

# SAINT LUKE CHURCH



## SAINT LUKE CHURCH

A warm welcome to all who gather in the name of Christ this morning. If you are looking for a church home, we hope you will consider Saint Luke Church.

Out of an abundance of caution everyone is required to wear a mask in the church and during the service.

There will be no singing by the congregation and responses and prayers should be spoken quietly.

Sharing of the Peace will be done in place and without contact. A nod toward the neighbor, a bow of the head, a wave or other signs of mutual spiritual respect can be used.

Following the service coffee will be served in the church lobby. You are cordially invited to attend.

*Free parking* is available in the parking garage behind the church. Enter from Melrose St. (one block north of Belmont).

If there is anything else we can do to assist your worship experience, please let the ushers know.



SAINT LUKE CHURCH

Sunday, December 26, 2021

First Sunday of Christmas

PRAYER CONNECTION AND REFLECTION

*Time to reflect and pray individually as you prepare for worship*

THE PRAYER FOR THE DAY

Shine into our hearts the light of your wisdom, O God, and open our minds to the knowledge of your word, that in all things we may think and act according to your good will and may live continually in the light of your Son, Jesus Christ, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen

REMEMBER THOSE WHO ARE ILL

O God, the strength of the weak and the comfort of sufferers: Mercifully hear our prayers and grant to your servants

<i>Scott Jurkas</i>	<i>Abigail Zhang</i>	<i>Patricia Grunde</i>	<i>Janet Hagberg</i>	<i>Eva Scheffler</i>
<i>Christian Long</i>	<i>Ruth Walp</i>	<i>Manny Mendoza</i>	<i>Judith Hoyer</i>	<i>Ruby Strohmayer</i>
<i>Rosemarie Morgen</i>	<i>Calvin Clements</i>	<i>Laurie Strohmayer</i>	<i>Dan Horton</i>	<i>Tammy Crisman</i>
<i>Tyler Hennigan</i>	<i>Mark Van Scharrel</i>	<i>Hayden Berthelot</i>	<i>Alex Rose</i>	<i>Donna Jitchotvisut</i>
<i>Logan Berdacker</i>	<i>Debbie Clark</i>	<i>Mariam Usmani</i>	<i>Anna Gutweter</i>	<i>William Jones, Jr.</i>
<i>Ray Planekowski</i>	<i>Rachel Bouman</i>	<i>William Liedholm</i>	<i>Charles Aufdenkampe</i>	

the help of your power, that illness may be turned into health and our sorrow into joy; through Jesus Christ. Amen

FOR TRUE CHRISTMAS JOY

O Child of Bethlehem, grant that we may share with all our hearts in the profound mystery of Christmas. Put into our hearts this peace which we seek so fervently and which you alone can give. Help us to know one another better and to live as brothers and sisters. Awaken in our hearts love and gratitude for your infinite goodness and join us all together in your love. Amen.

REMEMBER THOSE SERVING IN THE ARMED FORCES

Almighty God, we commit to your gracious care and keeping all the men and women of our armed forces at home and abroad:

*Nicholas Bakulinski* *Jeremy Strohmayer* *Dan McCarthy* *Lucas Kratz* *Preston Larson*

Defend them day by day with your heavenly grace and grant them a sense of your abiding presence wherever they may be; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

PRAYER FOR PEACE

Almighty God, all thoughts of truth and peace come from you. Kindle in the hearts of all your children the love of peace, and guide with your wisdom the leaders of the nations, so that your kingdom will go forth in peace and the earth will be filled with the knowledge of your love, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

# LESSONS AND CAROLS FOR CHRISTMAS

FIRST SUNDAY OF CHRISTMAS

9:30 AM

GATHERING \_\_\_\_\_

*Sit* Prelude: "Pastorale"

J S Bach

Welcome

*Stand* Entrance Hymn

Once in Royal David's City

Once in royal David's city stood a lowly cattle shed,  
where a mother laid her baby in a manger for is bed:  
Mary was that mother mild, Jesus Christ, her little child.

He came down to earth from heaven who is God and Lord of all,  
and his shelter was a stable, and his cradle was a stall;  
with the poor and meek and lowly, lived on earth our Savior holy.

Not in that poor lowly stable, with the oxen standing by,  
we shall see him; but in heaven, set at God's right hand on high;  
there his children gather round, bright like stars, with glory crowned.

Dialogue

The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light.

**The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it.**

Those who dwelt in the land of deep darkness, on them light has shined.

**We have beheld Christ's glory, glory as of the only Son from the Father.**

To us a child is born, to us a Son is given.

**In the Word was life, and the life was the light of all people.**

Opening Prayer

Almighty God, you have filled us with the new light of the Word who became flesh and lived among us. Let the light of our faith shine in all we do through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

LITURGY OF THE WORD *and* Festival of Christmas Hymns \_\_\_\_\_

*Sit* First Reading: Isaiah 9:2-7

*God promises a king*

Hymn

Lo, How a Rose E'er Blooming

Lo, how a rose e'er blooming from tender stem hath sprung!  
Of Jesse's lineage coming as seers of old have sung,  
it came, a flow'r so bright,  
amid the cold of winter, when half spent was the night.

O Savior, child of Mary, who felt our human woe;  
O Savior, king of glory, who dost our weakness know:  
bring us at length, we pray,  
to the bright courts of heaven and into endless day.

Second Reading: Micah 5:2-5a

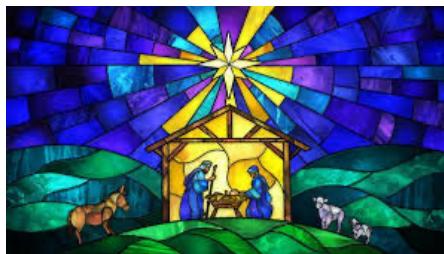
*The king will come from Bethlehem*

Hymn

O Little Town of Bethlehem

O little town of Bethlehem, how still we see thee lie!  
Above thy deep and dreamless sleep the silent stars go by;  
yet in thy dark streets shineth the everlasting light.  
The hopes and fears of all the years are met in thee tonight.

O holy child of Bethlehem, descend to us, we pray,  
cast out our sin, and enter in, be born in us today.  
We hear the Christmas angels the great glad tidings tell;  
oh, come to us, abide with us, our Lord Immanuel!



Third Reading: Saint Luke 1:26-35, 38

*The annunciation to Mary*

Hymn

The Angel Gabriel from Heaven Came

The angel Gabriel from heaven came,  
with wings as drifted snow with eyes as flame:  
“All hail to thee, O lowly maiden Mary,  
most highly favored lady.” Gloria!

“For know a blessed mother thou shalt be,  
all generations laud and honor thee;  
thy son shall be Emmanuel, by seers foretold,  
most highly favored lady.” Gloria!

Of her, Emmanuel, the Christ, was born  
in Bethlehem all on a Christmas morn,  
And Christian folk throughout the world will ever say:  
“Most highly favored lady.” Gloria

Fourth Reading: Saint Luke 2:1-7

*The birth of Jesus*

Hymn

I Wonder As I Wander

I wonder as I wander, out under the sky,  
how Jesus the Savior did come for to die  
for poor ord'n'ry people like you and like I.  
I wonder as I wander, out under the sky.

When Mary birthed Jesus, all in a cow's stall,  
came wise men and farmers and shepherds and all,  
and high from the heavens a star's light did fall;  
the promise of the ages it then did recall.

Fifth Reading: Saint Luke 2:8-16

*The shepherds go to see the Savior*

Hymn

On Christmas Night

On Christmas night all Christians sing to hear the news the angels bring.  
On Christmas night all Christians sing to hear the news the angels bring.  
News of great joy, news of great mirth, news of our merciful King's birth.

All out of darkness we have light, which made the angels sing this night.  
All out of darkness we have light, which made the angels sing this night:  
“Glory to god in highest heav'n; peace on earth, and good-will. Amen.”

Sixth Reading: Saint Luke 2:21-36

*Jesus receives his name*

Hymn

That Boy-Child of Mary

*Refrain: That boy-child of Mary was born in a stable, a manger his cradle in Bethlehem.*

What shall we call him, child of the manger?  
What name is given in Bethlehem? *Refrain*

His name is Jesus, God ever with us,  
God given for us in Bethlehem. *Refrain*

Gladly we praise him, love and adore him,  
give ourselves to him in Bethlehem. *Refrain*

Seventh Reading: Saint Matthew 2:1-11

*The magi follow the star*

Hymn

What Child Is This

What child is this, who, laid to rest, on Mary's lap is sleeping?  
Whom angels greet with anthems sweet while shepherds watch are keeping?  
This, this is Christ the king, whom shepherds guard and angels sing;  
haste, haste to bring him laud, the babe, the son of Mary!

So bring him incense, gold, and myrrh; come, peasant, king, to own him.  
The King of kings salvation brings; let loving hearts enthrone him.  
Raise, raise the song on high, the virgin sings her lullaby;  
joy, joy, for Christ is born, the babe, the son of Mary!



Eighth Reading: Saint Matthew 2:13-18

*The slaughter of the holy innocents*

Hymn

Your Little Ones, Dear Lord

Your little ones, dear Lord, are we, and come your lowly bed to see;  
enlightened ev'ry soul and mind, that we the way to you may find.  
Oh, draw us wholly to you, Lord, and to us all your grace accord;  
true faith and love to us impart, that we may hold you in our heart.

Ninth Reading: Saint John 1:1-14

*The mystery of the incarnation*

Hymn

Of the Father's Love Begotten

Of the Father's love begotten ere the worlds began to be,  
he is Alpha and Omega, he the source, the ending he,  
of the things that are, that have been, and that future years shall see,  
evermore and evermore.

Oh, that birth forever blessed, when the virgin full of grace,  
by the Holy Ghost conceiving, bore the Savior of our race,  
and the babe, the world's redeemer, first revealed his sacred face,  
evermore and evermore.

Let the heights of heav'n adore him; angel hosts, his praises sing;  
pow'rs, dominions, bow before him and extol our God and King;  
let no tongue on earth be silent, ev'ry voice in concert ring  
evermore and evermore.

Christ, to thee, with God the Father, and, O Holy Ghost, to thee,  
hymn and chant and high thanksgiving and unwearied praises be:  
honor, glory, and dominion, and eternal victory  
evermore and evermore.

PRAYERS \_\_\_\_\_

*Stand* Responsive Prayer

Glory to God in the highest,  
**and peace to God's people on earth.**  
Blessed are you, Prince of peace. You rule the earth with truth and justice.  
**Send your gift of peace to all nations of the world.**  
Blessed are you, Son of Mary. You share our humanity.

**Have mercy on the sick, the dying, and all who suffer this day.**

Blessed are you, Son of God. You dwell among us as the Word made flesh.

**Reveal yourself to us in word and sacrament that we may  
bear your light to all the world.**

Prayers of Intercession

*After each petition:* Lord, listen to your children pray.

**Send us love, send us peace, send us grace.**

Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit,

let us pray as Jesus taught us:

**Our Father in heaven,**

**hallowed be your name, your kingdom come,**

**your will be done, on earth as in heaven.**

**Give us today our daily bread.**

**Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against  
us. Save us from the time of trial and deliver us from evil.**

**For the kingdom, the power,**

**and the glory are yours, now and forever. Amen**

## BLESSING AND DISMISSAL \_\_\_\_\_

Let us bless the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

May you be filled with the wonder of Mary, the obedience of Joseph, the joy of the angels, the eagerness of the shepherds, the determination of the magi, and the peace of the Christ child. Almighty God, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, bless us now and forever. **Amen.**

Prayer for Peace

Recessional Hymn

Love Has Come

Love has come a light in the darkness! Love shines forth in the Bethlehem skies.

See, all heaven has come to proclaim it; hear how their song of joy arises:

Love! Love! Born unto you a Savior! Love! Love! Glory to God on high.

Love is born! Come, share in the wonder. Love is God now asleep in the hay.

See the glow in the eyes of his mother; what is the name her heart is saying?

Love! Love! Love is the gift of Christmas. Love! Love! Praise to you, God on high!

Dismissal

Go in peace. Serve the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

Postlude: Minuet, from the Water Music

G. F. Handel

---

Robert Kleisch, *Liturgist*  
Don Mead, *Organist*

Kathryn Kleisch, Elisabeth Stampfl,  
Linda Strohmayer, Virginia White, *Readers*

# NEWS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

December 26, 2021



## Introduction to the Day

On the first Sunday of Christmas we find the boy Samuel and the boy Jesus, both in the temple, both growing in wisdom and stature and in favor with God and humankind. We too have returned to the house of God “to sing psalms, hymns, and spiritual songs to God,” who has gifted us with a savior. As the festival continues, “let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts.” It is Christmas, still.

## Today

The celebration continues! The Savior of the World has been born for us. The great rift between heaven and earth is bridged by this tiny Child who enfolds both human and divine in his birth in our flesh. In the dark winter of sin and death we embrace and celebrate light and life in the Word made flesh who comes to us in mystery and humility to save fallen humanity

Our celebration of the Christmas cycle is in bold contradiction to the dwindling vitality in nature. Our worship setting joyfully proclaims an extraordinary beginning. Everywhere we look there is testimony to God's action in time to reverse the course of sin and death. In the midst of darkness we celebrate light; in the midst of emptiness, we enjoy abundance; and in the midst of death, we embrace life.

## Thank You, Thank You!!!

... for the beautiful poinsettias with which you adorned the Chancel.

...to those who gave coats, hats, scarves, mittens and food for the Pantry.

...to the following people who helped decorate the church for Christmas, including: Lori Castro, Nathan Hatter, Adam Mead, Jonathan Mead, Janice Pohl, Saint Luke Academy children who so beautifully decorated the Christmas tree in the lobby, Nancy Stalder, and Linda Strohmayer.

...to the many people who did so many things and supported the work of the congregation over the Christmas holidays that it is difficult to single out, by name, all who were involved – the choirs and musicians, the fine congregation

...and, above all, our thanks to God for the gift of our Savior, Jesus Christ and all the blessings showered on us.

## Christmas Holidays

The **church and school offices** will be closed from December 27 until January 3. The offices will reopen on Monday, January 3, 2022. Though the church office will not formally be open, your calls may still be directed to the church office (773.472.3383, press 1304 to leave your message with Elisabeth Stampfl).

- *Sunday School* will not meet on January 2, 2022. Sunday School will resume on January 9, 2022.
- *Bible Class* will not meet Thursday, December 23 or December 30. Bible Class will resume on Thursday, January 6, 2022.
- *In-Person Bible Class* will not meet on Sunday, January 2, 2022. In-Person Bible Class will resume on Sunday, January 9, 2022.

*All members are reminded that the books of the congregation will be officially closed December 31, 2021.*

**A  
star  
at the  
top of the  
tree. Its light  
shines towards  
the heavens with  
a radiant purity. This  
light is a symbol of the  
Christmas past, when the  
light was a Savior, who had  
come to break the shadow that  
all evil had cast. Perhaps we will  
not lose what the season's spirit is,  
as long as we can see the light that is  
His.  
Amen.**