# The Hillside Messenger

VOLUME 20, ISSUE 8

AUGUST 2024

# A Message from the Rector: Ecclesiastes 3: God's Gift of Times and Seasons

begin with a familiar passage from the **Book of Ecclesiastes**:

To every thing there is a season, And a time to which is planted;
A time to kill,
And a time to heal;
A time to break down,
And a time to build up;
A time to weep,

A time to embrace,
And a time to refrain from embracing;
A time to get,
And a time to lose;
A time to keep,
And a time to



pose under the heaven: A time to be born, And a time to die; A time to plant, And a time to pluck up that

And a time to laugh;
A time to mourn,
And a time to dance;
A time to cast away stones,
And a time to gather stones together;

cast away;
A time to rend,
And a time to
sew;
A time to keep silence,
And a time to
speak;
A time to love,

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And a time to hate;
A time of war,
And a time of peace.

What profit hath he that worketh in that wherein he laboureth? I have seen the travail, which God hath given to the sons of men to be exercised in it. He hath made every thing beautiful in his time: also He hath set the world in their heart, so that no man can find out the work that God maketh from the beginning to the end.

I know that there is no good in them, but for a man to rejoice, and to do good in his life.

Ecclesiastes 3:1-12, KJV

The passage begins with a parallelism expressing the observed fact that there is a time or season for everything. This reminds us of the first chapter of *Ecclesiastes* with its cyclical view of precipitation, daily sunrise and sunset, and the changing of the wind's direction, except that the opposites listed here are not necessarily cyclical; they embrace extremes and all that lies between one extreme and another. This figure of speech (the listing of opposites as a

way of including everything in between) is called merismus, and it occurs frequently in ancient Near Eastern literature. The words season and time in the first verse represent different words in the Hebrew original and in the Greek Septuagint. Interestingly, the Greek word kairos, which is used in the Gospels for "the appointed time" of the coming of God's kingdom, is



used for "time" in this passage. While the opening statement appears obvious, what we must realize is that for everything that happens in the world, there is a particular time, whether that action, deed, process, or phase, is to be repeated in one individual's life or not. What, then, is the implication of the truth that for everything there is a season, and a time for every pur-

pose? One profound implication, I believe, is that we must discern the season or time in which we live. St. Paul taught this when in speaking about the perfect knowledge Christians will one day be given by God, he wrote:

When I was a child, I spake as a child, I understood as a child, I thought as a child: but when I became a man, I put away childish things.

*I Corinthians* 13:11, KJV

There was a time when St. Paul was a child and thought, spoke, and understood as a child does, but when he became a man, he discarded childish ways because he had acquired the thought processes and understanding of an adult. We can all come to the same insight concerning our own lives. Does any of us want to return to an immature understanding of things? Surely not!

Just as there is a time to be born, so there is a time to die (*Ecclesiastes 3:2*), and times for everything in between. We could not prepare for our time of birth, but preparations need to be made for our time of death, including spiritual preparation, by ensuring we are reconciled to God through Christ our Lord and rec-

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onciled to everyone we know as far as it lies within our means. To address the need for spiritual preparation before death, Bishop Jeremy Taylor wrote his book *The Art of Holy Dying*.

Similarly, there is a time to plant, and a time to pull up what has been planted. Agriculturally, this is obvious. For example, in California, there was a time for farmers to plant almond trees, but in a time of severe drought,

some mature almond trees had to be dug up, because there was not enough water available to irrigate them or because the cost of the water was too high. But the truism does not just apply to agricul-

ture. It applies to many things that people do. There may be a time to start new projects, since that seems to be the most profitable or wise thing to do, and then, perhaps years later, close them down since they no longer serve any useful purpose.

In verse 3, we read of there being a time to kill and a time to heal. We can apply this to war (a time when killing people on the enemy side is justified because it is war), and then a time of healing after the war is over and a peace treaty has been concluded. If killing was always justified under any circumstances, there would be no peace and no possibility of healing. For society to thrive and continue, war must cease for there to be the possibility of healing nations, communities, and families. This is one reason why we need to pray for wars to cease between Russia



and Ukraine and between Israel and Hamas. Though there is a time to break down, there is also a time to build up, and the time to build up and restore things that were broken down may be longer than the time it took to break them down.

The opposites found in this list remind us also that life is not just positive but also has its negative, destructive times. For example, some young people think that they can

pass their time by laughing at everyone and everything, whereas, in fact, sooner or later, they will find there are times of weeping. On the other hand, there are those who think that the most appropriate way of passing time is being miserable and mournful. They, too, must learn there are times for rejoicing and laughing. Is it just either the one or the other, weeping or laughing? No, the figure of speech being used includes all the behaviors

> between weeping and laughing. There are times in which any of these might be suitable. There are times in which certain activities are no longer practiced or appropriate. When I was rector of

parishes in ghetto areas in South Africa, one way in which a parish would raise funds is through church dances (where the rector was expected to dance with any female parishioner), and I wasn't so good at dancing. But it was all part of the evening's fun, and the rector was expected to participate in it. Nowadays, in this country, churches do not need to organize dances to raise funds. Therefore, for me,

it is not the season, or time, for dancing.

In verse 5, the reference to casting away stones, and gathering stones most likely is to distributing or accumulating wealth, since the Hebrew word for "stone" can also refer to precious sones, or gems. In this verse also, embracing may refer to accumulating wealth, and refraining from embracing to the process of not accumulating it, whether one loses it, or distributes it to the needy.

The next two pairs of opposites allocate a time to acquiring and a time to losing and a time to keep and a time to throw away (verse 6). Even today we come across people who are so willing to acquire things but are never willing to throw anything away. One truth that emerges from a reading of this passage is that it is not good or pleasing to God always to be stuck in one of these two opposite poles of life. To be accumulating and never throwing away is an example. On the other hand, throwing things away without discerning what to keep is also an unproductive option. But these general principles can be applied spiritually and in an abstract way as well. For example, certain ideas and insights might have been useful to one at one time but need to be discarded now on account

of deeper insights one has gained.

"A time to rend and a time to sew; a time to keep silence and a time to speak" (*Ecclesiastes 3:7* KJV, ASV): The juxtaposition of these pairs shows silence and speech next to tearing and sewing up what has been torn. Interestingly, our English word scissors is derived from the Latin word scindendi for "to rend." "Are we doing (fill in the blank) at the proper time?" is a question which we should ask ourselves. I think of a cartoon of Dennis the Menace and his grandfather resting under a tree, and Dennis asking his grandfather, "Are we passing the time, or is time passing us by?" Is time the subject that passes us by, or are we the subject that passes time or uses it? When it comes to silence and speech, there are times when we should speak up for what is right but we remain silent. It is better for someone to voice his opinions reasonably about politics in the right context than it is to remain silent and let his anger drive him to violence against others. On the other hand, everyone should discern when it is better to keep silent.

Finally, in these pairs of extremes, we encounter the ideas of there being appropriate times for love and hate, war and peace (verse 8). The Lord Jesus Christ teaches us to love our enemies (*St. Matthew*)

5:44-48). Whom or what, then, should we hate? There is no easy answer to this, but as this antithesis is paired with the one concerning war and peace, it is probably to be understood as hate within the context of war, that is, hatred for one's enemy in war. For us Christians, we must hate evil and the Devil and all his demon hosts while we love God. our fellow believers, and all people.

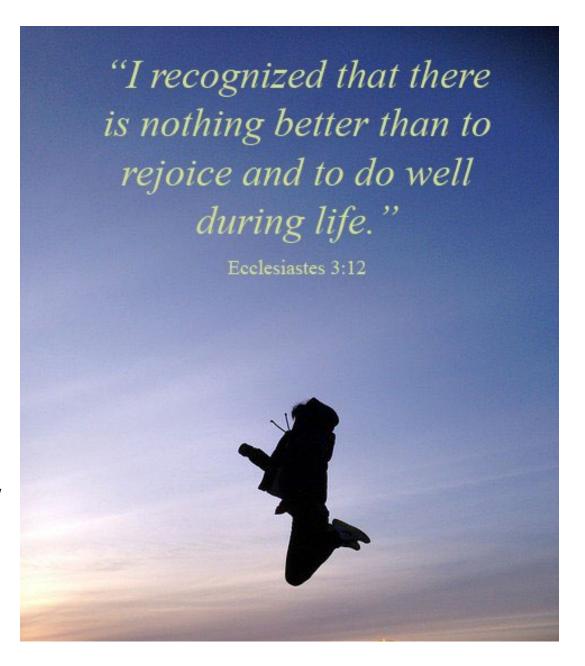
Now all these antithetical parallelisms set out the extremes in life. but somehow, they lead the Preacher in verse 9 to ask what profit or advantage is gained from all the work that man does on earth. The question is not answered immediately, but the Preacher tells how he has observed all the travail God has given to people in the course of their earthly lives and work (verse 10). But now some telling insights emerge from the Preacher's observation of time. The first is that God "has made everything beautiful in its time" (Ecclesiastes *3:11a.* ASV). When everything God has made is considered with respect to its time, it is beautiful. We can think, for example, of the time in which God the Son became incarnate by the Blessed Virgin Mary and Jesus Christ was born. It was the time of the Pax *Romana*, when there was peace throughout the Roman Empire and a system

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of well-built roads which paved the way for the efficient spread of the Gospel throughout the Mediterranean lands of the Empire. A second great insight is that God has set in man's heart a perception of eternity but in such a way, that man cannot find out God's work from beginning to end (verse 11). In other words, though man has a sense of time in all things, he cannot limit God to a linear sense of time. Therefore, there are two things people must do that exceed every other consideration: They must rejoice and do good all their lives (verse 12).

How will you best use your time? Christians are called to live uprightly and wisely, loving God wholeheartedly and their neighbor as themselves while "redeeming the time" (*Ephesians* 5:16a, ASV). Let each of us do this so that we may live lives worthy of the calling we have received (*Ephesians* 4:1).

The Reverend Chris Parrish



# Voices of St. Luke's

hapel Family members were asked to answer the question "what one piece of advice would you give newlyweds (you know, assuming they asked?)" Some of us (cough) couldn't stop at one. Here are the answers we received:

Communicate, communicate, communicate. Don't think your partner knows

cause of this. In the matter of a few weeks, a baby was baptized, a baby was born, and another was lost. It lends a sparkling vitality, with the children feeling totally at home during the service. They are encouraged to attend the main service and leave for Sunday School during the sermon.

Patsy Zahrt

Communicate. Tell your spouse what's going on.

picture. In raising children, both are on the same page so that a child cannot play one parent against the other.

Joanna Watney

**P**ray together daily.

Thank God for your spouse and your marriage daily.

Speak respectfully to your spouse. Just as importantly, speak respectfully *about* your spouse.



what you are thinking, because they don't.

Listen\_to one another.

Don't go to bed angry.

Say "I love you"— and mean it! Julia McNeely

My advice to newlyweds is to have children! The church we are attending here in North Carolina is full of babbling babies and cheerful children and seems to be growing be-

For example, if guests are coming, your spouse needs to know this ahead of time so that adequate preparations can be made.

Father Chris Parrish

All you need is love.

Ray Boreham

Communicate!

Bill Zahrt

**D**iscuss all important items together. In finance, each knows the whole

If you have a complaint about your spouse, ask God how to express it to your spouse and then do as you are directed to address the problem.

Kim Vogel

**D**on't go to bed mad, especially with each other.

Kathy Slattery

As you marry, remember to always stay engaged.

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# Voices of St. Luke's

And as you navigate through life's journey together do it with love and in respect for each other.

Jana Baldwin

Clear, open communication really helps keep your relationship respectful and loving! So try not to keep your feelings bottled up or make assumptions, which may cause unnecessary tension. Your connection deepens when you give each other plenty of space to share what's on your heart.

Brandy Falcon

where there were just household finances and everything came out of that, but that's because Dad had essentially no hobbies and hated going to shops. If he needed something, with very rare exceptions, he asked Mom to procure it for him. Using the same model didn't work for Kim and me as we both had different spending priorities and perspectives on small expenses. The recipe that eliminated just about all money arguments for us was to have small individual

ment about such a thing, consider what points of view you each are bringing to the argument (there will, undoubtedly, be valid perspectives on both sides), and find the middle ground or compromise that you can both work with in love and charity with each other.

Deacon Peter Vogel

Marriage is like a triangle with God at the top, and us on either end, and as we get closer to the Lord in our personal relationship with Him so we'll get closer to one

# If you have a question for our Chapel Family, please send it to Father Parrish. Thank you!

**I** have some specific advice and then a generalization of it. The specific advice: One of the most common sources of recurring arguments in married couples relates to finances, particularly the spending habits (or nonspending habits) in the union. It's so easy to allow "death by a thousand cuts" (minor resentments) to build up over time and then explode in an argument. Decide how you will make spending decisions and divide finances. I grew up in a family

accounts with each of us getting an equal contribution from each paycheck, plus one household account. The household account is for all the usual expenses and anything we jointly decide we should spend money on. Individual accounts are for spending where no consultation with the spouse is required.

The general advice that springs from that is to look for those sources of recurring argument and, in times when you are *not* fresh off an arguanother.

Bridgette Parrish

I borrowed my advice from both Bette Midler and Cameron Diaz, who say the secret to a long, happy marriage is separate bedrooms.

Clark Patteson, with help from Debbie

# Our Chapel Family Prayer List

This prayer list was current as of July 25th, 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!

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:

all those affected by wildfires and volcanic eruptions;

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;

Bob Willis;

Grace Driver:

Robbie Tavey;

and

Bishop Coadjutor-elect Father Darryl 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.

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# A Prayer for the Middle East

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

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

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*.

ather 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*.

# Vestry Matters

ear fellow Parishioners,

Welcome to the latest edition of Vestry Matters. It's good to be back with you again, and I hope you enjoyed the previous article and that you'll enjoy the current and future editions.

#### June 9<sup>th</sup> Vestry Meeting Summary

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

#### Treasurer's Report:

- Elodia Fernandez reported that \$120 had been collected for Second Harvest, our second-quarter Community Mission Project.
- Organist expenses were slightly lower than usual on account of Akiko's Sundays away and there being no substitute organist available for those services.
- The federal tax payment of

- \$1,447 made in May amounted to what we had owed after the estimated payment of \$4,000 made in April.
- \$1,950 had been collected for fence repair, and \$2,050 from the Repair and Maintenance Fund had been added to make up the \$4,000 paid for the new fence.
- The new insurance premium started in February. It is billed quarterly.
- Clergy AD&D
   Insurance and
   Retirement Fund
   payments are annual payments
   and have been
   paid for the year.
- The period January to May showed a deficit of \$5,699.66.
- Checking account balance was \$44,595.
- Schwab Account: no change to the cash portion of the investment account since May. Total account value in-

cludes the cash portion of the account.

#### Junior Warden's Report:

- Clark Patteson reported that tree trimming would soon be done.
- With the help of Bill Zahrt, he had negotiated with AT&T for completion of the landscaping work as previously agreed. They had planted trees near their mono-pine. The coffeeberry plants will spread. They can be cut off at ground level but will grow back.

#### Altar Guild Report:

 Elodia Fernandez reported that June would be a quieter month. She has issued the Altar Guild assignments schedule for July.

#### Rector's Report:

• Father Parrish reported that the average Sunday attendance at the end of May, including those attending via Zoom, was 18.



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# Vestry Matters

- Ben Taaffe's training as a lay reader continues.
- He and Bridgitte would be in Raleigh, North Carolina, from June 26th to 30th, where he would conduct the wedding service of Mark Benjamin and Rachel Jebaraj. He has completed the marriage preparation class with them.
- Tim Slattery's brother Philip had passed away on May 29th. Father Parrish had visited him at the VA Hospital in Palo Alto on the afternoon of May 28th, prayed with him, and administered Holy Unction. He requested that everyone keep the Slattery family in their prayers.

#### Other Business:

Suggestions to focus on and pray for growing the Church include:
 Setting up signs on street corners (Julia McNeely is working on these). Julia asked for measurements of our banners, as we need new ones.
 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 flvers off in surrounding neighborhood for special events/ occasions. 5) Hosting social events in Mc-Neely Hall. A projector and screen would be needed for film nights in Mc-Neely 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) 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. 10) Movie nights and bowling nights were suggested.

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.

•••

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

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

practically possible.

Ray Boreham,Senior Warden



# Parish Postings

You are invited to join Joanna's Prayer Circle during fellowship on Sunday, August 11th, 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, August 11th, following Morning Prayer and fellowship (with Joanna's Prayer Circle meeting during fellowship). All are welcome and, indeed, encouraged to attend!

St. Luke's Chapel in the Hills will celebrate Jesus' sacrifice to save the whole world with its annual International Day on Sunday, August 25th. We will have a potluck of parishioners' favorite dishes from around the globe following the Office of Morning Prayer. Please let Bridgitte Par-

rish know what you plan to bring to share. Thank you!





Please note that the Friday morning Telephone Prayer Meeting has been discontinued because Father Parrish will beunable to make or receive phone calls while teaching class. The Telephone Prayer Meeting will be rescheduled, so please stay tuned for further information.

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# Parish Postings



Welcome, Brandy Falcon! Our newest sister in Christ was baptized on Sunday, July 21st. (Back row, left to right: Father Chris Parrish and Deacon Peter Vogel. Front row: Julia McNeely, Godmother; Brandy Falcon; Lee Ann Vojvoda, Godmother; and John Vojvoda, Godfather.)

Welcome, Mark and Rachel Benjamin, who made their first appearance at St. Luke's as a married couple on Sunday, July 28th!





Father Parrish would firstly like to thank the Lord for his recent appointment as the fifthgrade teacher at Milpitas Christian School for the 2024-25 school year, and secondly the parish for the beautiful congratulatory card he received, with its encouraging messages.

**O**ur third-quarter Community Mission Project is to collect funds to purchase backpacks for needy students. Please write *Backpacks* on your check memo line or offertory envelope when donating to this project. Thank you!



# Parish Postings

Let's all go to the movies! Julia McNeely is looking to see if a group from the Chapel would like to get together and see a Christian-themed drama. "The Firing Squad", starring Kevin Sorbo and Cuba Gooding, Jr., is based on a true story about the road from darkness to redemption. It

is in theaters now. Maybe afterwards we can find a nice little place to go and get something to eat to share and talk about the story. Everyone is invited! Please contact Julia if interested.



please let Julia so she can get a count and set a date.



Now is your chance to dust off your ball, air out your old bowling shoes, and show off your great skill on the lanes! Julia McNeely is looking for Chapel Family and friends who would be interested in gathering for an afternoon of fun, food, and a bit of friendly competition at Homestead Bowl in Cupertino. If you are interested,

# Upcoming Events

#### Sunday, August 4th

The Tenth Sunday after Trinity

Holy Communion with Holy Unction
10:00 AM

#### Sunday, August 11th

The Eleventh Sunday after Trinity

Office of Morning Prayer 10:00 AM

Joanna's Prayer Circle during fellowship

Vestry Meeting following fellowship

#### Sunday, August 18th

The Twelfth Sunday after Trinity

Holy Communion 10:00 AM

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# Upcoming Events

Sunday, August 25th

The Thirteenth Sunday after Trinity

International Day

Office of Morning Prayer 10:00 AM

*International Day Potluck* following the worship service

Sunday, September 1st

The Fourteenth Sunday after Trinity

Holy Communion with Holy Unction
10:00 AM



# 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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# 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.