



Finding the Way

First Sunday After Christmas
December 29, 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. Jon Schmidt

I Saw Three Ships
Susan Easttom, piano

RINGING OF THE BELLS

†HYMN 245

THE FIRST NOEL

The First Noel

The first Noel the angel 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.

This star drew nigh to the northwest, o'er Bethlehem it took its rest; and there it did both stop and stay, right over the place where Jesus lay. Noel, Noel, Noel, Noel, born is the King of Israel.

Then entered in those Wise Men three, full reverently upon the knee, and offered there, in his presence, gold and myrrh and frankincense. Noel, Noel, Noel, Noel, born is the King of Israel.

†CALL TO WORSHIP

Rev. Phil Greenwald

In the New Year we look for a star...

Hoping to find direction for our lives.

In the New Year we will give thanks...

For those who loved us into being.

In the New Year we will pray for others...

And commit to putting the interests of others before ourselves.

†AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

Where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is one true church, apostolic and universal, whose holy faith let us now declare.

We believe in God the Father,

infinite in wisdom, power and love,

whose mercy is over all His works,

and whose will is ever directed to His children's good.

We believe in Jesus Christ,

Son of God and Son of man,
the gift of the Father's unfailing grace,
the ground of our hope,
and the promise of our deliverance from sin and death.

We believe in the Holy Spirit
as the divine presence in our lives,
whereby we are kept in perpetual remembrance of the truth of Christ,
and find strength and help in time of need.

We believe that this faith should manifest itself
in the service of love,
as set forth in the example of our blessed Lord,
to the end that the kingdom of God may come upon the earth. 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.

CALL TO PRAYER

Rev. Keith King

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.

†HYMN 254

KINGS OF ORIENT

We Three Kings

We three kings of Orient are; bearing gifts we traverse afar, field and fountain, moor and mountain, following yonder star. O star of wonder, star of light, star with royal beauty bright, westward leading, still proceeding, guide us to thy perfect light.

Born a King on Bethlehem's plain, gold I bring to crown him again, King forever, ceasing never, over us all to reign. O star of wonder, star of light, star with royal beauty bright, westward leading, still proceeding, guide us to thy perfect light.

Frankincense to offer have I; incense owns a Deity nigh; prayer and praising, voices raising, worshiping God on high. O star of wonder, star of light, star with royal beauty bright, westward leading, still proceeding, guide us to thy perfect light.

Myrrh is mine; its bitter perfume breathes a life of gathering gloom; sorrowing, sighing, bleeding, dying, sealed in the stone-cold tomb. O star of wonder, star of light, star with royal beauty bright, westward leading, still proceeding, guide us to thy perfect light.

Glorious now behold him arise; King and God and sacrifice: Alleluia, Alleluia, sounds through the earth and skies. O star of wonder, star of light, star with royal beauty bright, westward leading, still proceeding, guide us to thy perfect light.

ANTHEM

Robert Mac Gimsey

Sweet Little Jesus Boy
Elvie Ellis, soloist
Susan Easttom, piano

Sweet little Jesus Boy, they made You be born in a manger. Sweet little Holy Child didn't know who You were, didn't know You'd come to save us Lord; to take our sins away. Our eyes were blind we couldn't see, we didn't know who You were.

Long time ago You were born, born in a manger low, sweet little Jesus Boy. The world treats You mean Lord, treats me mean too, but that's how things are down here: we don't know who You are. You have told us how, we are trying.

Master You have shown us how even when You were dying. Just seems like we can't do right, look how we treated You. But, please Sir, forgive us Lord, we didn't know 'twas you. Sweet little Jesus Boy born long time ago. Sweet little Holy Child and we didn't know who You were.

LIFE AT ST. LUKE'S

Rev. Wendy Lambert

DEDICATION OF TITHES AND OFFERINGS

Rev. David Poteet

OFFERTORY

arr. Mark Hayes

Jesus, Oh What a Wonderful Child

Elvie Ellis, soloist

Susan Easttom, piano

Jesus, Jesus, Oh, what a wonderful Child; Jesus, Jesus, so lowly, meek and mild: New life, new hope, new joy He brings. Won't you listen to the angels sing, "Glory, glory, glory to the newborn King." Jesus, my Lord Jesus, Oh, what a wonderful Child; Jesus, talkin' 'bout Jesus, so lowly, meek and mild:

New life, new hope, new joy He brings. Won't you listen to the angels sing, "Glory, glory, glory to the newborn King." He was herald by the angels, born in a lowly manger. The virgin Mary was His mother, and Joseph was His earthly father. Oh, three wise men came from afar, they were guided by a shining star, to see King Jesus where He lay in a manger filled with hay.

Oh, Jesus, my, my, my Jesus, Oh, what a wonderful Child; Jesus, sweet little Jesus, He's so lowly, meek and mild: New life, new hope, new joy He brings. Won't you listen to the angels sing, "Glory, glory, glory to the new born King."

Jesus, sweet Baby Jesus, Oh, what a wonderful Child; talkin' 'bout Jesus, Jesus, so lowly, so meek and mild: New life, new hope, new joy He brings. Won't you listen to the angels sing, "Glory, glory, glory, to the newborn King." "Glory, glory, glory to the newborn King." Oh, what a wonderful Child!

†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. Keith King

Now when Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea in the days of Herod the king, behold, wise men from the East came to Jerusalem, saying, "Where is he who has been born king of the Jews? For we have seen his star in the East, and have come to worship him." When Herod the king heard this, he was troubled, and all Jerusalem with him; and assembling all the chief priests and scribes of the people, he inquired of them where the Christ was to be born. They told him, "In Bethlehem of Judea; for so it is written by the prophet: 'And you, O Bethlehem, in the land of Judah, are by no means least among the rulers of Judah; for from you shall come a ruler who will govern my people Israel.'" 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. 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. (Matthew 2: 1 - 12)

This is the Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

SERMON

Rev. David Poteet

To Follow a Star

INVITATION TO CHRISTIAN DISCIPLESHIP

†HYMN 251

GO TELL IT ON THE MOUNTAIN

Go, Tell It on the Mountain

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.

Go, tell it on the mountain, over the hills and everywhere; go, tell it on the mountain, that Jesus Christ is born.

†SENDING FORTH

Rev. David Poteet

The new year is upon us.

May God guide us and direct us as we go forward.

Follow the star that points to Jesus.

And discover the true meaning of kindness.

POSTLUDE

arr. Carsten Gerlitz

Gloria

Susan Easttom, *organist*

LEADING IN WORSHIP

Rev. Wendy Lambert

Senior Executive Pastor

Rev. Phil Greenwald

Executive Pastor of Administration

Rev. David Poteet

Pastor of Congregational Care

Rev. Keith King

Pastor of Worship

Musicians

Susan Easttom, Director of Family Ministries

Elvie Ellis, Soloist



Jesus said, "I am the way, the truth, and the life..." How do we know the Way? What does it look like to follow Christ? Finding the Way means growing in our knowledge of who Christ is, deepening our faith, and committing our time and effort that we might make a difference. A life lived in Jesus is a better life and so we are committed to following Him. We are committed to *Finding the Way*.



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Rev. Josh Attaway
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Rev. Connie Barnett
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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.



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.

Love Your Neighbor: No Exceptions

We live in a time where our country is more divided than ever. Society has forgotten the Golden Rule. While Social Media has connected us, it has also become a platform where criticism, negativity, and disrespect have gained too much ground. In Oklahoma, we understand what it means to be a neighbor in the midst of hardship and disaster. Next Sunday, January 5, we will begin a new series entitled "Love Your Neighbors: No Exceptions." We will also be distributing an inspirational daily desk calendar to coincide with the 2020 theme. We can set an example for the world on loving our neighbors without exception.

FIND YOUR PLACE TO SERVE

At St. Luke's, we believe serving is a vital part of our Christian walk. We are committed to be the hands and feet of Christ in our local community and around the globe. We encourage you to find your place to serve with your family of faith on Sundays, in the local community, or globally. Information is available at the Connection Point or online at stlukesokc.org/serve.

St. Luke's Service Day

Did you know Oklahoma is the fifth hungriest state in the nation? Let's do something to change that. Your entire family will have a chance to feed the hungry in just a single morning. Join us for Family Service Day at the Regional Food Bank on Saturday, February 1, from 9:30 a.m.-noon. Anyone in our church family is welcome, and all volunteers must be at least 8 years old. Register to volunteer at stlukesokc.org and meet at the Regional Food Bank (3355 S. Purdue, OKC). For details, email Susan (seasttom@stlukesokc.org) or Amy (agivens@stlukesokc.org).

Studio 222 Van Driver Needed

You can help drive underserved youth to a better future! St. Luke's after-school arts program "Studio 222" needs van drivers to transport students to and from our building. No special license is needed, but a background check and online driver training is required. Drivers are needed Mondays and/or Thursdays at 3:30 pm. We also need drivers to take students home on Wednesdays at 6:00 pm. It's just once a week, between 60 and 90 minutes of your time. Can you help? Please email Julie Robinson at jrobinson@stlukesokc.org.

Mobile Meals Cooks Needed

You have the opportunity to "serve hope" to hungry and homebound seniors in our neighborhood. Right now, St. Luke's is looking for a couple of cooks to help prepare meals for our Saturday "Mobile Meals" deliveries. Cooks are needed for the 4th Saturday of each month. Meals are made in the St. Luke's Mansion Kitchen at the Downtown Campus. If you can help us feed the hungry, please email Julie Robinson at jrobinson@stlukesokc.org.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Women of Faith Bible Study

Ladies, find fellowship and meaning at the Women of Faith Bible Study. The group will begin a new six-week study called "How Happiness Happens." Bestselling author Max Lucado looks at several "one another" statements in the Bible that reveal how the happiest people on earth aren't those who have the most, but those who are willing to give the most away. The study takes place on Thursdays, starting January 16, from 12-1 p.m. in the Mansion Library. Childcare is provided, and lunch is offered for \$5. For details, email Amy Givens at agivens@stlukesokc.org or call (405) 609-1027.

Dinner With Love

Thank you to the hundreds of volunteers that supported the Dinner With Love event on December 23. Meals were delivered to hundreds of families and it would not happen without dedicated volunteers.

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. 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. Classes will begin on January 26, from 9:40 - 11:45. There is no cost. Please register for the Confirmation Classes online - stlukesokc.org/confirmation. For more information, contact Amy Givens - agivens@stlukesokc.org or 609-1027.

Winter Youth Weekend

Youth grades 6 - 12 will enjoy a time of service to the community and fun activities at the Winter Youth Weekend. On Saturday, January 11, from 1 - 5:30 p.m., the group will visit nursing homes and go ice skating. On Sunday, from 3 - 7:30 p.m., youth will be making blankets and enjoying dinner and worship. Cost for each day is \$10.

ONLINE WORSHIP

Watch live at 10:50 a.m. Sunday mornings at stlukesokc.org/live or facebook.com/stlukesokc.

