



The Hillside Messenger

A Message from the Rector: Stewardship: Redeeming the Time

This is the first of a series of articles on stewardship. In this series, I examine from a Christian point of view the use of time, the use of our abilities and spiritual gifts, and the use of our financial resources. In this article I shall look at our use of time, in particular the time that we set aside for activities other than our daily work. The use of time is very important to God. In tune with this, St. Paul writes:

See then that ye walk circumspectly, not as fools, but as wise, redeeming the time, because the days are evil. Wherefore be ye not unwise, but understanding what the will of the Lord is.

Ephesians 5:15-17, KJV

Walk in wisdom toward them that are without, redeeming the time. Let your speech be always with grace, seasoned with salt, that ye may know how ye ought to answer every man.

Colossians 4:5-6, KJV

tians 5:1 and 13; A Collect for Peace, page 17, Book of Common Prayer, 1928). This insight transforms our view of time—we must use it as those who live in newness of life by the action of the Lord Jesus Christ. Also, because the days, or times, are evil in that many people do evil deeds and live godless, sinful, and selfish lives,

Christians must themselves “buy back” evil time and change it into good time by always thinking, saying, and doing what is good and pleasing to God. For this reason, it is necessary for

us to be wise and understand the will of God for the best use of our time at any point. Such wisdom is gained by continually practicing the precepts and commands which we continually learn from the Bible, from the lives of the saints in the past who have led holy lives, and

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Christians have been redeemed, or bought back, from the power of the Evil One by the precious blood of the Lord Jesus Christ. This means that we are no longer to live in bondage to anything, but only in the service of Christ which is perfect freedom (*St. John 8:36; Romans 8:2; II Corinthians 3:17; Gala-*

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Stewardship: Redeeming the Time

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from the holy men and women of God in the present time whose lives have touched ours.

In the second of the above-quoted verses, redeeming the time is put in the context of our relationship with non-Christians, and wisdom must again govern our use of the time that we spend with them and the words we speak to them. Our speech, the words we say to others, must be full of grace and “seasoned with salt”— in other words, peaceful and a blessing to those who hear it.

From these two passages, we learn a lot about the stewardship of our time and how we must redeem it with good thoughts, words, and actions which edify others and show our time is owned by the Lord Jesus Christ and reflects the virtues of His kingdom.

The ways in which we use our time, or the time allocated by God to us for our use on earth, reflect our stewardship of time. As Christians, we give all of our time to God, including our daily work hours, so that God may receive it and make of it something good beyond itself. Some people have a negative attitude to their work, but Christians must have a positive attitude. A positive attitude both glorifies God and may inspire everyone around us at work, so that they may begin to follow

our example or to ask themselves why we are different and how they can become like us. If, at times, Christian employees begin to feel as if they are slaves owned by their boss, they must put into practice St. Paul’s injunctions to slaves to serve “in singleness of heart, as unto Christ; not with eyeservice as men-pleasers, but as the servants of Christ, doing the will of God from the heart; with good will doing service, as to the Lord, and not to men” (*Ephesians* 6:5-7, KJV). Such stewardship of our time at work may touch the hearts of our employers, but even if it doesn’t appear to do so, it may affect the lives of our colleagues in ways we cannot begin to understand, even opening the door to a future sharing of the Gospel message or to edifying the faith and maturity of a fellow-Christian at work.

But our use of the time we have available for recreation, rest, fellowship with our family and with friends is also important. At the top of the list is the time we devote to prayer, quiet time with the Lord, and to the reading and study of the Bible with a view to conforming ourselves to greater love for God and obedience to Him. The Summary of the Law and the Ten Commandments must inform our use of time and setting of priorities in daily life. Each of us must come before God daily in prayer

and the reading of the Bible. The Church has given us Morning and Evening Prayer in the Prayer Book to help us with this. The Lectionary of the Prayer Book at least can effectively guide us in the reading of the whole Bible in a year. For those who are too busy for the whole Daily Office, the Prayer Book provides shorter forms of Morning and Evening Prayer suitable for use by families at prayer.

Our wholehearted love for God also motivates us to attend public service of Holy Communion or Morning Prayer every Sunday, since there at church our love for God and worship are strengthened as we worship God with one another, hear His Word, meet with the Lord Jesus Christ in the Blessed Sacrament of Holy Communion, pray for others and for ourselves, and renew our call to mission in the world. If you are physically able to attend Sunday services, but Sunday after Sunday you refuse to come, then it may be a sign that something is wrong in your life and in your attitude to the Lord. The Holy Spirit speaks through *Hebrews* 10:24-25:

And let us consider one another to provoke unto love and to good works: not forsaking the assem-

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Stewardship: Redeeming the Time

(Continued from page 2)

bling of ourselves together, as the manner of some is; but exhorting one another: and so much the more, as ye see the day approaching.

As early as the first century AD, some Christians were neglecting to attend their weekly Sunday meeting for worship. These verses emphasize the duty of Christians not only to attend Sunday meetings for worship, but to encourage their fellow-Christians to love God and one another and to do good works. There is no such thing as retiring from Sunday worship unless one is ill, recovering from surgery, or so advanced in age that one cannot get to church services. In these cases, the pastor should be invited to celebrate Holy Communion in one's home, so that one may receive the Sacrament of Holy Communion regularly and worship the Lord in company with the Church represented by the pastor. We have to be careful that we don't have a double standard of stewardship of time when it comes to Sunday worship. Many people have plenty of time to engage in all sorts of recreational activities but no time to come and worship the Lord in the company of their fellow-believers at church services. Concerning attending Holy Com-

munion frequently, Thomas à Kempis had this to say:

Thou oughtest often to have recourse to the fountain of grace and divine mercy, to the fountain of goodness and purity; that thou mayest be healed of thy sins and passions, and be made more strong and vigilant against all the temptations and deceits of the devil.

The enemy knowing what exceeding great profit and restorative aid comes by the holy communion, endeavoureth by all means and occasions to withdraw and hinder faithful and devout persons from partaking therein.

The Imitation of Christ, Book IV, Chapter 10

Yet having made that point, I must concede that it is right for all Christians to lead a balanced life. Just as recreation should not exclude church attendance, work should not stop Christians from attending church services. The other extreme is that we become so committed to the Church that we have no time left to spend with our families or to enjoy recreation. Neither extreme is good for our

spiritual, mental, emotional, and physical health.

The idea of a Rule of Life, as explained in Questions 251-253 of the new Anglican Catechism of the Anglican Church in North America, is helpful, because it draws us into the discipline of the Church's life of prayer. This is a discipline we need in order to master the sinful nature we have as human beings by establishing godly habits that lead to Christ's character being formed in us. The answer to Question 253, "What is the Anglican rule of life?" is expressed in this way:

The Church invites me to its life of Common Prayer as a rule of life. That rule is a key part of a life of witness, service, and devotion of my time, money, and possessions to God.

Our stewardship of time, or use of our time in God's service, is a very important matter, and all of us must order our lives so that we use time wisely, to the glory of God and the edification of those whose lives we touch, as well as for the sake of our own spiritual, mental, emotional, and physical well-being.

— *The Reverend Christopher Parrish*

***Almighty God,
who alone gavest us
the breath of life,
and alone canst
keep alive in us
the holy desires
Thou dost impart;
We beseech Thee,
for Thy compassion's sake,
to sanctify all our thoughts,
words, and endeavours;
that we may neither
begin an action
without a pure intention
nor continue it
without Thy blessing.
And grant that,
having the eyes of the mind
opened to behold
things invisible and unseen,
we may in heart
be inspired by Thy wisdom,
and in work
be upheld by Thy strength,
and in the end
be accepted of Thee
as Thy faithful servants;
through
Jesus Christ our Saviour.
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 Beach;
Bishop Ilgenfritz;
Bishop Mott;
Canon Penfield;
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;

Claudia Schott;

Joya de Rossett;

Louise Xavier;

Sharon De Souza;

Scott and Brittany;

Don Cottam;

Joy Ware;

Tanya Theiler;

Christian McKagan

and his parents;

the Rolfe Family;

Lois Martins;

Dale Quinn;

Lisa;

Ben;

Marion;

Max;

Samar and her family;

Bishop Don and Pat Miles;

Dorian;

Heidi;

Matthew and Kate Ward;

Lane and the Handwerker Family;

Kendra Pack;

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 October 1st. Please contact Father Parrish to make corrections.

"When we pray,
the voice of the
heart must be
heard more than
that proceeding
from the mouth."

- St. Bonaventure

dosp.org

Sealed with the Holy Spirit

This is the penultimate article in a series of musings on how making a Christmas pudding recipe reminds us of how God works in our lives. If you have been following along with the “Ultimate Christmas Pudding” recipe on www.nigella.com, you know that the pudding is now fully cooked and it is time to garnish it with a sprig of holly before we set it aflame and present it to our guests. Remember that in this series, God is the Cook and we believers are the puddings. God does not adorn us with colorful leaves and berries. Instead, He does something much more beautiful: He seals us with His Holy Spirit.

Merriam-Webster’s Online Dictionary tells us that the noun *seal* means “something that confirms, ratifies, or makes secure : a guarantee, an assurance”. How wonderful that God does this!

God seals us with His Holy Spirit at the moment we come to faith in Christ Jesus:

And you also were included in Christ when you heard the message of truth, the gospel of your salvation. When you believed, you were marked in Him with a seal,

the promised Holy Spirit,

Ephesians
1:13, NIV

This blessed sealing is not something we must hope for or earn. Like salvation itself, it is God’s free gift of grace to everyone who receives His Son as their personal Saviour.

By sealing us with His Holy Spirit, God marks us as belonging to Him:

[God] set His seal of ownership on us,

II Corinthians
1:22a, NIV

This is both really reassuring and terrifying to consider. It means God loves us **so much** that He puts His label of ownership on us. I am grateful that I don’t have to earn this precious seal, because I must confess that I do not always live as if I am aware that I am wearing God’s label! Even so, I know that this label sets me apart from the unsaved of the world and that I must pray daily that God will make me worthy of His calling. His mark of ownership needs always to be manifest to the Church and to the world through my thoughts, words, and deeds so that He is glorified. My Saviour deserves nothing less.

God’s seal guarantees His promises of

salvation, transformation, and eternal life with Him:

Now it is God who makes both us and you stand firm in Christ. He anointed us, set His seal of ownership on us, and put His Spirit in our hearts as a deposit, guaranteeing what is to come.

II Corinthians
1:21-22, NIV

[The Holy Spirit] is a deposit guaranteeing our inheritance until the redemption of those who are God’s possession—to the praise of His glory.

Ephesians 1:14, NIV

It is no small thing to be sealed with the Holy Spirit. It is a life-changing event marking the beginning of His work to bring us to ever greater Christ-likeness. It indelibly labels us as God’s own, and it assures us of our certainty of attaining all His promises. Let us celebrate this sealing, and let us strive to remain aware of bearing our Maker’s Mark, living for His everlasting honor and glory!

– Kim Vogel



Parish Postings

Stanford Spiritual Care Services is opening applications for volunteers for their fall classes. Visit, pray, and provide presence, peace, and inspiration to patients at Stanford Hospital. Training will begin on Monday, October 10th. For more information, please call 650-723-5101.



The Vestry will meet on Sunday, October 16th, immediately following the worship service.



Please join us for our Patronal Festival of Saint Luke the Evangelist on Wednesday, October 19th! There will be a healing service with Holy Communion at 7:00 PM.



Joanna's Circle, a women's prayer and fellow-

ship group, will meet on Saturday, October 22nd, at 9:30 AM. This will be the last meeting of 2016. Please note that we will meet at Le Boulanger Café and Bakery (301 Main Street in Los Altos). All women are invited!



It is our custom at the Chapel to remember all our loved ones who have gone to be with the Lord by name in our prayers on All Saints' Day (which we will celebrate this year on Sunday, November 6th). Please give Father Parrish your list of memorials by Wednesday, November 2nd. Thank you!



Thank you, Debbie Paterson, for stepping forward to deliver our monthly Emergency Food Pantry donations to the

Food Closet. May God abundantly bless you!



Please prayerfully consider becoming a Lay Reader. This important minister assists the Priest at worship services. Any confirmed parishioner is eligible to serve, and training will be provided. Please see Father Parrish for details.



Anyone desiring the Sacrament of Reconciliation, or Private Confession to a Priest, is asked to contact Father Parrish.



Catechesis, a course of instruction in the Christian faith with a view to Confirmation, is available to any baptized parishioner who has not yet taken this step. Please speak to Father Parrish to arrange classes.

Upcoming Events

Sunday, October 2nd

The Nineteenth Sunday after Trinity

Emergency Food Pantry Collection Day

Bible Study: Hebrews

9:15 AM

Holy Communion

10:00 AM

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Upcoming Events

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Sunday, October 9th

The Twentieth Sunday after Trinity

Bible Study: Hebrews

9:15 AM

Office of Daily Morning Prayer

10:00 AM

Holy Communion

noon

Sunday, October 16th

The Twenty-first Sunday after Trinity

Bible Study: Hebrews

9:15 AM

Holy Communion

10:00 AM

Vestry Meeting

immediately following the worship service

Wednesday, October 19th

Patronal Festival of St. Luke the Evangelist

Holy Communion

7:00 PM

Saturday, October 22nd

Joanna's Circle

Le Boulanger Café and Bakery

301 Main Street in Los Altos

9:30 AM

Sunday, October 23rd

The Twenty-second Sunday after Trinity

Bible Study: Hebrews

9:15 AM

Office of Daily Morning Prayer

10:00 AM

Holy Communion

noon

Sunday, October 30th

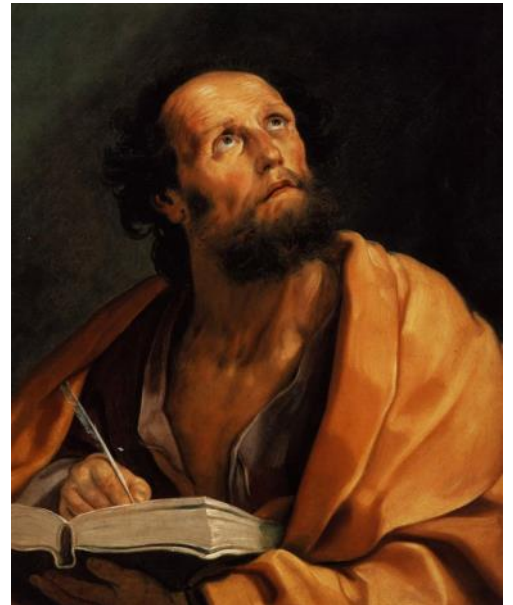
The Twenty-third Sunday after Trinity

Bible Study: Hebrews

9:15 AM

Holy Communion

10:00 AM





The Hillside Messenger

A PUBLICATION OF
ST. LUKE'S CHAPEL IN THE HILLS
ANGLICAN CHURCH

A PARISH OF
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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 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