

Church of the Holy Cross

Seventeenth Sunday after Pentecost



Jonah under a Bush outside Nineveh

September 20, 2026

10 a.m.

Morning Prayer

40700 W. Ten Mile Road • Novi, MI 48375

248-427-1175

www.holycrossnovi.org

holycrossnovi@gmail.com

Gathering of the People

Prelude *Silence is appreciated as we prepare to worship*

Opening Hymn H 427 v1-3, 5 *When morning gilds the skies*



1 When morn - ing gilds the skies, my heart, a - wak - ing, cries,
2 When mirth for mu - sic longs, this is my song of songs:
3 No love - lier an - ti - phon in all high heaven is known
4 Ye na - tions of man - kind, in this your con - cord find:
5 Sing, suns and stars of space, sing, ye that see his face,

1 may Je - sus Christ be praised! When eve - ning sha - dows fall,
2 may Je - sus Christ be praised! God's ho - ly house of prayer
3 than, Je - sus Christ be praised! There to the e - ter - nal Word
4 may Je - sus Christ be praised! Let all the earth a - round
5 sing, Je - sus Christ be praised! God's whole cre - a - tion o'er,

1 this rings my cur - few call, may Je - sus Christ be praised!
2 hath none that can com - pare with: Je - sus Christ be praised!
3 the e - ter - nal psalm is heard: may Je - sus Christ be praised!
4 ring joy - ous with the sound: may Je - sus Christ be praised!
5 both now and ev - er - more shall Je - sus Christ be praised!

Words: German, ca. 1800; tr. Robert Seymour Bridges (1844-1930), alt. Music: *Laudes Domini*, Joseph Barnby (1838-1896).

Opening Acclamation

Celebrant Blessed be the one, holy, and living God.

People **Glory to God for ever and ever.**

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.**

Hymn of Praise WLP 783 *Heleluyan*



He - le - lu - yan, he - le - lu - yan: he - le, he - le - lu - yan;
Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia: al - le, al - le - lu - ia;



he - le - lu - yan, he - le - lu - yan: he - le, he - le - lu - yan.
al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia: al - le, al - le - lu - ia.

Music: Muscogee (Creek) Indian, tr. Charles Webb. Transcription Copyright © 1989 by The United Methodist Publishing House.
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Collect of the Day

Celebrant God be with you.
People **And also with you.**
Celebrant Let us pray.

Grant us, Lord, not to be anxious about earthly things, but to love things heavenly; and even now, while we are placed among things that are passing away, to hold fast to those that shall endure; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. **Amen.**

Please be seated for the readings.

First Lesson

Jonah 3:10-4:11

Reader A reading from the Book of Jonah.

When God saw what the people of Nineveh did, how they turned from their evil ways, God changed his mind about the calamity that he had said he would bring upon them; and he did not do it.

But this was very displeasing to Jonah, and he became angry. He prayed to the Lord and said, "O Lord! Is not this what I said while I was still in my own country? That is why I fled to Tarshish at the beginning; for I knew that you are a gracious God and merciful, slow to anger, and abounding in steadfast love, and ready to relent from punishing. And now, O Lord, please take my life from me, for it is better for me to die than to live." And the Lord said, "Is it right for you to be angry?" Then Jonah went out of the city and sat down east of the city, and made a booth for himself there. He sat under it in the shade, waiting to see what would become of the city.

The Lord God appointed a bush, and made it come up over Jonah, to give shade over his head, to save him from his discomfort; so Jonah was very happy about the bush. But when dawn came up the next day, God appointed a worm that attacked the bush, so that it withered. When the sun rose, God prepared a sultry east wind, and the sun beat down on the head of Jonah so that he was faint and asked that he might die. He said, "It is better for me to die than to live."

But God said to Jonah, "Is it right for you to be angry about the bush?" And he said, "Yes, angry enough to die." Then the Lord said, "You are concerned about the bush, for which you did not labor and which you did not grow; it came into being in a night and perished in a night. And should I not be concerned about Nineveh, that great city, in which there are more than a hundred and twenty thousand persons who do not know their right hand from their left, and also many animals?"

Reader Hear what the Spirit is saying to God's people.
People **Thanks be to God.**

Psalm 145:1-8

The reader leads off, and congregation responds with the bold verses.

- 1 I will exalt you, O God my King, *
and bless your Name for ever and ever.
- 2 **Every day will I bless you ***
and praise your Name for ever and ever.
- 3 Great is the Lord and greatly to be praised; *
there is no end to his greatness.
- 4 **One generation shall praise your works to another ***
and shall declare your power.
- 5 I will ponder the glorious splendor of your majesty *
and all your marvelous works.
- 6 **They shall speak of the might of your wondrous acts, ***
and I will tell of your greatness.
- 7 They shall publish the remembrance of your great goodness; *
they shall sing of your righteous deeds.
- 8 **The Lord is gracious and full of compassion, ***
slow to anger and of great kindness.

Second Lesson

Philippians 1:21-30

Reader A reading from Paul's letter to the Philippians.

To me, living is Christ and dying is gain. If I am to live in the flesh, that means fruitful labor for me; and I do not know which I prefer. I am hard pressed between the two: my desire is to depart and be with Christ, for that is far better; but to remain in the flesh is more necessary for you. Since I am convinced of this, I know that I will remain and continue with all of you for your progress and joy in faith, so that I may share abundantly in your boasting in Christ Jesus when I come to you again.

Only, live your life in a manner worthy of the gospel of Christ, so that, whether I come and see you or am absent and hear about you, I will know that you are standing firm in one spirit, striving side by side with one mind for the faith of the gospel, and are in no way intimidated by your opponents. For them this is evidence of their destruction, but of your salvation. And this is God's doing. For he has graciously granted you the privilege not only of believing in Christ, but of suffering for him as well-- since you are having the same struggle that you saw I had and now hear that I still have.

Reader Hear what the Spirit is saying to God's people.
People **Thanks be to God.**

Please stand as you are able.

Sequence Hymn LEVAS 205 *The Lord is my light*

Sing verse 1 before the gospel & verse 4 after.

1. When we walk with the Lord In the light of His word, What a glo - ry He
4. But we nev - er can prove The de - lights of His love Un - til all on the

1. sheds on our way! While we do His good will, He a - bides with us still,
4. al - tar we lay; For the fav - or He shows, And the joy He be - stows,

1. And with all who will trust and o - bey. Trust and o - bey, for there's
4. Are for them who will trust and o - bey.

no oth - er way To be hap - py in Je - sus, But to trust and o - bey.

Words: J. H. Sammis. Music: D. B. Townner.

Holy Gospel

Matthew 20:1-16

Deacon The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Matthew.
People **Glory to you, Lord Christ.**

Jesus said, "The kingdom of heaven is like a landowner who went out early in the morning to hire laborers for his vineyard. After agreeing with the laborers for the usual daily wage, he sent them into his vineyard. When he went out about nine o'clock, he saw others standing idle in the marketplace; and he said to them, 'You also go into the vineyard, and I will pay you whatever is right.' So they went. When he went out again about noon and about three o'clock, he did the same. And about five o'clock he went out and found others standing around; and he said to them, 'Why are you standing here idle all day?' They said to him, 'Because no one has hired us.' He said to them, 'You also go into the vineyard.'

When evening came, the owner of the vineyard said to his manager, 'Call the laborers and give them their pay, beginning with the last and then going to the first.' When those hired about five o'clock came, each of them received the usual daily wage. Now when the first came, they thought they would receive more; but each of them also received the usual daily wage. And when they received it, they grumbled against the landowner, saying, 'These last worked only one hour, and you have made them equal to us who have borne the burden of the day and the scorching heat.' But he replied to one of them, 'Friend, I am doing you no wrong; did you not agree with me for the usual daily wage? Take what belongs to you and go; I choose to give to this last the same as I give to you. Am I not allowed to do what I choose with what belongs to me? Or are you envious because I am generous?' So the last will be first, and the first will be last."

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

Reflection

Ed Happ

Offertory Sentence

Walk in love as Christ loved us and gave himself for us, an offering and sacrifice to God.

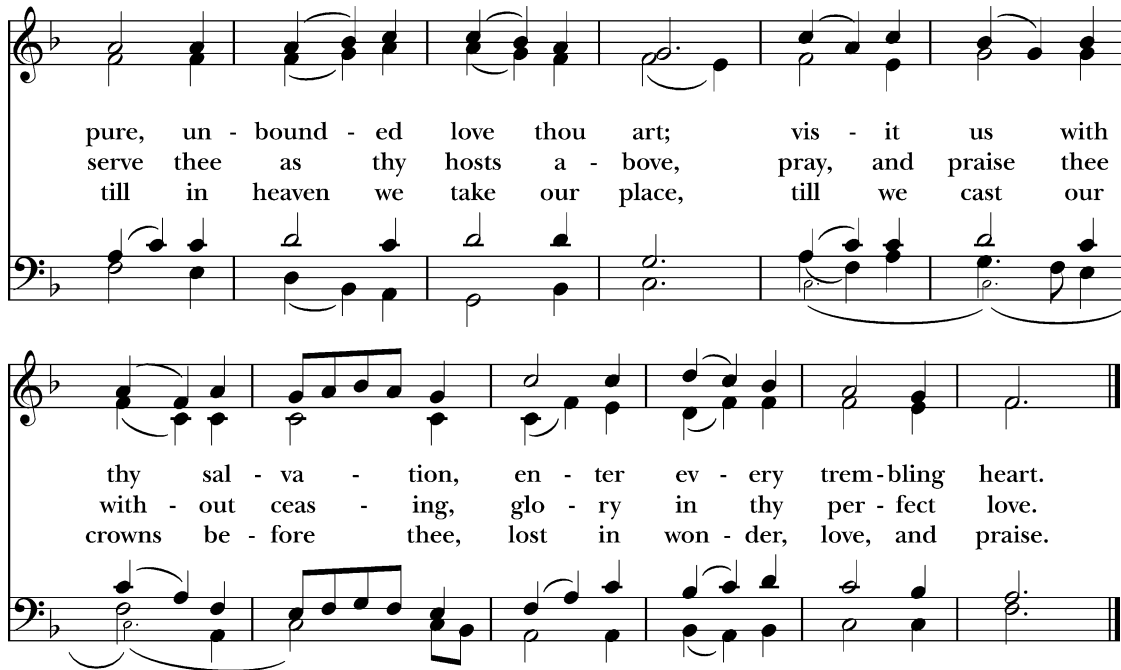
Offertory Music H 657 *Love divine, all loves excelling*

The Offertory is sung while the Celebrant sets the table.

1 Love di - vine, all loves ex - cell - ing, joy of heaven, to
2 Come, al - might - y to de - liv - er, let us all thy
3 Fi - nish then thy new cre - a - tion; pure and spot - less

earth come down, fix in us thy hum - ble dwell - ing, all thy
life re - ceive; sud - den - ly re - turn, and nev - er, nev - er -
let us be; let us see thy great sal - va - tion per - fect -

faith - ful mer - cies crown. Je - sus, thou art all com - pas - sion,
more thy tem - ples leave. Thee we would be al - way bless - ing,
ly re - stored in thee: changed from glo - ry in - to glo - ry,



pure, un - bound - ed love thou art; vis - it us with
 serve thee as thy hosts a - bove, pray, and praise thee
 till in heaven we take our place, till we cast our

thy sal - va - tion, en - ter ev - ery trem - bling heart.
 with - out ceas - ing, glo - ry in thy per - fect love.
 crowns be - fore thee, lost in won - der, love, and praise.

Words: Charles Wesley (1707-1788). Music: *Hyfrydol*, Rowland Hugh Prichard (1811-1887).

Affirmation of Faith *from the New Zealand Prayerbook*

You, O God, are supreme and holy.
You create 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.

The Prayers of the People *from the Baptist Union of Great Britain*

Leader Ever living and ever-loving God,
 We praise you for your loving presence with us.

People **Come, Holy Spirit,**
Leader take and transform our societies—
 that broken people find healing; that lonely people find love;
 that bitter people find peace; that fearful people find hope.

People
Leader

Come, Holy Spirit,

take our world's leaders and governments and bring renewal—that communication can be open; that relationships between hostile people and hostile nations will begin to calm and hostilities dissolve, that a hunger for justice addresses the hunger for food felt by so many.

People
Leader

Come, Holy Spirit,

fill your church—that our worship will be ever more pleasing to you; that prayers will change our minds instead of trying to get you to change yours; that our lives will make a real difference to real people in the real world. We especially keep in our prayers our supply clergy and the ministry of the lay people of Holy Cross.

People
Leader

Come, Holy Spirit,

for our search committee and vestry. Grant them wisdom, discernment and patience as they move through this search process.

People
Leader

Come, Holy Spirit,

for the pastor who will be joining us. Lead the right priest to our Church and guide us as we move forward together.

People
Leader

Come, Holy Spirit,

fill our lives with your presence—so that more and more every day, all that we do and say and hope will be an act of worship to you and an expression of love to others, to the glory of your name.

People
Leader

Come, Holy Spirit,

As we pray for those in our cycle of prayer _____.

Please add your own intercessions and thanksgivings either silently or aloud.

Celebrant Lord, hear the prayers of your people; and what we have asked faithfully, grant that we may obtain effectually, to the glory of your name, through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen**

Confession and Absolution (Episcopal Book of Common Prayer)

Deacon Let us confess our sins against God and our neighbor.

Silence may be kept.

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. 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.

Celebrant 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. **Amen.**

The Peace

Celebrant The peace of Christ be always with you.

People **And also with you.**

God's Peace is exchanged with one another.

Announcements & Blessings of Life Events

Lord's Prayer

As Jesus taught us, we now pray,

**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.**

Final Prayer

Celebrant Let us pray.

**All O God, you have made of one blood all the peoples of the earth,
and sent your blessed Son to preach peace
to those who are far off and to those who are near:
Grant that people everywhere may seek after you and find you;
bring the nations into your fold; pour out your Spirit upon all flesh;
and hasten the coming of your kingdom;
through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

The Blessing

Life is short and we have too little time to gladden the hearts of those who travel the way with us. So, be swift to love and make haste to be kind, and may the blessing of God Almighty, Father, Son and Holy Spirit be with you now and always. **Amen.**

Sending Hymn WLP 801

God be with you till we meet again

Unison *Harmony*

The musical score is written for a hymn. It features a treble and bass staff. The treble staff has a key signature of one sharp (F#) and a time signature of 4/4. The bass staff has a key signature of one sharp (F#) and a time signature of 4/4. The melody is in the treble staff, and the harmony is in the bass staff. The lyrics are written below the treble staff.

1. God be with you till we meet a - gain; by wise coun - sels
2. God be with you till we meet a - gain; 'neath bright wings pro -
3. God be with you till we meet a - gain; when life's pe - rils
4. God be with you till we meet a - gain; keep love's ban - ner

guide, up - hold you, with the sheep se - cure - ly fold you:
 tect - ing hide you, dail - y man - na still pro - vide you:
 thick con - found you, put strong arms un - fail - ing round you:
 float - ing o'er you, smite death's threat - 'ning wave be - fore you:

Unison

God be with you till we meet a - gain.
 God be with you till we meet a - gain.
 God be with you till we meet a - gain.
 God be with you till we meet a - gain.

Words: Jeremiah Eames Rankin (1828-1904), alt. John L. Hooker (b. 1944). Music: Randolph, Ralph Vaughan Williams (1872-1958), alt.

Going into the World

Deacon Alleluia, alleluia! Let us go forth into the world, rejoicing in the power of the Spirit.

People Thanks be to God. Alleluia, alleluia, **ALLELUIA!**

Postlude

*This brings the worship to a close.
 All are invited for Coffee Hour in the Parish Hall following the service.*

Ministers of Today's Service

1st Reading & Psalm: Pam Janson
 2nd Reading & Prayers: Ann Maher
 Greeter/Usher: Zean Smartt
 Zoom Host: Shirley Chen
 Altar Guild: Carole Abshier

Clergy

Bishop of Michigan: The Rt. Rev. Bonnie Perry
 Deacon: The Rev. Dcn. Cleda Smartt

Staff

Administrator: Teri Landreth
 Music Director: Kate Autry
 Sexton: Katie Forbing

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Bulletin Art: Jonah under a Bush outside Nineveh, from Art in the Christian Tradition, a project of the Vanderbilt University Divinity Library, Nashville, N. <https://act.library.vanderbilt.edu/artworks/29299> [retrieved September 8, 2026]. Original source: image donated by Jim Womack and Anne Richardson.

IN-PERSON SERVICES
Sunday 8am & 10am

WEEKLY ZOOM SERVICES
Sunday Service
@ 10 AM

Information and Zoom links
at www.holycrossnovi.org



The flowers today are given to the glory of God by Laura & Larry Jansen, in thanksgiving of their daughters' birthdays.

If you would like to donate altar flowers, you can find more information and sign up on the flower board - *Located in the hall between the narthex & parish hall.*

Volunteers Needed

September 26th -
Buy Nothing Event

We need volunteers to run a Holy Cross information "booth" with giveaways. If you can help for an hour or more at the event, please let Teri know.

Sunday School

The Children and Youth program year begins **Today** and will continue to meet on the 1st & 3rd Sundays each month.

If you are interested in volunteering, let Teri know.

Safe Church Training

People who fill certain roles in our parish are required to take a course on how to prevent sexual harassment & abuse (and to renew the course every 3 years.)

WHO? Children/Youth leaders and volunteers; Vestry; Church staff; Eucharistic visitors; Volunteers with Keys (Altar Guild, building hosts, etc), Volunteer leaders without keys (Worship leader, Eucharistic Ministers, etc).

WHAT modules do I take - Universal or Specialty? Check the Gathering Board.

WHERE do I sign up?

Take the online course at
www.edomi.org/safechurch/
Registration Code: reg-episdiomi-313-holycrossnovi

Send your completion certificates to the church office by Sept 30th.



Help Us Build a Home in Guatemala!

On **October 31**, **Kathie Kirby and Silvia & Ed Huth** will travel to Guatemala with **First Presbyterian Church of Brighton's mission team** to help build a home for a single mother and provide religious education for village youth.

This year, instead of collecting donated items, we are raising funds to **build the house itself**. Just **\$3,400** provides the cinder blocks, rebar, mortar, tin roof, and skilled local labor needed to complete a 10 x 15 foot single-room home. We will offer unskilled, volunteer labor.

Our goal is to raise \$1,000 toward the cost of the house. Every gift, no matter the amount, will help turn building materials into a home and make a meaningful difference for a family. **Thank you for helping us put our faith into action!**

To learn more, please see **Kathie or Silvia**.

Men's Breakfast Saturday, Oct 3 @ 9am.

Moe's on Ten

39455 W 10 Mile Rd, Novi

Ladies Lunch Friday, Oct 9 @ 11:30 am

Brentwood Grille

43150 Grand River Ave, Novi

If you have a pastoral emergency
Deacon Cleda Smartt
csmartt2010@yahoo.com
(734) 718-4187

BUY NOTHING – Novi MI Group

In-person Fall 2026 Event

Where: Church of the Holy Cross

40700 Ten Mile Road, Novi, MI 48375

(25 tables available indoors; or set up your own outdoors)

When: Saturday, September 26, 2026

Schedule

10:00am-10:30am	Unload and set up items
10:30am-11:30am	Members only "shopping"
11:30am-1:00pm	Open to the public
1:00pm-1:30pm	Clean up and go home

Who: Members of Buy Nothing Novi and Parishioners of Holy Cross

What to Bring: A box or big bag to carry all of the wonderful items that you want to take home!

Why: Keep useful items out of the landfill and build a community based on a gift economy. A gift economy is defined as an exchange system where items are not sold, but rather given freely without expectation of reward.

Prayer Shawl + More = Compassionate Crafters

We're back!! The Prayer Shawl Ministry has returned with a new twist. We are reaching out beyond our crocheters and knitters to all types of crafters. We will continue making prayer shawls, PLUS branch out to others community hospitality gifts. Some ideas include woven sleep mats for the homeless & fleece blankets for the foster system. Please join the new "**Compassionate Crafters**" on the 2nd Friday each month from 10-11:30am. Starting Friday, September 11th.

Blessings to all,
Thone (Tryn) Hinkle

Please pray for:

Peace the world over; for children in war zones, for all soldiers deployed, for all who have been victims of gun violence, for children affected by preventable diseases, for all those who are detained without due process, being housed in inhumane circumstances, for those affected by dangerous weather conditions.

In the Diocesan & Anglican cycle of prayer, St. John's, Royal Oak; Holy Faith Church, Saline. The Anglican Church of Australia.

In our Holy Cross community, Angel, Donna, Ian R; Tim B; Kathy B; Sev; Kyle & Mariah; Wanda & her family; Deb T; Rich, Paulette & Hank; Raul; Minerva; Mike S; John J; Kumiko; Barbara; Lisa; Greta.



Prayer Request



Outreach

Hospitality House Food Pantry Holy Cross' ministry to provide **personal care & cleaning products** makes a great impact on 950 families that are served each month.

The **Social Justice Jar** is currently collecting to help **Build a Home in Guatemala**.

Online Giving

We have 2 ways to give online.

Zelle



Anedot

