

# The Hillside Messenger

## A Message from the Rector: *The Unsearchable Riches of Christ*

A mystery is thought of as something inexplicable, either temporarily or permanently. In fact, when a priest does not know the answer to a theological question, he may give the enigmatic reply, "It is a mystery." The Greek word *mysterion*, from which our English word "mystery" derives, certainly entails the idea of a secret, but in the New Testament, the word expresses truth which once was secret and hidden but has now been made known through the Gospel of the Lord Jesus Christ. This kind of truth could not be discovered by human reason, but God alone could reveal it. *Ephesians 3* is a passage which shows that God has disclosed the mystery of Christ to the Apostles and, through them, to all Christians.

St. Paul declares in *Ephesians 3:3* that God has revealed to him the mystery of Christ, a mystery not revealed to mankind in previous ages as it now stands revealed by

God's holy apostles and prophets by the Spirit (*Ephesians 3:4*). What is this mystery which was made known to the apostles and prophets? In *Colossians 1:27*, St. Paul states that this mystery, or the glorious riches of it, is Christ Himself, who is in His people and is



"the hope of glory." It is also the truth that in Christ and through His Gospel, the Gentiles are fellow-heirs of God's Kingdom with all Jews who believe in the Lord Jesus Christ. Jews and Gentiles in Christ are members of the same Body of Christ and par-

takers of God's promise of eternal life through the Lord Jesus Christ. The essence of this is that people of all nations, languages, and cultures, when they come to the Lord Jesus Christ for eternal life, not only receive this life from Christ in receiving Christ Himself, but also become members of His Body throughout the world.

St. Paul explains his role in this, that, though "less than the least of all saints" (*Ephesians 3:8*), he has been given the grace to preach to the Gentiles "the unsearchable riches of Christ". These riches are called "unsearchable", because they are inexhaustible, infinite, and never ending. The Greek word translated by "unsearchable" is also used in *Romans 11:33*, where it describes the ways, or the paths, of God, which cannot be understood completely on earth. Similarly, the riches of Christ cannot be fully known or understood on earth. These riches are conveyed by the Gospel of Christ, by which those

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## *The Unsearchable Riches of Christ*

who hear, believe, and obey are brought “out of darkness into God’s marvelous light” (*I St. Peter* 2:9). The preaching of this Gospel and the witness to Christ given by countless Christians has yet another purpose: To make known God’s “manifold wisdom” to the principalities and powers in heavenly places according to God’s eternal purpose set forth in the Lord Jesus Christ (*Ephesians* 3:10-11).

Because of all the above, the sharing of the Gospel and all the costs and trials associated with doing so have a far more meaningful and powerful consequence than we are at first inclined to think. We are sharing in God’s cosmic purpose of making known His purposes to all the Universe.

Now, this means that tribulations and trials suffered for the sake of the Gospel are for God’s glory, and so the Church must not be disheartened by them but rather rejoice (*I St. Peter* 4:13). In this context, St. Paul prays one of the most beautiful prayers in the New Testament, that, from the riches of His glory, God would strengthen the Ephesian Christians by His Spirit in their inner being; that Christ might dwell in their hearts by faith; that they, being established in love, might know the love of Christ, which exceeds knowledge, and be filled with all God’s fullness

(*Ephesians* 3:16-19). This prayer really sets out the ultimate wealth, the supreme spiritual treasure which Christians must realize that they have and will have because they have been baptized into union with the Lord Jesus Christ. This realization comes through prayer and faith, and it is according to the “wealth of His glory” (*Ephesians* 3:16) by which God’s Spirit strengthens the inner being of Christians in power, so that Christ may dwell



in their hearts through faith (*Ephesians* 3:17). It is by God’s gracious gift of spiritual strengthening and empowering that Christians exercise faith in the Lord to the point that He lives in their hearts through their faith in Him. Christ living in us is by our faith in Him, and that faith is His gift of grace to us. This is not just the faith that we showed in Holy Baptism or Holy Confirmation, but the continuing faith that is necessary for Christian living.

Without faith in Christ and His strengthening of our inner being to exercise that faith, we can so easily be overcome by doubt, fear, pride, and all the other evils which attempt to live in Christ’s place in our hearts. The indwelling of Christ in us through the Holy Spirit leads to and accompanies a life rooted in and built on God’s love (*Ephesians* 3:17). All our thoughts, words, and actions will flow from God’s love when the Lord Jesus Christ fully reigns in our lives and orders what we think, say, and do. This means that all our relationships will be governed by the love of God, and our behavior will express this. This grounding in the love of God, as a result of Christ living and ruling in us, will lead us more and more with all the saints (God’s people) to more deeply comprehend all the dimensions of the love of Christ, although such love exceeds our knowledge, so that we might be filled with all the fullness of God (*Ephesians* 3:17-19).

The unsearchable riches of Christ are Christ Himself, who has the fullness of God, whose love cannot be fully comprehended on this earth. At this point, one might think of these riches as practically unattainable on earth, since the love of Christ surpasses human knowledge. One might al-

## *The Unsearchable Riches of Christ*

so ask how St. Paul, while a prisoner of Rome, could come to this wonderful insight in circumstances which might cause others to despair—imprisonment from which release was uncertain. It is a sure testimony to the spiritual nature of the riches whose Gospel he was proclaiming that, instead of despair, he had himself come to know some of the fullness of Christ, and was living a life rooted in the love of God, growing daily in his comprehension of the love of God.

This great prayer for the Ephesians leads him into thankfulness and praise, as he knows that God will not only answer his prayer but answer it by doing far more than he or all Christians can ask or think, according to His power at work in us (*Ephesians* 3:20). To God, then, he gives the glory in the Church by Christ Jesus throughout all ages (*Ephesians* 3:21).

The unsearchable riches of Christ, I conclude, can be found in Christ, no matter in what circumstances we find ourselves, since St. Paul could find them and teach about them, and while a prisoner of the Lord (*Ephesians* 4:1), could pray that the Ephesian Christians might comprehend them. Therefore, we too should aim to comprehend the love of God.

But there are so many whose ambitions are not to attain to the unsearchable riches of Christ but to obtain the wealth, the honors, the material things of this world, and its glory. As Thomas à Kempis wrote: "Glory not in wealth if thou have it, nor in friends who are powerful; but in God who giveth all things, and above all desireth to give thee Himself" (page 41, Rosalie De Rosset (Ed.): Thomas à Kempis: *The Imitation of Christ*. Chicago: Moody Classics, 1980, 2007).

What wealth, then, do you seek? Does your life reflect your desire for the unsearchable riches of Christ?

— The Reverend  
Chris Parrish

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### *Unsearchable Riches*

- 1 *Oh, the unsearchable riches of Christ!  
Wealth that can never be told;  
Riches exhaustless or mercy and grace,  
Precious, more precious than gold!*  
*Refrain*  
*Precious, more precious,  
Wealth that can never be told!  
Oh, the unsearchable riches of Christ!  
Precious, more precious than gold!*
- 2 *Oh, the unsearchable riches of Christ,  
Who shall their greatness declare?  
Jewels whose luster our lives may adorn,  
Pearls that the poorest may wear! Refrain]*
- 3 *Oh, the unsearchable riches of Christ!  
Freely, how freely they flow,  
Making the souls of the faithful and true  
Happy wherever they go! Refrain]*
- 4 *Oh, the unsearchable riches of Christ!  
Who would not gladly endure  
Trials, afflictions, and crosses on earth,  
Riches like these to secure! [Refrain]*

Hymn lyrics by Fanny J. Crosby

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## Great Commission Campaign

When you hear the expression “Fear the Lord”, what is the first thought that comes to your mind? The idea of being afraid or fearing the Lord has a bit of dread and trepidation to it. But, please, have no feeling of doom or uneasiness.

You should not be afraid. I think a better way to explain this is for us to go to GotQuestions.org. **Proverbs 9:10** says, “The fear of the LORD is the beginning of

wisdom, and knowledge of the Holy One is understanding.” Think how amazing and encouraging this is!

So here is Step Ten: FEAR THE LORD. To fear the Lord

means to show Him reverence and honor as we should. He has given us so many blessings that we have neither earned nor deserve. They are His gifts to us. When we fear the Lord, we show our faith, respect, and loyalty to Him. He is our Father and with Him, all things are possible (**St. Mark 10:27**). Jesus says, “If you can believe, all things are possible to him who believes” (**St. Mark 9:23**, NKJV). This is another incredible gift! For the unbeliever, the fear of

judgment and eternal death, which is eternal separation from God (**St. Luke 12:5; Hebrews 10:31**). To develop the fear of the Lord, we must recognize God for who He is. We must glimpse with our spirits the power, might, beauty, and brilliance of the Lord God Almighty (**Revelation 11:17; Hosea 12:5; Isaiah 6:1-5**).

Those who fear the Lord have a continual awareness of Him, a deep reverence for Him, and a sincere commitment to obey Him.

Fearing God helps us to keep God the focus in our lives. God should always be number one in our hearts. So, the next time you are in Church, think about what you are saying as you recite the prayers. As I said in the previous article, “Worship intentionally”.

The next time you say the General Confession and hear the Declaration of Absolution, think about these two prayers and how important they are for our relationship to the Lord Jesus Christ:

### A General Confession

ALMIGHTY and most merciful Father; We have erred, and strayed from Thy ways like lost sheep. We have followed too much the devices and desires of our own hearts. We

have offended against Thy holy laws. We have left undone those things which we ought to have done; And we have done those things which we ought not to have done; And there is no health in us. But Thou, O Lord, have mercy upon us, miserable offenders. Spare Thou those, O God, who confess their faults. Restore Thou those who are penitent; According to Thy promises declared unto mankind in Christ Jesus our Lord. And grant, O most merciful Father, for His sake; That we may hereafter live a godly, righteous, and sober life, To the glory of Thy holy Name. Amen.

### The Declaration of Absolution, or Remission of Sins

ALMIGHTY God, the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who desireth not the death of a sinner, but rather that he may turn from his wickedness and live, hath given power, and commandment, to His Ministers,



TRUE FEAR OF THE  
LORD IS NOT TO  
BE SCARED OF HIM.  
IT'S TO BE  
TERRIFIED TO BE  
AWAY FROM HIM.



## Great Commission Campaign

to declare and pronounce to His people, being penitent, the Absolution and Remission of their sins. He pardoneth and absolveth all those who truly repent, and unfeignedly believe His holy Gospel.

Wherefore let us beseech Him to grant us true repentance, and His Holy Spirit, that those things may please Him which we do at this present; and that the rest of our life hereafter may be pure and holy; so that at the last we may come to His eternal joy; through Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

When we respect someone, we hold them in high regard and esteem. We honor them and appreciate who they are. They are important to us. This is how we should be with God in our lives. Respecting God is holding God in awe. He has done amazing miracles. He created Heaven and Earth, light and darkness, land and sea, and all of us in His image. Reflecting on all that power is incredibly dumbfounding. It is only reasonable that we should fear God, respect God, thank God for all the gifts that he has

lavished upon us, and yes, be most grateful for everything.

We need to fear God and keep Him central in our lives. God accepts you for who you are, He made you. He knows all your secrets. All we need to do is come to Him with all our heart. What I keep thinking as I write is this, “God brought you into this life, and He can take you out!” This is why we need to fear Him: If we follow the Lord, He will protect us, guide us, and give us everlasting life; if we don’t, He will abandon us to ourselves in the lake of everlasting fire. I encourage us all to respectfully fear the Lord God with faith, passion, and purpose.

To recap and review, these are the steps we are taking in our Great Commission Campaign:

Step One: PRAY.

Step Two: COMMIT.

Step Three: ATTEND CHURCH.

Step Four: PRIORITIZE GOD.

Step Five: SUBMIT.

Step Six: READ THE BIBLE

Step Seven: LOVE.

Step Eight: EXPRESS JOY AND ENTHUSIASM IN YOUR FAITH

Step Nine: WORSHIP GOD WITH MEANING AND PASSION

— *Julia McNeely*

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***O God,  
who knowest the  
weakness and corruption of our nature,  
and the manifold temptations  
which we daily meet with;  
we humbly beseech Thee to have  
compassion on our infirmities,  
and to give us the constant assistance  
of thy Holy Spirit;  
that we may be effectually restrained from sin,  
and incited to our duty.  
Imprint upon our hearts  
such a dread of Thy judgments,  
and such a grateful sense  
of Thy goodness to us,  
as may make us both afraid and ashamed  
to offend Thee.  
And, above all, keep in our minds  
a lively remembrance of that great day,  
in which we must give a strict account  
of our thoughts, words, and actions  
to Him whom Thou hast appointed  
the Judge of quick and dead,  
Thy Son Jesus Christ our Lord.  
Amen.***

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## Our Chapel Family Prayer List

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***This prayer list  
was current  
as of August 20th,  
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,  
our Primate;

Archbishop Samy  
of the Diocese of Egypt;  
Bishop Darryl Fitzwater,  
our Bishop Ordinary;

Canon Michael Penfield,  
our Vicar-General;

Father Chris Parrish, our  
Rector;

Deacon Peter Vogel; and  
Deacon Linda Bracken;

also all those who serve  
as Thy ministers in gov-  
erning our nation and  
state, particularly:

President Donald Trump;  
and

Governor Gavin New-  
som;

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 victims of recent  
floods in Texas and  
the bereaved families;

Jim and Edna Davis;

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;

Linda Capone;

Rose Handwerker;

Ann and Frank MacVoy;

Bishop Ilgenfritz;

Moe Martinez;

Victoria Grace;

Christina;

John and Heidi Donnelly;

Carl;

Judith Boreham;

Heather;

Susan;

Helen Vanderberg;

Farshad;

Deacon Herman  
and Betty Roark;

Patrick Slattery;

Julie Sine;

James Kitchin;

Grace Driver;

Robbie Tavey;

Charlotte;

the Bouchard family;

Sara and Hesam;

Molly Ferguson;

Bridgitte Parrish;

John Bainbridge;

Rosalia Ortiz;

Alan and Barbara;

Mary Penfield;

Mark Askew,

that it may please Thee to  
comfort and relieve them,  
according to their several  
necessities; giving them  
patience under their suf-  
ferings, 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.

## Carnivore Breakfast Casserole

**K**athy Slattery often shares this dish with our Chapel Family on Sundays when she provides refreshments, and it is always greeted with enthusiasm. She has very kindly offered the recipe for those who would like to make the dish at home.

### Ingredients

12 eggs  
1 pound ground meat  
1/2 to 1 pound cooked bacon, cut into small pieces  
2 cups cheese, shredded  
3/4 cup heavy cream

*optional:* a teaspoon or so of salt (I often skip this if I'm using 1 pound bacon)

*optional:* 1/2 an onion, diced

*optional:* 4 garlic cloves, minced

### Directions

1. Preheat oven to 375 degrees Fahrenheit.
2. Cook bacon and cut into small pieces.
3. If using, sauté diced onion and/or minced garlic in bacon fat,
4. Cook ground meat, breaking it up into small chunks.
5. Whisk together eggs, heavy cream, and any salt you choose to add.
6. Fold in eggs, bacon, and ground meat.
7. If using, fold in onions and/or garlic.
8. Grease a 9-inches by 13-inches baking pan or 12-inches cast iron pan.
9. Pour eggs and meat mixture into the prepared pan.
10. Bake 30 to 35 minutes or until the cheese is browning.





## *Parish Postings*

Your prayers are sought for Deacon Peter Vogel's safety and stamina while he is traveling to and from and serving on jury duty. The trial to which he has been assigned is expected to continue until mid-October, and he is attempting to fulfill his obligations to his employer on the rail commute to San Jose, during courtroom breaks, and while he is at home. Please also pray that God's justice is done in this trial. Thank you!



The Vestry will meet on Sunday, September 14th, following Morning Prayer and fellowship to conduct the business affairs of the Chapel. The meeting is open to all!



Beginning September 7th and by popular demand, Joanna's Prayer Circle will meet on Sundays at 9:15 AM in the Nursery. Members of this ministry pray daily as individuals for the needs of our Chapel Family and meet once a month as a group to seek the guidance of the Holy Spirit and pray at His direction. Please join us!



Our third-quarter Community Mission Project is a two-fer: We will be collecting funds for donation to Family Giving Tree (to provide school supplies to needy children) and the American Red Cross (in aid of those affected by flash flooding in Central Texas). Please make a note of your donation on your check memo line or offertory envelope. Thank you!



## *Upcoming Events*

### **Sunday, September 7th**

The Twelfth Sunday after Trinity

*Joanna's Prayer Circle Meeting*

9:15 AM

*Holy Communion with Holy Unction*

10:00 AM

### **Sunday, September 14th**

The Thirteenth Sunday after Trinity

*Joanna's Prayer Circle Meeting*

9:15 AM

*Office of Morning Prayer*

10:00 AM

*Vestry Meeting*

following worship and fellowship

### **Sunday, September 21st**

The Festival of St. Matthew, Apostle and Evangelist,  
and the Fourteenth Sunday after Trinity

*Joanna's Prayer Circle Meeting*

9:15 AM

*Holy Communion*

10:00 AM

### **Sunday, September 28th**

The Fifteenth Sunday after Trinity

*Joanna's Prayer Circle Meeting*

9:15 AM

*Office of Morning Prayer*

10:00 AM

### **Sunday, October 5th**

The Sixteenth Sunday after Trinity

*Joanna's Prayer Circle Meeting*

9:15 AM

*Holy Communion with Holy Unction*

10:00 AM

## *Upcoming Events*



I came to give life—  
life in all its fullness.

**St. John 10:10b**, ICB



# *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  
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 Festival 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.