



# The Hillside Messenger

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## A Message from the Rector: *Readiness for Worship and for Ministry*

**B**e ready for worship. Be ready for ministry.

Let us begin by explaining what it means to be ready for worship. Worship is our whole offering of ourselves to God continually, as St. Paul wrote:

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

A living sacrifice continues to live on this earth, and this entails a life of devotion to God, holiness, and willing obedience to all His commands. This is our “reasonable service.” The same phrase in Greek can be translated as “spiritual worship” or “reasonable worship”. This worship, or service, flows logically from the Lord Jesus



Christ’s offering of Himself on the cross for the redemption of mankind. It is, therefore, spiritual in that it shows the deepest love believers can offer to God in response to the wonderful, inexpressible love of the Lord Jesus Christ for the world.

The daily offering of ourselves to God as a living sacrifice also requires

that we must not be conformed to this world, but rather transformed, or changed completely, by the renewing of our mind, so that we may discern and surely find out and come to know the good, acceptable, and perfect will of God (*Romans 12:2*). How are our minds renewed? Certainly not by listening to the world news! Instead, our minds

are renewed by daily reading, studying, meditating on, and applying God’s word, the Bible, to our lives, and by daily prayer, including listening to God in silent contemplation or meditation to hear what His Spirit may be calling or directing us to do.

Since worship is what the Lord Jesus Christ calls us to do continually, we must always be ready for it. This should direct our attitude towards Sunday worship and our churchgoing habits. Since we are worshiping God daily, Sunday worship must be the priority for the day. If people regular-

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## *Readiness for Worship and for Ministry*

ly arrive late for the Sunday service when they are not hampered by any disability, what does this imply to others about their view of the importance of Sunday worship? Does it not imply that for such people something else other than Sunday worship has become a priority? If we are continually offering ourselves to God as a living sacrifice, is it too much of a sacrifice even to come to church a little early and spend the time in prayer before the service? Our worship is

ample has the potential to influence our fellow worshippers to adopt the same lack of punctuality and may even arouse in newcomers questions about the sincerity of our faith.

What about being ready for ministry to others? Worship and ministry to others go hand in hand. If our worship of God is defective, so will be our ministry to others. God calls us to vigilance. The Lord Jesus Christ gave this command to His disciples:

and ready for the Lord's Second Coming, as the bridegroom's household servants had to stay awake and be ready when their master returned in the night and knocked at the door. For example, the newcomer who visits our church— is anyone ready to minister to him or offer help? Or, if ushers or Sunday school teachers are needed, is anyone ready to do this ministry? Long before His Second Coming, Christ may come in the guise of a visitor! Are we



**All God's people  
in all places  
and in all times  
are called to worship Him  
and minister to their fellow men.**

ministry to God in the offering of ourselves to Him to do His will, to praise Him, to confess our sins to Him, to thank Him for all His blessings, to intercede for others, and to pray for ourselves. When we often neglect to arrive in time for our Sunday worship, it may indicate that we have insufficiently prepared ourselves for a corporate act of worship that glorifies God and edifies the congregation. It may also indicate that we are careless about the fact that our ex-

Let your loins be girded about, and your lights burning; and ye yourselves like unto men that wait for their lord, when he will return from the wedding; that when he cometh and knocketh, they may open unto him immediately.

*St. Luke 12:35-36, KJV*

The call is to be spiritually awake, clothed, filled with the Holy Spirit

ready to meet Him?

We must realize that through the ministry of any one of us, someone could come to eternal salvation, return to the way of Christ after years of wandering in trackless wastes of futility, or have a weak faith strengthened! If we are not ready for ministry, we might miss this opportunity!

Are you ready for worship, and are you ready for ministry?"

## Readiness for Worship and for Ministry

I end with a quotation from Clement, one of the Apostolic Fathers:

We are writing these things, loved ones, not only to admonish you but also to remind ourselves. For we are in the same arena and the same contest is set before us. For this reason we should leave behind empty and frivolous

thoughts and come to the famous and venerable rule of our tradition. We should realize what is good and pleasing and acceptable to the One who made us. We should gaze intently on the blood of Christ and realize how precious it is to His Father; for when it was poured out for

our salvation, it brought the gracious gift of repentance to the entire world.

I Clement 7.1-4, p. 47, Bart D. Ehrman: *The Apostolic Fathers*, Vol. 1, Loeb Classical Library. Cambridge, Massachusetts. Harvard University Press, 2003.

— *The Reverend*  
*Chris Parrish*

## Great Commission Campaign

**M**y intention for the “Great Commission Campaign” is to comment on simple, practical actions we can take to increase our fitness for evangelism that we might be taking for granted or overlooking. I hope to identify steps that are easy, but which will also allow for self-reflection to nurture and encourage a stronger bond with our Lord Jesus Christ. To recap and review, these are the steps we are taking in our Great Commission Campaign:

Step One: PRAY.

Step Two: COMMIT.

Step Three: ATTEND CHURCH.

Step Four: PRIORITIZE GOD.

Step Five: SUBMIT.

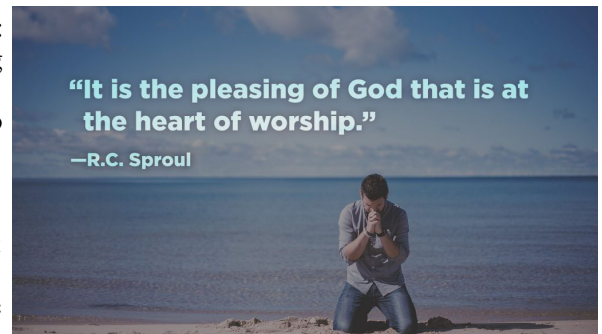
Step Six: READ THE BIBLE

Step Seven: LOVE.

Step Eight: EXPRESS JOY AND ENTHUSIASM IN YOUR FAITH

Considering this article, I noticed there has been a lot in the news lately about self-improvement. All of us seem to be striving for better health. We’re trying to eat better by not having fast food as much and avoiding buying overly processed food to keep in our freezers. We are even looking at labels more to see what is in our food. And this is only our diets! Think about all the things we do to get more restful sleep and work in more daily exercise. We are trying to take better care of our bodies, but what about our minds?

I was listening to a radio show in my car and the host said something that intrigued me very much. He said that worshipping God is good for our mental health. *Wow! Mind blown!* Who would have thought that? I looked it up, and it is true: Worshipping God can actually lead to positive changes in our brains. Now, I don’t want to get too scientific about this—the point is, when we worship God, it is good for our bodies *and* our minds. God made us such that we are meant to worship Him. So here is our next step: WORSHIP GOD WITH MEANING AND PASSION.



## Great Commission Campaign

When we all come to worship, we come together as a family, joining as one to connect with God our Lord and Savior. Worshipping God is good for us because it fulfills our purpose. It is important to worship and meditate for our own well-being to rejuvenate ourselves by strengthening our relationship with the Lord through praising Him and thanking Him for all our blessings. We worship to celebrate God's presence and power in our lives. God is within each of us who believe, and each of us are to be a reflection of Him.

Here is some of what the Bible says about worship:

1. True worship takes place on the inside, within our hearts or spirits, which is the dwelling place of God.  
Bless and affectionately praise the Lord,  
O my soul,  
And all that is [deep] within me, bless His holy name.  
Bless and affectionately

ely praise the Lord,  
O my soul,  
And do not forget any of His benefits;  
*Psalms 103:1-2, AMP*  
in Jesus Christ [and in fellowship with one another] you also are being built together into a dwelling place of

His worshippers.

*St. John*  
4:23, AMP

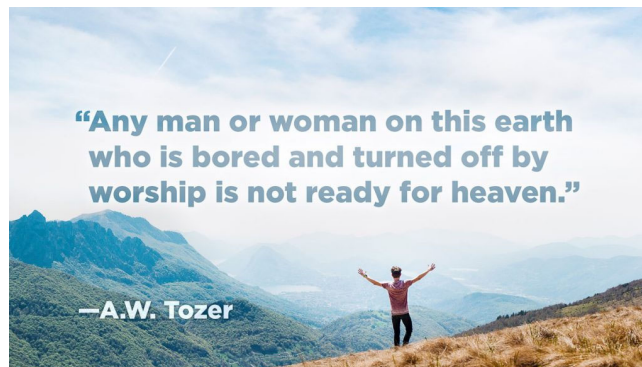
2. When we worship our heavenly Father through Jesus Christ, we experience fellowship and communion with Him.

for we [who are born-again have been reborn from above—spiritually transformed, renewed, set apart for His purpose and] are the true circumcision, who worship in the Spirit of God and glory

and take pride and exult in Christ Jesus and place no confidence [in what we have or who we are] in the flesh—

*Philippians*  
3:3, AMP

When I read these verses, they made me think that God made us in such a way that we are supposed to worship Him. These verses emphasize how we need to do it. As Canon Mark El-



God in the Spirit.

*Ephesians*  
2:22, AMP

But a time is coming and is already here when the true worshippers will worship the Father in spirit [from the heart, the inner self] and in truth; for the Father seeks such people to be



## Great Commission Campaign

dredge writes in his article *A Vision for Evangelism* “we need to be intentional in our worship”. I really appreciate that statement. But what does it mean?

As I said before, worship God with meaning and passion. Be more intentional. Come to church ready to meet your Maker. Confess your sins with contrition and resolve to leave your sinful thoughts, words, and deeds in your past. Ask God to show you the lesson He has for you in the Scripture readings and then put His lesson to work in your life. Pray and sing hymns with your full focus on what you are saying to and asking of God. Expect Him to hear and to answer you. Put your whole self— body, mind, and spirit— into worship.

We can’t be lackadaisical in our worship of God. He is our Creator, our Redeeming Savior, our Provider, our Protector. He loves us completely, and He keeps His promises to us without fail. We need to treat Him with awe, with respect, with trust, and we need to love Him and keep our promises to Him. We also need to worship God with purpose in good *and* bad times. Our circumstances may change, but God is

always great, always good, and always with us through it all. He is our hope and our great reward.

God wants us to worship Him, and we are better for it when we do. We are to worship Him because He is our Lord and Savior and because our worship demonstrates our love for Him. It is said by experts that people who are faithful and worship God are happier.

Thinking about how I could best conclude this article, I really appreciated how GotQuestions.org

grateful for His bountiful blessings. “Therefore, since we receive a kingdom which cannot be shaken, let us show gratitude, and offer to God pleasing service and acceptable worship with reverence and awe;” (*Hebrews 12:28, AMP*).

— Julia McNeely



put it:

As we follow the pattern of true worship in Scripture, let us worship God with great passion. We must not convey to the world the impression that the worship of our God is a boring, lifeless ritual. We have been redeemed from sin. Let us therefore praise our Creator as His children who are

## Our Chapel Family Prayer List

***This prayer list  
was current  
as of July 22nd,  
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;

Archbishop Samy  
of the Diocese of Egypt;  
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 gov-  
erning our nation and  
state, particularly:

President Donald Trump;  
and

Governor Gavin New-  
som;

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 victims of recent  
floods in Texas and  
the bereaved families;

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;

James Kitchin;

Grace Driver;

Robbie Tavey;

Charlotte;

the Bouchard family;

Sara and Hesam;

Molly Ferguson;

Bridgitte Parrish;

John Bainbridge;

and Alan and Barbara,

that it may please Thee to  
comfort and relieve them,  
according to their several  
necessities; giving them  
patience under their suf-  
ferings, 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*

**G**od 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** Parrishes will be on vacation until Friday, August 8th. While they are away, Deacon Peter Vogel will conduct services and be on call for pastoral care until they return. Please pray for the Parrishes' safety and refreshment. Thank you!



**Your** prayers are sought for Deacon Peter Vogel's safety and stamina while he is traveling to and from and serving on jury duty. The trial to which he has been assigned is expected to continue until mid-October, and he is attempting to fulfill his obligations to his employer on the rail commute to San Jose, during courtroom breaks, and while he is at home. Please also pray that God's justice is done in this trial. Thank you!



**The** Vestry will meet on Sunday, August 10th, following Morning Prayer and fellowship to conduct the business affairs of the Chapel. The meeting is open to all!



**Joanna's** Prayer Circle will meet on Sunday, August 17th, at 9:15 AM in the Nursery. Members of this ministry pray daily as individuals for the needs of our Chapel Family



## *Parish Postings*

and meet once a month as a group to seek the guidance of the Holy Spirit and pray at His direction. Please join us!



**S**t. Luke's Chapel in the Hills will host its annual International Day on Sunday, August 24th, with a potluck luncheon following the 10:00 AM Holy Communion service. Please take a moment to write what dish you will contribute to the potluck on the sign-up sheet in McNeely Hall. Thank you!



**O**ur third-quarter Community Mission Project is a two-fer: We will be collecting funds for donation to Family Giving Tree (to provide school supplies to needy children) and the American Red Cross (in aid of those affected by flash flooding in Central Texas). Please make a note of your donation on your check memo line or offertory envelope. Thank you!



Family Giving Tree™

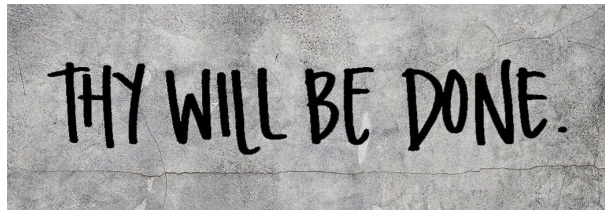


**American  
Red Cross**

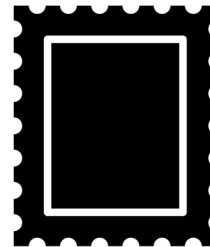
**S**t. Luke's Chapel Intercessors is an e-mail list for prayer requests and thanksgivings. Anyone who is willing to pray for our Chapel Family, the universal Church, and the needs of our fellow men is welcome! Please let Julia McNeely know if you wish to be added to the list. Thank you!

*(Continues)*

## *Parish Postings*



**Kim** Vogel is asking for your assistance. If you are new to the Chapel Family or your contact information has changed since the last Parish Directory, please make sure she has your correct data. New brothers and sisters should also let her know their birthdays and anniversaries so that they may be added to the Greeting Cards Ministry list. Thank you!



## *Upcoming Events*

### **Sunday, August 3rd**

The Seventh Sunday after Trinity

*Holy Communion*

10:00 AM

### **Sunday, August 10th**

The Eighth Sunday after Trinity

*Office of Morning Prayer*

10:00 AM

*Vestry Meeting*

following worship and fellowship

### **Sunday, August 17th**

The Ninth Sunday after Trinity

*Joanna's Prayer Circle Meeting*

9:15 AM

*Holy Communion*

10:00 AM

### **Sunday, August 24th**

The Festival of St. Bartholomew the Apostle

The Tenth Sunday after Trinity

International Day

*Holy Communion*

10:00 AM

*International Day Potluck Luncheon*

### **Sunday, August 31st**

The Eleventh Sunday after Trinity

*Holy Communion*

10:00 AM

### **Sunday, September 7th**

The Twelfth 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  
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 Festival 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.