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# PREPARE HIM ROOM

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



Fourth Sunday of Advent  
December 22, 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

arr. Anna Laura Page

*Mary, Did You Know?*

Bells of St. Luke's

Cynthia Adair, *director*

### RINGING OF THE BELLS

### †HYMN 246

ANTIOCH

*Joy to the World*

*Joy to the world, the Lord has come! Let earth receive her King; let every heart prepare Him room, and heaven and nature sing, and heaven and nature sing, and heaven, and heaven and nature sing.*

*Joy to the world, the Savior reigns! Let all their songs employ; while fields and floods, rocks, hills, and plains repeat the sounding joy, repeat the sounding joy, repeat, repeat the sounding joy.*

*No more let sins and sorrows 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.*

*He rules the world with truth and grace, and makes the nations prove the glories of His righteousness, and wonders of His love, and wonders of His love, and wonders, wonders of His love.*

### †CALL TO WORSHIP

Rev. Wendy Lambert

Come before the Lord with gladness;

**we come to worship the Prince of Peace!**

Christ reigns with truth and grace

**and His love transforms our lives.**

A child born in Bethlehem

**has brought joy for 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

When the angels went away from them into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, "Let us go over to Bethlehem and see this thing that has happened, which the Lord has made known to us." And they went with haste, and found Mary and Joseph, and the babe lying in a manger. And when they saw it they made known the saying which had been told them concerning this child; and

LET

all who heard it wondered at what the shepherds told them. But Mary kept all these things, pondering them in her heart. And the shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen, as it had been told them. (Luke 2:15 - 20)

*(All Sing) He rules the world with truth and grace, and makes the nations prove the glories of His righteousness, and wonders of His love, and wonders of His love, and wonders, wonders of His love.*

CALL TO PRAYER

Rev. David Poteet

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

ANTHEM

arr. William Farley Smith

*Go, Tell It on the Mountain*  
J. Warren Mitchell, *soloist*  
Chancel Choir and Orchestra  
Robert Fasol, *piano*  
Eric Bradford, *conductor*

*Go, tell it on the mountain, over the hills and everywhere; go, tell it on the mountain, that Jesus Christ is born. While shepherds kept their watching o'er silent flocks by night, behold throughout the heavens there shown a holy light.*

*Go, tell it on the mountain, over the hills and everywhere; go, tell it on the mountain, that Jesus Christ is born. The shepherds feared and trembled, when lo! above the earth, rang out the angel chorus that hailed the Savior's birth.*

*Go, tell it on the mountain, over the hills and everywhere; go, tell it on the mountain, that Jesus Christ is born. Down in a lowly manger the humble Christ was born, and God sent us salvation that blessed Christmas morn.*

LIFE AT ST. LUKE'S

Rev. Phil Greenwald

MISSION MOMENT

Africa Missions

DEDICATION OF TITHES AND OFFERINGS

Dr. Robert E. Long

OFFERTORY

arr. Valerie W. Stephenson

*Joy to the World*  
Bells of St. Luke's  
Cynthia Adair, *director*

†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.*

EVERY HEART PREPARE HIM RO

## †SCRIPTURE READING

Rev. David Poteet

Say among the nations, "The Lord reigns! Yea, the world is established, it shall never be moved; he will judge the peoples with equity." Let the heavens be glad, and let the earth rejoice; let the sea roar, and all that fills it; let the field exult, and everything in it! Then shall all the trees of the wood sing for joy before the Lord, for he comes, for he comes to judge the earth. He will judge the world with righteousness, and the peoples with his truth. (Psalm 96:10 - 13)

When the angels went away from them into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, "Let us go over to Bethlehem and see this thing that has happened, which the Lord has made known to us." And they went with haste, and found Mary and Joseph, and the babe lying in a manger. And when they saw it they made known the saying which had been told them concerning this child; and all who heard it wondered at what the shepherds told them. But Mary kept all these things, pondering them in her heart. And the shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen, as it had been told them. (Luke 2:15 - 20)

This is the Word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

## SERMON

Dr. Robert E. Long

*With Truth and Grace*

From the Sermon Series: Prepare Him Room

## MUSICAL REFLECTION

arr. Mervin Tay

*The First Noel*

J. Warren Mitchell, *soloist*

St. Luke's Orchestra

Robert Fasol, *piano*

Eric Bradford, *conductor*

*The first Noel the angels did say was to certain poor shepherds in fields as they lay:  
In fields where they lay keeping their sheep on a cold winter's night that was so deep.  
Noel, Noel, Noel, Noel. Born is the King of Israel!*

*They looked up and saw a star, shining in the east beyond them far and to the earth it  
gave great light and so it continued both day and night. Noel, Noel, Noel, Noel.  
Born is the King of Israel!*

*And by the light of that same star, three Wise Men came from country far, to seek for a  
King was their intent, and to follow the star wherever it went. Noel, Noel, Noel, Noel.  
Born is the King of Israel! Born is the King of Israel!*

## INVITATION TO CHRISTIAN DISCIPLESHIP

## †HYMN 219

GREENSLEEVES

*What Child Is This*

*What child is this who, laid to rest, on Mary's lap is sleeping? Whom angels greet  
with anthems sweet, while shepherds watch are keeping? This, this is Christ the  
King, whom shepherds guard and angels sing; haste, haste to bring him laud, the  
babe, the son of Mary.*

*Why lies he in such mean estate where ox and ass are feeding? Good Christians,  
fear, for sinners here the silent Word is pleading. This, this is Christ the King,  
whom shepherds guard and angels sing; haste, haste to bring him laud, the babe,  
the son of Mary.*

*So bring him incense, gold, and myrrh, come, peasant, king, to own him; the King  
of kings salvation brings, let loving hearts enthrone him. This, this is Christ the  
King, whom shepherds guard and angels sing; haste, haste to bring him laud, the  
babe, the son of Mary.*

†SENDING FORTH

Dr. Robert E. Long

Rejoice for the Lord is near!

**We give thanks for the birth of Christ the King!**

He rules with truth and grace

**and His love redeems us all!**

The Lord has come;

**He is joy for the world!**

POSTLUDE

arr. David Wilcocks

*Adeste Fideles*

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**

**J. Warren Mitchell, Soloist**

**Bells of St. Luke's**

Cynthia Adair, *Director*

*Jennifer Birney, Pat Birney, Steve Graham, Cathy Guyer*

*Margaret Howell, Ron Howell, Dennis Martin, Rita Pierce,*

*Reid Powell, Jeff Sabin, Peggy Simms, Joe Wine*

**David and Merideth Ferris,**

**Hudson and Raegan**

Lighting the Advent Candle

Sermon Notes

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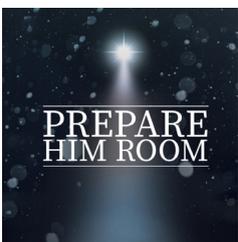
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During the Advent season we have an opportunity to prepare for the Christ child, to be filled with His joy and love. Yet it seems that we're more likely to fill our lives with busyness, stress, overdrawn accounts and overdrawn lives. Jesus came into 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.



# 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. 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](mailto: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](http://faithpartners.stlukesokc.org) or email to [ccm@stlukesokc.org](mailto: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](http://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](mailto: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](http://stlukesokc.org)

**Edmond Campus**  
900 N. Sooner Road  
Edmond, OK 73034  
(405) 285-2002  
[stlukesedmond.org](http://stlukesedmond.org)

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



### Christmas Eve Services

Christmas Eve at all the Campuses is a time to focus on the joy of Christmas. Each service will feature St. Luke's musicians, a Christmas message, and conclude 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.

Worship times for Christmas Eve are listed below by campus.

#### Downtown Campus:

**2:30 p.m.** - Traditional Candlelight Service with Holy Communion, sermon by Dr. Bob Long

**4:30 p.m.** - Family Candlelight Service with a Children's Moment, sermon by Dr. Bob Long

**6:30 p.m.** - Traditional Candlelight Service, sermon by Dr. Bob Long

#### Edmond Campus:

**2 p.m.** - Family Candlelight Service with a Children's Moment, sermon by Rev. Josh Attaway

**4 p.m.** - Family Candlelight Service with a Children's Moment, sermon by Rev. Josh Attaway

**6:30 p.m.** - Traditional Candlelight Service, video sermon by Dr. Bob Long

**11 p.m.** - Traditional Candlelight Service with Holy Communion, video sermon by Dr. Bob Long

#### Asbury Campus:

**4 p.m.** - Traditional Candlelight Service with Holy Communion, video sermon by Dr. Bob Long.

#### Online Campus - [stlukesokc.org](http://stlukesokc.org)

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



### 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.

## Advent Events

#### 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*

#### Edmond

*2 p.m. - Family Service*

*4 p.m. - Family Service*

*6:30 p.m. - Traditional Service*

*11 p.m. - Traditional Service\**

#### Downtown

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

*4:30 p.m. - Family Service*

*6:30 p.m. - Traditional Service*

#### Asbury

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

*\* Holy Communion Served*

## EXPERIENCE CHRISTMAS



### Angel of Hope

The Angel of Hope Worship Service is held in honor of families who have lost a loved one to help them find comfort and strength in sharing faith and hope together. You are invited to this special service, today at 5 p.m. in the Mansion Library. 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" Christmas Service Today

Today at 4 p.m. at the Edmond Campus, there is 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)!

### 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](http://stlukesokc.org).

### 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).

## YOUTH ANNOUNCEMENTS

### Confirmation Classes

Confirmation class is an important part of a student's journey as they learn more about Christian beliefs and living a life of faith. Classes will begin on January 12 and are on Sunday afternoon, 3 - 5 p.m.. Confirmation students are usually 6th graders, but older youth who have yet to participate in Confirmation are also welcome. There will be a lunch for all the parents, Faith Friends and youth on Sunday, January 12, at 12:15. There is no cost. Please register for the Confirmation Classes online - [stlukesokc.org/confirmation](http://stlukesokc.org/confirmation). For more information, contact Amy Givens - [agivens@stlukesokc.org](mailto:agivens@stlukesokc.org) or 609-1027.

# ONLINE WORSHIP

Watch live at 10:50 a.m. Sunday mornings at [stlukesokc.org/live](http://stlukesokc.org/live) or [facebook.com/stlukesokc](https://www.facebook.com/stlukesokc).

