

The Hillside Messenger

A Message from the Rector: The Epiphany

The Festival of the Epiphany on January 6th celebrates the revelation of the Lord Jesus Christ to mankind, whether we regard that Epiphany as the birth of the Lord Jesus in Bethlehem, as the revelation of the infant Jesus as Lord and King to the Magi when they visited and worshipped Him, or as the revelation of Jesus as God's only Son at His baptism. In the New Testament, the Greek word *epiphaneia* is used in two senses when referring to the Lord Jesus Christ: It refers to Christ's first appearance (for example, *II St. Timothy 1:10*) or to His second coming (*I St. Timothy 6:14*). This festival dates to the end of the second century, when it was celebrated in Egypt as a festival of our Lord's baptism (p. 48, Marion J. Hatchett: *Commentary on the American Prayer Book*. New

York: Seabury Press, 1980). The Festival of the Epiphany marks the twelfth day of Christmas and the beginning of the season of Epiphany, in which the focus of the collects and lessons falls on the revelation of the Lord Jesus Christ in vari-

ous contexts including His baptism and His first miracle at Cana. The birth of Jesus Christ in Bethlehem was a highly significant event. It transformed history. In celebrating Christmas every year, Christians can become too absorbed in the pageantry and the decorative symbols associated with the current tradition of Christmas.

What the Festival of the Epiphany and the Church's season of Epiphany do for us is to expand our horizon and lead us into a profound awareness of how God, through the revelation of His Son Jesus Christ, both speaks to us and transforms our lives in various ways.

In *St. John 1:18* we read that no one has ever seen God at any time, but that the only begotten Son, "who is close to the Father's heart" (NRSV), has made Him known. Though the eternal power and deity of God have been clearly revealed in all that God has created (*Romans 1:19-20*), yet

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The Epiphany

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the Lord Jesus Christ alone fully reveals the nature and attributes of God to the extent that human beings need to know Him in this earthly life. The author of *The Epistle to the Hebrews* expresses the same truth in this way:

God, who at sundry times and in divers manners spake in time past unto the fathers by the prophets, hath in these last days spoken unto us by His Son, whom He hath appointed heir of all things, by whom also He made the worlds; who being the brightness of His glory, and the express image of His person, and upholding all things by the word of His power, when He had by Himself purged our sins, sat down on the right hand of the Majesty on high.

Hebrews 1:1-3,
KJV

The phrase “brightness of His glory” (*Hebrews 1:3*) can also be rendered “reflection of His glory.” The Greek word *character* (here translated “express image” means “exact representation.” The Lord Jesus Christ not only reveals exactly the

person of God the Father but is Himself God’s Word. Through the Lord Jesus Christ, God has revealed His love for mankind and His kindness (*St. Titus 3:4*), and though God gave us the grace of salvation in the Lord Jesus Christ before the world began, that grace has been revealed by the appearing of Jesus Christ, who has abolished death and brought life and immortality to light through the Gospel (*II St. Timothy 1:10*). This appearing of the Lord Jesus Christ has changed history and enabled anyone who turns to the Lord and believes to be saved and to receive forgiveness of sins and eternal life.

It is God’s will to show all people His mercy, for in *Romans 11* St. Paul writes:

For God hath concluded them all in unbelief, that He might have mercy upon all.

Romans 11:32.
KJV

Jews and Gentiles alike fall under God’s condemnation of their sinful state, but forgiveness of sins and eternal life are given to every individual who turns from sin and believes in the Lord Jesus Christ.

For all who turn to Christ, the spiritual worship that we are called to offer God in response to His great love is to offer our bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and acceptable

to God (*Romans 12:1*). The consequence of this offering is that believers will not be conformed to this age but rather transformed by the renewal of their minds so that they “may prove what is that good, and acceptable, and perfect, will of God” (*Romans 12:2c*, KJV).

A very important daily process is being described here. Every believer needs to renew his mind daily with God’s word by reading it, studying it, meditating on it, and applying it to his life. Our thoughts are so easily clouded by news that we read or hear and by the influence of ungodly principles in the culture surrounding us. But reading God’s word, the Bible, is like looking into a deep pool of clear water, for the Holy Spirit reveals to us more and more through the Word of God, day by day. As we look into God’s word more and more, with the assistance and direction of the Holy Spirit who helps us understand it, we find God’s counsel for all the issues we face in life, receive guidance as to what decisions we should take, and learn more of the mind of Christ with respect to all things.

Today in western civilization, we have a variety of ways to encounter the Bible—apps on our phones, internet versions of the Bible, au-

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The Epiphany

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dio versions of the Bible, as well as printed Bibles. Every day, we should read and prayerfully reflect on a passage from the Bible. The daily lectionary of the **Prayer**

Book provides us with a means of reading the Bible systematically in one year. If we want the Epiphany of our Lord to become more real to us in our daily lives, let us put ourselves in the position

to receive it by reading His word daily and offering ourselves to Him as a living sacrifice.

— The Reverend
Christopher Parrish

Our Service Begins When We Leave the Chapel

President John F. Kennedy once said, “Ask not what your country can do for you, ask what you can do for your country.” I would like to paraphrase— Ask not what your church can do for you, ask what you can do for your church. I would like to ask every member of our parish to think about this question: What would you like to do for your church? I remember growing up my parents and others telling me, “You only get out of it what you put into it.” I think there is some truth to that statement.

It is now January 2022, a chance to start the New Year with renewed gusto and revitalization. We have been shut down, masked up, closed off, sheltered in place, and cut off from human contact. Regardless of what the people in charge tell us, meeting at God’s House is vital and essential for our wellbeing, our mental health, and our spiritual wealth. “It is with God’s help that all things are

possible.” This is our chance to give back to God and to thank Him for all the blessings He has given us.

The Outreach Committee is starting a new campaign committing to God’s promise for us all.

*“Our Service Begins
When We Leave
the Chapel”
Campaign*

We are asking for everyone’s input and participation to make this campaign work for the good of our Chapel, our Chapel Family, and our community. Even the smallest efforts will be welcome. All are encouraged to contribute their thoughts, prayers, and actions and are urged to participate to the best of their abilities and talents. Please think about what you might like to do to be a reflection of God’s grace.

From Martha’s List of Parish Ministries, here are some areas of service:

Acolyte
Altar Guild
Choir

Cupboard Keeper

Greeting Cards

Hoisting and taking down the US and Church flags each Sunday (folding and putting away)

Hosting Fellowship for a Sunday

Lay Reader

Usher

Visitor Outreach

Now, these are not all the tasks that are available— there are a lot of little things that happen behind the scenes that we never know or even see that make our common life all come together. I am sure there are some activities that I have not mentioned which are projects you may be interested in helping or starting. Feel free to share your ideas.

Please contact any member of the Outreach Committee (Julia, Kim, and Claudia) if you would like to help.

— Julia McNeely

for Christ's
love compels us...
**CONNECTING
GOD
SERVING
PEOPLE**

Flagpole Rededication



Mayor Tyson (left) bows his head as Father Parrish (holding Prayer Book) prays at the flagpole rededication ceremony.



The new plaque and its mounting stone are near the base of the flagpole.

On

Friday, December 17, 2021, at 2:00 PM, St. Luke's Chapel in the Hills cohosted a very special event with the Los Altos Hills Historical Society. The Society very graciously presented the Chapel with a new plaque, Mayor Tyson rededicated our flagpole, and Father Parrish offered prayers. The flagpole was originally dedicated in 1965 to commemorate the location of the original water tower and Purissima School. The new plaque was necessary because the original had become illegible due to age and weather. I would ask that everyone take a few moments to go to the flagpole and visit the new plaque. It really is quite beautiful.

It was a very happy event. Approximately 35 people attended. There were delicious cookies, coffee, tea, and other refreshments. The Chapel invited Marian S. Taaffe, Julia T. Stephenson, and G. Robert "Bob" Kirkpatrick as special guests. As former students of the one-room schoolhouse, they all had the chance to reminisce with their families and share their school experience with all our visitors. We were also introduced to the new Mayor, George R. Tyson, who had been installed as Mayor the night before. It was a great opportunity for us to introduce ourselves to the town officers as well as neighbors who

were invited by the Town.

When I was chatting with different officials of the Town and the Historical Society, they made a point of telling me that they are working to upgrade points of interest and history in Los Altos Hills. The original Purissima School was the only one-room schoolhouse of its time in Los Altos Hills. If you look outside on the wall of the Chapel that faces Robleda Avenue, you will find a sign which says *Purissima School*. Beneath that sign, a second sign in the same style reads *Chapel in the Hills*. In addition, if you look to the left of the front entrance between the entrance and the office, there is a brass plaque announcing that the Town of Los Altos Hills declared our chapel building as *Historical Site #10*.

Our Chapel is a really special place. Having this opportunity to open our doors to the Town and the neighborhood has reminded me we have a place that is truly blessed by God. I think this event reinforces why St Luke's Chapel in the Hills came to be and is here to stay. It is all part of the history of the Town of Los Altos Hills and will always be an important part of the life of the township.

— Julia McNeely

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;

Father Chris and Bridgitte Parrish;

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;

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 and Heidi 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 23rd,
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

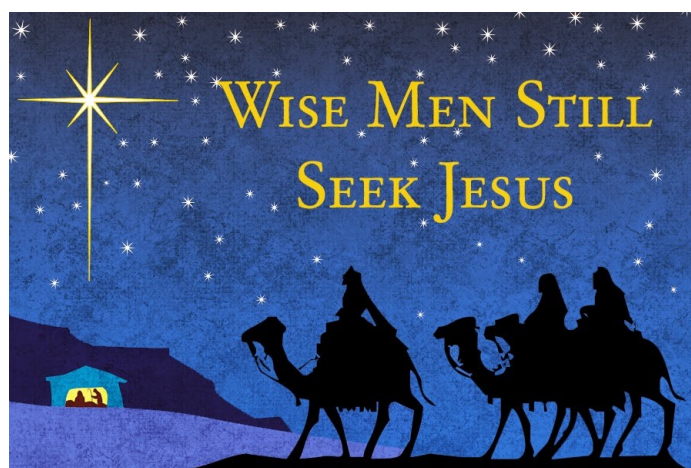
may apply our hearts unto that heavenly wisdom which leadeth to eternal life; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

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

Covid continues, and so does 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 Vestry will meet Sunday, January 16th, following the worship service. Any interested parishioner is invited to attend.



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!

Upcoming Events

Sunday, January 2nd

The Second Sunday after Christmas

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

Thursday, January 6th

Epiphany

Saturday, January 8th

Work Party to put away the Christmas decorations
10:00 AM

Sunday, January 9th

The First Sunday after Epiphany

Office of Morning Prayer
in the Chapel and via Zoom
10:00 AM

Sunday, January 16th

The Second Sunday after Epiphany

Holy Communion
in the Chapel 10:00 AM

Vestry Meeting
11:30 AM

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Upcoming Events

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Sunday, January 23rd

The Third Sunday after Epiphany

Office of Morning Prayer
in the Chapel and via Zoom
10:00 AM

Sunday, January 30th

The Fourth Sunday after Epiphany

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

Sunday, February 6th

The Fifth Sunday after Epiphany

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

