

DISTRIBUTION OF THE ELEMENTS

COMMUNION MEDLEY

SOLO Go Tell It on the Mountain
Jadon Campos African American spiritual, arr. Marvin Gaspard

Please join the choir in singing the following carols.

IT CAME UPON THE MIDNIGHT CLEAR

It came upon the midnight clear, That glorious song of old,
From angels bending near the earth, To touch their harps of gold:
Peace on the earth, good will to all, From heaven's all gracious King:
The world in solemn stillness lay, To hear the angels sing.

THE FIRST NOWELL

The first Nowell, the angel did say, was to certain poor shepherds
in fields as they lay; in fields, where they lay a-keeping their sheep,
on a cold winter's night that was so deep.
Nowell, Nowell, Nowell, Nowell, born is the King of Israel.

HARK, THE HERALD ANGELS SING

Hark, the herald angels sing, "Glory to the newborn King;
Peace on earth, and mercy mild, God and sinners reconciled!
Joyful, all ye nations, rise, Join the triumph of the skies;
With the angelic host proclaim, Christ is born in Bethlehem!
Hark, the herald angels sing, Glory to the new-born King.

✦ THE LIGHT BROUGHT INTO THE WORLD Silent Night, Holy Night
See insert STILLE NACHT

As the introduction to the hymn is played, the Pastor will light his candle from the Christ candle of the Advent wreath, then light the Elders' candles. The Elders will light the candles of the people at the end of each pew. Please pass the light down your pew. Bend the unlighted candle to the lighted one to prevent the dripping of hot wax.

✦ CHARGE AND BENEDICTION

✦ CLOSING HYMN 40 Joy to the World!
ANTIOCH

✦ POSTLUDE Hark! The Herald Angels Sing
Felix Mendelsohn (1809-1847), arr. Marvin Gaspard

Merry Christmas!

Welcome to St. Luke's Presbyterian Church! If you are looking for a church home in Houston, we invite you to unite with St. Luke's. If you would like more information, please speak to Rev. Harbison after worship.

The musicians participating in tonight's service are: St. Luke's Chancel Choir, Sarah Bunk, flautist., and Bell Quartet: Janet Bardin, Randall Bardin, Jadon Campos, and Ann Guercio.

Joy Gift Offering Today: This annual offering of the PCUSA supports medical needs of clergy, active and retired, and their families, and the denominations racial ethnic schools and colleges. Please make a note on your check for "Joy Gift" or use the envelopes in your bulletin.

A Congregational Meeting will be held on January 8th immediately after worship to elect new elders.

The church office will be open next week on Tuesday and Wednesday, December 27 and 28.

Our Christmas Day worship will be a casual service for the whole family and include a Blessing of the Toys. Dress in your comfy clothes and join us to sing carols and hear a Christmas message.

Shred Day at St. Luke's: Texas Security Shredding will be on site January 14 from 10 a.m.-1 p.m. to accept paper and small electronics. A donation of \$10 is suggested. We are also collecting non-perishable food for the food pantries at Christian Community Service Center.

ST. LUKE'S STAFF

PastorThe Rev. W. Scott Harbison
Parish Associate.....The Rev. Dr. Bill Wade
Business Manager..... Patti Ernst
Director of Music-Organist/ChoirmasterMarvin Gaspard
Assistant to Head of Staff.....Mary Ann White
Pastor's AideJean Kopp



The mission of St. Luke's Presbyterian Church is to proclaim the Word of God in Jesus Christ, nurture and support one another, and serve the community.

St. Luke's Presbyterian Church
8915 Timberside Drive
Houston, Texas 77025-3738
713.667.6531
www.stlukespres.org



CHRISTMAS EVE

ST. LUKE'S
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

CHRISTMAS EVE CANDLELIGHT COMMUNION

DECEMBER 24, 2022

We joyfully greet each other and share the gifts of friendship and love.
Please begin quiet preparation for worship as the prelude begins.

PREPARING FOR THE WORD

PRELUDE
Bell Quartet
Ann Guercio
Ding, Dong, Merrily on High
Jehan Tabourot (1519-1593), arr. Marvin Gaspard
Cantique de Noël
Adolphe Adam (1803-1856)

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS
Please return to your seats when the music begins

PASSING OF THE PEACE

Leader: The Lord be with you.
People: And also with you.

LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT CANDLE College Students

Choir: O Come, O Come Emmanuel...
and ransom captive Israel!
**Congregation: Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel
Shall come to thee, O Israel!**

✠CALL TO WORSHIP Rev. W. Scott Harbison

Leader: For unto us a Child is born, unto us a Son is given.
People: O come, let us adore Him!
Leader: The government shall be on His shoulder.
People: O come, let us adore Him!
Leader: His name shall be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God.
People: O come, let us adore Him!
Leader: The Everlasting Father, the Prince of Peace.

✠PROCESSIONAL HYMN 41 O Come, All Ye Faithful
ADESTE FIDELES

PRAYER OF PRAISE AND ADORATION (people in unison)

Glory to you, Almighty God, for you sent your only-begotten Son that we might have new life. Glory to you, Lord Jesus Christ, for you became flesh and dwelt among us that we might become your people. Glory to you, Holy Spirit, for you direct and rule our lives. Glory to you, Almighty God, and to your Son, Jesus Christ, and to the Holy Spirit, now and forever. Amen.

ANTHEM Jesu Bambino
Pietro Yon (1886-1943), arr. Benjamin Harlan

THE SERVICE OF LESSONS AND CAROLS

LESSON ONE Isaiah 40:1-2
Julie Lucas

Leader: Comfort, O comfort my people, says your God.
People: Speak tenderly to Jerusalem, and cry to her that she has served her term, that the penalty is paid, that she has received from the Lord's hand double for all her sins.

READING Isaiah 9:2, 6-7

HYMN 9 O Come, O Come, Emmanuel (verses 1, 2 & 3)
VENI EMMANUEL

LESSON TWO Psalm 62:1-2
John Simmons

Leader: For God alone my soul waits in silence;
from God comes my salvation.

**People: God alone is my rock and my salvation, my fortress;
I shall never be shaken.**

READING Isaiah 7:14-16

VOLUNTARY Meditation on VENI EMMANUEL
Bell Quartet 15th c. French melody, arr. Marvin Gaspard

LESSON THREE Ezekiel 34:30-31
Bob Patterson

Leader: They shall know that I, the Lord their God,
am with them and that they, the house of Israel,
are my people, says the Lord God.

**People: You are my sheep, the sheep of my pasture
and I am your God, says the Lord God.**

READING Micah 5:2-5a

HYMN 44 O Little Town of Bethlehem (verses 1 & 2)
ST. LOUIS

LESSON FOUR Isaiah 12:2
Annemieke Luckey

Leader: Surely God is my salvation;
I will trust, and will not be afraid,

**People: For the Lord God is my strength and my might;
and has become my salvation.**

READING Luke 1:26-38

OFFERTORY SENTENCE

OFFERTORY

Carol of the Bells
Mykola Leontovych (1877-1921)
Arr. Peter J. Wilhousky (1902-1978)

PRAYER OF DEDICATION

LESSON FIVE Rev. W. Scott Harbison

Leader: All my heart today rejoices,
As I hear, far and near, sweetest angel voices.

**People: Christ is born, their choirs are singing,
till the air, everywhere, now with joy is ringing.**
Johann Georg Ebeling

READING Luke 2:1-7

HYMN 25 Away in a Manger (verses 1 & 3)
MUELLER

LESSON SIX Rev. W. Scott Harbison

Leader: This, this, is Christ the King,
Whom shepherds guard and angels sing;

**People: Haste, haste, to bring Him laud,
the Babe, the Son of Mary** William Chatterton Dix

READING Luke 2:8-20

RESPONSE Gloria in excelsis Deo; (please join the choir in singing)
Gloria in excelsis Deo!

HOMILY Rev. W. Scott Harbison

✠APOSTLE'S CREED (Traditional) Hymnal, page 14

SACRAMENT OF THE LORD'S SUPPER

INVITATION TO THE TABLE

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING AND THE LORD'S PRAYER

Minister: The Lord be with you.

People: And also with you.

Minister: Lift up your hearts!

People: We lift them up to the Lord.

Minister: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

People: It is right to give our thanks and praise.

WORDS OF INSTITUTION

SANCTUS

Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might.
Heaven and earth are full of your glory. Hosanna in the highest.
Blessed is He who comes in the name of the Lord
Hosanna in the highest.