



The Hillside Messenger

A Message from the Rector:

Easter and the Ascension of the Lord Jesus Christ

Easter tide in the Church's calendar of liturgical seasons represents the time from the Lord Jesus Christ's resurrection until His ascension into heaven. It is a time during which the risen Lord Jesus showed Himself to His disciples on a number of occasions, of which only a few are recorded in the Gospel accounts. A single verse in the Prologue to the **Book of Acts** indicates this:

To whom also He showed Himself alive after His passion by many infallible proofs, being seen of them forty days, and speaking of the things pertaining to the kingdom of God.

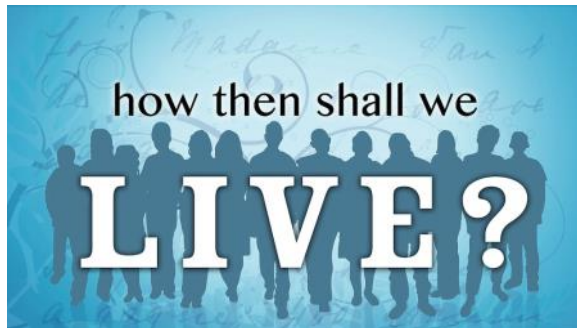
Acts 1: 3, KJV

Acts 1:2 records that the Lord Jesus Christ through the Holy Spirit

gave commandments to the disciples before His ascension into heaven. One of these was the Great Commission to preach the Gospel and baptize people of all nations, making disciples of them and teaching them to observe all He had commanded (*St. Matthew 28:18-20*). Another was the command that they should stay in Jerusalem,

pose of His sufferings; to live out the truths of His resurrection, His ascension, and future second coming to judge the world; and to practice and teach the doctrines and commandments that He taught.

The Lord's post-resurrection appearances to His disciples and His teachings and commandments to them during this period amount to His preparation of them to act as His witnesses in the world, multiplying the number of disciples and growing the Church. The gift of the Holy Spirit to the Church was to strengthen,



waiting for the promise of the Father, the baptism of the Holy Spirit (*St. Luke 24:49; Acts 1:5*). Repentance is an essential part of the Gospel, and so it was to be preached, together with remission of sins (*St. Luke 24:47*). The disciples would be empowered by the Holy Spirit to be witnesses to the Lord Jesus Christ; to share the nature and pur-

empower, and embolden them for the tasks of witnessing, sharing the Gospel, preaching it, teaching new disciples the Christian faith, and persevering in doing all this in the face of opposition and even severe persecution. Ultimately the Holy Spirit strengthens Christians to bear witness even if

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Easter and the Ascension of the Lord Jesus Christ

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they have to suffer and die because of their faith in the Lord Jesus Christ. If we consider the faith of the early Christians, we shall certainly be impressed by the vigor of their witness to the Lord Jesus Christ, by their supreme loyalty to Him at all costs, by the fervor of their devotion to Him, and by their love for one another. If we read and study the passages in the Gospels and the *Book of Acts* that refer to this time between Easter and the Ascension, we shall surely perceive that our Lord did not found a Church which He intended to fade away on this earth. He founded one which would grow, increase, and be strong in its love and faith. He did not leave His disciples with a recipe for Church failure and dying of faith, but with the faith that would lead to a living, growing Church. He intended the Church to grow by the continual witness of His disciples in word and deed, by their life and teaching.

Almost two thousand years later the universal Church not only exists but is constantly growing, although there are branches of the visible Church on earth that are not growing as they should. Each of us should examine himself to see whether we are living the Christian faith as we ought. St. Paul commands this in *II Corinthi-*

ans 13:5 (KJV):

Examine yourselves, whether ye be in the faith; prove your own selves. Know ye not your own selves, how that Jesus Christ is in you, except ye be reprobates?

This verse directs us to examine our lives to see if we are living according to the Christian faith as we have received it. This is the Christian faith as recorded in the New Testament, as read about and preached in churches. Are we being obedient to all that the Lord Jesus Christ commanded His disciples as written in the Gospel accounts and in the teaching of the Apostles in their epistles? Nothing must be permitted to choke our love for the Lord Jesus Christ or our loyalty to Him and faith in Him. The secularism, materialism, hedonism, and individualism of the present age are insidious: They try to infiltrate our thinking in so many ways, attempting to persuade us that this is a world in which money, work, and pleasure rule, a world in which there is no place for God or for the Gospel of the Lord Jesus Christ. These pervasive ideologies eventually all contribute to the idea that there is no purpose or relevance for Christian witness, since each individual must be left to exercise his own freedom of will in choosing his own religion, philosophy, or belief sys-

tem. This even affects the Christian tradition of parents teaching the faith to their children and bringing them up in the knowledge of God. When that tradition breaks down and the breakdown of faith is aggravated by increasing cultural divisions between older and younger generations, the conditions are right for diminishing communities of Christian believers in those parts of the world where these ideologies hold sway.

Traditional Christian communities such as our own must return and hold fast to the first principles of Christian worship and witness in order to reverse a tendency to decline so that we will grow instead. One of the great principles each of us must embody in our lives is repentance. We must set the example of repentance in all areas of speech and conduct so that when we call others to repentance our witness may be authentic and powerful. At the same time, we must set an example of forgiveness by forgiving everyone of all wrongs we have suffered at their hands. We must see to it that we have no sin festering within us which will affect both ourselves and the Christian community to which we belong. We are saved by grace and faith alone, but God calls each of us to practice righteousness

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in our lives. This is well expressed in the Easter Anthems (pages 162-163, *Book of Common Prayer*, 1928), which combine *I Corinthians 5:7*, *Romans 6:9*, and *I Corinthians 15:20*. In the first of these quotations we read:

Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us: therefore let us keep the feast,

Not with old leaven, neither with the leaven of malice and wickedness; but with the unleavened bread of sincerity and truth.

A little further on in the Easter Anthems we encounter a similar exhortation:

For in that he died, he died unto sin once: but in that he liveth, he liveth unto God.

Likewise reckon ye also yourselves to be dead indeed unto sin, but alive unto God through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Such verses do not imply that righteousness is only a matter of God regarding believers as righteous; rather, they clearly show that sincerity, truth, righteousness, and being dead to sin must all characterize the

Christian life. The Church has brought these Scripture passages together in the Easter Anthems to remind us all of the moral and spiritual meaning of Christ's death and resurrection for the way we conduct our lives in this world. "Dead indeed unto sin, but alive unto God through Jesus Christ our Lord" means that we have yielded ourselves wholly to the Lord Jesus and that sin has no more place in our lives. Once we have committed ourselves to the Lord in this way, we must live the rest of our lives in wholehearted love for God and love others as we love ourselves. This is the position from which we can share Christ's Gospel of repentance, grace, faith, and forgiveness authentically and effectively.

The Lord Jesus Christ's ascension into heaven leaves the disciples continuing in prayer, praise, and worship as they await the coming of the Holy Spirit at Pentecost. The ascension of Christ shows the power of the resurrection of Christ and of the Gospel with which the Church has been entrusted. He entrusted this Gospel as a sacred deposit, a treasure for the Church Militant to guard for as long as she continues on earth. She has this Gospel in order to keep it uncorrupted and undefiled in passing it from generation to generation. We have a responsibility as members of the

Church not only to teach and preach the Biblical Gospel but to communicate it so well that all who receive it learn how they must in turn teach it to the next generation so that they will deliver it in its purity to the following generation, and so forth. Never did Christ intend for one generation to hold on to the Gospel without passing it on, nor did He intend for it to be adulterated or corrupted with false doctrines in its transmission. Each of us must return again and again to the riches of the written word of God as the Church has received it, praying also in the Spirit always, so that our knowledge of the Gospel we share may grow in clarity and grace and that we may always be ready to account for the hope that is within us (*I St. Peter 3:15*).

In conclusion, can you affirm that you are a faithful witness to the Lord Jesus Christ and a faithful guardian of the Gospel given us in the Holy Bible? If so, will you ask God to help your witness grow to bring others to salvation in Christ Jesus? If not, will you now repent, pray for forgiveness, and ask God to help you as you commit yourself to Him, His Church, and His service?

— *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 Beach;
Bishop Ilgenfritz;
Canon Penfield,
our Vicar-General;
Father Parrish;
Deacon Vogel; and
Deacon Bracken;

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;
Estelle Wilson;
Julia McNeely;
Joya de Rossett;
Louise Xavier;
Sharon De Souza;
Debbie;
Scott;
Brittany;
Chuck;
Don Cottam;
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;
Helen Vanderberg;
Ray and Elodia Boreham;
Jan Martins;
Louanne Norman;
Reagan and
the Stanko family;
Trevor Ezell
and his family;
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 April 28th. Please contact Father Parrish to make corrections.



Provincial Assembly Announcement



Provincial Assembly 2017

WHEATON, ILLINOIS · JUNE 27-30

Join over 1000+ Anglican leaders and pastors. Tracks for youth, Latino ministry, campus outreach, multi-ethnic ministry, healing prayer, and many more.

LEARN MORE AND REGISTER TODAY AT

MissionOnOurDoorstep.com

#Anglican2017



ARCHBISHOP FOLEY BEACH

The Anglican Church in North America gathers once every three to five years at its Provincial Assembly to be together "as Church." This gathering is open to everyone and will be a wonderful time of worship, fellowship, teaching, and training from some of the best spiritual leaders in North America and the larger Anglican world. I invite you to come as an individual, or bring a group from your congregation. I hope to see you there!

SPEAKERS



ED STETZER



BENJAMIN KWASHI



LOUIE GIGLIO



LISA ESPINELI CHINN



MICHAEL NAZIR-ALI



DAVE FERGUSON



TITO ZAVALA



M. DANIEL CARROLL RODAS



MIGUEL UCHOA

Challenge

I have been **most** concerned about the loss of membership at the Chapel. I have been wondering what are we missing that does not attract new members. People I speak with, tell me it is happening in all churches. This make me rise to the occasion. I need to do something. I want to share with others what the Chapel has to offer and how important the Chapel in the Hills is to me and to those who are a part of it.

I have been very proud to hear our Church referred to as “...*those renegades*”. I took it as an honor. I believed it meant we were doing what God was guiding us



to do in following His Word. I always thought that it meant we are special.

We are special, every person in our church makes it special. I am proud of our humble beginnings and of what we have achieved through the years. Each member of our Church contributes to what makes our House of God what we are. We have an obligation to keep our Church strong; it is not just up to one or two people. We all need to tap into even the smallest little thing that will contribute to keeping our Church on the solid ground of **faith**.

One part of our Chapel’s charm is unique to our location. It is a

peaceful, thoughtful place for reflection and contemplation. I do believe it is a place of healing. I also believe that God is with us in this place of worship.

I have made it my mission this year to invite people to see how special we are and to share with others what God has to offer them at the Chapel in the Hills. We have a lot to offer. I encourage others to join me in this challenge.

This is God’s House. Yes, God is with us every day, but, sometimes I truly believe that God appreciates it when we come to **His House** to share what He is doing in our lives.

– Julia McNeely

Parish Postings

On Sunday May 21st, as many as can help after the service are asked to transfer sacristy vestments, vessels, and paraments from the Chapel to the Nursery and deal with items in the fridge in preparation for the fumigation of the Chapel from Monday, May 22nd, until Wednesday, May 24th.

Because of the fumigation of the Chapel, the 7:00 PM Ascension Day Holy Communion service scheduled for **Thursday, May 25th**, is cancelled.

NO SERVICE



The Very Reverend Canon Michael A. Penfield, Vicar-General of the Convocation of the West, will make a pastoral visit to St. Luke’s Chapel in the Hills on **Sunday, June 4th**, to celebrate Holy Communion and preach. Please invite your fiends to join us in welcoming him back to the Chapel!

Joanna’s Circle, a women’s group which meets for prayer, fellowship, and mutual support in living the Christian life, has temporarily suspended its monthly meetings. Please contact Julia McNeely if you have any questions.



Upcoming Events

Sunday, May 7th: The Third Sunday after Easter Day

Emergency Food Pantry Collection Day

Bible Study: Amos

9:15 AM

Holy Communion with Healing Service

10:00 AM

Vestry Meeting

immediately following the worship service

Sunday, May 14th: The Fourth Sunday after Easter Day

Mothers' Day

Bible Study: Amos

9:15 AM

Office of Daily Morning Prayer

10:00 AM

Holy Communion

noon

Sunday, May 21st: The Fifth Sunday after Easter Day

Rogation Sunday

Bible Study: Amos

9:15 AM

Holy Communion with Blessing of the Chapel Gardens

10:00 AM

Transfer of Church Goods in Preparation for Fumigation

immediately following the worship service

Monday, May 22nd through Wednesday, May 24th

Fumigation of the Chapel

Thursday, May 25th: Ascension Day

Due to the fumigation of the Chapel, there will be no worship service this day.

Sunday, June 4th: Pentecost, commonly called Whitsunday

Pastoral Visit by Convocation of the West Vicar-General

the Very Reverend Canon Michael Penfield

Emergency Food Pantry Collection Day

Bible Study: Amos

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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«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 Sunday of each month

Holy Communion with Healing Service
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.

Third and fifth Sunday each month and Feast Days

Holy Communion
10:00 AM