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The Hillside Messenger

A Message from the Rector: Advent and Christmastide

One of the great themes of Advent is the call of God through His prophets to His people to awaken them to the coming of the Lord Jesus Christ. For traditional Anglicans, the Collect for the Sunday next before Advent depicts the first stirrings of this:

Stir up, we beseech Thee, O Lord, the wills of Thy faithful people; that they, plenteously bringing forth the fruit of good works, may by Thee be plenteously rewarded; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

page 225,
*Book of
Common Prayer*,
1928

A lay minister in one of my parishes used to preach a beautiful sermon on the Sunday before Advent (in the Anglican Church of Southern Africa, lay ministers can be

licensed by the bishop to preach). In his sermon he linked this collect to a woman making Christmas pudding by stirring up all the ingredients together and likened this mixing to the work of the Holy Spirit on the wills of His faithful people as



they hear and read the lessons and prayers of the Advent season, leading them to fervency of devotion and obedience to the Lord. The complete Christmas pudding couldn't happen without the stirring of the ingredients and the baking.

The Collect has a profound meaning for us all. Our wills need stirring, especially by the Lord, since we are so accustomed to "doing our own thing," which can too often be a matter of "following too much the devices and desires of our

own hearts" (A General Confession, page 6, *Book of Common Prayer*, 1928). There is so much violence and terror in the world today which results from the devices and desires of sinful human minds. But God stirs up the wills of His faithful people to do His will, not their own, and to bring forth plentifully the good fruit of His Holy Spirit. The genuine faith from which this good fruit

springs receives God's abundant rewards. In the season of Advent, the collects, the prophetic writings, and the record of St. John the Baptist's ministry as herald and forerunner of the Lord Jesus Christ, as well as

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Advent and Christmastide

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the passages which speak of Christ's Second Coming, challenge all who will listen. Neither the prophets of the Old Testament nor the Lord Jesus Christ speaking in the Gospels and through the writers of the Epistles, the *Acts of the Apostles*, and the *Book of Revelation* ever spoke in vain (*Isaiah 55:11*; *St. Matthew 24:35*). All that they said has come to pass, is coming to pass, or shall come to pass. Therefore, we must pay even more attention to their messages, as St. Peter exhorts his readers:

We have also a more sure word of prophecy; whereunto ye do well that ye take heed, as unto a light that shineth in a dark place, until the day dawn, and the day star arise in your hearts: Knowing this first, that no prophecy of the scripture is of any private interpretation. For the prophecy came not in old time by the will of man: but holy men of God spake as they were moved by the Holy Ghost.

*II St. Peter
1:19-21, KJV*

Since prophets were holy men of God inspired by the Holy Spirit to

speak and record in writing the oracles and prophecies of both the first and second comings (or advents) of the Lord Jesus Christ, God's faithful people must know what they said and be obedient to God's will and commands. For most people in the world the day of the Second Coming of the Lord Jesus Christ will be a terrifying and sudden event, as *Isaiah 2:17-21* (KJV) warns us:

And the loftiness of man shall be bowed down, and the haughtiness of men shall be made low: and the Lord alone shall be exalted in that day. And the idols he shall utterly abolish. And they shall go into the holes of the rocks, and into the caves of the earth, for fear of the Lord, and for the glory of His majesty, when He ariseth to shake terribly the earth. In that day a man shall cast his idols of silver, and his idols of gold, which they made each one for himself to worship, to the moles and to the bats; to go into the clefts of the rocks, and into the tops of the ragged rocks, for fear of the Lord, and for the glory of His majesty,

when He ariseth to shake terribly the earth.

There will be no place for human pride on the day that the Lord Jesus Christ returns to judge the earth. Now is not the time to decide that the Church is irrelevant, or that we can attend services as infrequently as possible, or that a life of prayerful devotion to the Lord is unnecessary. We Christians, of all the peoples of the earth, must keep awake spiritually and not fall into the slumber of apathy. Work, commuting, and the frenetic pace of life in the western world may keep us very busy and even appear to be excuses for neglecting our relationship with the Lord Jesus Christ, but His warning to His disciples still sounds in our ears today:

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

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Advent and Christmastide

(Continued from page 2)

these things that shall come to pass, and to stand before the Son of Man.

St. Luke
21:34-36, KJV

A more modern version of *and so that day come upon you unawares* is “so that the great day catches you suddenly like a trap” (Revised English Bible). Now the Lord was not speaking to all the crowds when He said this, but to His disciples as He prophesied the events and signs of His Second Coming. If Christians needed to be warned even then, how much more now! When Christians think of the Day of the Lord, or the Second Coming, for many it seems an event in the very distant future. In-

stead, what we should realize is that for any one of us, death at any moment may suddenly usher us into the presence of the Lord God Almighty, and if we are not now and continually in a right relationship with Him, this is a terrifying prospect! Therefore, let us make every effort to live in a way that pleases God while continuing to believe in Him for the forgiveness of all our sins.

The Christmas message of the Lord Jesus Christ’s birth in Bethlehem brings hope to a world estranged from God and steeped in sin and all its sorrowful and wretched consequences. Yet to be effective bearers of this good news, we must have come to faith and experienced reconciliation with God through

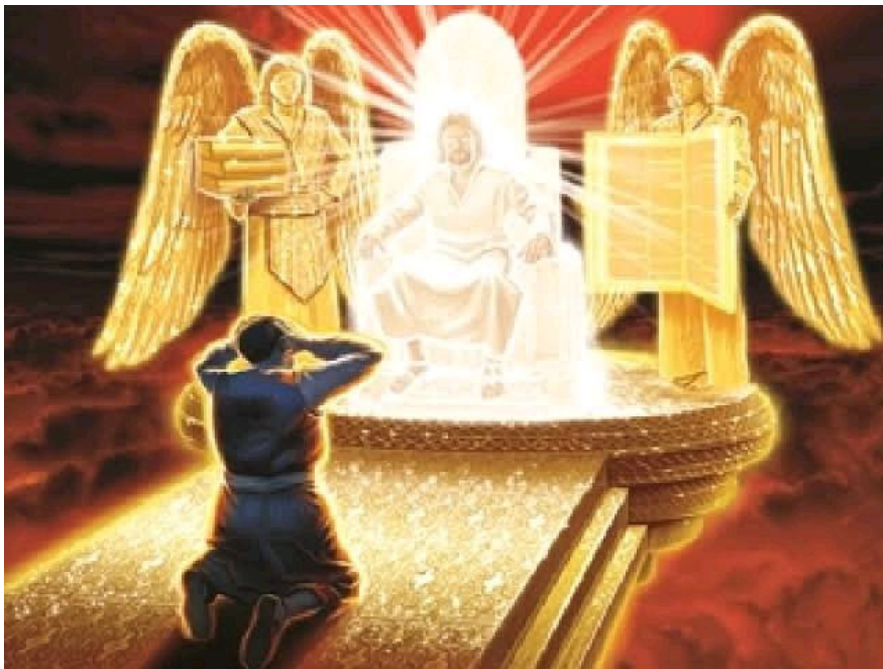
Christ, living at peace with Him, and obeying His will.

I pray for us all this prayer of St. Paul in **I Thessalonians 5:23-24** (KJV):

And the very God of peace sanctify you wholly; and I pray God your whole spirit and soul and body be preserved blameless unto the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ. Faithful is He that calleth you, who also will do it.

Amen.

— *The Reverend*
Christopher Parrish



Join Us for a Very Special Event!

*You are cordially invited to join the Chapel Family
and the Historical Society of the Town of Los Altos Hills
for the rededication of our flagpole.*

*The original flagpole commemorated
the one-room Purissima Schoolhouse and Water Tower
which stood on this site.*

*Former attendees of Purissima School
are invited as our special guests.*

**Friday, December 17, 2021
2:00 PM**

Reception with refreshments to follow.

*Please RSVP by Sunday, December 12th.
Julia McNeely 408-738-8664*

*St. Luke's Chapel in the Hills
has been designated
Historical Site #10
by the Town of Los Altos Hills.*



Los Altos Hills Historical Society



Voices of St. Luke's

In last month's newsletter, we noted that the First Sunday in Advent marks the beginning of the Church's new liturgical year. Since the start of a new year is often a time of setting goals and making resolutions, we asked:

What Christ-like characteristic do you wish to develop in the upcoming liturgical year?

These are the answers we received.

My answer to this question is that I would like to develop the Christ-like characteristic of wisdom in this liturgical year. I need more of the Lord's wisdom and less of my own, to have insight into God's perfect will and to do it. Of course, this means a deeper relationship with the Lord Jesus Christ, whom God has made the wisdom of all Christians (*I Corinthians 1:30*).

— Father Chris Parrish

I would like to develop Christ's heart for people in the upcoming liturgical year.

— Bridgitte Parrish

Well, you have really opened my thoughts.

— Kim Vogel

There are so many things that I personally need to work on. I have to constantly remind myself to be patient. I remind myself that God is in charge, not me. I don't necessarily understand why things are happening the way they are, but "God knows and He is not telling." I'll try to give people an encouraging word and not to be so critical. Most of all, I'll tell my family and friends how much they are loved and what a blessing they are to me.

— Julia McNeely

Striving to be the best Christian that I can be is a continuous struggle/process/goal. I am always too quick to judge, make a snarky remark, or dismiss people. My every moment challenge is to have compassion in my heart, but also have the conviction of right from wrong. So help me, Jesus.

— Lee Ann Vojvoda

My struggle as an adult has always been patience, particularly when I am under stress or in pain. For 2022, if there's a

Christ-like attribute I should pursue it is precisely that: Patience.

Psalm 86:15 perhaps, says it best: "But You, O Lord, are a God merciful and gracious, slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love and faithfulness."

— Deacon Peter Vogel



I would like to develop the boldness of Jesus Christ in doing the work He has given me to accomplish—to speak the truth in love, even when it is unpopular, and to use my words to build others up in the love and knowledge of God the Father, God the Son, and God the Holy Ghost. In pursuit of this goal, I will pray that Christ will help me to fulfill the instructions of *II St. Peter 1:5-8* as I lean more and more upon Him.

Do you have a question for our Chapel Family? By all means, share it with us! These questions are meant to help us all grow in spiritual maturity, so please do ask.

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 Richard Lipka;
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 Joe Biden; 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, coasties, guardians, police officers, firefighters, and pilots who protect us every day;

our persecuted Christian brothers and sisters throughout the world;

all refugees;

all who are suffering from the coronavirus, all medical personnel treating them, and all those who work with the public;

all the victims of California wildfires and the aid workers helping them;

Jim and Edna Davis;
Joya de Rossett;

Debbie;

Scott;

Brittany;

Tanya Theiler;

Dale Quinn;

Brian Quinn;

Mark Quinn;

Lisa;

Ben;

Marion;

Flo;

Max;

Dan and Kendra Pack;
the Stanko family;

Yoshihiko and Hideko Ikegami;

Ali Hemphill;

Lori Hemphill;

Pennel Magaw;

Tracy Magaw;

Mary Frances Reeves;

Mrs. Kitt;

Jon Carter;

Marilyn;

Frank Capone;

Rose Handwerker;

Ann and Frank MacVoy;

Bishop Ilgenfritz;

Dave Shuman;

Maria Fernandez;

Patricia Bowers;

Moe Martinez;

Victoria Grace;

Sharon Veach;

Theo Frensch;

Diane Ahlport;

Katy Stone and family;

Bill Zahrt;

Peter Parrish;

Christina;

Father Thomas
and Lora Vece;

Haley and Gabriella; and

John Donnelly;

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.

***This prayer list
was current
as of December 1st,
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!***

A Prayer for Our Congregation

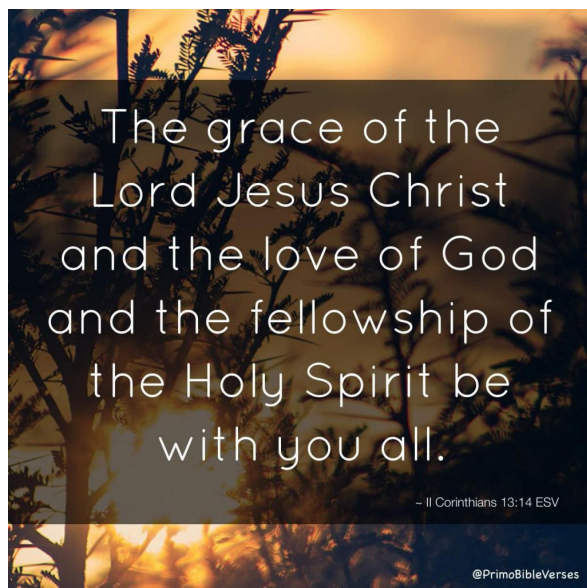
O GOD, Holy Ghost, Sanctifier of the faithful, visit, we pray Thee, the Congregation of St. Luke's Chapel in the Hills with Thy love and favour; enlighten our minds more and more with the light of the everlasting Gospel; graft in our hearts a love of the truth; increase in us true religion; nourish us 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.

In Times of Great Sickness and Mortality

O MOST mighty and merciful God, in this time of grievous sickness, we flee unto Thee for succour. Deliver us, we beseech Thee, from our peril; give strength and skill to all those who minister to the sick; prosper the means made use of for their cure; and grant that, perceiving how frail and uncertain our life is, we may apply our hearts unto that heavenly wisdom which leadeth to eternal life; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

For Rain

O GOD, heavenly Father, who by Thy Son Jesus Christ hast promised to all those who seek Thy kingdom, and the righteousness thereof, all things necessary to their bodily sustenance; send us, we beseech Thee, in this our necessity, such moderate rain and showers, that we may receive the fruits of the earth to our comfort, and to Thy honour; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.



Parish Postings

The Santa Clara County Board of Health's mandated mask requirement for all persons who go into any enclosed public space continues. Please comply when you come to worship at the Chapel, or, if you prefer not to wear a mask, please worship with us via Zoom (please contact Father Parrish if you need to be added to the weekly Zoom worship invitation). Thank you!



The Very Reverend Canon Michael Penfield, Vicar-General of the Anglican Convocation of the West, will make his annual pastoral visit to St. Luke's on Sunday, December 5th. Be sure to join us to hear him preach and celebrate Holy Communion!



St. Luke's will celebrate the beloved Festival of Lessons and Carols on Sunday, December 12th, at 10:00 AM. This beautiful service is a great way to introduce seekers to God's plan of salvation, so invite your friends and neighbors!

Lessons & Carols

Our friend and organist Elisabeth Pintar is having a Christmas concert on Sunday, December 12th, at 7:00 PM. *Tidings of Great Joy!* will feature Elisabeth on organ, Eric Brown on alto saxophone, and Carol Flint on handbells. The concert will be at Immanuel Lutheran Church, 14103 Saratoga Avenue in Saratoga.



The Financial Committee will meet via Zoom on Thursday, December 16th, at 6:30 PM.



The Historical Society of the Town of Los Altos Hills will present a new plaque to commemorate the flagpole which was erected at St. Luke's Chapel in the Hills to mark the site of the one-room Purissima Schoolhouse and Water Tower which once stood here. The flagpole will be rededicated on Friday, December 17th, at 2:00 PM, followed by a reception in McNeely Hall. This promises to be a very special event—former students are expected to attend—so please make every effort to join us!



The people of St. Luke's Chapel in the Hills traditionally offer memorial poinsettias to adorn the Chapel at Christmastide. Those who wish to make such an offering are asked to contribute \$15 to the Altar Guild and to provide the memorial intention to Father Parrish by Sunday, December 19th. Thank you!



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Parish Postings

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Another Christmas tradition at St. Luke's is to bake treats for our local firefighters to thank them for their service to our community. As you do your holiday baking, please set aside some of your goodies for our brave men and women at El Monte Fire Station. Bring your treats to church with you on Sunday, December 19th, and we will deliver the bounty after Fellowship. Thank you!



Joy to the world! Please join our Chapel Family on Saturday, December 25th, at 10:00 AM as we celebrate the Nativity of Our Lord, commonly called Christmas Day!



Please note that there will be no Vestry Meeting in December. The next meeting is scheduled for Sunday, January 16, 2022, following the worship service.



Vestry
Meeting
January 16

The Annual Meeting of the congregation of St. Luke's Chapel in the Hills has been scheduled for Sunday, February 20th, following the worship service. At this meeting, we will hear assorted reports on the activities of the parish, vote upon the proposed 2022 budget, and elect Vestry members. This is an important day in the life of our parish, so please plan to join us!



Annual
Meeting
January 16

A Square Dance Friend of John and Lee Ann Vojvoda collects can tabs. Art belongs to the Masonic Lodge in San Jose. About four years ago a very good friend informed him that collecting just the tab from cans translates into money that is used to purchase wheelchairs for kids at the Shriners Hospital in Sacramento. The wheelchairs are given to needy families for their children at no cost to the family. Anyone can help by saving and donating just the tab/pop-top of any can. If you would like to contribute to this wonderful cause, start saving those tabs/pop-tops! When you get a bagful you can give them to Lee Ann or John and they will be sure to deliver them!



Just a note to ministry chairpersons: Begin thinking about whether or not you wish to continue to lead your particular ministry or if you wish to change in 2022. Please also update your ministerial folders in advance of the 2022 Annual Parish Meeting. Thank you!

Upcoming Events

Sunday, December 5th

The Second Sunday in Advent

Pastoral Visit by

The Very Reverend Canon Michael Penfield

Holy Communion with Holy Unction
in the Chapel and via Zoom

10:00 AM

Sunday, December 12th

The Third Sunday in Advent

A Festival of Lessons and Carols
in the Chapel and via Zoom

10:00 AM

Tidings of Great Joy! Christmas Organ Concert

Immanuel Lutheran Church

14103 Saratoga Avenue in Saratoga

7:00 PM

Thursday, December 16th

Financial Committee Meeting

via Zoom

6:30 PM

Friday, December 17th

Flagpole Rededication and Reception

2:00 PM

Sunday, December 19th

The Fourth Sunday in Advent

Final day to offer poinsettias
to adorn the Christmastide Chapel.

Bring your cookies for firefighters to church with you!

Holy Communion

in the Chapel and via Zoom

10:00 AM

Saturday, December 25th

Christmas Day

Holy Communion

in the Chapel and via Zoom

10:00 AM

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Upcoming Events

(Continued from page 10)

Sunday, December 26th

The Festival of St. Stephen, Deacon and Martyr
The First Sunday after Christmas

Holy Communion
in the Chapel and via Zoom
10:00 AM

Saturday, January 1st

New Year's Day, secular

Sunday, January 2nd

The Second Sunday after Christmas

Holy Communion with Holy Unction
in the Chapel and via Zoom
10:00 AM



Therefore you also be ready,
for the Son of Man
is coming at an hour
you do not expect.

St. Matthew 24:44



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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«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 and fellowship soon!

*"A place
where the Bible is taught."*

— # — # —

*Biblical in teaching.
Liturgical in worship.
Loving in practice.*

First Sunday of each month

Holy Communion with Healing Service
10:00 AM

Third and fifth Sundays of each month

Holy Communion
10:00 AM

Second and fourth Sundays each month

Office of Daily Morning Prayer
10:00 AM

Please note that all worship services are also available via Zoom for those who are unable to join us in the Chapel.