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# The Hillside Messenger

## A Message from the Rector:

### St. Luke's Witness to the Lord Jesus Christ

**O**ur Patron Saint being St. Luke the Evangelist, whose Festival falls on October 18th, I shall explore some of the priorities associated with this saint.

First, he is one of the Four Evangelists, or authors of the four Gospel accounts in the New Testament. *The Gospel according to St. Luke* begins with a statement of the writer's awareness that he is not the first writer to document the narrative of the events of the Gospel: "Inasmuch as many have taken in hand to set in order a narrative of those things which have been fulfilled among us" (*St. Luke 1:1*, NKJV). At the time of St. Luke's writing, there were many accounts of the Gospel, even if now, in our Bible, we have only four. What happened to all those other Gospel narratives? We do not know. Either the Church regarded them as

apocryphal, or they did not survive in manuscript form. In his second introductory statement, St. Luke implies that he is himself not one of the original Apostles and eyewitnesses of Jesus Christ's life, death, and resurrection, but one of those to whom the "eyewitnesses and ministers of the word" (*St.*

curate, historically true Gospel narrative. He doesn't want to convey any untrue information or put any distorting spin on the truth of the Gospel. Finally, his writing has an immediate purpose: he is concerned that the person of status whom he calls "most excellent Theophilus" (*St. Luke 1:3*, NKJV), who might have been a

Roman government official only recently instructed in the Christian faith, might know for certain the facts of the Gospel which he has been taught (*St. Luke 1:4*). Of course, it was not only Theophilus who benefitted from receiving this written

record of the Gospel, but many others with whom it was shared and among whom it was circulated, including us who have received it as one of the books of our Bible.

The first four verses of St. Luke's Gospel account depict a saint who realizes that, though he is not the only author of a



*Luke 1:2*, NKJV) delivered their testimony to the Gospel. Nevertheless, St. Luke acknowledges that from the first he has had a complete understanding of the Gospel events, enabling him to write "an orderly account" (*St. Luke 1:3*, NKJV). What this also tells us is that St. Luke is concerned to write an ac-

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## *St. Luke's Witness to the Lord Jesus Christ*

Gospel, he yet has a purpose in reflecting the historical truths of the Lord Jesus Christ's life and teaching as well as of His passion, death, resurrection, and ascension: He wishes to make an accurate record of these events for the purpose of confirming someone's in-

struction in the faith, a record that will be helpful both to converts to the Christian faith and to those who have been taught it from their youth. What we learn from St. Luke's firm purpose to write his Gospel in order to reflect the historical and theological truths of the Lord Jesus Christ and the Gospel message so that even one Christian might have a firm grasp of his faith, is that we should ourselves have a firm purpose to know our faith; to know our Lord Jesus Christ above all; and to know the Gospel by reading, learning, studying, and

obeying it so that we may deliver it accurately to those with whom we share our faith. How important it is to have this steadfast resolve to know the truth of the Gospel and communicate it in a world in which so many people are Biblically illiterate, with no knowledge

of the Bible or the Gospel, and a world in which so much sin and evil abound!

One of the greatly encouraging themes of the *Gospel according to St. Luke* is the role of the Holy Spirit. In this Gospel, the Holy Spirit is closely linked to prophecy and the advent of the Lord Jesus Christ, as well as to the proclamation of the Gospel after the Lord's ascension into heaven. For example, we read that John the Baptist will be filled with the Holy Spirit "even from his mother's womb" (*St. Luke 1:15c*, NKJV). The Holy Spirit enables John the Baptist to speak as a prophet, indeed as more than a prophet, as the forerunner of the Messiah, calling people to repent and be baptized for the forgiveness of their sins. The Holy Spirit causes the Blessed Virgin Mary to conceive Jesus Christ so that Jesus is called the Son of God (*St. Luke 1:35*). When St. Mary visits Elizabeth, Elizabeth, filled with the Holy Spirit blesses her with this benediction:

Blessed are you among women, and blessed is the fruit of your womb! But why is this granted to me, that the mother of my Lord should come to me? For indeed, as soon as the voice of your greeting sounded in my ears, the

babe leaped in my womb for joy. Blessed is she who believed, for there will be a fulfillment of those things which were told her from the Lord.

*St. Luke 1:42b-45*, NKJV

In the power of the same Holy Spirit, St. Mary utters the *Magnificat* (*St. Luke 1:46-55*) glorifying God not only for doing great things for her but for remembering His covenant with Israel and exalting the humble while putting down the mighty. Being filled with the Holy Spirit is associated with prophecy in St. Luke's Gospel. It is clear from St. Luke's narrative that these prophetic messages are inspired by the Holy Spirit and relate to the incarnation of the Lord Jesus Christ and to the significance of His coming and of His mission, as well as to the coming of St. John the Baptist. In this Gospel, ordinary people receive and share these prophetic messages by the inspiration of the Holy Spirit. In St. Luke's view, prophecy is by no means restricted to the recorded writings of the Old Testament prophets. The first two chapters of his Gospel are testimony to the role of the Holy Spirit in inspiring prophecy in various individuals who were looking forward to the coming of Christ. The

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*In art, St. Luke  
is represented  
by a winged ox.*

*This is especially appropriate  
because*

*in the Gospel of St. Luke,  
the priestly and sacrificial  
work of Jesus is emphasized.*

*The ox represents  
the sacrificial aspect  
of Jesus' ministry*

*and the wings  
remind us that*

*the Gospel of Jesus Christ  
is to travel  
throughout the world.*

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## *St. Luke's Witness to the Lord Jesus Christ*

descent of the Holy Spirit in bodily form on Jesus after his baptism (*St. Luke 1:22*) demonstrates that Jesus Christ is God's beloved Son, that He has the fullness of the Holy Spirit, and that He Himself baptizes with the Holy Spirit (*St. Luke 3:16c*). It also confirms the witness of *Hebrews 1:2* that in these last times, God has spoken to us through His Son.

Besides this emphasis on the Holy Spirit, at least in the early chapters of St. Luke's Gospel, there is an emphasis on people of all classes and nations coming into God's kingdom and the Gospel being for them all. Consider the Parable of the Good Samaritan (*St. Luke 10:25-34*), in which it is the Samaritan who shows neighborly love to the man beaten and wounded by robbers. This surely excludes exclusivism of any kind in our treatment of others. As for those who rejected certain classes of Jewish society as sinners, the Parables of the Lost Sheep, the Lost Coin, and the Prodigal Son (*St. Luke 15*) reveal God's love for the lost and His will for each one to return to Him, a love that is shown in Jesus' associating with sinners instead of keeping aloof from them.

The healing ministry of Jesus, including forgiveness, looms large in St. Luke's portrayal of Him. So does the Lord's

teaching on generosity to the poor and the danger of hoarding wealth instead of using it to help others, the Parable of the Rich Man and Lazarus (*St. Luke 16:19-31*) illustrating this.

A verse near the end of St. Luke's Gospel sheds light on one of the great truths St. Luke communicates about the Lord Jesus. After the resurrection of Jesus, we encounter these words: "And He opened their understanding, that they might comprehend the Scriptures" (*St. Luke 24:45*, NKJV). The Old Testament Scriptures that are full of prophecies about the Lord Jesus Christ must be understood if we are to preach or share the Gospel effectively. For example, in witnessing to Jewish people, it may be helpful to know the important passages that contain prophecies of the Messiah, His passion, death, and resurrection. The Lord Jesus Christ, through the Holy Spirit, opens people's minds to understand the Bible, and being baptized with the Holy Spirit empowers Christians for service and witness.

The witness of St. Luke in his Gospel is not static but dynamic. Here we see that faith is not intended to stagnate or sink into oblivion. Faith must be living, powerful, and active in every Christian's life. Such a faith must be reflected in our

lives, as must be the presence of the Holy Spirit. Let us all dedicate ourselves to living out the same witness as our Patron Saint!

– *The Reverend  
Chris Parrish*



## *Our Chapel Family Prayer List*

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

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**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 Steve Wood;

Bishop Richard Lipka,  
Bishop Ordinary;

Bishop Darryl Fitzwater,  
Bishop Coadjutor;

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 in 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 are affected by  
Hurricanes Helene &

Milton;

Jim and Edna Davis;

Joya de Rossett;

Debbie;

Scott;

Brittany;

Tanya Theiler;

Mark Quinn;

Lisa;

Ben;

Marian;

Flo;

Max;

Dan and Kendra Pack;

the Stanko family;

Yoshihiko Ikegami;

Mary Frances Reaves;

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;

Patrick Slattery;

Julie Sine;

the Slattery family;

James Kitchin;

Father Jonah  
and Rachel Kelman;

Bob Willis;

Grace Driver;

Robbie Tavey;

Charlotte; and

the Bouchard family;

Mark Benjamin &

Rachel Jebaraj;

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.



## *A Prayer for the Middle East*

**G**od of all comfort and hope, who in Your Son, our Lord Jesus Christ, proclaimed good news to the poor, bound up the broken-hearted, and set the captives free: We remember before You this day all who are affected by the violence of October 7, 2023, and we ask You to heal the wounded, comfort those who mourn, and bring justice and peace to the land of Israel. Look with mercy upon the peoples of the Middle East, that, in Your great compassion, the light of Christ may shine in the darkness and bring hope to every nation. As Simeon rejoiced to see Your salvation, a light for revelation to the Gentiles and the glory of Your people Israel, so we pray that Jesus, the Messiah, would be known as the true hope for all the earth. May Your Kingdom come, and may Your peace reign in every heart, through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

## *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.



## Parish Postings

The Vestry will meet on Sunday, October 13th, following Morning Prayer and fellowship to conduct the temporal business of the parish. All are welcome and, indeed, encouraged to attend!

# Vestry



St. Luke's Chapel in the Hills will celebrate its patron saint on Sunday, October 20th, with Holy Communion at 10:00 AM and a potluck luncheon during fellowship.

You are invited to join Joanna's Prayer Circle during fellowship on Sunday, October 27th, in McNeely Hall. This group is for anyone who has special prayer requests, wants to share joys or sorrows, 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 fourth Sunday of the month to seek the guidance of the Holy Spirit and to pray at His direction. All are welcome!



Thank you to Max Taaffe and Brandy Falcon from everyone at St. Luke's for volunteering to serve in our worship services! Max is serving as an Acolyte, an office which has been unfilled for some time, and Brandy has joined the Altar Guild. Our Chapel Family is deeply blessed by all those who give of their time and their talents to serve God and His Church, and we thank God for them!

**Sunday, October 6th**

The Nineteenth Sunday after Trinity

*Holy Communion with Holy Unction*

10:00 AM

**Sunday, October 13th**

The Twentieth Sunday after Trinity

*Office of Morning Prayer*

10:00 AM

*Vestry Meeting*

following fellowship

**Sunday, October 20th**

Patronal Festival of St. Luke the Evangelist

The Twenty-first Sunday after Trinity

*Holy Communion*

10:00 AM

*Potluck Luncheon*

**Sunday, October 27th**

The Twenty-second Sunday after Trinity

*Office of Morning Prayer*

10:00 AM

*Joanna's Prayer Circle Meeting*

during fellowship

**Friday, November 1st**

All Saints' Day

**Sunday, November 3rd**

All Saints' Day (observed)

The Twenty-third Sunday after Trinity

*Holy Communion with Holy Unction*

10:00 AM





# *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.