



The Hillside Messenger

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A Message from the Rector: *Reflections on the Ministry of Angels*

The ministry of angels in the lives of Christians has been overestimated by some and underestimated by others. The Bible contains clear warnings not to worship angels, for example, *Revelation 19:10* and *22:8-9*, even when they bring messages from God for us. St. Paul gives us this exhortation:

Let no man beguile you of your reward in a voluntary humility and worshipping of angels, intruding into those things which he hath not seen, vainly puffed up by his fleshly mind, and not holding the Head, from which all the body by joints and bands having nourishment ministered, and knit together, increa-

seth with the increase of God.
Colossians 2:18-19, KJV

These verses warn against deception and against those who encourage the worship of angels and any other practices that conflict with the Gospel of the Lord Jesus Christ and

mental in fulfilling God's purposes in it. Some Christians have testified to angelic protection. This was the case of Darlene Deible Rose, who relates such an experience during the Japanese invasion of New Guinea during World War II in her book *Evidence Not Seen: A Woman's Miraculous Faith in the Jungles of World War II*.

When the Japanese invaded the island, they dragged her husband away, and Darlene never saw him again. She was left with another woman in a rat-infested house at the edge of the jungle. Japanese troops were everywhere, as were merciless bandits.

One night, on investigating a disturbance Darlene thought had been caused by rats, she came face-to-face with a machete-wielding bandit who was about to strike

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with worship of God. Such deception results from the pride of a carnal mind that depends on intruding into imaginary unseen things rather than on holding to what has been revealed about the Lord Jesus Christ. Yet angels have their order and place within God's kingdom and are instru-

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Reflections on the Ministry of Angels

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her. She impulsively rushed at him, and the man inexplicably turned and ran down the hall, through the bathroom, across the porch, and into the trees, with Darlene hot on his heels. Other bandits appeared and together they fled. Darlene stopped for a moment and whispered, “Lord, what a stupid thing for me to do!” At once she remembered the verse: “The angel of the Lord encamps round about them that fear Him and delivers them” (*Psalms* 34:7).

She returned to the house in safety. From then on, she slept with a club at the foot of her bed, but she never needed to use it. Though the bandits returned several nights later, they never entered the house, and she was not disturbed again. She suspected that her gardener was among the bandits. After the war, she asked him about it. He admitted to being one of the bandits. When she asked him why they had never entered her house again, he replied incredulously, “Because of those people you had there—those people in white who stood about the house.” The Lord had set His angels around her house to deliver her.

The Festival of St. Michael and All Angels is observed on September 29th, which falls on a Wednesday this year. This is the only festival of angels that the Re-

formers decided to keep on the church calendar, and it was a popular festival in medieval England. Its institution dates to the fifth century when the first church in Italy was dedicated with St. Michael as its patron saint (page 251, *The Oxford American Prayer Book Commentary* by Massey Hamilton Shepherd, Jr.). St. Michael’s Festival was also known as Michaelmas Day in England, and he was thought to bring people the gift of prudence. The depiction of St. Michael as a handsome young angel robed in white and bearing a lance and shield with which he fights a dragon is based on *Revelation* 12:7-9.

The relevance of the Festival of St. Michael and All Angels for our time, and for all ages of the history of this world, is significant: In *Ephesians* 6:10-20, St. Paul warns Christians that our battle is not against human beings (“flesh and blood”), but “against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this world, against spiritual wickedness in high places” (*Ephesians* 6:12, KJV). Therefore, Christians must put on the whole armor of God to be able to withstand the assaults of the Devil. The Festival of St. Michael and All Angels sets before us the example of the Archangel Michael as victor over Satan. Supremely by the example of the

Lord Jesus Christ, but also by the example of St. Michael and all the angels, we must be inspired to wage spiritual warfare against the hosts of evil that assail us, ranging from adverse circumstances to opposition to our faith from various quarters, attacks that are external to us, and attacks on our minds by evil thoughts. Even St. Paul acknowledged himself to be afflicted thus when he came into Macedonia: “...our flesh had no rest, but we were troubled on every side; without were fightings, within were fears” (*II Corinthians* 7:5b, KJV). Indeed, the hymn writer Charlotte Elliott included part of this verse in the second stanza of Hymn 409 in our *1940 Hymnal*, “Just as I am”:

Just as I am,
though tossed
about
With many a
conflict,
many a
doubt;
Fightings and
fears within,
without,
O Lamb of
God,
I come,
I come.

Despite the heavy onslaught of Satan and his forces of demons fighting against Christians, we find our power and strength in the Lord (*Ephesians* 6:10). It is His strength also that

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Reflections on the Ministry of Angels

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makes us determined to win the battle.

Consider for a moment an army that has all the equipment and has been trained to use it in fighting effectively against the enemy but has lost the will to fight. This was the situation the national army of Afghanistan faced. They had equipment provided to them by the United States and their soldiers had been trained by the United States, but, for whatever reason, they lost the will to fight against the Taliban. Similarly, the Lord has trained us Christians for spiritual warfare and given us the full armor of God, which includes the helmet of salvation; the shoes of the preparation of the Gospel of peace; the girdle of truth; the breastplate of righteousness; the shield of faith and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God (*Ephesians 6:14-17*). Now what would be the use of all this armor and the training in spiritual warfare we have received from the Lord Jesus Christ, if we were to lose the will to fight against the Devil and his hosts? Then we might as well concede defeat! But far from conceding defeat, we are called “more than conquerors through Him that loved us” (*Romans 8:37b*, KJV)! No trials or adversities, no-one, and nothing in the universe, can separate us from the

love of God in the Lord Jesus Christ (see *Romans 8:38-39*)! Of course, we must continue to exercise faith in the Lord Jesus Christ and be following Him as Lord. We must be clearly on the Lord’s side. The patriarch Joshua asked a man standing opposite him with a drawn sword if he was for Israel or for her enemies. The man replied that he was for neither but had come as captain of the Lord’s host (*Joshua 5:13-14*). If we want God to be fighting for us, we must be sure that we stand on the Lord’s side. We do not ever want to find ourselves in Balaam’s position when an angel with a drawn sword stood in the way of his donkey to oppose him (*Numbers 22:22-35*).

Yet for the faithful, the “heirs of salvation,” angels are not adversaries but “ministering spirits, sent forth to minister” (*Hebrews 1:14*, KJV). St. Michael is described as one of the “chief princes” of the angels, who helps the angelic messenger who comes to Daniel by overcoming the opposition of “the prince of the kingdom of Persia” (*Daniel 10:13*). Therefore, the angelic messenger succeeds in bringing revelation to Daniel after his twenty-one-day fast. In *Daniel 12:1*, St. Michael is described as the prince who stands for God’s people and who has a hand in

delivering them from tribulation. In *Revelation 12:7-9*, Michael fights with his angels against the Dragon and his angels, and the Dragon and his angels are thrown out of heaven and fall to earth. This battle shows the victory of the Lord Jesus Christ over Satan and Satan’s eventual defeat. All this is important for us to realize, for as we engage in spiritual warfare and as we pray according to God’s word, so the angels of God fight with us to bring about God’s purposes for us and for all for whom we pray.

In all the trials of life, let us never forget the power of God strengthening us in our spiritual warfare against evil of every kind. St. Michael and all the angels tirelessly fulfill the will of God in heaven and help us to do so on earth. Let us continually trust in the Lord for the protection of His angels and their assistance in all our spiritual battles.

– The Reverend
Christopher Parrish

***O everlasting God,
Who hast
ordained and constituted
the services
of Angels and men
in a wonderful order;
Mercifully grant that,
as Thy holy Angels
always do Thee
service in heaven,
so, by Thy appointment,
they may
succour and defend
us on earth;
through
Jesus Christ our Lord.
Amen.***

Archbishop Beach Calls Us to Prayer

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

Like many of you, I have been soberly watching the situation unfolding in Afghanistan. I know it has surfaced many emotions for people across the world, especially those who have personal connections with Afghanistan and the Afghan people. Whether justified or unjustified, war is always a tragic consequence of the Fall. While in war we can witness the greatness of human courage and selflessness, we also realize the depths of human sinfulness, as poet Robert Burns wrote, “man’s inhumanity to man.”

Please join me in prayer for the people of Afghanistan, for those Afghanis and Americans seeking safe passage out of the country, and for those on the ground continuing to help. Pray for wisdom for leaders at all levels who face very difficult decisions. Pray for the ever-growing underground Church in Afghanistan. Even more, pray that all Afghanis, especially those in power, are met by the Holy Spirit and come to personally know the risen Christ. Please join me in prayer and fasting with special prayers in our worship services this coming Sunday.

I want to send a per-

military, foreign service, civil service, contractors, missionaries, and aid workers and their families who have given so much of their blood, sweat, and tears in service to their nations and for the welfare of the Afghan people. Know that your efforts are not in vain. You selflessly answered the call to service, sacrificing many things and risking your own life for others. Many of you bear the scars, visible and invisible. Jesus said, “Greater love has no one than this, that someone lay down his life for his friends” (*St. John 15:13*). These words may resonate so deeply in your souls in a way that many will never understand because they are words that you have lived by. However, our Lord knows. He also bears the scars. It is through His indescribable love for us that He gave His own life on the cross. The things of this fallen world will disappoint us, but our God never will. For those who are feeling burdened, please don’t go through this alone. Please contact your clergy or one of the many veterans’ groups. We love you, and we thank you for all the things you have done.

Additionally, please offer up prayers for all those affected by the recent earthquake and tropical storms, especially those in Haiti, as well as the ongoing COVID pandemic. The depth of suffering, loss, and heartache so many are experiencing

at this time can only be met by the supernatural Presence of the Lord.

As the world seemingly darkens, remember that the Church is to be a light to the world, pointing to the One who is the Light of life. Let us remain united together in Christ as citizens of heaven, opposing the powers of darkness, and remembering what Saint Paul wrote: “For this light momentary affliction is preparing for us an eternal weight of glory beyond all comparison, as we look not to the things that are seen but to the things that are unseen. For the things that are seen are transient, but the things that are unseen are eternal” (*II Corinthians 4:17-18*).

The Anglican Relief and Development Fund has begun raising funds for support for Afghani refugees and the people of Haiti. Donations for Afghan refugees can be made via this link:

<https://ardf.org/joseph-fund>

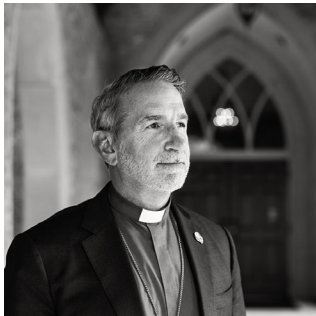
Those who want to give towards Haiti should give via this link:

<https://ardf.org/relief-haiti-2021>

Your brother in
Jesus Christ,

The Most Rev. Dr.
Foley Beach

Archbishop and Primate,
Anglican Church in
North America



***Archbishop Beach’s
call to prayer
was distributed
via e-mail
to the membership
of the ACNA
on August 18th.
It is reprinted here
in recognition of
the immense scope
of the ongoing crises.***

Book Review: The Bait of Satan

I have reread this most helpful, excellent book, *The Bait of Satan: Living Free from the Deadly Trap of Offense* by John Bevere, many times and wanted to share my book review with our readers.

This book is about how to live free from the deadly trap of offense. It exposes one of the most deceptive snares Satan uses to get believers out of God's will— offense. Most people who are ensnared by the bait of Satan don't even realize it. Don't be fooled! You will encounter offense, and it's up to you how it will affect your relationship with God. Your response will determine your future. If the offense is handled correctly, you will become stronger rather than bitter. The issue of offense is often the most difficult obstacle an individual must face and overcome. John Bevere shows you how to stay free from offense and escape the victim mentality. This book includes testimonials of transformed people who have read the original book and a devotional supplement featuring discussion questions, Scripture readings, and prayers. *St. Luke 17: 3-5* instructs, "If your brother sins against you...seven times in a day...you shall forgive him." Offended people produce much fruit, such as hurt, anger, out-

rage, jealousy, resentment, strife, bitterness, hatred, and envy. Some of the consequences of picking up an offense are insults, attacks, wounding, division, separation, broken relationships, betrayal, and backsliding. Offense is rampant from a lack of genuine love. One of the main aspects of revival sweeping this nation is men and women being released from this trap of offense. Unbelievers will behold Jesus through our love of one another where they had been blinded to Him before. Many Christians have been wounded by the Body of Christ. This book can help them forgive and heal.

You will find answers to tough questions like these:

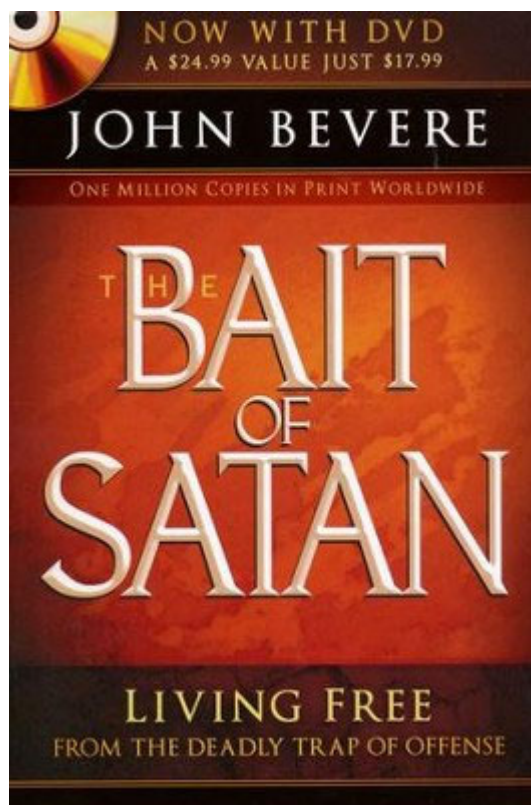
- ...# Why am I compelled to tell "my side" of the story?
- ...# How can I fight thoughts of suspicion or distrust?
- ...# What can I do to stop rehearsing past hurts?
- ...# How can I regain trust after someone deeply offends me?

This book will help you escape the enemy's "offensive trap" as well as empower you to stay free of offense, enabling you to have an unhindered relationship with God.

John Bevere is passionate to see individuals deepen their intimacy with

God and capture an eternal perspective. An international best-selling author with award-winning teaching materials, John also teaches at conferences and churches and co-hosts *The Messenger* television program, which broadcasts in 216 nations.

— Bridgitte Parrish



Our Chapel Family Prayer List

***This prayer list
was current
as of August 29th,
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 add
or remove names.
Thank you!***

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 Richard Lipka; 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 Joe Biden; 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, coasties, guardians, police officers, firefighters, and pilots who protect us every day;

our persecuted Christian brothers and sisters throughout the world; all refugees, especially those escaping Afghanistan; all who are suffering from the coronavirus, all medical personnel treating them, and all those who work with the public; all the victims of the Haiti earthquake and the aid workers helping them; Jim and Edna Davis; Joya de Rossett; Debbie; Scott; Brittany; Tanya Theiler; Dale Quinn; Brian Quinn; Mark Quinn; Lisa; Ben; Marion; Flo; Max; Dan and Kendra Pack; the Stanko family; Yoshihiko and Hideko Ikegami; Ali Hemphill; Lori Hemphill; Pennel Magaw; Tracy Magaw; Mary Frances Reeves; Mrs. Kitt; Jon Carter; Marilyn; Frank Capone;

Rose Handwerker; Ann and Frank MacVoy; Bishop Ilgenfritz; Dave Shuman; Libby Codd; Maria Fernandez; Patricia Bowers; Moe Martinez; Victoria Grace; Sharon Veach; Theo Frensch; Diane Ahlport; and Katy Stone and family; 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.

A Prayer for Our Congregation



O GOD, Holy Ghost, Sanctifier of the faithful, visit, we pray Thee, the Congregation of St. Luke's Chapel in the Hills with Thy love and favour; enlighten our minds more and more with the light of the ever-

lasting Gospel; graft in our hearts a love of the truth; increase in us true religion; nourish us with all goodness; and of Thy great mercy keep us in the same, O blessed Spirit, whom, with the Father and the Son together, we worship and glorify as one God, world without end. Amen.

In Times of Great Sickness and Mortality

O MOST mighty and merciful God, in this time of grievous sickness, we flee unto Thee for succour. Deliver us, we beseech Thee, from our peril; give strength and skill to all those who



minister to the sick; prosper the means made use of for their cure; and grant that, perceiving how frail and uncertain our life is, we may apply our hearts unto that heavenly wisdom which leadeth to eternal life; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

For Rain

O GOD, heavenly Father, who by Thy Son Jesus Christ hast promised to all those who seek Thy kingdom, and the righteousness thereof, all things necessary to their bodily sustenance; send us, we beseech Thee, in

this our necessity, such moderate rain and showers, that we may receive the fruits of the earth to our comfort, and to Thy honour; through Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*



pray without ceasing.

Parish Postings

Due to a spike in Covid-19 cases caused by the *delta* variant of the novel coronavirus, the Santa Clara County Board of Health has mandated mask use for all persons who go into any enclosed public space. Please comply when you come to worship at the Chapel, or, if you prefer not to wear a mask, please worship with us via Zoom. Thank you very much!



Regular monthly Holy Unction services return to St. Luke's beginning Sunday, September 5th. Those who would like to receive anointing and prayer for healing will be invited to come to the Altar Rail following Holy Communion.



Come to the Los Altos Hills Hoedown on Saturday, September 11th! The Hoedown is free and open to all. Father Parrish encourages us all to attend as a way to meet our neighbors and get to know them. The Hoe-

down will take place in the Westwind Community Barn at 27210 Altamont Road between 4:00 and 7:00 PM.



St. Luke's will celebrate International Day on Sunday, September 19th, with Holy Communion at 10:00 AM followed by an international potluck in McNeely Hall and on the patio.



The Vestry will meet on Sunday, September 26th, at 11:30 AM to conduct the business of the parish. Any interested member of the parish may attend this meeting.



Father Parrish is seeking Lay Readers, and the Vestry is in need of a Junior Warden. Please see Father

Parrish for more information. Thank you!



Please remember the hungry in our community when you do your grocery shopping and pick up some non-perishable foodstuffs to add to the Chapel's collection basket for distribution to the Downtown Palo Alto Emergency Food Closet. The need is great, and every little bit helps. Thank you!



If you would like to offer flowers to adorn the altar, please consult the Altar Flower Chart in the Narthex and select a date to make your offering. Use an Altar Flower envelope to pay for your offering if you will not be bringing the flowers to church yourself. Please also remember to share your dedication with Father Parrish a week beforehand so that he may include it in the bulletin. Thank you!



Upcoming Events

Sunday, September 5th

The Fourteenth Sunday after Trinity

Holy Communion with Holy Unction
in the Chapel and via Zoom
10:00 AM

Saturday, September 11th

Los Altos Hills Hoedown
Westwind Community Barn
27210 Altamont Road
4:00 PM to 7:00 PM

Sunday, September 12th

The Fifteenth Sunday after Trinity

Office of Morning Prayer
in the Chapel and via Zoom
10:00 AM

Wednesday, September 15th

Ember Day

Friday, September 17th

Ember Day

Saturday, September 18th

Ember Day

Sunday, September 19th

The Sixteenth Sunday after Trinity
International Day

Holy Communion
in the Chapel and via Zoom
10:00 AM

International Day Potluck
following the worship service

Sunday, September 26th

The Seventeenth Sunday after Trinity

Office of Morning Prayer
in the Chapel and via Zoom
10:00 AM

Vestry Meeting
11:30 AM

Sunday, October 3rd

The Eighteenth Sunday after Trinity

Holy Communion with Holy Unction
in the Chapel and via Zoom
10:00 AM

The church does not close,
only the building. Because we
are the church, the living
body of our Lord Jesus
and we are everywhere.





The Hillside Messenger

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

*“A place
where the Bible is taught.”*

*Biblical in teaching.
Liturgical in worship.
Loving in practice.*

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 and fellowship soon!

First, third, and fifth Sundays of each month

Holy Communion

10:00 AM

Second and fourth Sundays each month

Office of Daily Morning Prayer

10:00 AM

Please note that all worship services are also available via Zoom for those who are unable to join us in the Chapel.