

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

240 Hark! the Herald Angels Sing MENDELSSOHN

*BENEDICTION

Rev. Thomas Harper

POSTLUDE

Postlude on "Regent Square" Callahan

At places marked * those who are able may stand.

When Are We? Navigating the Church Calendar

In the context of the church calendar, today is Advent 4, the final Sunday before Christmas, on which we celebrate Peace. God is immaterial, so when God relegated himself in an inconceivable act of submission to mortality and dust and bones and blood, he wrapped love in the innocence and humility of an infant. He came quietly in the dark of the night and the loneliness of the margins. The one who came to save came not as one who could save, then to take the world by peaceful storm. The vestments and paraments are blue to represent hope, the theme of this season.

Sonos is a by-audition chamber group of 16 mixed voices out of Pure Sound comprised of 8-12 grade students. The name simply means "sounds" in Latin. Sonos operates as an integral part of the Pure Sound and the St. Luke's Music and Fine Arts Ministry.

Leading in Worship today: Dr. Tom Pace; Rev. Bill Denham; Rev. Thomas Harper; Rev. Michelle Manuel; Jennifer Boubel, Chief of Staff.

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

Acolytes: Kai Greer, Mackenzie Rice.

The altar flowers are dedicated to the glory of God and are given in celebration of the 45th wedding anniversary of Becky and Russell Neely, and in celebration of the 5th wedding anniversary of Virginia and Adam Stout; and in celebration of the baptism of Clara Scott Fallon by the Childress and Fallon grandparents; and in celebration of the baptism of Jane Elizabeth Zivley by the Serrata family; and in celebration of the baptism of Rose James Freels by Rosie's family; and in celebration of the baptism of Jane Elizabeth Zivley by Rebecca and John Zivley; and in honor of Elizabeth Stiver – her courage, faith, and grace and her loving and faithful family, and in loving memory of Leila Fisher Thomas, Robert Dies, Judge and Mrs. Joe J. Fisher, and Mr. and Mrs. Fay Munger by Kathy and Derek Munger and in loving memory of her husband, James Dorsett, by Hollie Wells Dorsett.

12:05 p.m. Communion in the Chapel: Rev. Katie Montgomery Mears

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 22, 2019 | 8:30 a.m.
Fourth 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 *He Is Born* arr. McChesney
Handbell Choir

***HYMN OF PRAISE**
220 *Angels from the Realms of Glory* REGENT SQUARE

THE LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT WREATH: PEACE
James, Shelley, Henry, & Wyatt Quillin

Leader: Friends, grace and peace to you from God our Father, and the Lord Jesus Christ!

All: **Let us then pursue the things that make for peace!**

Leader: As shoes for your feet, put on whatever will make you ready to proclaim the gospel of peace.

All: **Let us then pursue the things that make for peace!**

Leader: And the peace of God, which passes all understanding, will keep your hearts and minds in Christ Jesus.

All: **Let us then pursue the things that make for peace!**

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

SONG OF RESPONSE

WELCOME

SCRIPTURE READING Luke 1:67-79 **Jennifer Boubel**

SCRIPTURE RESPONSE

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

CHORAL CALL TO PRAYER

MORNING PRAYER **Rev. Thomas Harper**

SERMON *A Saved Life* **Dr. Tom Pace**
Fourth in the series, Savior

OFFERTORY *Gentle, Mary* Gary Matheny
Pure Sound

Gentle Mary laid her holy child lowly in a manger;
There he lay, the undefiled, to the world a stranger.
Such a baby, such a cruel place, can he be the Savior?
Ask the saved of all the race who found his favor.

Angels sang about his birth; all heavenly glory round him;
Led by the brightest star above the wisemen sought and found him.
Shepherds saw the wondrous sight, they heard the angels singing;
All of the plains were lit that night and all of the hills were ringing.

God's Son humbly comes to earth beautiful the story;
Praise his name in all the world; hail the King of glory!
Gentle Mary laid her holy child lowly in a manger;
He is still the undefiled, but no more a stranger.

***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. Michelle Manuel**

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:

...the pastor continues

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

...the pastor continues

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

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**

219 *What Child Is This* GREENSLEEVES

MUSIC DURING COMMUNION *Lunar Lullaby* Jacob Narverud
Sonos Justin Bair, conductor

The moon settles in the dusky sky. The gentle eyes of the north star
Rest upon your sleeping face, and the heavens gaze upon you.
In this moment, I know; you are not from the ground on which you tread,
But of the stars. You are my radiant, my celestial child.

As night is drown'd by morning, you remain at my side
Accompanying the sunrise until night swells again across the sky.

Then, dreaming, you return to the stars.

182 *Word of God, Come Down on Earth* LIEBSTER JESU
295 *In the Cross of Christ I Glory* RATHBUN

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION *in unison* **Rev. Bill Denham**

**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.**