



The Hillside Messenger

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A Message from the Rector: The Epiphany of the Lord Jesus Christ

The Festival of the Epiphany celebrated on January 6th is also known as Twelfth Day, being the twelfth day from Christmas and the conclusion of Christmastide (p. 107, Massey Hamilton Shepherd, Jr.: *The Oxford American Prayer Book Commentary*. New York: Oxford University Press, 1950.). The word *epiphany* means “manifestation” or “appearance.” The origins of this festival in Egypt in the second century show its association with the baptism of our Lord. By the fourth century, this festival celebrated Christ’s Nativity and His baptism. Another aspect of the celebration of Epiphany is seen in Christ’s first miracle, the changing of water into wine at Cana in Galilee (*St. John 2:1-11*). In the sixth century, the Western Churches began to highlight the Festival of

the Epiphany as Christ’s revelation of Himself to the Gentiles by commemorating the visit of the Magi. Though the *ACNA Prayer Book* (2019) retains this last purpose in the Gospel lection for the Festival of the Epiphany itself, the Gospel lection for the First Sunday after Epiphany emphasizes the baptism of our Lord.



The visit of the Magi to the infant Jesus, the Lord’s baptism in the River Jordan, and His first miracle at Cana reveal Christ the Lord to the world in different ways. How was Christ revealed to the Magi, or “wise men from the east” (*St. Matthew 2:1c, KJV*)? No-one had brought news from a dis-

tant kingdom about Him. St. Matthew records the testimony of these Magi as having observed in the east this star of the King of the Jews and as having come to Jerusalem to worship Him (*St. Matthew 2:2*). The observation of stars, comets, solar systems, and galaxies today belongs to the science of astronomy, but in ancient times astrologers found in the appearance and apparent movements of stars a symbolic meaning portending significant events on earth. The Magi were such astrologers. Though now Christians regard astrology as part of the forbidden occult, we must acknowledge that God used the connection between the appearance of a new star in the east and the event of Christ’s birth to bring wise men who were Gentiles to worship the Lord. We must acknowledge the miracu-

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The Epiphany of the Lord Jesus Christ

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lous love of God at work through the observation of this star, which the Magi had seen in the east, going before them, and stopping over the place in Bethlehem where the young child Jesus was (St. Matthew 2:9).

Upon entering the house of Jesus and His parents, the Magi fell down and worshipped Him and presented their gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh (St. Matthew 2:11). Gold, frankincense, and myrrh are gifts appropriate for a king, and the Magi's worship and their giving of such gifts show that they knew Jesus to be King of the Jews. It was to these Gentiles who believed the truth of the birth of the King because of the wonderful star they had seen that God gave the revelation of who He is and where He could be found at that time. The visit of the Magi was at least one instance of the fulfillment of Isaiah's prophecy in this passage:

Arise, shine; for thy light is come, and the glory of the LORD is risen upon thee. For behold, the darkness shall cover the earth, and gross darkness the people: but the LORD shall arise upon thee, and His glory shall be seen upon thee. And the

Gentiles shall come to thy light, and kings to the brightness of thy rising.

Isaiah 60:1-3,
KJV

Though the prophet may have been speaking of the eternal city of Jerusalem here, the rising of this eternal city surely began with our Lord Jesus Christ's birth in Bethlehem, and it is to the brightness of His rising that these Gentiles, whom tradition also called kings, came (see *1940 Hymnal*, Hymn 51 "We three kings of Orient are.")

We should always wonder at the ways in which the Lord Jesus Christ reveals Himself, even when the people to whom this revelation comes may not be the ones to whom we might expect God to bring it.

While the visit of the Magi to the infant Jesus is an epiphany of Jesus as Christ the King, the baptism of our Lord by John the Baptist in the Jordan is an epiphany that shows Jesus Christ is the beloved Son of God in whom He delights (St. Matthew 3:13-17; St. Mark 1:9-11; St. Luke 3:21-22). To whom was this epiphany given? Firstly, to Jesus Himself when He came up out of the water after being immersed in it by baptism. After fulfilling God's righteous requirement that He be baptized (St. Matthew 3:15), alt-

hough He had committed no sin, He came up out of the water, saw the heavens opened and the Holy Spirit descending on Him like a dove and resting upon Him, and heard God's voice affirming that He is God's beloved Son. Secondly, this revelation came to all with whom Jesus later shared this revelatory experience, since otherwise, how could it have been recorded in the three Synoptic Gospels? The Apostles must have come to know of this revelation, and St. Mark and Luke as well. Through Christian baptism, we all share in the Sonship of the Lord Jesus Christ, being adopted in Christ by the Father as His own children (Romans 8:14-17; Galatians 4:4-7). We all share in the fellowship of the Holy Spirit as the Lord Jesus Christ Himself promised His apostles (St. John 14:16-18). It is the Holy Spirit who enlightens our minds and opens the Holy Scriptures to us, that we may understand them clearly and know the fullness of God's truth as it is in the Lord Jesus Christ.

The Lord's first miracle of changing water into wine at a wedding in Cana, Galilee, is symbolically an epiphany. The stone water jars for Jewish purification rites were filled with water at Jesus' command, but when the

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**O GOD,
who by the
leading of a star
didst manifest
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
Jesus Christ our Lord.
Amen.**

The Epiphany of the Lord Jesus Christ

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servants drew off some of this to take to the master of ceremonies, he tasted it and remarked to the bridegroom that he had kept the best wine till then. This was a miraculous sign by which Jesus showed that He is the bringer of the New Covenant and the new wine of His Holy Spirit, by which all who believe in Him would receive the grace to obey God's law and to live in His righteousness.

The revelation of the Lord Jesus Christ has made a vast difference to mankind and to its history. As we embark on the season of Epiphany, let us ask ourselves a few questions:

1. Are we walking with the Lord daily by reading His word daily and continuing in prayer?
2. Do we respond to the Holy Spirit's prompting when

He asks us to share with others how it is that we believe in the Lord Jesus Christ?

My prayer for each of you is that you may honestly answer yes to both questions. If you are not able to do so, please speak to me about your difficulties right away so that I may help you.

– *The Reverend
Chris 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.

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.

Our Chapel Family Prayer List

***This prayer list
was current
as of January 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!***

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;

Jane Keppler; and

the Slattery family;

Carl;

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.



Voices of St. Luke's

This month, parishioners were asked to please tell us how one of Jesus' miracles reveals an aspect of His character to them in a special way.

I love how Peter's shadow walking past sick people healed them in the Bible because he carried the presence and anointing of the Holy Spirit for miracles, Jesus' miracles (*Acts 5:14-16*)! This speaks to me of the godly character that is needed for us to also walk in the healing anointing of Jesus and carry His presence with us wherever we go.

Bridgitte Parrish

Jesus' raising of a widow's only son to life at Nain (*St. Luke 7:11-17*) shows Jesus' compassion on the widow, who after the death of her only son, would have had no means of income and also no surviving son to continue the family name. By raising her son to life, Jesus restored her hope and joy in the Lord and restored her family life.

Father Chris Parrish

The record of Jesus walking on the waters of Galilee shows me Jesus as Creator taking joy in His creation (*St. Matthew 14:22-33*). I can picture Him striding out on the waves of the sea, the boisterous winds blowing through His hair and beard as He walks through a gathering storm at night. It is a beautiful image of how much He loves all He has made. As the wind, the waters, and the weather dance about in celebration of Him, I can see that He also delights in them as a Father delights in the play of His children.

Kim Vogel

***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!***

Parish Postings

Please join your Chapel Family for a Work Party on Saturday, January 7th, at 11:00 AM to take down the Christmas decorations and return them to storage. Thank you!



The Vestry meet on Sunday, January 15th. following Holy Communion at 10:00 AM. Any interested parishioner may observe the meeting.



The Annual Parish Meeting will take place on Sunday, February 19th, following Holy Communion at 10:00 AM. Please make every effort to attend this meeting. We will hear reports, review the budget, and elect Vestry members. Thank you!



If 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!



Please know that our Chapel Family wishes to make it possible for everyone to participate fully in our worship services. If you need large-print bulletins, an increase in volume on the sound system, pew-side Holy Communion, or any other accommodation, just let us know!



Upcoming Events

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

Friday, January 6th

The Festival of the Epiphany
Telephone Prayer Meeting
10:00 AM

Saturday, January 7th

Work Party
11:00 AM

Sunday, January 8th

The First Sunday after Epiphany
Office of Morning Prayer
in the Chapel and via Zoom
10:00 AM

Friday, January 13th

Telephone Prayer Meeting
10:00 AM

Sunday, January 15th

The Second Sunday after Epiphany
Holy Communion
in the Chapel and via Zoom
10:00 AM
Vestry Meeting
following Fellowship

Friday, January 20th

Telephone Prayer Meeting
10:00 AM

Sunday, January 22nd

The Third Sunday after Epiphany
Office of Morning Prayer
in the Chapel and via Zoom
10:00 AM

Friday, January 20th

Telephone Prayer Meeting
10:00 AM

Sunday, January 29th

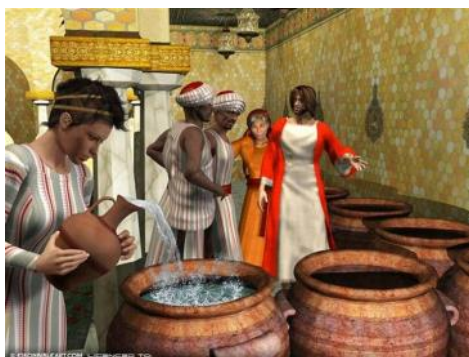
The Fourth Sunday after Epiphany
Office of Morning Prayer
in the Chapel and via Zoom
10:00 AM

Friday, February 3rd

Telephone Prayer Meeting
10:00 AM

Sunday, February 5th Septuagesima

Holy Communion with Holy Unction
in the Chapel and via Zoom
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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«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.