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.
Choir Concert

“A Ceremony of Carols”

By: Benjamin Britten

St. Luke’s Chancel Choir
Dr. Gukhui Han, Music Director
Jillian Lopez, Harp

I. Procession "Hodie Christus natus est"

II. Wolcum Yole!

III. There is No Rose

IV. That Yongë Child

V. Balulalow

VI. “As Dew in Aprille”

VII. This Little Babe

VIII. Interlude  

IX. In Freezing Winter Night

X. Spring Carol

XI. Deo gracias – Adam lay i-bounden

XII. "Recession" ("Hodie Christus natus est")
The Order of Service

Prelude  What Child is This  
Arr. Kim Robertson  
Jillian Lopez, Harp

Hymn 83  O come, all ye faithful  
Adeste fideles
If you are able, please stand.

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.

Song of Praise  Hymn 96 (v. 1-2) Angels we have heard on high  
Gloria

Collect of the Day
Celebrant  God be with you,  
People  And also with you.  
Celebrant  Let us pray.
O God, you have caused this holy night to shine with the brightness of the true Light: Grant that we, who have known the mystery of that Light on earth, may also enjoy him perfectly in heaven; where with you and the Holy Spirit he lives and reigns, one God, in glory everlasting. Amen.

The Lessons  Please be seated.

The First Reading  Isaiah 9:2-7  
A reading from the Book of Isaiah.
The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light; those who lived in a land of deep darkness—on them light has shined. You have multiplied the nation, you have increased its joy; they rejoice before you as with joy at the harvest, as people exult when dividing plunder. For the yoke of their burden, and the bar across their shoulders, the rod of their oppressor, you have broken as on the day of Midian. For all the boots of the tramping warriors and all the garments rolled in blood shall be burned as fuel for the fire. For a child has been born for us, a son given to us; authority rests upon his shoulders; and he is named Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace. His authority shall grow continually, and there shall be endless peace for the throne of David and his kingdom. He will establish and uphold it with justice and with righteousness from this time onward and forevermore. The zeal of the Lord of hosts will do this.
Hear what the Spirit is saying to God’s people. Thanks be to God.
Psalm 96

Remain seated. The choir will sing first, then the congregation will repeat.

Linda Cable Shute
St. Luke’s Soloists

REFRAIN

Sing to the Lord a new song; sing to the Lord, all the earth. Sing to the Lord, bless the name of the Lord; proclaim God’s salvation day to day.

REFRAIN

Declare God’s glory among the nations, and God’s wonders among all peoples. For great is the Lord, and greatly to be praised; more to be feared than all gods.

REFRAIN

As for all the gods of the nations, they are but idols; but you, O Lord, have made the heavens. Majesty and magnificence are in your presence; power and splendor are in your sanctuary. Ascribe to the Lord you families of the peoples, ascribe to the Lord honor and power.

REFRAIN

Ascribe to the Lord the honor due the holy name; bring offerings and enter the courts of the Lord. Worship the Lord in the beauty of holiness; tremble before the Lord all the earth.

REFRAIN

Tell it out among the nations, “The Lord is king! The one who made the world so firm it cannot be moved will judge the people with equity.” Let the heavens rejoice and let the earth be glad; let the sea thunder and all that is in it; let the field be joyful and all that is therein.

REFRAIN

Then shall all the trees of the wood shout for joy at your coming, O Lord, for you come to judge the earth. You will judge the world with righteousness and the peoples with your truth.

REFRAIN

The Second Reading  Titus 2:11-14

A reading from the Letter to Titus.

The grace of God has appeared, bringing salvation to all, training us to renounce impiety and worldly passions, and in the present age to live lives that are self-controlled, upright, and godly, while we wait for the blessed hope and the manifestation of the glory of our great God and Savior, Jesus Christ. He it is who gave himself for us that he might redeem us from all iniquity and purify for himself a people of his own who are zealous for good deeds.

Hear what the Spirit is saying to God’s people. Thanks be to God.
The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ, according to Luke.

Glory to you, Lord Christ.
In those days a decree went out from Emperor Augustus that all the world should be registered. This was the first registration and was taken while Quirinius was governor of Syria. All went to their own towns to be registered. Joseph also went from the town of Nazareth in Galilee to Judea, to the city of David called Bethlehem, because he was descended from the house and family of David. He went to be registered with Mary, to whom he was engaged and who was expecting a child. While they were there, the time came for her to deliver her child. And she gave birth to her firstborn son and wrapped him in bands of cloth, and laid him in a manger, because there was no place for them in the inn. In that region there were shepherds living in the fields, keeping watch over their flock by night. Then an angel of the Lord stood before them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. But the angel said to them, “Do not be afraid; for see—I am bringing you good news of great joy for all the people: to you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is the Messiah, the Lord. This will be a sign for you: you will find a child wrapped in bands of cloth and lying in a manger.” And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host, praising God and saying, “Glory to God in the highest heaven, and on earth peace among those whom God favors!”

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

The Sermon
Silence follows the sermon.

Nicene Creed  If you are able, please stand.
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, was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the Virgin Mary and became truly human.
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, who with the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified, who 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.
Prayers of the People – Christmas
Based on prayers written by the Rev. Dcn. Suzanne Watson Epting

Let us pray to God, who came among us in the birth of Jesus, saying God of Love, be born in us.

Gracious God, as a star rose, and drew people from great distances to Bethlehem that they might greet the Christ-child; Draw us, your Church, and all your people to you—that we might be the Church and the People whom you call us to be. Let us pray to the Lord:

People: God of love be born in us.

As you gave Mary your Holy Spirit, filling her with the delight of your Presence; Fill us with your Spirit, and renew our lives. We offer our prayers of gratitude raising up the abundant blessings of our lives; (please add your own prayers of thanksgiving either silently or aloud). Let us pray to the Lord:

People: God of love be born in us.

As we draw near to Jesus’ light; Draw our nation, our President Joseph, our Governor Gavin, and all in authority, to his Brightness. Let us pray to the Lord:

People: God of love be born in us.

As angels sang “glorias” to you and proclaimed peace on earth and goodwill among all peoples; Bring us your peace and bring an end to terror and strife. Let us pray to the Lord:

People: God of love be born in us.

As a baby, Jesus was born in a manger because there was no room for in the inn. As an adult, he lived and worked among the poor, the sick, and the lonely: Be especially present with those who live with fear, hardship, and uncertainty, especially those we name now either silently or aloud…. Let us pray to the Lord:

People: God of love be born in us.

As your son came to proclaim forgiveness of sins and the gift of Life Eternal, give to the departed eternal rest and let Light perpetual shine on them. We give thanks for all those celebrated in our Christmas Flower Gifts of Gratitude. We pray for our community … We pray for the church … We pray for all those who have died; we remember especially those who are named in our Christmas Flower Memorials. (please add your own prayers either silently or aloud)

Let us pray to the Lord:

People: God of love be born in us.

Celebrant Almighty God, to whom our needs are known before we ask: Help us to ask only what accords with your will; and those good things which we dare not, or in our blindness cannot ask, grant us for the sake of your Son Jesus Christ our Lord.

The Peace
Celebrant The peace of Christ be always with you.
People And also with you.

Offertory Sentence
Walk in love, as Christ loved us and gave himself for us, an offering and oblation to God.
Offertory Anthem  *O Nata Lux*  

Morten Lauridsen

O nata lux de lumine,  
Jesu redemptor saeculi,  
dignare clemens supplicum  
laudes precesque sumere.  
Qui carne quondam contegi  
dignatus es pro perditis,  
nos membra confer effici  
tui beati corporis.

O Light born of Light,  
Jesus, redeemer of the world,  
with kindness deign to receive  
the praise and prayer of suppliants.  
You who once deigned to be clothed in flesh  
for the sake of the lost,  
grant us to be made members  
of your blessed body.

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 87  *Hark! the herald angels sing*  

Mendelssohn

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 gave Jesus Christ, your only Son, to be born for us; who, by the mighty power of the Holy Spirit, was made perfect Man of the flesh of the Virgin Mary his mother; so that we might be delivered from the bondage of sin, and receive power to become your children. 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.

Fraction Anthem  Hymn 112 (v.4) In the bleak midwinter

Celebrant  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  O Holy Night
O holy night, the stars are brightly shining,
It is the night of the dear Saviour’s birth;
Long lay the world in sin and error pining,
'Till he appeared and the soul felt its worth.

A thrill of hope the weary world rejoices,
For yonder breaks a new and glorious morn;
Fall on your knees, Oh hear the angel voices!
O night divine! O night when Christ was born.

Arr. Gary Fry

Communion Hymn 79  O little town of Bethlehem

St. Louis
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.

Post Communion  Hymn 111  Silent night, holy night

The Blessing
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; O come to us, abide with us, our Lord Emmanuel!

And may the blessing of the God who created us, came to live among us as Jesus, and renews us through the Holy Spirit be among you and remain with you this night and always.

Hymn 100  Joy to the world!

Dismissal
Deacon       May the love of Christ lead us into the world this night and always. Alleluia! Alleluia!
People        Thanks be to God. Alleluia! Alleluia!

Postlude  Angels We Have Heard on High

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

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. If you are interested in our Ministry with Young People, please get a brochure from an usher, or the table in the back of the church.**
**Christmas Flowers & Greens Dedications**

_In loving memory of:_
- Shalimar Mazegue
- Nick Mangano
- Samuel Shumaker
- David Nalle
- Clayton Cobb
- My parents (Hynes)
- Duane & Lucy Kuster
- Tom Sanford
- Eliza Shumaker Sosyter
- Elizabeth Soyster
- Loved ones in the columbarium

_In thanksgiving/celebration/honor of:_
- Frank Hotchkiss
- Erika Von Pelz
- Andreas Wickstrom
- Ken Watanabe
- Fay Swofford
- Palmer Johnson
- Gary Johnson
- Joy Clemensen
- Dorie Ferrone
- Gary Smith

_In thanksgiving/celebration/honor of:_
- Dominic Santarosa
- Adelheid Hynes
- Wilder Gould
- My husband (Rustrum)
- Sam, Georgia, Gardner, Tiffanie, & Wilder
- The Woodward Family
- The Stine Family
- The Lewis Family
- The Nazelrod Family
- Jill Cassidy
- The Howard Family
- The Wright Family
- The gift of family

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**THANK YOU FOR JOINING US FOR CHRISTMAS**

Please join us for worship on Christmas morning at 10:00am and stay for our community lunch hosted by our Manna Meals volunteers. We invite you to Sunday worship at 8:00am, 10:00am, and 12:30pm. Former Associate Rector, the Rev. Nancy Frausto will be our guest preacher at 12:30pm.

**OFFICE CLOSED CHRISTMAS WEEK**

As our staff catch their breath Christmas week, the office will be closed. In the event of an emergency, call the rector at 978.886.3757.

**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 available in the back of the church. 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!