



SAINT LUKE'S
EPISCOPAL CHURCH

THE FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT

December 18, 2022

11:00 am ✠ Rite II

Please enter quietly as we prepare our hearts for worship.

Welcome! Our service begins in the BCP on page 355. The Book of Common Prayer (BCP) and The Hymnal 1982 are found in the pew racks. The congregation's responses are in bold. Children of every age are welcome in all services. A nursery is available for children ages 4K years and younger. Hearing aids are available. See an usher for assistance.

THE GREAT PROCESSION

PRELUDE

Of the Father's Love Begotten

Craig Phillips

reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

The people are seated.

INTROIT

How Bright Appears the Morning Star

How bright appears the Morning Star, with mercy beaming from afar; the host of heav'en rejoices. O Righteous Branch, O Jesse's Rod, the Son of Man and Son of God, we too will lift our voices: Jesus, Jesus, holy, holy, yet most lowly, come, draw near us; great Emmanuel, come and hear us.

Children 3K – 3rd Grade are invited to follow the Crucifer to Sunday School.

THE FIRST LESSON

Isaiah 7:10-16

Again the Lord spoke to Ahaz, saying, Ask a sign of the Lord your God; let it be deep as Sheol or high as heaven. But Ahaz said, I will not ask, and I will not put the Lord to the test. Then Isaiah said: "Hear then, O house of David! Is it too little for you to weary mortals, that you weary my God also? Therefore the Lord himself will give you a sign. Look, the young woman is with child and shall bear a son, and shall name him Immanuel. He shall eat curds and honey by the time he knows how to refuse the evil and choose the good. For before the child knows how to refuse the evil and choose the good, the land before whose two kings you are in dread will be deserted."

HYMN *How Bright Appears the Morning Star* Hymnal 497

Reader The Word of the Lord.

People *Thanks be to God.*

LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT WREATH CANDLES

The Barclay Family

Blessed be God: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

People: *And blessed be his kingdom, now and for ever. Amen.*

The Celebrant says

Almighty God, to you all hearts are open, all desires known, and from you no secrets are hid: Cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love you, and worthily magnify your holy Name; through Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

ANTHEM

Rejoice in the Lord Always

The Congregation Sings

**O come, Desire of nations,
bind in one the hearts of all mankind;
bid thou our sad divisions cease,
and be thyself our King of Peace.
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel; shall come to thee O Israel.**

Rejoice in the Lord always, and again I say rejoice.

Let your restraint be known unto all men.

The Lord is e'en at hand. Be careful for nothing;

but in all prayer and supplication

let your petition be manifest unto God, with giving of thanks.

Celebrant: The Lord be with you.

People: *And also with you.*

Celebrant: Let us pray.

*And the peace of God, which passeth all understanding,
keep your hearts and minds, through Christ Jesus. Amen.*

THE HOLY GOSPEL of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Matthew

People: *Glory to you, Lord Christ.*

Purify our conscience, Almighty God, by your daily visitation, that your Son Jesus Christ, at his coming, may find in us a mansion prepared for himself; who lives and

Now the birth of Jesus the Messiah took place in this way. When his mother Mary had been engaged to Joseph, but before they lived together, she was found to be with child from the Holy Spirit. Her husband Joseph, being a righteous man and unwilling to expose her to public disgrace, planned to dismiss her quietly. But just when he had resolved to do this, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream and said, "Joseph, son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary as your wife, for the child conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit. She will bear a son, and you are to name him Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins." All this took place to fulfill what had been spoken by the Lord through the prophet: "Look, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and they shall name him Emmanuel," which means, "God is with us." When Joseph awoke from sleep, he did as the angel of the Lord commanded him; he took her as his wife, but had no marital relations with her until she had borne a son; and he named him Jesus.

The Gospel of the Lord

People: Praise to you, Lord Christ.

ANTHEM

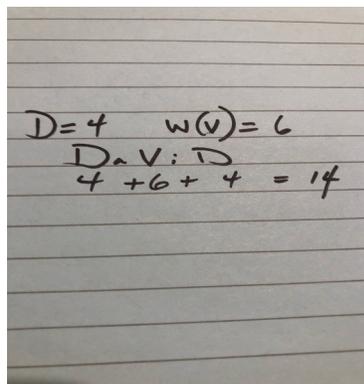
Behold a Star From Jacob Shining Felix Mendelssohn

*Behold a star from Jacob shining,
and a scepter from Israel rising,
To reign in glory over the nations.*

*Like some bright morning star is he,
the promise of the coming day,
Beyond the night of sorrow.*

*Break forth, O Light!
We, our joyful hearts uplifting with thanksgiving,
Hail the brightness of Thy rising.*

THE SERMON The Reverend Richmond R. Webster



THE NICENE CREED All stand. BCP 358

We believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty, maker of heaven and earth, of all that is, seen and unseen. We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only Son of God, eternally begotten of the Father, God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God, begotten, not made, of one Being with the Father. Through him all things were made. For us and for our salvation he came down from heaven: by the power of the Holy Spirit he became incarnate from the Vir-

gin Mary, and was made man. For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate; he suffered death and was buried. On the third day he rose again in accordance with the Scriptures; he ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead, and his kingdom will have no end. We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son. With the Father and the Son he is worshiped and glorified. He has spoken through the Prophets. We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic Church. We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins. We look for the resurrection of the dead, and the life of the world to come. Amen.

Let us pray for the Church and for the world.

Grant, Almighty God, that all who confess your Name may be united in your truth, live together in your love, and reveal your glory in the world. We pray for Glenda and Brian, our Bishops; the clergy and staff of our parish; and Jane our Seminarian.

Silence

Lord, in your mercy
Hear our prayer.

Guide the people of this land, and of all the nations, in the ways of justice and peace; that we may honor one another and serve the common good. We pray for Joseph our President and Kay our Governor.

Silence

Lord, in your mercy
Hear our prayer.

Give us all a reverence for the earth as your own creation, that we may use its resources rightly in the service of others and to your honor and glory.

Silence

Lord, in your mercy
Hear our prayer.

Bless all whose lives are closely linked with ours, and grant that we may serve Christ in them, and love one another as he loves us.

Silence

Lord, in your mercy
Hear our prayer.

Comfort and heal all those who suffer in body, mind, or spirit; give them courage and hope in their troubles, and bring them the joy of your salvation, especially Tina Darnall, Margaret Newton, David Stephenson, Johnny Tyson, and Tommy Tyson.

Silence

Lord, in your mercy
Hear our prayer.

We commend to your mercy all who have died, that your will for them may be fulfilled; and we pray that we may share with all your saints in your eternal kingdom.

Silence

Lord, in your mercy
Hear our prayer

Silence

CONFESSION

BCP 360

Minister and People

Most merciful God,
*we confess that we have sinned against you
in thought, word, and deed,
by what we have done,
and by what we have left undone.
We have not loved you with our whole heart;
we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves.
We are truly sorry and we humbly repent.
For the sake of your Son Jesus Christ,
have mercy on us and forgive us;
that we may delight in your will,
and walk in your ways,
to the glory of your Name. Amen.*

THE ABSOLUTION

The peace of the Lord be always with you.
People *And also with you.*

GREETING and ANNOUNCEMENTS

OFFERTORY HYMN

Lift Up Your Heads, O Ye Gates William Mathias

*Lift up your heads, o ye gates, and be ye lift up ye everlasting doors,
And the King of glory shall come in.*

*Who is this King of glory? The Lord strong and mighty,
The Lord, mighty in battle.*

*Who is this King of glory? The Lord of hosts,
He is the King of glory.*

PRESENTATION ACCLAMATION *All stand to sing*

Praise God from whom all bless - ings flow;
praise him, all crea - tures here be - low;
praise him a - bove ye heav'n - ly host;
praise Fa - ther, Son, and Ho - ly Ghost. A - men.

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

Eucharistic Prayer B

BCP 367

Celebrant The Lord be with you.

People *And also with you.*

Celebrant Lift up your hearts.

People *We lift them to the Lord.*

Celebrant Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

People *It is right to give him thanks and praise.*

SANCTUS et BENEDICTUS

Proulx

S125

The Celebrant continues

Therefore we proclaim the mystery of faith:

Celebrant and People

**We remember his death,
We proclaim his resurrection,
We await his coming in glory.**

And now, as our Savior Christ has taught us, we are bold to say,

Officiant and People

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy Name,
thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is
in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread. And forgive us
our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us.
And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.
For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, for
ever and ever. Amen.

The Celebrant breaks the Consecrated Bread. A period of silence is kept.

FRACTION ANTHEM

Be Known to Us

Frank Boles

*Be known to us, Lord Jesus, in the breaking of the bread.
The bread which we break, alleluia.
Is the communion of the body of Christ.*

COMMUNION MUSIC

God Himself Is With Us

POSTCOMMUNION PRAYER

Officiant and People

Eternal God, heavenly Father,
*you have graciously accepted us as living members
of your Son our Savior Jesus Christ,
and you have fed us with spiritual food
in the Sacrament of his Body and Blood.
Send us now into the world in peace,
and grant us strength and courage
to love and serve you
with gladness and singleness of heart;
through Christ our Lord. Amen.*

THE BLESSING

HYMN

O Come, O Come, Emmanuel

HYMNAL 56

THE DISMISSAL

BCP 366

Deacon: *Let us bless the Lord.*

People: *Thanks be to God.*

POSTLUDE

All Glory Be to God on High

Johann Walther

If you have a prayer request, you may contact clergy at clergy@saint-lukes.com or Sandy Porter 205-802-6207 or sporter@saint-lukes.com. Copies of the prayer list are in the Communication Stations and in the weekly church emails.

ALTAR FLOWERS

The flowers on the altar are given to the glory of God
and in thanksgiving for the marriage of

Sarah Hale & Denzel Okinedo

and in loving memory of

*Mr. Glenn Leonard Boom, Mrs. Virginia Dochstader Hale,
Mr. Frank William Hale, Prince Joseph Ugebe Okinedo,
Chief Samuel Chukwuka Okoro, and Mrs. Virginia Oyina Okoro.*

CLERGY AND STAFF: The Rt. Rev. Dr. Glenda Curry, *Bishop of Alabama*; The Rt. Rev. Brian N. Prior, *Assisting Bishop*; The Rev. Richmond R. Webster, *Rector*; The Rev. William R. Boyles, *Associate Rector*; The Rev. David Hall, *Associate Rector*; The Rev. Corey Jones, *Associate Rector*; The Rev. Rebecca Debow, *Priest Affiliate*; The Rev. Dr. Maurice L. Goldsmith, *Priest Affiliate*; The Rev. Dr. Stephen McWhorter, *Priest Affiliate*; The Rev. Dr. Mark LaGory, *Deacon*; The Rev. Katy Smith, *Deacon*; Dr. Jordan Rippey, *Associate Pastor*; Mr. Shaun Pezant, *Artist in Residence*; Dr. Philip Copeland, *Choral Director*; Mr. Jamie McLemore, *Organist*.

THE VESTRY

Rector- The Rev. Richmond R. Webster

Class of 2022

Reed Avant - Children & Family Ministry
Ann Johnson - Outreach, MACE, & Founders Place
Bill Pitts - Jr. Warden, Finance
Krislin Smith - Pastoral Care & Communication
Wayne Trucks - Sr. Warden, Worship & Facility Management

Class of 2023

David Kimberlin - COVID-19
Allyson Mouron - Jr. Warden, Worship & Events
Susan Silverstein - New Members & Adult Education
Beth Wilder - Outreach & Communication
Turner Williams - Finance & SOAR

Class of 2024

Kevin Collins- SLDS and Founders Place
Sara Ford- Finance
Gerald Gillespy-Worship and Facility Management
Anna Manasco- Youth
George Wilbanks- Finance

Appointed Members

Derick Belden - Clerk
William Nicrosi - Treasurer
John Rutherford- Jr. Vestryperson

Give via Text (205) 576-4100

Text the amount you would like to give to (205) 576-4100.



PLEDGE ONLINE

Announcements

Stewardship Update As of December 13, 2022:
Number of Pledges – 430;
2023 Pledges received - \$3,257,528;
We have reached 84% of our 2023 Goal of \$3.8 million.

On Sunday, December 18 at 4:00 p.m. we will gather for a service of Lessons & Carols at our Crestline Park location. We look forward to the opportunity to worship with you in singing! This will be the final meeting at our Crestline Park location until January 8th. All are invited to worship on Christmas Eve and Christmas Day at Saint Luke's. Merry Christmas!

Celebrate Christmas Eve with your Saint Luke's family at the following times: 2 p.m. Family Eucharist; 5:00 p.m. Family Eucharist with Contemporary Choir and Musicians (prelude music begins at 4:30 p.m.); 7:00 p.m. Festival Eucharist & Carols with brass; 9:00 p.m. Festival Eucharist & Carols with

brass. Nursery is available for infants - 4K during all Christmas Eve services.

We will worship with one service at 10 a.m. on Christmas Day, December 25 and New Year's Day, January 1st. No nursery available at these services.

What a gift to serve together as a family! On Christmas Eve, 12/24, 9 a.m., all are invited to pack Christmas stockings at Saint Luke's benefitting GraceWorks. Stockings will include dry goods, fruits, gift cards, and homemade cookies. If you would like to provide cookies, please email us at info@saint-lukes.com. Merry, Merry Christmas!

We want children to love coming to church from the earliest age possible so that they can hear about the great news of Jesus' love for them. In order to do that, we need a lot of hands! We are looking for volunteers of all ages to serve within the Children's Ministry on Sundays in several capacities beginning January 8. This means playing with children, greeting parishioners, and having lots of fun! To participate, contact kclinton@saint-lukes.com

News from Saint Luke's Kitchen! Shop frozen casseroles and other supper items in our new freezer located in the Maloof Entrance near the Day School double doors. The freezer is first-come-first serve and will operate by the Honor System. Payment is by QR code, cash or check. Items are \$10 each. We will continue to update you as we "live into" this new system. Check social media for updates! Questions? Contact kitchen@saint-lukes.com.

Founders Place invites everyone to a gently paced service with a simplified liturgy in a quiet setting on Thursday, December 22 at 10:30 a.m. in the Chapel.

2022 Year-End Guidelines for Giving: Contributions to Saint Luke's Episcopal Church are tax deductible as allowed by law. Maximum tax benefits depend on timing. Please consider these important guidelines and reminders regarding giving to Saint Luke's in 2022. Your continued contributions will be appreciated.

For contributions to be deductible for 2022, they must meet one of the following criteria:

- By Mail: Postmarked on or before December 31, 2022.
- Hand-Delivery: Received in the Finance office by noon, December 30, 2022. Any gifts dropped off after the office is closed will be treated as 2023 gifts.
- Online Giving: Utilize our secure online giving option. Please visit www.saint-lukes.com/giving/year-end-giving-guidelines/. To contribute online, choose Secure Online and follow the link to log into your existing account or register as a new user.
- Stock Transfer: Electronic fund transfers must be received in Saint Luke's brokerage account by 11:59 pm on Friday, Dec. 30, 2022. Please consult with your financial advisor and initiate your transfer early. While some transfers may be received within days of your instructions, longer delays are possible, especially at year-end. For example, mutual funds generally take much longer to transfer than individual stocks. Please contact the Finance Department at finance@saint-lukes.com for Saint Luke's brokerage account information.
- Tax situations vary. There have been changes in the tax law. We encourage you to consult with your tax or financial advisor regarding any charitable donations or gifts.

For more information, visit www.saint-lukes.com.