



The Hillside Messenger

A Message from the Rector: The Fruit of the Holy Spirit: Divine Love

In this series of articles, I shall take a look at the fruit, or harvest, of the Holy Spirit. This concept is found in *Galatians 5:22-23*:

But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, long-suffering, gentleness, goodness, faith, meekness, temperance: against such there is no law.

God expects to find good fruit in the lives of His people, not bad fruit. The Lord Jesus Christ taught that He is the true Vine and His disciples are the branches that bear fruit, if they abide in Him (*St. John 15:1-5*). From Him we have also received the truth that a person is either like a good tree bearing good fruit or a bad tree bearing bad fruit (*St. Luke 6:43-45*). In view of this, we might ask, "How can sinful human beings become bearers of good fruit or

become good in their behavior?" It is through repentance from sin and faith in the Lord Jesus Christ that we are justified (accounted righteous in God's sight), reconciled to God and born again by water (Baptism) and the Holy Spirit. Since the Holy Spirit lives in Christians, they have the grace of God in them



both to want to be Christ-like in their behavior and to bear the fruit of His Spirit in their daily lives. Though Christians often fall short of this goal, they have a continual obligation to do what is right and to obey God in all things while daily confessing their sins and asking God's forgiveness. Then we can be sure both

of God's forgiveness and His daily sanctification of our lives, as St. John assures us in *1 St. John 1:7-9*:

But if we walk in the light, as He is in the light, we have fellowship one with another, and the blood of Jesus Christ His Son cleanseth us from all sin. If we say that we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins, and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

Now the first virtue listed as the fruit of the Spirit in *Galatians 5:22-23* is *agape*, or divine love. This is the love demonstrated by the Lord Jesus Christ supremely in His death on the cross, as St. John (*1 St. John 4:9-10*) makes clear:

(Continues on page 2)

Inside this Issue:

Perfection is a Promise	4
A Circle of Sisters in Christ	5
Parish Postings	6
Upcoming Events	6

The Fruit of the Holy Spirit: Divine Love

(Continued from page 1)

In this was manifested the love of God toward us, because that God sent His only begotten Son into the world, that

we might live through Him. Herein is love, not that we loved God, but that He loved us, and sent His Son to be the propitiation for our sins.

The Summary of the Law (St. Matthew 22:37-40; Deuteronomy 6:5; Leviticus 19:18) lists the two greatest commandments of the Jewish Law, which Christians

also accept as the Two Great Commandments, as the whole-hearted love of God and neighborly love. The supreme virtue of divine love (translated as “charity” in the King

James Version) is described by St. Paul in *I Corinthians 12:31* as “the more excellent way” and listed in *I Corinthians 13:13* as the greatest of the three eternal virtues. We may safely conclude

***Love divine, all loves excelling,
joy of heaven, to earth come down.
Fix in us Thy humble dwelling,
all Thy faithful mercies crown.
Jesus, Thou art all compassion,
pure, unbounded love Thou art;
visit us with Thy salvation,
enter every trembling heart.***

***Come, almighty to deliver,
let us all Thy life receive;
suddenly return, and never,
nevermore Thy temples leave.
Thee we would be always blessing,
serve Thee as Thy hosts above,
pray, and praise Thee without ceasing,
glory in Thy perfect love.***

***Finish then Thy new creation;
pure and spotless let us be;
let us see Thy great salvation
perfectly restored in Thee:
changed from glory into glory,
till in heaven we take our place,
till we cast our crowns before Thee,
lost in wonder, love, and praise.***

that love is the greatest virtue in the fruit of the Holy Spirit.

If we wish to know how the divine love takes shape in human life, we

must look at the example of the Lord Jesus Christ’s life in this world and death on the cross, as well as His resurrection appearances to the disciples. In all His life, we see He is concerned to

serve and teach His disciples, bringing them to healing and maturity, laying down His life for them (St. John 15:13), encouraging them, and sending them out to make disciples of all nations (St. Matthew 28:18-20).

While we know that the Lord Jesus Christ is the supreme example of divine love and that we must love God and our fellow human beings, we also know that the op-

posite of love is hate and that hate can lead to murder. Of this St. John warns in *I St. John 3:11-15*. In view of the preva-

(Continues on page 3)

The Fruit of the Holy Spirit: Divine Love

(Continued from page 2)
lence of murder in the world and of random shootings of people in various places and at various times in this country, we ought to pray all the more fervently for all those whose lives are motivated by hatred to “pass from death to life” (*I St. John 3:14*) and come to love people instead of hate them. Whatever some people may say about all roads leading to God (relativism), we Christians believe “there is only one Name given under heaven by which men may be saved,” (*Acts 4:12*; alluded to by Article XVIII of *The Thirty-nine Articles*) and that Name is the Name of the Lord Jesus Christ. He alone can save people from the darkness of sin and a hateful life, transforming them into disciples who love God and people and who lead a purposeful life.

C.S. Lewis’ *The Four Loves* provides helpful information about four different kinds of human love: affection, friendship, *eros*, or romantic love, and divine love. These distinctions are useful, since the English word **love** may be interpreted in different ways, whereas ancient Greek had different words for different kinds

of love. Julian of Norwich’s *Revelations of Divine Love* (1395) may give readers a deeper appreciation of the nature of God’s love for the world as revealed in the Lord Jesus Christ and His Passion. St. Bernard of Clairvaux’s *On Loving God* (1128) represents the new literature on the love of God in Cistercian monastic reform of the twelfth century. St. Augustine’s *Confessions* can be seen as the account of the journey of a sinful soul to-



wards the love of God and the realization of God’s immense love. Many other writings of the saints speak of the love of God. There is no other topic which deserves praise more than the love of God, and yet we cannot fully comprehend it.

However, it is for us Christians to live in the love of God, even though we cannot comprehend it, and for the love of God to be expressed in our thoughts, words, and actions, to the praise of the

glory of God and to the benefit of those whom we encounter daily.

I conclude with St. Paul’s prayer for the Ephesian Christians (*Ephesians 3:16-19*):

That He would grant you, according to the riches of His glory, to be strengthened with might by His Spirit in the inner man; that Christ may dwell in your hearts by faith; that ye, being rooted and grounded in love, may be able to comprehend with all saints what is the breadth, and length, and depth, and height; and to know the love of Christ, which

passeth knowledge, that ye might be filled with all the fullness of God.

Amen!

– The Reverend
Christopher Parrish

Perfection is a Promise

Editor's note: If you are not familiar with FlyLady, the following letter will require a few explanations. FlyLady is the online persona of Marla Cillely, a woman in North Carolina who advises those living in CHAOS (Can't Have Anyone Over Syndrome) how to establish household peace through simple routines. A FlyBaby is a follower of the FlyLady system; purple puddles are tears of joy or gratitude; and an essential part of the FlyLady system is Finally Loving Yourself. This testimonial was originally distributed on September 5, 2004.

Perhaps it's been a while since you've been to church. You want to go, but first you think you need to "get you life in order". Please read this letter and let its message change your thinking.

Dear FlyLady:

I have been a FlyBaby for 5 or 6 weeks now, receiving your "Renew Your Spirit" emails every Sunday since. At first, these emails filled me with sorrow. You see, I was born and raised

(insert your religion) but have not practiced in years. Don't get me wrong, I have not rejected my faith. My sorrow came from the fact that I could not bring myself to practice. I wasn't able to pinpoint the problem until I read FlyLady's essays on perfectionism and put them together with

I have not already been made perfect, but I press on to take hold of that for which Christ Jesus took hold of me.

***Brothers,
I do not consider myself yet to have taken hold of it. But one thing I do: Forgetting what is behind and straining toward what is ahead, I press on toward the goal to win the prize for which God has called me heavenward in Christ Jesus.***

Philippians 3:12-14

"Housework done incorrectly still blesses your family". It finally dawned on me a few days ago.

I have not been going to church and practicing my faith, simply because I set too high a standard for myself. I felt I could not be a "good" _____ (a saint, or shall we say

martyr) so I gave up trying to be _____ at all. Does that make sense? Every time I went to church, I felt peace and joy... like the world had been lifted off my shoulders. The weight would come right back within a few hours or sometimes days, when I did something to "ruin" my clean spirit. I could not be perfect in my faith, so I alienated myself from it even though it was physically painful to do so. I stopped going to church when I was 19, but I had been living outside the faith my whole life.

I am in puddles (they are blue, not purple) thinking of how much pain I could have avoided by accepting my imperfections the way God has asked me to do of others. I have tried so hard not to be judgmental of others, without realizing how much I judged myself. How could I have believed so firmly that it was only God's responsibility to judge the world and everything in it,

yet still consider myself damned? In my mind, I denied myself Heaven even though I would never do the same to any other creature on this earth. Even faith practiced imperfectly still blesses my heart, and I want to thank you so, so much for help-

(Continues on page 5)

Perfection is a Promise

(Continued from page 4)

ing me see that.

Mother Teresa once said, “If you judge people, you have no time to love them.” I think she was absolutely right. Thank you, FlyLady, for teaching me to love myself. Because of you I have found the strength to babystep my way back to church, and I love you for it.

A renewed FlyBaby

Do you see how Satan can use the very knowledge of our imperfection which brings us to awareness of our need for Christ to keep us from experiencing the fullness of joy we have been promised? Don't let him do this to you! The Church is “a hospital for sinners, not a club for saints”, as the saying goes, and we all need ongoing treatment because it is within the Body of Christ that God perfects us in His time and in His way. Our Father knows we are fallen creatures, but He loves us and guarantees our full and final perfection in Christ Jesus if we will only allow Him to work in our lives. If you have been avoiding church services because you aren't “good enough” yet, please tell Satan to be quiet and leave you alone. Come back to church and entrust yourself to the Great Physician. Your fellow patients miss you!

A Circle of Sisters in Christ

Joanna's Circle is Julia McNeely's idea and endeavor for the ladies of St. Luke's Chapel in the Hills. This is an open group for all women of St. Luke's to get together for coffee, conversation, inspiration, and Bible discussions. This is where we can take a bit of a time out from our demanding lives to take care of ourselves and one another by nurturing and supporting each other in a spiritual atmosphere.

Julia is my friend and when she came up with the idea, I was thrilled! I really enjoy coffee hour after church because I get to talk with everyone, especially the women of St. Luke's. They are warm and caring, informed, intelligent, witty, and everything I would want in a friend! There just never seems to be enough time during coffee hour (which is a misnomer, having extended itself to almost two hours) to really get a chance to talk in depth to all the women.

Joanna's Circle is that chance. It is also a chance to discuss the Bible or add pertinent Bible verses into our discussions, making the Bible relevant to our lives. This is important to me—I need these gentle reminders. We

have lively discussions, we take turns bringing breakfast, and we get a chance to talk about what is important to us. These might be things that are in the news, personal problems, or whatever seems important to us at the time. A lot of our discussions start on one topic and then wander around. Those are the best, since they tell me that we really just enjoy each other's company and everyone's opinion counts!

But I believe the most important aspect of Joanna's Circle is the support we give each other, the advice, the shoulders to lean on, and the ears to listen. We are all in different places in our lives—some are young, some old, some married, some single, some with young children, some with grandchildren— but we are all there to love one another, and we are truly sisters in Christ because God is there with us each and every time.

I truly look forward to the last Saturday of each month when we meet again. It is our special time.

— *Claudia Schott*



Parish Postings

A Bible Study class will begin on Sunday, August 2nd, and continue every Sunday until further notice. The first book we will study is the *Epistle of St. James*. Classes will meet at 9:15 AM in McNeely Hall, and all are welcome. Bring your Bible!



We will be celebrating the Penfield years and honoring the Very Reverend Michael A. Penfield with a special reception after Holy Communion on Sunday, August 16th. Dean Penfield served St. Luke's Chapel in the

Hills for many years and continues to be a great blessing to us. Please join us in thanking him!



Our summer Community Missions Project to buy hooded, full-zip sweat-shirts for needy school-children in our area continues. If you make a donation to this project, please make a note of your intentions on your offertory envelope or check memo line. Thank you!



Father Parrish needs your help! If you added a name to the Prayer List before he arrived at St. Luke's Chapel in the Hills (on Palm Sunday, March 29th), please let him know which name you added, the intention of the prayer request, and how the person for whom we are praying is faring now. Thank you!



Upcoming Events

Sunday, August 2nd

The Ninth Sunday after Trinity
Emergency Food Pantry Collection Day
Bible Study: The Epistle of St. James
9:15 AM

Holy Communion with Healing Service
10:00 AM

Sunday, August 9th

The Tenth Sunday after Trinity
Bible Study: The Epistle of St. James
9:15 AM

Office of Daily Morning Prayer
10:00 AM

Vestry Meeting
immediately following the worship service

(Continues on page 7)

Upcoming Events

(Continued from page 6)

Sunday, August 16th

The Eleventh Sunday after Trinity
Bible Study: *The Epistle of St. James*
9:15 AM

Holy Communion
10:00 AM

*Reception in honor of our long-time Rector,
the Very Reverend Michael A. Penfield*

Thursday, August 20th

Deadline for submissions to *The Hillside Messenger*

Friday, August 21st

Evensong
7:00 PM

Sunday, August 23rd

The Twelfth Sunday after Trinity
Bible Study: *The Epistle of St. James*
9:15 AM

Office of Daily Morning Prayer
10:00 AM

Saturday, August 29th

Joanna's Circle
9:30 AM

Sunday, August 30th

The Thirteenth Sunday after Trinity
Youth Sunday
Bible Study: *The Epistle of St. James*
9:15 AM

Holy Communion
10:00 AM

Sunday, September 6th

The Fourteenth Sunday after Trinity
Emergency Food Pantry Collection Day
Bible Study: *The Epistle of St. James*
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 DIOCESE OF THE WEST,
THE REFORMED EPISCOPAL CHURCH,
A FOUNDING JURISDICTION OF
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.*

Holy Communion with Healing Service

First Sunday each month
10:00 AM

Office of Daily Morning Prayer

Second and fourth Sundays each month
10:00 AM

Holy Communion

Third and fifth Sunday each month and Feast Days
10:00 AM