



The Hillside Messenger

A Message from the Rector: *The Attractiveness of a Genuine Faith*

The Catholic, or world-wide, Church faces many crises today, one of which is the need to reach out significantly and effectively to many peoples of various languages and cultures. Without compromising the essential doctrines of the Christian faith, Christians need to discover and learn the adaptability and flexibility which St. Paul shows in these statements:

For though I be free from all men, yet have I made myself servant unto all, that I might gain the more. And unto the Jews I became as a Jew, that I might gain the Jews; to them that are under the law, as under the law, that I might gain them that are under the law; to them that are without law, as without law, (being not without law to God, but under the law to Christ,) that I

might gain them that are without law. To the weak became I as weak, that I might gain the weak: I am made all things to all men, that I might by all means save some. And this I do for the gos-

gles and the issues which they face, instead of assuming our own culture and nationality is in all things superior to the cultures and nationalities of others. Though St. Paul was schooled in the Jewish law he reached Gentiles by being flexible to their lives as lived “without law” while still being subject to the law and will of Christ. To those who were weak, he became weak so that he might gain the weak. He sums up all his attempts to reach all people by saying that he became all things to all people, so that he might by any means save some people (*I Corinthians 9:22b*).

Let us connect this principle to the spiritual vision of St. Luke’s Chapel in the Hills, in which we describe our faith community as being a spiritual hospital for healing. When one is admitted to a hospital, health care workers try to find out as much medically-relevant information about a patient as possi-

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pel’s sake, that I might be partaker thereof with you.

I Corinthians 9:19-23, KJV

We must learn from St. Paul something about walking in the shoes of others by trying to understand their views and perspectives and the strug-



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The Attractiveness of a Genuine Faith

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ble to ensure a correct diagnosis of his condition, leading to the best course of treatment. Now there is meant to be no discrimination against any patient because of his culture, race, nationality, or economic condition. Likewise, when a visitor comes to one of our services, we must be careful not to show discrimination of any kind. Instead, we should try to get to know visitors, be hospitable and friendly, and show the love of Christ to them. Think of it like this. If we are a spiritual hospital, are we the kind of hospital where people would like to stay and receive healing from the Lord Jesus Christ? Becoming “all things to all men” requires a kind of self-emptying that does not come easily or naturally to human beings. We must depend on the Holy Spirit and empty ourselves of pride and any feeling of superiority to others. We should even be determined to try and learn how the other person thinks and feels if we wish to win him to Christ.

Diversity of people in a congregation is desirable, but becoming all things to all people is necessary to bring it about. Once, when I was rector of a parish in Louisiana, I was asked by someone, “Does your church chase Black people away?” I replied that we had no intention of

doing that, and it was not our practice to do that. Every congregation must ask itself, though, if there is any kind of people who would not feel welcome at its services or events. Are poor people welcome? Are rich people welcome? Are young people welcome? Are aliens welcome? Are all races and ages of people welcome? The early Church consisted of people of all races, languages, and nations, slaves and freemen, since the Roman Empire contained such a diversity of peoples. Our community here in Silicon Valley is likewise diverse.

The great difference between the pagan Roman Empire and the Church was the faith of the Church in the Lord Jesus Christ and a love for the Lord that surpassed all other loves. Consider what great love and faith those early disciples had for the poor and needy among them when they sold their property and possessions and distributed the proceeds to the poor (*Acts 2:44-45*). They attended worship in the temple daily and partook of Holy Communion and shared meals in one another’s homes with great joy (*Acts 2:46*). The circumstances of the Church have changed greatly since those early days when the outpouring of the Holy Spirit on the first disciples led to a great generosity of spirit among all the new believers. Although Article XXXVIII

of *The Thirty-nine Articles of Religion* clearly states that the possessions of Christians are not held in common, Christians still have a responsibility to give generously to the poor, according to their ability. It is an outpouring of our love for the Lord to care for the needs of others.

If we want our congregation to be attractive to seekers of the authentic Christian faith, then that attractiveness is surely to be found in genuine wholehearted love of God and love of neighbor (*St. Matthew 22:34-40*). The Lord Jesus commanded His disciples to love one another (*St. John 13:34-35*), teaching clearly that everyone will know Christians by the love that they have for one another. The Lord Jesus Christ gave a message through St. John to the Church of Ephesus warning them that they had left their first love, and that they should remember the height from which they had fallen, repent, and do the deeds that they did at first (*Revelation 2:4-5*). This message applies to many Christians today. For whatever reasons— whether their zeal has faded or their love grown cold— these reasons will not excuse them before the Judge of all the earth. Christians have never been given permission anywhere in the Bible to become slack in

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The Attractiveness of a Genuine Faith

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zeal or cold in their love for God and people. The continual attacks of an increasingly pagan culture and world on the Christian faith will keep coming until Satan is finally defeated. All Christians must be found with these characteristics:

Let love be without dissimulation. Abhor that which is evil; cleave to that which is good. Be kindly affectioned one to another with brotherly love; in honour preferring one another; not slothful in business; fervent in spirit; serving the Lord; rejoicing in hope; patient in tribulation; continuing instant in prayer; distributing to the necessity of saints; given to hospitality. Bless them which persecute you: bless, and curse not. Rejoice with them that do rejoice, and weep with them that weep. Be of the

same mind one toward another. Mind not high things, but condescend to men of low estate. Be not wise in your own conceits.

Romans 12:9
-16, KJV

These characteristics of the healthy Christian life are like a multifaceted diamond, displaying many dimensions. Why is this selection of

***May the Lord
make you increase and abound in love
to one another and to all,
just as we do to you,
so that He may establish
your hearts blameless in holiness
before our God and Father
at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ
with all His saints.***

I Thessalonians 3:12-13

exhortations from all of those that St. Paul gives us in **Romans 12** so important? These are all commands relating to our behavior. If you are a patient in a hospital, you want to be sure that the doctors and surgeons are interested in giving patients the best courses of treatment possible, that nurses and medical technicians all know how to do their job and are interested in doing it. Similar-

ly, those who visit a congregation in the hope of salvation and healing will quickly find out if the Christian faith finds real application in the lives of the parishioners. Do they show brotherly love? Are their lives full of zeal for the Lord, or do they focus on other things? Do they pray continually? Do they study the Bible enough to know the things that God requires of them? Do they associate with the poor and the humble? Really

the ultimate practical question a spiritual seeker might have is "Do the people of this congregation show in their lives such a strong faith in the Lord Jesus Christ and such a love for God and one another that I want to become a believer and a member of their parish?"

– *The Reverend
Christopher Parrish*

Our Chapel Family Prayer List

This prayer list was current as of October 3rd, 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; all who are suffering from the coronavirus, all medical personnel treating them, and all those who work with the public; all the victims of California wildfires 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; Katy Stone and family; Bill Zahr; Peter Parrish; Christina; Father Thomas and Lora Vece; Haley; Gabriella; and John Donnelly; 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 everlasting 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.

PRAYING ALWAYS WITH ALL
PRAYER AND SUPPLICATION
IN THE SPIRIT, AND
WATCHING THEREUNTO
WITH ALL PERSEVERANCE
AND SUPPLICATION FOR
ALL SAINTS; AND FOR ME,
THAT UTTERANCE MAY BE
GIVEN UNTO ME, THAT I
MAY OPEN MY MOUTH
BOLDLY, TO MAKE KNOWN
THE MYSTERY OF THE
GOSPEL,
EPHESIANS 6:18-19

Parish Postings

The Santa Clara County Board of Health's mandated mask requirement for all persons who go into any enclosed public space continues. 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 (please contact Father Parrish if you need to be added to the weekly Zoom worship invitation). Thank you very much!

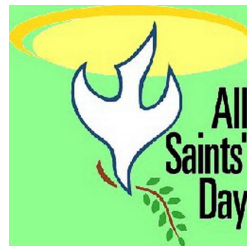


The Vestry will meet on Sunday, October 17th, at 11:30 AM to conduct the business of the parish. Any interested member of the parish may attend this meeting.

It is the custom of St. Luke's Chapel in the Hills to remember those who have joined

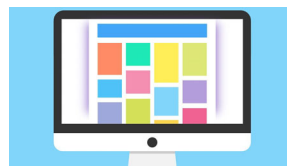


the Church Expectant as part of the Prayer for the Whole State of Christ's Church during the celebration of Holy Communion at our All Saints' Day service. This year, we will observe All Saints' Day on Sunday, November 7th, so please get your list of those you wish to have remembered to Father Parrish by Sunday, October 31st. Thank you!



Our website has been upgraded! Check out the new look and content at

www.StLukesChapel.church



Upcoming Events

Sunday, October 3rd

The Eighteenth Sunday after Trinity

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

Sunday, October 10th

The Nineteenth Sunday after Trinity

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

Sunday, October 17th

The Twentieth Sunday after Trinity

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

Vestry Meeting
11:30 AM

Sunday, October 24th

The Twenty-first Sunday after Trinity

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

Sunday, October 31st

The Twenty-second Sunday after Trinity

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

Sunday, November 7th

The Twenty-third Sunday after Trinity

Holy Communion with Holy Unction
in the Chapel and via Zoom
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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«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 and fellowship soon!

***"A place
where the Bible is taught."***

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

First Sunday of each month

Holy Communion with Healing Service
10:00 AM

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.