



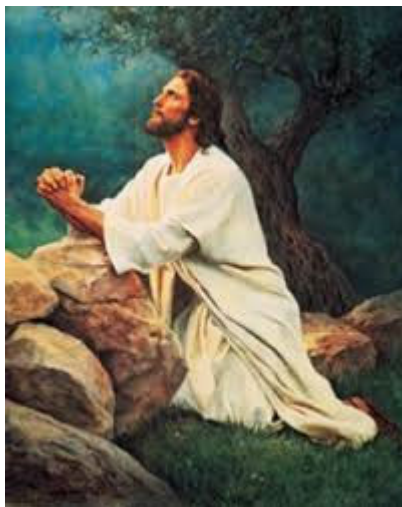
The Hillside Messenger

A Message from the Rector: A Hermit's view of Passiontide and Easter

In traditional Christian teaching about the Church, the corporate nature of the Church is often emphasized since this, rather than an individual view of faith, is paramount in Holy Scripture. Though it is as an individual each of us comes to faith and has a relationship with God the Father through the Lord Jesus Christ in companionship with the Holy Spirit, yet both in the Old and in the New Testament, God's people work out their salvation as a community of faith.

In these times, however, we all must comply with the orders of county and state to shelter at home so that the spread of the COVID-19 virus may be contained; that as many lives as possible be spared; and that the strain on health care resources be lessened. Though in the normal circumstances of life, we have stressed the importance of regular attendance at worship services, we now live a way of life in which at-

tendance at church is impossible (except virtual attendance of services online). One might even say that the secular authorities have gone as far as they can in pointing us in the direction of living a cloistered, or even an eremitical, life. How can this be a good thing, and what



difference does it make to us Anglican Christians as we enter Passiontide, Holy Week, and the celebration of Easter?

One great advantage of this way of life is that we now spend much more time at home, either alone or with our fami-

lies. Spending time with our families is what many Americans need to do, for we have often spent so much time at work away from our families, commuting to work, or on business travel. This is a time in which we must realize that God has given us all our families as a gift and blessing for our lives here on earth. We must hold them close to our hearts and live at peace with them, showing them the love of God which we are commanded to show. Let us remember how our Lord Jesus Christ, dying on the cross, brought a new member into His own family by saying to the beloved disciple, John, "Behold thy mother," and to His mother, "Woman, behold thy son" (*St. John 19:26-27, KJV*), and from that moment St. John took St. Mary into his own home. In these verses we see how the Lord creates a new family in the very process of dying and leaving His own. In these times, we must appreciate God's

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A Hermit's view of Passiontide and Easter

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gift of family to us, as well as His intentions for a happy, loving, and peaceful family life for every family. In this light we should often pray this Blessing on the Families of the Land, as found on page 598 of the *Book of Common Prayer*, 1928:

Almighty God, our heavenly Father, who settest the solitary in families; we commend to Thy continual care the homes in which Thy people dwell. Put far from them, we beseech Thee, every root of bitterness, the desire of vain-glory, and the pride of life. Fill them with faith, virtue, knowledge, temperance, patience, godliness. Knit together in constant affection those who, in holy wedlock, have been made one flesh; turn the heart of the fathers to the children, and the heart of the children to the fathers; and so enkindle fervent charity among us all, that we be evermore kindly affectioned with brotherly love; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Every Christian has the responsibility to root out of his family life bitterness, the desire of vain-glory, and the pride of life; to pray and live to this effect for his family; to show his spouse that love and affection commanded by God in Holy Scripture; to teach sons and daughters the commands and doctrines of the Bible; and to live at peace with the younger and the older generation.

But what if there is no family left at home and one is living alone? This situation may be a very lonely one, but it is also a time in which one can enter deeply into prayer and intercession for the whole of God's family on earth. Indeed, every Christian should use this time to reflect on God's word, to pray, and to intercede for his own family and the family of God, the Church.

The Collect for Passion Sunday (the Fifth Sunday in Lent) asks God to look mercifully upon His people and to govern and preserve them forever, both in body and in soul. How much time do we spend praying for God to govern and preserve the Church? Many of us have not spent enough time praying for God to govern the Church. We wonder why so much has gone wrong in the life of Church and society, and we are prone to criticize instead of to pray. As we begin Passiontide, let us

pray for the Church and all its leaders, as well as all believers, to cooperate with the Lord Jesus Christ's governance of the Church through the Holy Spirit. Let us identify ourselves with the Lord Jesus Christ's intercession for the Church, for example, as we find in *St. John 17*, where Christ prays both for the unity of the Church in Himself and its preservation (verse 11), as well as its sanctification through His own sanctification by dying on the cross (verse 19). The unity of the Church, He prays, will so reflect the unity of God the Father and the Son that the world will know that God sent Him and loves the Church as He has loved Christ (verse 23).

The Shelter in Place Order affords all of us the time to reflect, pray, and evaluate our spiritual progress. Where do we stand with Christ now? Are we obeying His will and following Him as our Lord and Savior? Can we honestly say that we know Him and that He knows us? I remind you of our Lord's warning in these verses:

Not every one that saith unto Me, Lord, Lord, shall enter into the kingdom of heaven; but he that doeth the will of My Father which is in heaven
(Continues on page 3)

***When we walk
with the Lord
In the light of His Word,
What a glory He sheds
on our way;
While we do His good will,
He abides with us still,
And with all who will
trust and obey.
Trust and obey,
For there's no other way
To be happy in Jesus,
But to trust and obey.
Not a shadow can rise,
Not a cloud in the skies,
But His smile quickly
drives it away;
Not a doubt or a fear,
Not a sigh or a tear,
Can abide while we
trust and obey.
Trust and obey,
For there's no other way
To be happy in Jesus,
But to trust and obey.
Not a burden we bear,
Not a sorrow we share,
But our toil He doth
richly repay;
Not a grief or a loss,
Not a frown or a cross,
But is blest if we
trust and obey.
Trust and obey,
For there's no other way
To be happy in Jesus,
But to trust and obey.***

A Hermit's view of Passiontide and Easter

(Continued from page 2)

en. Many will say to Me in that day, Lord, Lord, have we not prophesied in Thy name? and in Thy name have cast out devils? and in Thy name done many wonderful works? And then will I profess unto them, I never knew you: depart from Me, ye that work iniquity.

St. Matthew
7:21-23, KJV

Does the Lord Jesus Christ know us? Of course. Being God, He knows everything about all of us. He is speaking in these verses of having fellowship with us, having a relationship with us, which He can only do if we both believe in Him and obey Him. Now is the time to see to it that we build that relationship with the Lord and that we continue to develop it by trust and obedience.

Those that delight in skipping from Epiphany and Mardi Gras to Easter without observing Lent, Passiontide, Holy Week, and Easter, may feel less inclined to do so under circumstances which confront each of us with his own mortality. In the face of a pandemic, we must all ask the questions, "Am I ready to die now, if God so disposes?"

Am I sure I have eternal life in the Lord Jesus Christ?" If we are not ready, we must turn from our sins with all our heart, believe in the Lord Jesus Christ, and follow Him, and thus we shall be ready. If we are ready, we must face the future with the confidence and trust in God that He gives us. In *Psalm 32:11*, we read, "Great plagues remain for the ungodly; but whoso putteth his trust in the Lord, mercy embraceth him on every side" (page 378, *Book of Common Prayer*, 1928). The word *plagues* reflects the Septuagint and the Vulgate renderings of this verse, and *troubles* or *griefs* the Hebrew Masoretic text. Let each of us find that God's mercy and protection surround us as we trust in Him.

Now, as we come to Holy Week, even if we cannot hold services in our Chapel, we can use the valuable resources of Bible and Prayer Book to "enter with joy upon the meditation of those mighty acts by which Thou hast given unto us life and immortality" (Collect for Wednesday before Easter, page 147, *Book of Common Prayer*, 1928). For every day of Holy Week, our Prayer Book provides a Collect and Lesson from the Passion narrative in one of the Gospels (pages 134-162). I commend these Collects and Lessons to you for your

use in Holy Week. In the absence of services of Holy Communion, I commend to you also the practice of Spiritual Communion and meditation on the Lord Jesus Christ, receiving His Body and Blood spiritually. We should also remember how the Holy Communion takes up the theme of the Passover Festival, in which is celebrated both the Exodus of the Jews from bondage in Egypt and their salvation from the destroying angel by the blood of the sacrificed lamb put on the doorposts and lintel of each family's home. This reminds us that the Blood of the Lord Jesus Christ saves His people from the destruction of God's judgement on sin and gives us eternal life.

Having thoughtfully and prayerfully meditated on these events that led to salvation, we shall be able the better to appreciate and rejoice in the great Easter victory of the Lord Jesus Christ's resurrection from the dead! May God guide each of you to a truly meaningful Holy Week and Easter!

— *The Reverend*
Christopher Parrish

***But we never can prove
The delights of His love,
Until all on the altar
we lay;***

***For the favor He shows,
And the joy He bestows,
Are for them who will
trust and obey.***

***Trust and obey,
For there's no other way
To be happy in Jesus,
But to trust and obey.***

***Then in fellowship sweet
We will sit at His feet,
Or we'll walk by His side
in the way;***

***What He says we will do;
Where He sends,
we will go,
Never fear,
only trust and obey.***

***Trust and obey,
For there's no other way
To be happy in Jesus,
But to trust and obey.***

"Trust and Obey"
composed by
John Henry Sammis
in 1887

Our Chapel Family Prayer List

O God, the Creator and Preserver of all mankind, we humbly beseech Thee for all sorts and conditions of men; that Thou wouldest be pleased to make Thy ways known unto them, Thy saving health unto all nations. More especially we pray for Thy holy Church universal; that it may be so guided and governed by Thy good Spirit, that all who profess and call themselves Christians may be led into the way of truth, and hold the faith in unity of spirit, in the bond of peace, and in righteousness of life. Finally, we commend to Thy fatherly goodness:

Archbishop
Foley Beach;
Bishop
Bill Ilgenfritz;
Bishop
Richard Lipka;
Canon
Michael Penfield;
Father Chris Parrish;
Deacon Peter Vogel; and
Deacon Linda Bracken;
also all those who serve
as Thy ministers in governing our nation and state, particularly:
President
Donald Trump; and

Governor
Gavin Newsom;
as well as all those who
are any ways afflicted, or
distressed, in mind, body,
or estate; especially those
for whom our prayers are
desired:

the soldiers, sailors,
marines, airmen,
police officers,
firefighters, and pilots
who protect us every day;

our persecuted Christian
brothers and sisters
throughout the world;

all refugees;
all who are suffering
from COVID-19
and the medical personnel
treating them;

Jim and Edna Davis;
Estelle Wilson;
Joya de Rossett;
Debbie;
Scott;
Brittany;
James and Tanya Theiler;

Dale Quinn;
Brian Quinn;
Lisa;
Ben;
Marion;
Flo;
Max;

Dan and Kendra Pack;
Ernst Hernandez;
the Stanko family;
Yoshihiko and Hideko

Ikegami;
Lori Anderson;
Ali Hemphill;
Lori Hemphill;
Pennel Magaw;
Tracy Magaw;
Mary Frances Reeves;
Maryanne Sanchez;
Kaitlyn Lindstedt;
Brenda Terry;
Elise;
Thomas and MaryAlice
Dunbar;
Mrs. Kitt;
Jon Carter;
Marilyn;
Frank Capone;
the family of
John Jerrehian;
Dave Joines;
Rose Handwerker;
Ann and Frank MacVoy;
Gary Winiger;
Libby Codd;
Bishop Ilgenfritz;
Karen and her family;
Dave Shuman; and
for all those
who are in our hearts,
that it may please Thee to
comfort and relieve them,
according to their several
necessities; giving them
patience under their sufferings,
and a happy issue out of all their afflictions.
And this we beg for Jesus
Christ's sake. Amen.

***This prayer list
was current as of
March 30th,
and the people
of St. Luke's
will pray for each need
until we are notified
that it has been met.
Please contact
Father Parrish
to add
or remove names.
Thank you!***

Pray without ceasing!

A Prayer for Our Congregation

O GOD,
Holy Ghost,
Sanctifier of the faithful,
visit, we pray Thee,
the Congregation of St. Luke's Chapel in the Hills
with Thy love and favour;
enlighten our minds more and more
with the light of the everlasting Gospel;
graft in our hearts a love of the truth;
increase in us true religion;
nourish us with all goodness;
and of Thy great mercy keep us in the same,
O blessed Spirit,
whom, with the Father and the Son together,
we worship and glorify as one God,
world without end.
Amen.



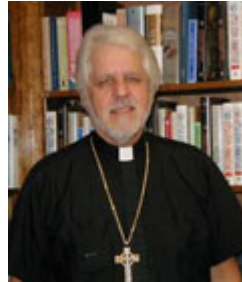
A Prayer for Times of Great Sickness and Mortality

O MOST mighty and merciful God,
in this time of grievous sickness,
we flee unto Thee for succour.
Deliver us, we beseech Thee, from our peril;
give strength and skill to all those who minister to the sick;
prosper the means made use of for their cure;
and grant that,
perceiving how frail and uncertain our life is,
we may apply our hearts
unto that heavenly wisdom
which leadeth to eternal life;
through Jesus Christ our Lord.
Amen.



Parish Postings

Although the 2020 Synod of the Missionary Diocese of All Saints was cancelled due to the novel coronavirus pandemic, one important business item was accomplished by electronic mail. The Right Reverend Richard Lipka was elected by Synod delegates to serve as Bishop Co-Adjutor until Bishop Bill Ilgenfritz retires later this year, after which MDAS hopes to install him as Ordinary. Bishop Lipka's election has been forwarded to the Anglican Church in North America's College of Bishops for their approval.



The Anglican Convocation of the West met by teleconference on Thursday, March 26th, during which the Reverend Christopher Parrish was elected to the MDAS Standing Committee.



While we do not yet know when we will again be able to meet at the Chapel for worship, we can promise that we will let you know when that great day comes.

- ..# The closure notice will be removed from the Chapel door;
- ..# An announcement will be posted on the Chapel's website (www.StLukesChapel.church); and
- ..# Notice will be sent via the Chapel Family e-mail list.



Upcoming Events

At the time of this newsletter's publication, St. Luke's Chapel in the Hills is closed in compliance with State of California and County of Santa Clara Shelter in Place orders to slow the spread of COVID-19. Although we may not come together physically for worship, we can still celebrate Holy Week and Eastertide in our homes knowing we are all connected by the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the fellowship of the Holy Ghost.

Sunday, April 5th

The Sunday Next before Easter,
commonly called Palm Sunday

Monday, April 6th

The Monday before Easter

Tuesday, April 7th

The Tuesday before Easter

Wednesday, April 8th

The Wednesday before Easter

Thursday, April 9th

The Thursday before Easter,
commonly called Maundy Thursday

Friday, April 10th

Good Friday

Saturday, April 11th

Easter Even

Sunday, April 12th

Easter Sunday

Monday, April 13th

Monday in Easter Week

Tuesday, April 14th

Tuesday in Easter Week

Sunday, April 19th

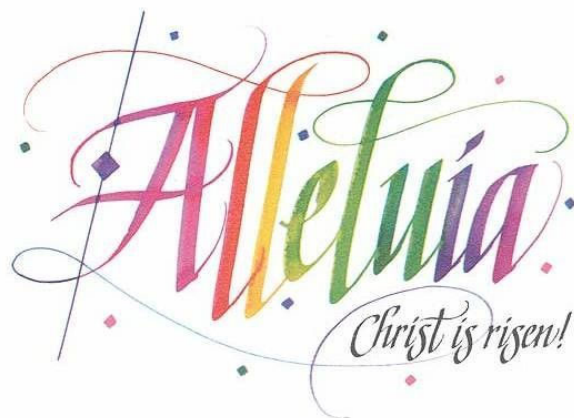
The First Sunday after Easter

Sunday, April 26th

The Second Sunday after Easter

Sunday, May 3rd

The Third Sunday after Easter





The Hillside Messenger

A PUBLICATION OF
ST. LUKE'S CHAPEL IN THE HILLS
ANGLICAN CHURCH

A PARISH OF
THE CONVOCATION OF THE WEST,
PART OF THE
MISSIONARY DIOCESE OF
ALL SAINTS IN
THE ANGLICAN CHURCH
IN NORTH AMERICA

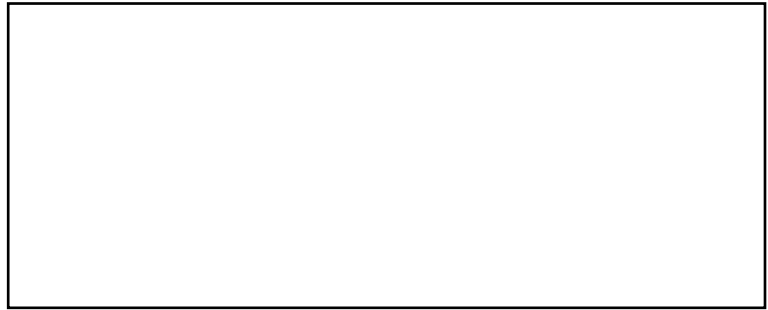
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669-245-9701

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ChristopherParrish7@gmail.com

Website:
www.StLukesChapel.church



Worship Schedule

St.

Luke's Chapel in the Hills is a traditional Anglican parish which uses the 1928 edition *Book of Common Prayer*. We invite you to join us for worship soon!

***"A place
where the Bible is taught."***

*Biblical in teaching.
Liturgical in worship.
Loving in practice.*

First, third, and fifth Sundays of each month

Holy Communion
(with Healing Service on First Sunday)
10:00 AM

Second and fourth Sundays each month

Office of Daily Morning Prayer
10:00 AM

Said Holy Communion
noon

Please note that both services on Feast Days occurring on these Sundays will be Holy Communion.