



VOLUME 15, ISSUE 12

DECEMBER 2019

The Hillside Messenger

A Message from the Rector: Advent as Preparation for Christmas

The Reverend Charles Wesley, priest and hymn writer, described the Lord Jesus Christ's Second Advent in these words:

Lo! He comes
with clouds
descending,
Once for our sal-
vation slain;
Thousand thou-
sand
saints
attending
Swell the tri-
umph of
His train:
Alleluia, alle-
luia, alle-
luia!
Christ the
Lord re-
turns to
reign.

Stanza 1, Hymn 5,
*The Hymnal of
the Protestant
Episcopal
Church in the
United States of
America*, 1940.

"This same Jesus," said the men in white apparel, "which is taken up from you into heaven, shall so come in like

manner as ye have seen Him go into heaven" (*Acts 1:11b*, KJV). The Lord Jesus Christ will come again to earth, not as a child but as King, Judge, and Savior of the faithful. For this great day, we must all be ready, and for it we must pray. In the Lord's Prayer, the petition "Thy kingdom come" sets before us the necessity of praying for God's king-

other Christians who seem not to be eager for the Lord's coming at all?" The state of the world, the state of our nation, and the state of the Church are all matters for deep concern and continual prayer. Yet one of the greatest priorities we must have is to ensure that we ourselves, as individuals and as a parish, are ready for the Lord's Second Coming. St. Peter

the Apostle urges Christians, "But the end of all things is at hand; be ye therefore sober, and watch unto prayer" (*I St. Peter 4:7*, KJV).

Before all else, each of the faithful must set his own life in order by obeying God. For what if suddenly the Lord were to come, or any of us were to appear before the Lord, and the Lord were to say, "You may have done all sorts of wonderful and charitable things in your life, but you have not taken prayer or your relationship with



dom to come. Just as the attention of the Apostles was turned from gazing into heaven after Jesus' ascension, so the attention of the Church now must be turned to making itself ready for the Second Coming of the Lord.

Someone might object, "But what about the world? It is nowhere near ready for the Lord's coming. What about some

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Advent as Preparation for Christmas

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Me seriously at all!"

Therefore the Lord warns us all, "Whosoever he be of you that forsaketh not all that he hath, he cannot be My disciple" (*St. Luke 14:33, KJV*), and "Not everyone that saith unto me, Lord, Lord, shall enter the kingdom of heaven; but he that doeth the will of My Father which is in heaven" (*St. Matthew 7:21, KJV*). What will matter in the end is whether we have left all that we count dear and have come before the Lord in prayer, surrendering all that we are and all that we have to Him for His use and to His glory.

Therefore, in the whole course of our lives we must all take care to build wisely and well on the foundation of the Lord Jesus Christ already laid in our lives. Having begun with a great love for God who has saved us from the misery of eternal hell and from a futile way of life and brought us into the kingdom of His dear Son, we must grow steadily in the love of God, and in bearing all the fruit of the Holy Spirit. In the light that Christ has caused to shine on us, we must live in prayerful vigilance, praying that in all things God's will be done in our lives and in the lives of all for whom we pray. Sobriety here refers to spiritual wakefulness and alertness in spiritual discernment. This accompanies perse-

verance in prayer. In all we do, we must so live as to please God and redeem the time, by making the best use of it for the glory of God and the furtherance of the values and standards of God's eternal kingdom.

Quoting *Ecclesiastes 1:2*, Thomas à Kempis wrote:

Vanity of vanities, all is vanity, except to love God and be fervent for Him alone. That is the highest wisdom which, through contempt of the world, aims for the heavenly kingdom. Therefore, it is vanity to seek riches that will perish and to hope in them. It is also vanity to court honors and to lift oneself on high. It is vanity to follow the appetites of the flesh and to long for that whence one presently will be gravely punished. It is vanity to wish for long life but to care little for a good life. It is vanity to direct one's attention only to the present life and not to see beforehand those things which are about to be. It is vanity to love that which passes away with all speed and not to

hasten to that place where eternal joy abides.

Thomas à Kempis:
Imitation Christi,
I.3c-4,
my translation

Thomas wrote these spiritual counsels because he was concerned about the essence of the Christian life, and he was directing the Brothers and Sisters of the Common Life (a lay and clerical religious order) to live at the heart of Christ's life, in close communion with Him. The Renaissance period in which Thomas lived was an age of human pride in increasing knowledge of the world through discovery. These spiritual counsels helped people then, as they do now, to retain a proper perspective of the Christian's priorities in the world and to live daily in view of eternal life.

This excerpt from Thomas' writing helps us to evaluate what vanity is and whether our lives, as we live them, measure up to God's call to "walk circumspectly, not as fools, but as wise, redeeming the time, because the days are evil" (*Ephesians 5:15-16, KJV*).

Living wisely and seeking to know God's will for our lives is very important, because we must prepare for the second coming of our Lord

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Advent as Preparation for Christmas

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Jesus Christ which could be at any time. Spiritual leaders in the Church are warned by the Lord Jesus Christ to be proper stewards of those entrusted to their care and not to exploit or mistreat them but to give their spiritual food at the appointed time (*St. Luke 12:41-48*), and all Christians are urged to watch over their lives and to endure persecution and all the trials that come their way:

And take heed to yourselves, lest at any time your hearts be overcharged with surfeiting, and drunkenness, and cares of this life,

and so that day come upon you unawares. For as a snare shall it come on all them that dwell on the face of the whole earth. Watch ye therefore, and pray always, that ye may be accounted worthy to escape all these things that shall come to pass, and to stand before the Son of man.

*St. Luke
21:34-36, KJV*

The Lord desires none of the faithful to be caught by surprise when He comes again. That fate is for those who have refused to believe and refused to obey His word.

Therefore, He commands us to live in vigilance; to watch and pray to amend our lives according to His word; to confess our sins; to live righteous lives; to love Him more than all else; to know His will; to love our neighbor as we love ourselves; and to persevere to the day when we stand before Him.

Every Christmas reminds us both of the Lord's first advent and of His promised return. People might tell you they are ready for Thanksgiving or ready for Christmas, but are they ready for the second coming of the Lord Jesus Christ? Are you?

— *The Reverend
Christopher Parrish*

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.



Our Chapel Family Prayer List



***This prayer list
was current as of
November 28th,
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 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; 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,

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 loss in California wildfires;

Jim and Edna Davis;

Estelle Wilson;

Joya de Rossett;

Sharon De Souza;

Debbie;

Scott;

Brittany;

James and Tanya Theiler;

Dale Quinn;

Brian Quinn;

Lisa;

Ben;

Marion;

Flo;

Max;

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 Fernandez;

Mary Frances Reeves;

Maryanne Sanchez;

Kaitlyn Lindstedt;

Claudia;

Brenda Terry;

Elise;

Thomas and MaryAlice Dunbar;

Mrs. Kitt;

Jon Carter;

Marilyn;

Frank Capone;

the family of John Jerrehian;

Maria Fernandez;

Dave Joines;

Rose Handwerker;

Ann and Frank MacVoy;

Libby Codd;

Bishop Ilgenfritz;

Austin;

Karen and her family;

Darren Norman; 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.

Give a Gift to the Chapel When You Shop Online

You can help support the Chapel when you shop online! All you need to do is register at these two places and choose St. Luke's Chapel in the Hills as the recipient of the donations you earn by shopping.

AmazonSmile

St Luke's Chapel in the Hills has registered with AmazonSmile! During this holiday season, please support St. Luke's Chapel when you shop at Amazon. Please go to smile.amazon.com and select **St Lukes Chapel in the Hills Anglican Church** (no apostrophe)

as your favorite charitable organization. From then on, remember to always start at smile.amazon.com (Amazon will remind you to shop at AmazonSmile once you have selected the Chapel as your charity), and Amazon will donate 0.5 percent of the price of your eligible AmazonSmile purchases. Every little bit counts, and there is no extra cost to you.

iGive.com

iGive.com also sends donation checks to designated charities based upon members' online shopping. Parishioners only need to designate **St. Luke's Chapel in the**

Hills Anglican Church (this time with the apostrophe) as the charity they wish to support and then shop at iGive-participating online retailers. If you install the iGive Button, you will be notified each time you open the site of a participating retailer. Each retailer offers their own donation percentage of your purchase price (currently from 0.2 percent to 60 percent). There are no added costs, obligations, nor any hidden fees. You don't need to enter any codes or notify the store or iGive. It's all automatic.

— Elodia Fernandez



Parish Postings

Everyone is invited to attend our brother in Christ **Israel Cummings' concert on Saturday, December 7th**. The Friends of Music Holiday Musicale begins at 2:30 PM at Memorial Church (450 Serra Mall on Stanford University). The Musicale will feature the performances of several groups, and the Philharmonic Brass section (where Israel plays) is forming a sextet to play beforehand while everyone is being seated. Tickets are available at

[https://arts.stanford.edu/
event/84573/](https://arts.stanford.edu/event/84573/)



The Festival of Lessons and Carols will be celebrated on **Sunday, December 8th**, at 10:00 AM, The Festival will replace the Office of Morning Prayer, and there will be no noon service that day. This is a glorious celebration of Messianic prophecies and events from Jesus' life. Bring your friends!

It is the custom of our Chapel Family to deco-



rate the Chapel at Christmastide with **poinsettias** offered in remembrance of our brothers and sisters who have joined the Church Expectant. The suggested donation is \$15. If you wish to offer poinsettias, please use one of the Flower Offering envelopes from the

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Parish Postings

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vestibule or write *Poinsettias* on the memo line of your check. Kindly e-mail your poinsettia dedications to Father Parrish no later than **Wednesday, December 18th**. Thank you!

Members of the Prayer



Group intercede daily as individuals for those who desire special prayers. If you would like to join this ministry, please contact Julia McNeely. Once a month, the Prayer Group meets in the Nursery to seek the guidance of the Holy Spirit and to pray at His direction. We will meet on **Sunday, December 22nd**, immediately following Morning Prayer. All are welcome!



Please join your Chapel Family in thanking our local firefighters this hol-

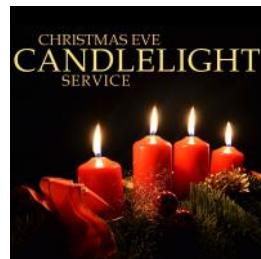
iday season! Bring your **baked goods** to church with you on **Sunday, December 22nd**, and they will be conveyed to our local fire station that afternoon. Thank you!



Waldern's second grandson from her daughter Freya.



St. Luke's will begin its observation of the twelve days of Christmas on **Tuesday, December 24th**, with a candlelight celebration of **Holy Communion** at 11:15 PM .

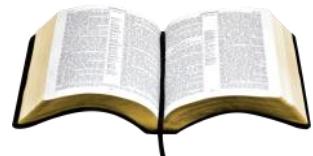


Please join us on **Wednesday, December 25th**, at 10:00 AM for **Holy Communion** as we celebrate the Nativity of Our Lord.



You are cordially invited to come welcome Owen Petersen into the family of God on **Sunday, December 29th**, when he will receive the sacrament of **Baptism** during the celebration of Holy Communion. Owen is Lindsay

Bible Study on the *Book of the Prophet Isaiah* will be on recess until **Sunday, January 5th**, at 9:15 AM.



The **Vestry** will meet on **Sunday, January 5th**, immediately following the worship service. All interested parishioners are invited to observe.

Vestry

Our Annual Parish Meeting will be held on **Sunday, February 16th**. The Vestry has recommended amendments to our By-Laws. Copies of these amended By-Laws are available in McNeely Hall, and we will vote on the proposed amendments at the Annual Meeting. Parishioners who have questions about the amendments may ask any member of Vestry.

Upcoming Events

Sunday, December 1st
The First Sunday in Advent

Holy Communion with Healing Service
10:00 AM

Sunday, December 8th
The Second Sunday in Advent

Festival of Lessons and Carols
10:00 AM

Sunday, December 15th
The Third Sunday in Advent

Holy Communion
10:00 AM

Sunday, December 22nd
The Fourth Sunday in Advent

Office of Morning Prayer
10:00 AM

Prayer Group Meeting
immediately following Morning Prayer

Holy Communion
12:00 PM

Tuesday, December 24th
Christmas Eve

Holy Communion
11:15 PM

Wednesday, December 25th
Christmas Day

Holy Communion
10:00 AM

December 29th
The First Sunday after Christmas Day

Holy Communion with Holy Baptism
10:00 AM

Sunday, January 5th
The Second Sunday after Christmas Day

Bible Study: Isaiah
9:15 AM

Holy Communion with Healing Service
10:00 AM

Vestry Meeting
immediately following Holy Communion





A PUBLICATION OF
ST. LUKE'S CHAPEL IN THE HILLS
ANGLICAN CHURCH

A PARISH OF
THE CONVOCATION OF THE WEST,
PART OF THE
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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 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.