



The Hillside Messenger

VOLUME 20,
ISSUE 4

APRIL 2024

A Message from the Rector: *Seek the Things that are Above*

In the Epistle for the principal service of Holy Communion on Easter Day, we find this command: “If ye then be risen with Christ, seek those things which are above, where Christ sitteth on the right hand of God” (*Colossians 3:1*, KJV). Ascension, as John Calvin notes in his commentary on this verse, accompanies resurrection. Since in spirit we have risen with Christ in His resurrection, as in Holy Baptism we were united with Christ in His death and resurrection (*Romans 6:3-5*; *Colossians 2:12-13*), so in spirit we have ascended with Christ to God’s right hand.

It is significant, though, that St. Paul begins this verse with *If ye then be risen with Christ*, as if to hint at the possibility that some of his readers might not think or believe that they have risen with Christ. This reflects the sad reality that though, in theory, Christians believe they have been raised to life

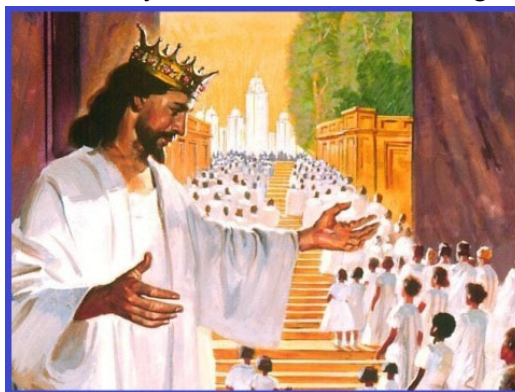
with Christ in a spiritual sense and will be fully raised to life in a new spiritual body at the resurrection, in practice many Christians find themselves immersed in worldly affairs and concerns. It takes great determination and resolve always to “seek the things that are above.”

But what is meant by seeking the things that are above? In today’s English, “aim to obtain” or “desire to possess” may be a more accurate

translation of the Greek verb as it is used in this verse. St. Paul amplifies the meaning further in the next verse: “Set your affection on things above, not on things on the earth” (*Colossians 3:2*, KJV). I think the New Revised Standard Version’s translation is more helpful here: “Set your minds on things that are

above, not on things that are on earth.” Now all of us must be concerned about things that pertain to earning a living, paying bills, and doing our duties as we live life on this earth, but our ultimate priority must be to love God wholeheartedly.

If we are to appreciate the depths of what it means to seek the things



that are above, we must begin with God. In *Psalms 37:4*, we read this exhortation:

Trust in the LORD, and do good; so shalt thou dwell in the land, and verily thou shalt be fed. Delight thyself also in the

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Seek the Things that are Above

LORD; and He shall give thee the desires of thine heart.

Psalm 37:3-4,
KJV

Trusting in the Lord, doing good, and delighting in the Lord are the key elements of this verse, resulting in God's provision and gift of fulfilling the desires of one's heart. Delighting in the

to have anxieties about material things that people need, such as food and clothing, He adds this command: "But seek ye first the kingdom of God, and His righteousness; and all these things shall be added unto you" (*St. Matthew 6:33*, KJV). Now the kingdom of God is the rule, or reign, of God. In the Lord's Prayer, we pray "Thy kingdom

people say, "Look, here it is!" or "There it is!" Instead, the kingdom of God is among (or within) God's people (*St. Luke 17:20-21*). What this means for us is that we prioritize the values of God's kingdom in our lives and obey God's will.

This means that it is not sufficient for us to hear or read God's com-

***Trust in the LORD, and do good;
Dwell in the land, and feed on His faithfulness.
Delight yourself also in the LORD,
And He shall give you the desires of your heart.
Commit your way to the LORD,
Trust also in Him,
And He shall bring it to pass.
He shall bring forth your righteousness as the light,
And your justice as the noonday.***

Psalm 37:3-6

Lord as expressed in the Hebrew here implies a spontaneous relationship of enjoying God and delighting in Him. This goes together with trust and confidence in Him which are enhanced by doing good – that is, by doing all that pleases God.

Secondly, when our Lord Jesus Christ is teaching His disciples not

come." What do we mean by that? We pray that God's rule over the whole universe will come so that we may live in peace, justice, harmony, and righteousness under the rule of Christ the King forever. However, when the Pharisees asked Jesus when the kingdom of God was coming, He answered that it is not coming with observable signs, nor will

mandments: Rather, we must obey them. In *1 St. John 2:17*, we read that he who does the will of God abides forever. *St. James 1:22* confirms that Christians must be doers of God's word, not hearers only. We must therefore, continually offer ourselves to God to do His will. We need to find out what God's will is for our lives. We shall do this

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by renewing our minds through daily reading and study of God's Word and by continual prayer. So important is the knowledge of God's will and obedience to it, that St. Paul includes it in his prayer for the Colossian Christians:

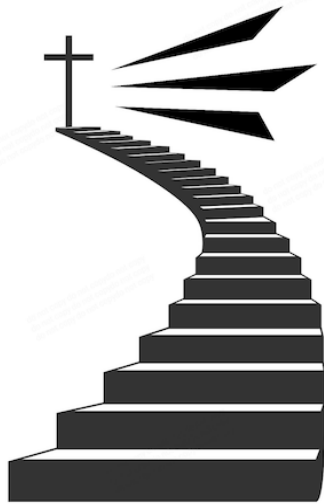
For this cause we also, since the day we heard it, do not cease to pray for you, and to desire that ye might be filled with the knowledge of His will in all wisdom and spiritual understanding; that ye might walk worthy of the Lord unto all pleasing, being fruitful in every good work, and increasing in the knowledge of God; strengthened with all might, according to His glorious power, unto all patience and longsuffering with joyfulness;

Colossians 1:9-11, KJV

St. Paul's prayer for the Colossians to be filled with the knowledge of

God's will in full wisdom and spiritual understanding will result in a way of life that pleases the Lord and bears an abundant harvest of good deeds, which will in turn cause them to grow in the knowledge of God and in the exercise of the virtues of the Holy Spirit.

The virtues of the Holy Spirit will be produced in our lives by the indwelling Spirit as we



may heavenly things constantly interrupt our earthly things

cooperate with Him in every area of our lives and set our minds on the things that are above, not on the things that are on earth. These virtues are the fruit of the Spirit:

But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, gentleness, goodness, faith, meekness, temperance:

against such there is no law.

Galatians 5:22-23, KJV

Seeking the things that are above includes also practicing and exercising these virtues of the Holy Spirit in all the varied circumstances and relationships of our lives. Exercising these virtues, including patience or longsuffering, produces character and character,

hope (*Romans 5:4*). The hope of our eternal inheritance in God's kingdom is also one of the virtues of God's kingdom that we strengthen through continuing steadfast obedience to God in the face of various trials.

It is important that we continue to seek the things that are above by loving God wholly

and loving our neighbor as we love ourselves (*St. Matthew 22:37-40*). To seek the Lord, writes St. Augustine of Hippo, is to seek a blessed life, and the purpose of seeking God is for our soul to live. (St. Augustine: *Confessions*, Book X.20). Many people agree that it is worth attaining the blessed life but differ on how to reach it. Ideally, one should not only have the hope of a blessed life,

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but also the experience of it. Because the blessed life includes delighting in the truth, and God is truth, to seek a blessed life is to seek God. Many do not really want a blessed life because they do not want God. Augustine concludes that God's ideal servant is the one

who no longer looks to hear from God the answer that he wants but rather to want what he hears from God (St. Augustine: *Confessions*, Book X.26). This is really the crux of seeking God, His kingdom, His will, and the things that are above. We must sincerely desire

God's word to us instead of expecting God to speak words that conform to our will rather than His.

– *The Reverend Christopher Parrish*

Archbishop Beach's Call to Prayer

Dear Sisters and Brothers in Christ,

Lenten greetings in the Name of Christ Jesus our Savior and only Lord!!

I am writing to you to ask that you join me in a **Season of Prayer** as we enter into an important time in the life of the Anglican Church in North America (ACNA). As you may know, my second term as the Archbishop and Primate of the ACNA will end this coming June. The College of Bishops will meet in Conclave beginning on June 20th at St. Vincent's Archabbey in Latrobe, Pennsylvania, to seek the Lord and select our new Archbishop. This will be followed by our Provincial Assembly (June 26-28), our ACNA family gathering, at the conclusion of which our new Archbishop will begin his term.

Beginning with the Season of Easter starting March 31st and continuing through Pentecost until June 20th, I am calling on the members of the ACNA to set aside each Wednesday or Friday (or both) to spend time in prayer (and fasting for those who are able), while also adding a petition in each Sunday's Prayers of the People, for the bishops as we seek the Lord for my successor. I am asking each member, rector, pastor, bishop, priest, deacon, prayer group, Bible Study, and intercessor in the Province to make this a priority starting Easter Sunday.

We know that God responds to the prayers of His people (*St. Mathew 7:7-8; St. James 5:16; Ephesians 3:20-21; Jeremiah 33:3*), and we all desire that the bishops hear from the Lord when we gather in Conclave. The ACNA and the College of Bishops have made it a point not to have campaigning and political posturing as part of this process. Rather, we will be seeking to hear from the Lord as to whom He has anointed for this next season of the Church.

As the Lord said to the prophet Jeremiah: "Call unto Me and I will answer you, and show you great and mighty things which you do not know" (*Jeremiah 33:3*),

Your brother in Christ,

The Most Rev. Dr. Foley Beach
Archbishop and Primate,
Anglican Church in North America



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.

A Prayer for the ACNA College of Bishops

Almighty God,
giver of every good gift:
Look graciously upon Thy Church,
and so guide the minds of the College of Bishops
to elect Your choice of an Archbishop and Primate
of the Anglican Church in North America
that we may receive a faithful pastor
who will preach the Gospel,
care for Thy people,
equip us for ministry,
and lead us forth in fulfillment of the Great Commission;
through Jesus Christ our Lord.
Amen.

A Prayer for the MDAS Synod

Almighty God,
giver of every good gift:
Look graciously upon Thy Church,
and so guide the minds of those who shall choose
a Bishop Coadjutor for the Missionary Diocese of All Saints
that we may receive a faithful pastor
who will preach the Gospel,
care for Thy people,
equip us for ministry,
and lead us forth in fulfillment of the Great Commission;
through Jesus Christ our Lord.
Amen.

Our Chapel Family Prayer List

***This prayer list
was current
as of March 21st, 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, guardians, border patrol, coasties, police officers, firefighters, and pilots who protect us every day;

our persecuted Christian brothers and sisters throughout the world;

all refugees;

the leaders and people of Ukraine;

all who are affected by the war between Hamas and Israel;

the ACNA
College of Bishops;

Jim and Edna Davis;

Joya de Rossett;

Debbie;

Scott;

Brittany;

Tanya Theiler;

Mark Quinn;

Lisa;

Ben;

Marian;

Flo;

Max;

Dan and Kendra Pack;

the Stanko family;

Yoshihiko Ikegami;

Mary Frances Reaves;

Mrs. Kitt;

Jon Carter;

Frank Capone;

Rose Handwerker;

Ann and Frank MacVoy;

Bishop Ilgenfritz;

Moe Martinez;

Victoria Grace;

Christina;

John and Heidi Donnelly;

Father Harley and Donna
Crain;

Carl;

Judith Boreham;

Marie and Wade;

Heather;

Susan;

Helen Vanderberg;

Farshad;

Deacon Herman and

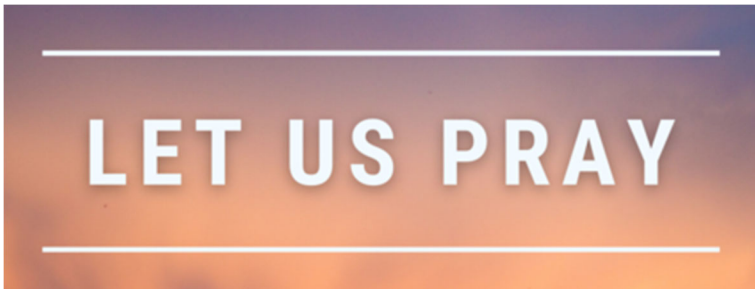
Betty Roark;

Philip Slattery;

Patrick Slattery; and

Julie Sine;

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.



LET US PRAY

I am a Church Member

One of the books to which I listened during Lent is *I am a Church Member: Discovering the Attitude that Makes the Difference* by Thom S. Rainer. In it, Pastor Rainer outlines six attitudes and responsibilities of those who join a body of believers. It's a quick read (or listen), and I recommend it to all of you—whether you are a new member of the church or have been growing in Christ for several decades.

Pastor Rainer's six lessons are a primer on how to be a church member. This is not a book about what Christians believe but about how we should behave. Each lesson is based upon guiding the reader into approaching church membership in a Biblical, Christ-centered way.

As I listened to one of his lessons, I realized that I have been neglecting something very important: praying for my pastors. I mean, I do offer a hearty *amen* when we pray for them in our wor-

ship services, but I hadn't been devoting a daily prayer for the protection and provision of the men who have answered God's call to shepherd my spiritual health and growth. The reasons why we should pray for our pastors really struck me. Pastor Rainer says that he asks all his church mem-

Though I have been remiss in this duty, I know that there are those in our Chapel Family who do regularly pray for our clergy. This deacon's wife sincerely thanks you and prays that God will bless you all!

— Kim Vogel



bers to pray for their pastors every day for five minutes. Then he asks us to imagine how praying for your pastors just a few minutes each day might help them, their families, and their flocks, I was excited by the possibilities.

Parish Postings

Please pray for the 2024 Synod of the Missionary Diocese of All Saints as it meets from Tuesday, April 2nd, to Friday, April 5th, in Detroit, Michigan. Pray that all those in attendance will eagerly seek and obediently do the will of God in conducting the business of the Diocese, particularly in electing the man whom they will refer to the ACNA College of Bishops for approval to the position of MDAS Bishop Coadjutor.

The delegates from our parish are

The Very Reverend Canon Michael Penfield;

The Reverend Chris Parrish;

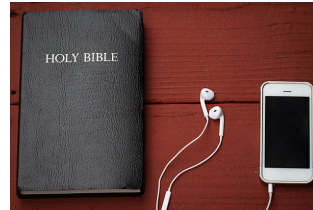
Julia McNeely; and

Kim Vogel.

Kindly pray for their safe travels to and from Synod; their wisdom and discernment in voting on the various matters presented to them; and their joyful fellowship with our far-flung brothers and sisters in Christ at this once-every-three-years gathering of the whole diocese. Thank you!



Due to a conflict with his travel arrangements from Detroit to San Jose, Father Parrish will be unable to participate in the Telephone Prayer Meeting on Friday, April 5th. The other members of this group should go on without him.



The Vestry will meet on Sunday, April 14th, following the worship service. Any interested parishioner is invited to observe the meeting.



Brothers and sisters in Christ, your contributions to this newsletter are always welcome! Here are a few ideas:

- ministry reports – What work has God directed you to do for Him? How can others join or support you in this work? What are the fruits of your labors?
 - original news items – Are you beginning a new parish ministry? Have you witnessed God at work in some way you simply have to share with others?
 - other articles of general interest.
 - photographs or photo essays of Chapel events.
- Another way to participate is to contribute to one of the newsletter's ongoing features, such as:
- Parishioner Profile – Tell us a little more about yourself! Profiles are part personal history, part spiritual journey, and part personal testimony to the power and glory of God— plus, of course, one or more photographs of your choice. The article may be of any length you choose, and a friend or family member may write it if you prefer not to compose the profile yourself.
 - Share a Prayer – Everyone is invited to share a favorite prayer, Bible verse, spiritual quotation, or hymn with our Chapel family.

Parish Postings

Especially, it would be great if you will share why and how the words have had an impact on you.

- Voices of St. Luke's – Do you have a question you'd like to ask our Chapel family? Forward your question to Kim Vogel! She will send the question out and print the answers in an upcoming issue.
- Parish Postings – This is the place for brief notices and reminders.

Finally, if you would like to undertake a special series or a regular column, please let Father Parrish know. (*Regular* can mean anything from a monthly to an annual publication schedule, whatever works for you!)

The best way to submit an article is to e-mail it to either Kim Vogel or Father Parrish by the 20th of the month. Thank you!



St. Luke's Chapel in the Hills will host its annual British Day celebration on Sunday, April 28th.

Our worship service will be the Office of Morning Prayer according to the 1662 *Book of Common Prayer*. Afterward, we will gather in McNeely Hall for a potluck luncheon of favorite British recipes (please let Bridgitte Parrish know what you plan to bring).



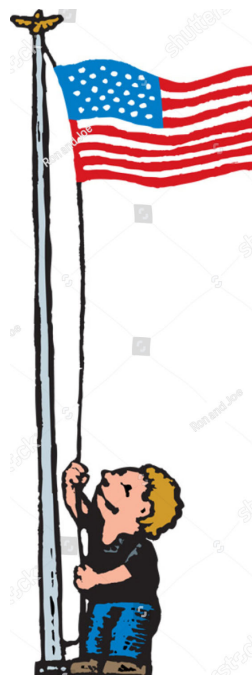
Our parish helps support the Downtown Palo Alto Emergency Food Closet. Please bring your non-perishable food donations to church on Sunday and place them in the large wicker basket in the narthex. The Food Closet particularly welcomes:

- canned fruits and vegetables
- peanut butter and jellies
- canned meats
- breakfast cereal
- protein-rich ready-to-heat soups, stews, chilis, and pastas
- tea bags, instant coffee, and hot chocolate mixes
- fruit juices, both family-sized and

individual serving multi-packs



God has truly blessed us with much-needed rain this winter, and we thank Him sincerely! With the expected return of fair weather, however, the Flags ministry is seeking volunteers to raise and lower the US and ACNA flags before and after services. If you wish to join this ministry, please speak to Clark Patteson, our Junior Warden. Thank you!



Upcoming Events

Tuesday, April 2nd, through Friday, April 5th

2024 General Synod
of the Missionary Diocese of All Saints

Wednesday, April 3rd

Pray for ACNA College of Bishops

Sunday, April 7th

The First Sunday after Easter Day

Holy Communion with Holy Unction
10:00 AM

Wednesday, April 10th

Pray for ACNA College of Bishops

Friday, April 12th

Pray for ACNA College of Bishops

Telephone Prayer Meeting
10:00 AM

Sunday, April 14th

The Second Sunday after Easter Day

Office of Morning Prayer
10:00 AM

Vestry Meeting
following the worship service and fellowship

Wednesday, April 17th

Pray for ACNA College of Bishops

Friday, April 19th

Pray for ACNA College of Bishops

Telephone Prayer Meeting
10:00 AM

Saturday, April 20th

Deadline for submissions to The Hillside Messenger

Sunday, April 21st

The Third Sunday after Easter Day

Holy Communion
10:00 AM

Wednesday, April 24th

Pray for ACNA College of Bishops

Upcoming Events

Friday, April 26th

Pray for ACNA College of Bishops

Telephone Prayer Meeting
10:00 AM

Sunday, April 28th

The Fourth Sunday after Easter Day

British Day

Office of Morning Prayer
according to the
1662 ***Book of Common Prayer***
10:00 AM

British Day Potluck Luncheon
following the worship service

Wednesday, May 1st

Pray for ACNA College of Bishops

Friday, May 3rd

Pray for ACNA College of Bishops

Telephone Prayer Meeting
10:00 AM

Sunday, May 5th

The Fifth Sunday after Easter Day

Rogation Sunday

Holy Communion with Holy Unction
10:00 AM



Spring arrives at the Chapel!

Photo by Clark Patteson



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

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."*



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

First, third, and fifth Sundays of each month

Holy Communion
(with Healing Service on First Sundays)
10:00 AM

Second and fourth Sundays each month

Office of Daily Morning Prayer
10:00 AM

Please note that Holy Communion will be celebrated on Feast Days occurring on second and fourth Sundays.

If you cannot join us physically in the Chapel,
please contact Father Parrish
to be added to each service's Zoom invitation.