

## Lay up for yourselves treasure in heaven.

### St. Matthew 6. 20

Dear friends,

This Lent, the Lord Jesus invites us to put up treasure in heaven. To do that, we must love what He loves. That's not easy amidst all the distractions of the world. So, to help us learn what is in His heart, God has given us His Word, written in the Bible. As we read it, we will discover a new Way of living and the life of prayer.

The Source and Inspiration of this new and heavenly Life is the Lord Jesus Himself. By His Spirit Who dwells in us, He invites us to walk by faith – to trust in Him, not in ourselves. By faith, we begin to see the Lord's Hand at work, bringing Grace and Truth and Hope to our broken world.

But, of course, the devil sends a million distractions and temptations each day to distract and discourage us. He is always trying to make us doubt God's Love and Power. He wants to disrupt the laying up of heavenly treasure. So we must be wary and diligent. We must apply our will; we must *want* to follow Jesus, and then we must *do* it. Thankfully, the Lord is always with us to help us. He yearns to have a closer relationship with each one of us.

On the other side of this letter, you will find some details on spiritual activities which could provide help in laying up heavenly treasure. If you have any questions about them, please don't hesitate to call me.

Finally, the first day of Lent is known as Ash Wednesday. The Prayer Book offers what is called 'The Penitential Rite' as a way of beginning the Season. You can find it on page 611. In the Service this Wednesday evening (7:00 pm), there will be an opportunity for you to come forward and receive ashes (in the form of a cross) on your forehead. This follows an ancient, Biblical sign of repentance – of turning around – turning away from myself and turning toward God. It marks a new beginning. No one must receive the ashes, but they will be offered.

This Lent, may the Lord help us to grow in our love for Him so that we might lay up treasure in Heaven.

Yours in Christ Jesus our Saviour,

Chris VanBuskirk +



## **Draw near to God and He will draw near to you.**

### **St. James 4.7**

- 1. The Holy Communion** on Sunday mornings and holy days during the week, as designated in the Sunday bulletin.
- 2. A daily schedule of Bible Readings** – find it in the Sunday bulletin or on the parish website. Search 'The Anglican Parish of Stanley' in your browser and click on the 'bulletins' tab.
- 3. The Stanely Ecumenical Services for Lent**  
Mondays in March from 11:30 am to 12:15 pm with a reception to follow.  
**March 2<sup>nd</sup>** – St. Peter's Presbyterian Church (Preacher: Fr. Maria Ariokam)  
**March 9<sup>th</sup>** – St. Patrick's Roman Catholic Church  
(Preacher: Archbishop David Edwards)  
**March 16<sup>th</sup>** – Hillcrest United Church (Preacher: The Rev. Chris VanBuskirk)  
**March 23<sup>rd</sup>** – St. Thomas' Anglican Church (Preacher: The Rev. Chris Walker)
- 4. Stations of the Cross:** s devotion on Jesus' final day, on Fridays from 12 Noon to 12:30 pm, beginning February 27th – in person at the Rectory or by ZOOM. Please let me if you would like to receive the ZOOM link.
- 5. Tnoonies for Jamaica:** we are taking up an offering for the Anglican Church in Jamaica as it recovers from Hurricane Melissa. Paper plates with spots for tnoonies are available at the church; but offerings for Jamaica in any form or amount will be much appreciated on Easter Sunday.
- 6. Fasting:** notes on fasting as a spiritual discipline will follow in the bulletin.

the Church and the gift of Christian fellowship; and the life of prayer. He makes Himself known to us in these ways and through

The sun has some power behind it, and the days are getting longer. That's the literal meaning of the word 'Lent' – "the lengthening of days". Spiritually, it is a time for Christians to prepare for Easter. But the Easter celebration comes after the observance of Good Friday. As it has been said, there can be no resurrection without death. So, for centuries, the Church has called