Welcome to St. Luke's Episcopal Church!

An inclusive, multicultural community pursuing spiritual and social transformation.
Una comunidad inclusiva y multicultural, en búsqueda de transformación espiritual y social.

At St. Luke's, we welcome and fully affirm everyone equally as children of God created in the image of God. Thank you for joining us as we resume in-person worship. Despite the changes in California guidelines, we continue to recommend that people wear masks indoors. And, we will pass the Peace by bowing, nodding, or waving from a distance. We will celebrate the Eucharist together, and the bread of Holy Communion will be given to all who would like to share in receiving the body of Christ. If you have any needs or concerns, please contact the clergy, the Rev. Jane Gould at jgould@stlukeslb.org or 562-436-4047.

Please turn off your cellphone. If God is going to speak to you during the service, other means will be used.
The Order of Service

Preludes  *Veni Emmanuel*  
Raymond H. Haan  
George Bullock, Cello & Dr. Gukhui Han, Piano

The people enter a darkened, silent church, and take their seats.

The verger, acolytes, choir, Eucharistic ministers, and clergy enter in a silent procession.

**Lighting of the Advent Wreath**  
*Source: tan from Lutheran Advent Service of Light*

Celebrant  The Spirit and the Church cry out:  
People  *Come, Lord Jesus.*

Celebrant  All who await his appearance pray:  
People  *Come, Lord Jesus.*

Celebrant  The whole creation pleads:  
People  *Come, Lord Jesus.*

**Hymn  *O come, O come, Emmanuel (v. 1)*  
Veni, veni, Emmanuel**

If you are able, please stand. As the congregation sings, acolytes light the Advent wreath and altar candles.

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Celebrant  Let us give thanks to our gracious God.  
People  *It is right to give our thanks and praise.*
Celebrant prays

Blessed are you, O Lord our God, ruler of the universe, creator of light and darkness. In this holy season, when the sun’s light is swallowed up by the growing darkness of night, you renew your promise to reveal among us the splendor of your glory, enfolded among us in Jesus. Through the prophets you teach us to hope for Christ’s reign of peace. Through the out-pouring of Christ’s Spirit, you open our blindness to the glory of Christ’s presence. Strengthen us in our weakness; support us in our stumbling efforts to do your will; and loosen our tongues to sing your praise. For to you all honor and blessing are due, both now and forever. Amen.

Hymn 59  Hark! a thrilling voice is sounding

Please remain standing.

Opening Acclamation

Celebrant  Blessed be the one, holy, and living God.
People    Glory to God for ever and ever.

Collect for Purity

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.

Trisaigion  (sung three times)  Alexander Archangelsky

Trisaigion  (sung three times)  Alexander Archangelsky

Collect of the Day

Celebrant  God be with you,
People    And also with you.
Celebrant  Let us pray.

Merciful God, who sent your messengers the prophets to preach repentance and prepare the way for our salvation: Give us grace to heed their warnings and forsake our sins, that we may greet with joy the coming of Jesus Christ our Redeemer; who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. Amen.
The First Reading  Malachi 3:1-4
A reading from the Book of Malachi.

See, I am sending my messenger to prepare the way before me, and the Lord whom you seek will suddenly come to his temple. The messenger of the covenant in whom you delight—indeed, he is coming, says the Lord of hosts. But who can endure the day of his coming, and who can stand when he appears? For he is like a refiner’s fire and like fullers’ soap; he will sit as a refiner and purifier of silver, and he will purify the descendants of Levi and refine them like gold and silver, until they present offerings to the Lord in righteousness. Then the offering of Judah and Jerusalem will be pleasing to the Lord as in the days of old and as in former years.

Hear what the Spirit is saying to God’s people. Thanks be to God.

Psalm  Luke 1:68-79
Remain seated. The soloists will sing first, then the congregation will repeat.  
Mark Mummert  
St. Luke’s Soloists

REFRAIN

In the tender compassion of our God, the dawn from on high shall break upon us.

Blessed are you, Lord, the God of Israel, you have come to your people and set them free. You have raised up for us a mighty Savior, born of the house of your servant David. Through your holy prophets, you promised of old to save us from our enemies, from the hands of all who hate us, to show mercy to our forebears, and to remember your holy covenant.

Refrain

This was the oath you swore to our father Abraham: To set us free from the hands of our enemies, free to worship without fear, Holy and righteous before you, all the days of our life. And you, child, shall be called the prophet of the Most High, For you will go before the Lord to prepare the way, To give God’s people knowledge of salvation by the forgiveness of their sins.

Refrain

To shine on those who dwell in darkness and the shadow of death, And to guide our feet into the way of peace.

Refrain
The Second Reading  Philippians 1:3-11

A reading from Paul’s Letter to the Philippians.

I thank my God every time I remember you, constantly praying with joy in every one of my prayers for all of you, because of your sharing in the gospel from the first day until now. I am confident of this, that the one who began a good work among you will bring it to completion by the day of Jesus Christ. It is right for me to think this way about all of you, because you hold me in your heart, for all of you share in God’s grace with me, both in my imprisonment and in the defense and confirmation of the gospel. For God is my witness, how I long for all of you with the compassion of Christ Jesus. And this is my prayer, that your love may overflow more and more with knowledge and full insight to help you to determine what is best, so that in the day of Christ you may be pure and blameless, having produced the harvest of righteousness that comes through Jesus Christ for the glory and praise of God.

Hear what the Spirit is saying to God’s people. **Thanks be to God.**

Gospel Procession  *Christ is Coming*  

Edward V. Bonnemere

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The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ, according to Luke.

**Glory to you, Lord Christ.**

In the fifteenth year of the reign of Emperor Tiberius, when Pontius Pilate was governor of Judea, and Herod was ruler of Galilee, and his brother Philip ruler of the region of Ituraea and Trachonitis, and Lysanias ruler of Abilene, during the high priesthood of Annas and Caiaphas, the word of God came to John son of Zechariah in the wilderness. He went into all the region around the Jordan, proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins, as it is written in the book of the words of the prophet Isaiah, “The voice of one crying out in the wilderness: ‘Prepare the way of the Lord, make his paths straight. Every valley shall be filled, and every mountain and hill shall be made low, and the crooked shall be made straight, and the rough ways made smooth; and all flesh shall see the salvation of God.’”

The Gospel of the Lord. **Praise to you, Lord Christ.**

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The Sermon

*Silence follows the sermon.*
Prayers of the People – Advent

If you are able, please kneel. The Leader and People pray responsively.

God of many names, God beyond all names; the beginning and the end of every story, the meaning of every life; infinite Mystery both hidden and revealed:

Hear us when we pray to you.

Blessed are You who join us together in the communion of Christ’s Body. Renew and energize your holy Church, in this parish and throughout the world, that we may be a resurrection people, manifesting your steadfast love in our common life of praise and service.

Hear us when we pray to you.

O perfect Wisdom, direct and rule the hearts of the leaders and shapers of society, raise up prophets of justice and peace, and empower your people for the holy vocation of repairing the world. May we entrust all our labors to the work of Providence.

Hear us when we pray to you.

O compassionate One, hold us in your mercy: heal the sick, mend the broken, protect the vulnerable, shelter the refugee, strengthen the weary, rescue the lost, and give courage to all who struggle.

Hear us when we pray to you.

O Desire of every heart, the answer to every longing: You are the strong force that draws us into the mystery of love divine. Forgive us those things which separate us from you, and lead us ever deeper into the Way, the Truth and the Life.

Hear us when we pray to you.
O Morning Star, bright splendor of the light eternal, illumining all things with your radiance:
Bring light and love to all who mourn the death of loved ones as we remember all those who have
died. Grant us your peace, and teach us to live in the dawn of your unfailing promise.

Hear us when we pray to you.

God who has come, God who does come, God who is yet to come: Make us an Advent people, ready
and alert to welcome and receive You in the stranger’s face, the loving act, the moment of grace, the
presence of healing, the birth of possibility, the gift of wonder. Let every heart prepare You room.

Hear us when we pray to you.

Dear people of God, what else, or who else, should we pray for?

The People offer their particular concerns and thanksgivings, aloud or in silence.

Celebrant O Emmanuel, God-with-us, You show us the face of divinity, and reveal the fullness of
our humanity. Come: renew your creation, restore us all in Christ, and enable us to become who we
are, your faithful and loving people. We pray in the name of Jesus. Amen.

Confession and Absolution
Celebrant Let us confess our sins against God and our neighbor.

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.

Celebrant Almighty God have mercy on you, forgive you all your sins through the grace of Jesus
Christ, strengthen you in all goodness, and by the power of the Holy Spirit keep you in eternal life.

Amen.

The Peace
Celebrant The peace of Christ be always with you.

People And also with you.

Special prayers, celebrations, and anniversaries

Offertory Sentence
Walk in love, as Christ loved us and gave himself for us, an offering and sacrifice to God.
Offertory Anthem  *People, Look East!*

*Besançon Carol arr. Craig Phillips*

People, look East. The time is near of the crowing of the year.
Make your house fair as you are able, trim the hearth, and set the table.
People, look East, and sing today: Love, and guest is on the way.

Furrows, be glad. Though earth is bare, one more seed is planted there:
Give up your strength the seed to nourish, that in course the flower may flourish.
People, look East, and sing today: Love, the rose is on the way.

Birds, though ye long have ceased to build, guard the nest that must be filled.
Even the hour when wings are froz’n, He for fledging time has chosen.
People, look East, and sing today: Love, the bird is on the way.

Stars keep the watch. When night is dim one more light the bowl shall brim,
Shining beyond the frosty weather, bright as sun and moon together.
People, look East, and sing today: Love, the start is on the way.

Angels, announce with shouts of mirth, Christ who brings new life to earth.
Set every peak and valley humming with the word, the Lord is coming.
Look East and sing today: Love, the Lord is on the way.

*During the anthem, please support the parish by contributing financially to the mission and ministry of St. Luke’s / San Lucas.*
*You may contribute electronically by scanning the QR code to the right, or by placing your offering in the plate as it is passed.*

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**Offertory Hymn 65**  *Prepare the way, O Zion*

*Bereden väg för Herran*

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**The Holy Eucharist**

**The Great Thanksgiving**  *Eucharistic Prayer A*

*If you are able, please stand.*

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<thead>
<tr>
<th><strong>Celebrant</strong></th>
<th><strong>People</strong></th>
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<td>The Lord be with you. And also with you.</td>
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<tr>
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<tr>
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*Then, facing the Holy Table, the Celebrant proceeds.*
It is right, and a good and joyful thing, always and everywhere to give thanks to you, Father Almighty, Creator of heaven and earth. Because you sent your beloved Son to redeem us from sin and death, and to make us heirs in him of everlasting life; that when he shall come again in power and great triumph to judge the world, we may without shame or fear rejoice to behold his appearing. Therefore we praise you, joining our voices with Angels and Archangels and with all the company of heaven, who for ever sing this hymn to proclaim the glory of your Name:

Sanctus

Holy and gracious Father: In your infinite love you made us for yourself; and, when we had fallen into sin and become subject to evil and death, you, in your mercy, sent Jesus Christ, your only and eternal Son, to share our human nature, to live and die as one of us, to reconcile us to you, the God and Father of all.

He stretched out his arms upon the cross, and offered himself in obedience to your will, a perfect sacrifice for the whole world.
On the night he was handed over to suffering and death, our Lord Jesus Christ took bread; and when he had given thanks to you, he broke it, and gave it to his disciples, and said, “Take, eat: This is my Body, which is given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me.”

After supper he took the cup of wine; and when he had given thanks, he gave it to them, and said, “Drink this, all of you: This is my Blood of the new Covenant, which is shed for you and for all for the forgiveness of sins. Whenever you drink it, do this for the remembrance of me.”

Therefore we proclaim the mystery of faith:

_Celebrant and People_

_Christ has died._
_Christ is risen._
_Christ will come again._

_The Celebrant continues_
We celebrate the memorial of our redemption, O Father, in this sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving. Recalling his death, resurrection, and ascension, we offer you these gifts.

Sanctify them by your Holy Spirit to be for your people the Body and Blood of your Son, the holy food and drink of new and unending life in him. Sanctify us also that we may faithfully receive this holy Sacrament, and serve you in unity, constancy, and peace; and at the last day bring us with all your saints into the joy of your eternal kingdom.

All this we ask through your Son Jesus Christ. By him, and with him, and in him, in the unity of the Holy Spirit all honor and glory is yours, Almighty Father, now and for ever. _Amen._

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

_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.

Celebrant  Alleluia. Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us.

People  Therefore let us keep the feast. Alleluia.

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The Gifts of God for the People of God. This is the Lord’s Table, and all are welcome here.

The Holy Communion

Wherever you are in your spiritual journey, you are welcome to receive the Eucharist. At this time, due to COVID-19 restrictions, only the bread of Holy Communion will be offered to the congregation. To receive Communion, please form a line down the center aisle. When you reach the altar rail, use the entire rail to stand or kneel around the altar rail to receive the bread, which will be placed in your hands; gluten free wafers are available. Anyone with mobility issues is welcome to remain standing in the center, or stay seated and have the clergy bring Communion to you. If you desire a Blessing rather than Communion, cross your arms on your chest. Please return to your pew by the side aisles. Our prayer partners are in the Chapel to offer prayers with anyone who would like special prayers.

Communion Anthem  Prepare the Way of the Lord  W.A.Mozart arr. Hal H. Hopson

Prepare the way of the Lord,
Make a highway for God to come.

See the valleys lifted high,
All the mountains and hills made low.
See uneven ground made level
All the rough places made plain.
Prepare a highway for the Lord.

Hear the voice of him cries,
Make a highway in the desert,
Make a highway for the Lord.
All the earth shall see it together.
Hear, for God has spoken it.

Prepare the way of the Lord.
Make a highway for God to come.
See the valleys lifted high,
All the rough places made plain.
See the valleys lifted high,
All the mountains and hills made low.
Prepare the way, the Savior comes.
The Thanksgiving after Communion

Celebrant  Let us pray.

People  God of abundance, you have fed us with the bread of life and cup of salvation; you have united us with Christ and one another; and you have made us one with all your people in heaven and on earth. Now send us forth in the power of your Spirit, that we may proclaim your redeeming love to the world and continue for ever in the risen life of Christ our Savior. Amen.

The Blessing

Announcements

Hymn 76  On Jordan's bank the Baptist's cry  Winchester New

Dismissal

Deacon  May the light of Christ lead us to the joy of his kingdom, now and for ever.
People  Thanks be to God.

Postlude  Watchman, Tell Us of the Night  Mark Hayes

Dr. Gukhui Han

We pray for those in our community:
For Audrey, Betty, Joan, Debra, Luis Eduardo, Martha, Sheila, Juliana, Evelyn, Rose, Vandalue, Isaac, Amos; for our homeless siblings; for all those whose lives and livelihoods are affected by COVID-19; for all refugees and immigrants; for an end to violence of all kind.

For those who have died – Dora Esparza Mabanag

For the church – For Michael our Presiding Bishop; our Bishop John; for our clergy: Jane, Jennifer, Dean, Beryl, Peter, and Steve; for our Vestry and staff.

**If this is your first time visiting us, please fill out the yellow Visitors Card found in the front of your pew or at the back of the church. We would love to get to know you and keep you informed of the many activities happening at St. Luke's! Cards may be placed in the offertory plate or given to an usher. **