

Emily Malbone Morgan was born on December 10, 1862, in Hartford, Connecticut. Her family were prominent Hartford citizens, and her Anglican roots ran deep on both sides of her family. With the support of Harriet Hastings, she was the founder of the Society of the Companions of the Holy Cross (SCHC), an order of Episcopal laywomen, in 1884. Rooted in disciplined devotion, SCHC became a strong force for social justice reform during the social gospel era around the turn of the twentieth century.

A primary inspiration for Morgan was her friendship with Adelyn Howard. Howard was homebound and sought Morgan's support for both spiritual companionship and shared intercessory prayer for others. In response, Morgan called together a small group of women that became the Society of the Companions of the Holy Cross.

Morgan had a particular concern for working women who were tired, restless, and had little hope for a vacation. In response, Morgan and her Companions developed summer vacation houses across the northeast, where working women and their daughters could have some time away for physical and spiritual renewal and refreshment. In 1901, the Society established a permanent home in Byfield, Massachusetts. With the construction of new facilities on the site in 1915, it took the name Adelynrood, which continues to exist as the headquarters and retreat center of the Society.

Morgan never married; she and her sisters in the Society of the Companions of the Holy Cross lived a life of prayer, contemplation, and social justice, particularly for women. She died on February 27, 1937.

Gracious God, we give thanks for the life and witness of Emily Malbone Morgan, who gathered women to devote themselves to intercession, social justice, Christian unity, and simple lives: Make us, with her, companions in prayer and in faithful living, dedicated to the Holy Cross of our Savior, Jesus Christ; who with you and the Holy Spirit lives and reigns, one God, for ever and ever. Amen.

February 26, A Great Cloud of Witnesses.