



The Hillside Messenger

A Message from the Rector: Discerning God's Path for Our Life in a New Year

The name *January* for the first month of the calendar year reflects the fact that the ancient Romans dedicated the first month of the year to Janus, one of their deities. Janus was believed to guard the gate of heaven and was thought to be the guardians of gates and doors and to preside over the beginning of the year. This deity was depicted as having two faces, one looking back on the past year and the other facing the year to come. By contrast, the ecclesiastical new year began with Advent Sunday, and the Christmas season concludes with the Festival of the Epiphany, or the manifestation of the Lord Jesus Christ to the Gentiles, on January 6th. What has Epiphany to do with January? When we come to the first month of

a new year, we stand at the entrance to something new without knowing all that a new year may bring us. We wish one another well for a new year, but we do not know what good news or bad news may come our way during the year. This is why we need the light of Christ shining on us to show us the way in this

beginning with God. All things were made by Him; and without Him was not any thing made that was made. In Him was life; and the life was the light of men. And the light shineth in darkness; and the darkness

comprehended it not.

St. John 1:1-5, KJV

The Lord Jesus Christ is the Light of the world (*St. John 8:12*). Every follower of Jesus has the light of His life and no longer

new year. In view of this, we do well to remember these words from the first chapter of the *Gospel according to St. John*:

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. The same was in the

needs to walk in darkness—that is, in sin and all its consequences, as well as the ignorance that accompanies sin. No matter how sinful, dark, and evil the world surrounding us is, the light of Christ shines brightly. The darkness has not overwhelmed it, nor will it ever.



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Discerning God's Path for Our Life in a New Year

Having the light of the Lord Jesus Christ means that we have His divine life, since that life is "the light of men" (*St. John 1:4b*, KJV). Even so, there are times when those who fear the Lord and obey Him do not know the details of the way ahead, as the prophet Isaiah indicates in this question:

Who is among you that feareth the LORD, that obeyeth the voice of His servant, that walketh in darkness, and hath no light? let him trust in the name of the LORD, and stay upon his God.

Isaiah 50:10,
KJV

In such times when we need to discern the will of God and the way ahead in our lives, we must trust in the Lord, ask Him for direction, and depend on His guidance.

Particularly, when things seem to happen in our life for no rhyme or reason, we must remember such passages as the one below from the writer of the *Book of Ecclesiastes*, who was an acute observer of the realities of life:

I returned, and saw under the sun, that the race is not to the swift, nor the battle to the strong, neither

yet bread to the wise, nor yet riches to men of understanding, nor yet favour to men of skill; but time and chance happeneth to them all.

Ecclesiastes 9:11,
KJV

The Latin version of the Bible translates *time and chance happeneth to them all* as *tempus casumque in omnibus*, which means "time and chance are in all things." We might phrase it better, "The elements of



time and chance pervade all things." Some would comment that this is an example of the pessimism of the writer of *Ecclesiastes*, but the writer is simply concerned with expressing the wisdom that arises from his thorough observation of life.

But despite the difficulties of life and the fact that things often go contrary to what we expect or desire, we should trust in God to reveal to us the way ahead in terms of the direction our life should take and what He requires

us to do. Most of all this is revealed in His written Word, the Bible, which we must read and study as well as we can, just as we must continue in prayer to hear from God and discern the specific ways in which we must improve our lives so that we may conform more fully to the likeness of the Lord Jesus Christ in our thoughts, words, and deeds. To succeed in all this, we must devote more time to waiting on God in quiet prayer. Our relationship with the Lord will be improved and deepened when we do this. I end with the final stanza of the Epiphany hymn (number 53 in our *1940 Hymnal*) written by Christopher Wordsworth in 1862:

Grant us grace to see Thee,
Lord,
Mirrored in Thy holy Word;
May we imitate Thee now,
And be pure, as pure art Thou;
That we like to Thee may be
At Thy great epiphany;
And may praise Thee, ever blest,
God in man made manifest.

– The Reverend
Christopher Parrish

Discerning God's Path for Our Life in a New Year

Our Father, we bow before You and ask that, by Your Spirit, You will bring us to the place where we are truly able to pray from the heart, 'Your will be done.' You know how strong our own wills are. You know how hard we find it to submit to Your way for our lives. Lord, strengthen us to desire and to do Your will.

We pray in regard to what You have kept secret. We look at our country and our world, and we wonder what You are doing. In the noise of contradictory voices, advance our redeeming purpose even as You did through the clamor around the cross. Help us to trust You where it is hard to understand what You are doing. Help us to know and believe that You reign supreme in all

things, including the things we do not understand.

Father, we pray that You will help us to grow in discernment. Lead us on the path of wisdom, and guard us from making foolish decisions. Help us to think clearly and to weigh correctly. Give us the humility that seeks and hears the wise counsel of others. Help us to be vigorous in ruling out what You forbid and ruling in what You command.

Father, we thank You that our Savior knows the intensity of our struggle when Your will conflicts with our desires. Give us strength to embrace Your commands, and give us grace to submit to the burdens You give us to carry.

We pray that You will help us to do Your

revealed will like the angels— fully, gladly, and immediately. Help us to love You with all our hearts, souls, minds, and strength. Help us to love our neighbors as ourselves. Help us to make disciples of people from every background, and to seek the good of people from every race. Save us from being unhappy Christians. Deliver us from the sinful habit of complaint. Help us each day to rejoice in You, to be constant in prayer, and to give thanks in all circumstances. Save us from thinking of prayer as a means by which we can get You to do our will. Make us more like Jesus. Teach us to implore, 'Your will be done,' through Jesus Christ our Lord and Savior, in whose name we pray. Amen.



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, 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;
Patrick Slattery;
Gerald Glenn; and
Julie Sine;

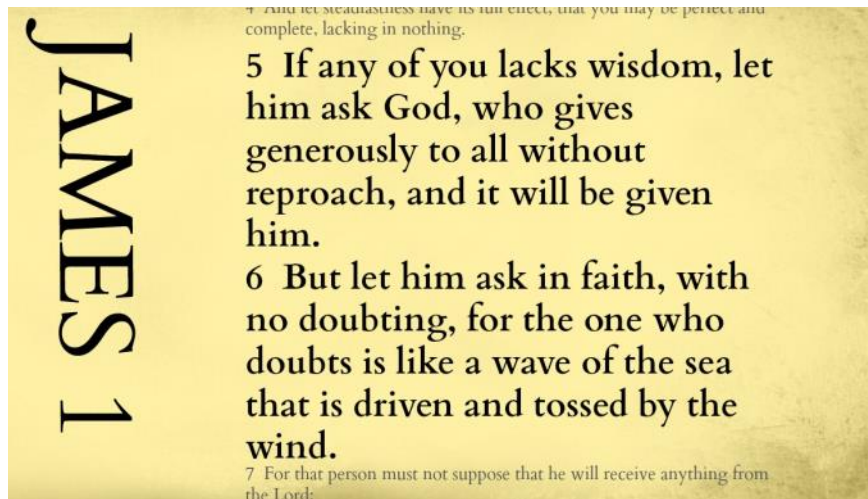
that it may please Thee to comfort and relieve them, according to their several necessities; giving them patience under their sufferings, and a happy issue out of all their afflictions. And this we beg for Jesus Christ's sake. Amen.

* * *

Please note: This prayer list was current as of December 31st, 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.



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 Vestry will meet 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.



You are invited to join Joanna's Prayer Circle at noon on Sunday, January 14th, 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!



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 opportuni-

ty 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!



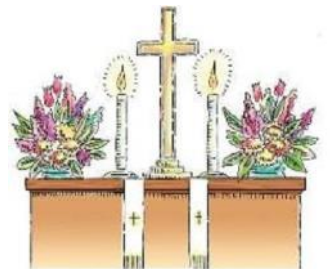
Martha's List of Parish Ministries reminds all ministerial chairpersons to update their ministerial folders (under the card table in McNeely Hall) before the Annual Meeting on Sunday, February 18th. These folders are meant to make it easier for new chairpersons to assume leadership of lay ministries, 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 ser-

vice to God, service to the family of faith, and service 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 Parrish, our Rector.



The 2024 Altar Flower Chart is here! Please write your name on the worship service date(s) of your choice to reserve your opportunity to beautify the altar with a floral offering. Please be sure to notify Father Parrish of your offering intentions the week before your selected date(s). Thank you!



Parish Postings

Friday, January 5th

Telephone Prayer Meeting
10:00 AM

Sunday, January 7th: The First Sunday after Epiphany

Holy Communion with Holy Unction
10:00 AM

Friday, January 12th

Telephone Prayer Meeting
10:00 AM

Sunday, January 14th: The Second Sunday after Epiphany

Office of Morning Prayer
10:00 AM

Vestry Meeting
following the worship service

Joanna's Prayer Circle Meeting
12:00 PM

Friday, January 19th

Telephone Prayer Meeting
10:00 AM

Sunday, January 21st: The Third Sunday after Epiphany

Holy Communion
10:00 AM

Friday, January 26th

Telephone Prayer Meeting
10:00 AM

Sunday, January 28th: Septuagesima

Office of Morning Prayer
10:00 AM

Friday, February 2nd: The Presentation of Christ in the Temple

Telephone Prayer Meeting
10:00 AM

Sunday, February 4th: Sexagesima

Holy Communion with Holy Unction
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.