



# The Hillside Messenger

## A Message from the Rector: On Epiphany

**T**

he Festival of the Epiphany in the Church's history originated in Egypt in the second century, the date of January 6th being chosen to oppose the birthday celebration of the Egyptian deity Osiris on that day. The original focus of this Festival was on the Baptism of the Lord Jesus Christ, but by the fourth century in the Eastern Churches, the Nativity of Christ as well as His Baptism were the principal events celebrated in this Festival. The Lord's first miracle at Cana also came to be associated with this day. In adopting this Festival later in the fourth century, the Western Churches portrayed it as commemorating the visit of the Magi and emphasizing God's revelation of Christ to the Gentiles (adapted from page 107, Massey H. Shepherd, Jr.: *The Oxford American Prayer Book Commentary*. New York: Oxford University Press, 1955).

Epiphany is the coming of God to man in and through the Lord Jesus Christ for the particular purpose of redeeming and saving mankind. It is necessary in our own day to emphasize the Epiphany as the revelation of Jesus Christ as both the Son of God and the



Son of Man. The Epiphany means nothing really if Jesus Christ was just a prophet or a good teacher of morals. The Epiphany reflects our belief that Jesus Christ was revealed as fully God and fully man. The implications of this doctrine for our faithful witness to the Lord Jesus Christ are profound. For example, the message and teachings of the Lord Jesus Christ carry the weight of oracles from God Himself, in contrast to the di-

verse ways in which He spoke to Israel through the prophets. This is also borne out by the Lord Jesus Christ's saying, "I am the Way, the Truth, and the Life: no man cometh unto the Father, but by Me" (*St. John 14:6, KJV*). Whereas in the polytheistic religion of the ancient Greeks, an epiphany was the appearance of the gods to help people on earth, for Christians the Epiphany is the advent of Christ, and can refer to His second advent as well as His first (*II*

*Thessalonians 2:8; I St. Timothy 6:14; II St. Timothy 1:10; II St. Timothy 4:1, 8; St. Titus 2:13*). This Epiphany has as its goal the salvation of the world through Christ. St. Paul linked the first coming of the Lord Jesus Christ to the second in his *Epistle to St. Titus*:

For the grace of God that bringeth salvation hath appeared to all men, teaching us that, deny-

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## On Epiphany

ing ungodliness and worldly lusts, we should live soberly, righteously, and godly, in this present world; looking for that blessed hope, and the glorious appearing of the great God and our Saviour Jesus Christ; who gave Himself for us, that He might redeem us from all iniquity, and purify unto Himself a peculiar people, zealous of good works.

**St. Titus 2:11-14, KJV**

In this passage, St. Paul links the appearing of the grace of God in Christ for all people to having “the blessed hope” of the appearing (epiphany) of “the great God and our Saviour Jesus Christ” (**St. Titus 2:13**).

From this passage it is evident that the Lord Jesus Christ’s first advent had the purposes of giving His life to redeem all people from all sin, purifying for Himself His own people, and training them to abstain from ungodli-

ness and worldly desires, instead living sober, righteous, and godly lives in this world. The purpose of this Epiphany was not to establish a means of salvation that depended on faith alone so that its recipients might persist stubbornly in sin under the illusion that Christ’s grace would save them in the end. Instead, though every believer receives salvation by putting his faith in the Lord Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of sins (**Romans 3:23-24; 4:23-25**), he must faithfully continue in obedience to God’s laws and Christ’s commandments and teachings. As the faithful embody this discipline and training in their daily lives, so they are being made ready for the fulfillment of their blessed hope of

the resurrection and of the glorious appearing (epiphany) of the great God and Savior, Jesus Christ.

In another passage of this same **Epistle to St. Titus**, St. Paul gives us more insight into the effects of the first advent and epiphany of the Lord Jesus Christ. This passage, like that quoted above, is read at services on Christmas Eve or Christmas Day:

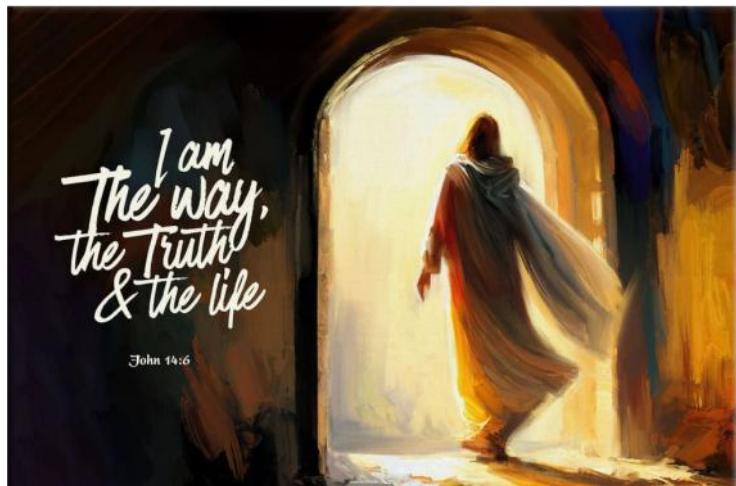
But after that the kindness and love of God our Saviour toward man appeared, not by works of righteousness which we have done, but according to His mercy He saved us, by the washing of regeneration, and renewing of the Holy Ghost; which He shed on us abundantly through Jesus Christ our Saviour; that being justified by His grace, we should be made heirs according to the hope of eternal life.

**St. Titus 3:4-7, KJV**

The epiphany of the Lord Jesus Christ was a revelation of God our Savior’s love toward man. The washing of regeneration, or Holy Baptism, and the renewal through the Holy Spirit, received by Christians after repentance from sin and expression of faith in God the Holy Trinity, are gifts of God’s grace flowing from His great love and mercy to mankind. God poured out the Holy Spirit on us richly through Jesus Christ our Savior, so that, being accounted righteous by His grace, we might become heirs according to the hope of eternal life.

God’s epiphany of the Lord Jesus Christ has resulted in reconciliation with God through the death of Jesus on the cross, as well as the manifold gifts of grace that are the benefits of salvation, including the outpouring of the Holy Spirit.

The Holy Spirit, who is the Spirit of truth, leads the faithful in all the truth (**St. John 16:13**). Since the Lord Jesus Christ is the Way, the Truth, and the Life (**St. John 14:6**), the Holy Spirit leads God’s people in the fullness of the truth that is



## *On Epiphany*

Jesus and inspires their hope in His future appearing, or epiphany, at His second coming. Meeting the Lord Jesus Christ in spirit through the Holy Spirit entails coming to know the truth of who Jesus is and what power He can exercise in and through us to defeat sin and thus bring every one of us to complete deliverance from evil.

In his book *The Road Less Traveled*, the psychiatrist M. Scott Peck observed that people need to live their lives in total dedication to the truth rather than directing their minds using their own outdated and incomplete maps of reality. To achieve this total dedication to the truth, one needs to examine oneself continuously and stringently. I would add that one needs to do so, though, under the guidance of the Holy Spirit, who

leads us in all truth, including the full truth about ourselves. The Holy Spirit also reassures us of the love of God and comforts all who genuinely seek to draw near to God. The Holy Spirit will expose all false maps of reality in our lives, all sinful attitudes and habits of thought, and, as we yield ourselves to Him, will guide us in rectifying our thoughts, words, and deeds so that we learn to discern and do the perfect will of God in every area of our lives. All this happens day by day, as we listen more and more to the Holy Spirit and remain steadfast both in our faith in the Lord Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of sins and in our hope of His glorious appearing when He comes again.

— The Reverend Chris Parrish

## *The Pleasure of Your Company is Requested at Our Annual Parish Meeting*

**A** very important day in the life of our Chapel Family is coming: Sunday, February 22nd, St. Luke's Chapel in the Hills will have its 2026 Annual Parish Meeting. Please do all you can to attend this once-yearly meeting in person: Although only parish members may cast votes, the meeting is open to all. (If you are unsure of your membership status, please speak to Father Parrish by February 21st.) Light refreshments will be served.

### *What*

Annual Parish Meeting

### *When*

Sunday, February 22, 2026  
immediately following the 10:00 AM  
worship service

### *Where*

McNeely Hall

### *Agenda Items*

Review of 2025 Annual Meeting  
minutes  
Rector's Report  
Treasurer's Report  
Review of Proposed 2026 Budget  
Ministerial Reports  
Election of Vestry Members



## Vestry Matters

# D

ear fellow Parishioners,

Happy New Year and welcome to the latest edition of your Vestry Matters. I hope your Christmas season was happy and healthy and we look forward to seeing you at our services in 2026.

### Summary of October 12, 2025, Vestry Meeting

Those in attendance: Jana Baldwin, Brandy Falcon, Elodia Fernandez (Zoom), Julia McNeely, Bridgitte Parrish, Father Chris Parrish, Clark Pateson, and Ben Taaffe.

### Treasurer's Report (Elodia Fernandez)

- AT&T has now started making direct deposits for their cell tower payments
- Cash In:
  - \* Income for Missions in September amounted to \$130, consisting of \$30 for Family Giving Tree, \$50 for American Red Cross, and \$50 for City Team Ministries.
  - \* Total Cash In for September was \$2,741.88.
- Cash Out:
  - \* The estimated Federal Tax installment of \$4,500 was paid in September. The State did not require payment at this time. The Federal Tax payment caused expenses to be higher than usual in September.
  - \* Total Cash Out for September was \$9,229.09.
- Net Operating Income:
  - \* The Net Operating Income for September was -\$6,487.21.
  - \* The Net Operating Income this year so far was -\$3,744.00.



- Account Balance Record, Investment Account Graph, and Schwab Account Summary: Elodia reported that the Schwab Account Summary, end of day, Friday, October 10th, reflected a Total Accounts Value of \$342,014.03, less than the corresponding figure of \$349,079.81 at the end of September.

### Junior Warden's Report (Clark Pateson)

- The roof gutters were cleaned and gutter guards installed in September.
- T-Mobile had come with five men to the Chapel on October 8th to inspect the church's building framing in the attic, in order to determine if the structure would support a larger steeple. They plan to increase the number of antennas they have on our campus, which will require more space than is available. They will let us know in the next month or two about the feasibility of remodeling the steeple to a larger one.
- Brandy Falcon would like to plant some deer-resistant plants (rhododendrons) near the stairway from the office to McNeely Hall. This is in the un-planted area below the lawn and the fountain. Clark suggested that existing irrigation should be used to water these plants.

### Altar Guild Report (Elodia Fernandez)

- Elodia reported that she would send out instructions for the holidays. Gluten-free wafers were being consecrated at every service of Holy Communion. Extra consecrated wafers were being kept in a pyx in the tabernacle. When the pyx was full, Father Parrish will let Elodia know so that additional gluten-free wa-

# Vestry Matters

fers would not need to be put in the host box on the credence table

## Rector's Report (Father Parrish)

- Deaconess Training: Father Alan Andreas and his wife, Sue, Directors of the Trinity Hall School of Ministry in Maine, were developing a program to train deaconesses in our Diocese. Bishop Fitzwater's letter and Father Andreas's outline of the preparation and ministry of a deaconess accompanied this report.
- Bishop Fitzwater has mandated background investigations for all Diocesan clergy. This is a requirement of the ACNA, and these checks will be done every five years. Our Parish was billed for the cost of these background checks for Father Parrish and Deacon Vogel, and our payment has been mailed to the Diocese.

## Old Business

- Outreach:
  - \* Julia McNeely will contact hotels on El Camino Real to put flyers in their lobbies.
  - \* Julia and Brandy will discuss outreach to Foothill College.
  - \* Brandy is willing to put up flyers on noticeboards.
  - \* The Vestry is constantly looking for new ideas to help grow our church. If anybody reading this has any other ideas or would like to help in this very important mission, please contact Father Parrish or any Vestry member. Even better, join us at an upcoming meeting to offer your ideas and suggestions in person. The more help and input we can get, the better. Thank you in advance.



- Social media presence: Brandy reported that she had completed posts on the Great Commission and was using material from our newsletters on the church website to supplement her social media posts on Facebook and NextDoor.

## New Business

- Farewell Gift for Father Penfield: After a brief discussion, the Vestry unanimously resolved to purchase a wine carafe with aerator and a bottle of Californian wine for Father Penfield's farewell gifts. The motion was proposed by Clark Patteson and seconded by Brandy Falcon. Clark said he would purchase the wine.
  - Weed abatement: \$500 for weed abatement on the lower part of the Chapel property was approved.

• • •

Thank you for your time in reading this article. Please remember, this is **your** Vestry and this is **your** Parish, and, whether you're able to attend church services regularly or not, your input on any matter concerning the Church, its operation and its overall Mission and Purpose

is essential and welcome. If there's anything you feel needs to be addressed in future meetings or even in between meetings or if you have any questions or concerns, please do reach out and contact Father Parrish and/or any member of the Vestry. We'll be sure to address whatever you feel needs our attention as soon as practically possible.

## Donations

If you're unable to join us in person but would like to make an offering to our Lord, please visit our website at

<https://StLukesChapel.org>

and click on the DONATE button. Thank you in advance for helping keep this beautiful sanctuary we call our spir-

## *Vestry Matters*

itual home alive. All offerings are tax-deductible and are gratefully received.

We look forward to seeing you at a future service and/or meeting and I'll be back with you next month. Vestry meetings are usually held on the second Sunday of every month following the service, except for December, when no meeting is held, and February, when a short procedural meeting is held following the Annual Meeting.

I'd like to personally thank the Vestry members for all their continued hard

work behind the scenes to keep our church functioning and available to all for all their spiritual needs. This is a vital, if unglamorous, ministry and we invite all interested parties to consider serving, so please contact me or Father Parrish if at all interested. Interest does not imply obligation, and we will provide any information needed to allow prospective candidates to make a full and complete evaluation of the duties and possible time commitment involved prior to making any formal commitment.

— Ray Boreham, Senior Warden



**There's a place for you  
at our meetings!**

## A. S. K.

### H

ave you ever thought about what it means to “ask, seek, knock”?

Ask, and it will be given to you; seek, and you will find; knock, and it will be opened to you. For everyone who asks receives, and he who seeks finds, and to him who knocks it will be opened.

*St. Matthew 7:7-8*

So I say to you, ask, and it will be given to you; seek, and you will find; knock, and it will be opened to you. For everyone who asks receives, and he who seeks finds, and to him who knocks it will be opened.

*St. Luke 11:9-10*

It is vitally important to ask persistently. Don’t just ask once or twice but consistently and or without ceasing. Prayer is something that we as Christians do. It is as important as breathing. Petitionary prayer is our way of asking God for what we need.

Praying and doing it often keeps God center and primary in our lives. When our thoughts turn to worry, fear, discouragement, and anger, we are to consciously and quickly turn every thought into prayer and every prayer into thanksgiving. In his letter to the Philippians, St. Paul commands us to stop being distracted by worries and instead “be anxious for nothing, but in everything by prayer and supplication, with thanksgiving, let your requests be made known to God” (*Philippians 4:6*).

Petitionary prayer makes a request. God is very willing to answer our requests. There is not a specific prayer for making every specific request, but there is a process. It is important that the request should come from the heart and with sincerity. God listens and pays attention to everything. If you are persistent in your prayers, you are seeking God. Keep praying, because this invig-

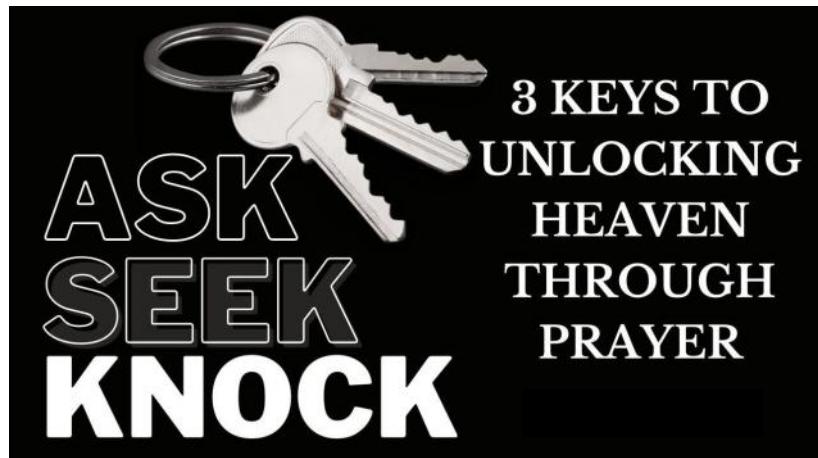
orates your relationship with the Lord. Even if you have doubts or questions about your faith, it is important to keep striving for truth. You will find it in Christ. When you find Christ, just knock, the door will be opened to you.

**Ask:** Be persistent in your prayers, knowing that God always hears you.

**Seek:** Continuously strive to learn all the truth in the Lord Jesus Christ.

**Knock:** Keep pursuing God, and He will open the door for you.

– *Julia McNeely*



## *Our Chapel Family Prayer List*

***This prayer list  
was current  
as of  
December 28th,  
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 Steve Wood, our Primate;

Archbishop Samy  
of the Diocese of Egypt;

Bishop Julian Dobbs,  
our Provincial Dean;

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 governing our nation and state, particularly:

President Donald Trump; 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;

Jim and Edna Davis;

Debbie;  
Scott;  
Brittany;  
Tanya Theiler;  
Mark Quinn;  
Lisa;  
Ben;  
Marion;  
Flo;  
Max;

the Pack, Stanko, and Bouchard families;

Dan Hubbard;  
Yoshihiko Ikegami;

Mary Frances Reeves;

Mrs. Kitt;

Jon Carter;

Rose Handwerker;

Ann and Frank MacVoy;

Bishop Ilgenfritz;

Moe Martinez;

Victoria Grace;

Christina;

John and Heidi Donnelly;

Carl;

Judith Boreham;

Heather;

Susan;

the family of the late Patrick Slattery;

Julie Sine;

James Kitchin;

Molly Ferguson;

Bridgitte Parrish;

John Bainbridge;

Alan;

Mark Askew;

and Jodi Schaeffer;

## *Our Chapel Family Prayer List*

also for the repose of the soul  
of Rosalia Ortiz  
and the comfort of those who love her;  
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 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; in-

crease 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 Diocese of the West will host a Virtual Synod via Zoom on Saturday, January 24th, at 10 a.m. The Synod will vote on proposed changes to the Diocesan Constitution and Canons regarding the elimination of the word *Missionary* from the diocesan name; ending the convocational governing system; ending the office of Vicar-General; and the training, appointment, and duties of lower orders such as deaconesses. St. Luke's delegates are Father Parrish, Julia McNeely, and Kim Vogel. Please pray that the Synod will faithfully adhere to the guidance of the Holy Spirit in all they think, say, and do.



St. Luke's Chapel in the Hills will have its Annual Parish Meeting on Sunday, February 22nd, immediately following the worship service for the First Sunday in Lent. Everyone is invited and strongly encouraged to attend. We must have a quorum of voting members in order to conduct the business of the meeting, so please mark your calendar and plan to attend. You'll be glad you did! (Please speak to Father Parrish if you are uncertain of your membership status.)



Please note that the 2026 Altar Flowers Chart is hanging in the Narthex. If you would like to offer flowers to adorn the Altar and glorify God at an upcoming worship service, please write your name on the date of your choice. The Altar Guild asks for \$35 to cover the cost of two bouquets; please enclose your gift an Altar Flower offertory envelope. Finally, please remember to send Kim Vogel the wording of your offertory intentions the week before the service you have chosen, Thank you!



One of the most popular parts of this newsletter is "Voices of St. Luke's", a column featuring a question which each parishioner is invited to answer and share. Here's how you can help:

1. Think about something you would like to know about the members of your Chapel Family, then send your question to Kim Vogel. Thank you!
2. When you receive a "Voices of St. Luke's" question in your e-mail, send your answer to Kim as soon as you can.. Thank you again!



## *Upcoming Events*

### **Saturday, January 3rd**

*Vestry Retreat*  
11:00 AM

### **Sunday, January 4th**

The Second Sunday after Christmas Day

*Joanna's Prayer Circle Meeting*  
9:15 AM

*Holy Communion with Holy Unction*  
10:00 AM

### **Saturday, January 10th**

*Work Party to take down decorations*  
11:00 AM

### **Sunday, January 11th**

The First Sunday after the Epiphany

*Joanna's Prayer Circle Meeting*  
9:15 AM

*Office of Morning Prayer*  
10:00 AM

### **Sunday, January 18th**

The Second Sunday after the Epiphany

*Joanna's Prayer Circle Meeting*  
9:15 AM

*Holy Communion*  
10:00 AM

### **Sunday, January 25th**

The Festival of the Conversion of St. Paul the Apostle  
The Third Sunday after the Epiphany

*Joanna's Prayer Circle Meeting*  
9:15 AM

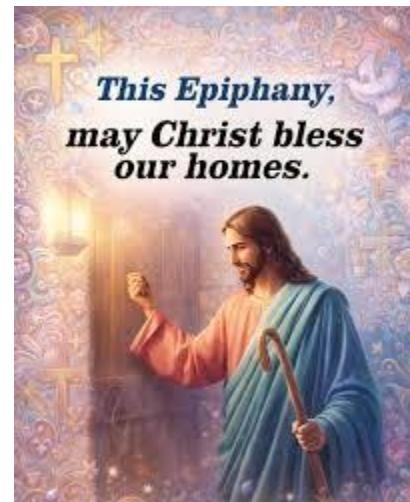
*Holy Communion*  
10:00 AM

### **Sunday, February 1st**

Septuagesima

*Joanna's Prayer Circle Meeting*  
9:15 AM

*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  
DIOCESE OF ALL SAINTS IN  
THE ANGLICAN CHURCH  
IN NORTH AMERICA

26140 Duval Way  
Los Altos Hills, California  
94022-4413  
Office phone:  
650-941-6524  
Father Parrish's cellular:  
669-946-2645  
e-mail:  
ChristopherParrish7@gmail.com  
Deacon Vogel's cellular:  
408-569-7067  
e-mail: vogel.peter@gmail.com  
Website:  
[www.StLukesChapel.org](http://www.StLukesChapel.org)

## «AddressBlock»

*“A place  
where the Bible is taught.”*



*Biblical in teaching.  
Liturgical in worship.  
Loving in practice.*

## *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!

### **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.