
PREPARE HIM ROOM

300 YEARS OF *JOY TO THE WORLD*, MORE THAN
2000 YEARS OF JOY FOR THE WORLD

Third Sunday of Advent
December 15, 2019
at Ten Fifty A.M.

 **St. Luke's**
United Methodist Church



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.

Hymnals, Bibles, 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.

SERVICE OF WORSHIP

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

PRELUDE

John Rutter

Shepherd's Pipe Carol
St. Luke's Orchestra
Robert Fasol, *organist*
Eric Bradford, *conductor*

RINGING OF THE BELLS

†HYMN 240

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!"

†CALL TO WORSHIP

Rev. Wendy Lambert

We come before the One who was, who is, and who always will be.

We have known times of joy and times of pain.

We are grateful for the birth of Jesus

and we come to Him for healing.

The birth of Christ has set us free:

by bringing joy in the midst of suffering,

hope in the midst of despair,

life in the midst of death.

†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

Now the birth of Jesus Christ took place in this way. When his mother Mary had been betrothed to Joseph, before they came together she was found to be with child of the Holy Spirit; and her husband Joseph, being a just man

LET

and unwilling to put her to shame, resolved to divorce her quietly. But as he considered this, behold, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream, saying, "Joseph, son of David, do not fear to take Mary your wife, for that which is conceived in her is of the Holy Spirit; she will bear a son, and you shall call his name Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins." All this took place to fulfil what the Lord had spoken by the prophet: "Behold, a virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and his name shall be called Emmanuel" (which means, God with us). When Joseph woke from sleep, he did as the angel of the Lord commanded him; he took his wife, but knew her not until she had borne a son; and he called his name Jesus. (Matthew 1:18 - 25)

(All Sing) No more let sins and sorrow grow, nor thorns infest the ground; He comes to make His blessings flow far as the curse is found, far as the curse is found, far as, far as the curse is found.

CALL TO PRAYER

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

Rev. David Poteet

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

ANTHEM

arr. Robert Shaw

Good Christian Men, Rejoice
Chancel Choir and Orchestra
Robert Fasol, *piano*
Eric Bradford, *conductor*

Good Christian men, rejoice with heart and soul and voice; give ye heed to what we say; news! News! Jesus Christ is born today; ox and ass before Him bow and He is in the manger now. Christ is born today! Christ is born today!

In dulci júbilo now sing we all, He, my love, my wonder, lieth in praesepeio like any sunbeam yonder, matris ingremio; alphaes et O, alphaes et O.

Good Christian men, rejoice with heart and soul and voice; now ye hear of endless bliss; Joy! Jesus Christ is born for this! He hath oped the heav'nly door, and man is blessed evermore, Christ is born for this! Christ is born for this!

LIFE AT ST. LUKE'S

Rev. Phil Greenwald

MISSION MOMENT

ReMerge

DEDICATION OF TITHES AND OFFERINGS

Dr. Robert E. Long

OFFERTORY

arr. Richard Kingsmore

Rejoice, Rejoice, Emmanuel
St. Luke's Orchestra
Robert Fasol, *piano*
Eric Bradford, *conductor*

EVERY HEART PREPARE HIM RO

†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.*

†SCRIPTURE READING

Rev. David Poteet

And to Adam he said, "Because you have listened to the voice of your wife, and have eaten of the tree of which I commanded you, 'You shall not eat of it,' cursed is the ground because of you; in toil you shall eat of it all the days of your life; thorns and thistles it shall bring forth to you; and you shall eat the plants of the field. In the sweat of your face you shall eat bread till you return to the ground, for out of it you were taken; you are dust, and to dust you shall return." (Genesis 3:17 - 19)

Now the birth of Jesus Christ took place in this way. When his mother Mary had been betrothed to Joseph, before they came together she was found to be with child of the Holy Spirit; and her husband Joseph, being a just man and unwilling to put her to shame, resolved to divorce her quietly. But as he considered this, behold, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream, saying, "Joseph, son of David, do not fear to take Mary your wife, for that which is conceived in her is of the Holy Spirit; she will bear a son, and you shall call his name Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins." All this took place to fulfil what the Lord had spoken by the prophet: "Behold, a virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and his name shall be called Emmanuel" (which means, God with us). When Joseph woke from sleep, he did as the angel of the Lord commanded him; he took his wife, but knew her not until she had borne a son; and he called his name Jesus. (Matthew 1:18 - 25)

This is the Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

SERMON

Dr. Robert E. Long

To Make His Blessings Flow
From the Sermon Series: Prepare Him Room

MUSICAL REFLECTION

Idina Menzel

At This Table
Brittany Attaway, *soloist*
St. Luke's Orchestra
Robert Fasol, *piano*
Eric Bradford, *conductor*

At this table everyone is welcome, at this table everyone is seen. At this table everybody matters, no one falls between.

At this table there's great anticipation for the coming of the newborn King. At this table we join in praise together and with the angels sing.

So come as you are. Remember that the door is always open. Yes come as you are, God's perfect gift of love is meant for all. So come, come as you are.

At this table grace is given freely, at this table mercy has a seat. At this table we're all sons and daughters in His love we're all complete.

So come as you are. Remember that the door is always open. Come as you are, God's perfect gift of love is meant for all. Come, come as you are.

Come as you are.

At His table everyone is welcome, at His table He shows us love and care. At His table everybody matters. So come pull up a chair.

INVITATION TO CHRISTIAN DISCIPLESHIP

There's a Song in the Air

*There's a song in the air! There's a star in the sky! There's a mother's deep prayer
and a baby's low cry! And the star rains its fire while the beautiful sing, for the
manger of Bethlehem cradles a King!*

*There's a tumult of joy o'er the wonderful birth, for the virgin's sweet boy is
the Lord of the earth. Ay! the star rains its fire while the beautiful sing, for the
manger of Bethlehem cradles a King!*

*In the light of that star lie the ages imperaled; and that song from afar
has swept over the world. Every hearth is aflame, and the beautiful sing in the
homes of the nations that Jesus is King!*

*We rejoice in the light, and we echo the song that comes down through the night
from the heavenly throng. Ay! we shout to the lovely evangel they bring, and we
greet in his cradle our Savior and King!*

†SENDING FORTH

Dr. Robert E. Long

The birth of a baby in Bethlehem

has brought joy to the world!

Christ has been with us through the struggles of life

and delivers us to a life more abundant.

We are set free to share His love

and bring hope to the world!

POSTLUDE

Alfred Burt

Caroling, Caroling
St. Luke's Orchestra
Robert Fasol, *organist*
Eric Bradford, *conductor*

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

Eric Bradford, Conductor

Chancel Choir and Orchestra

Brittany Attaway, Soloist

Twila Willhite and Abbey Sieg

Lighting the Advent Candle



During the Advent season we have an opportunity to prepare for the Christ child, to be filled with His joy and love. Yet it seems that we're more likely to fill our lives with busyness, stress, overdrawn accounts and overdrawn lives. Jesus came into the world to bring joy and meaning into life. This year marks the 300th anniversary of *Joy to the World* and more than 2,000 years of Joy in the world.



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

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

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

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

Rev. Phil Greenwald
Executive Pastor of Administration
pgreenwald@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 the prayer request cards found in the Registration Pads and place them in the offering plates or email to ccm@stlukesokc.org. You may also call 232-1371 with your prayers and 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.

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 at stlukesokc.org/live.

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 Morgan Jones, Hospitality Coordinator at 609-1028 or mjones@stlukesokc.org.

Welcome to Our Newest Members Joining in November:

Downtown: Debra Weaver, Greg and Anne Skuta, Jennifer and Mark Austin, Lincoln Fowler

Edmond: Gerald and Karen Reinholtz, Neil and Paula Glass, Mason and Bonni Strom, Austin Ladd, Jamie Phillips

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

Asbury Campus
1320 SW 38th Street
OKC, OK 73119
Office: (405) 632-3378
asbury.stlukesokc.org

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. Listed below are new and exciting ways for your entire family to be involved. For information about growing in your faith every week, stop by the Welcome Center today, call 232-1371, or visit stlukesokc.org.

HAPPENING TODAY

Photo Booth

We'll be walking in a winter wonderland at St. Luke's! Stop by the Snow Globe photo booth and take your picture today. The Snow Globes are located in the Narthex and in the Fellowship Hall. Remember to tag us in the photo with #JTTW (Joy To The World)

Advent Devotionals

The staff has written devotionals for the Advent Season. You can pick up a copy of these devotional booklets in the Narthex 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.

EXPERIENCE CHRISTMAS

The season of Advent is a special time in our family of faith. Throughout December, join your St. Luke's family of faith as we prepare our hearts and minds for the birth of Christ. Every Sunday in Advent is filled with Christmas music, inspirational messages, and holiday joy! You will want to be here every Sunday - it's the perfect way to experience Christmas. For details on all the events, you can check your Advent Insert, Announcement Insert, or online at stlukesokc.org/Christmas.



LifeLight Christmas Concert

The LifeLight band is amazing every week, but they're delivering a special gift the week before Christmas! During the normal LifeLight Worship Service on December 15 at 9:40 a.m., they will perform a Christmas Concert! Dr. Long will be preaching during this service as well. Come early for a great seat.

A Gift of Song - A Christmas Opera

Poteet Theatre is proud to bring to the stage *A Gift of Song* presented by the Cimarron Opera. This Christmas opera premiered in 1961 with a story featuring Silent Night. There will be laughter and tears in this amazing presentation. Tickets are \$20-\$25 reserved seating. The opera runs December 13 and 14 at 7:30 p.m. and December 15 at 2 p.m. You can purchase tickets online at stlukesokc.org/tickets.

A Christmas Just For You!

St. Luke's Edmond is pleased to offer an all-inclusive sensory friendly Christmas Worship Service designed for both children and adults called A Christmas Just For You! Join us December 22 at 4 p.m. in the Edmond Campus Worship Center for this service that will encourage worshipping and celebrating the coming of Christmas in any way each person feels comfortable. There will be a cookies and milk reception to follow, with a special guest (Santa)! Email Taylor at teasttom@stlukesokc.org by December 15 to make any special request.

Dinner With Love

You can deliver a home-cooked meal to a struggling family, just in time for Christmas. "Dinner With Love" is a ministry that reaches out to hundreds of families in the community. It takes place Monday, December 23, in the Downtown Christian Life Center (CLC). Sign up today in the Gallery to deliver a meal or online at stlukesokc.org.

YOUTH ANNOUNCEMENTS

Youth Progressive Dinner

Celebrate the holidays with St. Luke's Youth by traveling to different homes within our family of faith for dinner! The Youth Progressive Dinner is at the Downtown Campus today from 5 - 8 p.m. Join us as we "progress" to several homes of church members and youth families for a delicious meal. All 6th - 12th grade youth are invited. Please contact Amy Givens (agivens@stlukesokc.org) with any questions.

Youth Service Day

The St. Luke's Youth Ministry is committed to serving the community, so we're excited to participate in December Youth Service Day! All 6th - 12th grade youth are invited to join us next Sunday, December 15, from 12:15 - 2:30 p.m. in the Youth Room. A free lunch will be provided. For details, email Amy Givens at agivens@stlukesokc.org.



Christmas Eve Services are a time to focus on the joy of Christmas! Each service will feature St. Luke's musicians, a Christmas message and end with the lighting of candles to the carol Silent Night.

The Family Services are family friendly, with a special time for the children and a Christmas gift for every child.

The Traditional Services include the traditional Christmas carols and scriptures and conclude with Silent Night and candle lighting. The 2:30 p.m. service at the Downtown Campus and the 11 p.m. service at the Edmond Campus will include Holy Communion.

In order to accommodate our guests, please consider attending one of the earlier services on Christmas Eve. That way we can ensure there is enough room for our guests to experience Christmas!

Downtown Campus

2:30 p.m. - Traditional Candlelight Service *

4:30 p.m. - Family Service

6:30 p.m. - Traditional Candlelight Service

Edmond Campus

2 p.m. - Family Service (Sermon by Rev. Josh Attaway)

4 p.m. - Family Service (Sermon by Rev. Josh Attaway)

6:30 p.m. - Traditional Candlelight Service

11 p.m. - Traditional Candlelight Service *

Online Campus - stlukesokc.org

6:30 p.m. - Traditional Service from Downtown Campus

Asbury Campus

4 p.m. - Traditional Candlelight Service *

* - Holy Communion will be served during these services

PREPARE HIM ROOM

ADVENT SERMON SERIES

DECEMBER 1 - 24

ADVENT EVENTS

Children's Christmas Musicals
Edmond - Today

**National Treasure of St. Luke's
St. Luke's Christmas Party**
Downtown - Today
Holiday Open House at 4 p.m.
Dinner and Movie at 5 p.m.

**A Christmas Just for You
Worship Service**
Edmond - Sunday, Dec. 22

**Angel of Hope Service
Worship Service**
Downtown - Sunday, Dec. 22

Dinner with Love
Downtown - Monday, Dec. 23

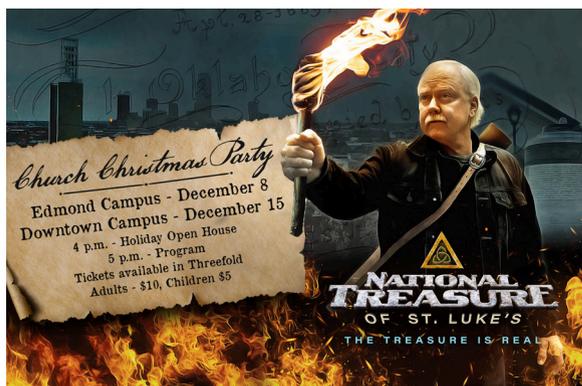
**Christmas Eve Candlelight
Worship Services**
Tuesday, Dec. 24

Downtown
*2:30 p.m. - Traditional Service**
4:30 p.m. - Family Service
6:30 p.m. - Traditional Service

Edmond
2 p.m. - Family Service
4 p.m. - Family Service
6:30 p.m. - Traditional Service
*11 p.m. - Traditional Service**

Asbury
*4 p.m. - Traditional Service**

**Holy Communion during Service*



There's treasure at St. Luke's? Where? Find out at this year's All Church Christmas Party! Join your family of faith as we recap and celebrate all the accomplishments of 2019 with this year's feature film, National Treasure of St. Luke's. See Dr. Bob Long like you've never seen him before!

Bring your family to the St. Luke's Christmas Party at the Downtown Campus tonight. The Holiday Open House starts at 4 p.m. and a delicious dinner and program begins at 5 p.m.

The Annual Business Meeting will be conducted tonight before the presentation.

Tickets are \$10 for those attending the program. Children will enjoy their own Christmas Party starting at 5 p.m. with games and activities for \$5.

Tickets for all events can be purchased at Threefold.



Advent Devotionals are available at the Welcome Center, online, and on Facebook.

POINSETTIA ORDER FORM

In honor of In memory of

Name: _____

Given By: _____

Daytime Phone: _____

Number of Plants: _____ @ \$20 each Check for \$ _____ attached

Downtown Campus Edmond Campus

Orders must be turned in by December 15.

If you purchase a poinsettia, they will be used to decorate during Advent.
You may take the poinsettia home after the Christmas Eve Service.

POINSETTIA SALE - TODAY IS THE DEADLINE

There is a special way to honor and remember loved ones and special people in your life this Advent season. Donate a Christmas poinsettia for \$20 each. These poinsettias are a part of our beautifully decorated facilities and displayed throughout the season to be enjoyed by many. Tear off the order form above and return today.



ANGEL OF HOPE

December 22 - 5 p.m. in the Mansion Library

The Angel of Hope Worship Service is held in honor of families who have lost a loved one. You are invited to this special service to find comfort and strength in sharing faith and hope together. There is a special time in the service when family members can place a flower at the base of the angel sculpture in memory of their loved ones.



A CHRISTMAS JUST FOR YOU

Edmond Campus - December 22 at 4 p.m.

St. Luke's Edmond is pleased to offer an all-inclusive sensory friendly Christmas Worship Service - *A Christmas Just For You!* This service, designed for children and adults, encourages worshiping and celebrating the coming of Christmas in any way each person feels comfortable. There will be a cookies and milk reception to follow, with a special guest (Santa)! Email Taylor at teasttom@stlukesokc.org by December 15 for any requests.



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 "STL Give" to 73256 and follow the links to donate to the Christmas Offering. Donations can be made during service or by contacting the Finance Department.



MISSION TREES

Share God's love this Christmas season by picking up an ornament from the Mission Tree in the Gallery to see items you can purchase to help those in need. Studio 222 and Emerson South still have supplies that can be purchased to help with these ministries. Drop off donations in the Gallery.