



The Hillside Messenger

A Message from the Rector: The Second Advent of the Lord Jesus Christ

The season of Christmastide is one to which many look forward, especially all who are selling wares that people purchase to give as gifts. If somehow Christmas were not to be celebrated this year, but

whom they love. But what if suddenly the spotlight weren't illuminating the manger, but the whole sky, and the Lord Himself were suddenly descending from heaven in all His majesty?

In the sixth chapter of the Book of Revelation, as well as in other pas-

stars falling to the earth, and a shaking of mountains and islands. But with these signs, many people will hide themselves "in the dens and in the rocks of the mountains" (*Revelation 6:15*) to attempt to escape the wrath of the Lamb, the Son of God. Why is this?



only the Second Advent of the Lord Jesus Christ, how many would celebrate? When the focus is on gift-giving, nativity scenes, and Christmas trees, it is easy for many people to abandon themselves to the joy of shopping for gifts for those

sages of Holy Scripture, we are warned of the cosmic catastrophes and signs that will occur before the coming of the great Day of the Lord (*Revelation 6:12-14*), such as a great earthquake, a solar eclipse, the moon appearing red, the

Most people in this world live either as if the Lord Jesus Christ will never return to earth or as if He does not exist. The cataclysmic events which will suddenly happen just before His second coming

(Continues on page 2)

Inside this Issue:

Reflections on Veterans' Day	4
Our Chapel Family Prayer List	7
On St. Mary	8
Parish Postings	9
Upcoming Events	10

The Second Advent of the Lord Jesus Christ

(Continued from page 1)

will boldly challenge their fondly-held stubbornness, unbelief, and disobedience.

When the great day of God's wrath comes, who shall be able to stand? This rhetorical question is meant to warn everyone now. All are called to be reconciled with God through the Lord Jesus Christ, by turning from a sinful, selfish way of life; confessing their sins before God; and asking for forgiveness from God and from those whom they have wronged. There is no way out of the weakness of man's sinful condition except by repentance and faith in the Lord Jesus Christ (*Acts* 2:38; *Romans* 3:23-24). Zephaniah the prophet clearly states that neither people's silver nor their gold shall be able to deliver them in the day of the Lord's wrath (*Zephaniah* 1:18). St. Paul testifies, "There is one God, and one Mediator between God and men, the Man Christ Jesus; Who gave Himself a ransom for all, to be testified in due time" (*I St. Timothy* 2:5-6, KJV). Once we have turned to Christ and are living by faith in Him and obedience to Him, we are included in the community of the faithful to whom God gives the grace to stand, for though we shall all stand before the judgment seat of Christ (*Romans* 14:10), which

is why we should not pass judgment on our fellow-Christians, God enables us to stand in His presence. St. Paul affirms this when He writes of each of God's servants, "To his own master he standeth or falleth. Yea, he shall be holden up: for God is able to make him stand" (*Romans* 14:4, KJV). Not only is the Holy Spirit able to make God's people stand in His presence, but He is able to "keep them from falling and to present them faultless before the presence of His glory with exceeding joy" (*St. Jude* 24, KJV; see also *I Thessalonians* 5:23-24).

Being assured of God's ability to keep His servants from falling, and of both His ability and firm purpose to present all of them faultless to the Lord Jesus Christ at His second coming, we must make every effort to cooperate with the grace of the Holy Spirit that has been given to us so lavishly. To this effect, the Holy Spirit warns us through the writer of the *Epistle to the Hebrews*:

See that ye refuse not Him that speaketh. For if they escaped not who refused Him that spake on earth, much more shall not we escape, if we turn away from Him that speaketh from heaven: Whose voice then shook the earth: but now

He hath promised, saying, Yet once more I shake not the earth only, but also heaven. And this word, Yet once more, signifieth the removing of those things that are shaken, as of things that are made, that those things which cannot be shaken may remain.

Wherefore we receiving a kingdom which cannot be moved, let us have grace, whereby we may serve God acceptably with reverence and godly fear: For our God is a consuming fire.

Hebrews 12:25-29, KJV

The penitential nature of the Church's season of Advent agrees well with the call for all to be reconciled with God through the Lord Jesus Christ and for all to be reminded that, because the second coming of the Lord Jesus could happen at any time, we must all be ready every moment to meet with the Lord. In this vein, the second verse from Thomas Ken's Hymn, "Awake my soul" is very appropriate:

Redeem thy mis-
spent mo-
ments past;
And live this day
as if thy last;
(Continues on page 3)

The Second Advent of the Lord Jesus Christ

(Continued from page 2)

Improve thy talent with due care;

For the great day thyself prepare.

Hymn 151,
1940 Hymnal

This verse combines a number of themes from the Bible in its exhortation to the Christian: the idea of redeeming the time and living wisely (*Ephesians 5:15-17*); using and improving the spiritual gift or “talent” given one by God (*St. Matthew 25:14-30*); leaving “the misspent moments” in the past by not trying to relive or repeat them (*I St. Peter 4:2-3*); and preparing oneself to

meet with Christ on the Day of the Lord (*II Thesalonians 3:4-5*).

As we prepare our hearts and minds to meet with Christ this Christmastide, we do well to remember the petition we pray in the Collect for Advent Sunday, which so eloquently both contrasts Christ’s second advent to His first and highlights the need to be prepared and ready for His second advent:

Almighty God,
give us grace that
we may cast away
the works of darkness,
and put upon us
the armour of light,
now in the time of
this mortal life,
in which Thy Son

Jesus Christ came to visit us in great humility; that in the last day, when He shall come again in His glorious majesty to judge both the quick and the dead, we may rise to the life immortal, through Him who liveth and reigneth with Thee and the Holy Ghost, now and ever. Amen.

*p. 90, Book of
Common Prayer,
1928*

*– The Reverend
Christopher Parrish*



Reflections on Veterans' Day

November 11, 1918
Veterans' Day
Armistice Day
Remembrance Day

Why is this day important? Why does the United States of America celebrate what we now call Veterans' Day?

World War I, called the "Great War", began June 28, 1914, when

Archduke Franz Ferdinand of Austria was assassinated. Many died sacrificing themselves for the cause against Germany and the Austro-Hungarian Empire that threatened war on Serbia. In 1917, the USA entered this war when it broke diplomatic relations with Germany. (It

is said that when the German troops saw the U.S. Marines coming toward them, they said the Marines looked like "Devil Dogs". I think this is reflective of the resilience of those in all the branches of the U.S. Military.)

This day is a very important day in history for the USA. It commemorates the end of World War I and marks the beginning of the Armistice

with Germany on the 11th month, 11th day, 11th hour, 1918. It is so important for the USA to remember important dates and incidents in our history, for if we do not know and reflect on our history, we are doomed to repeat it—the good and the bad.

The USA has been involved in many wars and conflicts. These have not been pleasant. They have been absolutely

those who are desperately seeking a better way of life. Freedom does not come free. There is an immeasurable cost to maintaining freedom: **The USA is home of the free because of the brave.**

Our form of government is a representative republic. There is a cost to preserve this. Without those defending our freedom, we would be one step away from tyranny and a dictatorship. Many are critical of our government, but we should all look to the Constitution, written by men seeking a better life. Because of the freedoms we have established in the USA, there are many who desire to come to enjoy these freedoms as well.

I urge everyone take some time to carefully read the Declaration of Independence and the Preamble and Constitution with the Bill of Rights. These are very special documents which we all should hold with high regard. Reading the words of the Constitution, which are very powerful, I cannot help but think that James Madison, the

(Continues on page 5)



dreadful. Some of these wars, conflicts, and "police actions" have been successful, but others, unfortunately, have not. We have asked those in our military to do many an extraordinary action in the hopes of fulfilling the required or desired outcome, all in hopes of the greater good. The military is one of the foundations of what makes our country great and a beacon for

Reflections on Veterans' Day

(Continued from page 4)

author of the Constitution, and the "Gentleman Revolutionary" Gouverneur Morris, who wrote the Preamble, were both guided by the grace of God in writing these documents. It is evident through these documents that God was very influential in their final drafts. God also inspired the other members of the Continental Congress (among them Alexander Hamilton, William Johnson, Rufus King, and James Madison) to put together and ratify our Constitution. God led these "Founding Fathers" to make a new country, and they all showed much strength of conviction and character to press forward to fulfillment of His plan.

Our military, I believe, is a display of the USA's fortitude and strength of character. The USA has always been out front to support and defend those who cannot support and defend themselves. Our country has always fought against all enemies both foreign and domestic. Our military allows us to maintain our individual freedoms guaranteed to us by the Constitution of the United States of America. The Constitution is the framework by which we are ensured our freedoms. As it states in the Constitution with the first ten amendments that are the Bill of Rights, citizens of

the USA have *unalienable rights* (which are given to us by God). Some of these are life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness. These are rights which we all hold dear.

Without our military defending these rights, the USA would be not be a place others yearn to come to enjoy the gifts given to us by God. As citizens of the USA, everyone needs to do their part to protect our nation, our government, and our borders. Without borders, we would no longer be a sovereign nation. Many others come to our shores seeking freedom from persecution, corruption, terror, and torture. They come petitioning our government for asylum and seeking a better life for themselves and their family. The USA is a place for those seeking a better life because our military defends our Constitution and our hard-won freedoms. Our military has always been the best. They are always at the ready. We celebrate our military because they sacrifice **the most** of themselves to protect and serve God - Country - Family (notice that the USA's armed forces always prioritize their service in that order and that God always comes first). The men and women of our military sacrifice themselves so the rest of us, their Country and Family, can enjoy the blessings God has given us.

Because of the sacrifices that our military personnel have made and continue to make for the citizens of the USA, immigration to this country should not be taken lightly or accomplished without intentional effort. We welcome all who wish to come. All that is asked is that those who come do so in accordance with the laws of our Constitution. It is important that those who come to the USA be willing to follow the rules to become a part of this nation and that they never take for granted what it truly means to be a citizen of our great country. Citizenship comes with responsibility. Becoming part of the USA means assuming your fair share of the historical and ongoing debt of respect, honor, gratitude, and prayer every citizen owes our military who are willing to sacrifice so much to protect our nation and its people.

An Oath of Enlistment is sworn by every enlistee at the time of their induction into the Armed Forces of the USA. It is as follows:

(Continues on page 6)

The mottos of each branch of the USA Armed Forces are all representative of what each member of the military stands for when they are called to action defending God, country, and family.

Army

Hoc defendam.

"This I'll defend."

June 14, 1775

Navy

Semper fortis.

"Always courageous."

October 13, 1775

Marines

Semper fidelis.

"Always faithful."

November 10, 1775

Coast Guard

Semper paratus.

"Always ready."

August 4, 1790

Air Force

Mos ab alto.

"Death from above."

September 18, 1947

Reflections on Veterans' Day

(Continued from page 5)

***The colors of the flag
of the United States of America
are representative
of the characteristics
of each member
of our Armed Forces.
These brave men and women
display the flag on their uniforms
and salute it with pride.***

Red

Hardiness and Valor

White

Purity and innocence

Blue

Vigilance, perseverance,
and justice

I do solemnly swear (or affirm) that I will support and defend the Constitution of the United States against all enemies, foreign and domestic; that I will bear true faith and allegiance to the same; and that I will obey the orders of the President of the United States and the orders of the officers appointed over me, according to regulations and the Uniform Code of Military Justice. So help me God.

It is important to note that both the Oath of Enlistment (for non-commissioned personnel) and the Oath of Office

(for commissioned officers) end with *So help me God*. This cannot be overstressed. It is with God's help that the men and women who serve go into danger. Because these men and women go and do the duty they are called to do, they are the best. Those who have joined military service and made this commitment to God, country, and family have also made this commitment to their brother soldier next to them without regard for themselves. Unfortunately, some have made the ultimate sacrifice and have not returned to the home front. But let it be stated, "We have never left a man behind!" Because those that have fallen in battle will not be forgotten. You do not leave your brother behind. Each member is a part of a team (just like each Christian is one part of the Body of Christ). Each member is working for the greater good. This is why choosing to be a member

of the military is a calling, not just a job. It is a calling much greater than oneself, a calling that needs to be honored, respected, and revered.

Active and veteran members of the USA Armed Forces are unique men and women doing amazing feats to protect our nation. Each one needs to be acknowledged for their selfless acts of courage and commitment. They need to be revered and respected. To take a day to commemorate what these brave men and women have done for us, for the USA, is a small gesture for us to give thanks. I thank God for them and their willingness to serve, and I thank everyone who has ever fought to defend our country, our government, and our Constitution.

– Julia McNeely
November 11, 2018



***Members of the United States of America's
Armed Forces
have gone
above and beyond the call.***

***Thank you,
and may God bless
and keep all of you!***

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
Foley Beach;

Bishop
Bill Ilgenfritz;

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
Donald Trump;

Governor Jerry Brown;
and

all those recently elected to serve but not yet in office;

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, police officers, firefighters, and pilots who protect us every day;

our persecuted Christian brothers and sisters throughout the world;

all refugees;

all who have suffered bereavement or loss of homes in California wildfires;

Jim and Edna Davis;

Estelle Wilson;

Joya de Rossett;

Sharon De Souza;

Debbie;

Scott;

Brittany;

James and Tanya Theiler;

Christian McKagan and his parents;

Dale Quinn;

Lisa;

Ben;

Marion;

Max;

Dorian;

Dan and Kendra Pack;

Ernst Hernandez;

the Stanko family;

Yoshihiko and Hideko Ikegami;

Elizabeth Ann and her husband;

Stephen;

Lori Anderson;

Ali Hemphill;

Lori Hemphill;

Pennel Magaw;

Tracy Magaw;

Lourdes Fernandes;

Mary Frances Reeves;

Maryanne Sanchez;

Kaitlyn Lindstedt;

Pamela;

Debbie Battersby;

Claudia;

safety on the highways for all who commute,

especially

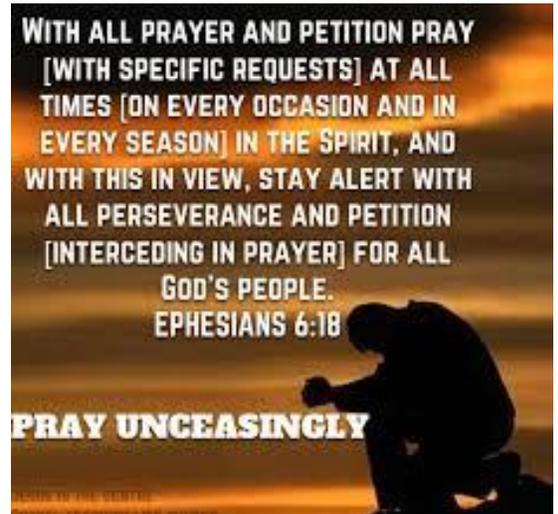
during rush hour;

the life and continuing longevity of St. Luke's Chapel in the Hills;

and for all those who are in our hearts,

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.

Please note: This prayer list was current as of November 30th. Please contact Father Parrish to make corrections.



On St. Mary

As Advent is upon us and Christmas is right around the corner, I'd like to share some thoughts with you about St. Mary, the mother of Jesus.

In the first place, let's consider her title *Theotokos*, which means "God-bearer". Some translate this word "mother of God", In the liturgy of the Scottish Episcopal Church, she is described as being "the Blessed Virgin Mary, mother of Thy Son Jesus Christ our Lord and God."

To speak about St. Mary as *Theotokos* is really to make a confession of faith in her Son. Jesus, the Son of Mary, is not just a human being, He is also God the Son.

In the early Church there was a group of Christians called Nestorians who were hesitant to call Jesus **God**. The Church decided that Jesus is both fully God and fully man. So Mary is in fact the "God-bearer".

Such words should come easily to the lips of any Anglican as a confession of faith. It is appropriate to call Mary *Theotokos* whether or not you use the Dominican Ro-

sary or the prayer "Hail Mary."

Now let's consider an area where Anglicans have an honest difference of opinion, and then let's think about an area where we can be in agreement concerning St. Mary.

One place where Anglicans disagree is in the practice of praying the rosary. Anglo-catholics are in favor of this and find the invocation of the



Blessed Virgin to be an important part of their prayer life. Evangelical Anglicans don't agree, because they say such a practice is neither primitive nor universal.

Where Anglicans can find agreement is in a kind of prayer based on the "doctrine of comprehension" in which a person prays to God that He will hear the prayers and intercessions of the saints,

including Mary. This kind of prayer is a recognition that the communion of saints is a fellowship of prayer.

One prayer that is a beautiful example of this is found on page 504 of the 1979 *Book of Common Prayer*:

O God, the King of saints, we praise and glorify Your holy Name for all Your servants who have finished their course in Your faith and fear: for the blessed Virgin Mary; for the holy patriarchs, prophets, apostles, and martyrs; and for all Your other righteous servants, known to us and unknown; and we pray that, encouraged by their examples, aided by their prayers, and strengthened by their fellowship, we also may be partakers of the inheritance of the saints in light; through the merits of Your Son Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

– *The Reverend Canon Gary Turner*

Parish Postings

The final Bible Study class of 2018 will discuss *Ecclesiastes 9* on Sunday, December 9th, at 9:15 AM in McNeely Hall. Bible Study will be in recess until Sunday, January 13th.



Please note that there will be a change in the Chapel's usual schedule of worship services on Sunday, December 9th, the Second Sunday in Advent. In place of the Office of Morning Prayer at 10:00 AM, Father Parrish will instead lead us in the Festival of Nine Lessons and Carols. A reception in McNeely Hall will follow, but there will be no noon celebration of Holy Communion. Please invite your family and friends to this joyful review of Messianic prophecy interspersed with favorite hymns and carols!



It is our Chapel Family custom to decorate the sanctuary at Christmas with poinsettias which honor our family members and friends who have joined the Church Expectant. If you wish to

offer poinsettias, please do the following by Tuesday, December 18th:

- donate \$15 to the Altar Guild (please note this allocation on your check memo line or offertory envelope); and
- send Father Parrish the memorial announcement as you wish it to appear in our Christmastide bulletins.

Thank you!



Here at St. Luke's, we like to thank our local firefighters with homemade holiday cookies and other treats. Kindly set aside some of your goodies as you do your baking, and bring your contributions to church with you on Sunday, December 23rd. Thank you!



Christmastide services will begin with Holy Communion on Monday, December 24th, at 11:15 PM.



We will celebrate our Lord's Incarnation on Monday, December 25th, with Holy Communion at 10:00 AM.



The Vestry will meet immediately after the 10:00 AM worship service on Sunday, January 6th.



Julia McNeely has a suggestion for an outreach program: Family Movie Night at the Chapel. Please talk to her about possible movie titles.



The Vestry has selected the Shasta Regional Community Foundation as our Fall project. We are collecting funds for disaster relief in aid of victims of the Carr Fire. When you donate for this project, please write *Shasta RCF* on your offertory envelope or check memo line. Thank you!

Upcoming Events

Saturday, December 1st

*Work Party
to prepare the Chapel
for Advent and Christmastide
10:30 AM*

Sunday, December 2nd

The First Sunday in Advent

*Bible Study: Ecclesiastes 8
9:15 AM*

*Holy Communion
with Blessing of the Crèche
and Healing Service
10:00 AM*

Sunday, December 9th

The Second Sunday in Advent

*Bible Study: Ecclesiastes 9
9:15 AM*

*Festival of Lessons and Carols
10:00 AM*

*Reception
immediately following the service*

Sunday, December 16th

The Third Sunday in Advent

*Holy Communion
10:00 AM*

Tuesday, December 18th

Deadline for sending Father Parrish your poinsettia dedications.

Sunday, December 23rd

The Third Sunday in Advent

Please bring treats for our local firefighters today!

*Office of Morning Prayer
10:00 AM*

*Holy Communion
12:00 PM*

Monday, December 24th

Christmas Eve

*Holy Communion
11:15 PM*

(Continues on page 11)

Upcoming Events

(Continued from page 10)

Tuesday, December 25th

The Nativity of Our Lord,
or the Birthday of Christ,
commonly called Christmas Day

Holy Communion

10:00 AM

Sunday, December 30th

The First Sunday after Christmas Day

Holy Communion

10:00 AM

Sunday, January 6th

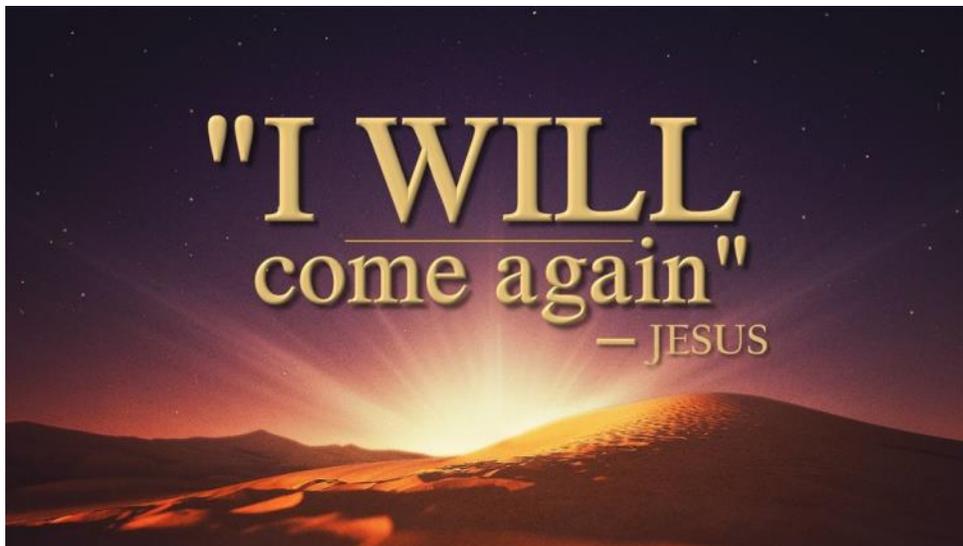
The Epiphany of Our Lord Jesus Christ

*Holy Communion
and Healing Service*

10:00 AM

Vestry Meeting

immediately following the worship service





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 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 Sunday)
10:00 AM

Second and fourth Sundays each month

Office of Daily Morning Prayer
10:00 AM

Said Holy Communion
noon

Please note that both services on Feast Days occurring on these Sundays will be Holy Communion.