



The Hillside Messenger

A Message from the Rector: Lent as a Season for New Beginnings

Lent is a season for new beginnings. What do I mean by this? The word *Lent* is derived from the Old English word *lencten*, which means “the season of spring in which the days start lengthening”. We know that Lent is a forty-day period of fasting or abstinence and prayer, but how can this be a spiritual season of spring for us, a season of new beginnings? The prayer, abstinence, fasting, and other spiritual disciplines that we use in Lent must all function to bring us nearer to God and our lives into a close alignment with God’s will.

We do this so that we may fully embody in our lives the spiritual commitment made in the Sacrament of Baptism, when by repentance from sin and by placing our faith in the Lord Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of sins, we renounced the world, the flesh, and the Devil, and promised to follow Jesus Christ as Lord. The Holy Spirit gave us new birth, and God the Father adopted us as His children. Therefore St. Paul writes, “Therefore if any man be in Christ, he is a new creature: old things are passed away; behold, all things are become new” (*II Corinthians* 5:17, KJV).

The statement that, for the Christian, “all things are become new,” is far-

reaching, extending to all our behavior, all our speaking, and all our thinking, including our attitudes and habits of thought. No longer must we be weighed down by earthly trials, by seemingly endless opposition from Satan, by a sense of hopelessness, by frustrations, anxieties, and even by the materialistic culture surrounding us. We have a new faith in the Lord Jesus Christ, and the Holy Spirit is renewing us daily, as St. Paul reminds us: “But if the Spirit of Him that raised up Jesus from the dead dwell in you, He that raised up Christ

from the dead shall also quicken your mortal bodies by His Spirit that dwelleth in you” (*Romans* 8:11, KJV). This means not only that God will one day raise Christians from the dead at the first

resurrection (*Revelation* 20:5-6), but that He is at work by His Holy Spirit even now in our bodies to bring new life to us. This new life of the Holy Spirit we share in through our union with Christ in Holy Baptism, through our faith in the Lord Jesus Christ, and by our unfolding daily life of prayer. In this daily relationship with God, which is like a budding flower in that it unfolds and grows to full bloom, yet never fades, never withers, and never falls; St. Paul connects our daily renewal as Christians with the



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kind of prayer in which we look upon God's glory as if in a mirror through our communion with Him: "But we all, with open face beholding as in a glass the glory of the Lord, are changed into the same image from glory to glory, even as by the Spirit of the Lord" (*II Corinthians 3:18*, KJV). The Spirit's work of sanctifying us continues throughout our lives as He conforms us more and more to the image, the character and nature, of Christ our Lord.

If Lent is to be a season of new beginnings for us, how do we realize the fullness of all that God is doing in us? I suggest that there are four ways to allow this Lent to be a season of new beginnings: sincere repentance from sin; greater obedience to God's will; stronger faith; and a deeper, ever-growing prayer life.

During Lent, we engage in the examination of our conscience more thoroughly to see, with the help of the Holy Spirit, all those corners in our lives where some form of sin may still be holding out, and we confess that sin to God and sincerely repent of it. We have this assurance from the Lord, speaking through St. John: "If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins, and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness" (*I St. John 1:9*, KJV). Whenever we confess our sins to God, God in His love and grace responds by forgiving us and cleansing us from all unrighteousness. The key to being cleansed from all sin is to repent of it and confess it to God. As we do this day by day, God continually delivers us from all sin. We encounter this promise from God: "But if we walk in the light, as He is in the light, we have fellowship one with another, and the blood of Jesus Christ His Son cleanseth us from all sin" (*I St. John 1:7*, KJV). If we turn from sin daily, obey God by doing what is right, and continue believing in the Lord Jesus Christ, two results follow. The first is that we have fellowship with one another, that is, the communion and depth of love for one another as Christians that only God can give through the

relationship of each and all to Him. The second is that the blood of Jesus Christ purifies us from all sin. Through deliberate, daily repentance from sin and obedience to God's will, we find that the blood of Jesus Christ is at work in us continually to cleanse and set us free from all sin.

Together with this repentance goes a firmer, stronger life of obedience to God's will. If we are to obey God fully, we will need to exercise greater faith, just as St. Peter was called to exercise deeper faith by walking on the stormy sea (*St. Matthew 14:25-33*). Developing a strong faith in the Lord Jesus Christ that can weather every stormy trial of life, as well as the opposition and persecutions that come against Christians, will enable us to be instruments of the Spirit of God in edifying the faith of our fellow Christians and building them up so that they can stand fast in their trials and edify more Christians still. This is the kind of faith that sees beyond the vicissitudes of this present life, beyond the false promises of political parties, beyond our failings, past the obstacles and hurdles that we face. It is the faith in which we keep our spiritual gaze fixed on the Lord Jesus Christ from start to finish of the great race of Christian witness that we all must run:

Wherefore seeing we also are compassed about with so great a cloud of witnesses, let us lay aside every weight, and the sin which doth so easily beset us, and let us run with patience the race that is set before us, looking unto Jesus the author and finisher of our faith; who for the joy that was set before Him endured the cross, despising the shame, and is set down at the right hand of the throne of God.

Hebrews 12:1-2, KJV

"Looking unto Jesus" is key to a new beginning in Lent. There are many burdens and many besetting sins which threaten our success in the race that the Lord Jesus Christ has set before us. "Looking unto Jesus" relates also to an



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ever-growing prayer life. As we become more firmly rooted in prayer this Lent, we already have a new beginning! When praying, we must remember the priorities of prayer as found in the Lord's Prayer. The prayer opens "Our Father which art in heaven, hallowed be Thy Name" (*St. Matthew 6:9b*, KJV). This clearly illustrates that our first priority in prayer is expressing our love for God in praise and worship. Then we pray for God's kingdom to come on earth and His will to be done on earth as perfectly as it is in heaven (*St. Matthew 6:10*). Only after this do we begin to pray for our own needs. In this way, beginning with correct priorities in prayer, we align ourselves more fully with God's will. Furthermore, as we listen to God more, and spend more time listening to Him as He speaks both through His written word and in messages (that is, through His spoken word), we shall experience an ever deepening, Spirit-filled life. The Spirit-filled life results from obedience to God and faith in Him, as well as from praising Him, giving thanks to Him, and abiding in Him.

Of course, it does not seem logical at times to praise and thank God when we are going through difficult trials, but even the Psalmist writes at the end of *Psalm 43*:

Why art thou cast down, O my soul? And why art thou disquieted within me? Hope in God: for I shall yet praise Him, who is the health of my countenance, and my God.

Psalm 43:5,
KJV

In asking the question "Why art thou cast down, O my soul?" the Psalmist cannot necessarily discern why he feels depressed or cast down, but he tells himself to hope in God and declares his intention to praise God. Another verse in *Psalms* speaks of the necessity of praising God for His deliverance from life-threatening situations:

Oh, that men would praise the LORD for His goodness, and for

His wonderful works to the children of men!

Psalm 107:8, KJV

This verse follows God's leading of His people to a land of provisions after they cried out to Him in the distress of hunger and thirst (*Psalm 107:1-7*).

In the fifth chapter of his *Epistle to the Ephesians*, St. Paul gives us instruction on how to be filled with the Holy Spirit perpetually:

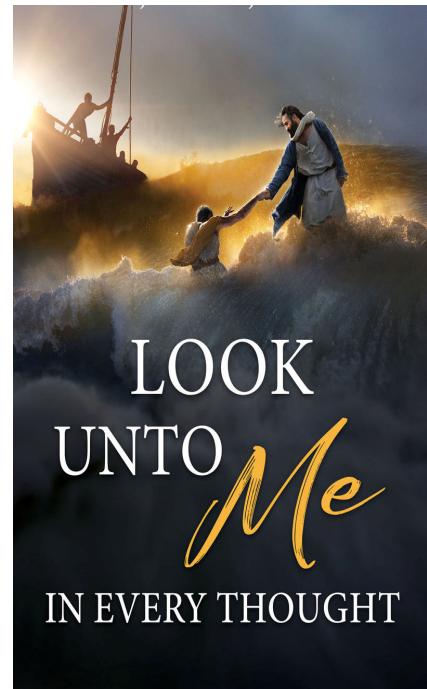
And be not drunk with wine, wherein is excess; but be filled with the Spirit; speaking to yourselves in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing and making melody in your heart to the Lord; giving thanks always for all things unto God and the Father in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ.

Ephesians 5:18-20, KJV

Continual praise and thanksgiving to God will definitely bring about a new beginning this Lent, but do not neglect to combine them with a rich and varied life of prayer, including confession, petition, and intercession for others; meditation on God's word; waiting on God in silent expectation; obedience to the Lord's commands; loving God wholeheartedly; and loving your neighbor as yourself.

I leave you with this blessing from the *First Epistle of St. Clement to the Corinthians* (St. Clement was one of the Apostolic Fathers):

And finally, may the God who observes all things, the Master of spirits and Lord of all flesh, who chose both the Lord Jesus Christ and us through Him to be His special people—may He grant to every soul that is called by His magnificent and holy name faith, reverential awe, peace, endurance, and patience, self-restraint, purity, and moderation, that they may be found pleasing to His name through our high priest and benefactor,



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Jesus Christ. Through whom to Him be glory and greatness, power and honor, both now and evermore. Amen.

1 Clement 64: pp. 150-151,
Bart D. Ehrman, ed and transl.:
The Apostolic Fathers,
Volume I. Cambridge, MA:
Harvard University Press,
Loeb Classical Library, 2003

— The Reverend Chris Parrish

Please Join Us!



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 and every voice will be heard. (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

Dear fellow Parishioners,

Welcome to the latest edition of Vestry Matters. I hope this finds you well and enjoying a happy and blessed New Year so far. We look forward to seeing you at our services in 2026.

Summary of November 9, 2025, Vestry Meeting

Those in attendance: Mark Benjamin, Ray Boreham (Zoom), Brandy Fal-

con, Elodia Fernandez (Zoom), Julia McNeely, Bridgitte Parrish, and Father Chris Parrish.

Treasurer's Report (Elodia Fernandez)

- ..# AT&T is now making direct deposits for their cell tower rental payments.
- ..# Cash In: Total Cash In for October was almost \$13,000.
- ..# Cash Out: Total Cash Out for October was \$6,948.84.
- # Copier costs were higher than budgeted for the year.

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- # Organist, Advertising, and Repair and Maintenance expenses were well below budget.
- ..# Net Operating Income:
 - # The Net Operating Income for October was just over \$6,000.
 - # The Net Operating Income this year so far was about \$2,260.
- ..# Investment Account: The year-to-date change in the investment account was approximately \$46,526. The numbers for the Account Balance Record and the Schwab Account Summary were unavailable and therefore were not reported.

Altar Guild Report (Elodia Fernandez)

- ..# The fair linen has been replaced.

Senior Warden's Report (Ray Boreham)

- ..# It was proposed that an appeal be made to the congregation to donate more groceries to the Emergency Food Pantry since SNAP funding had been cut. This appeal would be included in the service bulletin going forward.

Rector's Report (Father Parrish)

- ..# Service Attendance: ASA at the end of October was 18.
- ..# The church website domain (www.stlukeschapel.org) had expired. Ray Boreham had sent Father Parrish and Deacon Vogel an email about this on November 3rd. Father Parrish had subsequently sent a follow-up text and an email to Deacon Vogel.
- ..# Archbishop's Summer Theological Essay Contest: Father Parrish had been informed that he had won first place in the Deacon/Priest section of this essay contest. He will receive a prize and a trophy, and his essay will be published on the Anglican House Publishers website.



Old Business:

- ..# Joanna's Prayer Circle: Julia McNeely reported that she had received no prayer requests from the congregation.
- ..# Outreach:
 - # Julia McNeely had flyers for local hotels and asked for help to distribute them. Mark Benjamin, Ray Boreham, and Brandy Falcon volunteered.
 - # Julia and Brandy were working on outreach to Foothill College students.
 - # More parishioners need to be involved in outreach.
 - # 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.

- ..# More potluck lunches should be held to encourage more fellowship.
- ..# Social media presence: Brandy Falcon suggested that the church's Facebook account be updated to reflect that we are part of the ACNA.
- ..# Vestry Retreat: Julia mentioned that the reservation deadline for the Vestry Retreat on January 3rd was December 19th. She would be working with Father Parrish on the schedule for the retreat. She hoped a result of the retreat would be having a Revive program at St. Luke's in January or February.

New Business

- ..# \$300 was approved for two advertisements of St. Luke's Chapel holiday services in the "Los Altos Town

Vestry Matters

Crier" on December 10th and 17th.

...# Brandy Falcon reported on her research to find information on Turning Point USA. The theme is "Saving the Republic by Saving the Church." She reported that the only member church in California that is Calvary Church San Jose. The next step for the Chapel to be involved would be to fill out a contact form, then a regional representative would contact us. There was some discussion about the advisability of being aligned with Turning Point USA, and Mark Benjamin pointed out that as an Anglican church we diverge significantly from the organization's Evangelical background.

...# Other Suggestions:

- # Julia McNeely wants to explore a joint service with the local Jewish synagogue, and also reach out to other Anglican churches.
- # Brandy Falcon mentioned that we should explore social issues.
- # Ray Boreham suggested that St. Luke's start an online group to put forward a centrally doctrinal view of our Anglican Christian faith.
- # Ray Boreham thanked Julia McNeely for organizing the upcoming Vestry Retreat.

...

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 spiritual 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

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 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;

Marian;

Flo;

Max;

the Pack, Stanko, and Bouchard families;

Dan Hubbard;

Yoshihiko Ikegami;

Mary Frances Reeves;

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;

Susan;

the family of the late Patrick Slattery;

Julie Sine;

James Kitchin;

Molly Ferguson;

Bridgitte Parrish;

Kim Vogel;

John Bainbridge;

Alan;

Mark Askew;

Rosalia Ortiz's extended family;

Jodi Schaeffer;

Deacon Steve Morrison;

This prayer list was current as of January 23rd, 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!

Our Chapel Family Prayer List

and Father Darrell Driver;
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

God 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 King-
dom 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.



1 thessalonians 5:16-18

A Prayer for Our Congregation

OGOD, 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 short service for the Thanksgiving of Women after Child-birth (please see page 305 in the *Book of Common Prayer*) will be held for Rachel Jebaraj during our service of Holy Communion on Sunday, February 1st. Please join us as we thank God for Rachel's safe delivery of Boniface.



St. Luke's Chapel in the Hills will host its annual Pancake Brunch on Sunday, February 15th, after Holy Communion. Please email Bridgitte at

BCSParrish@gmail.com

to let her know what item(s) you will be contributing and whether or not you are willing to cook. Thank you!



Lent begins on Ash Wednesday, February 18th. Our Chapel Family will mark

the day with the celebration of Holy Communion with Penitential Office and Imposition of Ashes at 7:00 PM.



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.)



The Spring Ember Days are set aside for spiritual reflection, prayer for more vo-

Parish Postings

cations to the ordained ministry, and intercession for ordained ministers. The Spring Ember Days for 2026 are Wednesday, February 25th; Friday, February 27th; and Saturday, February 28th.

O ALMIGHTY God, who hast committed to the hands of men the ministry of reconciliation; We humbly beseech Thee, by the inspiration of Thy Holy Spirit, to put it into the hearts of many to offer themselves for this ministry; that thereby mankind may be drawn to Thy blessed kingdom; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.



The Vestry has selected Second Harvest as our first-quarter Community Mission Project. Please write SH on your check memo line or offertory envelope when making a donation to this project. Thank you!



Emergency food donations are critically needed due to funding cuts to the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program. Please add some non-perishable food items to your weekly grocery cart to help feed the hungry. If you need a list of most-wanted foods, please ask Kim

Vogel to send you one. Thank you, and God bless you!



Sacramental confession (private confession to a priest) is available for all who desire it by appointment with Father Parrish.



If you wish to receive the Sacrament of Confirmation at Bishop Fitzwater's next pastoral visit, please let Father Parrish know right away so that he may ensure you are properly catechized. Thank you!



Upcoming Events

Sunday, February 1st
Septuagesima

Joanna's Prayer Circle Meeting
9:15 AM

Holy Communion with Holy Unction
10:00 AM

Sunday, February 8th
Sexagesima

Joanna's Prayer Circle Meeting
9:15 AM

Office of Morning Prayer
10:00 AM

Sunday, February 15th
Quinquagesima

Joanna's Prayer Circle Meeting
9:15 AM

Holy Communion
10:00 AM

Annual Pancake Brunch
following the worship service

Wednesday, February 18th
Ash Wednesday

Holy Communion
with *Penitential Office and Imposition of Ashes*
7:00 PM

Sunday, February 22nd
The First Sunday in Lent

Joanna's Prayer Circle Meeting
9:15 AM

Office of Morning Prayer
10:00 AM

Annual Parish Meeting
following the worship service

Wednesday, February 25th

Friday, February 27th

Saturday, February 28th
Ember Days

Sunday, March 1st
The Second Sunday in Lent

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
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THE ANGLICAN CHURCH
IN NORTH AMERICA

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«AddressBlock»

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



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

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.