

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION *in unison*

Rev. Michelle Manuel

Gracious God,
You have made us one with all your people in heaven and on earth,
and fed us with the bread of life. Help us to be your faithful disciples
so that our daily living will reflect your love to all those around us;
through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

INVITATION TO CHRISTIAN DISCIPLESHIP

*If you would like to become a follower of Jesus Christ, or if you are interested
in joining St. Luke's United Methodist Church, we would love to talk to you
about what that means. Please come forward after the service to meet with our
Christian Friends.*

*If you would like someone to pray with you, you are invited to come forward
after the service and meet with one of our prayer volunteers.*

*HYMN OF COMMITMENT

196 *Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus* HYFRYDOL

*BENEDICTION

Rev. Thomas Harper

POSTLUDE

Toccata on Hyfrydol Travis

At places marked * those who are able may stand.

When Are We?

In the context of the church calendar, this is New Year's Day. Advent is the beginning of the liturgical year, which is full of tradition and thematic elements you'll see exhibited in the coming services. Advent is a season of anticipation as we wait for a Christ we know is coming and has already come; however, the Intertestamental Period (time between the final prophet of the Old Testament and the first prophet of the New Testament) was 400 years of silence from God. The people of God were yearning, starving for a word, a savior for longer than we have been a nation. We are on the side of history that allows us to anticipate with expectance, whereas our first-century Jewish family's anticipation had dissolved into distilled hope. The vestments and paraments are blue to represent hope, the theme of the season.

Leading in Worship today: Dr. Tom Pace; Rev. Bill Denham;
Rev. Thomas Harper; Rev. Michelle Manuel; Alice King, Hospitality Coordinator.

Musicians: Sid Davis, Director of Music and Fine Arts; James J. Roman, Associate Organist; Barbara Bamberg, Accompanist; Pure Sound Youth Choir.

Acolytes: Kai Greer, Mackenzie Rice.

The altar flowers are dedicated to the glory of God and are given in celebration of the baptism of Clara Janaye Wilson by Linessa and Robert Wilson; and in celebration of the baptism of Grace Elizabeth Brown, Georgia Ann Brown, and Judson Loomis Brown III by Samantha and Judson Brown.

12:05 p.m. Communion in the Chapel: Rev. Thomas Harper

Welcome to St. Luke's!

We're so glad you're here. Worship is at the heart of everything we do and we hope that you and your family find this service to be uplifting and transformational. Whether you are a first-time guest or a regular attendee, please join us in the Gathering Room near the Main Entrance for refreshments and fellowship after the service.



Want to learn more about St. Luke's? Drop by the Connection Desk near the Gathering Room and ask about **Coffee with the Pastor** with Dr. Tom Pace or contact Kelly Grimes at kgrimes@stlukesmethodist.org.

For Families with Children

A Family Room with Livestream is open all morning in the Chapel Parlor located out the left front door of the Sanctuary.

We offer loving and safe Nursery care for children ages 2 months – Pre-K while parents attend any of our morning worship services and Sunday School classes.



At 9:45 a.m., we offer Children's Sunday School for 2-year olds through 5th grade. For children in 6th through 12th grades, Student Ministries offers a unique worship experience in their own building.

During most 11:00 a.m. services, we offer Children's Church for children in Kindergarten through 3rd grade in room ES213 on the second floor of the Johnson Building, Main Entrance.

Sunday Morning and Beyond Resources

Download the St. Luke's App to watch online when you can't be with us, view sermons, listen to podcasts, find a small group, check in your children and more. Go to the App Store or Google Play and search St. Lukes UMC Houston.

To watch the livestream on your computer, go to StLukesMethodist.org/livestream

To watch sermons and listen to podcasts on your computer go to: StLukesMethodist.org/sermons

Assisted hearing devices and large print hymnals are available from the ushers.



L I V E
A N D
L O V E
L I K E
J E S U S

St. Luke's United Methodist Church
December 1, 2019 | 8:30 a.m.
The First Sunday of Advent



St. Luke's

United Methodist Church

Dr. Tom Pace, Senior Pastor

713-622-5710 | StLukesMethodist.org

"You shall call him Jesus, because he will save the people from their sins." Matthew 1:21

PRELUDE *O Come, O Come, Emmanuel* arr. Phillips

***HYMN OF PRAISE**
211 *O Come, O Come, Emmanuel* VENI EMMANUEL

***THE LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT WREATH: HOPE** Jim, Janet, Steve and Alta Mayo

Leader: Friends, as we prepare for Christ,
We can boast in our hope of sharing the glory of God.

All: **And hope will not disappoint us!**

Leader: And not only that, but we also boast in our sufferings,
knowing that suffering produces endurance, and endurance
produces character, and character produces hope.

All: **And hope will not disappoint us!**

Leader: So rejoice in hope. Be patient in tribulation. Be constant in prayer.

All: **And hope will not disappoint us!**

Leader: In faith, we light this candle of hope.

***SONG OF RESPONSE** ADESTE FIDELES

Sure - ly it is God who saves me, I will
trust in Him and not be a - fraid. For the
Lord is my stong - hold and my sure de - fense, and
He will be my - Sav - ior.

WELCOME

SCRIPTURE READING John 3:16-17 Alice King

SCRIPTURE RESPONSE

The Word of God for the people of God.
Thanks be to God.

CHORAL CALL TO PRAYER

MORNING PRAYER

SERMON *Surely it is God* Dr. Tom Pace
First in the series, Savior

OFFERTORY *The Word Was God* Rosephanye Powell
Pure Sound

In the beginning was the Word,
And the Word was with God, and the Word was God.
The same was in the beginning with God.

By Him all things were made that have been made.
Nothing was made, He has not made.
All things were made by Him.

***DOXOLOGY UMH #95** OLD 100TH

Praise God from whom all blessings flow; praise him, all creatures
here below; praise him above, ye heavenly host; praise Father, Son,
and Holy Ghost. Amen.

INVITATION TO HOLY COMMUNION Rev. Thomas Harper

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Loving and all-merciful God,
Through the birth of your Son, you have gifted us with Hope, Love,
Joy and Peace. We confess that we are often more inclined to hoard
these gifts for ourselves than to share them with others.
We ask you to forgive us, and by the gentle touch of your Spirit help
us to find a renewed desire to share all your gifts with all your world,
so that the world will know your greatest Gift, in whose name we
pray. Amen.

WORDS OF ASSURANCE AND PARDON

If we confess our sins, God who is faithful and just will forgive our sins
and cleanse us from all unrighteousness.
In the name of Jesus Christ, you are forgiven.
In the name of Jesus Christ, you are forgiven. Glory to God! Amen.

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

The Lord be with you.
And also with you.
Lift up your hearts.
We lift them up to the Lord.
Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.
It is right to give our thanks and praise.

Rev. Thomas Harper

Dr. Tom Pace

Rosephanye Powell

...the pastor continues
...we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

Rob Landes
Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow'r and might.
Heav-en and earth are full of your glo - ry. Ho - san-na in the high - est
Bles-sed is He who comes in the name of the Lord. Ho-san-na in the high - est.

...the pastor continues
...in union with Christ's offering for us, as we proclaim the mystery of faith.

Christ has died, Christ is ri-sen, Christ will come a - gain!

...the pastor continues
All honor and glory is yours, almighty Father, now and forever.

A - men, A - men, A - men.

THE LORD'S PRAYER

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,
forever. Amen.

SHARING THE BREAD AND CUP

We are guests at Christ's table which is open to all. Receive the bread in your
hands, and the server will say, "The body of Christ, given for you," and your
response could be, "Amen." Then dip the bread into the juice and the server will
say, "The blood of Christ, given for you," and again you may respond, "Amen."
Gluten-free wafers are available. Indicate your need to your server.
Offerings left at the communion rail will be directed to the Member Care
Fund, which aids our friends in need.

***HYMN OF PREPARATION**

213 *Lift Up Your Heads, Ye Mighty Gates* TRURO

MUSIC DURING COMMUNION

599 *Break Thou the Bread of Life* BREAD OF LIFE
453 *More Love to Thee, O Christ* MORE LOVE TO THEE