



# The Hillside Messenger

## A Message from the Rector: Reflections on the Communion of the Saints

The topic for this article is the communion of the saints, which we particularly remember on All Saints' Day every year, as the Collect for All Saints' Day illustrates:

O Almighty God, who has knit together Thine elect in one communion and fellowship, in the mystical body of Thy Son Christ our Lord; Grant us grace so to follow Thy blessed Saints in all virtuous and godly living, that we may come to those unspeakable joys which Thou hast prepared for those who unfeignedly love Thee; through the same Thy Son Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

-p. 256, *The Book of Common Prayer*, 1928

The collect is a useful starting point in considering the doctrine of the communion of the saints in that in it Almighty God is credited with uniting all His chosen people "in one communion and fellowship, in the mystical body" of His Son, the Lord Jesus Christ. The whole family of God has come into being by God's



will and creative power, and in God's eyes, there is only one communion and fellowship of the faithful who make up the mystical body of His Son, the Lord Jesus Christ.

What then are we to make of all the divisions in the visible Church on earth? While these divisions have come into be-

ing throughout history, some of them being based on legitimate differences in doctrine, human sinfulness and the imperfections of human understanding have played their part. Though the multiplicity of divisions in the visible Church can be a source of despondency, the doctrine of the communion of the saints

holds great hope for all believers. Why is this so?

Firstly, it is Almighty God who has brought His people to new birth by the Holy Spirit, through the living and enduring Word of God, the Lord Jesus Christ, whose Gospel they have heard, believed, and received. God is the master builder of His household, the Church, in which He lives through Christ and indwells every member, causing each one to grow and the whole Body of Christ to grow into a holy temple (*Ephesians 2:19-22*). Every Christian has

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# Reflections on the Communion of the Saints

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his place in the mystical Body of the Lord Jesus Christ through the redeeming death of Christ and the creative power of God at work through the Holy Spirit.

Secondly, it is the life of the Holy Spirit continually given to all the saints as they abide, or dwell, in the Lord Jesus Christ (*St. John 15:1-11*), by which they are sus-

tained. It is important that each of us abides, or stays, in the Lord by listening to Him, receiving His word, and obeying Him. If we do not abide in Him, we shall be cast out of the True Vine (the Lord Jesus Christ) and destroyed (*St. John 15:6*). Such people will lose their place in the communion of the saints. While we pray for all our brothers and sisters that no one will lose his salvation and that everyone who is a believer will have eternal life forever in communion with the Lord Jesus, and while we pray that many more will come to salvation and turn to the Lord, we cannot be sure who will still in the end belong to the communion of the saints. Like St. Peter after breakfast with the Lord at the Sea of Galilee, some of

us tend to ask the Lord about our fellow-Christians, "What shall this man do?" (*St. John 21:21*). Instead, each one must concentrate on following the Lord and working out his own salvation (*Philippians 2:12*).

The doctrine of the communion of the saints includes our belief that all believers, including those who have died, are in, or with, the Lord Jesus Christ and therefore in

communion with Him. For this reason, St. Paul refers to the Christian dead as

## communion

noun

*intimate fellowship or rapport*

those who "sleep in Jesus" (*I Thessalonians 4:14*); they will rise from the dead first upon the Lord's return and will meet Him in the air, followed by all the faithful who remain alive at Christ's coming (*I Thessalonians 4:17*). Because of the prospect of this extremely joyful meeting with the Lord Jesus, believers should not continue in sorrow concerning any loved ones who have died as believers. Instead, we rejoice because we share with them the glorious hope of

the resurrection of the dead.

Thirdly, the communion of the saints inspires Christians on earth to run the great race of the Christian life, laying aside every besetting sin, looking to Jesus, "the author and finisher of our faith," and determined to persevere to the end (*Hebrews 12:1-2*). The examples of the saints' lives inspire us, the prayers of the saints strengthen us in Christ, and the consciousness of our spiritual unity with all the faithful throughout the world, including those who gladly endure greater trials than we do, is a blessing to us.

## saints

noun

*the full complement of Christians past, present, and future*

Finally, All Saints' Day gives us an opportunity for reflection on our own faith. Are we satisfied with our devotion to the Lord Jesus Christ? Are we following Him as we ought? Can anyone say of any us, "I wish I lived a life as devoted to Christ as he does!" A young child in a Christian school who keeps a notebook of her classmates' prayer requests and checks off each answered prayer can teach us to take intercession for others more seriously. A Christian teach-

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## *Reflections on the Communion of the Saints*

*(Continued from page 2)*

er's patience, love, and gentleness with the young students in her first grade class can inspire us to practice these virtues more effectively. An African parishioner who walks miles to church, even when it rains, can surely be an example to us of regular and committed church attendance. In all aspects of our lives we must prove ourselves to be those who love God sincerely. The Collect for

the Thirteenth Sunday after Trinity is a useful prayer for this purpose:

Almighty and merciful God, of whose only gift it cometh that Thy faithful people do unto Thee true and laudable service; Grant, we beseech Thee, that we may so faithfully serve Thee in this life, that we fail not finally to attain Thy heavenly promis-

es; through the merits of Jesus Christ our Lord.

– p. 207, *Book of Common Prayer*,  
1928

People may want to be remembered for many great achievements, but how about being remembered for practicing Christian virtues and for showing the love of Christ for which many are inwardly yearning?

– *The Reverend Christopher Parrish*

## *God Bless Those Who Serve*

Almighty God,  
we thank You for all the men and women  
who have answered our nation's call to serve in the armed forces.  
Please, Father, bless them all.  
Grant peaceful rest to those who have fallen;  
physical and spiritual healing to those who have been wounded  
in body, mind, or spirit;  
and protection to those on active duty.  
Lead us as individuals and a nation  
to honor our veterans and servicemembers  
with the gratitude due their sacrifices  
of time, talent, strength, health, and ambition made on our behalf.  
Lord, we pray that You will also pour out these blessings  
on all the families of our servicemembers,  
for they, too, are in service to our country.  
May Your peace, which passes all understanding,  
surround and sustain all those who serve or have served.  
We thank You, Lord, for blessing us through them,  
and we ask these additional gifts of Your grace  
in Christ Jesus' holy Name.  
Amen.



## 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;  
 Jim and Edna Davis;  
 Estelle Wilson;  
 Joya de Rossett;  
 Sharon De Souza;  
 Debbie;  
 Scott;  
 Brittany;  
 Don Cottam;  
 James and Tanya Theiler;



Christian McKagan  
 and his parents;  
 Dale Quinn;  
 Lisa;  
 Ben;  
 Marion;  
 Max;  
 Dorian;  
 Dan and Kendra Pack;  
 Ernst Hernandez;  
 the Stanko family;  
 Yoshihiko and Hideko  
 Ikegami;

Elizabeth Ann  
 and her husband;  
 Stephen;  
 Lori Anderson;  
 Ali Hemphill;  
 Lori Hemphill;  
 Pennel Magaw;  
 Tracy Magaw;  
 Lourdes Fernandes;  
 Mary Frances Reeves;  
 Maryanne Sanchez;  
 Kaitlyn Lindstedt;  
 Pamela;  
 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 November 4th. Please contact Father Parrish to make corrections.

## Parish Postings

The Vestry will meet Sunday, November 18th, immediately following the worship service. All interested parishioners are invited to attend.

# Vestry



This Thanksgiving Day will mark the 54th anniversary of the first worship service conducted at the Chapel in the Hills (now known as St. Luke's Chapel in the Hills Anglican Church). Please join your Chapel Family on Thursday, November 22nd, to thank God for all His blessings. Holy Communion will be celebrated at 11:00 AM.

There will be a Work Party on Saturday, December 1st, to prepare the Chapel for Advent and Christmas. We will clean the sanctuary, perform any necessary maintenance or gardening tasks, and decorate the Chapel and McNeely Hall. The Work Party begins at 10:30 AM.



The Church's liturgical new year begins on the First Sunday in Advent, December 2nd. It is the custom of St. Luke's Chapel in the Hills that the children in the congregation bring forward the figures of the creche as part of this day's worship service. Please join us for this special event! The Order for Holy Communion begins at 10:00 AM.

The Vestry has selected the Shasta Regional Community Foundation as our Fall Community Missions Project. The goal is to collect funds to make a donation to this group for disaster relief in aid of victims of the Carr Fire. For more information, please visit



[www.ShastaRCF.org](http://www.ShastaRCF.org).

When you donate for this project, please write *Shasta RCF* on your offertory envelope or check memo line. Thank you!

## *Upcoming Events*

### **Sunday, November 4th**

All Saints' Day observed  
The Twenty-third Sunday after Trinity

*Bible Study: Ecclesiastes 5*

9:15 AM

*Holy Communion with Healing Service*

10:00 AM

### **Tuesday, November 6th**

Election Day

### **Sunday, November 11th**

The Twenty-fourth Sunday after Trinity  
Veterans' Day

*Bible Study: Ecclesiastes 5*

9:15 AM

*Office of Morning Prayer*

10:00 AM

*Holy Communion*

noon

### **Sunday, November 18th**

The Twenty-fifth Sunday after Trinity

*Bible Study: Ecclesiastes 6*

9:15 AM

*Holy Communion*

10:00 AM

*Vestry Meeting*

immediately following the worship service

### **Thursday, November 22nd**

Thanksgiving Day  
St. Luke's Chapel in the Hills' 54th anniversary

*Holy Communion*

11:00 AM

### **Sunday, November 25th**

The Sunday Next before Advent

*Bible Study: Ecclesiastes 7*

9:15 AM

*Office of Morning Prayer*

10:00 AM

*Holy Communion*

noon

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## *Upcoming Events*

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### **Saturday, December 1st**

*Work Party  
to prepare the Chapel  
for Advent and Christmastide  
10:30 AM*

### **Sunday, December 2nd** The First Sunday in Advent

*Bible Study: **Ecclesiastes 8**  
9:15 AM*

*Holy Communion  
with Presentation of the Creche  
and 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.