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  *Gabriel’s Oboe*  
Ennio Morricone arr. Silvio Caroli  
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.*

*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, enfleshed 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.**
Bidding Prayer

Dear People of God: In the season of Advent, it is our responsibility and joy to prepare ourselves to hear once more the message of the Angels, to go to Bethlehem and see the Son of God lying in the manger.

Let us hear and heed in Holy Scripture the story of God’s loving purpose from the time of our rebellion against him until the glorious redemption brought to us by his holy Child Jesus, and let us look forward to the yearly remembrance of his birth with hymns and songs of praise.

But first, let us pray for the needs of his whole world, for peace and justice on earth, for the unity and mission of the Church for which he died, and especially for his Church in our country and in this city. And because he particularly he loves them, let us remember in his name the poor and helpless, the cold, the hungry and the oppressed, the sick and those who mourn, the lonely and unloved, the aged and little children, as well as all those who do not know and love the Lord Jesus Christ.

Finally, let us remember before God his pure and lowly Mother, and that whole multitude which no one can number, whose hope was in the Word made flesh, and with whom, in Jesus, we are one for evermore.

The Almighty God bless us with his grace; Christ give us the joys of everlasting life; and to the fellowship of the citizens above may the King of Angels bring us all. Amen.
And God stepped out on space,
And he looked around and said:
I'm lonely— I'll make me a world.

And far as the eye of God could see
Darkness covered everything,
Blacker than a hundred midnights
Down in a cypress swamp.

Then God smiled, And the light broke,
And the darkness rolled up on one side,
And the light stood shining on the other,
And God said: That's good!

Then God reached out and took the light in his hands,
And God rolled the light around in his hands
Until he made the sun;
And he set that sun a-blazing in the heavens.
And the light that was left from making the sun
God gathered it up in a shining ball
And flung it against the darkness,
Spangling the night with the moon and stars.
Then down between the darkness and the light
He hurled the world; And God said: That's good!

Then God himself stepped down—
And the sun was on his right hand,
And the moon was on his left;
The stars were clustered about his head,
And the earth was under his feet.
And God walked, and where he trod
His footsteps hollowed the valleys out
And bulged the mountains up.

Then he stopped and looked and saw
That the earth was hot and barren.
So God stepped over to the edge of the world
And he spat out the seven seas—
He batted his eyes, and the lightnings flashed—
He clapped his hands, and the thunders rolled—
And the waters above the earth came down,
The cooling waters came down.

Then the green grass sprouted,
And the little red flowers blossomed,
The pine tree pointed his finger to the sky,
And the oak spread out his arms,
The lakes cuddled down in the hollows of the ground,
And the rivers ran down to the sea;
And God smiled again, And the rainbow appeared,
And curled itself around his shoulder.

Then God raised his arm and he waved his hand
Over the sea and over the land,
And he said: Bring forth! Bring forth!
And quicker than God could drop his hand,
Fishes and fowls And beasts and birds
Swam the rivers and the seas,
Roamed the forests and the woods,
And split the air with their wings.
And God said: That's good!

Then God walked around, And God looked around
On all that he had made.
He looked at his sun, And he looked at his moon,
And he looked at his little stars;
He looked on his world With all its living things,
And God said: I'm lonely still.

Then God sat down—
On the side of a hill where he could think;
By a deep, wide river he sat down;
With his head in his hands, God thought and thought, Till he thought: I'll make me a man!

Up from the bed of the river God scooped the clay;
And by the bank of the river He kneeled him down; And there the great God Almighty
Who lit the sun and fixed it in the sky,
Who flung the stars to the most far corner of the night, Who rounded the earth in the middle of his hand; This great God, Like a mammy bending over her baby, Kneeled down in the dust Toiling over a lump of clay Till he shaped it in is his own image;

Then into it he blew the breath of life,
Hymn 60  Creator of the stars of night
If you are able, please stand.

1 Creator of the stars of night,
   and the ancient curse
2 In sorrow that the ancient curse
   drew on toward night,

1 your people’s everlasting light,
2 should doom to death a universal verse,
3 you came; but not in splendor bright,

1 O Christ, Redeemer of us all,
2 you came, O Savior, to set free
3 not as a monarch, but the child

1 we pray you hear us when we call.
2 your own in glorious liberty.
3 of Mary, blameless mother mild.

The dog is taken to the Crèche.

The Second Reading  Isaiah 40:1-5
Reader: The Coye Family

A reading from the Prophet Isaiah.

“Comfort, O comfort my people,” says your God. “Speak tenderly to Jerusalem, and cry to her that she has served her term, that her penalty is paid, that she has received from the Lord’s hand double for all her sins.” A voice cries out: “In the wilderness prepare the way of the Lord, make straight in the desert a highway for our God. Every valley shall be lifted up, and every mountain and hill be made low; the uneven ground shall become level, and the rough places a plain. Then the glory of the Lord shall be revealed, and all people shall see it together, for the mouth of the Lord has spoken.”

Hear what the Spirit is saying to God’s people. Thanks be to God.
Hymn  Isaiah the prophet has written of old
If you are able, please stand.

The sheep is taken to the Crèche.
The Third Reading  Jeremiah 31:31-34  
Reader: The Tsao-Kim Family

A reading from the Book of Jeremiah.

“The days are surely coming,” says the Lord, “when I will make a new covenant with the house of Israel and the house of Judah. It will not be like the covenant that I made with their ancestors when I took them by the hand to bring them out of the land of Egypt—a covenant that they broke, though I was their husband,” says the Lord. “But this is the covenant that I will make with the house of Israel after those days,” says the Lord: “I will put my law within them, and I will write it on their hearts; and I will be their God, and they shall be my people. No longer shall they teach one another, or say to each other, ‘Know the Lord,’ for they shall all know me, from the least of them to the greatest,” says the Lord; “for I will forgive their iniquity, and remember their sin no more.”

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

Hymn 437 (v.1)  Tell out, my soul, the greatness of the Lord  
 Birmingham

If you are able, please stand.

1 Tell out, my soul, the greatness of the Lord!
Un - num - bered bless - ings give my spi - rit voice;
Tender to me the prom - ise of his word;
In God my Sav - ior shall my heart re - joice.

The shepherds are taken to the Crèche.

The Fourth Reading  Micah 5:2-4  
Reader: The Neumann Family

A reading from the Prophet Micah.

You, O Bethlehem of Ephrathah, who are one of the little clans of Judah, from you shall come forth for me one who is to rule in Israel, whose origin is from of old, from ancient days. Therefore he shall give them up until the time when she who is in labor has brought forth; then the rest of his kindred shall return to the people of Israel. And he shall stand and feed his flock in the strength of the Lord, in the majesty of the name of the Lord his God. And they shall live secure, for now he shall be great to the ends of the earth.

Hear what the Spirit is saying to God’s people. Thanks be to God.
The Fifth Reading  Isaiah 65:17-25  

A reading from the Book of Isaiah.

For I am about to create new heavens and a new earth; the former things shall not be remembered or come to mind. But be glad and rejoice forever in what I am creating; for I am about to create Jerusalem as a joy, and its people as a delight. I will rejoice in Jerusalem, and delight in my people; no more shall the sound of weeping be heard in it, or the cry of distress. No more shall there be in it an infant that lives but a few days, or an old person who does not live out a lifetime; for one who dies at a hundred years will be considered a youth, and one who falls short of a hundred will be considered accursed. They shall build houses and inhabit them; they shall plant vineyards and eat their fruit. They shall not build and another inhabit; they shall not plant and another eat; for like the days of a tree shall the days of my people be, and my chosen shall long enjoy the work of their hands. They shall not labor in vain, or bear children for calamity; for they shall be offspring blessed by the LORD — and their descendants as well. Before they call I will answer, while they are yet speaking I will hear. The wolf and the lamb shall feed together, the lion shall eat straw like the ox; but the serpent — its food shall be dust! They shall not hurt or destroy on all my holy mountain, says the LORD.

Hear what the Spirit is saying to God’s people. Thanks be to God.
Tell out, my soul, the greatness of the Lord
If you are able, please stand.

Joseph is taken to the Crèche.

Please stand.

Celebrant  The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ, according to Luke.
People  Glory to you, Lord Christ.

In those days Mary set out and went with haste to a Judean town in the hill country, where she entered the house of Zechariah and greeted Elizabeth. When Elizabeth heard Mary’s greeting, the child leaped in her womb. And Elizabeth was filled with the Holy Spirit and exclaimed with a loud cry, “Blessed are you among women, and blessed is the fruit of your womb. And why has this happened to me, that the mother of my Lord comes to me? For as soon as I heard the sound of your greeting, the child in my womb leaped for joy. And blessed is she who believed that there would be a fulfillment of what was spoken to her by the Lord.”

The Gospel of the Lord. Praise to you, Lord Christ.
Hymn 437 (v.4)  Tell out, my soul, the greatness of the Lord

If you are able, please stand.

The Angel is taken to the Crèche.

The Sermon

Silence follows the sermon.

Procession to the Creche with the Mary Candle.

The Rev. Jane Gould

The Bustillo Family
Hymn  People, look East. The time is near  Besançon Carol

The Blessing of the Crèche  If you are able, please stand.

God of every nation and people, from the very beginning of creation you have made manifest your love: when our need for a Savior was great you sent your Son to be born of the Virgin Mary. To our lives he brings joy and peace, justice, mercy, and love.

Loving God, bless all who look upon this manger; may it remind us of the humble birth of Jesus, and raise our thoughts to him, who is God-with-us and Savior of all, and who lives and reigns forever and ever. 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 Magnificat**

My soul doth magnify the Lord; and my spirit hath rejoiced in God my Saviour, For he hath regarded: the lowliness of his handmaiden. For behold from henceforth: all generations shall call me blessed. For he that is mighty hath magnified me: and holy is his Name. And his mercy is on them that fear him throughout all generations. He hath shewed strength with his arm: he hath scatter'd the proud in the imagination of their hearts. He hath put down the mighty from their seat: and hath exalted the humble and meek.

He hath filled the hungry with good things: and the rich he hath sent empty away. He rememb'ring his mercy hath holpen his servant Israel: As he promised to our forefathers, Abraham and his seed forever. Glory be to the Father, and to the Son; and to the Holy Ghost; As it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be; world without end, Amen.

*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.*

**Offertory Hymn 56 O come, O come, Emmanuel**

Veni, veni, Emmanuel
The Holy Eucharist

The Great Thanksgiving  Eucharistic Prayer A
If you are able, please stand.

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 Breaking of the Bread  The Celebrant breaks the consecrated Bread.

Celebrant  Alleluia. Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us.
People  Therefore let us keep the feast. Alleluia.

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  Ave Maria

Ave Maria, piena di grazia,  Hail Mary, full of Grace,
Il Signore è con te.  The Lord is with thee.
Tu sei benedetta fra le donne  Blessed art thou among women,
E benedetto è il frutto  And blessed is the fruit
Del tuo seno: Gesù.  Of thy womb: Jesus.
Santa Maria, Madre di Dio,  Holy Mary, Mother of God,
Prega per noi, peccatori,  Pray for us, sinners,
Ora e nell'ora della nostra morte.  Now and at the hour of our death.

Communion Hymn 81  Lo, how a Rose e'er blooming

Es ist ein Ros
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  We’re Marching to Zion  Robert S. Lowry

1. Come, we that love the Lord, And let our joys be known: Join
2. Let those refuse to sing Who never knew our God: But
3. The hill of Zion yields A thousand sacred sweets: Be-
4. Then let our songs abound, And ev’ry tear be dry: We’re

1. in a song with sweet accord, Join in a song with sweet ac-
2. children of the heav’nly King, But children of the heav’nly
3. fore we reach the heav’nly fields, Before we reach the heav’nly
4. marching through Immanuel’s ground, We’re marching thro’ ImmanUEL’s

We’re marching to Zion, Beautiful, beautiful

Zion: We’re marching upward to Zion,

The beautiful city of God.
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 *The Wexford Carol* Arr. Mark Hayes

Dr. Gukhui Han

We pray for our community:

For Audrey, Betty, Joan, Debra, Luis Eduardo, Martha, Sheila, Juliana, Evelyn, Rose, Vandalue, Isaac, Amos, Kim, Shelley; for our homeless siblings; who have asked for our prayers; 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 – Gary Smith and Tacy Hunter

For the church – For Michael our Presiding Bishop; our Bishop John; for our clergy: Jane, Jennifer, Dean, Beryl, Peter, Antonio, 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.**

Today’s **Coffee Hour** is hosted by Edd Nazelrod-Woodward.
CALENDAR FOR THE WEEK (DECEMBER 19 – 26)
Check the Weekly Newsletter for more information.

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 19 – ADVENT 4
8am – Holy Eucharist in English
9:00am-3:00pm – Red Cross Blood Drive
9:45am – Drop-in Church School for Children in the Play Area
10am – Holy Eucharist in English: Lessons & Carols and Blessing of the Crèche
11:15am – Celebrate the Season Coffee Hour w/ 2020 Video Christmas Pageant
12:30pm – Misa en Español

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 22
6:00pm – Nativity Narratives (Zoom)

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 23
10:00am – Healing Eucharist (Chapel)
10:45am – Bible Study (Commins Room)
7:00pm – Weekly Watch (Zoom)
8:30pm – Advent Compline (Zoom)

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 24 – Christmas Eve
5:00pm – Bilingual Family Service
10:30pm – Christmas Concert
11:00pm – Candlelight Communion

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 25 – Christmas Day
10:00am – Christmas Day Mass
11:30am – Christmas Day Lunch

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 26
8am – Holy Eucharist in English
10am – Holy Eucharist in English
12:30pm – Misa en Español

RED CROSS BLOOD DRIVE – TODAY, 9am-3pm
Please consider making a donation TODAY! You could help save a life.

GIVE CHRISTMAS FLOWERS & GREENS IN GRATITUDE & REMEMBRANCE
We hope to fill our church with glorious displays of poinsettias and greens and invite you to contribute in memory of those you love who have died, or in honor of someone or something in your life. Donate online through the St. Luke’s website or in person with a green Christmas Flowers form. Please write Christmas Flowers and Greens in the memo of your check or online donation. All donations and dedications received by Monday, December 20 will be included in our Christmas bulletins. Contact Edd Nazelrod-Woodward (eddwoodward@hotmail.com) or the Parish Office (office@stlukeslb.org).

ARE YOU INTERESTED IN BAPTISM?
On Sunday, January 9, we celebrate the Feast of the Baptism of Jesus. If you are interested in Baptism, please speak with the clergy and complete a Baptism Registration Form. Our Baptism Preparation Class will be on Wednesday, January 5 at 6:00pm in Building A, Room 101.

FOLLOW THE EPIPHANY STAR TO THE GRAYS ON JANUARY 8
As the magi followed the star to the manger in Bethlehem, Will, Melody, and James Gray hope that all families with kids as well as adults who like to hang out with young ones will follow your GPS to the Grays at (4240 Cerritos Ave, Long Beach, CA 90807) for Saturday morning fun on January 8. As 2022 unfolds, the Grays hope that kids and adults will prioritize St. Luke’s connecting and socializing time on Saturday mornings (9am-Noon) on January 8, April 2, and August 13. Mark your calendars for these 2022 events, and RSVP now (melodyprincegray@gmail.com) for January 8, 9am-noon!
CELEBRATE CHRISTMAS AT
ST. LUKE’S!

December 24
5pm: Misa Familiar Bilingüe / Bilingual Family Service
   – Christmas Ornaments for kids
   – Birthday Cake in the Courtyard
10:30pm: Choir Concert
11pm: Candlelight Communion

December 25
10am: Christmas Day Mass

December 26
8am & 10am: Celebrate the Feast of Stephen
12:30pm: Guest Preacher, The Rev. Nancy Frausto