

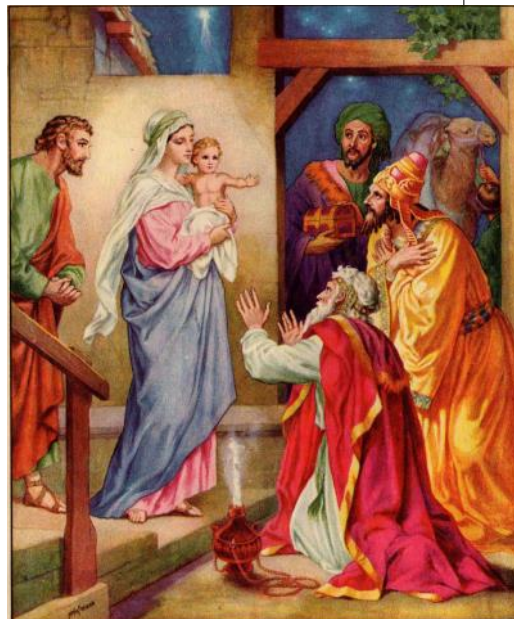
The Hillside Messenger

A Message from the Rector: The Epiphany of Christ

The Festival of the Epiphany in the Church's history originated in Egypt in the second century, the date of January 6th being chosen to oppose the birthday celebration of the Egyptian deity Osiris on that day. The original focus of this festival was on the Baptism of the Lord Jesus Christ, but by the fourth century in the Eastern Churches, the Nativity of Christ and His Baptism were the principal events celebrated in this festival. The Lord's first miracle at Cana also came to be associated with this day. In adopting this festival later in the fourth century, the Western Churches portrayed it as commemorating the visit of the Magi and emphasizing God's revelation of Christ to the Gentiles (adapted from p. 107, Massey H. Shepherd, Jr.: *The Oxford*

American Prayer Book Commentary. New York: Oxford University Press, 1955).

Epiphany is the coming of God to man in and through the Lord Jesus Christ for the particular purpose of redeeming and



saving mankind. Whereas in the polytheistic religion of the ancient Greeks an epiphany was the appearance of the gods to help people on earth, for Christians the Epiphany is the advent of Christ and can refer to

His second advent as well as His first (*II Thessalonians 2:8; I St. Timothy 6:14; II St. Timothy 1:10; II St. Timothy 4:1 and 8; St. Titus 2:13*).

This Epiphany has as its goal the salvation of the world through Christ. St.

Paul linked the first coming of the Lord Jesus Christ to the second in his *Epistle to St. Titus*:

For the grace of God that bringeth salvation hath appeared to all men, teaching us that, denying ungodliness and worldly lusts, we should live soberly, righteously, and godly, in this present world; looking for that blessed hope, and the glorious appearing of the great God and our Saviour Jesus Christ; who gave Himself for us, that He might

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The Epiphany of Christ

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redeem us from all iniquity, and purify unto Himself a peculiar people, zealous of good works.

St. Titus 2:11-14,
KJV

In this passage, St. Paul links the appearing of the grace of God in Christ for all people to having “the blessed hope” of the appearing (epiphany) of “the great God and our Saviour Jesus Christ” (**St. Titus 2:13**). From this passage it is evident that the Lord Jesus Christ’s first advent had the purposes of giving His life to redeem people from all sin, purifying for Himself His own people, and training those people to abstain from ungodliness and worldly desires and to instead live sober, righteous, and godly lives in this world. As the faithful embody this discipline and training in their daily lives, so they are being made ready for the fulfillment of their blessed hope of the resurrection and of the glorious appearing (epiphany) of the great God and Saviour, Jesus Christ.

In another passage of this same **Epistle to St. Titus**, St. Paul gives us more insight into the effects of the first advent and epiphany of the Lord Jesus Christ. This passage, like the one quoted above, is read at services

on Christmas Eve or Christmas Day:

But after that the kindness and love of God our Saviour toward man appeared, not by works of righteousness which we have done, but according to His mercy He saved us, by the washing of regeneration, and renewing of the Holy Ghost; which He shed on us abundantly through Jesus Christ our Saviour; that being justified by His grace, we should be made heirs according to the hope of eternal life.

St. Titus 3:4-7,
KJV

The epiphany of the Lord Jesus Christ was a revelation of God our Savior’s love toward man. The washing of regeneration, or Holy Baptism, and the renewal through the Holy Spirit, received by Christians after repentance from sin and expression of faith in God the Holy Trinity, are gifts of God’s grace, flowing from His great love and mercy to mankind. The Holy Spirit God poured out on us richly through Jesus Christ our Savior, so that, being accounted righteous by His grace, we might become heirs according to the hope of eternal life.

God’s epiphany of the

Lord Jesus Christ has resulted in reconciliation with God through the death of Jesus on the cross, as well as the manifold gifts of grace that are the benefits of salvation, including the outpouring of the Holy Spirit.

The Holy Spirit, who is the Spirit of truth, leads the faithful in all truth (**St. John 16:13**). Since the Lord Jesus Christ is the Way, the Truth, and the Life (**St. John 14:6**), the Holy Spirit leads God’s people in the fullness of the truth that Jesus is and inspires their hope in His future appearing, or epiphany, at His second coming. Meeting the Lord Jesus Christ in spirit through the Holy Spirit entails coming to know the truth of who Jesus is and what power He can exercise in and through us to defeat sin and bring each of us to complete deliverance from evil.

In his book **The Road Less Traveled**, psychiatrist M. Scott Peck observes that people need to live their lives in total dedication to the truth and not direct their minds using their own outdated and incomplete maps of reality. To achieve this one needs to examine oneself continuously and stringently. I would add that one needs to do so, though, under the guidance of the Holy Spirit, who leads us in all truth,

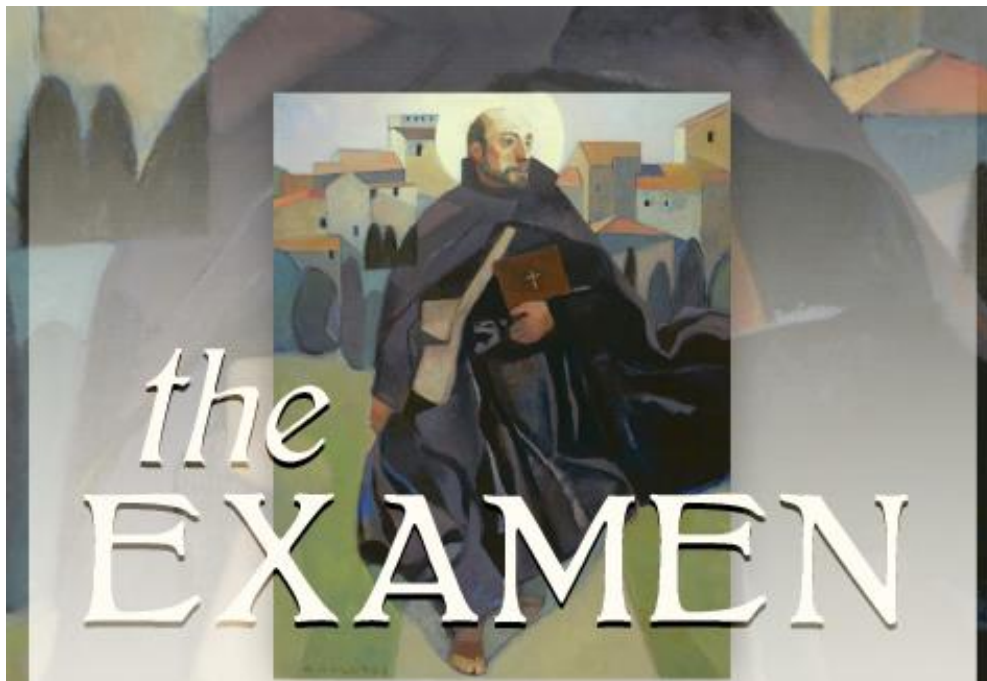
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The Epiphany of Christ

(Continued from page 2)

including the full truth about ourselves. The Holy Spirit also reassures us of the love of God and comforts all who genuinely seek to draw near to God. The Holy Spirit will expose all false maps of reality in our lives, all sinful attitudes and habits of thought, and, as we yield ourselves to Him, will guide us in rectifying our thoughts, words, and deeds so that we learn to discern the perfect will of God in every area of our lives and do it. All this happens day by day as we listen more and more to the Holy Spirit and remain steadfast both in our faith in the Lord Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of sins and in our hope of His glorious appearing when He comes again.

— The Reverend
Christopher Parrish



the EXAMEN

The *Examen* is a method of reviewing your day in the presence of God. It's actually an attitude more than a method, a time set aside for thankful reflection on where God is in your everyday life. It has five steps, which most people take more or less in order, and it usually takes 15 to 20 minutes per day. Here it is in a nutshell:

- 1** Ask God for light.
I want to look at my day with God's eyes, not merely my own.
- 2** Give thanks.
The day I have just lived is a gift from God. Be grateful for it.
- 3** Review the day.
I carefully look back on the day just completed, being guided by the Holy Spirit.
- 4** Face your shortcomings.
I face up to what is wrong—in my life and in me.
- 5** Look toward the day to come.
I ask where I need God in the day to come.

Version of the Examen from *A Simple Life-Changing Prayer* by Jim Manney © Loyola Press

Martha's List: Ushers Needed

St. Luke's Chapel in the Hills is a very special place. It is a place that is God-centered, restful, and encouraging— a place anyone can come to replenish and rejuvenate. The Chapel is a place where one may converse with God. Through our worship services, classes, and fellowship, the Chapel is a place where one can grow spiritually. The Chapel is warm, welcoming, and a unique sanctuary.

Of course, there is room for improvement. There is an important ministry which is currently vacant: Usher. Serving as an Usher allows the Chapel to shine as an example of God's love, because it demonstrates how distinctive the Chapel and the members of our Chapel Family are. Ushering is an integral part of Christian service which is open to any member of the congrega-

tion who wishes to serve God.

An Usher greets and welcomes with a smile each person who comes in the front door, whether they be long-time Chapel Family members or first-time visitors. He or she distributes bulletins and guides visitors to the pews before and during the worship service. As needed, he or she may give parking directions or lead the way to the nursery, restroom, or McNeely Hall. Ushering duties also include assisting parishioners to the Altar Rail for Holy Communion and collecting the offering. Additional duties may include ringing the Steeple Bell at the beginning and end of each worship service and raising and lowering the flags of the United States and the Anglican Church in North America on fair-weather days (this would also include the proper folding and caring for the flags).

This is a very vital ministry. Being an Usher means to be an ambassa-

dor for the Chapel, because the people who serve in this position are the face of the Chapel. Their warmth and helpful assistance will present the Chapel in such a way that everyone will feel invited, welcomed, and encouraged to enter God's House where they will find comfort, love, and community.

If you feel that you might be able to fulfill this ministry, please contact Julia McNeely or Deacon Vogel. Additional information about the Usher ministry may be found in the Usher folder (in the box labeled *Martha's List of Parish Ministries: Ministry Folders* which is under the card table in McNeely Hall).

Julia McNeely



Ushers Needed
Are you willing to serve?

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
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 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;

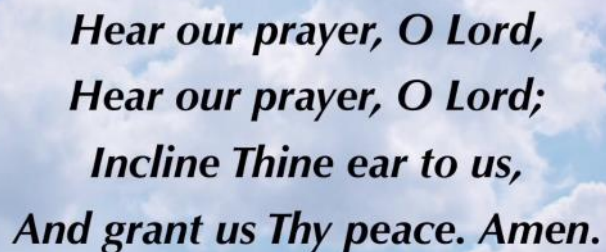
Lori Anderson;

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,



**Hear our prayer, O Lord,
Hear our prayer, O Lord;
Incline Thine ear to us,
And grant us Thy peace. Amen.**

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 December 31st. Please contact Father Parrish to make corrections.

Parish Postings

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



The first Bible Study class of 2019 will discuss *Ecclesiastes 10* on Sunday, January 13th, at 9:15 AM in McNeely Hall. Everyone is invited to attend!



The Vestry has selected the Shasta Regional Community Foundation as our fall Community Missions 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!



Martha's List of Parish Ministries would like for everyone to note that the Annual Parish Meeting is coming up in February. This is an important time of prayerful consideration about our Christian service.

If you have served as a ministerial chairperson in the past year, please take time in the upcoming weeks to update your ministerial folders (in the boxes labeled *Martha's List of Parish Ministries* which are under the card table in McNeely Hall). Remember that Martha only asks chairpersons to serve from one Annual Parish Meeting to the next (although any chairperson who wishes to continue serving in that role is welcome to do so!), so keeping these ministerial folders up-to-date is crucial for making transitions between leaders easier.

Perhaps you have not yet joined one of St. Luke's Chapel in the Hills' ministries. If so, please ask God how He would like for you to serve Him, His Church, and those in our community who do not yet know Him. Chances are that one of our current Parish Ministries will align with His answer, but if not please speak to Father Parrish about instituting a new ministry.

If you have any questions, please speak to Father Parrish, Julia McNeely, or Kim Vogel. Thank you!



The 2019 Flower Chart is now available in the narthex. If you would like to offer flowers to adorn the altar at an upcoming worship service, please write your name next to the date(s) you have selected. Use one of the provided envelopes to make a donation to cover the cost of purchasing flowers if you are not bringing them from your own garden. As a kindness to Father Parrish, please e-mail him your dedication announcement one week before the worship service for which you are offering altar flowers. Thank you!



Hunger is an ongoing problem in the San Francisco Bay area. To combat it, St. Luke's collects non-perishable foodstuffs each week in a large wicker basket in the narthex and donates them to a local food bank. Please add a few items to your grocery cart for this ministry. Thank you!

Upcoming Events

Tuesday, January 1st
The Circumcision of Christ
New Year's Day

Sunday, January 6th
The Epiphany of Our Lord Jesus Christ
Holy Communion with Healing Service
10:00 AM

Vestry Meeting
immediately following the worship service

Saturday, January 12th
Work Party to put away Christmastide decorations
11:00 AM

Sunday, January 13th
The First Sunday after Epiphany
Bible Study: Ecclesiastes 10
9:15 AM

Office of Morning Prayer
10:00 AM

Holy Communion
12:00 PM

Sunday, January 20th
The Second Sunday after Epiphany
Bible Study: Ecclesiastes 11
9:15 AM

Holy Communion
10:00 AM

Sunday, January 27th
The Third Sunday after Epiphany
Bible Study: Ecclesiastes 12
9:15 AM

Office of Morning Prayer
10:00 AM

Holy Communion
12:00 PM

Sunday, February 3rd
The Fourth Sunday after Epiphany
Bible Study: The Gospel according to St. John 1
9:15 AM

Holy Communion with Healing Service
10:00 AM





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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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ChristopherParrish7@gmail.com

Website:

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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.