

# The Hillside Messenger

## A Message from the Rector: The Second Advent of the Lord Jesus Christ

The season of Christmastide is one to which many look forward, especially all who are selling wares that people purchase to give as gifts. If somehow Christmas were not to be celebrated this year, but only the Second Advent of the Lord Jesus Christ, how many would celebrate? When the focus is on gift-giving, nativity scenes, and Christmas trees, it is easy for many people to abandon themselves to the joy of shopping for gifts for those whom they love. But what if suddenly the spotlight weren't illuminating the manger, but the whole sky, and the Lord Himself were suddenly descending from heaven in all His majesty?

In the sixth chapter of the *Book of Revelation*, as well as in other passages of Holy Scripture, we are warned of the cosmic catastrophes and signs that will occur before the coming of the

great Day of the Lord such as a great earthquake, a solar eclipse, the moon appearing red, the stars falling to the earth, and a shaking of mountains and islands (*Revelation 6:12-14*). At these signs, many people will attempt to hide themselves "in the dens and in the rocks of the mountains" (*Revelation 6:15*) to attempt to escape the



wrath of the Lamb, the Son of God. Why is this? Most people in this world live as if the Lord Jesus Christ will never return to earth, or as if He does not exist. The cataclysmic events which will suddenly happen just before His second coming will boldly challenge their fondly held stubbornness, unbelief, and disobedience.

When the great day of God's wrath comes, who shall be able to stand (*Malachi 3:2*)? This rhetorical question is meant to warn everyone now. On the Day of the Lord, all human pride will be cast down, as the prophet Isaiah testifies:

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,

(Continues on page 2)

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## *The Second Advent of the Lord Jesus Christ*

(Continued from page 1)

And into the  
caves of  
the earth,  
For fear of  
the  
LORD,  
And for the  
glory of  
His maj-  
esty,  
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 him-  
self to  
worship,  
To the moles  
and to  
the bats;  
To go into  
the clefts  
of the  
rocks,  
And into the  
tops of  
the rag-  
ged  
rocks,  
For fear of  
the  
LORD,  
And for the  
glory of  
His maj-  
esty,  
When He  
ariseth to  
shake  
terribly

the earth.

*Isaiah 2:17-21*, KJV

All are called to be reconciled with God through the Lord Jesus Christ by turning from a sinful selfish way of life; confessing their sins before God; and asking for forgiveness from God and from those whom they have wronged. There is no way out of the weakness of man's sinful condition except by repentance and faith in the Lord Jesus Christ (*Acts 2:38; Romans 3:23-24*). Zephaniah the prophet clearly states that neither people's silver nor their gold shall be able to deliver them in the day of the Lord's wrath (*Zephaniah 1:18*). St. Paul testifies, "There is one God, and one Mediator between God and men, the Man Christ Jesus; who gave Himself a ransom for all, to be testified in due time" (*I St. Timothy 2:5-6*, KJV). Once we have turned to Christ and are living by faith in Him and obedience to Him, we are included in the community of the faithful to whom God gives the grace to stand, for though we shall all stand before the judgment seat of Christ (*Romans 14:10*— which is why we should not pass judgment on our fellow Christians— God enables us to stand in His presence. St. Paul affirms this when he writes of each of God's servants, "To his own master he standeth or falleth. Yea, he shall be holden up: for God is able

to make him stand" (*Romans 14:4*, KJV). Not only is the Holy Spirit able to make God's people stand in His presence, but He is able to "keep them from falling and to present them faultless before the presence of His glory with exceeding joy" (*St. Jude 24*, KJV; see also *I Thesalonians 5:23-24*).

Being assured of God's ability to keep His servants from falling and of both His ability and firm purpose to present all of them faultless to the Lord Jesus Christ at His second coming, we must make every effort to cooperate with the grace of the Holy Spirit that has been given to us so lavishly. To this effect, the Holy Spirit warns us through the writer of the *Epistle to the Hebrews*:

See that ye refuse not Him that speaketh. For if they escaped not who refused Him that spake on earth, much more shall not we escape, if we turn away from Him that speaketh from heaven: Whose voice then shook the earth: but now He hath promised, saying, Yet once more I shake not the earth only, but also heaven. And this word, Yet

(Continues on page 3)

## *The Second Advent of the Lord Jesus Christ*

(Continued from page 2)

once more, signifieth the removing of those things that are shaken, as of things that are made, that those things which cannot be shaken may remain.

Wherefore we receiving a kingdom which cannot be moved, let us have grace, whereby we may serve God acceptably with reverence and godly fear: For our God is a consuming fire.

*Hebrews 12:25-29,*  
KJV

The penitential nature of the Church's season of Advent agrees well with the call for all to be reconciled with God through the Lord Jesus Christ and for all to be reminded that, because the second coming of the Lord Jesus could happen at any time, we must all be ready to meet with God Himself at every moment. In this vein, the second verse from Thomas Ken's hymn "Awake, my soul" (Hymn 151 in the *1940 Hymnal*) is very appropriate:

Redeem thy mis-  
spent mo-  
ments past;  
And live this day  
as if thy last;  
Improve thy tal-  
ent with due  
care;  
For the great day

thyself pre-  
pare.

This verse combines a number of themes from the Bible in its exhortation to the Christian: the idea of redeeming the time and living wisely (*Ephesians 5:15-17*); using and improving the spiritual gift or "talent" given one by God (*St. Matthew 25:14-30*); leaving "the misspent moments" in the past by not trying to relive or repeat them (*I St. Peter 4:2-3*); and preparing oneself to meet with Christ on the Day of the Lord (*II Thesalonians 3:4-5*).

As we prepare our hearts and minds to meet with Christ this Christmastide, we do well to remember the petition we pray in the Collect for Advent Sunday which so eloquently both contrasts Christ's second advent to His first and highlights the need to be prepared and ready for His second advent:

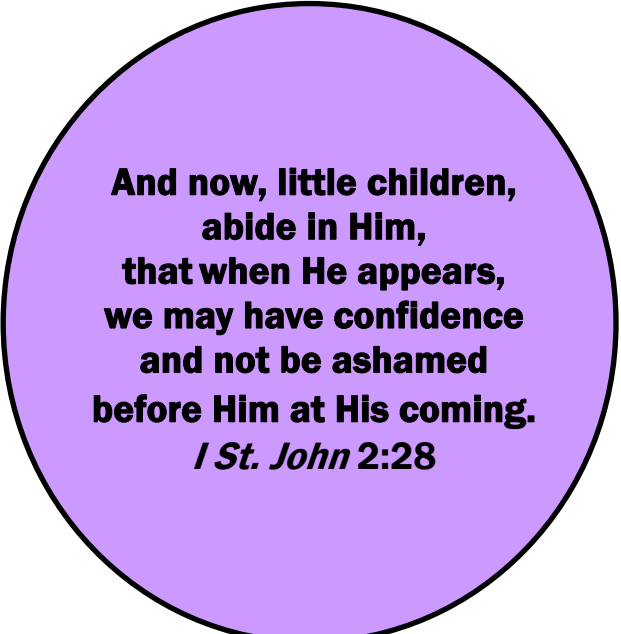
Almighty God,  
give us grace that  
we may cast  
away the works  
of darkness, and  
put upon us the  
armour of light,  
now in the time  
of this mortal  
life, in which Thy  
Son Jesus Christ  
came to visit us  
in great humility;  
that in the last  
day, when He  
shall come again  
in His glorious  
majesty to judge

both the quick  
and the dead, we  
may rise to the  
life immortal,  
through Him who  
liveth and  
reigneth with  
Thee and the Ho-  
ly Ghost, now  
and ever. Amen.

p. 90, *Book  
of Common  
Prayer*, 1928

"Give us grace"  
speaks of our dependence on God both to turn fully away from evil and to put on the spiritual armor (*Ephesians 6:10-20*) of God which will enable us to stand firm as faithful witnesses to the Lord Jesus Christ and be found holy and faithful when He comes again.

– *The Reverend  
Chris Parrish*



**And now, little children,  
abide in Him,  
that when He appears,  
we may have confidence  
and not be ashamed  
before Him at His coming.  
*I St. John 2:28***

## *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;

the people and leaders of Ukraine

in this time of war;

Jim and Edna Davis;

Joya de Rossett;

Debbie;

Scott;

Brittany;

Tanya Theiler;

Mark Quinn;

Lisa;

Ben;

Marion;

Flo;

Max;

Dan and Kendra Pack;

the Stanko family;

Yoshihiko Ikegami;

Mary Frances Reeves;

Mrs. Kitt;

Jon Carter;

Frank Capone;

Rose Handwerker;

Ann and Frank MacVoy;

Bishop Ilgenfritz;

Moe Martinez;

Victoria Grace;

Sharon Veach;

Diane Ahlport;

Christina;

John and Heidi Donnelly;

and

Jane Keppler;

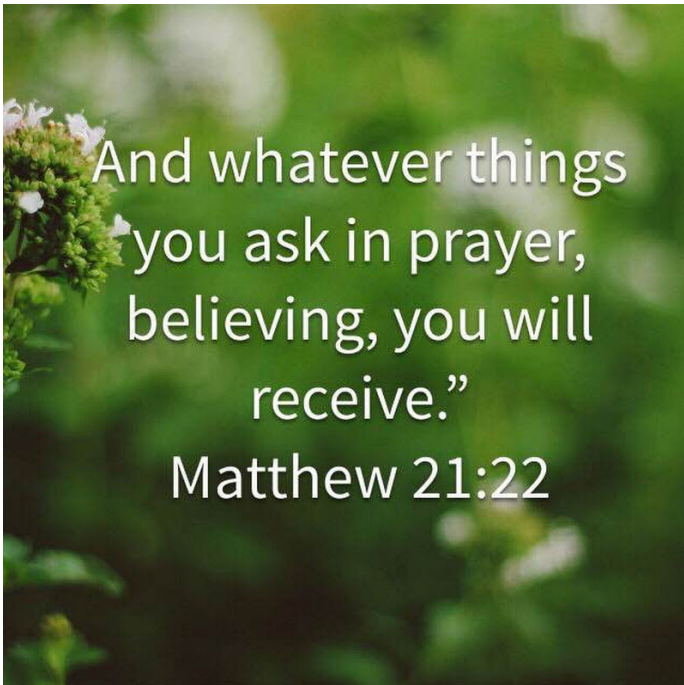
that it may please Thee to comfort and relieve them, according to their several necessities; giving them patience under their sufferings, and a happy issue out of all their afflictions. And this we beg for Jesus Christ's sake. Amen.

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***This prayer list  
was current  
as of December 4th,  
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!***

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And whatever things  
you ask in prayer,  
believing, you will  
receive.”

Matthew 21:22

## *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.

## Voices of St. Luke's

**T**his *Voices of St. Luke's* column features answers to the question "Do you have a favorite Christmas carol? Is there a verse or line which has special meaning for you?"

Each Christmas Eve my two sisters and I would put together a Christmas Eve program/service for our parents which included carols and performances on our various instruments (viola, flute, clarinet, piano). We always read and acted out "The Night Before Christmas", and our father always read the scripture... I can still hear him now and see his wonderful face as he read, "And it came to pass in those days that there went out a decree from Caesar Augustus, that all the world should be taxed..." This image is very special to me because he was not a particularly religious man, but moments like these speak otherwise. This university professor of metallurgical engineering had a way of reaching his students. Well, we made programs and costumes, rehearsed, and somehow put together a fairly good performance. Our rendition of "Hark! The Herald Angels Sing" was one of my favorites only because my sister Linda (15 months older than me) and I belted out, to the horror of my other sister Joan (10 years older than me) and playing the accompaniment, "God and cinders reconciled". Not our finest moment, but a pretty funny one.

*Patsy Zahrt*

The carol "It Came Upon the Midnight Clear" (Hymn 19) holds special meaning for me, especially the last line of verse 3, "O hush the noise, ye men of strife, and hear the angels sing!" Edmund Sears, a Unitarian, wrote this hymn in 1858 a few years before the Civil War broke out in the United States. The hymn sounds the call to hear the angels' song of praise at the birth of our Lord Jesus Christ and to enter into His peace.

*Father Chris Parrish+*

I have always loved "O Come, O Come, Emmanuel". It is so mournful and full of longing, while bringing hope for redemption, for salvation. I always look forward to the First Advent service so I can sing it. My favourite part is the chorus:

Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel  
Shall come to thee, O Israel!

That hope, that knowing that there is an end to the suffering, is what lifts my heart and soul. For me, although I am not suffering, it's a poignant reminder what this season is all about and it helps me "suffer" through all the commercialism that has taken over the season.

*Claudia Schott*

I love the first Alto Recitative of Handel's "Messiah":

Behold a virgin shall conceive and bear a Son and shall call His name Emmanuel, God with us.

*Joya de Rossett*

My family will tell you that I love Johnny Mathis Christmas albums, and this is quite true. My favorite song of his is "It's a Marshmallow World in the Winter", even though I cannot stand marshmallows themselves. The song (or verse, rather) which plays in my head all year long, however, is the third verse of "Joy to the World":

No more let sins and sorrows grow,  
Nor thorns infest the ground;

*(Continued on page 7)*



## *Voices of St. Luke's*

*(Continued from page 6)*

He comes to make His blessings flow  
Far as the curse is found,  
Far as the curse is found,  
Far as, far as the curse is found.

I glory in the promise of freedom from the unhappiness caused by the prevalence of sin, both my own and that of others, which tries to smother God's Creation like a thick layer of greenhouse gasses. How wonderful it will be to finally be free and to live in a world no longer cursed by Man's fall!!

*Kim Vogel*

One of my favorites isn't really a hymn or carol but a Christmas song: "When He Comes Again". I think that it is an LDS song, at least the first time that I heard it was on an Osmond Brothers Christmas album:

I wonder, when He comes again,  
Will herald angels sing?  
Will earth be white with drifted snow,  
Or will the world know spring?

The words have always touched me because so much of Christmas is tied up in red and green and snow and such that we have to always remember that He can come again at any time.

*Lee Ann Vojvoda*

In terms of "traditional" English Christmas carols, I'd have to say "What Child is This?". It has a beautiful melody and summarizes the Gospels related to Christmas from the perspective of answering an "outsider's" [un-churched person's] question. The fact that I hear it sung with near perfection by Johnny Mathis most of the season is just icing on the cake.

I would be remiss if I didn't mention "The Little Drummer Boy" simply because it is my favorite of the Christmas stop-motion animated TV shows and I have always been moved by the concept that even the most impoverished person has a gift worthy of our King. We can (and should!) all apply our talents to His glory.

Little Baby, pa rum pum pum pum,  
I am a poor boy too, pa rum pum pum pum,  
I have no gift to bring, pa rum pum pum pum,  
That's fit to give the King, pa rum pum pum pum,  
rum pum pum pum, rum pum pum pum.  
Shall I play for You, pa rum pum pum pum,  
On my drum?

...

I played my drum for Him, pa rum pum pum pum.  
I played my best for Him, pa rum pum pum pum,  
rum pum pum pum, rum pum pum pum.  
Then He smiled at me, pa rum pum pum pum,  
Me and my drum.

*Deacon Peter Vogel*

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***If you  
have a question  
you would like  
to ask the people  
of St. Luke's Chapel  
in the Hills,  
please forward it  
to Father Parrish.  
Thank you!***

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## Parish Postings

**L**essons and Carols, a service of prayers, Messianic prophecies, and Christmas carols, will be held on Sunday, December 11th, at 10:00 AM. The service will be followed by fellowship in McNeely Hall. Lessons and Carols is a great way to introduce Jesus as Saviour and fulfillment of God's promises to the unchurched, so please invite your friends!



**I**t is the custom of our Chapel Family to offer poinsettias to decorate the Chapel for Christmastide in memory of loved ones who have joined the Church Expectant. The Altar Guild requests a donation of \$15 (please use the envelopes beneath the Flower Chart in the narthex). Please also send your memorial intentions to Father Parrish so they may be included in the Christmastide bulletins. The deadline for donations and intentions is Sunday, December 18th.



**A**nother tradition of our Chapel Family is to provide our local firefighters with homemade holiday treats to thank them for their service to our community. Everyone is encouraged to contribute and to bring their gifts to the Chapel on Sunday, December 18th, for delivery to the El Monte Fire Station. Thank you!



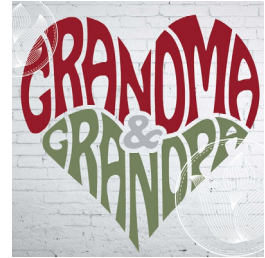
**H**oly Communion will be celebrated on Saturday, December 24th, at 11:15 PM.



**C**ome celebrate the birth of our Lord Jesus Christ on Sunday, Christmas Day, with Holy Communion at 10:00 AM!



**T**he Parrishes will be visiting their granddaughter from Monday, December 26th, through Friday, December 30th. Please pray for their safe travels and for their joy. Thank you!



**T**he next Vestry meeting will take place on Sunday, January 15, 2023, following Holy Communion at 10:00 AM.



**T**he Annual Parish Meeting will take place on Sunday, February 19, 2023, following Holy Communion at 10:00 AM.



**I**f you would like to be confirmed in the faith at the Bishop's next pastoral visit, please contact Father Parrish to arrange Confirmation classes. Thank you!



## *Upcoming Events*

### **Friday, December 2nd**

*Telephone Prayer Meeting*  
10:00 AM

### **Sunday, December 4th**

The Second Sunday in Advent  
*Holy Communion with Holy Unction*  
in the Chapel and via Zoom  
10:00 AM

### **Friday, December 9th**

*Telephone Prayer Meeting*  
10:00 AM

### **Sunday, December 11th**

The Third Sunday in Advent  
*Lessons and Carols*  
in the Chapel and via Zoom  
10:00 AM

### **Friday, December 16th**

*Telephone Prayer Meeting*  
10:00 AM

### **Sunday, December 18th**

The Fourth Sunday in Advent  
Poinsettia offering deadline  
Cookies for firefighters  
*Holy Communion*  
in the Chapel and via Zoom  
10:00 AM

### **Friday, December 23rd**

*Telephone Prayer Meeting*  
10:00 AM

### **Saturday, December 24th**

Christmas Eve  
*Holy Communion*  
in the Chapel and via Zoom  
11:15 PM

### **Sunday, December 25th**

The Nativity of Our Lord,  
*or the Birthday of Christ,*  
*commonly called Christmas Day*

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

### **Sunday, January 1st**

The Festival of  
the Circumcision of Christ  
The First Sunday after Christmas Day  
*Holy Communion with Holy Unction*  
in the Chapel and via Zoom  
10:00 AM

I go to prepare a place  
for you. And if I go and  
prepare a place for you, I  
will come again and  
receive you to Myself;  
that where I am, there  
you may be also.  
—John 14:2-3



# 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, third, and fifth Sundays of each month**

Holy Communion  
(with Healing Service on First Sundays)  
10:00 AM

### **Second and fourth Sundays each month**

Office of Daily Morning Prayer  
10:00 AM

Please note that Holy Communion will be celebrated on Feast Days occurring on second and fourth Sundays.

If you cannot join us physically in the Chapel,  
please contact Father Parrish  
to be added to each service's Zoom invitation.