev. Mark Spaulding

EUCCHARISTIC MINISTER: Lydia McCloskey

LECTOR: Terry Miller

WELCOME & HIGHLIGHTS: Diane Granlund

GREETER: Terry Miller

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE WRITER: Lydia McCloskey

EUCCHARISTIC BREAD BAKER: Lynne Lange, in thanksgiving for VBS

COFFEE HOUR HOST: The VBS Kitchen Crew

OFFERTORY COUNTERS: David Heusdens & Wendy Jacobsen