

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.



SERVICE OF WORSHIP

Christmas Eve Service of Carols and Candlelight

December 24, 2023

4:30 P.M.

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

PRELUDE

arr. Kyunghoon Kim

Carol of the Bells

Robert Fasol and Hayden Coie, *piano duo*

RINGING OF THE BELLS

WELCOME AND GREETING

Ashleigh Robinson

†THE CAROL

ADESTE FIDELES

O Come, All Ye Faithful

O come, all ye faithful, joyful and triumphant, O come ye, O come ye, to Bethlehem. Come, and behold Him, born the King of Angels; O come, let us adore Him, O come, let us adore Him, O come, let us adore Him, Christ the Lord.

True God of true God, Light from Light Eternal, lo, He shuns not the Virgin's womb; Son of the Father, begotten not created; O come, let us adore Him, O come, let us adore Him, O come, let us adore Him, Christ the Lord.

Sing, choirs of angels, sing in exultation; O sing, all ye citizens of heaven above! Glory to God, all glory in the highest; O come, let us adore Him, O come, let us adore Him, O come, let us adore Him, Christ the Lord.

THE CAROL

ST. LOUIS

O Little Town of Bethlehem

O little town of Bethlehem, how still we see thee lie! Above thy deep and dreamless sleep the silent stars go by. Yet in thy dark streets shineth the everlasting light; the hopes and fears of all the years are met in thee tonight.

For Christ is born of Mary, and gathered all above, while mortals sleep, the angels keep their watch of wond'ring love. O morning stars, together proclaim the holy birth! And praises sing to Christ the King and peace to all on earth.

How silently, how silently, the wondrous gift is giv'n! So God imparts to human hearts the blessings of the heav'ns. No ear may hear His coming, but in this world of sin, where meek souls will receive Him still the dear Christ enters in.

O holy Child of Bethlehem, descend to us, we pray, cast out our sin, and enter in, be born in us today! We hear the Christmas angels the great glad tidings tell. O come to us, abide with us, our Lord Emmanuel.

CHILDREN'S MOMENT

Taylor Easttom

VIDEO LESSON

CREDIT: SADDLEBACK CHURCH

Luke 1:26 - 33 (New Living Translation)

In the sixth month of Elizabeth's pregnancy, God sent the angel Gabriel to Nazareth, a village in Galilee, to a virgin named Mary. She was engaged to be

married to a man named Joseph, a descendant of King David. Gabriel appeared to her and said, "Greetings, favored woman! The Lord is with you! Confused and disturbed, Mary tried to think what the angel could mean. "Don't be afraid, Mary," the angel told her, "for you have found favor with God! You will conceive and give birth to a son, and you will name him Jesus. He will be very great and will be called the Son of the Most High. The Lord God will give him the throne of his ancestor David. And he will reign over Israel forever; his Kingdom will never end!"

THE CAROL

MENDELSSOHN

Hark! the Herald Angels Sing

Hark! the herald angels sing, "Glory to the new born 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 new born 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 new born King!"

UNISON PRAYER

Rev. David Poteet

Eternal God,

We have looked to You with great anticipation. We have waited with great hope. The time has arrived. You have come to be with us, our Emmanuel. Open our hearts to once again receive the message of hope and love that comes alive in the lowly manger. Like the shepherds so long ago, let us come to you and experience the arrival of good news and great joy for all the world. As we come to You, we pray that Your hope and love would be renewed in our lives. As the arrival of a newborn in Bethlehem brings new life for the world, let it restore us, as well.

This we pray in the name of the Child of Bethlehem. Amen.

VIDEO LESSON

CREDIT: SADDLEBACK CHURCH

Luke 2:1 - 7 (New Living Translation)

At that time the Roman emperor, Augustus, decreed that a census should be taken throughout the Roman Empire. (This was the first census taken when Quirinius was governor of Syria.) All returned to their own ancestral towns to register for this census. And because Joseph was a descendant of King David, he had to go to Bethlehem in Judea, David's ancient home. He traveled there from the village of Nazareth in Galilee. He took with him Mary, to whom he was engaged, who was now expecting a child. And while they were there, the time came for her baby to be born. She gave birth to her firstborn son. She wrapped him snugly in strips of cloth and laid him in a manger, because there was no lodging available for them.

THE CAROL

AWAY IN A MANGER

Away in a Manger

Away in a manger, no crib for a bed, the little Lord Jesus laid down His sweet head. The stars in the sky looked down where He lay, the little Lord Jesus, asleep on the hay.

Be near me, Lord Jesus, I ask Thee to stay close by me forever, and love me, I pray; bless all the dear children in Thy tender care, and fit us for heaven to live with Thee there.

THE SOLO

arr. Dave Williamson

I Heard the Bells on Christmas Day

Keely McGough, soloist

St. Luke's Orchestra

Robert Fasol, piano/conductor

I heard the bells on Christmas Day, their old familiar carols play; and mild and sweet their songs repeat of peace on earth, goodwill to men.

And the bells are ringing: "Peace on earth." Like a choir they're singing: "Peace on earth." In my heart I hear them; "Peace on Earth, goodwill 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, goodwill to men."

But the bells are ringing: "Peace on earth." Like a choir they're singing: "Peace on earth." Does anybody hear them? "Peace on Earth, goodwill to men."

Then rang the bells more loud and deep: "God is not dead, nor doth He sleep; peace on earth, peace on earth, the wrong shall fail, the right prevail with peace on earth, goodwill to men." Goodwill to men.

Then ringing, singing on its way, the world revolved from night to day. A voice, a chime, a chant sublime of peace on earth, goodwill to men.

And the bells are ringing: "Peace on earth." Like a choir they're singing: "Peace on earth." With our hearts, we'll hear them: "Peace on Earth, goodwill to men."

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 men!" Peace on earth, peace on earth, peace on earth, goodwill to men.

VIDEO LESSON

CREDIT: SADDLEBACK CHURCH

Luke 2:8 - 16 (New Living Translation)

That night there were shepherds staying in the fields nearby, guarding their flocks of sheep. Suddenly, an angel of the Lord appeared among them, and the radiance of the Lord's glory surrounded them. They were terrified, but the angel reassured them. "Don't be afraid!" he said. "I bring you good news that will bring great joy to all people. The Savior - yes, the Messiah, the Lord - has been born today in Bethlehem, the city of David! And you will recognize him by this sign: You will find a baby wrapped snugly in strips of cloth, lying in a manger." Suddenly, the angel was joined by a vast host of others - the armies of heaven - praising God and saying, "Glory to God in highest heaven, and peace on earth to those with whom God is pleased." When the angels had returned to heaven, the shepherds said to each other, "Let's go to Bethlehem! Let's see this thing that has happened, which the Lord has told us about." They hurried to the village and found Mary and Joseph. And there was the baby, lying in the manger.

†THE CAROL

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.

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.

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 box.

MISSION MOMENT

DEDICATION OF TITHES AND OFFERINGS

Dr. Robert E. Long

* Give today - text the letters SLM Christmas to the number 73256 to give on a secure website.

OFFERTORY

Lauren Daigle

Noel

Kelsey Paul, *soloist*

St. Luke's Orchestra

Robert Fasol, *organist/conductor*

Hayden Coie, *piano*

Love incarnate, love divine. Star and angels gave the sign. Bow to babe on bended knee, the Savior of humanity, unto us a Child is born. He shall reign forevermore.

Noel, Noel. Come and see what God has done. Noel, Noel. The story of amazing love. The light of the world given for us. Noel.

Son of God and Son of man. There before the world began, born to suffer, born to save, born to raise us from the grave. Christ the everlasting Lord, He shall reign forevermore.

Noel, Noel. Come and see what God has done. Noel, Noel. The story of amazing love. The light of the world given for us. Noel.

MESSAGE OF HOPE

Dr. Robert E. Long

MUSICAL REFLECTION

Adolphe Adam

O Holy Night
Chrissy Mayer, *soloist*
St. Luke's Orchestra
Robert Fasol, *organist*
Hayden Coie, *piano*

†THE CAROL

STILLE NACHT

Silent Night

Silent night, holy night, all is calm, all is bright round yon virgin mother and Child. Holy Infant, so tender and mild, sleep in heavenly peace, sleep in heavenly peace.

Silent night, holy night, shepherds quake at the sight; glories stream from heaven afar, heavenly hosts sing Alleluia! Christ, the Savior is born, Christ the Savior is born!

Silent night, holy night, Son of God, love's pure light; radiant beams from Thy holy face with the dawn of redeeming grace, Jesus, Lord, at Thy birth, Jesus, Lord, at Thy birth.

Silent night, holy night, wond'rous star, lend thy light; with the angels let us sing, Alleluia to our King; Christ the Savior is born, Christ the Savior is born!

(After the fourth verse, the ushers will begin leading the congregation out of the Sanctuary.)

LEADING IN WORSHIP

Dr. Robert E. Long
Senior Pastor

Rev. Wendy Lambert
Senior Executive Pastor

Rev. David Poteet
Pastor of Congregational Care

Ashleigh Robinson
Director of Church and Community
Development

Taylor Easttom
Director of Children's Ministry

Musicians

Robert Fasol, *Organist/Choirmaster*
Dr. Hayden Coie, *Music and Worship Assistant*
St. Luke's Christmas Choir and Orchestra
Dr. Keely McGough, *Soloist*
Kelsey Paul, *Soloist*
Chrissy Mayer, *Soloist*



MINISTERS

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

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

Rev. Josh Attaway
Edmond Campus Pastor
jattaway@stlukesokc.org

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

Rev. Linda Harker
Online Campus Pastor
lharker@stlukesokc.org

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

Rev. Joe Hodges
Edmond Campus Pastor
jhodges@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.



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.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

NEW YEAR'S EVE WORSHIP

Start 2024 off right! We will return to the regular service times on December 31. Enjoy a meaningful time with your family of faith on this special day. All of our services will also be streamed live on our website.

HAVE YOU EVER READ THROUGH THE ENTIRE BIBLE?

When you practice the discipline of daily Bible reading and pair that with a commitment to read it from cover to cover, it becomes a journey of discovery. It provides answers but also raises questions. It comforts and challenges. It inspires inward devotion and encourages outward action. You can pick up a January Reading list today in the Narthex or go online to stlukesokc.org/Bible. Join your family of faith on an exploration of our faith as we spend a year in the Bible in 2024.

START A HERITAGE BIBLE IN 2024

Can you imagine having a Bible that belonged to your grandmother and was full of her favorite scriptures and thoughts in her handwriting? Your loved ones would be just as blessed to have a Bible from you someday. In 2024, St. Luke's will be encouraging everyone to read through the Bible and it would be a great time to start creating a Heritage Bible for your loved ones. As you read your Bible, write your comments along the way to indicate your favorite scriptures, questions that you have, or comments on different passages. Your Heritage Bible can be passed down through the generations to give strength and comfort to the ones you love.

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.

CHRISTMAS EVE WORSHIP ON TELEVISION

This evening you can hear *Silent Night* and Dr. Long's Christmas Eve message again by tuning into News Channel 4 at 10:30 p.m. Invite your friends and family to watch as well.

WEDNESDAY NIGHT ALIVE | STARTS JANUARY 24

This session of Wednesday Night Alive (WNA) offers classes for children, youth, and adults and starts January 24. Dinner is served at 5:15 p.m. and cost is \$10 for adults and free for children 12 and under. Classes start at 6:30 p.m. WNA is a great opportunity for the entire family to grow in their faith. Class descriptions will be available in January at the Welcome Center and online at stlukesokc.org/wna.

MISSION TREES

There is still an opportunity to bless the lives of those in need. You can take an ornament from the Mission Tree in the Gallery that lists hygiene items that will be combined in Comfort Kits during the month of January for our Community Market patrons, and to the homeless through our friends at NSO, Skyline, and Homeless Alliance. There is still time to shop for these items or simply purchase them on our Amazon Wishlist. Donations can be dropped off at collection containers in the Gallery hallway.

FAMILY SERVICE DAY | JANUARY 20

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 January 20 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.

NEW SUNDAY SCHOOL CLASS

The Table, St. Luke's Young Adult Ministry, is starting the new year with a new Sunday School class. The class will start January 14 at 9:30 a.m. at the Downtown Campus in Room 204. Each week, the group will discuss the scripture used in service and explore how it can impact our lives. For details, email George Soter at gsoter@stlukesokc.org.

SENIOR ADULT HYMN SING | JANUARY 8

Seniors, join us on Monday morning, January 8, from 9:30 - 10:30 a.m. in Watchorn Chapel for a special senior adult hymn sing with Robert Fasol! We'll learn more about some of the favorite hymns and sing along. For details, email Amy Givens at agivens@stlukesokc.org.

MOMS NIGHT OUT | JANUARY 17

Moms, enjoy great food, meet new friends, and have fun at Mom's Night Out. We'll get together on Wednesday, January 17, from 6 - 8 p.m. at Rococo Western (4308 N. Western Ave. OKC). For details, email Taylor Easttom at teasttom@stlukesokc.org.

NIGHT OF PRAISE WITH MIKE DONEHEY OF THE BAND TENTH AVENUE NORTH

Start 2024 with a Night of Praise with a special guest appearance by Tenth Ave. North's Mike Donehey and band! It's going to be an unforgettable night of worship and celebration! The lyrics of this Dove winning artist invite you to meet and experience God's spirit. This concert will be at 7 p.m. on Friday, February 23 in the Christian Life Center at the Downtown Campus. Tickets are \$10 and required for the event, but you can purchase your tickets now before they are open to the public at stlukesokc.org/NightofPraise.

POTEET THEATRE PRESENTS - LEGALLY BLONDE, JR.

Harvard's beloved blonde takes the stage at Poteet Theatre! Get your tickets today for *Legally Blonde Jr.* with performances from January 26 - 28. This Poteet production is a fun and upbeat adaptation of the hit film and award-winning Broadway musical. Visit stlukesokc.org/tickets to secure a seat for Friday (Jan 26) at 7 p.m., Saturday (Jan 27) at 2 p.m. and 7, and Sunday (Jan 28) at 2 p.m. Tickets are \$5 for children/students, \$15 for adults, \$12 for 55+.

AUDITIONS FOR POTEET THEATRE - FIDDLER ON THE ROOF

All actors age 10 and up are encouraged to audition for Poteet Theatre's presentation of *Fiddler on the Roof* on January 6 and 7! Auditions are Saturday between 2 - 7 p.m. with Callbacks on Sunday from 2 - 5 p.m. There will be dancing at the Audition Callbacks, so please wear shoes and clothing that you can move comfortably in. No open toes or heels please! Rehearsals will begin the week of January 15 on Tuesdays and Thursdays from 5:30 - 9 p.m. and most Saturdays from 1 - 4 p.m. For more details and to sign up for an audition, visit stlukesokc.org/poteet/auditions.

YOUTH MINISTRY

YOUTH SERVICE DAY

All 6th - 12th grade students are invited to join us on January 7 from 12:15 - 2:30 p.m. as we start the new year helping one of our great ministry partners: Skyline. It's Youth Service Day! We will eat lunch in the Youth Room right after church, then head to Skyline to help with their Food Resource Center.

SPRING BREAK MISSION TRIPS

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 17 - 20, costing \$325. High School Youth (grades 9 - 12) will be going to Memphis, TN, March 16-22, and the cost is \$675. Students can earn Mission Bucks to help with the cost of their trip. Please register online at stlukesokc.org/events and pay a trip deposit due on January 21.

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