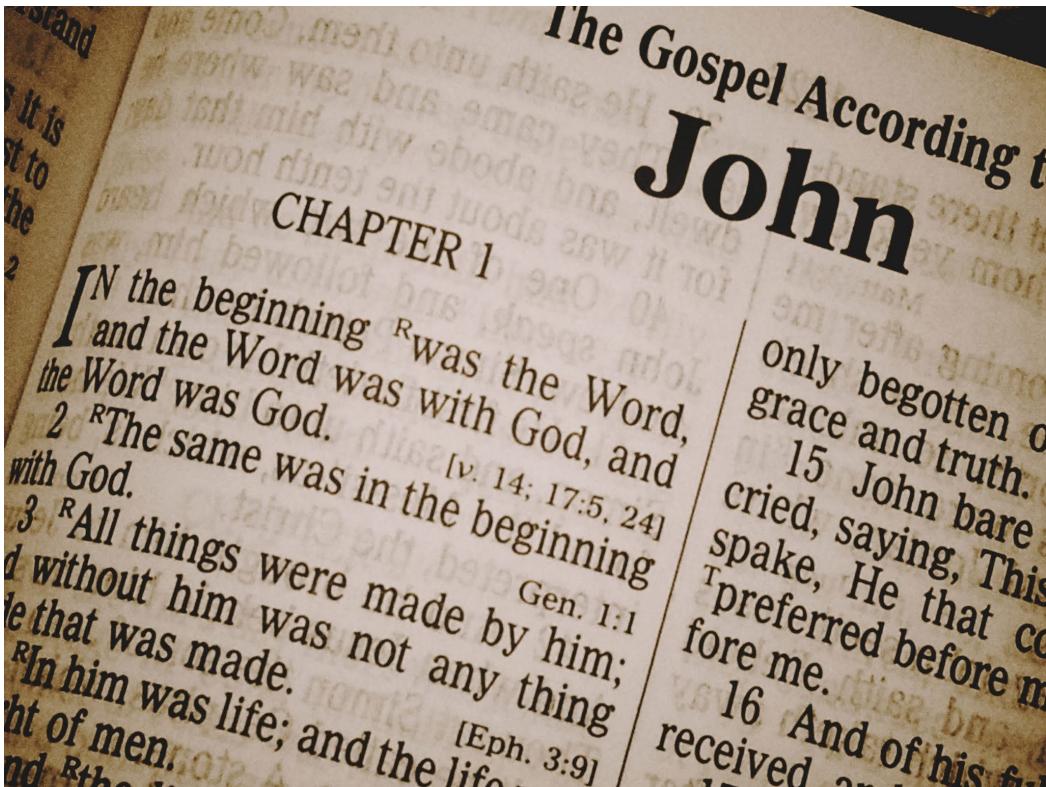


# SAINT LUKE'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH

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 First Sunday after Christmas Day

The Holy Eucharist: Rite II

December 28, 2025

10:00AM

The Rev. Raphiell Ashford, Rector  
Mr. Chuck Wilson, Supply Organist

# Vestry 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.

**OFFERINGS** can be made online

<https://onrealm.org/StLukesEpiscopal59532/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

✠ 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·477

“All Praise to Thee for Thou, O King Divine”

Engleberg

### The Opening Acclamation

*Celebrant*



Bless-ed be God: Father, Son, and Ho - ly Spi - rit.

*People*



And blessed be his kingdom, now and for ev - er. A-men.

✠ 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.*

**Gloria S·280**

Robert Powell

## **The Salutation**

Celebrant The Lord be with you.

People And with thy spirit.

Celebrant Let us pray.

## **The Collect of the Day**

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.*

*\*The people sit.*

## **The Lesson**

## **Isaiah 7:10-16**

Lector A reading from the Book of Isaiah

Again the Lord spoke to Ahaz, saying, Ask a sign of the Lord your God; let it be deep as Sheol or high as heaven. But Ahaz said, I will not ask, and I will not put the Lord to the test. Then Isaiah said: “Hear then, O house of David! Is it too little for you to weary mortals, that you weary my God also? Therefore the Lord himself will give you a sign. Look, the young woman is with child and shall bear a son, and shall name him Immanuel. He shall eat curds and honey by the time he knows how to refuse the evil and choose the good. For before the child knows how to refuse the evil and choose the good, the land before whose two kings you are in dread will be deserted.”

[Silence]

Lector The Word of the Lord.

People Thanks be to God.

## **Psalm 147:13-21** *Laudate Dominum*

*\*The antiphon is said by all.*

***Antiphon***      ***The Word was made flesh and dwelt among us.***

13 Worship the LORD, O Jerusalem; \*  
    praise your God, O Zion;

14 For he has strengthened the bars of your gates; \*  
    he has blessed your children within you.

15 He has established peace on your borders; \*  
    he satisfies you with the finest wheat.

16 He sends out his command to the earth, \*  
    and his word runs very swiftly.

17 He gives snow like wool; \*  
    he scatters hoarfrost like ashes.

18 He scatters his hail like bread crumbs; \*  
    who can stand against his cold?

19 He sends forth his word and melts them; \*  
    he blows with his wind, and the waters flow.

20 He declares his word to Jacob, \*  
    his statutes and his judgments to Israel.

21 He has not done so to any other nation; \*  
    to them he has not revealed his judgments.  
Hallelujah!

***Antiphon***      ***The Word was made flesh and dwelt among us.***

## The Epistle

## Galatians 3:23-25; 4:4-7

Lector A reading from Paul to the Galatians

Now before faith came, we were imprisoned and guarded under the law until faith would be revealed. Therefore the law was our disciplinarian until Christ came, so that we might be justified by faith. But now that faith has come, we are no longer subject to a disciplinarian. But when the fullness of time had come, God sent his Son, born of a woman, born under the law, in order to redeem those who were under the law, so that we might receive adoption as children. And because you are children, God has sent the Spirit of his Son into our hearts, crying, “Abba! Father!” So you are no longer a slave but a child, and if a child then also an heir, through God.

[Silence]

Lector: The Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

## The Sequence Hymn H·443

## “From God Christ’s Deity Came Forth”

### *Salem Harbor*

## The Gospel Acclamation

Tony Alonzo

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

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

“Let the peace of Christ control your hearts; let the word of Christ dwell in you richly.” (Col. 3:15-17)

# The Holy Gospel

## John 1:1-18

Priest     ✕ The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Matthew

People     Glory be to thee, O Lord.

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was in the beginning with God. All things came into being through him, and without him not one thing came into being. What has come into being in him was life, and the life was the light of all people. The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overcome it. There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. He came as a witness to testify to the light, so that all might believe through him. He himself was not the light, but he came to testify to the light. The true light, which enlightens everyone, was coming into the world. He was in the world, and the world came into being through him; yet the world did not know him. He came to what was his own, and his own people did not accept him. But to all who received him, who believed in his name, he gave power to become children of God, who were born, not of blood or of the will of the flesh or of the will of man, but of God. And the Word became flesh and lived among us, and we have seen his glory, the glory as of a father's only son, full of grace and truth. (John testified to him and cried out, "This was he of whom I said, 'He who comes after me ranks ahead of me because he was before me.'") From his fullness we have all received, grace upon grace. The law indeed was given through Moses; grace and truth came through Jesus Christ. No one has ever seen God. It is God the only Son, who is close to the Father's heart, who has made him known.

Priest     The Gospel of the Lord.

People     Praise be to thee, O Christ.

## The Sermon

The Reverend Raphiell Ashford

## The Nicene Creed

BCP 358

✕ “and the life of the world to come. Amen”

## The Prayers of the People

Form III

BCP 387

✕ “Give to the departed eternal rest.”

✠ “pardon and deliver you from all your sins ...”

## The Peace

Celebrant The peace of the Lord be always with you.

People And with thy spirit.

## Announcements, Birthday, & Anniversary Blessings

Fr. Raphiell+

## THE HOLY COMMUNION

Offertory Hymn H99/L21 “Go Tell It on the Mountain”

Negro Spiritual

At the Presentation of Alms “Glory Be to the Father”

*Greatorex*

\*All standing *(Gloria Patri)*

Glo - ry be to the Fa - ther, and to the Son, and to the  
Ho - ly Ghost; as it was in the be - gin - ning, is  
now, and ev - er shall be, world with - out end. A - men, A - men.

# The Great Thanksgiving

## Eucharistic Prayer B

BCP 367

\*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.

*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 ...”

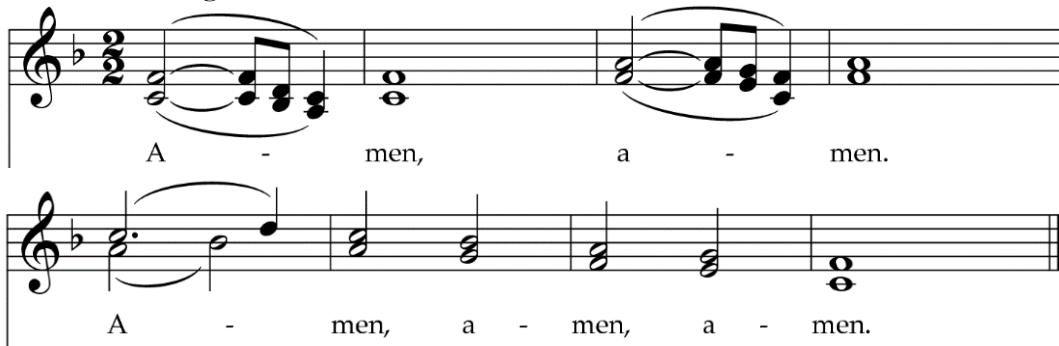
\*After the *Sanctus*, the people kneel or stand.**The Prayer of Consecration**

BCP 369

✠ “Unite us to your Son in his sacrifice ...”

## The Great Amen

\*The Priest sings the first “Amen.”



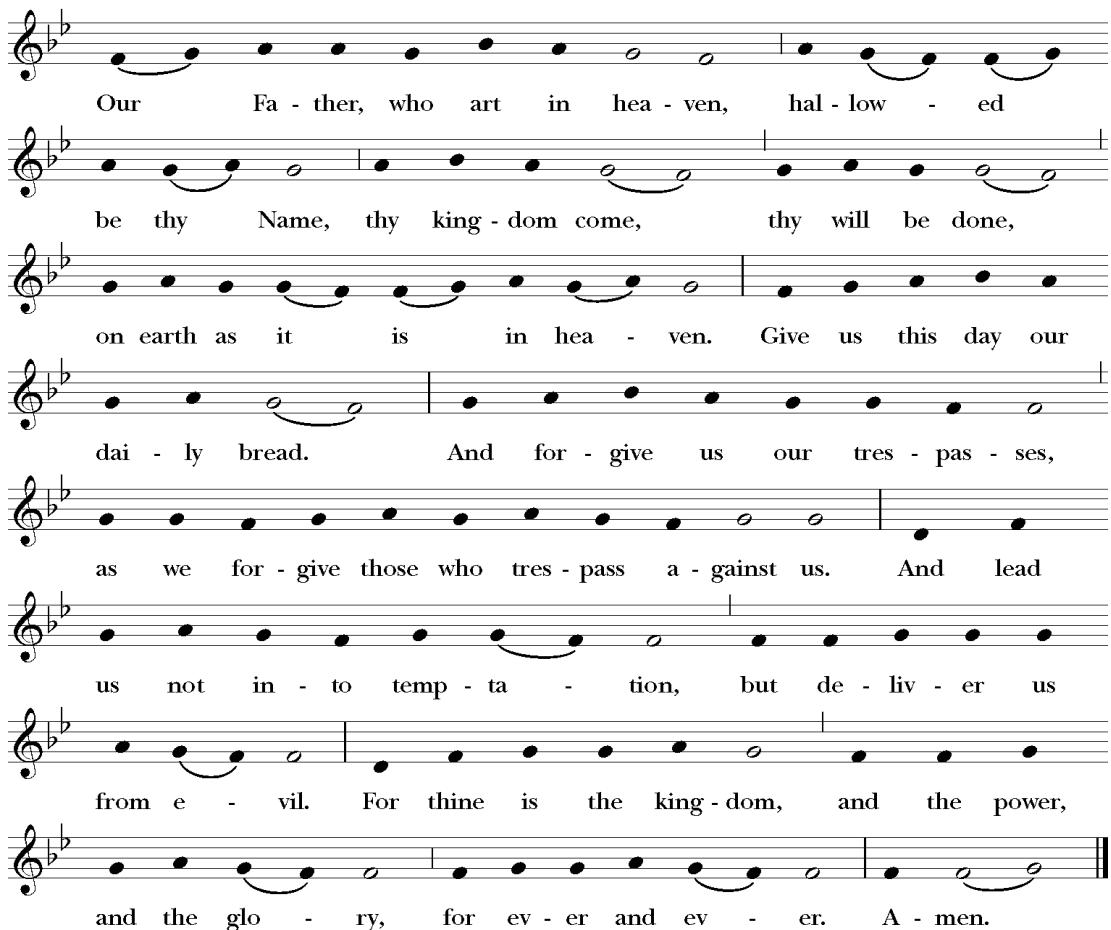
A - men, a - men.

A - men, a - men, a - men.

## The Lord's Prayer (*Pater Noster*) S·119

Plainsong

\*The priest intones the *Pater Noster*.



Our Fa - ther, who art in hea - ven, hal - low - ed  
be thy Name, thy king - dom come, thy will be done,  
on earth as it is in hea - ven. Give us this day our  
dai - ly bread. And for - give us our tres - pas - ses,  
as we for - give those who tres - pass a - gainst us. And lead  
us not in - to temp - ta - tion, but de - liv - er us  
from e - vil. For thine is the king - dom, and the power,  
and the glo - ry, for ev - er and ev - er. A - men.

## The Breaking of the Bread

\*A period of brief silence is kept.

## The Fraction Anthem

“O Lord, I Am not Worthy”

*Non Dignus*

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

## *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.

## 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 is 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• 324**

“Let All Mortal Flesh Keep Silence”

*Picardy*

**H• 27**

“Away in a Manger”

*Mueller (Murray)*

**L• 213**

“Children of the Heavenly Father” Swedish Folk Melody

## **The Post Communion Prayer**

BCP 365

*\*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 Christmas Blessing**

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

## **Hymn in Procession H•100**

“Joy to the World!”

*Antioch*

## **The Dismissal**

Priest      Let us go forth in the name of Christ.  
People      Thanks be to God.

## **Postlude**

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\*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.

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

**PARISH FELLOWSHIP** is sponsored by the ECW.  
(UTO Breakfast) – United Thank Offering

## 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, 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, Tia Hicks
- **Diocesan Cycle of Prayer...** Church of the Incarnation, Gaffney; Church of the Nativity, Union
- **Birthdays...** Darnell Holmes (30<sup>th</sup>), William S. Smith, Jr. (31<sup>st</sup>), Levi Johnson Sr., (1<sup>st</sup>), Ashley Evans (2<sup>nd</sup>), Steven Bowden (2<sup>nd</sup>)
- **Anniversaries...**
- **Births...**
- **Deaths...**
- **Traveling Mercies...** Gwendolyn Spann, Barbara Simmons, Cynthia Parker Reed

## SERVANTS FOR THE LORD

### The Old Testament Lector

Peyton Parker-Smith

### The Epistoler

DeNell Hickman

### The Gospel Book Bearer

DeNell Hickman

### Server

Herman Hickman

### Intercessor

Gloria Eaddy

### Eucharistic Minister

Paulette Parker-Smith

### Videographer

Joni James

### Crucifer

Jaylen Caldwell

### Thurifer

Cory James

### Oblation Bearers

Rudolph Wise

Leon Green

### Cantor

Fr. Raphiell+

### Ushers

Rudolph Wise

Venesia Johnson

Gloria Eaddy

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## ANNOUNCEMENTS

### **NATIVITY SCENES FROM AROUND THE WORLD...**

St. Martin de Porres Catholic Church invites us to a private viewing of its Nativity Scenes from around the world. The project is the brainchild of Mr. O'Neal Tyler. The tour begins at 1:00PM

**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.

**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 and 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.

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### **CALENDAR OF SERVICES/MEETINGS/EVENTS**

<b>DECEMBER</b>	<b>SERVICE/MEETING/EVENT</b>	<b>TIME &amp; PLACE</b>
28 <sup>th</sup> (Sunday)	The First Sunday after Christmas Day The Holy Eucharist: Rite II	10:00am
29 <sup>th</sup> (Monday)	Rector's Day Off	
	Vestry Holiday Dinner	The Blue Marlin 6:00PM
30 <sup>th</sup> (Tuesday)	New Year's Eve	
31 <sup>st</sup> (Wednesday)	PARISH OFFICE CLOSED	
<b>JANUARY 2026</b>	<b>SERVICE/MEETING/EVENT</b>	<b>TIME &amp; PLACE</b>
1 <sup>st</sup> (Thursday)	New Year's Day	
2 <sup>nd</sup> (Friday)	PARISH OFFICE CLOSED	
3 <sup>rd</sup> (Saturday)	PARISH OFFICE CLOSED	

## Music Acknowledgements & Permission for Use

### **Gospel Acclamation**

from *The Lyric Gospel Acclamations*

Tony Alonzo

### **The Great Amen**

from the Negro Spiritual “Amen” by Jester Hairston

### **Service music**

Opening Acclamation, *Gloria*, *Sursum corda*, *Sanctus*, *Agnus Dei*, &  
*The Lord’s Prayer*, Permission by RiteSong online music library for  
one-time use of this material for congregational use.

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**The Christmas Blessing**—from *The Book of Occassional Services*

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**SERMON NOTES/REFLECTIONS/QUESTIONS**

## **ABOUT UNITED THANK OFFERING (UTO)**

UTO invites individuals to embrace and deepen a personal daily spiritual discipline of gratitude.

### **The History of UTO**

At the 1889 Triennial Meeting in New York, the Women's Auxiliary instituted the United Offering for the support of innovative mission projects and to send female missionaries to serve as nurses and teachers. The United Offering eventually became known as the United Thank Offering (UTO) collecting the prayers and grateful offerings of The Episcopal Church in thanksgiving for the many blessings of this life. Throughout its existence, the work of UTO was fundamental to expanding the mission of The Episcopal Church. While UTO has expanded and grown over the years, the United Thank Offering continues to promote the spiritual practice of gratitude.

As we approach the 125th anniversary of this great ministry there is still much work to be done to strengthen and increase participation. Through the use of technology the staff and Board are able to engage with more of the grassroots network that comprises the United Thank Offering and to offer help, support and encouragement to its leaders. The Board, with the help and support of The Domestic and Foreign Missionary Society, has taken great steps to ensure that the ministry will continue among new generations and in new ways. The ministry of the United Thank Offering has remained the same since its founding – recognize your blessings and make a thank offering into your Blue Box, and it will go to support mission and ministry around the world. In a time of dwindling resources and growing anxiety and cynicism the United Thank Offering is a much-needed ministry, not only in our Church but also in our world.

A complete listing of grants awarded by the United Thank Offering can be found on our webpage, [www.episcopalchurch.org/uto](http://www.episcopalchurch.org/uto) and our staff is happy to help you search the list for specific dioceses or projects.

**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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[stlukescolumbia@gmail.com](mailto:stlukescolumbia@gmail.com) (Email)  
[www.facebook.com/stlukescolumbia](http://www.facebook.com/stlukescolumbia)

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

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“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*