



The Hillside Messenger

A Message from the Rector: Independence Day Reflections

The propers for Independence Day were first included in the 1928 Prayer Book; the 1789 Prayer Book had no commemoration of Independence Day since it was a matter of political controversy among clergy during the period immediately after the Revolutionary War as many of the clergy had been Loyalists. In the 1928 Prayer Book, Independence Day is a votive day, or day of commemoration, but in the 1979 Prayer Book it is regarded as a festival. The propers used for the day in the 1928 Prayer Book include *Deuteronomy 10:17-21*, on which I shall now offer a few reflections. Here is the passage:

For the LORD your God is God of gods, and Lord of lords, a great God, a mighty, and a terrible, which regardeth not persons, nor taketh reward: He

doth execute the judgment of the fatherless and widow, and loveth the stranger, in giving him food and raiment. Love ye therefore the stranger: for ye were strangers in the land of Egypt. Thou shalt fear the LORD thy



God; Him shalt thou serve, and to Him shalt thou cleave, and swear by His Name. He is thy praise, and He is thy God, that hath done for thee these great and terrible things, which thine eyes have seen.

In the verse preceding this passage, the Holy Spirit commands the people of Israel not to be stiff-necked, or proud and stubborn. The first verse of this passage states why the people should not be stubborn: the LORD their God is "God of gods, and Lord of lords, a great God, a mighty and a terrible, which regardeth not persons, nor taketh re-

ward" (*Deuteronomy 10:17*). It should be abundantly clear to us today that the authors of the 1928 Prayer Book did not believe these words applied only to Israel. They realized that, just as Israel had a vocation to be obedient to God since it was His chosen nation, so, derivatively, the United States of America has a vocation to be obedient to God since it is "one nation under God". The doctrine of American exceptionalism must be subject to the Biblical doctrine of God's impartiality and His love of

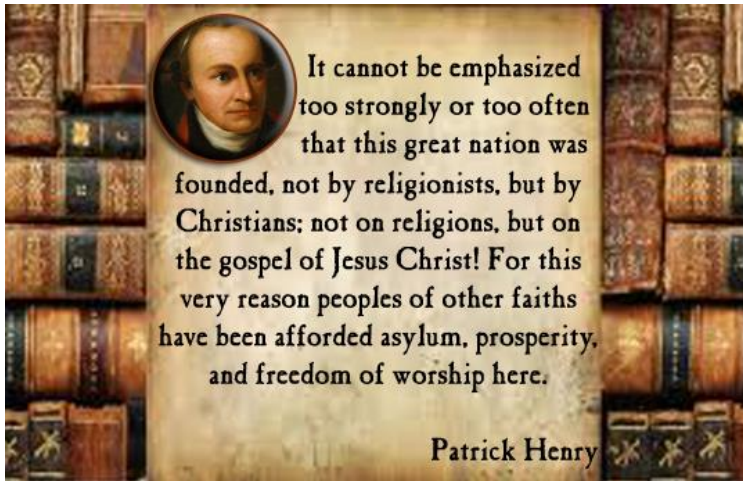
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Independence Day Reflections

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people of all nations. America remains always both the object of God's love and His scrutiny. He is the wholly just, supreme God, who cannot be corrupted with a bribe or influenced to compromise His justice or His holiness. In all our dealings as individuals and in our dealings as a nation with people of other nations, we must remember who God is, to whom we belong as a nation, and the love and justice that



He requires of His people.

God is supremely just. He gives judgment for orphans, widows, and aliens (in ancient Israel these people were often the poorest). He loves aliens, so we should treat these groups of people with justice and love also, including those widowed or orphaned because their spouses or parents died in action in the military or in their duties as police officers or firefighters.

In particular, the command is given to Israel to love the stranger, or alien, since the Israelites themselves were once aliens in Egypt (**Deuteronomy 10:19**). A parallel can be drawn to the citizens of the United States, many of whose ancestors came from various nations of the world to make a new life in this land. Therefore, because God is love, because we are answerable to God as a nation, and especially since many of us are Christians, as God has given us this command, we must love immigrants, aliens, and strangers.

Political ideology in this regard should never outweigh the Biblical imperative to show love to all. If we are to be obedient to God's commands, we should not have any immigration policy that separates children from their parents, because such separation is like making temporary orphans out of children and causes them needless distress and anguish. We must remember always that God loves the alien and gives him food and clothing (**Deuteronomy 10:18**). The Greek word for *hospitality* literally means "love of strangers," and the command to show such hospitality is reiterated in the New Testament (see **St. Matthew 5:46-48**; **Romans 12:13**; **Hebrews 13:2**; and **1 St. Timothy 3:2**, for example) because it is central to the Christian way of life.

As if to remind His people of the motivation for their love and obedience and that no other loyalty should cause them to deviate from full fealty to God, the Holy Spirit adds the command to hold God in awe, serve Him, and be loyal to Him because He is the object of their praise and their God, who has done for them the wonders that they have seen (**Deuteronomy 10:20-21**). Similarly, as we remember all the wonderful things that God has done for us in this beautiful country and all the trials through which He has safely brought us, we must be absolutely loyal to Him, loving Him wholly and not allowing ourselves to be led astray by any worldly ideology or by anyone professing a greater claim on our loyalty and love than God Himself.

Furthermore, we must remember that all the freedoms we currently enjoy were won and are maintained at great cost, the cost of many soldiers' lives in the Revolutionary War and subsequent wars. We must remember with gratitude all who have laid down their lives in the service of the United States of America and all who currently serve in every branch of the Armed Forces. Let us not, by indifference to God and ingratitude for our herit-

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Independence Day Reflections

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age, forfeit the liberties we have received. An egalitarian society in which anyone who works hard can succeed without barriers of race, gender, class, national origin, religion, or economic hardship hampering him is a society to be prized. A community in which Christians of every denomination can gather and worship God freely is a blessed community indeed, for there are countries in the world where Christians dare meet only in secret and where they

are bitterly persecuted for their faith.

Finally, let us pray that the citizens of the United States of America will always remember God's favor and be glad to do His will (Prayer for Our Country, p. 36, *The Book of Common Prayer*, 1928), as well as have the grace to maintain in righteousness and peace the liberties won by their fathers (p. 263, *op. cit.*). Let us also continue to pray for our President, Donald Trump, for Congress, for the State of California, for

Governor Jerry Brown, and for all in authority, that they may seek God's will, know it, and do it.

Independence Day holds reminders of our history, our heritage, our liberties, and, above all, our Christian origins as a nation. Let this be a time in which we pray that many Americans return to God through the Lord Jesus Christ and honor Him through lifelong obedience and service.

— *The Reverend Christopher Parrish*

*Almighty God,
Who hast given us this good land for our heritage;
We humbly beseech Thee
that we may always prove ourselves a people
mindful of Thy favour and glad to do Thy will.
Bless our land
with honourable industry, sound learning, and pure manners.
Save us from violence, discord, and confusion;
from pride and arrogancy, and from every evil way.
Defend our liberties,
and fashion into one united people
the multitudes brought hither out of many kindreds and tongues.
Endue with the spirit of wisdom
those to whom in Thy Name we entrust the authority of government,
that there may be justice and peace at home,
and that, through obedience to Thy law,
we may show forth Thy praise among the nations of the earth.
In the time of prosperity, fill our hearts with thankfulness,
and in the day of trouble, suffer not our trust in Thee to fail;
all which we ask through Jesus Christ our Lord.
Amen.*

Your Article Here

Goals of the Parish Newsletter

The goals of the parish newsletter are:

- to increase awareness of programs within the parish;
- to offer it as a means of building one another up in Christ; and
- to make it available as a tool for evangelism.

In order for these goals to succeed, the newsletter needs to have the voice of the entire parish. We need to hear from everyone!

What is Wanted?

You may 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 – What work has God directed you to do for Him? How can others join or support you in this work? What are the fruits of your labors?
- original news items – Are you beginning a new parish ministry? Have you witnessed God at work in some way you simply must share?

- other articles of general interest.

Another way to participate is to contribute to one of the newsletter's ongoing features, such as:

- Parishioner Profile – Tell us a little more about yourself! Profiles are part personal history, part spiritual journey, and part personal testimony to the power and glory of God— plus, of course, one or more photographs of your choice. The article may be of any length you choose, and a friend or family member may write it if you prefer not to compose the profile yourself.
- Share a Prayer – Everyone is invited to share a favorite prayer, Bible verse, or spiritual quotation with our Chapel family. Tell us why and how the words have had an impact on you.
- Parish Postings – This is the place for brief notices and reminders.

Finally, if you would like to undertake a special series or a regular column, please let Father Parrish know. (*Regular*

can mean anything from a monthly to an annual publication schedule,.)

Notes Regarding Submissions

Please note:

- Father Parrish has final approval of all submissions.
- The editor is not a ghostwriter, but there are people in the parish who will help you if you like. Just ask Kim Vogel for referrals.
- Copyrighted material cannot be reprinted without permission of the copyright holder. Obtaining permission can be a lengthy process.
- The editor assumes permission to edit all submissions (although she promises to do so under God's supervision and with an eye to maintaining the integrity of the original).

How to Submit

The best way to submit an article is to e-mail it to the editor. If you prefer, however, you may always hand her a printed copy of your article or mail it to her home.

Thank you, and may God bless you!

– Kim Vogel

Thank you
MAY GOD BLESS YOU

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;
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
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;
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;
Dale Quinn;
Lisa;
Ben;
Marion;
Max;
Bishop Richard Boyce;
Dorian;
Kate Ward;
Dan and Kendra Pack;
Ernst Hernandez;
Ray and Elodia Boreham;
Jan Martins;
the Stanko family;
Yoshihiko and Hideko Ikegami;
Elizabeth Ann and her husband;

Stephen;
Scott Guinn;
Craig Cameron;
Lori Anderson;
Ali Hemphill;
Lori Hemphill;
Pennel Magaw;
Tracy Magaw;
Lourdes Fernandes;
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;
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 June 24th. Please contact Father Parrish to make corrections.



**The LORD is righteous
in all His ways,
Gracious in all His works.
The LORD is near
to all who call upon Him,
To all who call upon Him in truth.
He will fulfill the desire
of those who fear Him;
He also will hear their cry
and save them.
The LORD preserves
all who love Him,
But all the wicked
He will destroy.
My mouth shall speak
the praise of the LORD,
And all flesh
shall bless His holy Name
Forever and ever.**

Psalm 145:17-21

Parish Postings

Dear brothers and sisters,

This is just a brief note to let you know that our retired Bishop, Richard Boyce, broke his hip and is hospitalized. He has had surgery but remains in serious condition and is currently minimally responsive.

Your prayers are requested.

+ Win Mott



The Vestry will meet on Sunday, July 1st, immediately following the worship service. Interested parishioners are invited to attend.

Vestry

The Bible Study class meets most Sundays at 9:15 AM. All are welcome!



Paul Parrish, B.S.



Congratulations



Upcoming Events

Sunday, July 1st

The Fifth Sunday after Trinity

Bible Study: St. Mark 14

9:15 AM

Holy Communion with Healing Service

10:00 AM

Vestry Meeting

immediately following the worship service

Sunday, July 8th

The Sixth Sunday after Trinity

Bible Study: St. Mark 15

9:15 AM

Office of Morning Prayer

10:00 AM

Holy Communion

noon

Sunday, July 15th

The Seventh Sunday after Trinity

Bible Study: St. Mark 16

9:15 AM

Holy Communion

10:00 AM

Sunday, July 22nd

The Eighth Sunday after Trinity

Bible Study: Malachi 1

9:15 AM

Office of Morning Prayer

10:00 AM

Holy Communion

noon

Sunday, July 29th

The Ninth Sunday after Trinity

Bible Study: Malachi 2

9:15 AM

Holy Communion

10:00 AM

Sunday, August 5th

The Tenth Sunday after Trinity

Bible Study: Malachi 3

9:15 AM

Holy Communion with Healing Service

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

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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.