

SERMON

Surely it is God
First in the series, *Savior*

Dr. Tom Pace

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

CHORAL BENEDICTION 11:00

Lo, How a Rose E'er Blooming ES IST EIN ROS

POSTLUDE *Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus* Raymond Haan

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; Rev. Katie Montgomery Mears; Madison Garcia.

Musicians: Sid Davis, Director of Music and Fine Arts; Randy Murrow, Associate Director of Music and Fine Arts; Rob Landes, Artist-in-Residence; Barbara Bamberg, Accompanist; St. Cecilia; Chancel Choir.

Acolytes: Emma Freeman, Rachel Osterman.

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 | 9:45 and 11:00 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 *Of the Father's Love Begotten* Kevin Sadowski

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

***THE LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT WREATH: HOPE**
9:45 Amanda, Joseph, Angelina, Michael and Sophia Sorena
and Karen, Richard and Kaitlin Johnson
11:00 Julie, Joel, Rachel and Emma Osterman

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.

SACRAMENT OF HOLY BAPTISM

9:45

Grace Elizabeth Brown

Daughter of Judson Loomis Brown, Jr. and Samantha Webb Brown

Georgia Ann Brown

Daughter of Judson Loomis Brown, Jr. and Samantha Webb Brown

Judson Loomis Brown III

Son of Judson Loomis Brown, Jr. and Samantha Webb Brown

11:00

Clara Janaye Wilson

Daughter of Robert Allen Wilson and Linessa Michelle Zuniga

Minister: Beloved of the household of faith, I commend to your love and care *these/this* children whom we this day recognize as a members of the family of God. Will you endeavor so to live that *they/she* may grow in the knowledge and love of God the Father, through our Savior Jesus Christ?

People: With God's help we will proclaim the good news and live according to the example of Christ. We will surround *these/this* children with a community of love and forgiveness that *they/she* may grow in *their/her* service to others. We will pray for *them/her* that *they/she* may be a true disciples who walks in the way that leads to life eternal.

WELCOME

SCRIPTURE READING John 3:16-17 9:45 Rev. Michelle Manuel
11:00 Rev. Thomas Harper

SCRIPTURE RESPONSE

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

CHORAL CALL TO PRAYER

MORNING PRAYER 9:45 Rev. Katie Montgomery Mears
11:00 Madison Garcia

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.

***HYMN OF PREPARATION** 11:00

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

OFFERTORY

9:45 *Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus* David Ashley White
St. Cecilia

Come, thou long-expected Jesus,
born to set thy people free;
from our fears and sins release us,
let us find our rest in thee.

Israel's strength and consolation,
hope of all the earth thou art:
dear desire of every nation,
joy of every longing heart.

Born thy people to deliver,
born a child, and yet a King,
born to reign in us forever,
now thy gracious Kingdom bring,

By thine own eternal Spirit
rule in all our hearts alone;
by thine all-sufficient merit
raise us to thy glorious throne.

11:00 *Christus Paradox* arr. Fedak
Chancel Choir

You, Lord, are both Lamb and Shepherd.
You, Lord, are both prince and slave.
You, peacemaker and sword bringer
Of the way you took and gave.
You, the everlasting instant;
You, whom we both scorn and crave.

Clothed in light upon the mountain,
Stripped of might upon the cross,
Shining in eternal glory,
Beggared by a soldier's toss,
You, the everlasting instant;
You, who are both gift and cost.

You, who walk each day beside us,
Sit in power at God's side.
You, who preach a way that's narrow,
Have a love that reaches wide.
You, the everlasting instant;
You, who are our pilgrim guide.

Worthy is our earthly Jesus!
Worthy is our cosmic Christ!
Worthy your defeat and victory.
Worthy still your peace and strife.
You, the everlasting instant;
You, who are our death and life. Alleluia.

***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.