

The Hillside Messenger

A Message from the Rector: Reflections on Deuteronomy 10:17-21

The propers (liturgy appointed for a particular day) for Independence Day were included first in the 1928 *Book of Common Prayer*. The 1789 *Prayer Book* had no commemoration of Independence Day, since it was a matter of political controversy among clergy—many of whom had been Loyalists—during the period immediately after the Revolutionary War. In the 1928 *Prayer Book*, Independence Day is a votive, or commemoration, but in the 1979 *Prayer Book* it is regarded as a festival. The propers used for the day in the 1928 *Prayer Book* include *Deuteronomy 10:17-21*, on which I shall now offer a few reflections. Here is the King James Version of the passage:

For the LORD

your God is God of gods, and Lord of lords, a great God, a mighty, and a terrible, which regardeth not persons, nor taketh reward: He doth execute the judgment of the fatherless and widow, and loveth the

by His name. He is thy praise, and He is thy God, that hath done for thee these great and terrible things, which thine eyes have seen.

In the verse preceding this passage, the Holy Spirit commands the people of Israel not to be stiff

-necked, or proud and stubborn. The first verse of this passage states why the people should not be stubborn: The LORD their God is “God of gods, and Lord of lords, a great

God, a mighty and a terrible, which regardeth not persons, nor taketh reward” (*Deuteronomy 10:17*). It should be abundantly clear to us today, that the authors of the 1928 *Prayer Book* did not believe these words applied only to Israel. They realized that just as Israel had a vocation to

stranger, in giving him food and raiment. Love ye therefore the stranger: for ye were strangers in the land of Egypt. Thou shalt fear the LORD thy God; Him shalt thou serve, and to Him shalt thou cleave, and swear



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Reflections on Deuteronomy 10:17-21

be obedient to God since it was His chosen nation, so, derivatively, the United States of America has a vocation to be obedient to God since it is “one nation under God”. The doctrine of American exceptionalism must be subject to the Biblical doctrine of God’s impartiality and His love of people of all nations. America remains always both the object of God’s love and of His scrutiny. He is the wholly just, supreme God who cannot be corrupted with a bribe or influenced to compromise His justice or holiness. In all our dealings as individuals and in our dealings as a nation with people of other nations, we must remember who God is, to whom we belong as a nation, and the love and justice that He requires of His people.

Since God is supremely just and gives judgment for orphans, widows, and aliens and loves them (in ancient Israel these people were often the poorest), we should treat these groups of people with justice and love also. This includes those widowed or orphaned because their spouses or parents died in action in the military or in their duties as police officers or firefighters.

In particular, the command is given to Israel to love the stranger, or alien, since the Israelites themselves were once aliens in Egypt (*Deuteronomy 10:19*). A

parallel can be drawn to the citizens of the United States, many of whose ancestors came from various nations of the world to make a new life in this land. Therefore, because God is love, because we are answerable to God as a nation, and especially since many of us are Christians, we must love immigrants, aliens, and strangers because God has given us this command.

Political ideology in this regard should never outweigh the Biblical imperative to show love to all. If we are to be obedient to God’s commands, we should not have any immigration policy that separates children from their parents, since this is like making temporary orphans out of children and causes them needless distress and anguish. Always we must remember that God loves the alien and gives him food and clothing (*Deuteronomy 10:18*). The Greek word for *hospitality* literally means “love of strangers”, and the command to show such hospitality is reiterated in the New Testament because it is central to the Christian way of life. Four passages which highlight how important hospitality is are *St. Matthew 5:46-48*; *Romans 12:13*; *Hebrews 13:2*; and *I St. Timothy 3:2*.

As if to remind God’s people of the motivation for their love and obedience and that no other loyalty should cause them to deviate from this impera-

tive, the Holy Spirit adds the command to hold God in awe, serve Him, and be loyal to Him since God is the object of their praise and their God, who has done for them the wonders that they have seen (*Deuteronomy 10:20-21*). Similarly, as we remember all the wonderful things that God has done for us in this beautiful country and all the trials through which He has safely brought us, we must be unshrinkingly loyal to Him, loving Him wholly, and not allowing ourselves to be led astray by any worldly ideology or by anyone professing a greater claim on our loyalty and love than God Himself.

Furthermore, we must remember that all the freedoms we currently enjoy were won and maintained at great cost, the cost of many soldiers’ lives in the Revolutionary War and subsequent wars. We must remember with gratitude all who have laid down their lives in the service of the United States of America, and all who currently serve in every branch of the Armed Forces. Let us not, by indifference to God and ingratitude for our heritage, forfeit the liberties we have received. An egalitarian society in which anyone who works hard can succeed without barriers of race, gender, class, national origin, religion or economy hampering him is a society to be prized indeed. A com-

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munity in which Christians of every denomination can gather and worship God freely is a blessed community indeed. There are countries in the world where Christians dare meet only in secret, and where they are bitterly persecuted for their faith.

Finally, let us pray that the citizens of the United States of America will always remember God's favor and be glad to do His will (Prayer for Our Country, page 36,

The Book of Common Prayer, 1928), as well as have the grace to maintain in righteousness and peace the liberties won by their fathers (page 263, *op. cit.*). Let us also continue to pray for our President, Joe Biden, for Congress, for the State of California, for Governor Gavin Newsom, and for all in authority that they may seek God's will, know it, and do it.

Independence Day holds reminders of our history, our heritage, our

liberties, and, above all, our nation's Christian origins, even though it was founded as a secular nation that provides for freedom of religious expression. Let this be a time in which we pray that many Americans return to God through the Lord Jesus Christ, and honor Him through lifelong obedience and service.

— *The Reverend
Chris Parrish*



Our Chapel Family Prayer List

***This prayer list
was current
as of June 28th,
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 Steve Wood;
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; 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;
Patrick Slattery;
Julie Sine;
the Slattery family;
James Kitchin;
Father Jonah and Rachel Kelman;
and
Bishop Coadjutor-elect
Father Daryl Fitzwater
and his 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 the Middle East

O God, the Creator of all, whose Son commanded us to love our enemies: Lead them and us from prejudice to truth; deliver them and us from hatred, cruelty, and revenge; and in Your good time enable us all to stand reconciled before You in Jesus Christ; in whose Name we pray. 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.

Prayers for the Fitzwaters

O Lord Jesus Christ who art the Good Shepherd that cares for Thy flock: We beseech Thee to bestow upon Thy servant, Father Darryl Fitzwater the gifts of the Holy Spirit in abundance. Inspire him to spend and be spent for the sake of Thy Gospel, and make him a holy and loving servant and shepherd of Christ's flock in the Missionary Diocese of All Saints, for whom Thou didst shed Thy most precious blood. Give Father Darryl the strength, the stamina, and the wisdom to know and do Thy will. We ask this for the sake of Thy love. *Amen.*

Father of our dear Lord Jesus Christ, Thy precious Son, we ask Thee in Thy Son's name to send Thy Holy Spirit to Father Darryl Fitzwater's family, and especially to his wife Rebecca, and their children, Aiden and Chloe, to strengthen them, to guide them, to shelter them, and to protect them as Father Fitzwater becomes a Bishop in Thine one true, holy, catholic and apostolic Church. Let them know how they may serve Thee and give them the strength to follow Thy calling. We ask all this in Jesus' name. *Amen.*



News from the ACNA Provincial Assembly

On June 28th, Vicar-General Michael Penfield reported on the actions of the ACNA College of Bishops regarding the election of the Reverend Darryl Fitzwater to Bishop Coadjutor of the Missionary Diocese of All Saints:

Hi all,

The official word has come down. Father Fitzwater's election was confirmed by the College of Bishops. Once the date of the consecration is set, I will let you all know.

In the meanwhile, please pray for Father Fitzwater, his wife, Rebecca, and their children, Aiden and Chloe. This will be a big adjustment for them all. Pray that the Lord will strengthen them and guide them on this journey, and please pray that the Holy Spirit will lead and inspire Father Fitzwater as he leads us and His Church in the coming years.

God bless
you all,
Mike+



**The Reverend
Darryl Fitzwater,
Bishop Coadjutor-
elect of the
Missionary Diocese
of All Saints**



**The Most Reverend
Steve Wood,
Archbishop
and Primate
of the
Anglican Church
in North America**

The Anglican Church in North America has called the Right Reverend Stephen D. Wood as our next Archbishop and Primate. He has been the Bishop of the Diocese of the Carolinas since its formation in 2012, and has been the Rector of St. Andrew's, Mount Pleasant, South Carolina, since 2000. Wood succeeds Archbishop Foley Beach, who has served the constitutional maximum of two five-year terms. Following a summer sabbatical, Beach will continue as Bishop of the Anglican Diocese of the South.

"I can testify to the Holy Spirit's work in the election of Steve Wood," said Bishop Alex Farmer. "It was unexpected but clear. Steve is a gifted leader who will move us forward in mission. He is also the unifying bishop we need for the continued work God is calling the Anglican Church in North America to be about in this next season."

Bishop Wood received the Provincial Cross and the spiritual authority to take up the office of Archbishop and Primate from Archbishop Beach at the Provincial Assembly's Closing Eucharist on Friday, June 28th.

Vestry Matters

Dear fellow parishioners,

Welcome to the latest edition of “Vestry Matters”. I hope you enjoyed the previous article and that you’ll enjoy the current and future editions.

This and future articles will probably be a lot briefer than the initial one as I’ll be concentrating on providing a summary of the most recent meeting of the Vestry, although that’s not to say I won’t be addressing topics I think may be of interest outside the scope of the regular meetings. That having been said, on with the latest article.

May 19th Vestry Meeting Summary

Those in attendance: Ray Boreham, Elodia Fernandez, Julia McNeely, Bridgitte Parrish, Father Chris Parrish, Clark Patteson, Deacon Peter Vogel, Bill Zahrt (Zoom), and Patsy Zahrt (Zoom).

Treasurer’s Report:

- Elodia Fernandez reported that payments in the amount of \$616 were made to our new insurance carrier, CM Select. The annual premium we’ll pay to this new carrier will be approximately \$2,400 as com-

pared to the \$4,200 paid to our previous insurer, GuideOne, thus resulting in substantial annual savings.

- Net income for May so far was a positive \$1,836.84.
- Federal Income Taxes (quarterly estimated taxes) were paid in April (\$4,000)

and May; State Income Taxes were paid in April, and a refund was expected in May.

- AT&T payments for February, March, and April were in-kind donations by Deacon Vogel. Thanks to Deacon Vogel for his generous donation.

- The total market value of the Schwab account had increased since April 14th, when it stood at \$264,029.01, although no statement was available to show the amount of the increase.
- Congratulations were extended to Father Parrish by the Vestry on the news that the loan extended to him for the legal expenses incurred in acquiring Permanent Resident status for both him and Bridgitte had been repaid in full.

Junior Warden’s Report:

- Clark Patteson noted that our neighbor has finally agreed to pay for half of the fence. Work on the fence would start May 20th and be completed in three days. It will be an all-wood fence.
- AT&T has formally approved Dish Wireless coming onto their antenna, but Dish needs us to rent them ground space for their

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equipment. However, our telecommunications attorney warned us that Dish is likely to go bankrupt, and besides that, they like to haggle a lot. Since Clark has his hands full with the three current cell tower companies that lease from us, he did not think he could manage a fourth.

- AT&T has nearly finished upgrades to its antenna and is possibly close to finishing their landscaping project around the fake tree.

Altar Guild Report:

- Elodia Fernandez mentioned that the busy Holy Week and Easter season was over. Ray Boreham expressed gratitude to her and all the members of the Altar Guild for their dedication and hard work.

Rector's Report:

- Father Parrish noted that the average Service attendance at the end of April, including those attending via Zoom, was 18.

- Regarding the ReVive Program, we should develop and refine our Parish goals and vision statement (found at <https://stlukeschapel.org/whowear/ourchurch-vision/>) before inviting Canon Mark Eldredge to visit us and lead the ReVive Program again. To this end, we need to own, articulate, and implement our vision statement. We each must be wholeheartedly committed to our Lord Jesus Christ.
- The Reverend Darryl Fitzwater will be examined by the ACNA College of Bishops before they give their consents to his election as Bishop-Coadjutor of our diocese. Father Parrish requested everyone to continue praying for Father Fitzwater. The College of Bishops meets from June 20th to 23rd, just before the Provincial Assembly meets. The bishops will also elect a new archbishop and primate for the province to re-

place Archbishop Foley Beach.

Other Business:

- Suggestions to focus on and pray for growing the Church include: 1) Setting up signs on street corners (Julia McNeely is working on these). Julia asked for measurements of our banners, as we need new ones. 2) Setting up a sign advertising our services by the mailbox. 3) Raising the flags before the service every Sunday. Julia requested patriotic hymns for Memorial Day weekend. 4) Dropping flyers off in surrounding neighborhood for special events/occasions. 5) Hosting social events in McNeely Hall. A projector and screen would be needed for film nights in McNeely Hall. Deacon Vogel said he would research these items and send an e-mail to the Vestry detailing his findings. 6) Allowing use of McNeely Hall for events deemed worthy. 7)

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Reaching out to Foothill College. In the past St. Luke's put fliers on notice boards on campus. 8) Forming a choir. 9) Establishing an Usher ministry.

These are just some of the ideas we as a Vestry have. If you have any other ideas or would like to help in this very important mission, please contact Father Parrish or any Vestry member. Better yet, join us at an upcoming meeting to offer your ideas and suggestions in

person. The more help and input we can get, the better. Thank you in advance.

- Dish Wireless: After an extensive discussion, it was unanimously decided that, due to the uncertain future of Dish combined with their reputation for delaying payments to lessors, the Chapel will not allow Dish Wireless to lease ground space.

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Thank you for your time in reading this article. Please remember, this is **your** Vestry and this is **your** parish. Whether you're able to attend wor-

ship services regularly or not, your input on any matter concerning the Chapel, its operation, and its overall mission and purpose is essential and welcome, so, as I mentioned previously, if there's anything you feel needs to be addressed in future meetings or even in between meetings or if you have any questions or concerns, please do reach out and contact Father Parrish and/or any member of the Vestry and we'll be sure to address whatever you feel needs our attention as soon as practically possible.

We look forward to seeing you at a future service and/or meeting and I'll be back with you next month.

– Ray Boreham,
Senior Warden



The fountain
in the Chapels' front yard.
Photo by Clark Patteson

Parish Postings

You are invited to join Joanna's Prayer Circle during fellowship on Sunday, July 14th, in McNeely Hall. This group is for anyone who has special prayer requests, wants to share joys or sorrows, longs for a moment of quiet contemplation, or needs

some support. Members of Joanna's Prayer Circle intercede daily as individuals for those on the Chapel Family Prayer List and meet as a group on the second Sunday of the month to seek the guidance of the Holy Spirit and to pray at His direction. All are welcome!



The Vestry will meet on Sunday, July 14th, following Morning Prayer and fellowship (with Joanna's Prayer Circle meeting during fellowship). All are welcome!

Come celebrate with your Chapel Family and all heaven as Brandy Falcon receives the sacrament of Holy Baptism on Sunday, July 21st!



Our Community Mission Project for this quarter is to raise funds for Second Harvest Food Bank. When donating to this project, please write *Second Harvest* on your offertory envelope or check memo line. Thank you!

Upcoming Events

Thursday, July 4th

Independence Day

Friday, July 5th

Telephone Prayer Meeting

10:00 AM

Sunday, July 7th

The Sixth Sunday after Trinity

Holy Communion with Holy Unction

10:00 AM

Friday, July 12th

Telephone Prayer Meeting

10:00 AM

Sunday, July 14th

The Seventh Sunday after Trinity

Office of Morning Prayer

10:00 AM

Joanna's Prayer Circle
during fellowship

Vestry Meeting
following fellowship

Friday, July 19th

Telephone Prayer Meeting

10:00 AM

Sunday, July 21st

The Eighth Sunday after Trinity

Holy Communion with Holy Baptism

10:00 AM

Friday, July 26th

Telephone Prayer Meeting

10:00 AM

Sunday, July 28th

The Ninth Sunday after Trinity

Office of Morning Prayer

10:00 AM

Friday, August 2nd

Telephone Prayer Meeting

10:00 AM

Sunday, August 4th

The Tenth Sunday after Trinity

Holy Communion with Holy Unction

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

26140 Duval Way
Los Altos Hills, California
94022-4413
Office phone:
650-941-6524

Father Parrish's cellular:
669-946-2645

e-mail:
ChristopherParrish7@gmail.com

Deacon Vogel's cellular:
408-569-7067

e-mail: vogel.peter@gmail.com

Website:

www.StLukesChapel.church

«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.