



The Hillside Messenger

A Message from the Rector: Epiphany and Renewal

The Festival of the Epiphany, on January 6th, is the twelfth day of Christmas and the official end of Christmastide. Epiphany celebrates the

revelation of the Lord Jesus Christ to the world. Its earliest celebration in Egypt in the late second century focused on the commemoration of the Lord's manifestation at His Baptism. The season of Epiphany is also associated with the visit of the Magi to the infant Jesus in Bethlehem as recorded in *St. Matthew 2:1-12*, and this was the main emphasis of the Western Church in observing this festival, an emphasis which is applied in the Collect for the Epiphany:

O God, who by the leading of a star didst mani-

fest Thy only-begotten Son to the Gentiles; mercifully grant that we, who know Thee now by faith, may after this life



have the fruition of Thy glorious Godhead; through the same Thy Son Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

p. 107, *Book of Common Prayer*, 1928

In this Collect there is a parallel between the way in which the Magi received the revelation of the birth of the Lord Jesus Christ and the journey of the Church through this earthly life by faith to the point when it shall experience the fullness of God.

Just as the wise men, or Magi, were determined to visit the infant King of the Jews (*St. Matthew 2:2*) in order to offer Him worship and the gifts that they had brought, so as followers of the Lord Jesus Christ must we seek the presence of the

Lord and make Him the goal of our spiritual journey. In *Psalms 27* we find this significant verse:

One thing have I

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Epiphany and Renewal

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desired of the
LORD
That I will seek
after;
That I may dwell
in the house
of the LORD
All the days of
my life,
To behold the
beauty of the
LORD,
And to enquire in
His temple.

Psalm 27:4, KJV

This verse expresses the Psalmist's goal of living in the house, or temple, of the Lord, a symbol of living in God's presence and seeing the beauty of the Lord. A little further on in the same psalm, this purpose is expressed again in these words:

When Thou
saidst,
Seek ye My
face;
My heart said
unto Thee,
Thy face,
LORD, will I
seek.

Psalm 27:8, KJV

It is this fixed resolve to live in the presence of the Lord that we must have in our lives. Without this resolve, our spiritual journey can suffer thousands of distractions and the growth of the word of God in our lives can be choked by many thorns

and weeds.

What we have been given as the record and testimony of Christ's epiphany to mankind is the Bible, the word of God. To this word we must come daily and look into it to see the face of the Lord Jesus Christ and know more of His divine character. St. James contrasts the hearer of the word to the doer, using the image of a mirror (*St. James 1:22-25*). The one who only hears God's word and does not obey it

one's relationship with the Lord. St. Paul describes such transformation in this way:

But we all with unveiled face, beholding as in a mirror the glory of the Lord, are being transformed into the same image from glory to glory, just as by the Spirit of the Lord.

II Corinthians 3:18, NKJV

The epiphany of the Lord Jesus Christ has this as its final goal: the transformation of the faithful people of God so that they reflect the divine love and character of Christ completely, for it is in the Lord Jesus Christ that

the glory of God is fully reflected and known (*II Corinthians 4:6*). The Lord Jesus' spiritual gifts of the ministries of apostles, prophets, evangelists, pastors, and teachers are to equip the saints for the work of ministry, to edify the body of Christ, and to bring all the faithful to the unity of faith and of knowledge of the Son of God so that every believer may be brought to maturity and to the full stature of Christ

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is like a person who looks at himself in a mirror, goes away, and forgets what kind of a person he is. But the one who looks into God's perfect law of liberty and continues in it, not forgetting it but obeying it, will be blessed in all that he does. Two things are important here: Firstly, the transformation of one's life by a daily study of God's word that results in obedience to Him, and secondly, daily prayer that strengthens

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(*Ephesians 4:11-13*).

The nearer we approach this goal in our earthly lives, the more the presence and character of the Lord Jesus Christ will be evident in our lives. It is the grace and power of the Holy Spirit at work in our lives to make the presence of the Lord Jesus Christ real in our lives for us and for those to whom we reach out in love with the Gospel. In the third stanza of Hymn 463 of the 1940 *Hymnal of the Episcopal Church*, the Reverend Charles Wesley penned these words:

Jesus, confirm
my heart's
desire

To work, and
speak, and
think for
Thee;
Still let me guard
the holy fire
And still stir up
the gift in me.

It is not a prayer that any of us Christians may have the exclusive right to work, speak, or think on behalf of the Lord Jesus Christ, but simply a prayer that our work, our words, and our thoughts represent the Lord Jesus Christ effectively and sincerely. The *holy fire* is the grace and power of the Holy Spirit poured out on the Church, whose Gospel we must guard by accurately preaching, teaching, and sharing the truth of God's word and by practicing it

in our lives. Let us all be so stirred by the Holy Spirit through His word and through prayer that the character of Christ may be truly and effectively revealed in our lives!

– *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

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;

Jim and Edna Davis;

Estelle Wilson;

Joya de Rossett;

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;

Mary Frances Reeves;

Maryanne Sanchez;

Kaitlyn Lindstedt;

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;

Deacon Vogel; 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 December 30th, 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!



Annual Parish Meeting Set for February 16th

The next Annual Meeting of the Parish will be held on February 16, 2020. An important matter of business for this Annual Meeting is a vote on the Parish By-laws. The By-laws Committee was formed in 2019 and has come up with a list of proposed amendments which are designed to make the By-laws more practical and coherent. These changes have been approved by the Vestry but require final approval by the Parish before they may take effect. If approved at the Annual Meeting, these amendments will make adjustments to some qualifications and regulations, address diocesan require-

ments, clear up ambiguities in definitions, and correct grammatical errors. The existing By-laws and the proposed amendments are available for review in McNeely Hall. Please take a copy.

One of the functions of the Annual Meeting is that it allows for officers of the Vestry to report on matters of significance which have taken place in the last year. It has recently been brought to my attention that some members of the parish would like more information than what is presented at the Annual Meeting regarding general activities and business conducted by the Vestry. There are a few options available to those interested in more frequent or detailed infor-

mation. Members of the parish are welcome to sit in on meetings of the Vestry to observe business being conducted. Notice of Vestry Meetings can be found in the weekly service bulletin. If attendance of meetings is not convenient, members of St. Luke's may view records from past Vestry Meetings. Information can also be requested from officers of the Vestry such as the Senior Warden.

– Mark Cameron,
Secretary of the Vestry



A Note from Martha



A friendly reminder to all the good people of St. Luke's: It's time to begin considering which of Martha's List of Parish Ministries you'd like to join (or chair!) for the coming year. The Christian life requires service to God, service to the family of faith, and service to the wider community. Martha's List features some of the ways in which our parish offers opportunities for service.

If you have any questions about these ministries, please ask either of us. You may also read about ministries from the handbooks in the box labeled *Martha's List of Parish Ministries Ministry Folders* in McNeely Hall. There is something for everyone on Martha's List, and if there isn't, you need only speak to Father Parrish about creating a new parish ministry which will make use of your talents. Thank you, and may God bless you in your ministry!

–Julia McNeely
and Kim Vogel

Parish Postings

Bible Study on the *Book of the Prophet Isaiah* will resume on Sunday, January 5th, at 9:15 AM. All are welcome!



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



Please join your Chapel family on Saturday, January 11th, at 11:00 AM for a work party to take down and store the Christmas decorations.



The Prayer Group will meet on Sunday, January 26th, immediately following Morning Prayer. All are welcome!



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.



Our Chapel needs Lay Readers. Any confirmed member of the congregation may serve in this ministry. No experience is necessary—training will be provided. Please let Father Parrish know as soon as possible if you feel God is calling you to this ministry. Thank you!



Upcoming Events

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

Monday, January 6th

The Epiphany,
or the Manifestation of Christ to the Gentiles

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Upcoming Events

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Saturday, January 11th

Work Party

11:00 AM

Sunday, January 12th

The First Sunday in Epiphany

Bible Study: Isaiah

9:15 AM

Office of Morning Prayer

10:00 AM

Holy Communion

12:00 PM

Sunday, January 19th

The Second Sunday in Epiphany

Bible Study: Isaiah

9:15 AM

Holy Communion

10:00 AM

Sunday, January 26th

The Third Sunday in Epiphany

Bible Study: Isaiah

9:15 AM

Office of Morning Prayer

10:00 AM

Prayer Group Meeting

immediately following Morning Prayer

Holy Communion

12:00 PM

February 2nd

The Presentation of Christ in the Temple,
commonly called the Purification of St. Mary the Virgin

Bible Study: Isaiah

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

26140 Duval Way
Los Altos Hills, California
94022-4413

Office phone:
650-941-6524

Rector's cellular:
669-245-9701

E-mail:
ChristopherParrish7@gmail.com

Website:
www.StLukesChapel.church

«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.