

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.



DOWNTOWN CAMPUS SERVICE OF WORSHIP

Fourth Sunday of Advent

December 22, 2024

10:50 A.M

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

PRELUDE

arr. Dan Forrest

Hark! the Herald Angels Sing

St. Luke's Orchestra

Robert Fasol, *piano/organ/conductor*

RINGING OF THE BELLS

WELCOME AND GREETING

Ashleigh Robinson

†HYMN

GLORIA

Angels We Have Heard on High

Angels we have heard on high sweetly singing o'er the plains, and the mountains in reply, echoing their joyous strains. Gloria, in excelsis Deo! Gloria, in excelsis Deo!

Shepherds, why this jubilee? Why your joyous strains prolong? What the gladsome tidings be which inspire your heavenly song? Gloria, in excelsis Deo! Gloria, in excelsis Deo!

Come to Bethlehem and see Christ whose birth the angels sing; come, adore on bended knee, Christ the Lord, the newborn King. Gloria, in excelsis Deo! Gloria, in excelsis Deo!

See Him in the manger laid, whom the choirs of angels praise; Mary, Joseph, lend your aid, while our hearts in love we raise. Gloria, in excelsis Deo! Gloria, in excelsis Deo!

†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.

†ADVENT CANDLE LIGHTING

The Worthington 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 PRAYER

Rev. Linda Harker

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

CHORAL CALL TO PRAYER

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

SACRAMENT OF BAPTISM

Maitland Roe Miller, son of Milam and Emmy Miller, born on March 19, 2024.

BAPTISM SONG

Maitland, Maitland God claims you. God helps you, protects you and loves you too. We this day do all agree a child of God you'll always be. Maitland, Maitland God claims you. God helps you, protects you and loves you too.

CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE

With God's help, we will so order our lives after the example of Christ, that Maitland surrounded by steadfast love, may be established in the faith and confirmed and strengthened in the way that leads to life eternal.

LIFE AT ST. LUKE'S

Rev. Wendy Lambert

- * 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 plates or in the offering boxes located in the Narthex.

MISSION MOMENT

DEDICATION OF TITHES AND OFFERINGS

Dr. Robert E. Long

- * Text the letters SLM to the number 73256 to give on a secure website.
- * Cash and checks can be placed in the offering plates or dropped in the offering boxes located in the Narthex.

I Heard the Bells on Christmas Day
 St. Luke's Choir and Orchestra
 Robert Fasol, piano/conductor

I heard the bells on Christmas Day, their old familiar carols play; and wild and sweet their old familiar carols play; of peace on earth, good will to men.

I thought as now this day had come, the belfries of all Christendom had rung the unbroken song of peace on earth, good will to men. Good will to men.

And in despair, I bowed my head, "There is no peace on earth," I said, "For hate is strong and mocks the song of peace on earth, good will to men."

Then pealed the bells more loud and deep, "God is not dead, nor doth He sleep, the wrong shall fail, the right prevail, with peace on earth, good will to men. Peace on earth, good will to men."

†DOXOLOGY

VENI EMMANUEL

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. Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel.

†THE GOSPEL

Rev. Dave Poteet

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.

CHORAL RESPONSE

Do you hear the bells? They're ringing: Peace on earth! Like the angels singing: "Peace on earth!" Open up your heart and hear them: "Peace on earth, goodwill to all!" Peace on earth, peace on earth, peace on earth, goodwill to all.

SERMON

Dr. Robert E. Long

The Children Cry for Peace
 From the Sermon Series: Peace on Earth - Goodwill to All

MUSICAL REFLECTION

arr. Mark Hayes

Let There Be Peace on Earth
 St. Luke's Choir, Orchestra and Congregation
 Robert Fasol, piano/conductor

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 ev'ry 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.

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 ev'ry 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.

Let there be peace!

INVITATION TO CHRISTIAN DISCIPLESHIP

†HYMN

TEMPUS ADEST FLORIDUM

We Are People of God's Peace

We are people of God's peace as a new creation. Love unites and strengthens us at this celebration. Sons and daughters of the Lord, serving one another, a new covenant of peace binds us all together.

We are children of God's peace in this new creation, spreading joy and happiness, through God's great salvation. Hope we bring in spirit meek, in our daily living. Peace with everyone we seek, gratefully are giving.

We are servants of God's peace, of the new creation. Choosing peace, we faithfully serve with heart's devotion. Jesus Christ, the Prince of Peace, confidence will give us. Christ the Lord is our defense; Christ will never leave us.

†SENDING FORTH

Dr. Robert E. Long

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.

†POSTLUDE

Vince Guaraldi

A Charlie Brown Christmas Theme
Robert Fasol, *organist*

LEADING IN WORSHIP

Dr. Robert E. Long
Senior Pastor

Rev. Wendy Lambert
Senior Executive Pastor

Rev. David Poteet
Pastor of Congregational Care

Rev. Linda Harker
Online Campus Pastor

Ashleigh Robinson
Director of Church and Community
Engagement

MUSICIANS

Robert Fasol, Organist/Choirmaster
St. Luke's Choir and Orchestra

Lighting the Advent Candle
Rod and Joann Worthington
Mia, Roddie, Helen and Alexandria

MINISTERS

Dr. Robert E. Long

Senior Pastor

blong@stlukesokc.org

Rev. Wendy Lambert

Senior Executive Pastor

w Lambert@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

Congregational Care Ministry

The St. Luke's family of faith desires to extend care to you in the times of concern and joy and all that is in-between. Prayer Cards can be found at the Welcome Center and completed cards can be returned there. You are also welcomed to email your prayer concerns to ccm@stlukesokc.org or you may also call 232-1371 with your prayers and concerns.

Online Worship Service

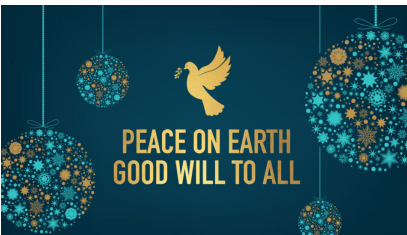
If you are unable to attend worship on any Sunday, you can join us online for our live-stream of the Edmond Campus Services (LL at 9 a.m. and Traditional at 11 a.m.) and the Downtown Campus Traditional Service (8:15, 9:40 and 10:50 a.m.) at stlukesokc.org/live. Live services are also available on Roku and Apple TV apps. To install search - stlukesokc 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.

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 Tisha Tate Garcia at ttategarcia@stlukesokc.org.



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.

One Church with Multiple Campuses

Downtown Campus

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

Edmond Campus

900 N. Sooner Road
Edmond, OK 73034
(405) 285-2002
stlukesedmond.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.
- Large print bulletins and hearing assistance devices are available in the Narthex.
- 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*.

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

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

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

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 Gallery 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. Return the gifts to the drop boxes by Christmas Eve. 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 Potteet 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/potteet.

SPIRIT SISTERS BIBLE STUDY | JANUARY 14

Rev Linda Harker and the Spirit Sisters Bible Study group invite you to a new study that begins January 14. This 24-week "Fast Track Disciple Study" will immerse you in the books of Luke and Acts. Spirit Sisters provides a safe, fun, and inspiring place to explore your faith and fellowship with other women. Spirit Sisters meet 10:30 a.m. - noon in Room 202. Please sign up for the class online.

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 Amy Givens at agivens@stlukesokc.org.

For more details about any of the Youth events, please email Amy Givens - agivens@stlukesokc.org.