

# The Hillside Messenger

## A Message from the Rector: Insights from the Preacher: Ecclesiastes 4

This month I continue consideration of insights from the *Book of Ecclesiastes* by focusing on Chapter 4. As I write this, tomorrow is Labor Day, and some of the Preacher's observations here relate to problems experienced by the workforce.

In verses 1-3 of *Ecclesiastes 4*, the Preacher considers all the oppressions that are practiced on earth. In the Law as well as the prophetic literature of the

Old Testament, the oppression of the poor by the rich and powerful is censured (for example, *Leviticus 19:13*, *Deuteronomy 24:14-15*; *Amos 5:10-13*; *Zechariah 7:10*), and the oppressive rich are warned of God's coming judgment. Here, however, the oppressed are observed as having no

one to comfort them. "How can this be?" one might ask. If God is "the God of all comfort" (*II Corinthians 1:3*; cf. *Isaiah 51:3,12*; *Psalms 86:17*) and the Holy Spirit is promised as "another Comforter" (*St. John 14:16*), how is it that the oppressed have no comforter? What we must realize as we read and

employers. No person or group of people within the society he is observing is able to make a difference or provide real comfort and hope to those who are being treated cruelly and unfairly by their masters. He considers the tears of the oppressed and the fact that on the side of the oppressors there is power, but the oppressed have no comforter.

We might point out that modern society and labor have improved vastly since the tenth century BC. Slavery has been

abolished, and trade unions have been established which negotiate with employers for better working conditions and pay for workers. Yet there are still companies and situations where oppression occurs, whether it be through low wages, extended hours of work, or favoring some employ-



study *Ecclesiastes* is that the Preacher makes observations that are general and then shares his thoughts and insights. When he observes that the oppressed have no comforter, he means generally that no human being is providing comfort or support to workers who are oppressed by powerful masters or em-

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## Insights from the Preacher: Ecclesiastes 4

ees over others in assigning certain duties. There are places where farm workers are still not properly housed. There are countries in the world where children are exploited as laborers to harvest jasmine for the oil of expensive perfumes. Of course, child trafficking continues and is another way for some people to enrich themselves at the expense of the poor. Then there are those that promise to pay their workers and either withhold their pay or pay them less than

they had promised. Though many great advances have been made in the workplace and in the just

treatment of workers, we have to admit that oppression and unfair treatment of workers still continues in the workplace. It has not been universally abolished. The Preacher does not suggest ways to end oppression by the powerful. He observes the situation: The power of the oppressor, the tears of the oppressed, and no comforter for the oppressed. Just these observations, if we reflect on them, hold very serious consequences. Just as bullies at school think they can go

on bullying some students without facing consequences, so in some workplaces are supervisors and employees who imagine they can go on treating other employees unjustly and never face any consequences since they are the ones in power. But the day might come when their victim's misery under such treatment becomes too much to bear, and he might choose to react violently. Most people don't. They just suffer in silence. Then there are those who observe the mistreatment of their fellow worker but do nothing, not wanting to get involved, and the victim still has no comforter from among those who should have given him encouragement and succor.

In view of this perpetual oppression, the Preacher somberly praises the dead more than the living but concludes that the person who has not yet been born is better off than either since he has not seen all this "evil work that is done under the sun" (*Ecclesiastes 4:3c*, KJV). The Preacher's perspective does not consider the doctrine of the resurrection nor the abode of the righteous souls in Paradise, for he thinks that the person not yet born is better off than both the living and the dead. The Preacher's idea here could represent the pre-existence of souls before their birth, such souls not being able to observe any events on earth prior to

being born. His idea of the dead does not seem to include the idea of any purposeful existence in which the sorrows of earthly life have been forgotten.

In his next observation, the Preacher remarks that a man is envied of his neighbor for all toil, skill, and labor (verse 4). Here he takes aim at the competitive nature of work, which is "also vanity and vexation of spirit" (*Ecclesiastes 4:4c*, KJV). This is to say, the rat race is an exercise in futility. Does this mean a person should not strive for excellence in his work? Surely not, but when that exercise is measured against the success of others, it can become futile.

On the other hand, there is the fool who folds his hands together and is left with nothing to eat but himself since he refuses to work (verse 5). The Preacher has observed oppression in the world and competitiveness in work, but now he notes the result of idleness, which he does not recommend. There is a necessary balance in work and life that the Preacher expresses in this way:

Better is a handful with quietness, than both the hands full with travail and vexation of spirit.  
*Ecclesiastes 4:6*,  
KJV



## *Insights from the Preacher: Ecclesiastes 4*

The handful represents income. Both hands full shows double the income, but this of course requires much more labor which brings its accompanying weariness and a troubled mind. Quietness implies peace and sufficient rest. It is better to have peace and rest with a moderate income than all the stress that comes with the additional work associated with a higher income level.

Next the Preacher considers the person who works for himself, having no family to support. This person's goal is simply to accumulate wealth. As much as he attains, he is never satisfied with the wealth that he has (*Ecclesiastes 4:8*).

In the fourth observation in this chapter, the Preacher emphasizes the value of fellowship and company. Even two are better than one, for they have a good reward for their work (*Ecclesiastes 4:9*). One can think here of God's blessings of marriage and friendship. Each is there for the other, and one can help the other up if he falls (*Ecclesiastes 4:10*). Again, thinking of marriage, we can see the benefit each can be to the other, providing warmth when they lie together (verse 11). The value of friendship can be seen from the Preacher's saying:

And if one prevail against him,

two shall withstand him; and a three-fold cord is not quickly broken.

*Ecclesiastes*  
4:12, KJV

This saying refers to standing against attackers, and it stresses that two or three friends together can withstand a solitary assailant.

In summarizing these observations of the Preacher, I conclude from them that though oppression of the poor by the powerful persists as an inescapable reality of life, we should approach work realizing that the competitive spirit is ultimately futile. We must avoid the extremes of working too hard for the sake of getting ahead and not working at all, both of which are self-destructive. Instead, we should balance life and work so that we have enough peace and quiet. In addition, we should have friends and family to support and strengthen us as we do our work and share the rewards of our labor. Finally, remember St. Paul's exhortation for Christians which reminds us that none of our work in the Lord is ever in vain:

Therefore, my beloved brethren, be ye steadfast, unmoveable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, forasmuch as ye know that

your labour is not in vain in the Lord.

*I Corinthians*  
15:58, KJV

– *The Reverend*  
*Chris Parrish*

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***Lord,  
please help me  
to keep working for You  
even when I am weak.  
Equip and strengthen me  
to accomplish every work  
You have called me to do.  
I thank You  
for the chance to serve You,  
for Your help in the tasks You set me,  
and for the reassurance  
that no part of the work  
I do for You  
is ever wasted.  
May Your Name be ever praised!  
Amen.***

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## *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 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;

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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***This prayer list was current as of September 2nd, 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!***

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## *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.*

**F**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.*

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***St. Luke's  
hosts an annual  
International Day  
in celebration  
of the Gospel's  
continuing spread  
around the world.***

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## ***A Good Time***

**O**ur Chapel is well known for its excellent cooks and outstanding culinary fare at our potlucks. It has been a few days since our International Day celebration, but I am still thinking about all that was presented. I know that I am not listing all the terrifically delicious contributions, but we feasted on Apfelküche, Spanakopita, Steak and Kidney Pie, Trifle, Cottage Pie and a delicious meat dish that had onions and cilantro that I don't know what it was called but was so very tender and delighted my taste buds. We really had a great variety of the

most delicious foods from around the world. Sharing good food, coming together for an extended period of fellowship, and engaging in great conversations is an opportunity to really get to know your fellow Anglicans.

We had an extra special treat this year with some live music from the Midnight Ramblerz to enhance all the great food and fellowship. The concert really made the whole event something else!

The Midnight Ramblerz consists of four very talented musicians, but the best is the drummer (none other than our own Ray Boreham)! The concert was great! It really was a lot of fun. The music was

lively, and I even saw a few *toes a-tappin'*. Talk about a joyful noise unto the Lord! There certainly was. We are hoping to invite the band again. I hope that those who missed this year's International Day will join us next time. Between the food and the music, a good time was had by all!

– *Julia McNeely*



**The Midnight Ramblerz**

## Vestry Matters

**D**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.

### Important Update

After several years of outstanding service and following their relocation to the East Coast, Bill and Patsy Zahrt have resigned from the Vestry. On behalf of the Vestry and the Parish in general, I wish to extend my gratitude to Bill and Patsy and to wish them the very best in their new home. You will be sorely missed.

As a result, we now have two open slots on the Vestry and would welcome any volunteers who would like to serve. No prior experience is needed, and any confirmed current member of the Parish is welcome to

apply. If interested, please contact either me or Father Parrish.

### July 14th Vestry Meeting Summary

Those in attendance: Ray Boreham, Elodia Fernandez, Julia McNeely, Bridgitte Parrish, Father Chris Parrish, and Clark Patteson.

Treasurer's Report:

- Elodia Fernandez reported that the Net Operating Income for the period January to June was -\$8,386.57.
- The Investment Account had increased in value by almost \$29,000 since the end of last year thanks to very impressive stock market performance.
- The Schwab Account Summary showed that the cash portion of the Investment Account was \$5,607.74. When this increases to a high enough level, it will be reinvested.

Junior Warden's Report:

- Clark Patteson provided an update on T-Mobile and their desire to remodel the steeple. They sent him an e-mail requesting him to authorize said remodeling. However, steeple modification requires Vestry approval and must be tied into the negotiation of a new lease agreement with them, which should include a signing bonus and payment of market-value rent. It should be noted that T-Mobile currently pays well below market value for their rent.

Altar Guild Report:

- Elodia Fernandez reported that all was in order and going well.

Rector's Report:

- Father Parrish noted the average Service attendance at the end of June, including



# Vestry

## *Vestry Matters*

those attending via Zoom, was 17.

- He and Bridgitte were in Raleigh, North Carolina, from June 26th to 30th, where Father Parrish conducted the wedding service of Mark Benjamin and Rachel Jebaraj. Congratulations, Mark and Rachel!

- Father Jim Short and his wife, Philistia, of St. Anselm's Anglican Mission in Pacific Grove will fly to Uganda on August 20th. They plan to return during Holy Week next year. In the meantime, Canon Penfield and Deacon Vogel will lead Sunday services

there twice a month.

- The ACNA College of Bishops had elected Bishop Steven Wood as the next Archbishop of the Anglican Church in North America. The College had also consented to the election of Father Darryl Fitzwater as Bishop Co-

adjutor of the Missionary Diocese of All Saints. His consecration will take place, God willing, at the Church of the Ascension in Charles Town, West Virginia, on October 4th, 2024.

### Old Business:

- Continuing the Vestry's prayers for and focus on growing the church, Julia McNeely reported she was working on two signage options. The first is a sandwich board sign near the mailbox displaying information on both sides. Ray Boreham offered to help her with the sandwich board. The sandwich board could be stored in the Nursery. The second is new banners, but she needs the dimensions of the current banners. She will consult with Father Parrish and Deacon Vogel.
- Julia McNeely will put an announcement in our newsletter about a bowling event.
- We are constantly looking for new ideas to help grow our church. If anybody reading this has any other ideas or would like to help in this very important mission, please feel free to contact Father Parrish or any Vestry member or 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.

### New Business:

- The Vestry unanimously resolved that the third-quarter Community Mission Project would be donating backpacks for needy school children.

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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 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 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

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*Vestry meetings are usually held on the second Sunday of every month following the worship service, except for December, when no meeting is held, and February, when a short procedural meeting follows the Annual Parish Meeting.*

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## Parish Postings

You are invited to join Joanna's Prayer Circle during fellowship on Sunday, September 8th, in McNeely Hall. This group is for anyone who has special prayer requests, wants to share joys or sorrows, 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, September 22nd following Morning Prayer and fellowship to conduct the temporal business of the parish. All are welcome and, indeed, encouraged to attend!



The Autumnal Ember Days are Wednesday, September 18th; Friday, September 20th; and Saturday, September 21st. The purpose of the Autumnal Ember Days is to give thanks to God for the previous season's blessings and to ask for blessings for the upcoming season. The days are observed with prayer, fasting, and abstinence. Historically associated with the grape harvest, the Autumnal Ember Days are a time to:

- focus on using God's bounty in moderation;
- help those in need;
- commemorate the Lord's betrayal, death, and descent into hell;
- celebrate the physical harvest of the fields; and
- beseech God for a plentiful spiritual harvest of vocations to the diaconate and priesthood.



God willing the Reverend Darryl Fitzwater will be consecrated Bishop on Friday, October 4th, at Church of the Ascension Anglican in Charles Town, West Virginia. The rite is scheduled to take place at 6:00 PM. Bishop Fitzwater will

serve as Bishop Coadjutor of the Missionary Diocese of All Saints in the Anglican Church in North America.



## *Parish Postings*

The Greeting Cards ministry collects signatures for and mails birthday, anniversary, and other special occasion cards to members and friends of the parish. Please take a moment each week to at least sign any new cards on the main fellowship table (messages are great but not required). Thank you!



Lee Ann Vojvoda collects can tabs for a square dancing friend. Collecting just the tab from cans translates into money that is used to purchase wheelchairs for kids at the Shriners Hospital in Sacramento. The wheelchairs are given to needy families for their children at no cost to the family. Anyone can help by saving and donating just the tab/pop-top of any can. If you would like to contribute to this wonderful

cause, start saving those tabs/pop-tops! When you get a bagful you can give them to Lee Ann.

## *Upcoming Events*

### **Sunday, September 1st**

The Fourteenth Sunday after Trinity  
*Holy Communion with Holy Unction*  
10:00 AM

### **Monday, September 2nd**

Labor Day

### **Sunday, September 8th**

The Fifteenth Sunday after Trinity  
*Office of Morning Prayer*  
10:00 AM

*Vestry Meeting*  
following fellowship

## *Upcoming Events*

### **Sunday, September 15th**

The Sixteenth Sunday after Trinity

*Holy Communion*

10:00 AM

*Joanna's Prayer Circle Meeting*  
during fellowship

### **Wednesday, September 18th**

Ember Day

### **Friday, September 20th**

Ember Day

### **Saturday, September 21st**

Festival of St. Matthew, Apostle and Evangelist

Ember Day

### **Sunday, September 22nd**

The Seventeenth Sunday after Trinity

*Office of Morning Prayer*

10:00 AM

### **Sunday, September 29th**

Festival of St. Michael and All Angels

The Eighteenth Sunday after Trinity

*Holy Communion*

10:00 AM

### **Sunday, October 6th**

The Nineteenth 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

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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.