



This Sunday at St. Luke's
October 27, 2024

8:15 a.m. – Holy Communion (said service)

**10:15 a.m. – Morning Prayer and Sermon together with
Shortened Holy Communion**

Diana Burden, pianist

Blue Ridge Tuba Quartet,

Dr. Aaron Schueneman, Daniel Foster, Mike Weaver, and Willie Brown

The Twentieth-second Sunday after Trinity



FORGIVENESS RECONNECTS

The parable found in this Sunday's Gospel shows that God's children must be like their heavenly Father by being ready to forgive, though it will be a small enough sacrifice when measured against His unending mercy, like "shillings" against millions". (continued, next page)

It is hard to forgive those who have wronged us, but as Christians we must. It is not being god-like to build up within ourselves a little chapel of hate and say, “I can never forget or forgive.” How then could we pray, “Forgive us our trespasses as we forgive them that trespass against us?” (H.W. Dobson)

COLLECT FOR THE TWENTY-SECOND SUNDAY AFTER TRINITY

LORD, we beseech thee to keep thy household the Church in continual godliness; that through thy protection it may be free from all adversities, and devoutly given to serve thee in good works, to the glory of thy Name; through Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

THE EPISTLE – Philippians 1:3-11 (J.B. Phillips)

I have the most pleasant memories of you

³⁻⁶I thank God for you Christians at Philippi whenever I think of you. My constant prayers for you are a real joy, for they bring back to my mind how we have worked together for the Gospel from the earliest days until now. I feel sure that the one who has begun his good work in you will go on developing it until the day of Jesus Christ.

⁷⁻¹¹It is only natural that I should feel like this about you all—you are very dear to me. For during the time I was in prison as well as when I was out defending and demonstrating the power of the Gospel we shared together the grace of God. God knows how much I long, with the deepest Christian love and affection, for your companionship. My prayer for you is that you may have still more love—a love that is full of knowledge and wise insight. I want you to be able always to recognise the highest and the best [to approve those things that are excellent], and to live sincere and blameless lives until the day of Jesus Christ. I want to see your lives full of true goodness, produced by the power that Jesus Christ gives you to the praise and glory of God.

NOTE: In the apostle’s prayer for members of the Church in Philippi he prays that they “may approve things that are excellent” If we explore these words in the spirit of the context in which they were written, surely their capacity for Christian forgiveness would be included. (William Sydnor)

THE GOSPEL – St. Matthew 18:21-35 (J.B. Phillips)

The necessity for forgiveness

²¹Then Peter approached him with the question, “Master, how many times can my brother wrong me and I must forgive him? Would seven times be enough?”

²²⁻²⁷ “No,” replied Jesus, “not seven times, but seventy times seven! For the kingdom of Heaven is like a king who decided to settle his accounts with his servants. When he had started calling in his accounts, a man was brought to him who owed him millions of pounds. And when it was plain that he had no means of repaying the debt, his master gave orders for him to be sold as a slave, and his wife and children and all his possessions as well, and the money to be paid over. At this the servant fell on his knees before his master, ‘Oh, be patient with me!’ he cried, ‘and I will pay you back every penny!’ Then his master was moved with pity for him, set him free and cancelled his debt.

²⁸⁻³⁰ “But when this same servant had left his master’s presence, he found one of his fellow-servants who owed him a few shillings. He grabbed him and seized him by the throat, crying, ‘Pay up what you owe me!’ At this his fellow-servant fell down at his feet, and implored him, ‘Oh, be patient with me, and I will pay you back!’ But he refused and went out and had him put in prison until he should repay the debt.

³¹ When the other fellow-servants saw what had happened, they were horrified and told their master the whole incident.

³²⁻³⁵ Then his master called him in. “‘You wicked servant!’ he said. ‘Didn’t I cancel all that debt when you begged me to do so? Oughtn’t you to have taken pity on your fellow-servant as I, your master, took pity on you? And his master in anger handed him over to the gaolers till he should repay the whole debt. This is how my Heavenly Father will treat you unless you each forgive your brother from your heart.’”

NOTE: Forgiveness is of central importance in Christian living and in God’s ultimate judgment of us. Our Lord said, in effect, If you are not merciful and forgiving, God cannot be merciful and forgiving to you, for you would not appreciate it (Luke 6:36-37). (William Sydnor)

LECTIONARY READING

OLD TESTAMENT LESSON – 1 Kings 8:46-53 (RSV)

In his prayer of dedication of the Temple Solomon expresses confidence that God stands ready to forgive

⁴⁶ “If they sin against thee—for there is no man who does not sin—and thou art angry with them, and dost give them to an enemy, so that they are carried away captive to the land of the enemy, far off or near; ⁴⁷ yet if they lay it to heart in the land to which they have been carried captive, and repent, and make supplication to thee in the land of their captors, saying, ‘We have sinned, and have acted perversely and wickedly’; ⁴⁸ if they repent with all their mind and with all their heart in the land of their enemies, who carried them captive, and pray to thee toward their land, which thou gavest to their

fathers, the city which thou hast chosen, and the house which I have built for thy name; ⁴⁹ then hear thou in heaven thy dwelling place their prayer and their supplication, and maintain their cause ⁵⁰ and forgive thy people who have sinned against thee, and all their transgressions which they have committed against thee; and grant them compassion in the sight of those who carried them captive, that they may have compassion on them ⁵¹ (for they are thy people, and thy heritage, which thou didst bring out of Egypt, from the midst of the iron furnace). ⁵² Let thy eyes be open to the supplication of thy servant, and to the supplication of thy people Israel, giving ear to them whenever they call to thee. ⁵³ For thou didst separate them from among all the peoples of the earth, to be thy heritage, as thou didst declare through Moses, thy servant, when thou didst bring our fathers out of Egypt, O Lord God.”

NOTE: In the course of Solomon’s prayer at the time of the dedication of the Temple he expresses the confidence that God does hear and forgive the people when they turn to Him in sincere penitence. (William Sydnor)

THIS SUNDAY

Preacher: The Rector

“Forgiven and Forgiving”

Options

In-church.

Online. Services are livestreamed on Facebook and available for viewing following the service on You Tube. To access both put “Parish Church of St. Luke, Blue Ridge, Ga.” In the search bar.

EDUCATIONAL OPPORTUNITIES

Exploring Faith

Sundays at 9:15 a.m.

*The class is intended for those wishing more information about Christian Faith and the Anglican Way, including those who are considering affiliating more formally with St. Luke's. All, however, are welcome. This week's topic will be: **Anglican Distinctives**. The Rector will be the facilitator.*

Women's Bible Study – *Revealing the Mysteries of Heaven*

Book used in the study is by Dr. David Jeremiah.

Wednesday, Oct. 21, 11 a.m.

Yellow Room

Book is \$20; Workbook is \$10

Teaching Tuesday – *Lectionary Readings*

Readings for the coming Sunday explored in a relaxed environment.

Tuesday, Oct. 22, 9:45 a.m.

Yellow Room

LAST FIFTH SUNDAY POTLUCK DATE

St. Luke's will have one service at 9:30 a.m. on Fifth Sundays with a potluck lunch following. The last 5th Sunday of 2024 is Dec. 29.



Tip of the Canterbury Cap to Neil McDonald and others in the St. Luke's Men's Group for building a chicken coup for a parishioner.

UPCOMING CONCERT

- **Christmas by Candlelight Annual Christmas Concert**, Time 5 p.m., Sunday, Dec. 22



JOIN THE CHOIR

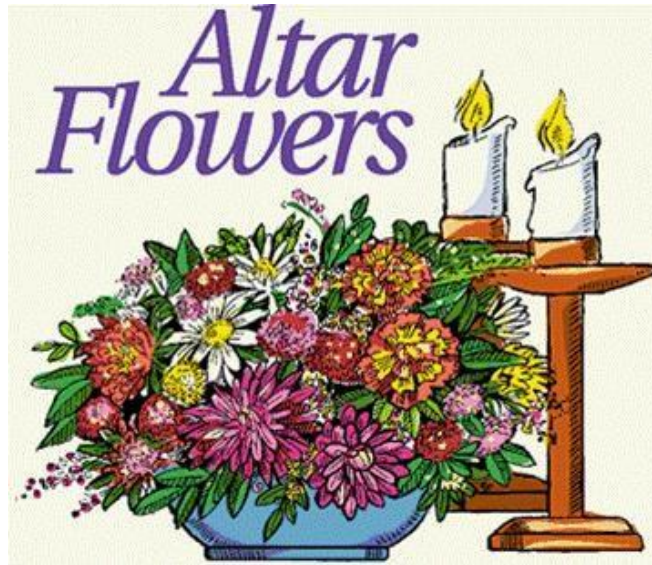


For information, contact, Diana Burden at 678-852-6907 or email dburden6907@gmail.com.



OUR MISSION

St. Luke's mission is to grow spiritually in the knowledge and love of Jesus Christ and in the fellowship of the Holy Spirit and to share our faith, our hands and hearts for the sake of the Gospel, our community and the world.



SIGN-UP FOR FLOWERS

A sign-up sheet for Altar flowers is available in Thomason Hall for 2024.

Please sign up for days you wish to commemorate.

Flowers are needed throughout the end of the year. Please email or call Kathryn Noblett at the church office to sign up.

Financial Pledge for the Year of our Lord 2025

As stewards of God's gifts and in gratitude for all blessings, I pledge the following amount to the work of Christ through St. Luke's Church for 2025

Name

Address

Amount

_____ Weekly _____ Monthly _____ Yearly

(Please tick the appropriate blank)



St. Luke's Church, "The Parish Church of the Mountains," 7 Ewing St., (POB 1821), Blue Ridge, Georgia 30513; (706) 632-8245;

www.stlukesblueridge.org; stlukes@tds.net.