

IMPOSSIBLE POSSIBILITIES

First Sunday in Lent
Holy Communion
March 5, 2017
at Ten Fifty A.M.



St. Luke's
United Methodist Church

SERVICE OF WORSHIP

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

PRELUDE

Seth Bingham

Nearer, My God, to Thee
Robert Fasol, organist

RINGING OF THE BELLS

†HYMN 64

NICAEA

Holy, Holy, Holy! Lord God Almighty

Holy, holy, holy! Lord God Almighty! Early in the morning our song shall rise to Thee. Holy, holy, holy! Merciful and mighty, God in three persons, blessed Trinity!

Holy, holy, holy! All the saints adore Thee, casting down their golden crowns around the glassy sea; cherubim and seraphim falling down before Thee, which wert, and art, and evermore shalt be.

Holy, holy, holy! Though the darkness hide Thee, though the eye of sinful man Thy glory may not see, only Thou art holy; there is none beside Thee, perfect in power, in love and purity.

Holy, holy, holy! Lord God Almighty! All Thy works shall praise Thy name, in earth and sky and sea. Holy, holy, holy! Merciful and mighty, God in three persons, blessed Trinity.

†CALL TO WORSHIP

Rev. Wendy Lambert

With all we have done in the past
it seems impossible that God could love us.

We feel embarrassed;
we feel unworthy.

Yet the love of God is unconditional and what is impossible for us,
is made possible by God.

The good things we have done have not earned God's love.

The mistakes we have made have not lessened it.

The love of God is never-ending.

We are the children of God.

†AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

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

We are not alone, we live in God's world.

We believe in God:

**who has created and is creating,
who has come in Jesus, the Word made flesh,
to reconcile and make anew,
who works in us and others by the Spirit.**

We trust in God,

We are called to be the church:

**to celebrate God's presence,
to love and serve others,**

**to seek justice and resist evil,
to proclaim Jesus, crucified and risen,
our judge and our hope,**

In life, in death, in life beyond death, God is with us,

We are not alone.

Thanks be to God. Amen.

†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.

ANTHEM

arr. Daniel Musselman

Be Thou My Vision
Chancel Choir
St. Luke's String Trio
Robert Fasol, piano/conductor

*Be Thou my vision, O Lord of my heart; naught be all else to me, save that Thou art;
Thou my best thought by day or by night; waking or sleeping, Thy presence my light.
Be Thou my wisdom, and Thou my true Word; I ever with Thee and Thou with me, Lord;
Thou my great Father and I Thy true son, Thou in me dwelling, and I with Thee one.
Riches I heed not, nor man's empty praise; Thou mine inheritance, now and always;
Thou and Thou only, only first in my heart, High King of Heaven, my treasure Thou art.
High King of Heaven, my victory won, may I reach heaven's joys, bright heaven's Sun!
Heart of my own heart, whatever befall, whatever befall, still be my vision, O Ruler of
all. Still be my vision, my vision, O Ruler of all.*

LIFE AT ST. LUKE'S

Rev. Phil Greenwald

DEDICATION OF TITHES AND OFFERINGS

Dr. Robert E. Long

OFFERTORY

Alex Nifong

Jesus Paid It All
Renee Anderson, soloist
St. Luke's String Trio
Robert Fasol, piano

*I hear the Savior say, "Thy strength indeed is small. Child of weakness, watch and
pray; find in Me thine all in all." Jesus paid it all, all to Him I owe. Sin had left a
crimson stain; He washed it white as snow.*

*Lord, now indeed I find Thy power, and Thine alone, can change the leper's spots and
melt the heart of stone. Jesus paid it all, all to Him I owe. My sin had left this crimson
stain; He washed it white as snow. It's washed away, all my sin and all my shame.*

*And when before the throne I stand in Him complete, "Jesus died, my soul to save,"
my lips shall still repeat. Jesus paid it all, all to Him I owe. Sin had left a crimson
stain; He washed it white as snow. Sin had left a crimson stain; He washed it white
as snow. He washed it white as snow. He washed it white as snow.*

†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. David Poteet

And a ruler asked him, "Good Teacher, what shall I do to inherit eternal life?"
And Jesus said to him, "Why do you call me good? No one is good but God
alone. You know the commandments: 'Do not commit adultery, Do not kill,
Do not steal, Do not bear false witness, Honor your father and mother.'" And
he said, "All these I have observed from my youth." And when Jesus heard it, he
said to him, "One thing you still lack. Sell all that you have and distribute to the
poor, and you will have treasure in heaven; and come, follow me." But when he
heard this he became sad, for he was very rich. Jesus looking at him said, "How
hard it is for those who have riches to enter the kingdom of God! For it is easier
for a camel to go through the eye of a needle than for a rich man to enter the
kingdom of God." Those who heard it said, "Then who can be saved?" But he
said, "What is impossible with men is possible with God." (Luke 18:18-27)

This is the Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

SERMON

Dr. Robert E. Long

Am I Worthy to Be Loved?
From the Sermon Series: Impossible Possibilities

INVITATION AND GREAT THANKSGIVING

Christ our Lord invites to His table all who love Him, who earnestly repent of
their sin and seek to live in peace with one another. Therefore, let us confess
our sin before God and one another.

**Merciful God, we confess that we have not loved you with our whole heart.
We have failed to be an obedient church. We have not done Your will, we
have broken Your law, we have rebelled against Your love, we have not loved
our neighbors, and we have not heard the cry of the needy. Forgive us, we
pray. Free us for joyful obedience, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

(Leader to people) Hear the Good News: Christ died while we were yet sinners; that proves God's love toward us. In the Name of Jesus Christ, you are forgiven!

(People to Leader) In the Name of Jesus Christ, you are forgiven!

(All) Glory to God, Amen.

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.

It is right, and a good and joyful thing, always and everywhere to give thanks to You, Father Almighty, Creator of heaven and earth. You brought all things into being and called them good. From the dust of the earth You formed us into Your image and breathed into us the breath of life.

When we turned away, and our love failed, Your love remained steadfast. Our failures seem ever before us and it is difficult to believe in Your love. But You remind us that it is not what we have done or not done, but who we are, that is the source of Your love. We are Your children and You continually call us back to You.

And so, with Your people on earth and all the company of heaven, we praise Your name and join their unending hymn:

Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might, heaven and earth are full of Your glory. Hosanna in the highest. Blessed is He who comes in the name of the Lord. Hosanna in the highest.

Holy are You, and blessed is Your Son Jesus Christ.

By the baptism of His suffering, death, and resurrection, You gave birth to Your Church, delivered us from slavery to sin and death, and made with us a new covenant by water and the Spirit. Now, when we Your people prepare for the celebration of Easter, You lead us into a time of repentance and cleansing so that we will be blessed to reaffirm the covenant You made with us through Christ.

On the night in which He gave Himself up for us, Jesus took the bread, gave thanks to You, broke the bread, gave it to the disciples and said: "Take, eat; this is my body which is given for you. Do this in remembrance of me."

When the supper was over Jesus took the cup, gave thanks to You, gave it to the disciples and said: "Drink from this, all of you; this is my blood of the new covenant, poured out for you and for many for the forgiveness of sins. Do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of me."

And so, in remembrance of these your mighty acts in Jesus Christ, we offer ourselves in praise and thanksgiving as a holy and living sacrifice, in union with Christ's offering for us, as we proclaim the mystery of faith.

Christ has died, Christ is risen, Christ will come again.

Pour out Your Holy Spirit on us, gathered here, and on these gifts of bread and wine.

Make them be for us the body and blood of Christ that we may be for the world the body of Christ, redeemed by His blood.

By Your Spirit make us one with Christ, one with each other, and one in ministry to all the world, until Christ comes in final victory and we feast at His heavenly banquet.

Through Your Son Jesus Christ, with the Holy Spirit in Your holy Church, all honor and glory is Yours, Almighty Father, now and forever.

Amen.

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.

RECEIVING THE BREAD AND THE CUP

The ushers will direct you to come forward to receive communion. If you are unable to come forward, please notify an usher and a server will come to you. Please feel free to stay at the rail in prayer as long as you wish. Gluten-free bread is available at the serving station on the south side of the Sanctuary.

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

INVITATION TO CHRISTIAN DISCIPLESHIP

If you desire to become a member of St. Luke's United Methodist Church, please refer to the announcement insert for additional information.

†HYMN 140

FAITHFULNESS

Great Is Thy Faithfulness

Great is Thy faithfulness, O God my Father; there is no shadow of turning with Thee. Thou changest not, Thy compassions, they fail not; as Thou hast been, Thou forever wilt be. Great is Thy faithfulness! Great is Thy faithfulness! Morning by morning new mercies I see; all I have needed Thy hand hath provided; great is Thy faithfulness, Lord, unto me!

Summer and winter and springtime and harvest, sun, moon and stars in their courses above join with all nature in manifold witness to Thy great faithfulness, mercy, and love. Great is Thy faithfulness! Great is Thy faithfulness! Morning by morning new mercies I see; all I have needed Thy hand hath provided; great is Thy faithfulness, Lord, unto me!

Pardon for sin and a peace that endureth, Thine own dear presence to cheer and to guide; strength for today and bright hope for tomorrow, blessings all mine, with ten thousand beside! Great is Thy faithfulness! Great is Thy faithfulness! Morning by morning, new mercies I see. All I have needed Thy hand hath provided; great is Thy faithfulness, Lord, unto me!

COMMISSIONING OF HONDURAS AND YOUTH MISSION TEAMS

†SENDING FORTH

Dr. Robert E. Long

Our worth isn't based on what we have or haven't done;
we are the children of God.

While the world around us seems ever-changing,
God's faithfulness is constant.

God makes the impossible possible
and by sharing God's love we can bring hope to the world.

POSTLUDE

J.S. Bach

Fugue (G Minor)
Robert Fasol, *organist*

LEADING IN WORSHIP

Dr. Robert E. Long
Senior Pastor

Rev. Wendy Lambert
Senior Executive Pastor

Rev. Phil Greenwald
Executive Pastor of Administration

Rev. David Poteet
Pastor of Congregational Care

Musicians

Robert Fasol, Organist/Choirmaster
Chancel Choir

Renee Anderson, Soloist

St. Luke's String Trio

Laura Cunningham and Luke Reese, *Violin*
Rob Bradshaw, *Cello*

Communion Servers

Debbie Beckner, Nancy Bell, Eric and Paula Buchanan, David and Mindy Duke, Barbara Frazier, Rev. Phil Greenwald, Patti High, Rev. Keith King, Rev. Wendy Lambert, Dr. Robert E. Long, Jeanne Morgan, Glenda Payne, Sherry Pemberton, Rev. Jeremy Sanders, Rev. Dale and Jenny Wood



St. Luke's

United Methodist Church

Dr. Robert E. Long

Senior Pastor

blong@stlukesokc.org

Rev. Wendy Lambert

Senior Executive Pastor

wlambert@stlukesokc.org

Rev. Jeremy Sanders

Pastor of Program Ministries

jsanders@stlukesokc.org

Rev. Dave Poteet

Pastor of Congregational Care

dpoteet@stlukesokc.org

Rev. Keith King

Online Campus Pastor

kking@stlukesokc.org

Rev. Phil Greenwald

Executive Pastor of Administration

pgreenwald@stlukesokc.org

Rev. Andrew Haynes

Pastor of Campus Operations

dhaynes@stlukesokc.org

Rev. Josh Attaway

Edmond Campus Pastor

jattaway@stlukesokc.org

Rev. Connie Barnett

Asbury Campus Pastor

cbarnett@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. Please write your prayer concerns on an attendance card during Sunday services or email to ccm@stlukesokc.org. You may also call 232-1371 with your prayers concerns.

Faith Partners

Faith Partners seeks to educate, refer and walk with people along their journey towards recovery from addiction. If you or someone you love struggles with addiction and would like help, please go online to faithpartners.stlukesokc.org or email to ccm@stlukesokc.org.

Radio Programming

Listen to "Something to Think About" with Dr. Bob Long between 7:30 a.m. and 8 a.m. on following radio stations: 98.1 The Sports Animal and Magic 104.1. The sermon can be heard on KREF AM 1400 at 9:30 a.m. every Sunday morning.

TV Programming

St. Luke's Traditional service can be seen as a half-hour television program on KOCO channel 5 at 10:30 a.m. every Sunday morning. CDs are available in Threefold or contact Bev Barnes at 232-1371. We will be glad to mail a copy of the service to you. Cost is \$5 for a CD or \$10 for a DVD.

Online Worship Service

If you are unable to attend worship on any Sunday, you can join us online for the 10:50 a.m. Traditional Worship Service broadcast live from the Downtown Campus. You can watch on your computer, smartphone, or tablet. Simply look for the "Online Worship" link on the stlukesokc.org website. A link is also available on the St. Luke's App.

Welcome to Our Newest Members Joining in February:

Downtown: Bill Culbertson, Beth and David Harris, Kara Trahan, Carla and Marshall Snipes, Connie and J.W. Mashburn, and Megan and Neil Stanek

Edmond: Sydney and Kyle Looper, Donna and Kevin Harwi, Amy and Zac Bradt, Lehne and Drew George, Amanda and Jay Cornmesser, Deanna and Gary Atkinson, Frances and Waldo Zerger, Joie and Barry Amos, and Lauren and Chad Kelliher

Welcome to St. Luke's United Methodist Church.

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

Helpful Information

Hymnals and Bibles are located in the arm rest of the seat.

Large print bulletins and hearing assistance devices are available in the Narthex.

Children's Ministry is available during the worship service for infants - 5th grade.

Parents with active or tearful children can watch a live feed of the service in the Watchorn Chapel. A children's activity bag is also available in the Narthex.

A Hospitality Team member is at the Welcome Center to help.

Announcements

Call (405) 232-1371 for more info or visit stlukesokc.org.

Please remember in prayer the Mission Teams that are sharing God's love and bringing hope in Honduras, Toronto and Dallas.

Honduras Mission Team to Roatan, Honduras on March 11 - 18:

From Downtown Campus: Austin Augustus, Mary Cloos, Leon Jingoizian, Janice Low, Charlie Ludden, Shelly Mills, Natalie Roller

From Edmond Campus: Lori Cook, Kari Goines, James Quinton

High School Mission Trip to Toronto, Ontario, Canada on March 12 - 18:

Students: Calista Boyd, Arden Boydston, Nate Buxton, Mikayla George, Emily Hamilton, Nathan Hottel, Jayden Kelly, Brooks Lambert, Raiden Lambrix, Gabby Long, Ryan Neighbors, Case Pirrong, Harlea Robinson, Sarah Tuttle

Leaders: Raeleen Gile, Amy Givens, Brian Givens, Hannah Lambert, Wendy Lambert, Lance Mock, Steven Resendez

Middle School Mission Trip to Dallas, Texas on March 11 - 15:

Students: Grace Cavett, Caton Coe, Jaylen Coe, Adam Curran, Claire Foreman, Hayden Foreman, Avony Green, Nia Grigsby, Kamryn Kelly, Brooke Kelsner, Ella Kate King, Justin Kohs, Emma Lane, Erika Manning, Carley Miller, Ella Pilgrim, Reese Pirrong, Emma Reynolds, Taylor Selke, Madison Spaulding, Ethan Stanley, Ethan Willimon

Leaders: Jeremy Biggs, Mat Evans, Aimee King, Keith King, Morgan Mitchell, Evan Nicklas, Margaret Patterson, Amy Smith

Mission Trip Blogs

During Spring Break, March 11 - 18, St. Luke's will have three mission teams on life-changing mission trips. There is a team traveling to Roatan, Honduras, the Middle School Youth will be in Dallas and the High School Youth will be in Toronto. You can check St. Luke's website (stlukesokc.org) for a link to each teams' blog, complete with descriptions and photos of their continuing effort to help the people of Roatan, Toronto and Dallas. You will feel like you're there when you read the teams' blogs!

Membership Sunday Today

Today is Membership Sunday! Have you been thinking about becoming a member of St. Luke's? We would love to welcome you into our family of faith! You're invited to a come-and-go brunch, with private joining moments available in the Mansion Chapel from 9:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. All you have to do is show up. No RSVP is required. If you would like more information about membership please, email Beth Armstrong at barmstrong@stlukesokc.org or call 609-1045.

Pick Up Your Family Lenten Devotionals Today

The season of Lent is the perfect time for families to share and experience faith conversations. St. Luke's has designed a "Weekly Family Devotionals" booklet for those with children and youth. There are several activities and lessons focusing on Growing, Sacrifice, Repentance, Forgiveness, Gratitude & Praise, The Cross, Easter Story Cookies, and "Why Did Jesus Have to Die?" Pick up a free booklet today in the Children's and Youth areas. You can sign up to receive the Family Lent Devotional via email at stlukesokc.org.

Joining St. Luke's

If you wish to place your membership with St. Luke's this morning, please complete this card and bring it to the front during the final hymn.

Name _____ Date _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Phone _____ E-mail _____

Date of Birth? _____

Are you transferring from another church? Yes No

If yes, where? _____

If you would like more information about other ways to join or upcoming membership events, please contact Beth Armstrong, Director of Welcoming Ministry, at (405) 609-1045 or barmstrong@stlukesokc.org.

Announcements

Call (405) 232-1371 for more info or visit stlukesokc.org.

Lenten Devotionals

Lent is a time to prepare for the coming of Easter. It's a time for self-examination and reflection. We focus on our relationship with God, and choose to give up something or to volunteer and help others. The staff at St. Luke's has written devotionals for the Lenten Season. They share moments in which God has profoundly impacted their lives, and we hope you find them inspirational and useful. You can pick up a copy of these devotional booklets just outside the worship space today. If you would rather have a digital version: follow [Facebook.com/stlukesokc](https://www.facebook.com/stlukesokc) or sign up for the Devotional Email at stlukesokc.org.

Easter Lilies

St. Luke's will be adorned with beautiful flowers Easter Sunday - April 16. Trumpet-shaped Easter Lilies will fill the church with a fragrance so unique to these gorgeous symbols of Christ's resurrection. You can purchase an Easter Lily in honor of someone, or in memory of a loved one, for \$20. When the Easter service is over, you may take your lily home. Order by April 3 - order forms are at the Welcome Centers or you can order online at stlukesokc.org.

Informational Meeting About Faith Partners

Are you or a loved one struggling with addiction? St. Luke's "Faith Partners" wants to help. Faith Partner's goal is to educate, support, and assist those who feel hopeless against addiction. We will help you realize that, with God, there is always hope. Find out more by attending an informational meeting over a light lunch next Sunday, March 12, at 12:15 p.m. in Room 130. Want to learn more about our addiction ministry? Join us for lunch and find out how to get involved in Faith Partners. Please RSVP via email to Rev. Jeremy Sanders: jsanders@stlukesokc.org - or call 600-3411.

Parent's Night Out

Parents, mark your calendars for a night out! The Edmond Campus is hosting "Parent's Night Out" on Friday, March 24 from 6 - 8:30 p.m. in the Children's Area. We will be offering free childcare for your kids (Infant-5th grade). Older kids are invited to come and be helpers! They will have a blast while eating pizza and watching movies. They're encouraged to wear their PJ's and bring a sleeping bag, pillow, or blanket while watching the movie. Sign up online, stlukesedmond.org, or at the Welcome Center to attend. Registration ends March 22. Invite your family and friends! For more, email Taylor Easttom at teasttom@stlukesokc.org or call 285-2313.

New Sewing Group

Here is a great opportunity for those who love sewing and helping others! St. Luke's is starting a new sewing group that will meet every Tuesday morning from 10 a.m. to noon in Room 106 (Vaught Chapel), beginning March 21. The group will make quilted blankets to be donated to those in need. All materials will be provided, but participants need to bring their own sewing machine. Participants should be proficient in sewing, and all ages are welcome. No registration is necessary and there is no cost - just show up, meet new friends, perfect your sewing technique and Share God's Love! For more information, email Morgan Jones at mjones@stlukesokc.org or call 600-3415.

Bedlam Learning Series

It's about to be "Bedlam" once again at St. Luke's! The Bedlam Learning Series continues on Friday, March 10, with speakers from OU and OSU discussing World War II. Registration begins at 8:30 a.m. with the first speaker starting at 9:00 a.m. in the Christian Life Center (CLC). Lunch is available for \$7. Sign up online at stlukesokc.org or call Jeremy Sanders at 600-3411.