

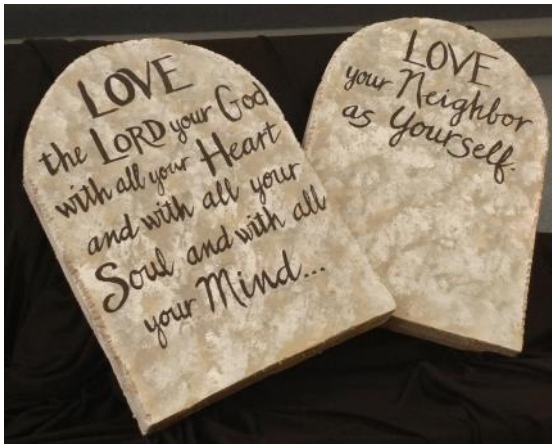


The Hillside Messenger

A Message from the Rector: Pre-Lent

Pre-Lent, beginning on February 13th, prepares the Church for the season of Lent. This is a time in which each of the faithful should reflect and pray on how best to observe the season of Lent that is to follow. The liturgical color of purple used for the Sundays of Septuagesima to Quinquagesima reminds us of the penitential nature of Lent. The Collects of these Sundays speak to our need for deliverance by God, the necessity of trusting in God rather than in anything we do, and the life-giving gift of divine love, or charity. Of all the Collects for Pre-Lent, the one I find most stirring is the Collect for Quinquagesima Sunday, or the Sunday next before Lent. The Collect reminds us of **I Corinthians 13:1-3**, of how so many great deeds can be done without charity. The petition of the Collect asks the Lord to

send His Holy Ghost, and to pour into the hearts of the faithful “that most excellent gift of charity, the very bond of peace and of all virtues, without which whosoever liveth is counted dead before Thee” (Quinquagesima Collect, page 122, **Book of Common Prayer**, 1928). On the Sunday



before Lent starts, the Church is reminded of the purpose of every good deed: the exercise of charity.

St. James reminds us that the faith in God that does not lead to good works is dead and unable to save the person who claims to have it:

What doth it profit, my brethren, though a man say he hath faith, and have not works? Can faith save him? If a brother or sister be naked, and destitute of daily food, and one of you say unto them, Depart in peace, be ye warmed and filled; notwithstanding ye give them not those things which are needful to the body; what doth it profit? Even so faith, if it hath not works, is dead, being alone.

St. James
2:14-17

In similar vein, St. John writes:

But whoso hath this world's good, and seeth his brother have need, and shutteth up his bowels of com-

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Pre-Lent

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passion from
him, how
dwelleth the love
of God in him?
My little chil-
dren, let us not
love in word,
neither in tongue;
but in deed and in
truth.

I St. John
3:17-18

Combining insights from both these passages, we see that neglecting to minister to the physical needs of fellow-Christians or other people shows that the one who neglects this ministry to those in need has neither the faith that brings salvation nor the love of God truly abiding in him. Why was it necessary for these criteria of faith needing to be accompanied by good deeds and love needing to be shown “in deed and in truth” to be stated so clearly? The early Church needed to know the standard by which genuine love and genuine faith could be measured. Anybody could claim to be a Christian and claim to be saved through submitting himself to Christian Baptism, but the fruit of good faith and clear instruction in the Christian faith is genuine love and genuine faith in action. The Apostles knew from reading and hearing the Holy Scriptures of the Old Testament that vital themes of the Old Testament Law and the Prophets were genuine faith and love for God and one’s

fellow human being. The Two Great Commandments of **Deuteronomy 6:5** (the command to love God whole-heartedly) and **Leviticus 19:18** (the command to love one’s neighbor) are examples of the call to genuine love.

In **Isaiah 58**, the Lord warns the people of Israel of the uselessness of seeking God daily and delighting in approaching God while they continue to oppress their neighbors and keep them in bondage:

Wherefore have we fasted, say they, and Thou seest not? Wherefore have we afflicted our soul, and Thou takest no knowledge?

Behold, in the day of your fast ye find pleasure, and exact all your labours. Behold, ye fast for strife and debate, and to smite with the fist of wickedness: ye shall not fast as ye do this day, to make your voice to be heard on high. Is it such a fast that I have chosen? A day for a man to afflict his soul? Is it to bow down his head as a bulrush, and to spread sackcloth and ashes under him? Wilt thou call this a fast, and an acceptable day to the LORD?

Is not this the fast that I have chosen? To loose the bands of wickedness, to undo the heavy burdens, and to let the oppressed go free, and that ye break every yoke? Is it not to deal thy bread to the hungry, and that thou bring the poor that are cast out to thy house? When thou seest the naked, that thou cover him; and that thou hide not thyself from thine own flesh?

Isaiah 58:3-7

God clearly answers the complaint of His people who ask, “Why have we fasted, and You take no notice?” To continue oppressing one’s employees and to continue in strife, self-indulgence, or other sins during fasting will not cause God to hear one’s prayers. Then the Lord asks whether He has required His people to afflict their own souls and to spread sackcloth and ashes under themselves, referencing the way the Israelites had substituted the external signs and trappings of fasting and prayer for real devotion and obedience to God. True obedience shows itself in loosing the chains of oppression and wickedness we have put around others; relieving

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Pre-Lent

(Continued from page 2)
them of heavy burdens; letting the oppressed go free and breaking every yoke; sharing food with the hungry; housing the homeless; and giving clothes to those who need them. Doing all these things fulfills the Law and the Prophets, that is, the precepts and commandments of the Law and the Prophets.

It is just this concern that believers not substitute outward appearances for real love and obedience which is one of those foremost in the minds of the Apostles. In **Galatians 2**, we find proof of this concern:

And when James, Cephas, and John, who seemed to be pillars, perceived the grace that was given unto me, they gave to me and Barnabas the right hands of fellowship; that we should go unto the heathen, and they unto the circumcision. Only they would that we should remember the poor; the same which I also was forward to do.

Galatians 2:9-10

This was the conclusion of the meeting between St. Paul and St. Barnabas with St. Peter, St. James, and St. John. They recognized God's grace given to St. Paul to

preach the Gospel among the Gentiles but asked him only one thing— to remember the poor. St. Paul was eager to comply. Ministering to the poor and needy was reflected in various of the commandments of the Jewish Law (for example, the commandments about tithing; gleaning of crops; and paying day laborers their proper wages at the end of the day and not withholding them). Our Lord showed the importance of this teaching in the Parables of the Good Samaritan (**St. Luke 10:30-37**); the Rich Man and Lazarus (**St. Luke 16:19-31**); and the Sheep and the Goats (**St. Matthew 25:31-46**).

The Anglican Church in North America has as one of its priorities “a commitment to Biblical justice and works of mercy” (The Rev. Canon Phil Ashley: *“The Heart of the Anglican Realignment – Recovering Biblical and Theological Essentials”* (American Anglican Council e-mail of January 25, 2022)). This commitment led to the formation of various ministries within the ACNA, such as the Anglican Relief and Development Fund

<https://ardf.org/>;

Matthew 25

[https://
anglicanchurch.net/
matthew-25/](https://anglicanchurch.net/matthew-25/);

and partnerships with Anglican Churches in the Global South.

During these seasons of Pre-Lent and Lent, let us all reflect and pray on how we can be involved in demonstrating the generous love of the Lord Jesus Christ to the world, vividly demonstrating that every congregation of God's Church exists not merely for itself and its own self-preservation but for the sake of others.

– *The Reverend
Christopher Parrish*

Note: All Scripture texts are taken from the King James Version.

Save the Date: February 20th

A very important day in the life of our Chapel Family is coming: Sunday, February 20th, St. Luke's Chapel in the Hills will have its 2022 Annual Parish Meeting. Please do all you can to attend this once-yearly meeting in person: Although only parish members may cast votes, the meeting is open to all. (If you are unsure of your membership status, please speak to Father Parrish before February 20th.) Light refreshments will be served.

What

Annual Parish Meeting

When

Sunday, February 20, 2022
immediately following the 10:00 AM worship service

Where

McNeely Hall

Agenda Items

Review of 2021 Annual Meeting minutes
Rector's Report
Treasurer's Report
Review of Proposed 2022 Budget
Ministerial Reports
Election of Vestry Members

ANNUAL MEETING



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 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;

Maria Fernandez;

Moe Martinez;

Victoria Grace;

Sharon Veach;

Theo Frensch;

Diane Ahlport;

Katy Stone and Family;

Bill Zahrt;

Christina;

Father Thomas and Lora Vece;

Haley and Gabriella;

John and Heidi Donnelly;

Sissy;

Raquel; and

Tina;

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 February 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!



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.

Parish Postings

Although the State of California will relax many of the rules governing its anti-Covid mask mandate on February 16th, **as of this writing** the Santa Clara County Board of Health still mandates that all persons who enter any enclosed public space wear a mask while there. 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!

Luke's Chapel in the Hills has been scheduled for Sunday, February 20th, following the worship service (please see page 4 for more details). Please plan to join us!



The Annual Meeting of the congregation of St.



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Parish Postings

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St. Luke's will host its annual Pancake Luncheon on Sunday, February 27th, following the 10:00 AM worship service.

Please sign-up to furnish ingredients for this meal!



Lent begins on Wednesday, March 2nd. Father Parrish will celebrate Holy Communion with a Penitential Office and Imposition of Ashes at 7:00 PM.

Upcoming Events

Sunday, February 6th

The Fifth Sunday after Epiphany

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

Sunday, February 13th

Septuagesima

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

Sunday, February 20th

Sexagesima

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

Annual Parish Meeting

11:30 AM

Sunday, February 27th

Quinquagesima

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

Pancake Luncheon

11:30 AM

Wednesday, March 2nd

Ash Wednesday

Holy Communion
with a Penitential Office and Imposition of Ashes
in the Chapel and via Zoom
7:00 PM

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Upcoming Events

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Sunday, March 6th

The First Sunday in Lent

Holy Communion with Holy Unction
in the Chapel and via Zoom

10:00 AM

