



The Hillside Messenger

A Message from the Rector: Reflections on Colossians 1:9-14

For four months now, while we have all been sheltering in place by order of county and state, we have had time to pray and reflect on the Lord's will for our live, and to grow in all the virtues which the Holy Spirit desires to flourish and abound in us. Whether we have used it or not, we have been given the opportunity to examine our priorities and the value of our lives in terms of God's eternal purposes and to grow in our knowledge of the Lord Jesus Christ and the Christian faith.

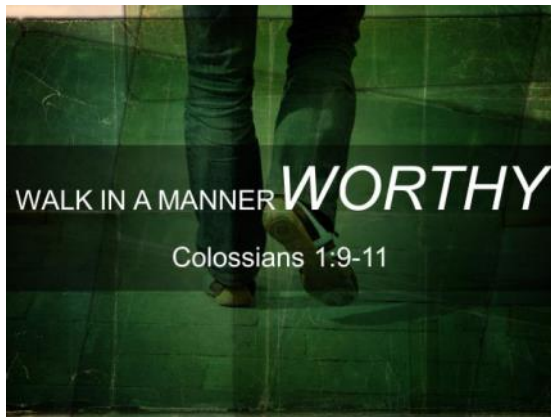
1:9b, KJV). The goal of being filled with the fullness of God's wisdom and spiritual understanding is a life worthy of the Lord and fully pleasing to Him, a life that is fruitful in every good deed and shows evidence of growth in the knowledge of God (*Colossians 1:10*). This knowledge of God and of His will is to be

of every Christian, and it is such a life which reveals a genuine, living faith in Christ, as Article XII of the *Thirty-nine Articles of Religion* states:

XII. Of Good Works.

Albeit that Good Works, which are the fruits of Faith, and follow after Justification, cannot put away our sins, and endure the severity of God's judgment; yet are they pleasing and acceptable to God in Christ, and do spring out necessarily of a true and lively Faith; inasmuch that by them a lively Faith may be as evidently known as a tree discerned by the fruit.

p. 605, *Book of Common Prayer*, 1928



If we think that it is not an urgent matter that we should grow in the knowledge of God and of His will, let us remember how St. Paul continued to pray for the Colossian Christians to be "filled with the knowledge of His [God's] will in all wisdom and spiritual understanding" (*Colossians*

found in God's Word, the Bible, by the guidance of the Holy Spirit, who leads the faithful in all truth (*St. John 16:13*), as He is the Spirit of truth (*St. John 16:13*). What we must realize is that the knowledge of God's will must lead to a life lived in obedience to His will; this is the purpose of all the good works, or deeds,

(Continues on page 2)

Inside this Issue:

Our Chapel Family Prayer List	4
A Prayer for Our Congregation	5
In Times of Great Sickness and Mortality	5
For Social Justice	5
Voices of St. Luke's	6
Parish Postings	8
Upcoming Events	12

Reflections on Colossians 1:9-14

(Continued from page 1)

Not only must the knowledge of God and His will lead to a life worthy of the Lord and pleasing to Him, but also, as we live such a life, our knowledge of God and His will must grow even more. However, if people acquire the knowledge of God and refuse to implement it in their lives, they will, as John Calvin remarked, find themselves “really only wandering about in endless circuits, without making any progress” [p. 304, Parker, T.H.L. (ed.): *John Calvin: The Epistles of Paul the Apostle to the Galatians, Ephesians, Philippians and Colossians*. Calvin’s Commentaries. Grand Rapids, Michigan: Wm. B. Eerdmans Publishing Company, 1965. Reprinted, 1979.] The exhortation that we should all draw from this, Calvin adds, is that we should always progress in the knowledge of God throughout our lives.

It is not only in actively leading a life that pleases God that we must make progress continually, but also in the virtues of endurance and patience with joy (*Colossians 1:11*). St. Paul’s prayer for the Colossians here includes the request that God will strengthen them with all might and power to endure and show patience with joy. It is not only a matter of leading a life pleasing to God in what one thinks, says, and

does, but a matter of enduring patiently all the trials and sorrows of life, including opposition to one’s faith. Every Christian needs the strength and power of God for all this since it is not easy. This reminds me of the following story:

A preacher was repairing the fence around the old country church. He noticed that a small boy had been watching him for some time.

“Do you want to speak with me, son?” the pastor asked.

“Oh, no,” the boy replied. “I’m just waiting.”

“Waiting for what?” the preacher asked.

“Waiting to hear what a preacher says when he hits his finger with a hammer!”

p. 229, *The Big Book of Church Jokes*, published by Barbour Publishing, Inc. Used by permission.

This joke reminds us of how there are observers watching the witness of each of us to see whether we are faithful to our Christian vocation or not. Will we endure trials patiently or react in a way that conflicts with the

high standard of behavior God expects of us?

Now the phrase “with joyfulness” (at the end of *Colossians 1:11* in the King James Version) could instead belong to the beginning of verse 12, which would yield a reading as follows: “with joyfulness giving thanks unto the Father....” The King James Version translators probably thought the passage would make better sense if the phrase “with joyfulness” was added to “unto all patience and longsuffering.” Joyfulness certainly helps us show patience and longsuffering, but it is also appropriately linked to the participial phrase “giving thanks unto the Father.”

When we begin to grasp the reasons for which we are to give thanks unto the Father, we find there is all the more cause for joy in that God has made us fit to share “the inheritance of the saints in light” (*Colossians 1:12b*). How wonderful also for Christians that through the death of the Lord Jesus Christ on the cross and through His resurrection, God has delivered us from Satan’s power and brought us into the kingdom of His dear Son, the Lord Jesus Christ (*Colossians 1:13*). It is in Christ that we have redemption through His blood, the forgiveness of sins (*Colossians 1:14*).

(Continues on page 3)

Reflections on Colossians 1:9-14

(Continued from page 2)

For these marvelous gifts of God that we have received by faith in the Lord Jesus Christ, we should always be thankful. From this thankfulness must flow the offering of a life that is pleasing to God in Christ. This all agrees with the exhortation of St. Paul in *Romans 12:1-2*, KJV:

I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that ye present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable unto God, which is your reasonable service. And be not conformed to

this world: but be ye transformed by the renewing of your mind, that ye may prove what is that good, and acceptable, and perfect, will of God.

This passage in the General Thanksgiving also shows the relationship of thankfulness to a life offered to God:

And, we beseech Thee, give us that due sense of all Thy mercies, that our hearts may be unfeignedly thankful; and that we show forth Thy praise, not only with our lips, but in our lives,

by giving up ourselves to Thy service, and by walking before Thee in holiness and righteousness all our days....

p. 19, *The Book of Common Prayer*, 1928

However restricted our lives may be under Covid-19 rules, we must grow in the knowledge of God and His will, as well as in obedience to His will, including the thanksgiving to God which expresses itself both in praise and thanksgiving to God and a life of serving Him and doing His will.

– *The Reverend Christopher Parrish*

*Now thank we all our God,
With heart, and hands, and voices,
Who wondrous things hath done,
In Whom His world rejoices;
Who from our mother's arms
Hath blessed us on our way
With countless gifts of love,
And still is ours to-day.*

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, coasties,
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,
the medical personnel
treating them, and
all those who work
with the public;
Jim and Edna Davis;
Estelle Wilson;
Joya de Rossett;
Debbie;
Scott;
Brittany;
James and Tanya Theiler;
Dale Quinn;
Brian Quinn;
Mark 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;
Rose Handwerker;
Ann and Frank MacVoy;
Gary Winiger;
Bishop Ilgenfritz;
Dave Shuman;
Patti Conner;
Barbara Busch; 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.

Please note: This prayer list was current as of July 24th, 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!

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.

In 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.

For Social Justice

ALMIGHTY God,
who hast created man
in Thine own image;
Grant us grace
fearlessly to contend against evil,
and to make no peace
with oppression;
and, that we may
reverently use our freedom,
help us to employ it
in the maintenance of justice
among men and nations,
to the glory of Thy holy Name;
through Jesus Christ our Lord.
Amen.

**FEAR NOT,
FOR I AM WITH YOU;
BE NOT DISMAYED,
FOR I AM YOUR GOD;
I WILL STRENGTHEN YOU,
I WILL HELP YOU,
I WILL UPHOLD YOU
WITH MY RIGHTEOUS
RIGHT HAND.
- ISAIAH 41:10**

Voices of St. Luke's

The prayer of St. Francis of Assisi is a favorite of mine. Although he probably did not write this prayer, it exemplifies his life. These beautiful words give me hope and comfort and strength as I leave St. Luke's Chapel, ready to face the challenges of this life.

Lord, make me an instrument of Thy peace.
Where there is hatred, let me sow love; where there is injury, pardon; where there is doubt, faith; where there is despair, hope; where there is darkness, light; where there is sadness, joy. O Divine Master, grant that I 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; it is in dying that we are born to eternal life.

Patsy Zahrt

My favorite prayer is *A General Thanksgiving* on page 19 of the 1928 *Prayer Book*.

The phrasing of it was originally suggested

by a private prayer of Queen Elizabeth I in 1596. But *A General Thanksgiving* was composed by Bishop Edward Reynolds of Norwich (1661-1676) for the 1662 *Prayer Book*. In that *Prayer Book* it was displayed among the *Occasional Prayers and Thanksgivings*, but the American revisers of the 1789 *Prayer Book* made it a regular prayer in the *Daily Office*, and the 1928 revisers kept it there. I like this prayer because it reminds us to be thankful for God's creation and preservation of us, as well as for God's immeasurable love in redeeming the world through our Lord Jesus Christ. It also rightly demonstrates how our thankfulness and praise must result in a life offered to God in service, holiness, and righteousness. For the historical information, I am indebted to p. 19, Massey H. Shepherd, Jr.: *The Oxford American Prayer Book Commentary*. New York, OUP, 1955.

Father Chris Parrish

My favorite prayer would probably be Reinhold Niebuhr's *Serenity Prayer*. A contemporary version reads:

God, grant me the serenity to accept the things I cannot change, courage to change the things I can, and wisdom to know the difference.

Niebuhr's original version reads:

Father, give us courage to change what must be altered, serenity to accept what cannot be helped, and the insight to know the one from the other.

Bill Zahrt

In answer to your request, here is a prayer I like:

Lord God, almighty and everlasting Father, You have brought us in safety to this new day; Preserve us with Your mighty power, that we may not fall into sin, nor be overcome by adversity, and in all we do, direct us to the fulfilling of Your purpose, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Great topic to focus on. Prayer is perhaps greatly under-utilized by people.

Clark Patteson

I don't know if I would refer to these two prayers as my favorites, maybe just important to me. They remind me actually to turn to God, not only in crisis, but that He is with me always. These prayers came to me at different times when I

(Continues on page 7)

This month's question was submitted to our Chapel Family by Father Parrish. He asked, "What is your favorite prayer (excepting the Lord's Prayer)?" These are the answers we received (in the order in which we received them).

Voices of St. Luke's

(Continued from page 6)
seem to have needed God's strength. I hope that they might help others who are in the need for God's help, guidance, and strength to get through difficult times.

The author of this prayer is unknown to me. My sister sent this to me at work one day during a particular period of stress. I, in turn, have sent it to others, and I hope it has helped them as well. (Thank you, Lee!)

This is another day, O Lord. I know not what it will bring forth, but make me ready, Lord, for whatever it may be. If I am to stand up, help me to stand bravely. If I am to sit still, help me to sit quietly. If I am to lie low, help me to do it patiently. And if I am to do nothing, let me do it gallantly. Make these words more than words, and give me the Spirit of Jesus. Amen.

The first part of the *Serenity Prayer* is the part I think we know very well. I looked up the whole prayer because I thought that there may be more than just those first few words. I was correct. The *Serenity Prayer* is by Reinhold Niebuhr.

God, grant me the serenity to

accept the things I cannot change, courage to change the things I can, and the wisdom to know the difference. Living one day at a time, enjoying one moment at a time; accepting hardship as the pathway to peace. Taking, as Jesus did, this sinful world as it is, not as I would have it. Trusting that He will make all things right if I surrender to His will; That I may be reasonably happy in this life, and supremely happy with Him forever in the next. Amen.

Both of these prayers I feel are very comforting. I hope that others feel the same.

Julia McNeely

My favorite prayer is one that began as a cry of my heart for all the people I love who have not yet accepted God's freely-offered gift of salvation in Jesus Christ. I love them, they are important to me, and so I yearn for their salvation and spiritual growth. There is probably a more eloquent version of these requests somewhere out there, but these are the words which rush out of my heart every day:

Lord God, I beg that You will please call to sal-

vation in Christ Jesus [names of people and nations]. I also ask, Lord, that You will please help all these people to find good, strong, Bible-believing churches in which they may actively worship, serve, and learn about You, and I ask all this in Christ Jesus' most holy Name, trusting in His promise that what we ask in His Name, You will grant. Amen.

Kim Vogel

My favorite prayer is the *Prayer of Humble Access* found on page 82 of the 1928 *Book of Common Prayer*. I love it for several reasons:

1. It describes exactly our relationship to God and to our fellow humans. We cannot rely on our own righteousness (no matter how great it may be) but only upon God's mercy. No matter who we are—king, president, emperor, pope, bishop, rich layman, or homeless man—we are **all** beggars under the table asking mercy of God.
2. The reference to Jesus' interaction with the Syrophenician (Greek) woman from

(Continues on page 8)



Voices of St. Luke's

**For September:
Julia McNeely asks,
"What is a
Bible passage
which gives you
comfort or strength?"**

(Continued from page 7)

St. Mark 7:25-29 is a bonus for me because it's one of my favorite passages from the Gospels and teaches us that God's mercy is for **all**, not just a subset of people that choose to believe they are "God's Chosen". God certainly chooses people, but

usually that is for them to serve as messengers, teachers, or examples (good or bad) for **all**.

3. It describes perfectly the blessing of Communion and the *importance* of Communion in the Anglican Church. Our bodies are cleansed through Christ's Body and our

souls are washed by His Blood, making us worthy to enter into God's kingdom (dwell in Him) and for the Holy Spirit to enter in to us as a daily guide (and He in us).

Deacon Peter Vogel

Parish Postings

Thanks be to God! St. Luke's Chapel in the Hills, while continuing to comply with County of Santa Clara Health Department orders to slow the spread of Covid-19, is now able to offer additional opportunities for worship.

Saturday Afternoon Holy Communion 5:00 PM

God willing, weekly celebrations of Holy Communion will begin on Saturday, August 8th. These services will be held outdoors on the grounds of the Chapel. Please note:

- ✘ You will need to let Father Parrish know you plan to attend all outdoor Holy Communion services well in advance so that appropriate safety preparations may be made prior to your arrival.
- ✘ You will need to park on the right-hand side of the Chapel's main doors so that every folding chair is socially distant from the others.
- ✘ Please take a seat in whichever empty chair is nearest the altar upon your arrival, filling in the chairs from front to back, so that every worshipper's space is respected.
- ✘ All attendees must wear face masks.
- ✘ The restroom will be available for hand washing. You may wish to bring and use hand sanitizer before the service begins.
- ✘ Father Parrish will wear gloves. Holy Communion will be administered with sterilized tweezers (intincted wafer only), and the wafer will be placed in the hands of each Communicant. Communicants will come up one by one to receive Holy Communion. Please move to the open space at the rear of the chairs before unmasking to swallow Communion.
- ✘ The service will be a said service with no singing.
- ✘ A sermon will be delivered.

Father Parrish says, "I understand that some will not want to attend a service of Holy Communion under these constraints, but this opportunity is provided for those of you who do wish to attend Holy Communion, provided the necessary safeguards are in place."

(Continues on page 9)

Parish Postings

(Continued from page 8)

Sunday Morning Prayer Services via Zoom 10:00 AM

Our Chapel Family continues to meet via Zoom teleconferencing for Morning Prayer on Sundays at 10:00 AM. Please join us, and invite your friends!

Note: If you prefer not to appear on the teleconference, you can still join us by phoning in to the meeting.

If you are new to using Zoom, the first thing to do is download the **free** Zoom app onto your computer, tablet, or phone. Do this well before the meeting. It only takes a few minutes. Your device should have an internet connection, microphone, and speaker. Your device needs to have a camera if you want to see the group and be seen. Of course, smartphones and most computers already have all of that. On a Mac or PC just go to **<https://Zoom.us/download>** to get the app. To get the app on your phone, go to the appropriate app store and download it.

Father Parrish will e-mail a reminder with the meeting link and password a few days before we meet for Morning Prayer. He will also e-mail the bulletin for the weeks we worship via Zoom. If you have not received an invitation to a Zoom Morning Prayer service, please ask Father Parrish to add you to the list.

Then when it's time to begin Morning Prayer, click on our meeting link. If the site asks for the meeting password, type it in. Type in your name if it asks. The site may ask if you want to connect to the meeting with video or not. Please do. Then it will ask if you want to connect with computer audio; click that, and you're all set.



ReVive! team members will meet via Zoom to watch and discuss the American Anglican Council's "Rediscovering Evangelism" videos. We will meet each Sunday at 2:00 PM beginning August 9th and continuing through September 13th.



(Continues on page 10)

Parish Postings

(Continued from page 9)

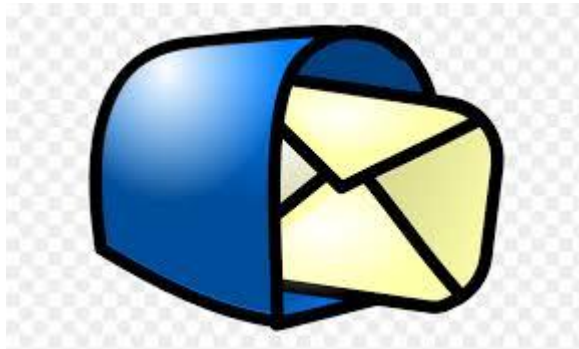
The Vestry will meet on Sunday, August 16th, at 11:30 AM. The meeting will take place via Zoom following Morning Prayer at 10:00 AM and a period of fellowship. Any interested parishioner is invited to attend (just remain on the teleconference from Morning Prayer).



As we cannot pass the Alms Basin during teleconference worship services, please mail your tithes and offerings to:

St. Luke's Chapel in the Hills
26140 Duval Way
Los Altos Hills, California 94022-4413

Thank you!



Our ongoing ministry collecting non-perishable foods for the Downtown Palo Alto Food Closet is particularly important for our neighbors who are financially insecure during the Covid-19 pandemic. If you are able to take grocery donations to the Food Closet, please do. The need is urgent. The Food Closet is open Monday to Friday from 9:00 AM to 2:30 PM (Thursday to 6:30 PM). Donors may bring groceries and distribution items to the Food Closet at 425 Hamilton Avenue in Palo Alto on the All Saints' Church campus. Use the side door which is located to the left of the trash area to avoid the line.

If you are unable to deliver donations, you may send a check to the Food Closet in care of All Saints' Church (please make the check payable to All Saints' Church and write *Food Closet* on the memo line):

(Continues on page 11)

Parish Postings

(Continued from page 10)

All Saints' Episcopal Church
555 Waverley Street
Palo Alto, California 94301



Our dear sister in Christ Paige Terry of Miami, Florida, tells us that her father Jim Jenson has moved from Los Altos to Colorado Springs, Colorado, to live with her brother. She reports that our beloved brother is well and happy at 100, and they both thank us for the love we have shown him through the years. May God bless you, Jim, in your new home!



Upcoming Events

W

hile the Chapel itself remains closed in compliance with State of California and County of Santa Clara Shelter in Place orders to slow the spread of Covid-19, we continue to meet online for Morning Prayer and fellowship on Sundays and have been granted permission to meet outdoors for Holy Communion on Saturday afternoons. Please see *Parish Postings* for instructions on joining us for these services.

Sunday, August 2nd

The Eighth Sunday after Trinity

Office of Morning Prayer via Zoom

10:00 AM

Friday, August 7th

Day of Fasting and Prayer

Saturday, August 8th

Holy Communion on the Chapel grounds

5:00 PM

Sunday, August 9th

The Ninth Sunday after Trinity

Office of Morning Prayer via Zoom

10:00 AM

ReVive! Team Meeting via Zoom

2:00 PM

Friday, August 14th

Day of Fasting and Prayer

Saturday, August 15th

Holy Communion on the Chapel grounds

5:00 PM

Sunday, August 16th

The Tenth Sunday after Trinity

Office of Morning Prayer via Zoom

10:00 AM

ReVive! Team Meeting via Zoom

2:00 PM

Friday, August 21st

Day of Fasting and Prayer

Saturday, August 22nd

Holy Communion on the Chapel grounds

5:00 PM

(Continues on page 13)

Upcoming Events

(Continued from page 12)

Sunday, August 23rd

The Eleventh Sunday after Trinity

Office of Morning Prayer via Zoom

10:00 AM

ReVive! Team Meeting via Zoom

2:00 PM

Friday, August 28th

Day of Fasting and Prayer

Saturday, August 29th

Holy Communion on the Chapel grounds

5:00 PM

Sunday, August 30th

The Twelfth Sunday after Trinity

Office of Morning Prayer via Zoom

10:00 AM

ReVive! Team Meeting via Zoom

2:00 PM

Friday, September 4th

Day of Fasting and Prayer

Saturday, September 5th

Holy Communion on the Chapel grounds

5:00 PM

Sunday, September 6th

The Thirteenth Sunday after Trinity

Office of Morning Prayer via Zoom

10:00 AM

ReVive! Team Meeting via Zoom

2:00 PM





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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ChristopherParrish7@gmail.com

Website:

www.StLukesChapel.church

«AddressBlock»

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.