



The Hillside Messenger

A Message from the Rector: A Reflection on the Meaning of Christ's Resurrection for the Christian Life

The intensity of the passion and death of our Lord Jesus Christ on Good Friday was followed by the suddenness of His resurrection on the third day. It is easier for many people to celebrate the resurrection of the Lord Jesus Christ and the Easter traditions with which it has come to be associated than it is to commemorate and ponder the significance of His passion and death on the cross. Nevertheless, the yearly seasons of Lent and Passiontide give the Christian the opportunity to reflect and meditate on the meaning of Jesus' passion and death for their own life and the life of the Church. In the sacrament of Holy Baptism, believers become one with Christ in both His death and resurrection. St. Paul affirms this in his *Epistle to the Romans*:

Know ye not, that so many of us as were baptized into Jesus Christ were baptized into His death? Therefore we are buried with Him

walk in newness of life.

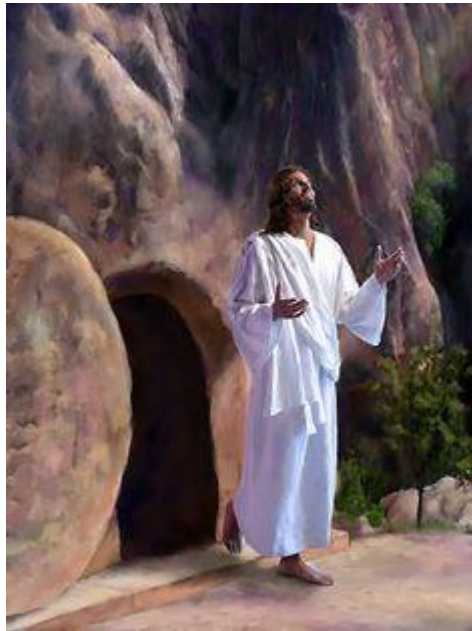
Romans 6:3-4, KJV

St. Paul goes on to explain that it is the "old man," the sinful self, that has died with Christ

through our baptism into union with Him, and now Christians must consider themselves dead to sin and alive to God through Jesus Christ our Lord (*Romans 6:11*). Just as the Lord Jesus Christ died on the cross to put sin to death, so everyone who is baptized has died to sin so that they may live to God. The resurrection in which Christians have united with Christ through baptism signifies a new way of living life on earth.

Life must no longer be egocentric. Instead, we must live for the sake of Christ:

For the love of Christ constraineth us; because



by baptism into death: that like as Christ was raised up from the dead by the glory of the Father, even so we also should

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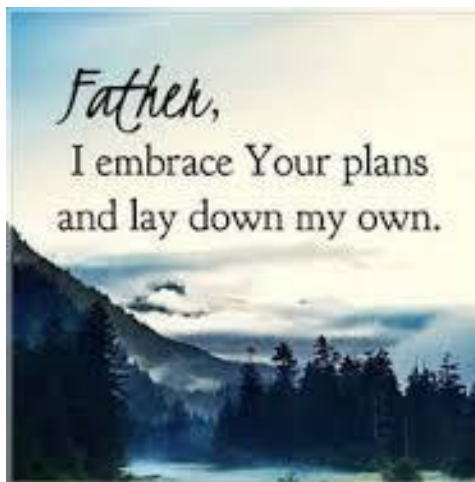
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we thus judge, that if One died for all, then were all dead: And that He died for all, that they which live should not henceforth live unto themselves, but unto Him which died for them, and rose again. Wherefore henceforth know we no man after the flesh: yea, though we have known Christ after the flesh, yet now henceforth know we Him no more. Therefore if any man be in Christ, he is a new creature: old things are passed away; behold, all things are become new.

II Corinthians
5:14-17, KJV

No matter how much anyone would like to overlook the sufferings and death of Jesus Christ, Holy Scripture continually points us toward consideration of their significance if we are truly to live the new life in Christ to which God has called us. These verses indicate that every believer in Christ is a new creature, a new creation, one who doesn't even think of the Lord Jesus Christ in terms of human limitations anymore. These verses emphasize one of the great purposes of Christ's death on the

cross: We should no longer live for ourselves, but for the sake of Christ who died for us. What does this imply? All our priorities are focused on pleasing Christ (*Galatians 1:10*); on learning and doing the perfect will of God (*Romans 12:2*); on living in wholehearted love for God (*Deuteronomy 6:4-5*); on loving our neighbor as ourselves (*Leviticus 19:18*); and on loving our fellow Christians as Christ has loved us (*St. John 15:12*).



Such a way of life, so focused on the realization of the will of God in our thoughts, words, and actions, requires self-sacrifice. But this sacrifice means the offering of ourselves to God as a living sacrifice, as St. Paul directs us in *Romans 12*:

I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that ye present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable unto

God, which is your reasonable service. And be not conformed to this world: but be ye transformed by the renewing of your mind, that ye may prove what is that good, and acceptable, and perfect, will of God.

Romans 12:1-2,
KJV

Every part of us— all our bodily members, our minds, and our souls— we offer to God as a living sacrifice, holy and acceptable to Him. A *living sacrifice* means that for as long as we live, we continually give ourselves to God for Him to use as He directs. It is “our reasonable service” (words which some have translated as *spiritual worship*), because it flows logically from Christ's offering of Himself for the salvation of

the world. It is the service, or worship, of love that we owe God on account of His inestimable love for us by giving His only begotten Son so that everyone who believes in Him may have eternal life instead of perishing everlastingly (*St. John 3:16*).

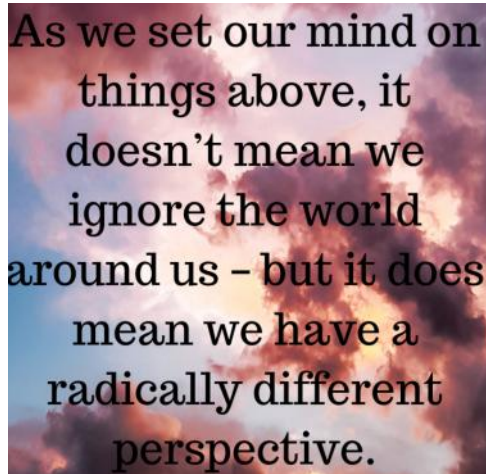
Such a complete offering of ourselves to God requires a radical transformation and renewal of our minds. Therefore, in the above verses, St. Paul commands his readers not to

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be conformed to this world, or to this age, or world order. Rather, Christians must be transformed by the renewing of their minds so that they find out by discernment what is the good, acceptable, and perfect will of God (*Romans 12:2*). But we must not imagine that we can renew our minds by some automatic process. It is not a matter of connecting electrodes to your head! The transformation that we undergo when we renew our minds is, first of all, a work of God's grace. We, in turn, must cooperate with the Holy Spirit as He directs us in our reading of the Bible, use of the prayer book, reading of devotional books, meditation, and contemplation, so that we effectively discern God's will in every aspect of our lives.

What are the implications of a Christian living for the sake of the Lord Jesus Christ? One example is the effect of the Holy Spirit's renewal of our minds on our views of people, of political and social issues, and of evils in our world today. While it is not my place or the Church's to encourage support of any political party, each of us does need to evaluate their political loyalties in the light of their Christian faith, to realize ultimately that God might not neces-

sarily side with any political party, and to understand that every political ideology is subject to God's scrutiny. Similarly, there will be Christians who will understand and support the right of Valley Transportation Authority workers to strike for better pay and working conditions, but other Christians who will instead criticize them because so many commuters who depended on bus and train rides have had to make other, more costly arrangements for the



As we set our mind on things above, it doesn't mean we ignore the world around us - but it does mean we have a radically different perspective.

three weeks the strike has continued. Thankfully, VTA workers have been given a court order to resume work. God cares about the pay of workers and their working conditions, but He also cares about commuters who have had no VTA service for three weeks.

Living in the newness of Christ's life means that we allow the Holy Spirit to transform us as we renew our minds by reading, studying, and meditating on God's word and

by obeying God's commands. If we are patient in this process, the Holy Spirit will show us how to approach moral dilemmas, how to discern the truth, and how to recognize what is wrong in ourselves and in others, and He will show us the mind of Christ in all the matters which concern us. In this process, we must not retain opinions and attitudes that we have always held, if they conflict with God's will. We must allow the Holy Spirit to change our minds, our opinions, and our attitudes. I end with this exhortation from St. Paul:

If ye then be risen with Christ, seek those things which are above, where Christ sitteth on the right hand of God. Set your affection on things above, not on things on the earth. For ye are dead, and your life is hid with Christ in God. When Christ, who is our life, shall appear, then shall ye also appear with Him in glory.

Colossians 3:1-4,
KJV

– *The Reverend
Chris Parrish*

Great Commission Campaign

My intention in writing this series of articles is to let us all take a moment to stop and think about our relationship with God. These steps are very small and simple in the implementation. I want to make things easy so as not to be overwhelming. My goal is only to consider things we can do to increase and strengthen our relationship with God and to encourage a dialogue in prayer to make our bond with Him unbreakable. I believe this will help us all to fulfill Christ's Great Commission (*St. Matthew 28:19-20*).

Step One: PRAY.

Step Two: COMMITMENT.

Step Three: ATTEND CHURCH.

Step Four: GOD IS THE PRIORITY.

It is also my hope that all of us take some time to go over the previous steps to build onto the next one.

Here I want to present Step Five: SUBMIT. Submit to the Lord and let Him guide you and bless you. He wants us to share with Him the good and the bad in our lives.

I think this word *submit* may have a negative connotation of being weak or backing down in cowardice. I don't believe this is the case. It should be seen as recognizing

God's rightful place in our lives. We submit to our compassionate, all-knowing, omnipotent Lord and let Him take charge of our lives because we can't do it alone.

I have heard many times "pride comes before a fall." Pride gets in the way. It is a human frailty that interferes with our relationship with God because it shifts our focus from Him to the world (*1 St. John 2:15-17*).

It is important to allow God in your life. He wants to take care of you and keep you safe and in His care. God ultimately knows what is best for us. We humans are not in charge, but the Lord God. We may think we are in control but, no matter how hard we try, God will overrule us every time. He truly knows what is best for us.

We should not just look to the Lord in good times and bad times. We need to look to Him in all times. He loves to see us happy, and He wants to hold us up when we are weak. He is there for us, and He wants us to lean on Him.

We should start at the beginning. Maybe start small with the Lord's Prayer. The Lord's Prayer is a prayer the Lord Jesus taught His disciples in *St. Matthew 6:9-13* and *St. Luke 11:2-4*. This is commonly called "the Lord's Prayer", but it

would be better named "the Model Prayer" since Jesus used this prayer as a pattern for His disciples to follow.

In speaking with different people, I find it interesting that some express to me they feel no need to have God in their lives. They are just fine and don't need Him. Others don't really think He exists and going to church is just a way to "control" people. I myself have found that my belief in God has actually given me more freedom, not less. I am never alone. This is true. To pull a statement from a song title, "I have a friend in Jesus." He really is my best friend.

I had a co-worker ask me once, "You've never had anything traumatic happen to you, have you?" I had to really stop and think about how I was going to answer that question. My answer to her was no. I realized then if I answered yes, she would not really understand the personal experiences I have had to endure to get where I am now. I realized then how important God is in my life. He gave—and gives!—me the courage to endure the pitfalls which life puts in my path.

One of my favorite prayers/Bible verses is this:

The LORD bless you and keep

Great Commission Campaign

you; the LORD make His face shine on you and be gracious to you; the LORD turn His face toward you and give you peace.

Numbers 6:24-26

Let God come into your heart when you are in the middle of confusion, frustration, depression, anger, or feeling that you are alone and have nowhere to turn. You do: Turn to the Lord God Almighty. He wants

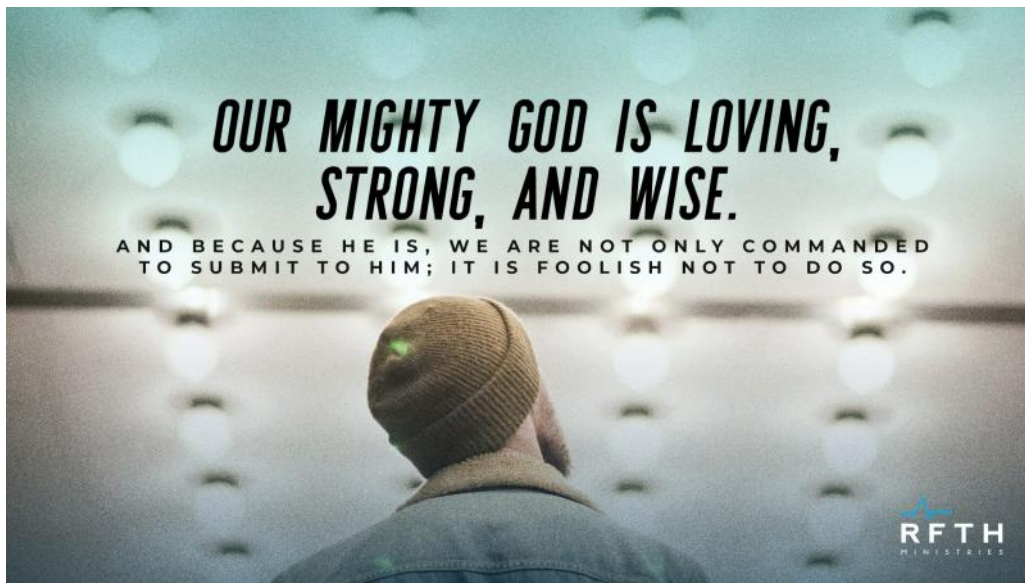
and is willing and able to lighten your load and carry you through whatever is in front of you. He is willing to help us if we let Him into our life (Jesus promises in *St. Matthew 19:26* that with God all things are possible). We just need to ask and say, "Lord, come into our hearts."

As I was looking for some additional Bible verses for inspiration, I found this one. It says everything better than I can.

Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of compassion and the God of all comfort, who comforts us in all our troubles, so that we can comfort those in any trouble with the comfort we ourselves receive from God.

II Corinthians 1:3-4

— Julia McNeely



Our Chapel Family Prayer List

***This prayer list
was current as of
March 27th,
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,
our Primate;

Bishop Darryl Fitzwater,
our Bishop Ordinary;

Canon Michael Penfield,
our Vicar-General;

Father Chris Parrish,
our Rector;

Deacon Peter Vogel; and

Deacon Linda Bracken;
also all those who serve
as Thy ministers in governing
our nation and state,
particularly:

President
Donald Trump; 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 those affected
by wildfires in
Southern California;

The victims of a recent
earthquake in Myanmar;

Trinity on the Border
Mission as they recover
from severe flooding in
Harlingen, Texas;

Jim and Edna Davis;

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;

Linda Capone;

Rose Handwerker;

Ann and Frank MacVoy;

Bishop Ilgenfritz;

Moe Martinez;

Victoria Grace;

Christina;

John and Heidi Donnelly;

Carl;

Judith Boreham;

Heather;

Susan;

Helen Vanderberg;

Farshad;

Deacon Herman
and Betty Roark;

Patrick Slattery;

Julie Sine;

the Slattery family;

James Kitchin;

Father Jonah and Rachel
Kelman;

Grace Driver;

Robbie Tavey;

Charlotte;

the Bouchard family;

Sara and Hesam;

Molly Ferguson; and

Catherine
and her students;

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

God of all comfort and hope, Who in Your Son, our Lord Jesus Christ, proclaimed good news to the poor, bound up the broken-hearted, and set the captives free: We remember before You this day all who are affected by the violence of October 7, 2023, and we ask You to heal the wounded, comfort those who mourn, and bring justice and peace to the land of Israel. Look with mercy upon the peoples of the Middle East, that, in Your great compassion, the light of Christ may shine in the darkness and bring hope to every nation. As Simeon rejoiced to see Your salvation, a light for revelation to the Gentiles and the glory of Your people Israel, so we pray that Jesus, the Messiah, would be known as the true hope for all the earth. May Your Kingdom come, and may Your peace reign in every heart, through Jesus Christ our Lord, Who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. *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.

Parish Postings

The Vestry will meet on Sunday, April 13th, following Morning Prayer and fellowship to conduct the business affairs of the Chapel. The meeting is open to all interested parties.



It is the custom of our congregation to offer Easter lilies to decorate the Chapel in celebration of our Lord's resurrection and in memory of those who can no longer worship with us in person. If you would like to offer lilies for this purpose, please use one of the special Easter lily envelopes available at the Flower Chart in the Narthex. The suggested donation is \$15. Kindly e-mail your dedications to Kim Vogel by Wednesday, April 16th. Thank you!



Maundy Thursday commemorates our Lord's command to serve others and His institution of Holy Communion. Please join your Chapel Family at 7:00 PM on Thursday, April 17th, for foot washing, Holy Communion, and the solemn stripping of the Altar.



Parish Postings

Have you ever wondered why Good Friday is called *good*? It is because it marks the day our loving Saviour Jesus Christ gave His life as a sinless sacrifice on the cross to atone for humanity's sins and to open the way to salvation and eternal life for believers. Some believe that *good* is derived from the Old English meaning of "holy" or "pious".

St. Luke's Chapel in the Hills will observe this holy day with a said celebration of Holy Communion from the Reserved Sacrament at 7:00 PM on Friday, April 18th.



We will greatly rejoice in our Lord's resurrection on Easter Sunday, April 20th. The Very Reverend Canon Michael Penfield, Vicar-General of the Anglican Convocation of the West, will preach and celebrate Holy Communion as part of his annual pastoral visit.



The Anglican Convocation of the West will have its Clericus and Regional Synod April 22nd through 25th at Holy Cross Retreat Center in Mesilla, New Mexico. A Women's Retreat will meet during the Clericus. Please pray for a successful Synod as well as travel mercies and health protection for Father Parrish, Julia McNeely, and Kim Vogel, our delegates.



Parish Postings

British Day is unique (to the best of our knowledge) to St. Luke's Chapel in the Hills. In honor of St. George, the patron saint of England, we have this celebration as near as possible to his feast day, April 23rd. This year's British Day will be Sunday, April 27th. We will say Morning Prayer according to the 1662 *Book of Common Prayer* and then enjoy a potluck luncheon of British foods afterward. Please let Bridgitte Parrish know what you intend to contribute. Thank you!



Please note that Joanna's Prayer Circle will **not** meet in April. Their next meeting will be Sunday, May 25th. Members of Joanna's Prayer Circle intercede daily as individuals for those who desire special prayers. If you would like to join in this ministry, please contact Julia McNeely. The Prayer Circle meets in McNeely Hall at noon on the fourth Sunday to seek the guidance of the Holy Spirit and to pray at His direction. All are welcome!



Upcoming Events

Sunday, April 6th

Passion Sunday

Holy Communion with Holy Unction

10:00 AM

Sunday, April 13th

Palm Sunday

Office of Morning Prayer

10:00 AM

Vestry Meeting

following worship and fellowship

Thursday, April 17th

Maundy Thursday

Holy Communion

with Foot Washing and Stripping of the Altar

7:00 PM

Friday, April 18th

Good Friday

Holy Communion

7:00 PM

Sunday, April 20th

Easter Day

Vicar-General Penfield's Pastoral Visit

Holy Communion

10:00 AM

Tuesday, April 22nd, through Friday, April 25th

Easter Tuesday through Easter Friday

Anglican Convocation of the West

Clericus, Women's Retreat, and Regional Synod

Sunday, April 27th

The First Sunday after Easter Day

British Day

Office of Morning Prayer

10:00 AM

British Day Potluck

following the worship service

Sunday, May 4th

The Second Sunday after Easter Day

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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«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.