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The Hillside Messenger

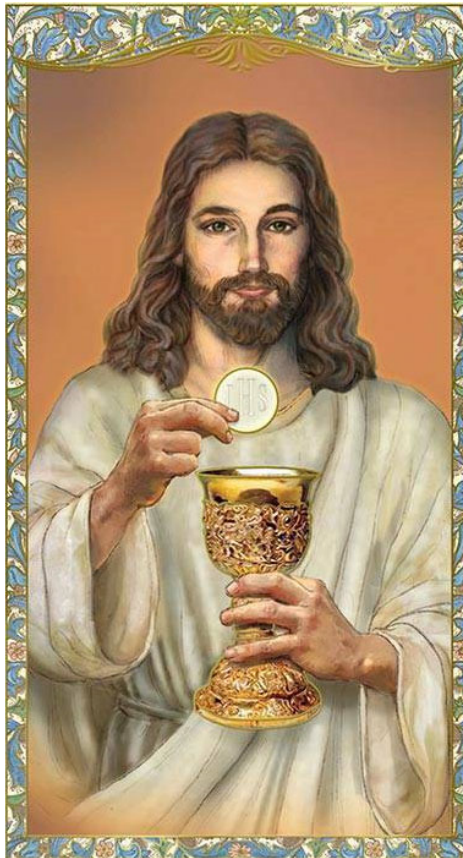
A Message from the Rector: Preparing to Meet with the Lord this Christmas

Every celebration of Holy Communion has the Lord Jesus Christ at its center and is, in that sense, Christmas, or the Mass of Christ. But the Great Festival of Christmas is unique in that in it we celebrate the birth of Jesus Christ, the Son of God and Son of Man, and the amazing love of God the Father for sinful mankind shown in the gift of His Son for the salvation of the world so that everyone who believes in Him may not perish but have everlasting life (*St. John 3:16*). Without the Incarnation (the Word made flesh), there could have been no atoning death on the cross, because no man would have been good enough to offer himself as an immaculate sacrifice for sin. Therefore, Christmas is the celebration of no ordinary human birth, but the birth

of Jesus Christ, the Lord and Savior of the world (*Isaiah 9:6-7; St. Luke 2:11*). This birth is the birth of Immanuel

es that He would live in His people and they in Him (*Ezekiel 37:26-27; St. John 14:23, 17:20-23; Revelation 21:3*) and that He will be the God of all His people and they shall be His people (*Jeremiah 31:33*).

Christmastide, then, is not simply a liturgical season or, as it is for many, a commercial spree. It features the opening of the possibility of the New Covenant by which people of all nations can become God's adopted children by turning away from a selfish, sinful way of life and by believing in the Lord Jesus Christ, receiving Him as Lord (*St. John 1:12; 3:36; 5:24; 6:35; 7:37-38; 11:25-26; 12:36*), and following Him as His disciples all the days of our life (*St. John 8:12; 10:27; 14:21, 23*). Living as we should do, in the love, worship, and service of our Lord Jesus Christ, we should not regard Christmas



(*Isaiah 7:14*), meaning "God with us," for Jesus Christ, being the Word of God incarnate, is the fulfillment of God's promis-

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Preparing to Meet with the Lord this Christmas

merely as a passing season, or as an opportunity for the giving and receiving of gifts. The traditions that western society has come to associate with Christmas should not determine its principal significance. At the center of Christmas is Christ the Lord. For this reason, we must be sure to renew our Communion with Him. Christmas is a time when we should all come to Holy Communion and renew our covenant relationship with the Lord Jesus Christ. Since we believe that the Lord Jesus Christ is really present in the consecrated bread and wine of Holy Communion that become for us the Body and the Blood of Christ, we should prepare ourselves for Holy Communion this Christmas Day by examining our conscience beforehand. In this respect, I commend to you *St. Luke 14:15-24*, *I Corinthians 11:23-32*, and the “Exhortations to Communion” (pages 85-89, *The Book of Common Prayer*, 1928).

Advent is the season given us by the Church to prepare for Christmas-tide, a season in which we focus on the Second Coming of the Lord Jesus Christ. At our Lord’s return, we must be ready to meet Him by having done our best to purify ourselves as He is pure (*I St. John 3:1-3*), all the while trusting Him to sanctify us wholly (*I Thessalonians 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 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 ac-

ceptably 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 Him face to face, whether it be today or any day in the future. 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*), that of using and improving the spiritual gift or “talent” (*St. Matthew 25:14-30*) given one by God; that of leaving “the misspent moments” in the past by not trying to re-live or repeat them (*I St.*

Preparing to Meet with the Lord this Christmas

Peter 4:2-3); and that of preparing oneself to meet with Christ on the Day of the Lord (*II Thessalonians* 3:4-5).

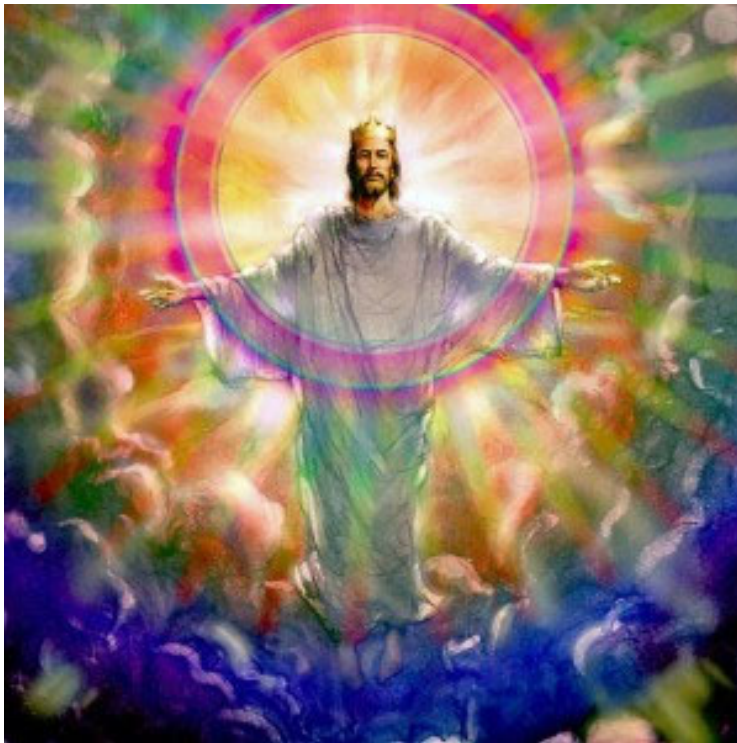
As we prepare our hearts and minds to meet with Christ this Christmastide, we do well to remember the petition we pray in the Collect for Advent Sunday which so eloquently both contrasts Christ's second advent to His first and highlights the need to be prepared and ready for His second advent:

ALMIGHTY
God, give us
grace that we
may cast away
the works of
darkness, and put
upon us the ar-
mour 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.

page 90, *Book of
Common Prayer*,
1928

– *The Reverend
Christopher Parrish*



A Prayer for Our Congregation

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, guardians, border patrol, coasties, police officers, firefighters, and pilots who protect us every day;

our persecuted Christian brothers and sisters throughout the world;

all refugees;

the leaders and people of Ukraine;

all who are affected by the war between Hamas and Israel;

all who have lost family, friends, or property in the Maui wildfires;

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;

Christina;

John and Heidi Donnelly;

Father Harley and Donna Crain;

Carl;

Judith Boreham;

Marie and Wade;

Heather;

Susan;

Helen Vanderberg;

Farshad;

Deacon Herman and Betty Roark;

Philip Slattery; and

Patrick Slattery;

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
November 25th,
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!***

*Pray for me,
as I will for thee,
that we may merrily meet
in heaven.*

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.



A Prayer for the MDAS Search Committee

Almighty God,
giver of every good gift:
Look graciously upon Thy Church,
and so guide the minds of those who shall choose
a Bishop Coadjutor for the Missionary Diocese of All Saints
that we may receive a faithful pastor
who will preach the Gospel,
care for Thy people,
equip us for ministry,
and lead us forth in fulfillment of the Great Commission;
through Jesus Christ our Lord.
Amen.

Parish Postings

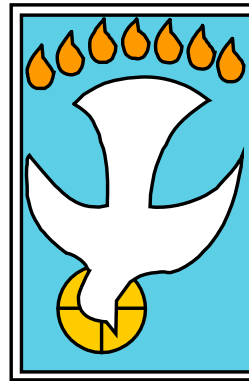
The Right Reverend Richard Lipka, Bishop Ordinary of the Missionary Diocese of All Saints, will make an episcopal visit to St. Luke's the first weekend of December, and his wife Susan will accompany him. St. Luke's will host a potluck reception in McNeely Hall at 6:00 PM on Saturday, December 2nd, to welcome them. Please contact Bridgitte Parrish to let her know what you plan to bring to the potluck. Thank you!



Sunday, December 3rd, will be a day of great celebration for our Chapel Family. Not only does the First Sunday in Advent mark the beginning of a new liturgical year, but we will also have the joy of worshipping with Bishop and Mrs. Lipka at 10:00 AM. Bishop Lipka will not only celebrate Holy Communion and preach to us, he will also confirm Max Taaffe, Ben Taaffe, and "Little" Max Taaffe. It will be wonderful!



Please pray for our confirmands, brothers Max and Ben Taaffe and Ben's son, Max, as they prepare for their Confirmation in the Faith and afterward as they continue in their journey of spiritual maturation. May God bless them!



Please join your Chapel Family at 11:00 AM on Saturday, December 9th, for a Work Party to decorate the Chapel for Advent and Christmastide.



We will celebrate the Festival of Lessons and Carols on Sunday, December 10th, at 10:00 AM. This beautiful service leads one through some of God's promises of a Savior and their fulfillment. Please invite those for whose salvation you are praying so they can get a quick

overview of the majesty and generosity of God in giving His Son for our redemption.



You are invited to join Joanna's Prayer Circle at noon on Sunday, December 10th, in McNeely Hall. This group is for anyone who has special prayer requests, wants to share joys or sorrows, longs for a moment of quiet contemplation, or needs some support. Members of Joanna's Prayer Circle intercede daily as individuals for those on the Chapel Family Prayer List and meet as a group on the second Sunday of the month to seek the guidance of the Holy Spirit and to pray at His direction. All are welcome!



It is the custom of our congregation to offer poinsettias to decorate the Chapel for Christmastide. We do this in memory of

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those who cannot join us physically as we rejoice in the birth of our Lord and Savior. The suggested donation is \$15. Use the Flower Offering envelopes in the vestibule of the Chapel or write *Poinsettias* on the memo line of your check. Poinsettia dedications must be e-mailed to Father Chris Parrish by Sunday, December 17th.



Your editor makes the following plea:

Dear Chapel Family,

Your contributions to this newsletter are always welcome, but I beg that you will please send your submissions to Father Parrish by Wednesday, December 20th. My parents are coming from Texas to spend Christmas with us, and I would like to be able to finish work on the January 2024 issue before they arrive. Thank you very much!

Your sister,
Kim Vogel



The Winter Ember Days are Wednesday, December 20th; Friday, December 22nd; and Saturday, December 23rd. These days are set aside for fasting and prayer for those about to be ordained to Holy Orders in the Church (see **St. Luke 10:2** and the *Prayer for The Increase of the Ministry* on page 39 of the **Book of Common Prayer**).



Our Chapel Family traditionally thanks our local firefighters with a gift of homemade baked goods at Christmas. Please set aside some of your holiday baking to contribute to this gift. Bring your goodies to the Chapel with you on Sunday, December 24th, and they will be delivered to that fire station that afternoon. Thank you!



There will be two worship services on Sunday, December 24th: Morning Prayer at 10:00 AM and Holy Communion at 11:15 PM. This Christmas Eve, we will have the chance to hear *both* our clergymen preach on the same day!



Father Parrish will celebrate Christ's Mass at 10:00 AM on Monday, December 25th. How better to exult in the birth of Him who loves us best than to commune with Him on His birthday?



December is the final month of our Community Mission Project this quarter. We are collecting money for relief efforts in Hawaii following the devastating fires on Maui and the Big Island. The organization which we are supporting is Hawaii Community Foundation; you may learn more

Parish Postings

about its work by visiting:

www.HawaiiCommunityFoundation.org/

If you make a donation to this project, please write *Hawaii* on your offertory envelope or check memo line. Thank you!



HAWAII COMMUNITY FOUNDATION

There will be no Vestry Meeting in December. The Vestry will meet next on Sunday, January 14th, following worship and fellowship. Any interested parishioner is invited to observe as the Vestry conducts the business affairs of the parish.



St. Luke's Chapel in the Hills will have its Annual Parish Meeting on Sunday, February 18th, following the worship service. The Annual Meeting is an opportunity to hear reports from

our clergy, parish officers, and ministerial leaders; to review and approve an Operating Budget for 2024; and to elect Vestry members. It is very important that we all make every effort to attend this meeting, so please make plans now to join us!



Martha's List of Parish Ministries reminds all ministerial chairpersons to update their ministerial folders (under the card table in McNeely Hall) before the Annual Meeting on Sunday, February 18th. These folders are meant to make it easier for new chairpersons to assume leadership of lay ministries, so please make notes of what worked and what did not as well as any ideas you have for the coming year. Current chairpersons are also asked to prayerfully consider whether or not God wants you to continue in your current ministry or to begin work on a different one.

If you are not currently involved in a lay ministry, Martha would like to gently remind you that the Christian life requires service to God, service to the family of faith, and ser-

vice to the wider community. Ask God how and where He wishes for you to serve. The folders in McNeely Hall describe the lay ministries currently underway at the Chapel. If you are called to one of these, let Julia McNeely or Kim Vogel know. If you see the need for additional ministries that can make use of your talents, please speak to the Reverend Chris Parish, our Rector.



Please note that an updated Parish Directory is now available in McNeely Hall. If your information is incorrect, please let Kim Vogel know.



Upcoming Events

Friday, December 1st

Telephone Prayer Meeting
10:00 AM

Saturday, December 2nd

Potluck Reception for Bishop and Mrs. Lipka
6:00 PM

Sunday, December 3rd

The First Sunday in Advent
Bishop Lipka's Pastoral Visit
Holy Communion with Confirmations
10:00 AM

Friday, December 8th

Telephone Prayer Meeting
10:00 AM

Saturday, December 9th

Work Party to decorate the Chapel for Advent and Christmas
11:00 AM

Sunday, December 10th

The Second Sunday in Advent
Festival of Lessons and Carols
10:00 AM
Joanna's Prayer Circle Meeting
12:00 PM

Friday, December 15th

Telephone Prayer Meeting
10:00 AM

Sunday, December 17th

The Third Sunday in Advent
Deadline for donations to the Altar Guild for poinsettias
and for sending dedications to Father Parrish
Holy Communion
10:00 AM

Wednesday, December 20th

Ember Day
Deadline for submissions
to the January 2024 issue of *The Hillside Messenger*

Upcoming Events

Friday, December 22nd

Ember Day

Telephone Prayer Meeting

10:00 AM

Saturday, December 23rd

Ember Day

Sunday, December 24th

The Fourth Sunday in Advent

Cookies for Firefighters delivery day

Office of Morning Prayer

10:00 AM

Holy Communion

11:15 PM

Monday, December 25th

The Nativity of Our Lord Jesus Christ

Holy Communion

10:00 AM

Friday, December 29th

Telephone Prayer Meeting

10:00 AM

Sunday, December 31st

The First Sunday after Christmas Day

Holy Communion

10:00 AM

Friday, January 5th

Telephone Prayer Meeting

10:00 AM

Sunday, January 6th

The Epiphany of Our Lord Jesus Christ

Holy Communion with Holy Unction

10:00 AM

Upcoming Events





The Hillside Messenger

A PUBLICATION OF
ST. LUKE'S CHAPEL IN THE HILLS
ANGLICAN CHURCH

A PARISH OF
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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.