SAINT LUKE'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH

Organized 1871

Celebrating 154 Years of ministry in Columbia, South Carolina

The Mission of St. Luke's Episcopal Church is to spread the Word and share the love of God with all people.



The Third Sunday of Advent (Gaudete Sunday)

The Holy Eucharist: Rite I December 14, 2025 10:00AM

The Rev. Raphiell Ashford, Rector Alrs. Susan Moffitt, Supply Organist

Bestry Theme for 2025

Reset to the New Normal

Mission Statement

The mission of St. Luke's Episcopal Church is to spread the Word and share the love of God with all.

Vision Statement

(To become) a vibrant self-sustaining institution that serves and respects the spiritual, social, and physical needs of our community and congregation, while preserving the history of the church.

Quiet Please: Please be mindful of others as you enter the church before the service. Upon entering the nave, there should be a period of quiet and reverence as many parishioners are in prayer and or meditation.

OFFFERINGS can be made online https://onrealm.org./StLukesEpiscopa59532/Give

QR CODE FOR GIVING



*Use your phone to hold over the image

Saint Luke's Episcopal Church

It is the parish custom to observe silence prior to the start of the Eucharist. Be thoughtful, be silent, be reverent, for this is the House of God. Before the service, speak to the Lord, during the service, let the Lord speak to you; after the service, speak to one another.

We invite you to join us as an active participant in our worship of God. This bulletin is your guide to our worship. You will find three books in front of you that contain most of the material needed for this service; *The Book of Common Prayer* [BCP], *The Hymnal 1982* [H], and *Lift Every Voice and Sing, II* [L]. [S] denotes service music which is found in the front of the hymnal.

Prelude

"How Beautiful are the Feet of Them" Handel arr. by John Scriveyner

₩ indicates where to make the sign of the cross

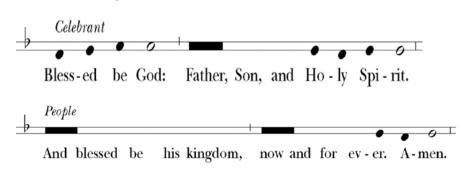
**At the ringing of the bell, all stand.

THE WORD OF GOD

Hymn in Procession H · 72

"Blest Be the King Whose Coming" Valet will ich dir geben

The Opening Acclamation



¥Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

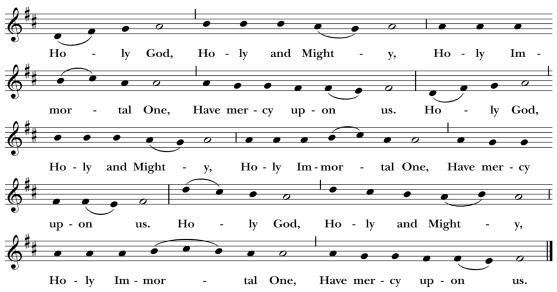
The Collect for Purity

Almighty God, to you all hearts are open, all desires known, and from you no secrets are hid: Cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love you, and worthily magnify your holy Name; through Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

Trisagion

Setting: David Hurd

★ At the beginning "Holy God..."



Music: From New Plainsong; David Hurd (b. 1950). Copyright © 1981 GIA Publications, Inc.

The Salutation

Celebrant The Lord be with you.

People And with thy spirit.

Celebrant Let us pray.

The Collect of the Day

Stir up your power, O Lord, and with great might come among us; and, because we are sorely hindered by our sins, let your bountiful grace and mercy speedily help and deliver us; through Jesus Christ our Lord, to whom, with you and the Holy Spirit, be honor and glory, now and for ever. *Amen*.

^{*}The people sit.

The Lesson

Isaiah 35:1-10

Lector A reading from the Book of Isaiah

The wilderness and the dry land shall be glad, the desert shall rejoice and blossom; like the crocus it shall blossom abundantly, and rejoice with joy and singing. The glory of Lebanon shall be given to it, the majesty of Carmel and Sharon. They shall see the glory of the Lord, the majesty of our God. Strengthen the weak hands, and make firm the feeble knees. Say to those who are of a fearful heart, "Be strong, do not fear! Here is your God. He will come with vengeance, with terrible recompense. He will come and save you." Then the eyes of the blind shall be opened, and the ears of the deaf unstopped; then the lame shall leap like a deer, and the tongue of the speechless sing for joy. For waters shall break forth in the wilderness, and streams in the desert; the burning sand shall become a pool, and the thirsty ground springs of water; the haunt of jackals shall become a swamp, the grass shall become reeds and rushes. A highway shall be there, and it shall be called the Holy Way; the unclean shall not travel on it, but it shall be for God's people; no traveler, not even fools, shall go astray. No lion shall be there, nor shall any ravenous beast come up on it; they shall not be found there, but the redeemed shall walk there. And the ransomed of the Lord shall return, and come to Zion with singing; everlasting joy shall be upon their heads; they shall obtain joy and gladness, and sorrow and sighing shall flee away.

[Silence]

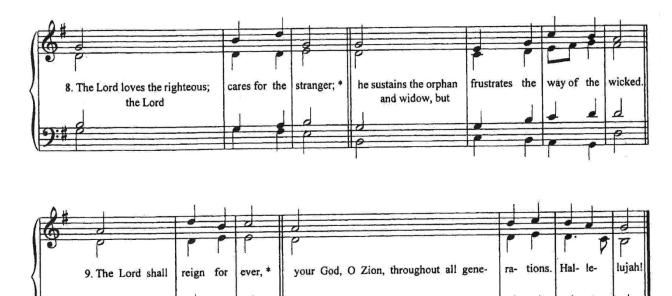
Lector The Word of the Lord.

People Thanks be to God.

Psalm 146:4-9 Lauda, anima mea

*The antiphon is sung first by the Cantor and then by all; thereafter, where indicated.





The Epistle

James 5:7-10

Lector: A reading from the Letter of James

Be patient, therefore, beloved, until the coming of the Lord. The farmer waits for the precious crop from the earth, being patient with it until it receives the early and the late rains. You also must be patient. Strengthen your hearts, for the coming of the Lord is near. Beloved, do not grumble against one another, so that you may not be judged. See, the Judge is standing at the doors! As an example of suffering and patience, beloved, take the prophets who spoke in the name of the Lord.

[Silence]

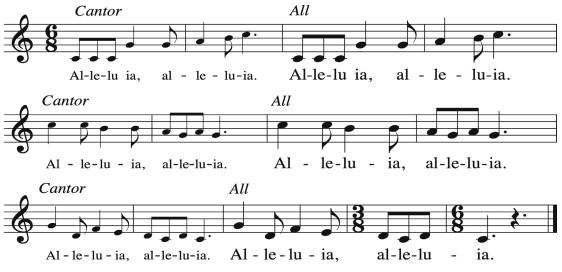
Lector The Word of the Lord.

People Thanks be to God

The Sequence Hymn H · 72 "Hark! the Glad Sound! the Savior Comes" Richmond

*Sung first by the Cantor; then by all.

Refrain based on Besançon, Frech Carol



"The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, because he has anointed me to bring glad tidings to the poor." (Isaiah 61:1)

The Holy Gospel Matthew 11:2-11

Priest The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Matthew People Glory be to thee, O Lord.

When John heard in prison what the Messiah was doing, he sent word by his disciples and said to him, "Are you the one who is to come, or are we to wait for another?" Jesus answered them, "Go and tell John what you hear and see: the blind receive their sight, the lame walk, the lepers are cleansed, the deaf hear, the dead are raised, and the poor have good news brought to them. And blessed is anyone who takes no offense at me." As they went away, Jesus began to speak to the crowds about John: "What did you go out into the wilderness to look at? A reed shaken by the wind? What then did you go out to see? Someone dressed in soft robes? Look, those who wear soft robes are in royal palaces. What then did you go out to see? A prophet? Yes, I tell you, and more than a prophet. This is the one about whom it is written, 'See, I am sending my messenger ahead of you, who will prepare your way before you.' "Truly I tell you, among those born of women no one has arisen greater than John the Baptist; yet the least in the kingdom of heaven is greater than he."

Priest The Gospel of the Lord. People Praise be to thee, O Christ.

The Sermon

The Reverend Raphiell Ashford

The Nicene Creed (monotoned by Choir & Congregation) BCP 326

"and the life of the world to come. Amen"

The Prayers of the People Form III BCP 387

₩ "Give to the departed eternal rest."

The Confession of Sin & Absolution

BCP 330

"pardon and deliver you from all your sins ..."

The Peace

Celebrant The peace of the Lord be always with you.

And with thy spirit. People

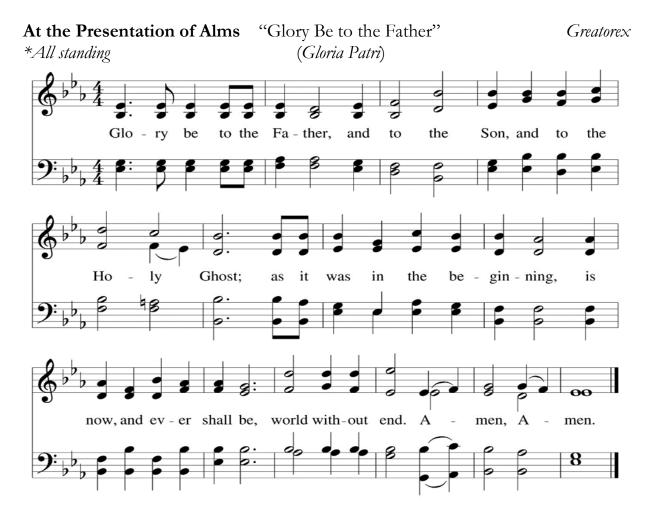
Announcements, Birthday, & Anniversary Blessings Fr. Raphiell+

THE HOLY COMMUNION

Offertory Anthem

"Alleluia"

William Boyce

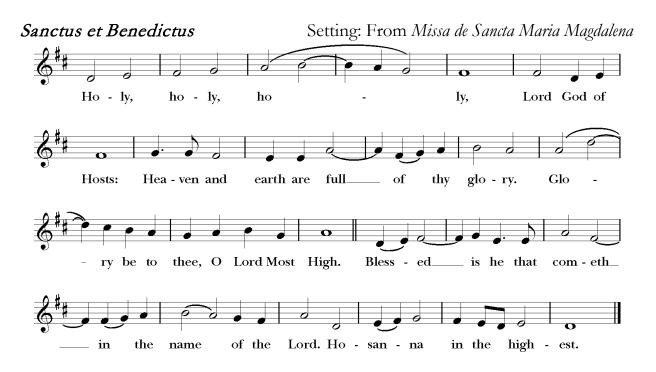


*The people remain standing.

Sursum corda



- *The Celebrant proceeds
- *A Proper Preface is sung or said on all Sundays; and on other occasions as appointed.



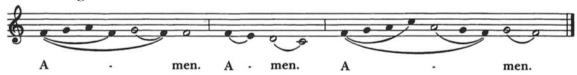
₩ "Blessed is he ..."

^{*}After the Sanctus, the people kneel or stand.

"and be filled with thy grace and heavenly benediction ..."

The Great Amen

*The Priest sings the first "Amen."

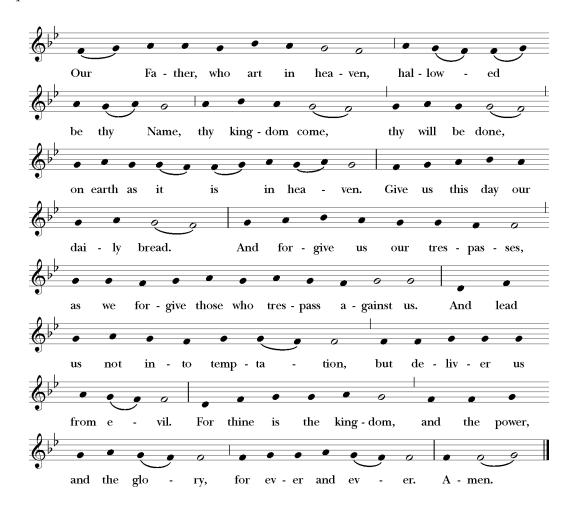


Setting: From Missa de Angelis; Plainsong, Mode 6; adapt. Mason Martens (b. 1933)

The Lord's Prayer (Pater Noster) S.119

Plainsong

*The priest intones the Pater Noster.



The Breaking of the Bread

*A period of brief silence is kept.

The Fraction Anthem

"O Lord, I Am not Worthy"

Non Dingus

*Text can be found on the pew card and inside the back cover of The Hymnal 1982.

Agnus Dei

Priest O Lamb of God, that takest away the sins of the world,

People Have mercy upon us

Priest O Lamb of God, that takest away the sins of the world,

People Have mercy upon us

Priest O Lamb of God, that takest away the sins of the world.

People Grant us thy peace.

The Prayer of Humble Access

BCP 337

*Said by all.

Priest The Gifts of God for the People of God. Take them in remembrance that Christ died for you, and feed on him in

your hearts by faith, with thanksgiving.

Instructions for Receiving Communion

- All baptized persons are welcome to receive Communion, and those who do not desire to receive Communion may come to the Altar rail to receive God's blessing.
- An usher will direct you to approach the Altar for Communion or a blessing. Please kneel, if you are able, at the Altar Rail.
- To receive the consecrated bread, extend your hands upward, palms crossed and facing up.
- To receive the consecrated wine, please guide the chalice to your lips as it if offered. However, if you prefer, you may leave the consecrated bread in your palm and the Chalice bearer will intinct the host into the wine and place it on your tongue. Please do not personally intinct the host into the chalice.
- If you desire to receive Communion but are not able to come to the Altar rail, please notify an usher and the Priest and Chalice bearer will bring Communion to you.

The Music at Communion

H•640 "Watchman, Tell Us of the Night" L • 11

"Prepare the Way of the Lord"

Aberystwyth James E. Moore, Jr.

L • 7 "I Want to Be Ready" Negro Spiritual

The Post Communion Prayer

BCP 339

*All kneel as able or sit.

Celebrant Let us pray.

Celebrant and People

Almighty and everliving God, we most heartily thank thee for that thou dost feed us, in these holy mysteries, with the spiritual food of the most precious Body and Blood of thy Son our Savior Jesus Christ; and dost assure us thereby of thy favor and goodness towards us; and that we are very members incorporate in the mystical body of thy Son, the blessed company of all faithful people; and are also heirs, through hope, of thy everlasting kingdom. And we humbly beseech thee, O heavenly Father, so to assist us with thy grace, that we may continue in that holy fellowship, and do all such good works as thou hast prepared for us to walk in; through Jesus Christ our Lord, to whom with thee and the Holy Ghost, be all honor and glory, world without end. Amen.

The Blessing

Go forth into the world in peace. Be of good courage. Hold fast to that which is good. Render to no-one evil for evil. Strengthen the faint-hearted. Support the weak. Help the afflicted. Show love to everyone. Love and serve the Lord, rejoicing in the power of the Holy Spirit; And the blessing of Almighty God, * the Father, the Son and Holy Spirit, be among you and remain with you always. Amen.

Hymn in Procession H·76 "On Jordan's Bank the Baptist's Cry" Winchester New

The Dismissal

Priest Let us go forth in the name of Christ.

Thanks be to God. People

Postlude Postlude on "Hymn to Joy"

Beethoven arr. Mark Rippe

*It is the custom of this parish to kneel or remain seated in prayer and reflection during the Organ Postlude. If you need to leave, please do so quietly.

The Altar Flowers are given to the glory of God by Luther & Judy Battiste.

Parish Fellowship is sponsored by the Commission on Parish Fellowship

<u>INTERCESSIONS</u>



- Parishioners: Charles W. Blakely, Gary Bowden, John Bowden, Damion Cokley, Patricia Cokley, Gloria Eaddy, Eddie Glenn, Cynthia Goines, Robert Green, Yvonne Hall, Daryl Hammonds, Jr., Desmond Hammonds, Valencia Hammonds, Tarnez Hickman, Justin Hickmon, LaToya Hickmon, Levi Johnson, Sr., James McLemore, Mary McLemore, Marie Martin, Gwendolyn Meadows, Carmen Murray, Jay'ceon Quattlebaum, Malik Quattlebaum, Joseph Ray, Reginald Reed, Cassandra Sims, Peyton Parker-Smith, William Smith, Jr., Ronald Turner, Dorothy Walker
- Family & Friends: Ingrid Dowdell, Gerald L. McNair, Elsie Mitchell, Brent Johnson, Katherine Robinson, Mattie Anderson-Roberson, Theodora Washington
- Diocesan Cycle of Prayer... Ministry of Church Musicians
- Birthdays... Terrell McCombs (11th), Gwendolyn Meadows (16th)
- Anniversaries...
- Births...
- **Deaths...** Kitty Dade
- Traveling Mercies... Chris & Karen Castelli; Eddie Glenn & Milara Glenn

SERVANTS FOR THE LORD

The Old Testament Lector

Rachel Hall

The Epistoler

Corliss Wise

The Gospel Book Bearer

DeNell Hickman

Server

Valencia Hammonds

<u>Intercessor</u>

Beverly Ray

Eucharistic Minister

Marie Martin

<u>Videographer</u>

Deadra Bowden

Crucifers

Jaylen Caldwell Herman Hickman

Thurifer

Cory James

Oblation Bearers

Gwendolyn Meadows Gloria Eaddy

Cantor

Shekinah Frieson

Ushers

Rachell Hall

James Kelley Ronald Turner

Videographer

Deadra Bowden

ANNOUNCEMENTS

DOK WINTER SERVICE PROJECT...St. Luke's Parishioners; Please join in with The Daughters of the King for our Winter Service Project. We are asking for winter items for the Rapid Shelter for (Women/Men) of Columbia, during the month of December/January. The Shelter needs: (coats, hats, handwarmers, gloves, scarves, thermal socks and blankets) A large black and yellow bin will be placed in the Narthex, **Sunday, December 7, 2025 – January 7, 2026.** Thank you and God's Blessings. The Mildred S. Murray Chapter; Corliss Wise & Beverly Ray.

JAZZ SAXOPHONIST DANTE LEWIS... has kindly given copies of his CD to the parish to benefit our fundraising efforts. The title of the CD is "No Cover Charge." If you would like to purchase one or more, the price is \$15.00 each or two for \$25.00. Make checks payable to St. Luke's Episcopal Church and put the word

"Bazaar" on the memo line. The CDs will be available in Griffin Hall this Sunday and next Sunday. Please see Gwendolyn Spann to purchase. Dante will hopefully be with us in September for a special concert and fundraiser for the Church. More information to come.

QUILTERS & CRAFTERS...would like to thank all who helped to make the first Bazaar a success—those who donated items and monies, gave of their time to set up the Bazaar, and to man the tables, and attended the Bazaar. The church raised \$2,2271.15. Stay tuned for news regarding next year's Bazaar.

POINSETTIA DEDICATIONS/MEMORIALS, ETC. ... The last day to submit for inclusion in the bulletin is **Sunday, December 14**th. Please contact Corliss Wise or email the parish office.

CHRISTMAS EVE CHORISTERS... Extra choristers will be needed for the Christmas Eve Mass. Please consider making a donation.

CONFIRMATION/REAFFIRMATION/RECEPTION...Anyone desiring the Rite of Confirmation, Reaffirmation, or Reception into the Episcopal Church is asked to contact the Rector. Confirmation classes will be held during the Lenten season.

TRANSFER OF MEMBERSHIP... Anyone baptized person who wants to transfer their membership to St. Luke's is asked to contact the Rector.

BAPTISM...Anyone interested in baptism for themselves (not previously baptized) or a child is asked to contact the Rector.

SECURITY.... Parishioners, in light of recent events in our nation and city, the importance of security cannot be taken lightly. Please consider giving a donation for Security so that we may be proactive ant not reactive.

ST. LUKE'S CHORAL SCHOLARS & BLAKELY-ROBINSON MUSIC FUND...Your contributions are always appreciated and needed more than ever. Contributions to these funds help to secure choristers & instrumentalists for our Sunday services as well as special services: funerals, weddings, etc. It is because of your continued generous contributions that we are able present glorious choral & instrumental music to the glory of God. Please consider contributing towards this fund.

DECEMBER 2025 CALENDAR OF SERVICES/MEETINGS/EVENTS

DECEMBER	SERVICE/MEETING/EVENT	TIME & PLACE
14th (Sunday)	The Third Sunday of Advent	10:00am
	(Gaudete Sunday)	
	The Holy Eucharist: Rite I	
15 th (Monday)	Rector's Day Off	
	Rector meets w/Leadership Coach	1:00pm-2:00pm
	Historic Waverly Community	6:00pm-8:00pm
	Annual Christmas Dinner	Bishops' Memorial
		AME Church
		Fellowship Hall
		2221 Washington St.
16 th (Tuesday)	Vestry Meeting	6:00pm-7:15pm
		Griffin Hall
17th (Wednesday)	Bylaws Committee	5:00pm-6:00pm
		ZOOM
	Choir Rehearsal	6:00pm-7:30pm
18th (Thursday)	Fresh Start Closed for Christmas	
	Break. Will reopen on 1/8/26	
	Vestry Christmas Dinner	The Blue Marlin
		6:00pm-9:00pm
19th (Friday)	Rector's Spirituality Day: Sermon	
	Prep, Spiritual Direction, etc.	
20th (Saturday)		
21st (Sunday)	The Fourth Sunday of Advent	10:00am
	The Holy Eucharist: Rite I	
22 nd (Monday)		
23 rd (Tuesday)	Buildings & Grounds	5:30pm-6:30pm
		Griffin Hall
24th (Wednesday)	The Eve of the Nativity	9:00pm-11:00pm
	The Holy Eucharist: Rite II	Security Provided
	w/the Blessing of the Crèche	
	Choir & Brass (?)	

	Christmas Eve Fellowship	11:00pm-Midnight
		Special Events
		Committee
		~
		Security Provided
25 th (Thursday)	CHRISTMAS DAY	
26th (Friday)	Rector's Spirituality Day: Sermon	
` ,	Prep, Spiritual Direction, etc.	
27th (Saturday)	4 th Saturday Feeding	12:00pm-1:00pm
		Distributed at the
		Griffin Hall
		Entrance
28th (Sunday)	The First Sunday	10:00am
	after Christmas Day	
	The Holy Eucharist: Rite II	
29th (Monday)	Rector's Day Off	
30th (Tuesday)	Rector's Vacation Day	
31st (Wednesday)	PARISH OFFICE CLOSED	

Music Acknowledgements & Permission for Use

Psalm 146:4-9 Alleluia (Offertory Anthem)

The Nicene Creed (Rite 1)

Thomas Norris William Boyce from Psalms Made Singable SJMP 22471

Gospel Acclamation

arr. David Pizarro from The Lyric Gospel Acclamations

Tony Alonzo

Service music

Opening Acclamation, Trisagion, the Great Amen, Sursum corda, Sanctus, The Lord's Prayer, Permission by RiteSong online music library for one-time use of this material for congregational use.

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ADVENT FEATURE

GAUDETE SUNDAY



The Third Sunday of Advent is called Gaudete Sunday, the day when we light the pink candle on the Advent wreath (hence the 'pink candle' Sunday). Rose vestments are worn to emphasize our joy that Christmas is near.

Gaudete means "rejoice". This day reminds us of the joy that is to come, and serves, amid this season of penance, as a kind of 'break' when we recall the hope we have because of the coming of Our Lord Jesus.

LITURGY NOTES

Gaudete Sunday

The third Sunday of Advent in the Roman Catholic calendar of the church year. The term is derived from the Latin opening words of the introit antiphon, "Rejoice (Gaudete) in the Lord always." The theme of the day expresses the joy of anticipation at the approach of the Christmas celebration. This theme reflects a lightening of the tone of the traditional Advent observance. It was appropriate for the celebrant of the Mass to wear rose-colored vestments on this day instead of the deeper violet vestments that were typically used in Advent. This Sunday was also known as "Rose Sunday." This custom is not required in the Episcopal Church, but it is observed by some parishes with a traditional Anglo-Catholic piety. This custom is reflected by the practice of including a pink or rose-colored candle among the four candles of an Advent wreath.

Advent Wreath

A circle of greenery, marked by four candles that represent the four Sundays of the season of Advent. An additional candle is lit as each new Sunday is celebrated in Advent. Advent wreaths are used both in churches and in homes for devotional purposes. The candles may be blue, purple, or lavender, depending on local custom. Some Advent wreaths include a white candle in the center known as the "Christ Candle," which is lit on Christmas Eve.

Advent

The Church year begins in Advent. Advent is a paradoxical season—marked by stillness in a busy world and by longing in the midst of festive lights. It reminds us that God often comes in ways we least expect, and that waiting itself can be a sacred act of faith.

Liturgical Color: Purple (or Blue, in some traditions)

Timeframe: Four Sundays before Christmas through December 24

Theme: Hope, Expectation, and Preparation

Advent marks the beginning of the Church year and is a season of quiet anticipation and holy waiting. It is a time when we prepare our hearts to celebrate the birth of Jesus at Christmas and also look forward to His coming again in glory. Rooted in the Latin word *adventus*, meaning "coming," Advent invites us into a spiritual journey of reflection, longing, and readiness. Through scripture, prayer, and worship, we are called to examine our lives, make room for Christ, and rekindle our hope in God's promises.

Key Characteristics of Advent:

- A time of both joyful hope and penitential reflection
- Lighting of the Advent wreath, with one candle lit each Sunday (Hope, Peace, Joy, and Love)
- Emphasis on prophetic readings from Isaiah and others who foretold the coming of the Messiah
- Traditional hymns such as O Come, O Come, Emmanuel

Major Feasts and Observances:

- St. Nicholas (Dec 6) the real-life bishop who inspired Santa Claus
- The Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary (Dec 8)
- Advent Lessons and Carols a beloved tradition of scripture and song

SERMON NOTES/ADVENT REFLECTIONS

St. Luke's Episcopal Church

1300 Pine Street/Columbia, South Carolina 29204 (803) 254-2327

St. Luke's Vestry

Class of 2025 Judy Battiste, *Jr. Warden* Deadra Bowden DeNell Hickman Jean Indriago

Class of 2026 Yvonne Hall Daryl Hammonds Joni James Errol Porter, *Sr. Warden*

> Class of 2027 Angela Blalock Robert Green Joseph Ray Rudolph Wise

Patricia Ancrum, Clerk of the Vestry Sheryl D. Belcher, Parish Secretary

Karen Castelli, Website Administrator Shauna Hicks, Newsletter Editor Valerie Riley, Executive Director—Fresh Start Ministry

Patricia Cokley, Parish Treasurer

Darnell Holmes, William Smith, Jr., Asst. Parish Treasurers

Sheryl D. Belcher, Assoc. Parish Treasurer

stlukescolumbia@gmail.com (Email) www.facebook.com/stlukescolumbia

http://www.stlukescolasc.org (Website) YouTube: @Fr.Raphiell6290

[&]quot;The Episcopal Church is a secret too well kept. Many are starved for what we experience daily and too easily take for granted. Invite others to come to your parish to experience this joy."

Louie Crew, author of 101 Reasons to be Episcopalian