

## 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

### CHORAL BENEDICTION 11:00

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

POSTLUDE Hark! the Herald Angels Sing Kenneth Varner

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.

**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; Ryan Jones, Fine Arts Associate; St. Cecilia; Credo; Chancel Choir.

**Acolytes:** Lillie Morenz, Hope Morenz, Sabra Ahlquist, Tressa Ahlquist

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](mailto: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](http://StLukesMethodist.org/livestream)

To watch sermons and listen to podcasts on your computer go to: [StLukesMethodist.org/sermons](http://StLukesMethodist.org/sermons)

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



St. Luke's

United Methodist Church

Dr. Tom Pace, Senior Pastor

713-622-5710 | [StLukesMethodist.org](http://StLukesMethodist.org)



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 | 9:45 and 11:00 a.m.  
Fourth Sunday of Advent

“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**  
9:45 Cookie, Caitlin, & Rachel Boeker  
11:00 Jeff Byrd, Jamie Broach Byrd  
Parker, Harrison, & Oliver Broach, Lila & Jentry Byrd

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

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

#### SACRAMENT OF HOLY BAPTISM

9:45  
**Jane Elizabeth Zivley**  
Daughter of John Thompson Zivley and Rebecca Serrata Zivley

11:00  
**Clara Scott Fallon**  
Daughter of Denis Archibald Fallon and Sara Childress Fallon

**Rose James Freels**  
Daughter of Clayton Bradley Freels and Courtney Casey Freels

Minister: Beloved of the household of faith, I commend to your love and care *this/these children* whom we this day recognize as a members of the family of God. Will you endeavor so to live that *she/they* 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 *this/these children* with a community of love and forgiveness that *she/they* may grow in *her/their* service to others. We will pray for *her/them* that *she/they* may be a true disciples who walks in the way that leads to life eternal.**

#### WELCOME

**ANTHEM**  
11:00 *O Holy Night!* arr. Wilberg  
Chancel Choir Jennifer Johnson, soloist

O holy night! The stars are brightly shining,  
It is the night of our dear Savior’s birth.  
Long lay the world in sin and error pining,  
'Till He appeared and the soul felt its worth.  
A thrill of hope the weary world rejoices,  
For yonder breaks a new and glorious morn.

Fall on your knees, o hear the angel voices  
O night divine, o night, when Christ was born.  
O night, o holy night, o night divine!

Truly He taught us to love one another,  
His law is love and His gospel is peace.  
Chains shall He break for the slave is our brother,  
And in His name all oppressions shall cease.  
Sweet hymns of joy in grateful chorus raise we,  
Let all within us praise His holy name,

Christ is the Lord! O praise His name forever,  
His power and glory evermore proclaim!

**SCRIPTURE READING** Luke 1:67-79  
9:45 Rev. Katie Montgomery Mears  
11:00 Rev. Michelle Manuel

#### SCRIPTURE RESPONSE

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

#### CHORAL CALL TO PRAYER

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

#### 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**  
219 *What Child Is This* GREENSLEEVES

**OFFERTORY**  
9:45 *Let All Mortal Flesh Keep Silence* arr. Courtney

Let all mortal flesh keep silence,  
and with fear and trembling stand;  
ponder nothing earthly-minded,  
for with blessing in his hand,  
Christ our God to earth descendeth,  
our full homage to demand.

King of kings, yet born of Mary,  
as of old on earth he stood,  
Lord of lords, in human vesture,  
in the body and the blood,  
he will give to all the faithful  
his own self for heav’nly food.

Rank on rank the host of heaven  
spreads its vanguard on the way,  
as the Light of light descendeth  
from the realms of endless day,  
that the pow’rs of hell may vanish  
as the darkness clears away.

At his feet the six-winged seraph,  
cherubim, with sleepless eye,  
veil their faces to the presence,  
as with ceaseless voice they cry,  
“Alleluia, alleluia,  
Alleluia, Lord Most High!”

11:00 *My Lord Has Come* Will Todd  
Credo

Shepherds, called by angels, called by love and angels:  
No place for them but a stable.  
My Lord has come.  
Sages, searching for stars, searching for love in heaven;  
No place for them but a stable.  
My Lord has come.  
His love will hold me, his love will cherish me, love will cradle me.  
Lead me, lead me to see him, sages and shepherds and angels;  
No place for me but a stable.  
My Lord has come.

**\*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.**

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