



The Hillside Messenger

A Message from the Rector:

Romans 4: The Faith that Leads to Salvation

In last month's issue of *The Hillside Messenger*, I wrote about St. Paul's exposition of the Gospel in **Romans 3** in which he shows how Scripture testifies to God's diagnosis of all people as guilty of sin and subject to God's judgment; the great salvation that God has provided in and through His Son, the Lord Jesus Christ; and how this means of salvation is God's demonstration of both His own justice and the fact that He justifies the repentant sinner who believes in the Lord Jesus Christ.

In the fourth chapter of St. Paul's *Epistle to the Romans*, he expounds the nature of Abraham's faith and how it contrasts to good deeds that merit a reward. St. Paul begins with the question (**Romans 4:1**) of what

our natural forefather Abraham found. What did he experience in terms of how God justified him, or counted him righteous?

He concedes that Abraham would have grounds for pride if he had been justified, or set right with God, on the basis of his good deeds



(verse 2), but not in God's presence. The reason for this is that God has judged all people to be sinful, liable to judgment, and deserving of eternal death in an everlasting hell. How, then, was Abraham set right with God? It was by his faith in God, as St. Paul

records through his quotation of **Genesis 15:6** (KJV): "Abraham believed God, and it was counted unto him for righteousness." Now a worker's wages are not counted as a favor, but as a debt (**Romans 4:4**). By contrast, the one who does not work, but trusts in God who justifies the ungodly, receives God's righteousness by believing in God, and this righteousness is given by God in answer to his faith. In a nutshell, the faith of the ungodly person who believes is counted by God as righteousness (**Romans 4:5**).

A second example from Scripture is now added: **Psalms 32:1**, in which the people are counted blessed to whom the Lord imputes no sin but counts righteous and forgives (**Romans 4:8**). King David in this psalm bears witness to God's forgiveness of his sin

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when he confessed it to God. He had no grounds for pride before God on account of his deeds, since his sins made him guilty before God. In confessing his sins to God, David showed his faith that God would forgive him all his sins. That faith in God resulted in God's forgiveness of all his sins and the blessedness of being accounted righteous by God (**Romans 4:6**).

St. Paul then affirms that God counted Abraham's faith as righteousness before he was circumcised (**Romans 4:9-12**). He uses this fact to show that Abraham is the father of all who have faith, whether they be Jews or Gentiles, since he received this righteousness from God before he was circumcised, and his circumcision was the seal of the righteousness of the faith in God he had beforehand (**Romans 4:11**). God's promise to Abraham and his descendants that he would inherit the world did not come through the Law but through the righteousness of faith (**Romans 4:13**). Otherwise, if only those who kept the Law could be saved, then faith and God's promises are emptied of their meaning. God's forgiveness is revealed supremely as an act of grace, since it is God's answer to the one who confesses his sin and believes in the Lord Jesus

Christ for the forgiveness of sins (**Romans 4:16**). The fact that God's promises of eternal salvation, forgiveness of sins, and eternal life are given by God to each person in answer to his faith makes the promise sure and certain to all of Abraham's descendants who believe, whether they are Jews or not. By means of his faith in God that God imputed to him as righteousness, Abraham became the father of all believers, no matter our nationality.

Two further matters merit our attention here. The first is the nature of God in whom Abraham believed, since all who follow in his footsteps by believing in God must be sure of the power of the God in whom they trust. God "quickeneth the dead, and calleth those things which be not as though they were" (**Romans 4:17b**, KJV). When one exercises one's faith in God, one trusts in the true and living God who gives life to the dead and calls into existence things which do not yet exist. The second matter is the strength of Abraham's faith in God to fulfill the promises He had made. This strength of faith is described in **Romans 4:18-22**. Abraham's faith was such that beyond, or contrary to, hope, he yet believed that he would become the father of many nations according to God's promise (**Romans 4:17-18**; **Genesis 15:5**). In circumstances that seemed

to make a mockery of hope and faith—the fact that both he and his wife, Sarah, were too old to have children—Abraham did not weaken in faith, neither did he consider the death of his own body nor the barrenness of his wife's womb (**Romans 4:19**). These facts did not cause him to doubt God's promises, but he was rather strengthened in his faith and gave glory to God, being fully convinced God would do what He had promised (**Romans 4:20-21**). Therefore, his faith was counted as righteousness (verse 22).

St. Paul concludes this exploration of Abraham's faith with the insight that the words "it was imputed to him" were not written for Abraham's sake only, but also on account of all who believe in God who raised Jesus our Lord from the dead, who was delivered up for our trespasses and raised to life for our justification (**Romans 4:22-25**).

All of this proves the point that the Gospel promises are through faith and received by faith in the Lord Jesus Christ. They are not based on human achievements of any kind, for God judges the sinfulness of man but forgives all who turn to Him in repentance, confessing their sins, and believing in Him for forgiveness and

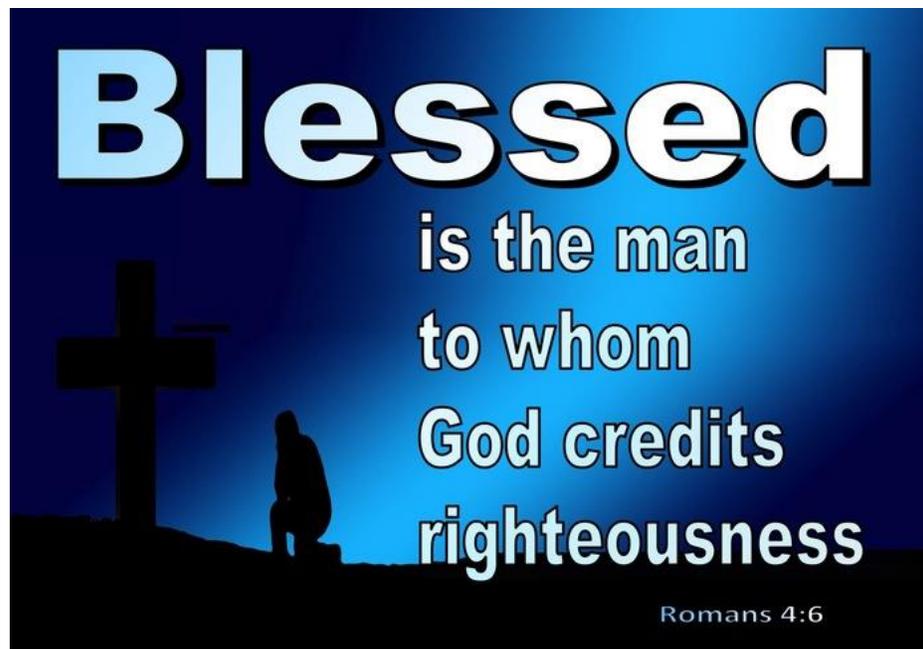
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eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord. This chapter teaches us that it is solely through faith that we receive God's free gift of righteousness and all His promises. The example of Abraham's faith shows us not only the unity of all believers of all nations in Christ as spiritual descendants of Abraham, but also the power of the God in whom we trust and the strength of faith that we ought to have. As we share our faith with others, let us be sure to exemplify and teach such a faith that leads to salvation and eternal life in Jesus Christ our Lord.

– *The Reverend
Chris Parrish*



Reconnect!

Let's put down our e-devices! (I know it will be hard for some of us.)

We're always looking at our computers, "smart" phones, Kindles, iPads, and other electronic devices, holding them close in our hands, making sure that we "Don't Leave Home Without Them". Instead, let's take off a day or two or maybe a weekend. Get in touch with yourself.



Reduce your stress. Turn off these devices and get together with family, friends, and loved ones to spend time with one another and just enjoy being together. Get back in touch with your nearest and dearest, or maybe check in with someone you haven't see in a while. Hold hands and pray to God together. Give a hug. Tell them you love them. We all need to reconnect with the people around us.

– *Julia McNeely*

Nominating Committee Seeks Prayers and Candidates

Bishop Ilgenfritz has sent the clergy of the Missionary Diocese of All Saints a letter indicating he plans to retire at the end of 2020. He urges every parish to send a representative to next year's Synod in March, when a Bishop Coadjutor will be elected. Meanwhile, a Nominating Committee has been formed that is seeking candidates for consideration before submission to the Anglican Church in North America Council of Bishops. If you know of a bishop or priest who would be a suitable candidate for consideration, please let me know by e-mail. If any names are submitted by parishioners, our Vestry will decide on behalf of our parish whose name we shall submit for nomination. This process enables every parish to participate in the nomination process.

Criteria and qualifications for bishops are found in the Canons of the ACNA in Title III, Canon 8, Sections 1, 2, and 3 (reprinted below).

Let us all pray that this Diocese may find and elect a worthy successor to Bishop Ilgenfritz!

– *The Reverend
Chris Parrish*

Canons of the Anglican Church in North America

Title III *Of Ministers, Their Recruitment, Preparation, Ordination, Office, Practice, and Transfer*

Canon 8 *Of Bishops*

Section 1 *Concerning Requirements for Bishop*

According to Holy Scripture a Bishop is called by God and the Church to be a shepherd who feeds the flock entrusted to his care. A Bishop is an overseer of the flock and as such is called to propagate, to teach, and to uphold and defend the faith and order of the Church willingly and as God wants him to—not greedy for money, but eager to serve; not lording it over those entrusted to his care, but being a wholesome example to the entire flock of Christ (*I St. Peter 5:2-3*). These requirements are in addition to the requirements set forth in Canon 2 for Deacon (*I St. Timothy 3:8-13*) and for Presbyter (*I St. Timothy 3:1-7, 5:17; St. Titus 1:6-9*).

Section 2 *Concerning the Ministry of Bishops*

By the tradition of Christ's One, Holy, Catholic, and Apostolic Church, Bishops are consecrated for the whole Church and are successors of the Apostles through

the grace of the Holy Spirit given to them. They are chief missionaries and chief pastors, guardians and teachers of doctrine, and administrators of godly discipline and governance.

Section 3 *Concerning Criteria for the Episcopate*

To be a suitable candidate for the episcopate, a person must:

1. Be a person of prayer and strong faith;
2. Be pious, have good morals and exhibit Godly character;
3. Have a zeal for souls;
4. Have demonstrated evidence of the fruit of the Holy Spirit;
5. Possess the knowledge and gifts which equip him to fulfill the office;
6. Be held in good esteem by the faithful;
7. Be a male Presbyter at least 35 years old;
8. Have demonstrated the ability to lead and grow the Church.



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
Gavin Newsom;

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;

James and Tanya Theiler;

Dale Quinn;

Brian Quinn;

Lisa;

Ben;

Marion;

Flo;

Max;

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 Fernandez;

Mary Frances Reeves;

Maryanne Sanchez;

Kaitlyn Lindstedt;

Pamela;

Claudia;

Brenda Terry;

Elise;

Thomas and MaryAlice
Dunbar;

Mrs. Kitt;

Jon Carter;

Marilyn;

Frank Capone;

the family of
John Jerrehian;

Maria Fernandez;

Dave Joines;

Rose Handwerker;

Ann and Frank MacVoy;

Bishop Ilgenfritz;

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
September 30th, and
the people of St.
Luke's will pray for
each need until we
are notified that it has
been met. Please contact
Father Parrish to
make corrections.
Thank you!

He did not waver in unbelief at God's promise but was strengthened in his faith and gave glory to God, because he was fully convinced that what He had promised He was also able to perform.

-Romans 4:20-21

Parish Postings

St. Luke's Chapel in the Hills will celebrate the festival of our patron saint, St. Luke the Evangelist, on Sunday, October 20th.



The Vestry will meet on Sunday, October 20th, immediately following the worship service. All interested parishioners are invited to observe.

Vestry

Members of the Prayer Group intercede daily as individuals for those who desire special prayers. If you would like to join in this ministry, please contact Julia McNeely. Once a month, the Prayer Group meets in the Nursery to seek the guidance of the Holy Spirit and to pray at His direction. We will meet on Sunday, October 27th, between the 10:00 AM service of Morning Prayer and the celebration of Holy Communion at noon. All are welcome!



Our Fall Community Mission Project is to contribute to the relief of victims of Hurricane Dorian. Please write *Hurricane Dorian* on your offertory envelope or check memo line when contributing funds for this mission. Thank you!



At St. Luke's, we strive to do all we can to make it easier for everyone to join us for worship. We offer large-print bulletins and sermon copies, have a sound system to amplify the liturgy, and use gluten-free Holy Communion wafers. There is a ramp into the Chapel and a wheelchair-accessible path to McNeely Hall, Please take advantage of these aids to worship, and if there is anything else we can do, please tell us!



Upcoming Events

Sunday, October 6th

The Sixteenth Sunday after Trinity

Bible Study: Isaiah

9:15 AM

Holy Communion with Healing Service

10:00 AM

Sunday, October 13th

The Seventeenth Sunday after Trinity

Bible Study: Isaiah

9:15 AM

Office of Morning Prayer

10:00 AM

Holy Communion

12:00 PM

Sunday, October 20th

Patronal Festival of St. Luke the Evangelist

The Eighteenth Sunday after Trinity

Bible Study: Isaiah

9:15 AM

Holy Communion

10:00 AM

Vestry Meeting

immediately following the worship service

Sunday, October 27th

The Nineteenth Sunday after Trinity

Bible Study: Isaiah

9:15 AM

Office of Morning Prayer

10:00 AM

Holy Communion

12:00 PM

Sunday, November 3rd

All Saints' Day

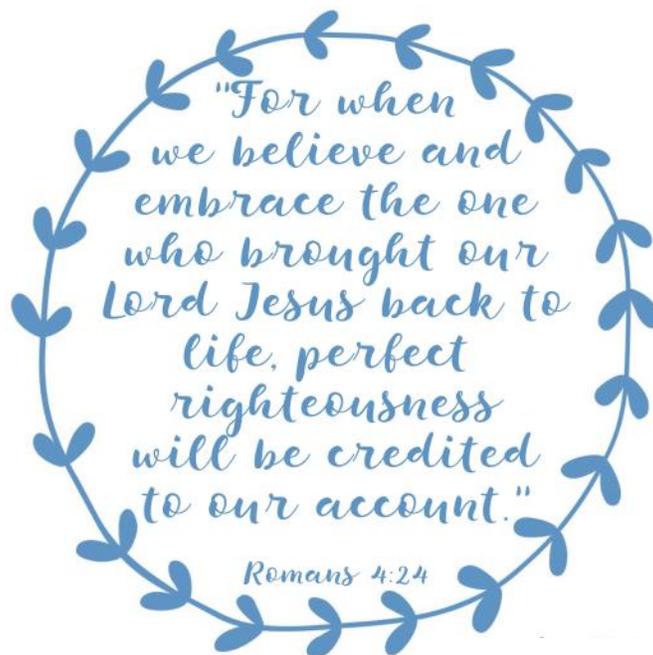
The Twentieth Sunday after Trinity

Bible Study: Isaiah

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
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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, 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.