

# SAINT LUKE'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH

Organized 1871

## Celebrating 154 years of sharing God's love

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



### The Eve of the Nativity of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ

Solemn Mass  
w/the Blessing of the Crèche  
December 24, 2025

The Holy Eucharist: Rite II – 9:00PM

The Rev. Raphiell Ashford, Rector  
Ms. Cynthia Fruth, Supply Organist

# SAINT LUKE'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH



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. We will use *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.

**\*\*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.

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

✠ Indicates where the sign of the cross is made.

## THE WORD OF GOD

**Hymn in Procession**    “O Come, All Ye Faithful”

*Adeste fideles*

(verses 1-2)

1. O come, all ye faithful, joy - ful and tri - um - phant, O  
2. God from God, Light from Light e - ter - nal,  
3. See how the shep - herds, sum - moned to his cra - dle,  
4. Child, for us sin - ners poor and in a man - ger,  
5. Sing, choirs of an - gels, sing in ex - ul - ta - tion,  
6. Yea, Lord, we greet thee, born that hap - py morn - ing;

1. come ye, O come ye to Beth - - - le - hem;  
 2. lo! he ab - hors not the Vir - - - gin's womb;  
 3. leav - ing their flocks, draw nigh to gaze;  
 4. we would em - brace thee, with love and awe;  
 5. sing, all ye ci - ti - zens of heaven a - bove;  
 6. Je - sus, to thee be glo - - - ry given;

1. come, and be - hold him, born the King of an - - gels;  
 2. on - ly - be - got - ten Son - - of the Fa - - ther;  
 3. we too will thith - er bend our joy - ful foot - - steps;  
 4. who would not love thee, lov - ing us so dear - - ly?  
 5. glo - ry to God, glo - ry in the high - est.  
 6. Word of the Fa - - ther, now in flesh ap - pear - - ing;

*Refrain*

O come, let us a - dore him, O come, let us a - dore him,

O come, let us a - dore him, Christ the Lord.

## The Station at the Crèche

*\*The following anthem or some other hymn may be sung or said by all.*

O great mystery, and wonderful sacrament, that animals should see the new-born Lord, lying in a manger! Blessed is the Virgin whose womb was worthy to bear Christ the Lord. Alleluia!

## V. The Word was made flesh

R. And dwelt among us.

## The Blessing of the Crèche

Celebrant      Let us pray.

Almighty God, who in the Incarnation of your Son has revealed to us the holiness of creation, be pleased to bless and hallow this image of his sacred birth, so that those who gaze upon it may behold this mystery, whereby humanity shares in your very nature; through Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

\*The Celebrant sprinkles the Crèche with holy water, and then censes the Crèche.

# Hymn in Procession

## “O Come, All Ye Faithful”

## *Adeste fideles*

(verses 3-6)

## The Opening Acclamation

The image shows two staves of musical notation. The top staff is for the *Celebrant* and the bottom staff is for the *People*. Both staves begin with a quarter note followed by a dotted half note. The *Celebrant* staff has a single eighth note, while the *People* staff has a half note. Both staves then continue with a dotted half note, followed by a quarter note, another dotted half note, and a final quarter note. The *Celebrant* staff concludes with a half note. The *People* staff concludes with a quarter note. The lyrics for the Sanctus are: "Bless-ed be God: Father, Son, and Ho - ly Spi - rit." The lyrics for the Benedictus are: "And blessed be his kingdom, now and for ev - er. A-men."

## The Collect for Purity

Almighty God, to you all hearts are open, all desires known, and from you no secret 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.*

## The Song of Praise H.96 “Angels We Have Heard on High” *Gloria*

*\*The Celebrant censes the altar.*

## The Collect of the Day

Celebrant The Lord be with you.

People And also with you.

O God, you have caused this holy night to shine with the brightness of the true Light: Grant that we, who have known the mystery of that Light on earth, may also enjoy him perfectly in heaven; where with you and the Holy Spirit he lives and reigns, one God, in God, in glory everlasting. *Amen.*

\**The people sit.*

## The First Lesson

## Isaiah 9:2-7

Lector A reading from the Book of Isaiah

The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light; those who lived in a land of deep darkness--on them light has shined. You have multiplied the nation, you have increased its joy; they rejoice before you as with joy at the harvest, as people exult when dividing plunder. For the yoke of their burden, and the bar across their shoulders, the rod of their oppressor, you have broken as on the day of Midian. For all the boots of the tramping warriors and all the garments rolled in blood shall be burned as fuel for the fire. For a child has been born for us, a son given to us; authority rests upon his shoulders; and he is named Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace. His authority shall grow continually, and there shall be endless peace for the throne of David and

his kingdom. He will establish and uphold it with justice with righteousness from this time onward and forevermore. The zeal of the LORD of hosts will do this.

The Word of the Lord.

People Thanks be to God.

**Psalm 96** *Cantate Domino*

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



To - day is born, to - day is born our Sav - ior, Christ the Lord.—



To - day is born, to - day is born our Sav - ior, Christ the Lord.

## VERSES

16 *Cantor*

1. Sing to the LORD a new song; sing to the LORD, all you lands.  
 2. Announce his salvation, announce his salvation, day af - ter day.  
 3. Let the heavens be glad and the earth rejoice; let the sea and what fills it re - sound;  
 4. They shall exult before the LORD, for he comes; for he comes to rule the earth.

18

1. Sing to the LORD; sing to the LORD; bless his  
 2. Tell his glory a - mong the nations; among all peoples, his won - drous  
 3. let the plains be joyful and all that is in them! Then shall all the trees of the forest ex -  
 4. He shall rule the world with justice and the peoples with his

20

*To Refrain*  
*Cantor/Choir/Assembly*

1. name.  
 2. deeds.  
 3. ult.  
 4. con - stan - cy.

To -

## The Epistle

## **Titus 2:11-14**

Lector A reading from the Letter of Paul to Titus

For the grace of God has appeared, bringing salvation to all, training us to renounce impiety and worldly passions, and in the present age to live lives that are self-controlled, upright, and godly, while we wait for the blessed hope and the manifestation of the glory of our great God and Savior, Jesus Christ. He it is who gave himself for us that he might redeem us from all iniquity and purify for himself a people of his own who are zealous for good deeds.

## The Word of the Lord.

People      Thanks be to God.

## The Sequence Hymn H·79 “O Little Town of Bethlehem”

*St. Louis*

## The Gospel Acclamation

Tony Alonzo

*\*Sung first by the Cantor; then by all.*

### Refrain based on *Besançon*, French Carol

Cantor

All

Al-le-lu ia, al - le - lu-ia.

Al-le-lu ia, al - le - lu-ia.

Cantor

All

Al - le - lu - ia, al-le-lu-ia.

Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.

Cantor

All

$$Al = le = lu = ja, \quad al = le = lu = ja,$$

le - lu - ja.      al-le

*"I proclaim to you good news of great joy; today a Savior is born for us, Christ the Lord."* Luke 2:11

## The Holy Gospel

## Luke 2:1-14 (15-20)

Priest



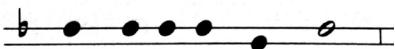
The Holy Gospel of our Lord Je - sus Christ ac - cord - ing to Mat - thew.

Mark.

Luke.

John.

People



*Glo - ry to you, Lord Christ.*

In those days a decree went out from Emperor Augustus that all the world should be registered. This was the first registration and was taken while Quirinius was governor of Syria. All went to their own towns to be registered. Joseph also went from the town of Nazareth in Galilee to Judea, to the city of David called Bethlehem, because he was descended from the house and family of David. He went to be registered with Mary, to whom he was engaged and who was expecting a child. While they were there, the time came for her to deliver her child. And she gave birth to her firstborn son and wrapped him in bands of cloth, and laid him in a manger, because there was no place for them in the inn. In that region there were shepherds living in the fields, keeping watch over their flock by night. Then an angel of the Lord stood before them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. But the angel said to them, "Do not be afraid; for see-- I am bringing you good news of great joy for all the people: to you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is the Messiah, the Lord. This will be a sign for you: you will find a child wrapped in bands of cloth and lying in a manger." And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host, praising God and saying, "Glory to God in the highest heaven, and on earth peace among those whom he favors!" [When the angels had left them and gone into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, "Let us go now to Bethlehem and see this thing that has taken place, which the Lord has made known to us." So they went with haste and found Mary and

Joseph, and the child lying in the manger. When they saw this, they made known what had been told them about this child; and all who heard it were amazed at what the shepherds told them. But Mary treasured all these words and pondered them in her heart. The shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen, as it had been told them.]

**Priest**



*The Gos - pel of the Lord.*

**People**



*Praise to you, Lord Christ.*

**The Sermon**

The Reverend Raphiell Ashford

# The Nicene Creed

Calvin Hampton

*Introduction*



We be-lieve in one God, the  
Fa - ther, the Al - might - y, ma - ker of hea - ven and  
earth, of all that is, seen and un - seen. We be-lieve in  
one Lord, Je-sus Christ, the on - ly Son of God, e - ter-nal-ly be -  
got - ten of the Fa-ther, God from God, Light from Light, true God from  
true God, be - got - ten, not made, of one Be-ing with the Fa-ther.  
Through him all things were made. For us and for our sal - va - tion  
he came down from hea - ven: by the pow-er of the Ho-ly Spi - rit  
he be-came in - car-nate from the Vir - gin Ma - ry, and was made man.  
For our sake he was cru - ci - fied un - der Pon - tius Pi - late;  
he suf - fered death— and was bur - ied. On the third day he

rose a-gain in ac - cord - ance with the Scrip - tures; he a-scend-ed  
in - to hea - ven and is seat - ed at the right hand of the Fa - ther.  
He will come a - gain in glo - ry to judge the liv - ing and the  
dead, and his king-dom will have no end. We be-lieve in the  
Ho-ly Spi-rit, the Lord, the giv - er of life, who pro-ceeds from the  
Fa - ther and the Son. With the Fa - ther and the Son he is wor - shiped and  
glo-ri - fied. He has spo - ken through the Pro - phets. We be-lieve in  
one ho - ly cath - o - lic and a - po - sto - lic Church.  
We ac - know-ledge one bap - tism for the for-give-ness of sins.  
We look for the re - sur - rec - tion of the dead,  
and the life of the world to come. A - men. A - men.

✠ “And the life of the world to come...”

## The Prayers of the People

#### Form IV

BCP 388

*The Priest and People pray responsively*

✠ “We commend to your mercy all who have died...”

*Dacon or Cantor*

Let us pray for the Church and for the world.

Grant, Almighty God, that all who confess your Name may be united in your truth, live

A musical staff in treble clef with a sharp key signature. It features a bar line and a single note on the fourth line of the staff.

together in your love, and reveal your glory / in the world. Silence

Lord, in your mer-cy Hear our prayer.

## The Confession of Sin

BCP 359

## The Absolution

BCP 360

✠ “forgive you all your sins ...”

## The Peace

## Welcome & Announcements

**OFFERINGS** can be made online <https://onrealm.org/StLukesEpiscopa59532/Give>  
**OR CODE FOR GIVING**



\*Use your phone to hold over the image

# THE HOLY COMMUNION

## The Offertory Anthem

“Glory, Hallelujah to the Newborn King”

Isaac Williams

Shekinah Frieson, soprano

At the Presentation of Alms    “Joy to the World!”

*Antioch*

*\*All standing*

The Great Thanksgiving    Eucharistic Prayer “D”

BCP 372

*Sursum corda*

The musical notation consists of four staves of music. The first staff shows the 'Celebrant' singing 'The Lord be with you.' and the 'People' responding 'And also with you.' The second staff shows the 'Celebrant' singing 'Lift up your hearts.' and the 'People' responding 'We lift them to the Lord.' The third staff shows the 'Celebrant' singing 'Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.' The fourth staff shows the 'People' singing 'It is right to give him thanks and praise.'

*Celebrant*

The Lord be with you. And also with you.

*People*

*Celebrant*

Lift up your hearts. We lift them to the Lord.

*People*

*Celebrant*

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

*People*

It is right to give him thanks and praise.

*\*The Celebrant proceeds*

## *Sanctus et Benedictus*

Setting: from *Deutsche Messe*  
Franz Schubert

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow'r and  
might. Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord,  
God of pow'r and might. Heav - en and earth are  
full, full of your glo - ry. Ho -  
san - na in the high - est, ho - san - na in the  
high - est. Bless - ed is he who comes  
in the name of the Lord. Ho - san - na in the  
high - est, ho - san - na in the high - est.

✠ “Blessed is he that comes...”

\*The people stand or kneel.

## The Prayer of Consecration

BCP 374

## The Memorial Acclamation

BCP 375

*Celebrant*

... we praise you and we bless you. We

praise you, we bless you, we give thanks to

you, and we pray to you, Lord our God.

Music: McNeil Robinson II (b. 1943). Copyright © 1984 Theodore Presser Co. Used by permission of the publisher.

### *At the Invoking of the Holy Spirit*

“and your Holy Spirit may **☩**descend upon us...”

## The Great Amen

\*The priest sings the first *Amen*.

2

A - men, a - men.

A - men, a - men.

## The Lord's Prayer (*Pater Noster*) L-264

Alfred Hay Malotte

\*The priest sings the Pater Noster. The congregation joins in with "who art in heaven."

## The Breaking of the Bread

*\*A period of brief silence is kept.*

## The Fraction Anthem

“O Lord, I Am not Worthy”

*Non Dignus*

*\*Text is printed on the pew card and inside the back covers of both hymnals.*

## *Agnus Dei*

Setting: from *Deutsche Messe*

Franz Schubert



Je - sus, Lamb of God, have mer - cy on us.



Je - sus, Bear - er of our sins, have mer - cy on us.



Je - sus, Re-deem - er, Re - deem - er of the world,



give us your peace, give us your peace.

**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.

## The Music at Communion

**H·111**

“Silent Night”

*Stille Nacht*

1<sup>st</sup> time: English

2<sup>nd</sup> time: German

Shekinah Frieson, Anne Mozeleski, Brycen Stratton, Obi Okechukwu

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 Al-le-lu-ia!  
Christ the Saviour is born!  
Christ the Saviour 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.

Stille Nacht, heilige Nacht,  
Alles schläft; einsam wacht  
Nur das traute hochheilige Paar.  
Holder Knabe im lockigen Haar,  
Schlaf in himmlischer Ruh!  
Schlaf in himmlischer Ruh!

Stille Nacht, heilige Nacht,  
Hirten erst kundgemacht  
Durch der Engel Halleluja,  
Tönt es laut von fern und nah:  
Christ, der Retter ist da!  
Christ, der Retter ist da!

Stille Nacht, heilige Nacht,  
Gottes Sohn, o wie lacht  
Lieb' aus deinem göttlichen Mund,  
Da uns schlägt die rettende Stund'.  
Christ, in deiner Geburt!  
Christ, in deiner Geburt!

**H·89**  
**Hymn**

“It Came Upon the Midnight Clear”  
“Amen”

*Carol*  
Jester Hairston

## **The Post-Communion Hymn**

*\*Sung by candlelight; all remain seated.*

“O Holy Night”  
Elliott Brown, tenor

*Cantique de Noël*

## **The Post-Communion Prayer**

*Celebrant* Let us pray.

*Celebrant and People*

Almighty and everliving God, we thank you for feeding us with the spiritual food of the most precious Body and Blood of your Son our Savior Jesus Christ; and for assuring us in these holy mysteries that we are living members of the Body of your Son, and heirs of your eternal kingdom. And now, Father, send us out to do the work you have given us to do, to love and serve you as faithful witnesses of Christ our Lord. To him, to you, and to the Holy Spirit, be honor and glory, now and forever. *Amen.*

## **The Christmas Blessing**

May Christ, who by his Incarnation gathered into one thing earthly and heavenly, fill you with his joy and peace; and the blessing of God Almighty, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Ghost, be amongst you, and remain with you always.  
*Amen.*

## **Hymn in Procession H·87 “Hark! the Herald Angels Sing”**

*Mendelssohn*

## **The Dismissal**

Priest Let us go forth into the world, rejoicing in the power of the Spirit.

People Thanks be to God.

## **Angelus**

\*All standing

V. The Angel of the Lord declared unto Mary.

R. And she conceived of the Holy Spirit.

V. Hail Mary, full of grace, the Lord is with Thee;

Blessed art thou among women,

and blessed is the fruit of thy womb, Jesus.

R. Holy Mary, Mother of God,

pray for us sinners,

now and at the hour of our death. Amen.

V. Behold the handmaid of the Lord.

R. Be it done unto me according to thy word.

## **Hail Mary. . .**

V. And the Word was made flesh. (*\*The people bow or genuflect.*)

R. And dwelt among us.

## **Hail Mary. . .**

V. Pray for us, O holy Mother of God.

R. That we may be made worthy of the promises of Christ.

Let us pray: Pour forth, we beseech Thee, O Lord, Thy grace into our hearts, that we to whom the Incarnation of Christ Thy Son was made known by the message of an angel, may by His  Passion and Cross be brought to the glory of His Resurrection. Through the same Christ Our Lord. *Amen.*

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### **Postlude**

“The Virgin Mary Had a Baby Boy”

West Indies Carol

arr. Noel Rawsthorne

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It is the custom at St. Luke's to remain seated or kneel in prayer during the Postlude. If you need to leave, please do so quietly.

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### **Christmas Eve Parish Fellowship**

Sponsored by the Special Events Committee.

## **SERVANTS FOR THE LORD**

### **The Celebrant**

The Rev. Raphiell Ashford

### **The Old Testament Lector**

Brian Baldwin

### **The Epistoler**

Patwin Lawrence

### **The Gospeller & Intercessor**

The Rev. Raphiell Ashford

### **The Thurifer & Boat Bearer**

Desmond Goines

Isabella Bracy

### **Lay Eucharistic Minister**

Desmond Goines

### **Crucifers**

Jaylen Caldwell

Cory James

Herman Hickman

### **Gospel Book Bearer**

Cynallyhia Indriago

### **Server**

Herman Hickman

### **Banner Bearer**

Gary Bowden

### **Videographer**

Deadra Bowden

### **Security**

Terrell McCombs

### **Ushers**

Darnell Holmes

Rudolph Wise

### **Oblation Bearers**

Maxima & Darnell Holmes

### **Bell to signal the beginning of Mass**

Terrell McCombs

### **Bells at the *Gloria***

Acolytes

### **Cantors**

Obi Okechukwu

Anne Mozeleski

### **Torch Bearers**

Levi Johnson, Jr.

Kennedy Johnson

## The Choir

Elliott Brown, Nina Davis, Shekinah Frieson, Malcolm Lemons,  
Marie Martin, Anne Mozeleski, Obi Okechukwu, Brycen Stratton

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## INTERCESSIONS



- **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, Tia Hicks, 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...** St. Stephen's, Ridgeway; St. John's, Columbia; St. John's, Winnsboro; St. John's, Congaree; St. John's, Hopkins
- **Traveling Mercies...** Gwendolyn Spann, Barbara Simmons, Thomas & Robin Major

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## In Memoriam (2025)

“For all the saint who from their labors rest”

Requiescat in pace and may light perpetual continue to shine upon them.

Dorothy Ruthine Roberts Shiver	March 1, 2025
Annie Mae Palmer Kelley	March 14, 2025
Carole Jenkins Cooper	September 22, 2025
Kitty Lou Wallingford Dade	December 2, 2025

\*May light perpetual shine upon Dorothy, Annie, Carole, & Kitty.

## POINSETTIAS



Christmas memorials support flowers and music for the season. Monetary contributions in memory of, in honor of, or in thanksgiving of for loved ones during the holiday season are one way of offsetting the cost of flowers, greenery, and special music for Christmas here at St. Luke's.

Bowden, Deadra  
Bryant, Eddie Glenn  
Eaddy, Gloria  
Fields, Edwina  
Goines, Cynthia  
Green, Leon  
Hickman, DeNell  
Hickman, Herman  
James, Joni

Johnson, Levi & Loretta  
Johnson, Veda  
Meadows, Gwendolyn  
Meadows, Julia  
Point, Frankie  
Ray, Beverly  
Riley, Valerie  
Smith, Audrey

## **CHRISTMAS POINSETTIA THANKSGIVINGS & MEMORIALS**

### **Patricia Ancrum**

In honor of Madison Renee Ortiz; my fourth (4<sup>th</sup>) Great Granddaughter, born December 11, 2025.

### **Fr. Raphiell Ashford**

In memory of my parish priest, the Rev. Dr. Richard T. Middleton, III; my “first” priest, the Rev. Harry T. Bowie; my friend, the Rev. Darryl F. James, and all Rectors and Vicars of St. Luke’s Episcopal Church who labor from their labors rest, Alleluia:

**Charlisa Blakely**

In memory of her father, Charles E. Blakely and her aunt, Tannie Blakely Smith

**Renee Carree**

In memory of her parents, Helen (Wingard) Caree & Leroy Carree

**Patricia Cokley**

In memory of Clarence Walcott Cokley and Joan Hare Cecil

**Angela Franks**

Elliott E. Franks, III, Alexine Franks & Elliott E. Franks, Jr.,  
Izenia & Thomas Cook, & Ida Fairbanks Cummings

**Bernard & Stephanie Fuller**

In memory of her mother, Helen Mitchell Grogan and grandmother,  
Helen Lipsey Mitchell

**Russell Griffin**

In memory of his parents, the Rev. & Mrs. Calvin (Regina) Griffin.

**George Grogan**

In memory of his mother, Helen Mitchell Grogan and grandmother,  
Helen Lipsey Mitchell

**Yvonne Hall**

In memory of her mother, Juanita Corley Hall, and my grandparents,  
Joseph & Lillian Corley

**Darnell & Maxima Holmes**

We thank God for the mercy, goodness, and blessings he has granted and  
shown to us throughout the year ~ The Delaney, Holmes, & McDonald  
families.

**Brian Hurley, Michelle Hurley-Johnson, Kelly Hurley**

In memory of Anthony Manigault Hurley & Alice Wyche Hurley

**Robin Washington Major**

In memory of Frank & Vivian (Wingard) Washington; Booker & Mable Wingard

**Tommye Martin McMillan**

In loving memory of my parents, Mr. & Mrs. Thomas S. Martin; my sister, Willa Martin Bailey, and my brother, Gerald Martin

**Nadia Muhammad**

In memory of Dr. Matilda A. Evans and her children: John, Mattie, Gretchen, Myrtle, Edward, & Sydney.

**Cynthia Parker Reed**

Given to God's glory and in loving memory of my family and friends.

**Gwendolyn Spann**

In memory of my beloved brothers, Nathaniel Primus Simmons & Raymond Bernard Simmons

**Stacey Wilson**

In memory of her mother, Tannie Blakely Smith

**Rudolph & Corliss Wise**

In memory of our Beloved Saints ~ March/Wise Families

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**CHRISTMAS HONORARIA**

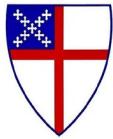
**OFFERTORY ANTHEM** – given to the glory of God by Fr. Raphiell+ in thanksgiving for the music ministry at the parish.

**ALTAR FLOWERS**...given to the glory of God and in thanksgiving for the “earthly angels” who continue to uplift me with support and prayer in my ministry.

**THE ST. LUKE’S CHORISTERS** are made possible from donations to the St. Luke’s Chorister Fund and to the Blakeley-Robinson Music Fund (named in memory of Barbarel Blakely and DeWitt Robinson, Jr.). Thank you to everyone who has made this year a musical year to remember.

**THANK YOU** to the following persons gave monetary support to these two funds so that we may continue to have choristers, quality music, as well as Brass, Strings, and other instruments when needed. This list is current as of monies posted or received by 12/23/25. **Total Received for 2025: \$8,435**

<b>Blakely-Robinson Music Fund</b>	<b>St. Luke’s Choristers Fund</b>
Alexander, Dr. Patricia (Jackson, MS)	Ancrum, Patricia
Ashford, Fr. Raphiell	Ashford, Fr. Raphiell
Belcher, Sheryl	Battiste, Judy
Brooks, Dr. Ramelle	Battiste, III, Atty. Luther J.
Glatzer, Eric (Natchez, MS)	Blalock, Drs. David & Angela
Gordon, Leonard	Hall, Yvonne
Haynes, Dr. Avis (Jackson, MS)	Hammonds, Daryl
Hicks, Shauna	Major, Robin
James, Joni	Ray, Dr. & Mrs. Joseph (Beverly)
Kemp, Dwight (Brandon, MS)	Reed, Cynthia Parker
Reed, Cynthia Parker	Turner, Ronald & Beverly
Reed, Reginald	Williams, Vickie
Stover, Fred	
Wilburn, Sherryl (Jackson, MS)	
<b>TOTAL: \$1,260.00</b>	<b>TOTAL: \$7,175.00</b>



## A Message from the Rector

Dear Parishioners and Friends,

Christmas is a time to reflect on the birth of Jesus, the Son of God. It is a time of reflection, remembrance, reminiscing. Christmas is a time to gather with those who are close, remember those who are far away, and to remember those who are no longer physically with us.

As we gather here on this holiest of nights, as we await the morn of the birth of our savior, Jesus Christ, I would like to say thank you to each of you for embracing me just as the God-bearer, the Virgin Mary, embraced her new born son, with love and care.

As we come to the close of this year and all of that it has brought with it, we still have much for which to be thankful. As we continue with our theme **“Reset to the New Normal,”** I look forward to continuing to serve you as your Priest, Shepherd, and Pastoral Confidant in the New Year. The year 2026 is poised to be a great year for the parish. Everyone plays a vital role in making sure that St. Luke’s is around for another one hundred fifty-four years. May we openly embrace the path in which God is directing us to follow. May we embrace the newness and revival that God is bestowing upon us. May we continue to on our quest to treat each other and our neighbors as our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ has commanded. The decisions we make, the actions that we take, and the way that we care for each other, the Waverly community, and the City of Columbia will help solidify the future of the parish for generations to come.

May God continue to watch over and keep each of you tonight, tomorrow, and always; May God be with you in your waking and in your sleeping; May God always and forever more be in your heart, mind, and understanding, and May God be with you until we meet again. This I pray in the name of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. Amen.

In Peace,

Fr. Raphiell Ashford+  
21<sup>st</sup> Rector, St. Luke's Episcopal Church  
December 24, 2025

## **LITURGICAL TERMS FOR THE CHRISTMAS SEASON**

### ***Cantate Domino***

The Latin incipit or opening phrase for Ps 96 which in earlier Prayer Books began “O sing unto the Lord a new song.” Objection was raised to use in the 1549 Prayer Book of the “Gospel canticles” (Benedictus, Magnificat, and Nunc dimittis) by some who believed that these songs of Zechariah, Mary, and Simeon could not properly be sung by others. In the 1552 revision of the Prayer Book, a psalm was provided as an alternative to each of these gospel canticles. Ps 98, Cantate Domino, was provided as the alternative to the Magnificat at Evening Prayer.

### **Crèche**

Does It Matter if Christians Say Creche or Nativity? Christians can and do use the terms interchangeably. But they need to understand neither word appears in the Word of God. Technically *creche* refers to just the manger bed at Jesus’ birth, and the word used in Scripture accounts is “manger.” Over time, the word *creche* has lost its former meaning. It now refers to the entire nativity setting. The word *nativity* is taken from the Latin *nativus*, which means “arisen by birth.”

### **Incarnation (Incarnatus)**

Latin term translated into English as Incarnation. It refers to the christological assertion that Jesus was fully human and fully divine, the Son of God or Word in the flesh. The specific term Incarnatus refers to the assertion in the Nicene Creed that Jesus “became incarnate from the Virgin Mary and was made man” (BCP, [...]

### **Virgin Birth**

This term describes the birth of Jesus. Jesus' mother was Mary, and he was conceived through the power of the Holy Spirit, without a human father.

**Christ Candle** – The white candle is usually displayed in the middle of the Advent wreath and is lit on Christmas Eve or Christmas Day along with all of the other candles of Advent. It is extinguished on January 6<sup>th</sup>, the Epiphany of Our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.

**The Twelve Days of Christmas** – The 12 Days of Christmas is a festive Christian tradition that spans from December 25th to January 5th, bridging the gap between the birth of Christ and the arrival of the Magi. Each day holds its own significance, often tied to historical, biblical, or cultural meanings.

## **ANGELUS**

Devotion in honor of the Incarnation, traditionally done three times a day and accompanied by the ringing of a bell. The devotion typically includes repetition of scriptural verses concerning the Incarnation, followed by the prayer “Hail Mary” (Ave), and concluding with the collect of the Annunciation from the BCP (p. 240).

Source: Glossary definitions provided courtesy of Church Publishing Incorporated, New York, NY, (All Rights reserved) from "An Episcopal Dictionary of the Church, A User-Friendly Reference for Episcopalians," Don S. Armentrout and Robert Boak Slocum, editors.

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## **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.

**Pantry 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.

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**Music Acknowledgment & Permission for Use**

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**Gospel Acclamation**—from The Lyric Gospel Acclamations;  
Tony Alonzo

**Service Music**

Opening Acclamation, Nicene Creed, *Sursum corda*, *Sanctus*, the Memorial Acclamation, *Agnus Dei* & the Lord's Prayer Permission by RiteSong online music library for one-time use of this material for congregational use.

**The Great Amen**—based upon the Negro Spiritual, “Amen” by Jester Hairston

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**The Blessing for Christmas**—from *The Book of Occasional Services* authorized by the General Convention 2018 for use throughout The Episcopal Church.

**SERMON NOTES/REFLECTIONS/  
THEOLOGICAL QUESTIONS FOR THE RECTOR**

**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*

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[www.facebook.com/stlukescolumbia](https://www.facebook.com/stlukescolumbia)

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

“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*