

Come, Almighty, to deliver; let us all thy life receive;
Suddenly return, and never, nevermore thy temples leave.
Thee we would be always blessing, serve thee as thy hosts above,
Pray and praise thee without ceasing, glory in thy perfect love.

Finish then thy new creation, pure and spotless let us be,
Let us see thy great salvation perfectly restored in thee;
Changed from glory into glory, till in heaven we take our place,
Till we cast our crowns before thee, lost in wonder, love, and praise!

301 *Jesus, Keep Me Near the Cross* NEAR THE CROSS
397 *I Need Thee Every Hour* NEED

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION *in unison* Rev. Thomas Harper

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

218 *It Came upon the Midnight Clear* CAROL

*BENEDICTION Rev. Michelle Manuel

POSTLUDE *Toccata on "Savior of the Nations, Come"* James Roman

At places marked * those who are able may stand.

When Are We?

In the context of the church calendar, we have just begun the new year. Advent is the beginning of the liturgical year, which is full of tradition and thematic elements you'll see exhibited in the coming services. Today, on Advent 2, we celebrate the theme of Love. Love is what flavors our hope. It's what makes hope more than a sterile waiting room outside the hall of eternity. Love baptizes our hope and quickens the soul, wrenching our bodies out of the rigor mortis of the dark and mundane. Love is the substance of the Father, and we wait for it in his Son. The vestments and paraments are blue to represent hope, the theme of this season.

Leading in Worship today: Dr. Tom Pace; Rev. Bill Denham; Rev. Thomas Harper; Rev. Michelle Manuel; Rachel Fisher, Children's Ministries.

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

Acolytes: Henry Quillin, Wyatt Quillin.

The altar flowers are dedicated to the glory of God and are given in celebration of the baptism of Audrey Marie Johanning by Valerie and John Johanning; and in celebration of the baptism of Molly May Anderson by Nicole and Christopher Anderson.

12:05 p.m. Communion in the Chapel: Rev. Bill Denham

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 8, 2019 | 8:30 a.m.
Second 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 *Savior of the Nations, Come* arr. Phillips

***HYMN OF PRAISE**
384 *Love Divine, All Loves Excelling* BEECHER

***THE LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT WREATH: LOVE** Xochytl, Kai and Isla Greer

Leader: Love never gives up. Love cares more for others than for self.

Love doesn't want what it doesn't have.

All: **Above all, clothe yourselves with love, which binds everything together in perfect harmony.**

Leader: Love doesn't strut, doesn't have a swelled head, doesn't force itself on others, isn't always "me first."

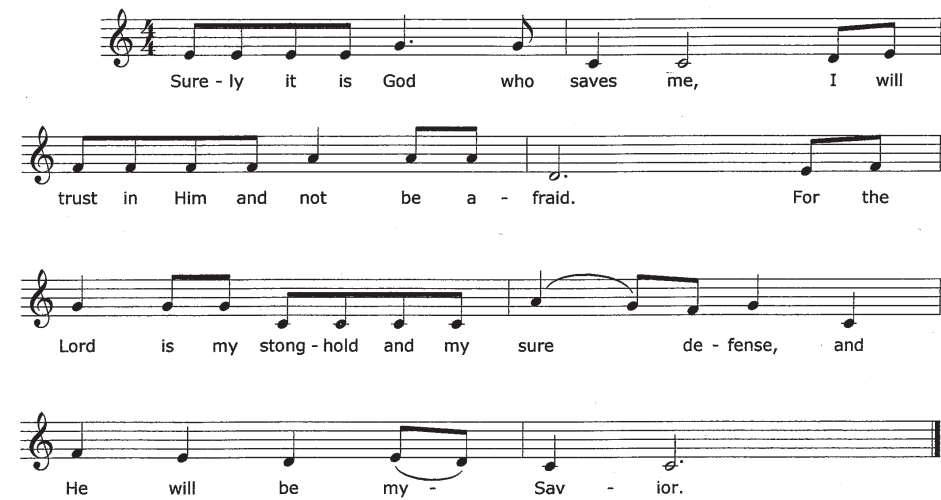
All: **Above all, clothe yourselves with love, which binds everything together in perfect harmony.**

Leader: So, no matter what we say, what we believe, and what we do, we are bankrupt without love.

All: **Above all, clothe yourselves with love, which binds everything together in perfect harmony.**

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

***SONG OF RESPONSE**



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 Isaiah 64:1-2 & 65:17-25 Rachel Fisher

SCRIPTURE RESPONSE

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

CHORAL CALL TO PRAYER

MORNING PRAYER Rev. Michelle Manuel

SERMON *A Saved World* Dr. Tom Pace
Second in the series, *Savior*

MINISTRY MOMENT Tracey Brown

OFFERTORY *Cuncti simus* ed. Soto
Pure Sound Tessa Throckmorton-Kahn and Javier Díaz, soloists

Cuncti simus concimentes: Ave, Maria!

Virgo sola existente, en affuit angelus,
Gabriel est appellatus atque missus celitus.
Clara facieque dixit: audite Karissimi
En concipies Maria, Ave Maria.

En concipies Maria, audite Karissimi
Pariesque filium Ave Maria.

Pariesque filium, audite Karissimi
Vocabis eum Jesum Christum, Ave Maria.

Let us all sing: Hail Mary!

*The Virgin was alone when the angel appeared
He was called Gabriel and was sent from heaven.*

*With radiant face he declared, (listen, dear ones)
You shall conceive, Mary. Hail Mary.*

*You shall conceive, Mary (listen, dear ones)
And will bear a son. Hail Mary.*

*You will bear a son (listen, dear ones)
And shall call him Jesus Christ. Hail Mary.*

***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. Bill Denham

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.

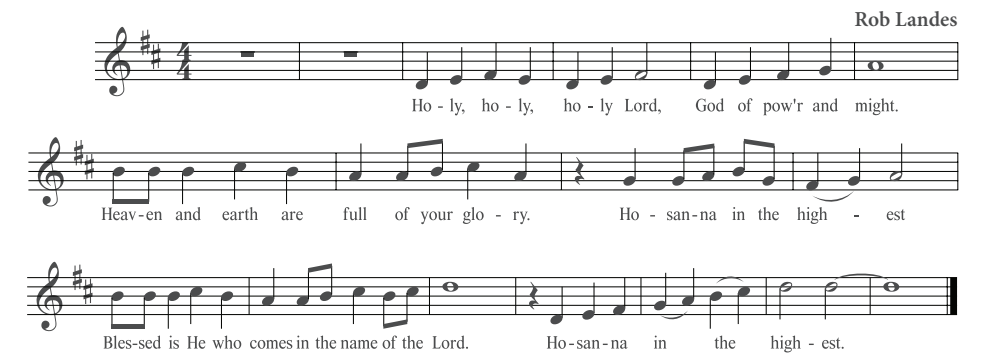
WORDS OF ASSURANCE AND PARDON

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.

...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**

203 *Hail to the Lord's Anointed* ELLACOMBE

MUSIC DURING COMMUNION

Love Divine, All Loves Excelling Sid Davis
Pure Sound Ainsley Stonebarger and Emily Zoorob, soloists

Love divine, all loves excelling, joy of heaven, to earth come down!
Fix in us thy humble dwelling, all thy faithful mercies crown.
Jesus, thou art all compassion, pure, unbounded love thou art;
Visit us with thy salvation, enter every trembling heart.

Breathe, oh, breathe thy loving Spirit into every troubled breast;
Let us all in thee inherit; let us find thy promised rest.
Take away the love of sinning; Alpha and Omega be;
End of faith, as its beginning, set our hearts at liberty.