

WELCOME TO ST. LUKE'S METHODIST CHURCH

We're so glad you've joined us for worship today. Our mission is to share God's love and bring hope to the world. We hope you leave inspired by a message of hope and ready to embrace life in the week ahead.



EDMOND CAMPUS SERVICE OF WORSHIP 4th Sunday of Advent December 22, 2024 11 A.M.

(†Those who are able, please stand in honor of God.)

PRELUDE

arr. Matthew Naughtin

Bell Carol/In Dulci Jubilo
String Quartet

RINGING OF THE BELLS

WELCOME AND GREETING

Rev. Josh Attaway

†PROCESSIONAL HYMN

MENDELSSOHN

Hark! the Herald Angels Sing

Hark! the herald angels sing, "Glory to the newborn King; peace on earth, and mercy mild, God and sinners reconciled!" Joyful, all ye nations rise, join the triumph of the skies; with th'angelic host proclaim, "Christ is born in Bethlehem!" Hark! the herald angels sing, "Glory to the newborn King!"

Christ, by highest heaven adored; Christ, the everlasting Lord; late in time behold Him come, offspring of a virgin's womb. Veiled in flesh the Godhead see; hail th'incarnate Deity, pleased with us in flesh to dwell, Jesus, our Emmanuel. Hark! the herald angels sing, "Glory to the newborn King!"

Hail the heaven-born Prince of Peace! Hail the Sun of Righteousness! Light and life to all He brings, risen with healing in His wings. Mild He lays His Glory by, born that we no more may die, born to raise us from the earth, born to give us second birth. Hark! the herald angels sing, "Glory to the newborn King!"

†ADVENT CANDLE LIGHTING

The Larson Family

The season of Advent consists of the four Sundays leading to Christmas Eve. It is a time of anticipation and preparation, as we look forward to the birth of the Messiah.

†CALL TO WORSHIP

Peace I leave with you; my peace I give to you; not as the world gives do I give to you. Let not your hearts be troubled, neither let them be afraid. (John 14:27)

The peace that Jesus describes is not the elimination of difficult circumstances; **the peace that He brings softens our hearts so that we can love more freely.**

We celebrate His birth in Bethlehem,

He is Emmanuel, which means, "God with us":

for each one of us,

and for all of us.

Jesus brings peace to us

so that we can offer His goodwill to all.

†A CREED FOR ADVENT

As a family of faith, let us affirm our faith together.

We believe in God;

**God the Father, God the Son, and God the Holy Spirit;
the Lord and Giver of Life.**

**We believe that God the Son was born and called Jesus;
He was born as a baby,
to make us all children of God.**

**We believe that Jesus is the Word;
He came to speak the message of God's love;
for each one of us;
and for all of us.**

**We believe we are called to follow Christ;
to show kindness and mercy in all that we say and do;
to be the people we were created to be.**

**We believe that Jesus encourages us:
to share the message of Christmas;
Good News of a great joy for all the world.**

†GLORIA PATRI

MEINEKE

Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Ghost; as it was in the beginning, is now and ever shall be, world without end. Amen. Amen.

CALL TO PRAYER

Rev. Josh Attaway

The peace of the Lord be with you.
And also with you.

PASTORAL PRAYER

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.

CHORAL RESPONSE

LIFE AT ST. LUKE'S

Rev. Josh Attaway

To register your attendance please text "guest" or "member" to (405) 351-4001.

Prayer requests can be submitted by texting your request to (405) 351-4001 or a prayer card can be dropped in the offering plate or in the offering box located outside of the Worship Center.

MISSION MOMENT

DEDICATION OF TITHES AND OFFERINGS

- * Text the letters SLM to the number 73256 to give on a secure website.
- * Cash and checks can be placed in the offering plate or in the offering box located outside of the Worship Center.

OFFERTORY

arr. Craig Courtney

Mary, Did You Know?
Joey Geresi, *soloist*
Chancel Choir and String Quartet
Marji Shelton, *piano*
Dr. Candace Fish, *director*

Mary, did you know? Mary, did you know?

Mary, did you know that your baby boy would someday walk on water? Mary, did you know that your baby boy would save our sons and daughters? Did you know that your baby boy has come to make you new? This child that you delivered will soon deliver you.

Mary, did you know that your baby boy will give sight to a blind man? Mary, did you know that your baby boy will calm a storm with His hand? Did you know that your

baby boy has walked where angels trod? When you kissed your little baby, then you kissed the face of God.

Mary, did you know? Mary, did you know?

The blind will see, the deaf will hear, the dead will live again; the lame will leap, the dumb will speak the praises of the Lamb.

Mary, did you know that your baby boy is Lord of all creation? Mary, did you know that your baby boy will one day rule the nations? Did you know that your baby boy was heaven's perfect Lamb? This sleeping child you're holding is the great I AM!

Mary, did you know?

†DOXOLOGY

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.

†THE GOSPEL

Rev. Josh Attaway

Then Herod summoned the wise men secretly and ascertained from them what time the star appeared; and he sent them to Bethlehem, saying, "Go and search diligently for the child, and when you have found him bring me word, that I too may come and worship him." When they had heard the king they went their way; and lo, the star which they had seen in the East went before them, till it came to rest over the place where the child was. When they saw the star, they rejoiced exceedingly with great joy; and going into the house they saw the child with Mary his mother, and they fell down and worshiped him. Then, opening their treasures, they offered him gifts, gold and frankincense and myrrh. And being warned in a dream not to return to Herod, they departed to their own country by another way. Now when they had departed, behold, an angel of the Lord appeared to Joseph in a dream and said, "Rise, take the child and his mother, and flee to Egypt, and remain there till I tell you; for Herod is about to search for the child, to destroy him." And he rose and took the child and his mother by night, and departed to Egypt, and remained there until the death of Herod. This was to fulfil what the Lord had spoken by the prophet, "Out of Egypt have I called my son." (Matthew 2:7 - 15)

This is the Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

SERMON

Dr. Robert E. Long

The Children Cry for Peace

From the Sermon Series: Peace on Earth Goodwill to All

MUSICAL REFLECTION

arr. Craig Courtney

Let There Be Peace on Earth

Amy Stoker and Todd Walters, soloists

Chancel Choir and String Quartet

Marji Shelton, piano

Dr. Candace Fish, director

Let there be peace on earth, and let it begin with me; let there be peace on earth, the peace that was meant to be. With God our creator, children all are we. Let us walk with each other in perfect harmony.

Let peace begin with me; let this be the moment now. With every step I take, let this be my solemn vow: to take each moment and live each moment in peace eternally. Let there be peace on earth and let it begin with me.

INVITATION TO CHRISTIAN DISCIPLESHIP

†HYMN

CAROL

It Came Upon the Midnight Clear

It came upon the midnight clear, that glorious song of old, from angels bending near the earth, to touch their harps of gold: "Peace on the earth,

good will to all, from heaven's all-gracious King." The world in solemn stillness lay, to hear the angels sing.

And ye, beneath life's crushing load, whose forms are bending low, who toil along the climbing way with painful steps and slow, look now! for glad and golden hours come swiftly on the wing. O rest beside the weary road, and hear the angels sing!

For lo! the days are hastening on, by prophet seen of old, when with the ever-circling years shall come the time foretold when peace shall over all the earth its ancient splendors fling, and the whole world send back the song which now the angels sing.

†SENDING FORTH

Rev. Josh Attaway

Jesus is Emmanuel, He is God with us;

for each one of us and for all of us.

Christ the Lord was born that we might know peace:

not as the world defines peace,

but as the softening of our hearts,

so that we can offer His goodwill to all.

RECESSIONAL

POSTLUDE

James Gilbert

Christmas Fanfare
Marji Shelton, organist

LEADING IN WORSHIP

Dr. Robert E. Long

Senior Pastor

Rev. Josh Attaway

Edmond Campus Pastor

Dr. Candace Fish, *Campus Director of Traditional Worship*

Savannah White-Lewis, *Campus Director of LifeLight Worship*

Marji Shelton, *piano/organ*

Chancel Choir and String Quartet

Joey Geresi, *soloist*

Amy Stoker, *soloist*

Todd Walters, *soloist*

Lighting the Advent Candles

David, Kaeley, and Jacob Larson



Advent is the season of preparation. It is a time to prepare to fully celebrate the birth of Jesus. But in the most practical sense, it is a time when everyone prepares for Christmas. We clean and decorate our homes; we shop for and prepare food for entertaining; and we purchase, wrap, and deliver gifts for our

loved ones. All of this busyness can sometimes distract us from the true business of Advent – to ready our hearts and minds to focus on the birth of Christ. Dwelling upon Emmanuel, God with us, helps bring peace in the stress of the season so that we might share goodwill to all.

WANT TO JOIN ST. LUKE'S?

Are you interested in joining the St. Luke's mission to share, grow and serve? You can join St. Luke's on Sunday morning during Worship. For more information about membership contact Logan Fish, Campus Director of Hospitality at (405) 285-2002 or lfish@stlukesokc.org



MINISTERS

Dr. Robert E. Long
Senior Pastor
blong@stlukesokc.org

Rev. Wendy Lambert
Senior Executive Pastor
wlambert@stlukesokc.org

Rev. Josh Attaway
Edmond Campus Pastor
jattaway@stlukesokc.org

Rev. David Poteet
Pastor of Congregational Care
dpoteet@stlukesokc.org

Rev. Keith King
Pastor of Worship
kking@stlukesokc.org

Rev. Linda Harker
Online Campus Pastor
lharker@stlukesokc.org

GROWING IN YOUR FAITH

We believe in the importance of growing in our faith throughout our lives. We have opportunities available for people of all ages – from nursery through adults. Visit online at stlukesokc.org to learn more about how you can grow in your faith.

Community Groups - Adults of all ages

Community Groups are small groups of adults committed to growing closer to God and one another. A full list of current Community Groups is available online at stlukesokc.org.

Thrive Youth Ministry – 6th – 12th graders

St. Luke's Thrive Youth Ministry is an exciting place for 6-12th graders to grow spiritually through a meaningful combination of Christian education, mission work, and relationships with each other. For a calendar with all upcoming youth events, please email Schuyler Henderson - shenderson@stlukesokc.org.

Children's Ministry - 6 weeks through 5th grade

St. Luke's Children's Ministry is designed to help every child learn about the love of God through biblically-based lessons. To learn more about our Children's Ministry contact Jocelyn Morgan - jmorgan@stlukesokc.org.

Parents with Young Children

The Family Room located at the back of the Worship Center offers a comfortable place for active or tearful children to be with their parents during the service.

ADDITIONAL WORSHIP OPPORTUNITIES

Online Worship Service

If you are unable to attend worship on any Sunday, you can join us online for our live-stream of the Edmond Campus Services (LL at 9 a.m. and Traditional at 11 a.m.) and the Downtown Campus Traditional Service (8:15, 9:30 and 10:50 a.m.) at stlukesokc.org/live. Live services are also available on Roku and Apple TV apps. To install, please search - [stlukesokc](http://stlukesokc.org) or St. Luke's Methodist Church.

TV Programming

St. Luke's Traditional service can be seen as an hour long television program on KOCO channel 5 at 10:30 a.m. every Sunday morning. The program is a week delayed.

One Church with Multiple Campuses

Edmond Campus
900 N. Sooner Road
Edmond, OK 73034
(405) 285-2002
stlukesedmond.org

Downtown Campus
222 NW 15th Street
OKC, OK 73103
(405) 232-1371
stlukesokc.org

Online Campus
Watch service live, chat with clergy, request prayer, give online during every worship service
stlukesokc.org/online

Sharing God's Love and Bringing Hope to the World

The mission of St. Luke's is to share God's love and bring hope to the world. We accomplish that by sharing the message of Christ, growing in our faith, and serving the community.

HELPFUL INFORMATION

- Register your attendance by texting guest or member to (405) 351-4001.
- Prayer requests can be submitted via text message or dropped in the offering box.
- Give today - text the letters SLM to the number 73256 to give on a secure website.
- Hearing assistance devices are available at the Welcome Center.
- A live feed of the service is available for parents with active or tearful children
- A Hospitality Team member is at the Welcome Center to help.

Christmas Eve Candlelight Services

Enjoy the magic of a Christmas Eve Candlelight Service at St. Luke's! All services will end with everyone lighting candles as we sing *Silent Night*.

Edmond Campus

- 11 a.m. Family Candlelight Service, sermon by Rev. Josh Attaway
- 4 p.m. Family Candlelight Service, sermon by Rev. Josh Attaway
- 6:30 p.m. Traditional Candlelight Service, video sermon by Dr. Bob Long
- 11 p.m. Traditional Candlelight Service, video sermon by Dr. Bob Long

Downtown Campus

- Noon Traditional Candlelight Service, sermon by Dr. Bob Long
- 2 p.m. Traditional Candlelight Service, sermon by Dr. Bob Long
- 4:30 p.m. Family Candlelight Service, sermon by Dr. Bob Long
- 6:30 p.m. Traditional Candlelight Service, sermon by Dr. Bob Long

Online Campus

All services are available at stlukesokc.org/live

Local Television Services

10:35 p.m. on KFOR News Channel 4

ANGEL OF HOPE WORSHIP SERVICE | DOWNTOWN CAMPUS

You are invited to this special service and encouraged to invite others who might find comfort and strength in sharing faith and hope together. The service will take place in the Mansion Library (201 NW 14th Street) today at 5 p.m. There will be special music and a short message of hope from the Rev. Dave Poteet. At the end of the service family members are invited to place a rose at the base of the Angel of Hope sculpture in memory of their loved one.

CHRISTMAS OFFERING

Each year, the St. Luke's family of faith joins together in a special, second-mile offering. 100% of the funds raised will be used to bless the lives of others through ministries and missions supported by St. Luke's. Simply text "SLM Christmas" to 73256 and follow the links to donate to the Christmas Offering. Donations can be made during service or by contacting the Finance Department at (405) 232-1371

MISSION TREE

Visit the Mission Tree located in the Narthex to make a difference for those in need this Christmas. Simply choose an ornament from the Mission Tree; each tag lists items needed that you can donate to students at El Sistema Oklahoma, Coolidge Elementary, Will Rogers Elementary, and the Homeless Alliance. Place the gifts in the drop boxes located in the Narthex. We are also partnering with Maisha Project and you can sponsor a child in Kenya to help with food and education. Just complete the card with your information and drop it in the box and Maisha will contact you about sponsoring a child in need.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

LEARN MORE AT [STLUKESOKC.ORG/EVENTS](https://stlukesokc.org/events)

CHRISTMAS ORNAMENT

St. Luke's annual Christmas Ornaments were given away at the All Church Christmas Parties. If you were unable to attend, you can pick up your St. Luke's Year in the Bible Christmas Ornament at the Welcome Center today while supplies last.

ENDING THE YEAR WELL

Help us end 2024 well at St. Luke's! Did you know that you can provide additional financial support to your family of faith without having to access your checking or savings account? It could also provide tax benefits to you. Did you know you can use your IRA to give up to \$105,000 this year if you are over age 70 ½ without paying any federal income taxes? And, if you are age 73 or older, you can make a qualified charitable distribution from your IRA to count toward your required minimum distribution. Also, you could make a gift of appreciated stock, avoid paying any capital gains taxes, receive an income tax deduction for the full market value of the stock, and the church would receive the full value of the stock as well since we do not pay taxes. Contact Rev. Josh Attaway, CFO, (jattaway@stlukesokc.org) for more information about strategies to meet your stewardship goals.

LITTLE WOMEN AUDITIONS | JANUARY 4

All actors aged 11 and older are encouraged to audition for the upcoming Poteet Theatre production: "Little Women." Auditions are Saturday, January 4, with callback auditions the following day. Rehearsals begin on January 14. Performances will be held on March 7 - 9. Learn more at stlukesokc.org/poteet.

ACOLYTE TRAINING | JANUARY 12

All 4th and 5th graders are invited to serve in worship as an Acolyte in 2025. Training will be held on Sunday, January 12, from 12:15 - 1:30 p.m. in the Worship Center. Lunch is provided. We also need adult mentors to guide our newest Acolytes on Sunday mornings. Register online today at stlukesokc.org/events to secure your spot or volunteer as a mentor.

FAMILY SERVICE DAY | FEBRUARY 1

Start the new year with a family outing that will bless the lives of others. Join your St. Luke's family of faith for Family Service Day at the Regional Food Bank on February 1 from 9:30 a.m. to noon. Volunteers will sort, pack, and prepare food for a variety of Regional Food Bank Programs benefiting students, seniors on fixed incomes, and other Oklahomans. An adult must accompany volunteers from ages 8 to 15. Register online at stlukesokc.org/events.

YOUTH MINISTRY | GRADES 6 - 12

YOUTH DISCOVERY WEEKEND

Get ready to have a blast at Youth Discovery Weekend on January 18 - 19! This is a middle-school focused, overnight event at the church where our high school students help with the planning and leadership of the activities. There will be worship, small groups, and lots of fun and games! The cost for both days is \$50 which includes three meals, a shirt, and lots of fun! Register and pay at stlukesokc.org by January 8.

SPRING BREAK MISSION TRIPS | WEEK OF MARCH 16

Each year, the youth travel during their Spring Break to bring hope to another area of our world. The Middle School Youth (grades 6 - 8) will be going to Lakeview MCC in Texas on March 16 - 19, costing \$350. High School Youth (grades 9 - 12) will be going to Perry, FL, March 16 - 22, to help with hurricane relief in this community. and the cost is \$1,250. Each trip will be full of memories and service opportunities. Students can earn Mission Bucks to help with the cost of their trip in December and beyond. Please register online at stlukesokc.org/events and pay a trip deposit. Adult volunteers are needed for both trips. If you are interested, please contact Schuyler Henderson - shenderson@stlukesokc.org.

For more details about any of the Youth events, please email Schuyler Henderson - shenderson@stlukesokc.org.