



The Hillside Messenger

A Message from the Rector: Keeping a Holy Lent

The approach of Lent every year poses the questions of how best we shall keep a holy Lent and how constructively we shall use this penitential season of the Church year to deepen our prayer life, our love for God, and our obedience to Him.

The temptation for those Christians who do not really want to turn more fully toward the Lord Jesus Christ is to let this season pass them by as one scene in the Church's revolving stage of liturgical pageants, treating Lent as something external to themselves with which they have no deep longing to engage except as mildly interested spectators or as actors who assume a role for the duration of a play but do not permanently incorporate in their lives the characters that they portray. Against

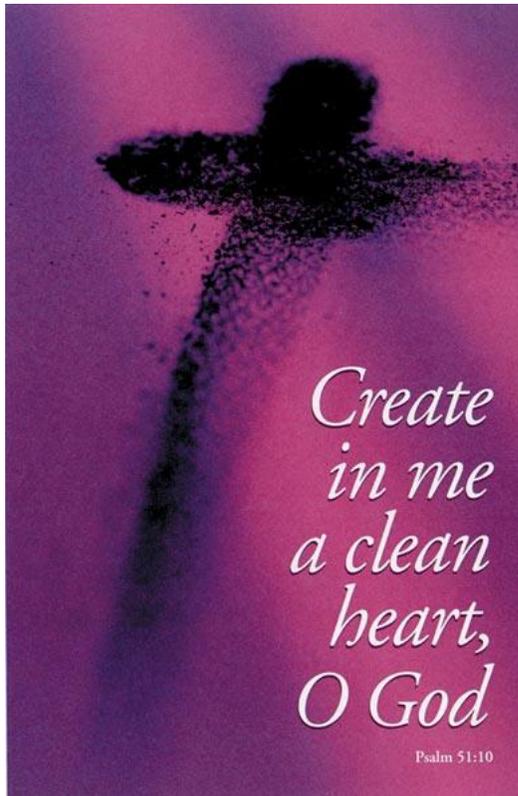
such role-play, the Lord directs His message in *Isaiah 58*, insisting that He takes no delight in the fast that is expressed only in acts of apparent self-

ceases from wickedness (*Isaiah 58:6*) while attending to one's hungry and needy neighbors (*Isaiah 58:7*). The Lord Jesus Christ similarly

exhorts His disciples not to make a show of their religion in front of people when He instructs them to give alms, to pray, and to fast in secret so that they do it not to gain the reward of people's approval but to receive the Father's reward in secret (*St. Matthew 6:1-6*). Christian love and faith is not revealed in hypocrisy (play-acting) but in sincerity, in a relationship with God not entered into to win the approval of men, but rather as a Christian's response to God's love.

During Lent, therefore, God calls every one of us to drop the pretense of being righteous before God and the world and instead

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abasement (sackcloth and ashes), but rather the fast in which one stops oppressing and mistreating one's fellow-man and

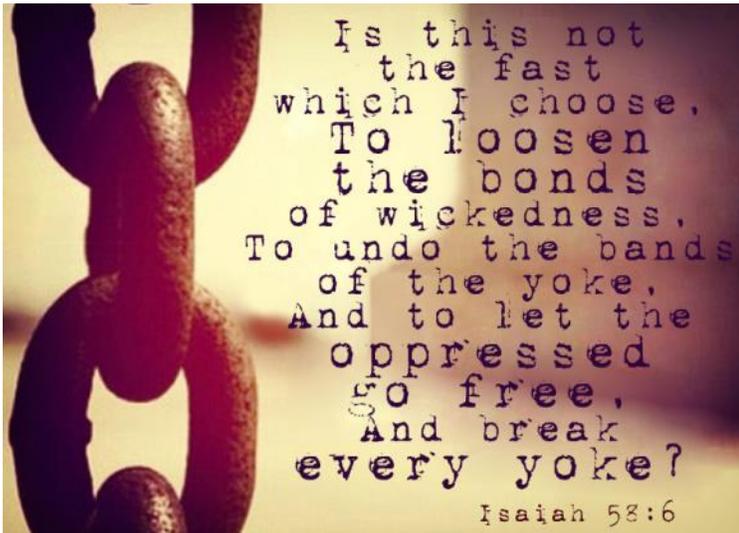
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Keeping a Holy Lent

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acknowledge our sinfulness and let the Holy Spirit peel away the layers of sin that have accumulated in our lives, and bring healing and forgiveness to our souls. In *Psalm 23:1-3* (KJV), the Lord clearly expresses His will to do this for the soul whose Shepherd (Lord and Saviour) He is:

The LORD is my shepherd; I shall not want. He maketh me to lie



down in green pastures: He leadeth me beside the still waters. He restoreth my soul: He leadeth me in the paths of righteousness for His Name's sake.

The Lord is like a shepherd who leads his sheep to green pastures and lets them lie down there and drink from still waters. Restoring the soul and leading it in paths of righteousness go hand in

hand, and the Lord does these things to the glory of His Name and for the love of His people.

Keeping a holy Lent calls for discarding sinful attitudes and habits and all those closely-clinging or besetting sins (*Hebrews 12:1*). Further, it entails embracing and putting on those virtues, attitudes, and habits which are good and righteous, such as the fruit of the Holy Spirit (*Galatians 5:22-23*), all of which will strengthen our relationship with God and be evidence of a living faith (Article XII, *The Thirty-nine Articles of Religion, Book of Common Prayer*).

What we must acknowledge as Christians is how deeply ingrained in us is the tendency to sin. These words from the prophet Jeremiah appropriately describe man's fallen and sinful nature:

The heart is deceitful above all things, and desperately wicked: who can know it? I the LORD search the heart, I try the reins, even to give every man according to his ways, and according to the fruit of his doings.

Jeremiah 17:9-10, KJV

It is imperative, therefore, that each of us cooperates with the Holy Spirit as He searches our hearts and "tries our reins"—that is, discerns our inner

motives. Though we are under grace and not under Law (*Romans 6:14* and *8:2*), if we purposefully persist in sin without repentance, God will recompense us according to the fruit of our doings. God declares in *Ezekiel 33:12-13* that He treats the one who turns from righteousness to sin and the one who refuses repentance in favor of a lifetime of evil the same way: He condemns both.

The reason it is important that we deal with sin in our lives is that we can become hardened by sin and possibly in the end not come to eternal salvation. St. John writes this warning about sin unto death:

If any man see his brother sin a sin which is not unto death, he shall ask [pray to God for them], and He shall give him life for them that sin not unto death. There is a sin unto death: I do not say that he shall pray for it. All unrighteousness is sin: and there is a sin not unto death.

I St. John 5:16-17, KJV

This is one of the verses (the other being *I Corinthians 3: 8-15*) on which Roman Catholic theologians of the Middle Ages based their distinc-

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Keeping a Holy Lent

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tion between mortal and venial sin. For Protestants, all sin separates man from God and results in His judgment. Yet the distinction between sin unto death and sin not unto death should be understood without doubt. Sins unto death are those lasting sins of which the sinner refuses to repent, whereas sins not unto death are less ingrained and the sinner repents of them. What we have to beware of is that

of how any of the seven deadly sins—pride, covetousness, lust, envy, gluttony, anger, and sloth—may be affecting us and the way we treat other people. We can also meditate on the Ten Commandments and the Summary of the Law (see *Exodus 20:1-17*; *St. Matthew 22:37-39*; and their meaning as set out on pages 288-289 of the *Book of Common Prayer*) and how far we fall short of God's standard of obedience to them.

science. For most people the General Confession said at one of our worship services or in the private saying of Morning and Evening Prayer is sufficient, but for some it is not. The Church offers those who need it the Sacrament of Confession—that is, private confession to a priest who gives counsel and absolution.

A holy Lent will be a Lent in which we engage fully in the prayerful process of self-examination



**“May the Lord who
began the good work
in you bring it to
completion.”
May our Lent be a
fruitful one.**

no sin so overcomes our soul and so works its way into the habits of our thought that it becomes deadly in effect.

Therefore, it will be beneficial for us this Lent to examine ourselves with the help of the Holy Spirit. There are various lists of sins in the New Testament (see *Romans 1:29-32*; *Galatians 5:19-21*; *Ephesians 5:3-5*; *Colossians 3:5-9*; and *Revelation 21:8*). We can also look at our lives in terms

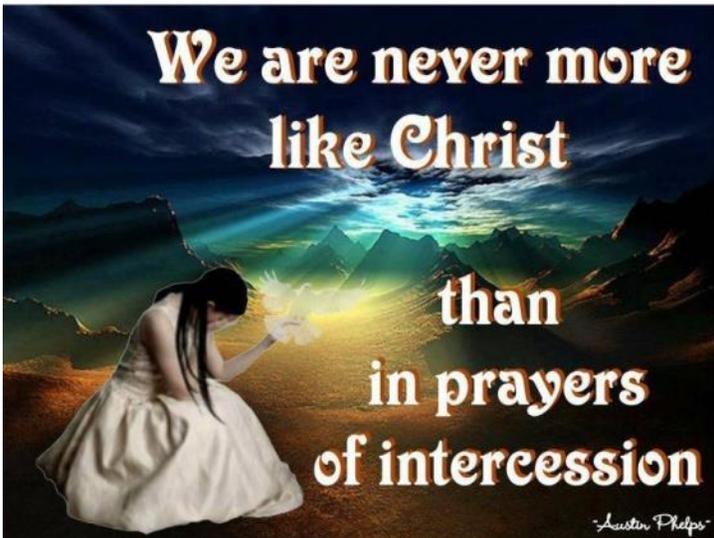
Whatever we do this Lent, we must face up to our sinfulness. We must confess our sins to God, and we must honestly ask God for the grace of repentance and be resolved to lead a new life that is pleasing to Him. Then we must receive with joy and gratitude God's forgiveness. If anyone feels he needs to confess his sins to a priest, he should make an appointment with me. None of us needs to live with an unquiet con-

by the grace of the Holy Spirit; devote ourselves more fully to God in prayer; read and study God's word, the Bible, more intently and regularly; love God wholly; and show God's love to all our fellow men. Let us all wholeheartedly commit to making this Lent a period of enduring spiritual growth.

– *The Reverend
Christopher Parrish*

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;
Canon
Michael Penfield,
our Vicar-General;
Father Chris Parrish;
Deacon Peter Vogel; and

Deacon Linda Bracken;
also all those who serve
as Thy ministers in gov-
erning our nation and
state, particularly:

President Donald Trump;
and

Governor Jerry Brown;

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
adversely affected by the
government shutdown;

Kim Vogel;

Jim and Edna Davis;

Estelle Wilson;

Julia McNeely;

Joya de Rossett;

Sharon De Souza;

Debbie;

Scott;

Brittany;

Chuck;

Don Cottam;

James and Tanya Theiler;

Christian McKagan
and his parents;

Lois Martins;

Dale Quinn;

Lisa;

Ben;

Marion;

Max;

Bishop Richard Boyce;

Dorian;

Kate Ward;

Kendra, Dan,
Emmalyn, and Dayna
Pack;

Ernst Hernandez;

Ray and Elodia Boreham;

Jan Martins;

Louanne Norman;

Reagan and
the Stanko family;

Yoshihiko and Hideko
Ikegami;

Elizabeth Ann
and her husband;

Stephen;

Scott Guinn;

Meghan;

safety on the highways
for all who commute,
especially during
rush hour;

the life and
continuing longevity of
St. Luke's
Chapel in the Hills;

for the repose of the soul
of Tony Brown's wife
Judy and for God's com-
fort and peace for Tony
in his bereavement;

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 suf-
ferings, and a happy issue
out of all their afflictions.
And this we beg for Jesus
Christ's sake. Amen.

Annual Meeting Set for February 11th

Dear Parishioners and Friends:

We are very pleased to announce that the Vestry of Saint Luke's Chapel in the Hills Anglican Church has set the date for our next Annual Meeting of the entire parish. The meeting will be held at the Chapel **Sunday, February 11, 2018 immediately following our Annual Pancake Luncheon which will follow after the 10:00 AM service.**

At this meeting, the parish will be voting, and only members of the parish will be able to vote. Please note: *All those who are not sure if they are members or who have not signed the Tenets of Membership yet, please see Father Christopher Parrish, Deacon Peter Vogel, or Senior Warden, Mark Cameron. If for any reason you cannot attend, we would ask you to designate someone to be your proxy. Please contact Kathy Slattery if you need a proxy form.*

We look forward to seeing each and every one of you on February 11th.

Very truly yours,

Kathy Slattery

Secretary of the Vestry

Saint Luke's Chapel in the Hills Anglican Church

ANNUAL MEETING



Parish Postings

Our Vestry has selected Sunday, February 11th, as the date of our Annual Parrish Meeting. Bible Study will not meet that day, and there will be only one worship service: Holy Communion at 10:00 AM.

The Annual Parish Meeting requires that at least a quorum of the church membership be present to hear various business reports, consider the 2018 budget, and elect Vestry members. Please join us!



As February 11th is also Quinquagesima Sunday, the parish will have its annual Pancake Luncheon in conjunction with the Annual Parish Meeting.



Ash Wednesday, the first day of Lent, is February 14th. Please join us for Holy Communion with Imposition of Ashes at 7:00 PM.



Christopher Freeman, who moved to New York after graduating from Stanford University, sent us this update:

Midtown Manhattan was a bit too crazy for me, so I moved just right across the Hudson where it is a bit more peaceful :). NYC has been a pretty exciting place. I've been learning first-hand why they say this is the city that never sleeps. Everything seems to move much quicker here, but I've been getting used to the change of pace. I just got back from a vacation that my family and I took in Florida. We spent a week visiting Orlando, Cape Canaveral, and St. Augustine and had a pretty good time. It was good timing, too, as I was able to miss the "bomb" cyclone that hit the East Coast. It got really cold, so it was good to be in Florida where it was warm. However, I'm back in New Jersey now

and returned to work today at LinkedIn.

Many blessings
to you all,
Chris



Your brothers and sisters want to hear from you! Please submit any article you feel is suitable for publication in a parish newsletter (please note that Father Parrish is the final judge of appropriate content). Some examples include:

- ministry reports;
- original news items; and
- other articles of general interest.

Kindly send your contributions to Kim Vogel by the 20th of the month.

Thank you!

KimVogel@gmail.com



Upcoming Events

Sunday, February 4th
Sexagesima

Bible Study: Zechariah 12
9:15 AM

Holy Communion
10:00 AM

Sunday, February 11th
Quinquagesima

Holy Communion
10:00 AM

Pancake Luncheon and Annual Parish Meeting
immediately following the worship service

Wednesday, February 14th
Ash Wednesday
St. Valentine's Day

Holy Communion with Imposition of Ashes
7:00 PM

Sunday, February 18th
The First Sunday in Lent

Bible Study: Zechariah 13
9:15 AM

Holy Communion
10:00 AM

Sunday, February 25th
The Second Sunday in Lent

Bible Study: Zechariah 14
9:15 AM

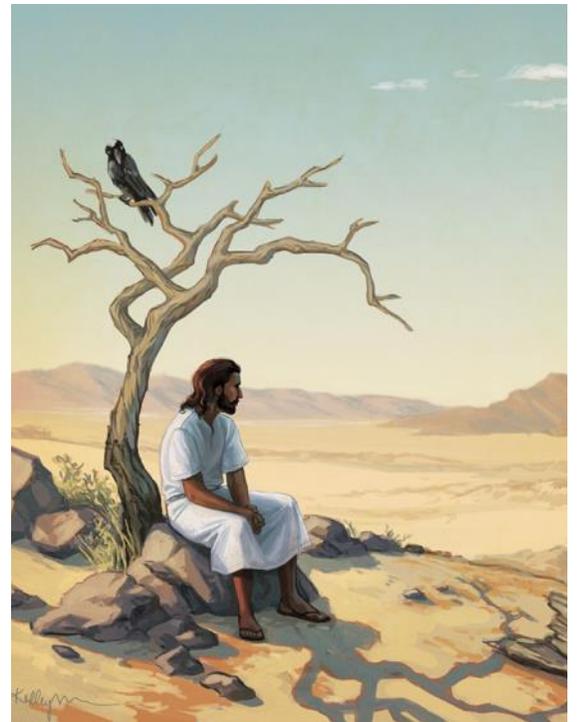
Office of Morning Prayer
10:00 AM

Holy Communion with Healing Service
noon

Sunday, March 4th
The Third Sunday in Lent

Bible Study: St. Mark 1
9:15 AM

Holy Communion
10:00 AM





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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

26140 Duval Way
Los Altos Hills, California
94022-4413

Office phone:
650-941-6524

Rector's cellular:
669-245-9701

E-mail:
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
10:00 AM

Second and fourth Sundays each month

Office of Daily Morning Prayer
10:00 AM

Said Holy Communion
(with Healing Service on Fourth Sunday)
noon

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