



St. Luke's Cathedral

The Third Sunday of Advent
Gaudete Sunday

Sunday 15 December 2024

Welcome

The Third Sunday of Advent



The Cathedral Church of St. Luke
in the
Episcopal Diocese of Maine
and the
City of Portland

*Whoever you are,
and wherever you may be on the journey of the spirit,
The Episcopal Church welcomes you.*

Holy Eucharist, Rite II
10:00AM *in the Nave & Livestreamed*

Welcome to St. Luke's Cathedral!

We are a faith community with ancient worship and modern thought, catholic traditions and progressive theology. We proclaim a Biblical perspective for thinking people, a respect for reason, science, and a diversity of perspective. This empowers compassion and care for both the wider community and one another. Our commitment to welcome and inclusion is central to our mission modeled on the Kingdom of God and proclaimed by Jesus Christ. We are part of the 1.7 million-member **Episcopal Church** in the United States, and the 85-million-member worldwide **Anglican Communion**.



New to St. Luke's? We are delighted to welcome you to the cathedral and are grateful for your presence with us today. We invite you to fill out our visitor's register at either entrance of the cathedral nave.

Our Mission: St. Luke's welcomes every person to share in the Episcopal Church's mission "to restore all people to unity with God and each other in Jesus Christ." As a cathedral, St. Luke's is the seat of the bishop and the chief mission church of the Diocese and people of Maine. St. Luke's first service was held on Christmas Day in 1868, and continues over 150 years of reaching out to the city and people of Portland.

How we worship: Throughout the bulletin, the congregation is invited to say all **bolded** text aloud, and to sing all music printed in the order of service. There are also times when it is customary to make the sign of the cross by touching your forehead, chest, left shoulder, and right shoulder. If you wish to do so, the ✠ indicates that. Instructions for how to receive communion are provided later in the bulletin, at that point in the liturgy.

Where are the restrooms? There are four restrooms in the parish house, through the doors at the front left corner of the church. Men's and women's restrooms are across the large room at the top of the ramp: walk straight across, through the double doors and to your left. On the lower level, there are two accessible, single-stall (non-gender) restrooms, one on either end of the large room. If you need help finding them, please ask an usher.

Visit our child-friendly gathering space: beside the baptismal font on the east wall of the nave, a place where children and their guardians can move around and engage with soft toys, books, yet still participate in worship.

Worship Resources: Except where otherwise indicated, all spoken texts used in worship are from *The Book of Common Prayer* (1979). And, except where otherwise indicated, all music not in the public domain is reprinted and streamed with permission under OneLicense.net #A-713087 and/or RiteSong.

Sunday parking for St. Luke's: Off-street parking is available in two locations for those attending Sunday services: our lot adjacent to the Parish Hall, accessed from Park St.; and the Cumberland Club's (Spring Street between Park & High Sts.). We are grateful to the Cumberland Club for sharing their space with us (except on Easter and Mother's Day). In addition, limited handicap parking is available in the traffic circle in the State Street churchyard.

St. Luke's Territorial Acknowledgement

St Luke's acknowledges that we are worshiping on "unceded territory taken by force and previously occupied by the **Wabanaki people**." (*Amended City Charter, Portland, Maine*). Some of the resources that built this cathedral came from industry related to the slave trade in the Eighteenth and Nineteenth Centuries. We join our fellow residents in honoring the Wabanaki knowledge and culture that continues to thrive in the Tribal Nations. We ask for Blessing and Peace upon all indigenous peoples that have called, and always will call, this place—"The Dawmland"—HOME.

We invite you to pray this morning for...

members of our parish family

Sarah Braik, Maggie Gardner, Karen Perry, Larry Roadman, Kathy Watt

members of our extended parish family

Lisa Gorham (*friend of Peter & Connie Bingham*), Pam Stolte (*sister of Gail Swanton*),
Elizabeth Christy (*mother of Kate Leschey*), Pat Anderson (*sister of Gail Swanton*), Jan Giroux (*colleague of Gail Swanton*),
Basil Siavelis (*uncle of Rita Siavelis*), Joe (*son of Jeri Edgar*), Susan Yandell (*friend of Jeri Edgar*),
Janice (*sister of Terry Foster*), Will Oliver (*friend of Sallie Smith*)

Please silence your electronic devices before worship begins.

Prelude

Durch Adams Fall ist ganz verderbt, *BuxWV 183*

Music: melody 1525;
setting: Dieterich Buxtehude (1637-1707)

1st stanza translation: Through Adam's fall human nature and character is completely corrupted, the same poison has been inherited by us, so that we would not be able to recover health without comfort from God, who has redeemed us from the great harm that was done when the serpent overcame Eve and led her to bring God's wrath upon herself.

original text: Lazarus Spengler (1479-1534)

Words of Welcome

The Reverend George Stevens, *Interim Dean*

Please stand as you are able.

Lighting of the Advent Candle

Leader

On this third Sunday of Advent, as we think about the coming of Jesus Christ, we light the candle of joy. When Christ comes into our lives, he brings the fullness of joy. He anoints our hearts with the oil of gladness. When Jesus was born, the angels said that his coming was good news of great joy for all people. Because Christ has come to us, we can live every day in the joy of the Lord. Praise to his name!

The Word of God

When the tower bell rings, please stand as you are able. The people are encouraged to sing all music printed in the bulletin.

1. Come, thou long - ex - pec - ted Je - sus, born to set thy peo - ple free;
2. Is - rael's strength and con - so - la - tion, hope of all the earth thou art:
3. Born thy peo - ple to de - liv - er, born a child, and yet a king,
4. By thine own e - ter - nal Spi - rit rule in all our hearts a - lone;

from our fears and sins re - lease us, let us find our rest in thee.
dear de - sire of ev - ery na - tion, joy of ev - ery long - ing heart.
born to reign in us for ev - er, now thy gra - cious king - dom bring.
by thine all - suf - fi - cient mer - it raise us to thy glo - rious throne.

*The Hymnal 1982 – #66 “Come, thou long-expected Jesus”; Words: Charles Wesley (1707-1788)
Music: Stuttgart, 87. 87, melody from Psalmodia Sacra, oder Andächtige und Schöne Gesänge, 1715; adapt. and harm. William Henry Havergal (1793-1870), alt.*

An Opening Acclamation for Advent

from *Enriching Our Worship*

Celebrant

Blessed are you, holy and living One.

People

You come to your people and set them free. Amen.

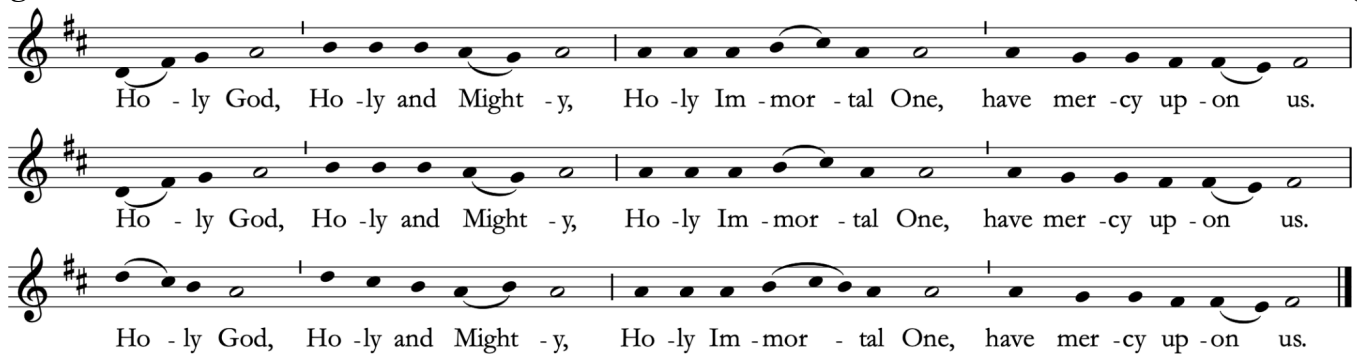
Collect for Purity

People

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 Savior. Amen.

Song of Praise

Trisagion



Ho - ly God, Ho - ly and Might - y, Ho - ly Im - mor - tal One, have mer - cy up - on us.

Ho - ly God, Ho - ly and Might - y, Ho - ly Im - mor - tal One, have mer - cy up - on us.

Ho - ly God, Ho - ly and Might - y, Ho - ly Im - mor - tal One, have mer - cy up - on us.

Music: from *New Plainsong*, David Hurd (b. 1950), Copyright © 1981 G.I.A. Publications, Inc.

Celebrant May God be with you.

People **And also with you.**

Celebrant Let us pray.

Collect of the Day

Celebrant 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.

People **Amen.**

Please sit.

First Reading

Zephaniah 3:14-20

Reader A reading from the third chapter of Zephaniah

Sing aloud, O daughter Zion; shout, O Israel! Rejoice and exult with all your heart, O daughter Jerusalem! The LORD has taken away the judgments against you, he has turned away your enemies. The king of Israel, the LORD, is in your midst; you shall fear disaster no more. On that day it shall be said to Jerusalem: Do not fear, O Zion; do not let your hands grow weak. The LORD, your God, is in your midst, a warrior who gives victory; he will rejoice over you with gladness, he will renew you in his love; he will exult over you with loud singing as on a day of festival. I will remove disaster from you, so that you will not bear reproach for it. I will deal with all your oppressors at that time. And I will save the lame and gather the outcast, and I will change their shame into praise and renown in all the earth. At that time I will bring you home, at the time when I gather you; for I will make you renowned and praised among all the peoples of the earth, when I restore your fortunes before your eyes, says the LORD.

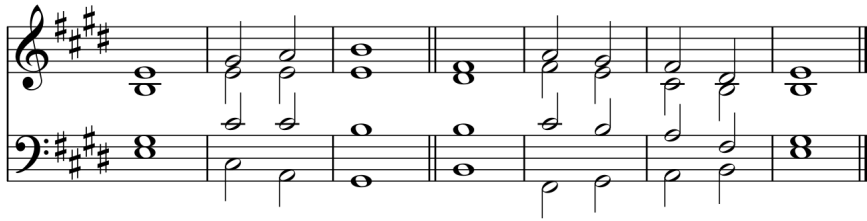
Reader The Word of the Lord.

People **Thanks be to God.**

Please remain seated and sing

Canticle 9

The First Song of Isaiah: *Ecce, Deus*



Surely, it is / God who / saves me; *
I will trust in / him and / not be • a/fraid.
For the Lord is my stronghold and my / sure de/fense, *
and / he will / be my / Savior.
Therefore you shall draw / water • with re/joycing *
— / from the / springs of • sal/vation.
And on that / day • you shall / say, *
Give thanks to the / Lord and / call up•on his / Name;
Make his deeds known a/mong the / peoples; *
see that they re/member • that his / Name is • ex/alted.
Sing the praises of the Lord, for / he has • done / great things, *
and this is / known in / all the / world.
Cry aloud, inhabitants of Zion, / ring out • your / joy, *
for the great one in the midst of you is the / Holy / One of / Israel.

Words: Isaiah 12:2-6, *The Book of Common Prayer* (1979). Music: Ray Francis Brown (1897-1965). From the *Oxford American Psalter* by Ray F. Brown, Copyright © 1949 Ray Brown, 1979 Stuart Brown, reprinted by permission of Oxford University Press, Inc.

Second Reading

Philippians 4:4-7

Reader A reading from the fourth chapter of the first letter to the Philippians.

Rejoice in the Lord always; again I will say, Rejoice. Let your gentleness be known to everyone. The Lord is near. Do not worry about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.

Reader The Word of the Lord.

People **Thanks be to God.**

Please stand as you are able.

1 Wild and lone the proph - et's voice ech - oes through the des - ert still,
2 "Bear the fruit re - pent - ance sows: lives of jus - tice, truth and love,
3 With such preach - ing stark and bold John pro - claimed sal - va - tion near,

call - ing us to make a choice, bid - ding us to do God's will:
trust no o - ther claim than those; set your heart on things a - bove.
and his time - less warn - ings hold words of hope to all who hear.

"Turn from sin and be bap - tized; cleanse your heart and mind and soul.
Soon the Lord will come in power, burn - ing clean the thresh - ing floor:
So we dare to jour - ney on, led by faith through ways un - trod,

Quit - ting all the sins you prized, yield your life to God's con - trol."
then will flames the chaff de - vour; wheat a - lone shall fill God's store."
till we come at last like John to be - hold the Lamb of God.

Hymns for the Gospels – #18 "Wild and lone the prophet's voice"; Words: Carl P. Daw, Jr., (b. 1944), Copyright © 1989 Hope Publishing Co.
Music: *Salzburg*, 77. 77. D, Jacob Hintze (1622-1702), harm. Johann Sebastian Bach (1685-1750)

At the ✠ below, you are invited to trace crosses over your forehead, your mouth, and your heart.

Deacon ✠ The Holy Gospel of our Savior Jesus Christ according to Luke.

People **Glory to you, O Christ.**

Gospel

Luke 3:7-18

John said to the crowds that came out to be baptized by him, "You brood of vipers! Who warned you to flee from the wrath to come? Bear fruits worthy of repentance. Do not begin to say to yourselves, 'We have Abraham as our ancestor'; for I tell you, God is able from these stones to raise up children to Abraham. Even now the ax is lying at the root of the trees; every tree therefore that does not bear good fruit is cut down and thrown into the fire." And the crowds asked him, "What then should we do?" In reply he said to them, "Whoever has two coats must share with anyone who has none; and whoever has food must do likewise." Even tax collectors came to be baptized, and they asked him, "Teacher, what should we do?" He said to them, "Collect no more than the amount prescribed for you." Soldiers also asked him, "And we, what should we do?" He said to them, "Do not extort money from anyone

by threats or false accusation, and be satisfied with your wages.” As the people were filled with expectation, and all were questioning in their hearts concerning John, whether he might be the Messiah, John answered all of them by saying, “I baptize you with water; but one who is more powerful than I is coming; I am not worthy to untie the thong of his sandals. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire. His winnowing fork is in his hand, to clear his threshing floor and to gather the wheat into his granary; but the chaff he will burn with unquenchable fire.” So, with many other exhortations, he proclaimed the good news to the people.

Deacon The Gospel of our Savior.
People **Praise to you, O Christ.**

Please sit.
Sermon

The Reverend George Stevens, *Interim Dean*

Please stand as you are able.

Nicene Creed

from *Enriching our Worship*

People **We believe in one God,
 the Father, the Almighty,
 maker of heaven and earth,
 of all that is, seen and unseen.**

**We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ,
 the only Son of God,
 eternally begotten of the Father,
 God from God, Light from Light,
 true God from true God,
 begotten, not made,
 of one Being with the Father;
 through him all things were made.**

**For us and for our salvation he came down from heaven,
 was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the Virgin Mary and became truly human.
 For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate;
 he suffered death and was buried.
 On the third day he rose again in accordance with the Scriptures;
 he ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father.
 He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead,
 and his kingdom will have no end.**

**We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life,
 who proceeds from the Father,
 who with the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified,
 who has spoken through the prophets.
 We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic Church.
 We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins.
 We look for the resurrection of the dead,
 ✠ and the life of the world to come. Amen.**

Prayers of the People

Form IV, *The Book of Common Prayer*

Leader Let us pray for the Church and for the world.

Leader Remembering especially St. Thomas', Winn, grant, Almighty God, that all who confess your Name may be united in your truth, live together in your love, and reveal your glory in the world.

Silence

Leader Lord, in your mercy

People **Hear our prayer.**

Leader Guide the people of this land, and of all the nations, in the ways of justice and peace; that we may honor one another and serve the common good, remembering especially Joseph, our President; Donald our President-elect; Janet, our Governor; Mark, our Mayor; and all members of local, state, and national government.

Silence

Leader Lord, in your mercy
People **Hear our prayer.**

Leader Give us all a reverence for the earth as your own creation, that we may use its resources rightly in the service of others and to your honor and glory.

Silence

Leader Lord, in your mercy
People **Hear our prayer.**

Leader Bless all whose lives are closely linked with ours, and grant that we may serve Christ in them, and love one another as he loves us. We offer prayers of healing and comfort for members of our congregation and those dear to us, especially those we now name.

The Leader reads the names from the parish prayer list, printed on the inside cover of your bulletin. Following the reading of names, you are invited to add names, silently or aloud.

Silence

Leader Lord, in your mercy
People **Hear our prayer.**

Leader Comfort and heal all those who suffer in body, mind, or spirit, remembering especially those facing homelessness and their advocates; and individuals struggling with anxiety, depression, and other forms of mental illness. Give them courage and hope in their troubles, and bring them the joy of your salvation.

Silence

Leader Lord, in your mercy
People **Hear our prayer.**

Leader We commend to your mercy all who have ✠ died, that your will for them may be fulfilled; and we pray that we may share with all your saints in your eternal kingdom.

Silence

Leader Lord, in your mercy
People **Hear our prayer.**

Concluding Collect

Celebrant O Lord our God, accept the fervent prayers of your people; in the multitude of your mercies, look with compassion upon us and all who turn to you for help; for you are gracious, O lover of souls, and to you we give glory, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, now and for ever.

People **Amen.**

Confession of Sin

Deacon Let us confess our sins against God and our neighbor.

People **Most merciful God,**

**we confess that we have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed,
by what we have done, and by what we have left undone.**

**We have not loved you with our whole heart;
we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves.**

We are truly sorry and we humbly repent.

**For the sake of your Son Jesus Christ, have mercy on us and forgive us;
that we may delight in your will, and walk in your ways, to the glory of your Name. Amen.**

Celebrant May Almighty God have ✠ mercy on you, forgive you all your sins through our Savior Jesus Christ, strengthen you in all goodness, and by the power of the Holy Spirit keep you in eternal life.
People Amen.

Peace
Celebrant The peace of Christ be always with you.
People And also with you.

The People may greet one another in the name of God. Afterward, please sit.

Announcements

The Holy Communion

Celebrant Walk in love, as Christ loved us and gave himself for us, as an offering and sacrifice to God.



Give to St. Luke's

*A free will offering in support of the mission and ministry of the Cathedral is taken at this time.
 All quarters in the offering plate go to support lunches for the school children in Duny, Haiti.
 Online giving is available at <stlukesportland.org/give/>; or scan the QR at left.*

The choir sings

Rejoice in the Lord always, and again I say, rejoice. Let your softness be known unto all men: the Lord is e'en at hand. Be careful for nothing: but in all prayer and supplication, let your petitions be manifest unto God with giving of thanks. And the peace of God, which passeth all understanding, keep your hearts and minds through Christ Jesu.
 Amen.

Words: Philippians 4.4-7; Music: Anonymous

Please stand as you are able.

1 On Jor - dan's bank the Bap - tist's cry an - noun - ces that the Lord is nigh;
 2 Then cleansed be ev - ery breast from sin; make straight the way for God with - in,
 3 For thou art our sal - va - tion, Lord, our ref - uge, and our great re - ward;
 4 To heal the sick stretch out thine hand, and bid the fal - len sin - ner stand;
 5 All praise, e - ter - nal Son, to thee, whose ad - vent doth thy peo - ple free;

1 a - wake and heark - en, for he brings glad tid - ings of the King of kings.
 2 and let each heart pre - pare a home where such a might - y guest may come.
 3 with - out thy grace we waste a - way like flowers that with - er and de - cay.
 4 shine forth, and let thy light re - store earth's own true love - li - ness once more.
 5 whom with the Fa - ther we a - dore and Ho - ly Spi - rit ev - er - more.

The Hymnal 1982 – #76 “On Jordan’s bank the Baptist’s cry”; Words: Charles Coffin (1676-1749); tr. Charles Winfred Douglas (1867-1944), after John Chandler (1806-1876); alt. Music: *Winchester New*, LM, melody from *Musicalisches Hand-Buch*, 1690; harm. William Henry Monk (1823-1889), alt.

The Great Thanksgiving

Celebrant May God be with you.

People **And also with you.**

Celebrant Lift up your hearts.

People **We lift them to the Lord.**

Celebrant Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

People **It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

Celebrant All thanks and praise are yours at all times and in all places, our true and loving God; through Jesus Christ, your eternal Word, the Wisdom from on high by whom you created all things. You laid the foundations of the world and enclosed the sea when it burst out from the womb; you brought forth all creatures of the earth and gave breath to humankind. Wondrous are you, Holy One of Blessing, all you create is a sign of hope for our journey; and so as the morning stars sing your praises we join the heavenly beings and all creation as we shout for joy:

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow - er and might,
hea - ven and earth are full of your glo - ry. Ho - san - na in the high - est.
Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord. Ho - san - na in the high - est.

Music: from *New Plainsong*, David Hurd (b. 1950), Copyright © 1981 G.I.A. Publications, Inc.

Please stand or kneel as you are able.

Celebrant Glory and honor are yours, Creator of all, your Word has never been silent; you call a people to yourself, as a light to the nations, you delivered them from bondage and led them to a land of promise. Of your grace, you gave Jesus to be human, to share our life, to proclaim the coming of your reign and give himself for us, a fragrant offering. Through Jesus Christ our Redeemer, you have freed us from sin, brought us into your life, reconciled us to you, and restored us to the glory you intend for us.

We thank you that, on the night before he died for us, Jesus took bread, and when he had given thanks to you, he broke it, gave to his friends and said: "Take, eat, this is my Body, broken for you. Do this for the remembrance of me." After supper Jesus took the cup of wine, said the blessing, gave it to his friends and said: "Drink this, all of you: this cup is the New Covenant in my Blood, poured out for you and for all for the forgiveness of sin. Do this for the remembrance of me."

And so remembering all that was done for us: the cross, the tomb, the resurrection and ascension, longing for Christ's coming in glory, and presenting to you these gifts your earth has formed and human hands have made, we acclaim you, O Christ:

People **Dying, you destroyed our death.
Rising, you restored our life.
Christ Jesus, come in glory!**

Celebrant Send your Holy Spirit upon ✠ us and upon these gifts of bread and wine that they may be to us the Body and Blood of your Christ. Grant that we, burning with your Spirit's power, may be a people of hope, justice, and love. Giver of Life, draw us together in the Body of Christ, and in the fullness of time gather us with the blessed Virgin Mary, with Luke, and all your people into the joy of our true eternal home.

Celebrant Through Christ and with Christ and in Christ, by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit, we worship you our God and Creator in voices of unending praise. Blessed are you now and for ever.

People AMEN.

Celebrant As our Savior Christ has taught us, we are bold to say,
People **Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy Name,
thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven.**

Give us this day our daily bread.

And forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us.

And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.

For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, for ever and ever. Amen.

Breaking of the Bread

Celebrant Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us;

People Therefore let us keep the feast.

The image shows three staves of musical notation in G major (one sharp) and 4/4 time. The lyrics are: "Lamb of God, you take a-way the sins of the world: have mer-cy on us." The first two staves are identical. The third staff continues with "Lamb of God, you take a-way the sins of the world: grant us peace." The melody is simple and hymn-like, with a final cadence on the word "peace".

Music: from *New Plainsong*, David Hurd (b. 1950), Copyright © 1981 G.I.A. Publications, Inc.

Celebrant 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.

Communion of the People

All are welcome to receive Holy Communion. As the Iona Community says, "Come to this table, you who have much faith and you who would like to have more; you who have been here often and you who have not been here in a long time; you who have tried to follow Jesus and you who have failed. Come. It is Christ who invites us to meet him here."

Ushers will assist you to approach by the center and return by the side aisles. You are welcome to receive the bread and/or the wine when presented; we believe that the divine presence is fully present in both the bread and the wine, and you may refuse either. For example, you may choose to receive only the bread, and then walk away; or, if you would like, you may touch the chalice with your hand, and not actually consume any wine. If you would like to receive the blessing of the Church, but not communion, indicate to the clergy by crossing your arms when approached. If you are not able to come forward, please motion to an usher, and communion will be brought to you. Per Diocesan guidelines, the cathedral does not practice intinction (dipping the bread into the wine) at this time.

Prayers of Healing are offered in *All Saints Chapel* (to the right of the kneeling rail). Members of the prayer team will assist you in offering prayer of healing for yourself or a loved one.

While we are waiting, come;
while we are waiting, come.

Refrain:

Jesus, our Lord, Emmanuel,
while we are waiting, come.

With power and glory, come;
with power and glory, come.

Refrain

Come, Savior, quickly come;
Come, Savior, quickly come.

Refrain

Shana Rose, *vocals*
Words: Claire Coninger (1942-2019)
Music: Don Cason (b. 1954)
Copyright © 1986 Word Music

1 There's a voice in the wil-der-ness cry-ing, a call from the ways un-trod:
 2 O Zi-on, that bring-est good ti-dings, get thee up to the heights and sing!
 3 but the word of our God en-dur-eth, the arm of the Lord is strong;

Pre- pare in the des-ert a high-way, a high-way for our God!
 Pro- claim to a des-o-late peo- ple the com-ing of their King,
 he stands in the midst of na- tions, and he will right the wrong.

The val-leys shall be ex-alt-ed, the lof-ty hills brought low;
 Like the flowers of the field they per-ish, like grass our works de-cay,
 He shall feed his flock like a shep-herd, the lambs he'll gent-ly hold;

make straight all the crook-ed pla-ces where the Lord our God may go!
 the power and pomp of na-tions shall pass like a dream a-way;
 to pas-tures of peace he'll lead them, and bring them safe to his fold.

The Hymnal 1982 – #75 “There’s a voice in the wilderness crying”; Words: James Lewis Milligan (1876-1961), alt.
 Music: *Ascension*, Irr., Henry Hugh Bancroft (1904-1988), Copyright © 1938 H. Hugh Bancroft

Please stand as you are able.

Post Communion Prayer

Celebrant Let us pray.

People **God of abundance, you have fed us with the bread of life and cup of salvation;
 you have united us with Christ and one another;
 and you have made us one with all your people in heaven and on earth.
 Now send us forth in the power of your Spirit,
 that we may proclaim your redeeming love to the world
 and continue forever in the risen life of Christ our Savior. Amen.**

A Seasonal Blessing for Advent

Celebrant May the Sun of Righteousness shine upon you and scatter the darkness from before your path; and the blessing of God Almighty, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, be among you, and remain with you always.

People **Amen.**

1 Pre- pare the way, O Zi-on, your Christ is draw-ing near!
 2 Christ brings God's rule, O Zi-on; Christ comes from heaven a-bove.
 3 Fling wide your gates, O Zi-on; your Sa-vior's rule em-brace.

Let ev - ery hill and val - ley a lev - el way ap - pear.
 Christ's rule is peace and free - dom, and jus - tice, truth, and love.
 Christ's tid - ings of sal - va - tion pro - claim in ev - ery place.

Greet One who comes in glo - ry, fore - told in sa - cred sto - ry.
 Lift high your praise re - sound - ing, for grace and joy a - bound - ing.
 All lands will bow be - fore Christ, their voic - es will a - dore Christ.

Refrain
 Oh, blest is Christ that came in God's most ho - ly Name.

The Hymnal 1982 – #65 “Prepare the way, O Zion”; Words: Frans Mikael Franzen (1772-1847); tr. composite; adapt. Charles P. Price (1920-1999), Copyright © 1982, Charles P. Price; alt. CMC. Music: *Bereden väg för Herren*, 76. 76. 77 with Refrain, melody from *Then Svenska Psalmboken*, 1697; harm. *Koralbok för Svenska Kyrkan*, 1939, alt., Copyright © 1930 Augsburg Publishing House.

The Deacon dismisses the people with these words

Go in peace to love and serve our God.

People Thanks be to God.

Postlude

Es ist gewißlich an der Zeit

Music: in an 18th century manuscript attributed to Johann Sebastian Bach (1685-1750)

It is certainly time when God's Son, the Anointed, shall with great majesty appear as Judge of all appointed...

Service Participants

- Preacher* The Reverend George Stevens, *Interim Dean*
- Celebrant* The Reverend Christopher Worthley, *Assisting Clergy*
- Assisting* The Reverend Rebecca Grant, *Deacon*
- Music Leader & Organist* Christian M. Clough, *Canon for Liturgy & Music*
- Soloist* Shana Rose
- Vergers* Randi Hogan
- Crucifer* Alec Thorne
- Advent Wreath Prayers Leader* Alec Thorne
- Reader* Ellen Detlefsen
- Prayers Leader* Ruth Roemer
- Ushers* Deb Marcoux, Chester Bishop, Stan Kuziel, Gail Swanton
- Live Streaming* Jack Swanton, Sam Allen
- Eucharistic Ministers* Elizabeth Burger
- Contributing Ministries* Acolytes, Vergers, Flower Guild, Altar Guild, Kneeler Guild, Cathedral Choir, Healing Team, Ushers

*The Altar Flowers for today's services are given to the glory of God
in loving memory of LaVerne Ausman
by John and Georgia Bancroft*

HAPPENING TODAY

Coffee Hour: Please join us after the 7:30AM & 10AM service for fellowship and refreshments in the Upper Hall, through the doors to the left of the altar. All are welcome. Interested in hosting? This important part of our common life provides us with a time for connection. Hosting is fun and easy; it requires only bringing in a baked good and brewing coffee. Please consider volunteering; a lot of gratitude comes with it. Thank you! Check the hosting schedule by visiting <<http://tinyurl.com/coffeeatstlukes>>, and choose a date, then contact Meredith Cough <meredith.cough@gmail.com>. This morning's coffee hour is offered by members of the cathedral vestry.

Renaissance Voices Christmas Concert: Join Renaissance Voices and maestro Harold Stover, this afternoon at 2:00PM for their Christmas concert at the Cathedral, featuring music of Juan Esquivel, Sally Herman, Celia McDowell, and more! Purchase tickets @ <www.renaissancevoices.net/concerts>

5:15PM service to welcome The Reverend Bryan Breault and guest musician Kevin Reams: Please join us this Sunday evening as the 5:15 service welcomes the Reverend Bryan Breault, pastor of State Street Church UCC, who will be offering a reflection on the work of their church's ministry of housing new Mainers. To learn more about Bryan, visit <www.statestreetchurch.org/staff> We will also welcome guest musician, Kevin Reams, who will guide us in our music during the service. To learn more about Kevin's musical background, visit his website at <www.kevinreams.yolasite.com/>

ANNOUNCEMENTS

A Note from the Interim Dean regarding the departure of Parish Administrator, Avery Levesque-Schott

Dear Friends,

Earlier this week I received word that our beloved Parish Administrator, Avery Levesque-Schott, will be leaving the Cathedral for a position with the University of Southern Maine Foundation. Avery joined the staff in June of 2022. Since that time, he has generously shared his gifts with this community. He is a great listener and clear communicator, has brought organization and technical skills to the office, and possesses a keen attention to detail. But his most important gifts are his patience, warmth and sense of humor. I am truly grateful for his work among us. Avery will be working through the end of December, but has agreed to be thanked publicly on Sunday 5 January at Coffee Hour following the 10:00AM service. A letter written by Avery is available to read in the back of your bulletin. There will be more to say later about hiring a new Parish Administrator. Until then I hope you will join me in sharing appreciation for all Avery's hard work. — *George Stevens*

Christmas Flower and Greens Contributions: Each Christmas Season the St. Luke's Flower Guild welcomes contributions to support the flowers and greens present during our services. Gifts are made in memory of and thanksgiving for loved ones. The names of all individuals are noted in the Christmas Eve and Christmas Day Bulletins. Envelopes for Christmas flower donations are available at both entrances of the Nave, as well as the Cathedral Office. A form is available in the E-News mailing which was sent out yesterday. Please submit completed forms and an enclosed check to the cathedral office after church. The deadline to submit a name for print will be Friday 20 December at 12 noon. If you need any assistance please contact <office@cathedralofstluke.org> or call (207) 772-5434.

Looking for Ushers for Christmas Day: The cathedral ushers are looking for three volunteers who would be willing to serve on Christmas Day for the 10:00AM Eucharist. If you are interested, please email Anna Messmer <aemessmer@maine.rr.com>

Thank You to Volunteers who helped with the Greening of the Cathedral including members of the flower guild, the building and grounds committee, and all volunteers who helped last Saturday to decorate the cathedral with festive greenery for Advent and Christmas. We appreciate all of your efforts to help welcome in the Christmas season at the cathedral!

Note from the Interim Dean about our search for Clergy Leadership: On Wednesday 20 November, the Lesser Chapter gathered with our search consultant, the Rev. Pamela Mott, to consider the nominations for the four committees that will search for our next Dean. We had robust interest and wonderful nominees. After the meeting, we learned that some nominations made late in the process were inadvertently omitted from consideration. Additionally, following our meeting, members of our Vestry raised questions about the process of populating the committees that necessitated further conversation and consideration. All this is to say that the work of the Vestry around establishing the search committees is ongoing. A substantial part of the December Lesser Chapter meeting (December 18) will be to talk about our search for new clergy leadership with the Rt. Rev. Thomas Brown, our Bishop. I'm grateful for your deep commitment to the Cathedral of St. Luke and for prayers in this time of transition. –with gratitude, The Rev. George R. Stevens, *Interim Dean*

Nominations Open! Annual Meeting 11:30AM Sunday 2 February in the Cathedral Nave: Nominations for Vestry, Senior Warden, and delegates to Diocesan Convention are being received by the Nominating Committee of the Lesser Chapter. Members of the Nominating Committee are: Sam Allen, Catherine Hyde, Dan McDonald and the Rev. George Stevens. At our Annual Meeting, we'll elect a Senior Warden for a two-year term, three vestry members for three-year terms, and five delegates (as well as alternates) for Diocesan Convention. For 'job descriptions', or to nominate yourself or someone else, contact George Stevens: <gstevens@cathedralofstluke.org> * Please have permission of the person you'd like to nominate before submitting their name.

Ad Hoc Preparedness Committee: At its November meeting, the Lesser Chapter unanimously approved the formation of an *ad hoc* Preparedness Committee. Chaired by Linda & Peter Carleton and Ruth Roemer, the committee's purpose is to help St. Luke's prepare for threatened mass deportations and the growing number of transgender people fleeing from hostile states. In the coming days, the Committee will gather information on what ideas and actions are being considered by the State of Maine, the City of Portland, the Maine Council of Churches, the Episcopal Diocese of Maine, and local immigrant and transgender rights groups, and then will present findings to the Lesser Chapter and the congregation, and will give suggestions for ways St. Luke's and its members might participate in these efforts. Contact Linda Carleton <lindacarleton01@gmail.com> with any questions or to join the effort.

Christmas Festival of Lessons & Carols: 4PM on 22 December, our first liturgical celebration of Christmas. Please tell friends, neighbors, and family! Especially for folks away for Christmas, this is an excellent opportunity to celebrate in our beautiful space and tradition! Contact: Christian Clough <CClough@cathedralofstluke.org>.

Celebrate Twelfth Night (and share your Christmas sweets) at our hymn-sing and potluck coffee hour in the Upper Hall following the 10AM liturgy on Sunday 5 January. Bring goodies to share and be prepared to request Christmas hymns and carols on the last day of Christmastide. If we need to copy your selections for distribution, please e-mail them by 9AM Friday 2 January to Christian @ <CClough@cathedralofstluke.org>.

OPPORTUNITIES & COMMUNITY RESOURCES

Prayers of Healing are offered at the 10AM service each Sunday, during or after communion and to the end of the postlude. Two members of the Healing Team offer these healing prayers in All Saints' Chapel (the small chapel to the right of the communion rail.) The following team members will offer healing prayers for upcoming services:

15 December Gail Kesich, Sara Schmalz

24 December Sara Schmalz, Judd Hume

22 December Gail Kesich, Elise Magnuson

29 December *no healing prayers*

The Biblical Study Group meets in the Conference Room on the ground floor Sundays 8:30–10:00AM. The topic for our sessions is the search for the one and only God, *Elohim* or *Adonai*, within ourselves. Join us for our study of the search of becoming "who we were meant to be." Led by Bob Hanson, retired university professor, Episcopal priest, author, peace activist, and Jungian analyst. Contact Bob at (207) 405-8250.

Eco-Tips from the Public Policy and Environmental Action Team: avoiding consumerism at Christmas

1. *Question your purchases:* Are you spending money just because of sales? Are you buying gifts out of obligation? Is buying more toys for a child the best thing for him or her?
2. *Focus on people and not presents:* Being fully present to another is the best gift you can give. Children will remember your loving attention, presence and memories, not all the stuff purchased for them.
3. *Rethink your traditions:* Keep traditions that make the holidays meaningful. Leave out traditions that create stress, debt, and fatigue.
4. *Consider “no-cost gifts”:* Be generous with your time by spending it with a loved one, having friends over for coffee or tea, going for a walk or to a movie or museum.
5. *Donate to a charity in honor of a loved one.*

Interested in learning more? Visit < www.nosidebar.com > to read in greater depth.

PPEAT Book Discussion Group: The Public Policy and Environmental Action Team (PPEAT) would like to host a 6 to 8-session book discussion on *Citizen: Faithful Discipleship in a Partisan World*, by Andrew Doyle, an Episcopal bishop from Texas. It would begin in mid to late January. *Citizen* provides a biblically and theologically grounded guide to how we can be both citizens of the kingdom of God and citizens of our community, state and country. The discussion will be led by Sarah Braik. If you are interested please email <sbraik642@gmail.com> and indicate your preference for Monday or Wednesday evening, and whether you would prefer in-person or Zoom.

Soul Talk is a monthly coffee and conversation group in which we talk not so much about our beliefs but about our faith and experience of God. It meets at 10 AM on the 4th Thursday of each month. Please join us once a month or once in a while. Contact Linda Carleton <lindacarleton01@gmail.com> if you'd like to receive an email with material for reflection before each meeting.

Contemplative prayer meets every Thursday at 4:30PM on Zoom (*please see the E-pistle for the link*). Please join us for a half hour of silent meditation followed by a brief conversation about our experience. No experience necessary! Contact: Sarah Braik <sbraik642@gmail.com>.

Volunteer to serve on the Altar Guild: We love volunteering on the Altar Guild, and think you would, too! Volunteering with Altar Guild is fun and rewarding. Together, we can work to enable our congregation to engage in worship that is filled with order, beauty, peace, and tranquility. Contact: Kate Leschey <cleschey@gmail.com> or Rita Siavelis <ritasiav@hotmail.com>

Join the Kneelers Guild and Prayer Shawl Knitters every Tuesday 2:30–4:30PM in the Upper Hall. Everyone is welcome, whether you are curious or want to begin. Kneeler kits cost \$75, which include directions, yarn, needles & canvas. Novices are welcome; we will teach you as needed. Prayer Shawls: 20” x 60”; select your yarn & needles. Coffee & tea are available.

Join the Young and the Restless, St. Luke's 20s-30s-year-old ministry, which hosts events both at CSL and outside the church. Join us as we hike, ice-skate, play trivia, or just enjoy each other's company! If you are new to us, welcome! We meet 6-8PM each Tuesday at Maine Beer Company in Freeport for trivia. Other events happen sporadically throughout the month, though trivia is a wonderful opportunity to meet us, if you're joining us for the first time. Contact: Shana Rose <shanaro931@gmail.com>

COMMUNITY NOTES

To reserve space for a group, meeting or event, fill out a space usage form, and check with the cathedral calendar first! Thanks! Contact: Avery Schott (207) 772-5434 or <office@cathedralofstluke.org>

Thank you in advance for your offering today. You can donate to St. Luke's through our new and secure “Give and Text” feature. Please text “**TEXTCSL**” to **73256**. Our 2024 Pledge Campaign is ongoing. Pledge materials and information are available at <www.stlukesportland.org>

The parish prayer list: Names remain on the prayer list for 3 consecutive weeks unless otherwise requested. If you wish for a name to be added, contact Avery Schott, Parish Administrator <office@cathedralofstluke.org>.

Access your Realm profile: The Cathedral's online database, Realm, is a useful tool for parishioners to manage their contact and pledging information. Realm helps our community by improving our record keeping in a more streamlined fashion. When joining Realm you can sign-up to be a part of the online directory. To activate your Realm profile, please contact Wendy Kopera, St. Luke's Bookkeeper at <bookkeeper@cathedralofstluke.org>. Wendy will assist you with the few steps necessary to access your profile.

A Letter from Avery Levesque-Schott

Dear St. Luke's Community,

I write to you today with a heart full of gratitude. In recent days I have been engaged in prayer and faithful discernment regarding next steps in my life's journey.

This week I have been graciously offered a position at the University of Southern Maine Foundation and have accepted the opportunity to step into a new role. I believe that this next step will enable me to grow professionally and to make a direct impact on the lives of students in our community, a cause which I hold dearly.

I did not come by this decision lightly. In my two-plus years as a part of the cathedral staff, I have been embraced by the incredible love of this community, worked alongside and learned from exceptional colleagues, and made life-long connections which I will cherish dearly.

I have shared in your moments of joy, grieved the loss of loved ones and community members, witnessed profound moments of connectedness through worship, and had the opportunity to share in your work of advocacy and care for our neighbors. Above all else, I have had the opportunity to build and share in the St. Luke's community with each of you.

A few months ago, following our World Café, I was profoundly moved as I listened to community members share why they care so deeply for the cathedral. This sacred space holds a vital place in the hearts of so many which stems across generations of family, friends, and loved ones. It is a space where we come with our most vulnerable selves and ask to be lifted up, both through worship and through seeking a deeper connection with others. Thank you for allowing me the great gift of bearing witness to this, supporting you, and being welcomed with open arms.

Ultimately, it is my belief in the strong foundation of skills and personal growth that you have fostered in me during my time with you, which has made me confident in taking this next step. Although my time serving as your Parish Administrator will conclude at the end of December, St. Luke's will always be a part of who I am for the rest of my life. I love you all dearly. Thank you for caring for me and shaping me into the person I am today.

In conclusion, I offer you this prayer by Thomas Merton, which can always be found in my email signature. It helps to ground and guide me throughout life's journey:

“My Lord God I have no idea where I am going. I do not see the road ahead of me. I cannot know for certain where it will end. Nor do I really know myself, and the fact that I think I am following your will does not mean that I am actually doing so. But I believe that the desire to please you does in fact please you. And I hope that I have that desire in all that I am doing. I hope that I will never do anything apart from that desire. And I know that if I do this you will lead me by the right road though I may know nothing about it. Therefore I will trust you always though I may seem to be lost and in the shadow of death. I will not fear, for you are ever near me and you will never leave me to face my perils alone. Amen.” — *Thomas Merton* (1915-1968)

With peace and gratitude,



Avery Levesque-Schott



The Cathedral Church of St. Luke

143 State Street, Portland, Maine 04101 (*street address*)
P.O. Box 4141, Portland, ME 04101-0341 (*mailing address*)

Website: stlukesportland.org
E-mail: office@cathedralofstluke.org
Phone: (207) 772-5434

Leadership

Staff

Bishop of Maine

The Rt. Rev. Thomas J. Brown

Interim Dean

The Rev. George Stevens

<GStevens@cathedralofstluke.org>

Parish Administrator & Communications Specialist

Avery Levesque-Schott <office@cathedralofstluke.org>

Canon for Liturgy & Music

Christian M. Clough <CClough@cathedralofstluke.org>

Deacon

The Rev. Rebecca Grant <RGrant@cathedralofstluke.org>

Bookkeeping

Wendy Kopera

<bookkeeper@cathedralofstluke.org>

St. Luke's Food Pantry Executive Director

Mary Brighthaupt <mbrighthaupt@cathedralofstluke.org>

Sexton

Curtis Maurand

Housekeeping

Donna Cirriello

Volunteer Clergy

The Rev. Christopher Worthley

<christopher.worthley@aya.yale.edu>

Lesser Chapter

Wardens

Senior Warden Sam Allen (2025)

Junior Warden Jamie Cough

Treasurer

Randi Hogan

<treasurer@cathedralofstluke.org>

Clerk

John Bancroft

Vestry Members

Class of 2025

Dan McDonald, Catherine Hyde

Class of 2026

Nancy Brain, Jamie Moore, Randi Hogan

Class of 2027

Stanley Kuziel, Eleanor Roberts, Mary Linneman



THE CHOIR OF
THE CATHEDRAL CHURCH
OF ST. LUKE
PRESENTS

A CHRISTMAS FESTIVAL OF LESSONS & CAROLS

*Featuring an evening of music from the
Christmas Season*



22 DECEMBER 2024 | 4:00 PM
THE CATHEDRAL NAVE

THE CATHEDRAL CHURCH OF ST. LUKE
143 STATE STREET
PORTLAND, ME 04101

For More Information Visit
stlukesportland.org/events
office@cathedralofstluke.org
207-772-5434

Join Us for Christmas at St. Luke's Cathedral



Worship Service Schedule

Christmas Eve Family Service
with the Bishop of Maine | 5pm

Candlelit Christmas Service
with the Bishop of Maine | 10pm
(prelude with organ and brass at 9:30pm)

Christmas Day Service | 10am

The Cathedral Church of St. Luke
143 State Street Portland, ME 04101
stlukesportland.org | (207) 772-5434