



The Hillside Messenger

A Message from the Rector: Heavenly Blessings

A hymn written by Johnson Oatman, Jr., begins like this:

When upon life's
billows you
are tempest
tossed,
When you are
discour-
aged,
thinking
all is
lost,
Count your
many
bless-
ings,
name
them one
by one,
And it will
surprise
you what
the Lord hath
done.
— Hymn 563,
*The Hymnal
for Worship
and Celebra-
tion*

The hymn writer counsels the discouraged and despairing Christian to do the opposite of what he feels inclined to do. What

he feels like doing is complaining, perhaps to some sympathetic ear, in the hope that he will receive relief and maybe even a reversal of his situation and a happy outcome. St. James' advice to the afflicted is that he should pray (*St. James 5:13*), and another hymn writer, Joseph Scriven, elaborates on this insight



in his hymn "What a Friend We Have in Jesus" (Hymn 422 in the *1940 Hymnal*) by encouraging the faithful to carry everything to the Lord in prayer. In the first verse of his hymn, he proclaims that we often forfeit peace and bear pain unnecessarily because we do not take eve-

rything to God in prayer. Besides taking everything to God in prayer—a very necessary thing to do—we should also look on the bright side when encountering adversity. When we do this, we are not simply burying our head in the sand and ignoring our troubles and adversities. Having trusted our sorrows and problems to God, we find it helpful to give Him thanks for the blessings He has bestowed on us. The very acts of remembering these blessings and thanking God for them bring a transformation in our attitude to life, so that our

hope is renewed and our patience and endurance are strengthened by the Holy Spirit at work in us. This is the great importance of counting our many blessings.

The first chapter of St. Paul's *Epistle to the Ephesians* encourages

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Heavenly Blessings

(Continued from page 1) Christians to appreciate the many blessings they have received from God. God the Father has blessed Christians “with all spiritual blessings in heavenly places in Christ” (*Ephesians 1:3*). In itself this statement of what God has done is amazing! All the spiritual blessings that exist in the realms of the heavenly places are in the Lord Jesus Christ, and because we are spiritually one with Christ through Holy Baptism, we have received from God **all** of these spiritual blessings. We have them now, although we have not yet experienced the fullness of some of them since the resurrection of the faithful has not yet occurred. Many of these blessings are outlined in the first chapter *Ephesians*. The first of these is that God has chosen all Christians in Christ before the creation of the universe to be holy and blameless in His presence in love (*Ephesians 1:4*). What this means is that, before He created the universe, God chose and destined all believers to be brought to perfection in Christ. Though we are accounted righteous on the basis of Christ’s atoning death, the Holy Spirit is always at work in us, sanctifying us with the goal of one day presenting us faultless before God.

This itself is a truly joyful blessing, for many times Christians are ei-

ther unaware of their many imperfections and sins or they are overwhelmed by the burden of them. The confession of sin in which we participate in daily Morning and Evening Prayer or in the service of Holy Communion brings us an awareness of our many sins and the burden of them. The blessing described above assures us that Christ is bringing us to perfection so that on the Last Day we shall be found blameless before God through the effect of Christ’s sacrificial death and our faith in Him as well as through the inner, sanctifying grace and work of the Holy Spirit.

A second great blessing is that through Christ, and by our Baptism into union with Him, we Christians have been adopted by God the Father as His spiritual children (*Ephesians 1:5*). It is the Father’s good pleasure to adopt as His children all who believe in His Son and to give them eternal life. Further blessings accompany this one, namely redemption from sin and from its power over our lives. This means that, by His sacrificial death on the Cross, Christ has delivered Christians from the power of Satan and sin. Christians are redeemed by the blood of Christ. With this comes the forgiveness of all our sins (*Ephesians 1:7*). What a blessing this is! It means a new start, a fresh life for each one of us!

Forgiveness by God carries with it the responsibility that we in turn forgive one another every sin so that everyone may have a fresh start given them by all their fellow believers as well as by God.

Another great blessing lies in God’s revelation of “the mystery of His will”, at least in terms of His general purpose for Christians and the world, to unite all things in Christ. One implication of this blessing is that all will be gathered out of their separate spheres of existence, denominational churches, races, cultures, and languages and be united as one Church of believers. God’s purpose in uniting all things in Christ is to bring them into the fullness of His love and unity to the praise of His glory. All sources of division in Christendom will go since they have no place in God’s kingdom. In a very fragmented visible Church today, this is certainly a great source of comfort, and it is exciting to see how God is moving among all Christians to break down divisions and bring the unity which is both His gift and His will (*St. John 17*).

A further blessing is that in Christ, Christians have obtained an eternal inheritance, being predestined by God to exist for the praise of His glory and grace (*Ephesians*

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Heavenly Blessings

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1:11-12). Finally, as a guarantee of this inheritance, we have received the promised Holy Spirit (*Ephesians 1:13-14*). The Holy Spirit is our Counselor and Comforter, leading us into all truth and empowering us to bear witness to the Lord Jesus Christ boldly and effectively.

Much of this first chapter of *Ephesians* concerns the spiritual graces we have received as Christians by belonging to the Lord Jesus Christ. It is also instructive to see how this chapter and the two chapters following illuminate and relate to Article XVII “Of Predestination and Election” in *The Thirty-Nine Articles of Religion*, which affirms that “the godly consideration of Predestination, and our Election in Christ, is full of sweet, pleasant, and unspeakable comfort to godly persons, and such as feel in themselves the working of the Spirit of Christ, mortifying the works of the flesh, and their earthly members, and drawing up their mind to high and heavenly things....” I leave the relationship between Article XVII and *Ephesians 1-3* for you to explore. It will be yet another blessing to you!

— The Reverend
Christopher Parrish



I AM BLESSED,
CHOSEN, ADOPTED,
ACCEPTED, REDEEMED,
AND FORGIVEN.

In him we were also chosen, having been predestined according to the plan of him who works out everything in conformity with the purpose of his will, in order that we, who were the first to put our hope in Christ, might be for the praise of his glory.

— Ephesians 1:11-12 —

Measure for Measure

Kim asked me to write a brief article about my favorite Bible verse and, while I have many favorites, the one that came first to my mind today (and who am I to judge the Holy Spirit?!) was *St. Luke 6:37-38*:

Do not judge, and you will not be judged. Do not condemn, and you will not be condemned. Forgive, and you will be forgiven. Give, and it will be given to you. A good measure, pressed down, shaken together, and running over will be poured into your lap. For with the measure you use, it will be measured back to you."

St. Matthew's synoptic equivalent is even more to the point:

For with the same judgment you pronounce, you will be judged; and with the measure you use, it will be measured to you.

St. Matthew 7:2

I have often said that the word *as* is the most powerful and, frankly, **frightening** word in the Bible. Consider the verses above with the Lord's Prayer: ... and forgive us our trespasses **as** we forgive those who trespass

against us. The point is quite clear: God will grant us forgiveness **only** insofar as we are willing to forgive others. Our willingness to forgive the large and small hurts we receive from others around us **every day** is, fundamentally, a **prerequisite** for God to forgive us! And, as in all things, what we do in the small, God multiplies—a good measure, pressed down, shaken together, and running over will be poured into your lap.

But the converse is true as well. If we **refuse** to forgive—if, instead of forgiveness, we measure out bitterness, spite, or even silence? This is where the word *as* becomes so terrifying, because that same packed down and overflowing measure of bitterness and spite will be given back to us.

Beyond the obvious spiritual costs, there are very real daily, personal costs to us as well. Refusal to forgive is a restriction on the freedom Christ has won for us. It is a form of slavery. When we do not forgive those who sin against us, we are giving them control over our emotions, our decisions, our actions. They now run our lives. The word *forgive* means "to set free, to cut loose, to dismiss". When something is forgiven, it no longer has power over us.

Note that Christian

forgiveness does not minimize the offense. Christian forgiveness does not pretend the sin and the pain it caused don't matter, because they do matter. You don't have to downplay the damage done in order to express real Christian forgiveness. Forgiveness does not mean that the one who is forgiven doesn't have to stop sinning against you or that you must put yourself back into a position to be hurt again. Saying "I forgive you" is different from saying "That's okay." You should, at the very least, let the person know **what** they have been forgiven for so that there is an opportunity for repentance and restoration of the relationship. When this opportunity is taken, forgiveness and repentance work to move the relationship forward toward greater fellowship rather than to reestablish a former situation.

Not every person who is forgiven will repent or seek to heal the damage done to the relationship. In this case, remember Jesus' promise in *St. Matthew 18:18* that what we bind on earth is bound in heaven and what we loose on earth is loosed in heaven. We can free ourselves from the bondage of a sin committed against us even when the sinner chooses to remain in their own bonds. We aren't off the hook to

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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.

Measure for Measure

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forgive just because the other person refuses to acknowledge responsibility. Instead of being held hostage until the offender accepts their responsibility for making things right, we can move forward in forgiveness now. Their refusal may make forgiveness more difficult, but we will be released through availing ourselves of every opportunity to forgive. We need to release the bitterness, pain, and resentment in order to find healing for ourselves.

– *The Reverend Mr.
Peter A. Vogel*



I exhort therefore,
that, first of all,
supplications,
prayers,
intercessions,
and giving of thanks
be made for all men;

1 St. Timothy 2:1

Parish Postings

Congratulations to our graduates and their families!

Katy Cummings

Juris Doctor
University of Chicago
Law School
Stanford Law School

Paul Parrish

Bachelor of Science
California
State University
– San Bernardino

Both Katy and Paul will receive their degrees on Saturday, June 16th. May God grant them joy on their special day and abundantly bless them as they begin new phases in their lives!



Please note that Father Chris and Bridgitte Parrish will be away in Ontario, California, from Thursday, June 14th, until Monday, June 18th, to be with their son Paul at his graduation. Kindly ask God for travel mercies on their behalf during their road trip.

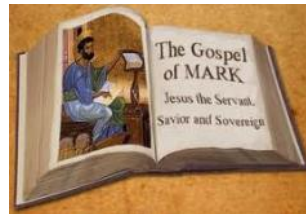


Canon Michael Penfield, Vicar-General of the Convocation of the West, will make his annual pastoral visit to St. Luke's Chapel in the Hills on Sunday, June 17th. Please

join us to hear him preach and celebrate Holy Communion.



The Bible Study class continues its study of the *Gospel According to St. Mark* most Sundays at 9:15 AM. (Please note that there will be **no** Bible Study on Sunday, June 17th.) All are welcome!



There will be no Vestry meeting in June. The next meeting will take place on Sunday, July 1st, immediately following the worship service. Interested parishioners are invited to attend.



St. Paul's Anglican Church in Los Altos has called the Reverend Steven Macias to be their Rector. Because our own Rector Father Parrish will no longer be performing supply duties for their parish, the Healing Service will return to the first Sunday of each month.



The Church of England has said the *Book of Common Prayer* could be crucial to helping dementia sufferers worship God. The Church is speaking as it reviews its methods of ensuring people suffering from the disease, which can include a loss of memory, reasoning, or language skills, are fully included in services. Some older people have the words from the *Book of Common Prayer* ingrained in their minds after years of repetition and can recall them with a clarity and understanding they may not have with other information. The Right Reverend Robert Atwell, Bishop of Exeter, notes, "Many find that the familiar words of worship and the singing of hymns reach into confusion and unlock the gates of memory."

Upcoming Events

Sunday, June 3rd

The First Sunday after Trinity

Bible Study: St. Mark 12

9:15 AM

Holy Communion with Healing Service

10:00 AM

Sunday, June 10th

The Second Sunday after Trinity

Bible Study: St. Mark 13

9:15 AM

Office of Morning Prayer

10:00 AM

Holy Communion

noon

Sunday, June 17th

The Third Sunday after Trinity

Father's Day

Holy Communion

10:00 AM

Sunday, June 24th

The Festival of the Nativity of St. John the Baptist

The Fourth Sunday after Trinity

Bible Study: St. Mark 14

9:15 AM

Office of Morning Prayer

10:00 AM

Holy Communion

noon

Sunday, July 1st

The Fifth Sunday after Trinity

Bible Study: St. Mark 15

9:15 AM

Holy Communion with Healing Service

10:00 AM

Vestry Meeting

immediately following the worship service





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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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.