

Sundays in Advent

Worship Booklet

St. Luke the Physician Episcopal Church
Gresham, Oregon

Welcome to St. Luke's! We're so glad you're here.

We strive to be a community that offers Christ's welcome to every single person who walks through our doors. LGBTQI+ folks. People who are struggling with grief, mental illness, addiction, anxiety, or depression. Immigrants and refugees. People who are unhoused. Every week, we all learn how to grow our welcome even wider.

What is happening in Episcopal worship?

If you're new here, we know that Episcopal worship can sometimes feel a bit like stumbling into a secret society. Our hope is that you feel welcomed into rhythm of our worship, which is based on some of the oldest traditions of Christianity.

This book will guide you through every part of our worship. The parts of worship that change from week to week can be found in the small bulletin you received when you came in. Our opening and closing songs can be found in the blue hymnal or small song book in front of you.

Am I Allowed to Take Communion?

Yes! If you feel called to come forward to receive the consecrated bread and wine, you are welcome. Whoever you are, wherever you are on your spiritual journey, please join us at God's table.

What does it mean to be Episcopal?

The Episcopal Church is a member of the worldwide Anglican Communion whose roots are in the Church of England. The Anglican tradition embraces the *Via Media*, the middle way between Catholicism and Protestantism. Those of you who are familiar with Catholic worship will recognize the rhythm of our liturgy. If you were raised in a more Protestant tradition, you will recognize the Church's openness to reformation and renewal, to hearing how the Holy Spirit is guiding us into the future.

Advent: Redeeming Darkness

There is one word for darkness in the Bible that stands out from the rest. It shows up in the book of Exodus, at the foot of Mount Sinai, right after God has delivered Torah to the people: "Then the people stood at a distance, while Moses drew near to the thick darkness where God was" (20:21).

This is *araphel*, my concordance says, the thick darkness that indicates God's presence as surely as the brightness of God's glory—something God later clarifies through the prophet Isaiah, in case anyone missed it earlier. "I am the Lord, and there is no other. I form light and create darkness, I make weal and create woe; I the Lord do all these things" (Isa. 45:6–7).

Here is a helpful reminder to all who fear the dark. Darkness does not come from a different place than light; it is not presided over by a different God. The long nights of Advent and the early mornings of Easter both point us toward the God for whom darkness and light are alike. Both are fertile seasons for those who walk by faith and not by sight.

Even in the dark of Advent, the seed sprouts and grows—we know not how—while God goes on giving birth to the truly human in Christ and in us.

The Rev. Barbara Brown Taylor

Let us worship together!

Where you see a + indicates a place in worship where it is common to make the sign of the cross.

Processional Song

Please rise as you are able for the processional song.

Lighting the Advent Candles

Call The people walking in darkness have seen a great light

Response **Hope is on the way!** (December 1)

Peace is on the way! (December 8)

Joy is on the way! (December 15)

Love is on the way! (December 22)

Celebrant says a prayer.

O Come, O Come Emmanuel

page 56 in the Blue Hymnal

December 1: Verses 1–2

December 8: Verses 3–4

December 15: Verses 5–6

December 22: Verses 7–8

Liturgy of the Word

The Collect of the Day

Celebrant: The Lord be with you.

People And also with you.

Celebrant Let us pray together.

We pray the collect in the small bulletin together.

The Lessons

Please be seated for the readings.

After each reading (except the Psalm), the Reader says

The Word of the Lord.

or

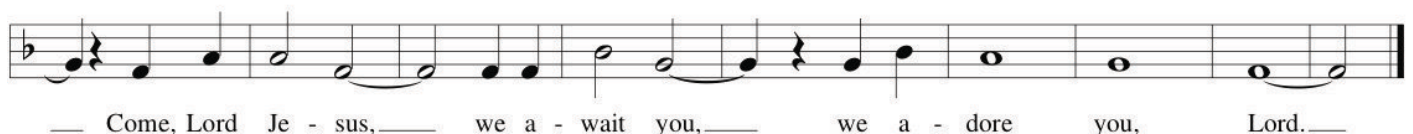
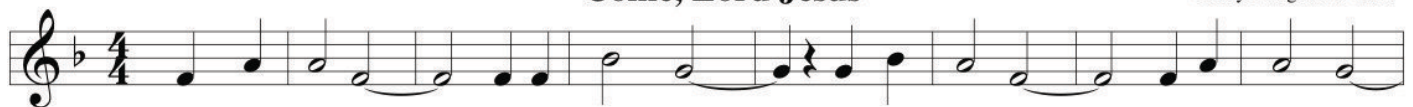
Hear what the Spirit is saying to God's people.

People Thanks be to God.

Please rise as you are able for the Gospel.

Come, Lord Jesus

Kathy Douglass © 2014



The Deacon or Priest reads the Gospel

The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Matthew.

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

Some of us make the sign of the cross over our forehead, mouth, and heart before the Gospel reading.

After the Gospel, the Reader says

The Gospel of the Lord.

People **Praise to you, Lord Christ.**

The Sermon

There is a time of silent reflection after the sermon marked by the ringing of a bell.

Affirmation of Faith

Please rise as you are able.

We believe in God, Creator of all:

The two-legged, the four-legged,
the winged ones, and those that crawl upon the earth
and swim in the waters.

We believe in God, One Who Walked with Us:

Our Brother Jesus born in humility,
who lived and died for us and
who will come again to bring us to glory.

We believe in God, Spirit with Us:

Ever present and ever guiding, upholding us and
showing us the principles to live by.
We hear God's voice through the prophets.

Creator, One Who Walked with Us, Spirit with Us, Holy One:

We are named in the waters of baptism as your own,
all of us related, all of us your children.
We watch for signs of your homecoming
and thank you for this sacred circle of life. Amen.

From Daily Prayer for All Seasons

The Prayers of the People

Hear Us When We Pray to You

arr. Kathy Douglass © 2019

God of ma-ny names, God be-yond all names, hear us when we pray to you.

God, al-rea-dy come, God who is to come,— hear us when we pray to you.

The image shows two staves of musical notation in G major (one sharp) and 4/4 time. The melody is simple and hymn-like, with lyrics written below the notes. The first staff ends with a double bar line, and the second staff continues the melody and lyrics.

The Leader and People pray responsively

God of many names, God beyond all names; the beginning and the end of every story, the meaning of every life; infinite Mystery both hidden and revealed:

Hear us when we pray to you.

Blessed are You who join us together in the communion of Christ's Body. Renew and energize your holy Church, in this parish and throughout the world, that we may be a resurrection people, manifesting your steadfast love in our common life of praise and service.

Hear us when we pray to you.

O perfect Wisdom, direct and rule the hearts of the leaders and shapers of society, raise up prophets of justice and peace, and empower your people for the holy vocation of repairing the world. May we entrust all our labors to the work of Providence.

Hear us when we pray to you.

O Deliverer, You unlock every door and make a way where there is no way. Set free all who are afflicted or distressed in body, mind or spirit. Resurrect their hope, grant them peace and refreshment, and restore their joy.

Hear us when we pray to you.

O compassionate One, hold us in your mercy: heal the sick, mend the broken, protect the vulnerable, shelter the refugee, strengthen the weary, rescue the lost, and give courage to all who struggle.

Hear us when we pray to you.

O Morning Star, bright splendor of the light eternal: Come, enlighten all who sit in darkness, and those who dwell in the shadow of violence and death. Grant us your peace, and teach us to live in the dawn of your unfailing promise.

Hear us when we pray to you.

O Lover of souls, when we wander far away, lead us back to You; when we refuse your embrace, do not give up on us; when we forget You, do not forget us.

Hear us when we pray to you.

God who has come, God who does come, God who is yet to come: Make us an Advent people, ready and alert to welcome and receive You in the stranger's face, the loving act, the moment of grace, the presence of healing, the birth of possibility, the gift of wonder. Let every heart prepare You room.

Hear us when we pray to you.

Dear people of God, what else, or who else, should we pray for?

The People offer their particular concerns and thanksgivings, aloud or in silence.

Celebrant

O Emmanuel, God with us, You show us the face of divinity, and reveal the fullness of our humanity. Come: renew your creation, restore us all in Christ, and enable us to become who we are, your faithful and loving people. We pray in the name of Jesus. **Amen.**

Prayers from Jim Friedrich at The Religious Imagineer

Community Prayers

Please come forward if you have special concerns or thanksgivings that you would like this community to hold.

We also bless our prayer shawls at this time.

Confession

Some of us kneel when we say the confession, and some of us sit.

Deacon or Celebrant

Let us confess our sins to God.

Silence may be kept.

Minister and People

God of all mercy,

**we confess that we have sinned against you,
opposing your will in our lives.**

**We have denied your goodness in each other,
in ourselves, and in the world you have created.**

**We repent of the evil that enslaves us,
the evil we have done,
and the evil done on our behalf.**

**Forgive, restore, and strengthen us
through our Savior Jesus Christ,
that we may abide in your love
and serve only your will. Amen.**

Celebrant

Almighty God have mercy on you, +forgive you all your sins through the grace of Jesus Christ, strengthen you in all goodness, and by the power of the Holy Spirit keep you in eternal life. Amen.

The Peace

Celebrant The peace of Christ be always with you.

People And also with you.

Greet one another in the name of Christ.

There are many huggers in this congregation. If you prefer a handshake, please just hold out your hand.

The Work of the Community

Please feel free to share any events or news that you would like the community to know about.

Offertory

Celebrant Walk in love, as Christ loved us and gave himself for us, an offering and sacrifice to God. Ephesians 5:2

The community shares of their resources for the work of this church.

Doxology

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow; Praise God, all creatures here be - low; Praise
God above, ye heavenly host; Praise Fa-ther, Son and Ho - ly Ghost. A-men, A - men, A - men.

Liturgy of the Table

Please remain standing, as you are able.

Celebrant The Lord 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 God 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 with joy:

Holy, Holy, Holy

Arr. Kathy Douglass © 2017

Ho - ly, Ho - ly, Ho - ly, Lord God of pow'r and might, hea-ven and
earth are full of your glo-ry. Ho - ly, Ho - ly, Ho - ly, Lord God of
pow'r and might, hea-ven and earth are full of your glo-ry. Ho -
san - na, Ho - san - na in the high - est! Ho - san - na in the high - est
place! And bless-ed, bless-ed is the one who comes in the Lord's ho - ly
name. Ho - san - na! Ho - san - na in the high - est
place. Ho - san - na! Ho - san - na, in the high - est place!

Glory and honor are yours, Creator of all,
your Word has never been silent;
you called 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 holy 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 it 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:

Presider and People

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

The Presider continues

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 blessed Mary and Luke and all your people
into the joy of our true eternal home.

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.

Presider and People

Blessed are you now and for ever. AMEN.

And now, as our Savior Christ has taught us, we are bold to say,

People and Celebrant

**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.**

The Breaking of the Bread

The Celebrant breaks the consecrated Bread.

Lamb of God

Arr. Kathy Douglass © 2019

Lamb of God, you take a - way the sins of the world: have mer - cy on
us. Lamb of God, you take a - way the sins of the world: grant us peace.

Celebrant

The Gifts of God for the People of God.

At St. Luke's, all are welcome at God's table.

We come to the railing to receive Communion. It is our practice to eat the bread/wafer and then drink directly from the chalice. You may also dip the bread/wafer in the chalice.

We celebrate with pita bread or gluten-free wafers and wine or juice. Let the server know if you prefer the gluten-free or non-alcoholic option when you come to the railing. If you do not wish to eat or drink, you may come forward with your arms crossed over you and receive a blessing.

Most services, Maryland Busby is available to pray with you individually at the back of the sanctuary during communion.

Post-Communion Prayer

Some of us kneel when we pray, and some of us stand.

Loving God,
we give you thanks
for restoring us in your image
and nourishing us with spiritual food
in the Sacrament of Christ's Body and Blood.
Now send us forth
a people, forgiven, healed, renewed;
that we may proclaim your love to the world
and continue in the risen life of Christ our Savior. Amen.

Benediction

Recessional Song

The Dismissal

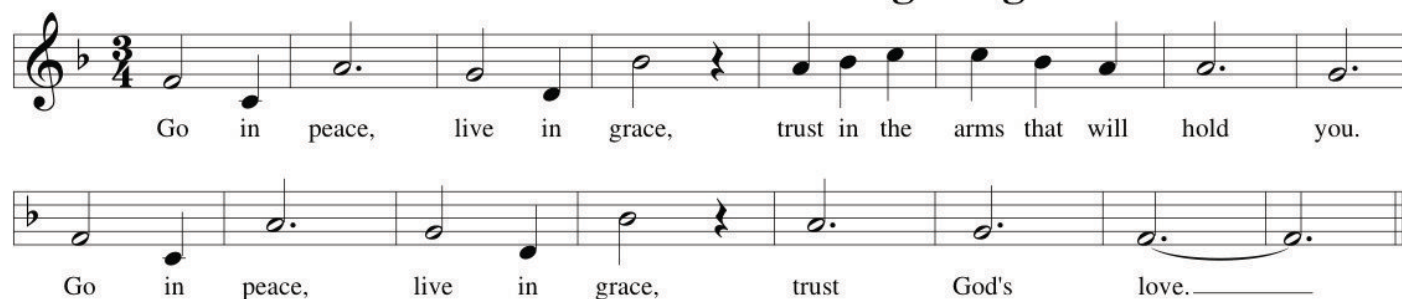
The Deacon dismisses the people, and the people respond:

Thanks be to God!

Leaving Song

Go In Peace ~ Leaving Song

Billy Crockett © 1999



Staff and Leadership at St. Luke's

Rector: The Rev. Sara Cosca-Warfield

Deacon: The Rev. Laurel Hart

Director of Music: Kathy Douglass

Administrative Assistant: Marcia Robison

Vestry & Wardens:

Lainey Johnston (Senior Warden)

Linda Simmons (Junior Warden)

Cynthia Markum (Clerk)

Barry Brandt (Building & Grounds)

Deborah Dobrenen (Outreach)

Joan King (In-Reach & Welcome)

Kathy Terry (Ark)

Sidney Welch (Building & Grounds)

Come say hi!

The church office is open:

Monday - Wednesday, 9 a.m. – 1 p.m.

Thursday, 9 a.m. - 12 p.m.

To contact Marcia in the church office:

Call 503-665-9442 or email office@saintlukesgresham.org.

To contact Rev. Sara, email her at revsara@saintlukesgresham.org.

**St. Luke the Physician Episcopal Church is part of the
Episcopal Diocese of Oregon, The Episcopal Church in the USA,
and the worldwide Anglican Communion.**

Front cover calligraphy by Pete Schmidt.



St. Luke the Physician Episcopal Church

The Rev. Sara Cosca-Warfield, Rector
The Rev. Laurel Hart, Deacon
Kathy Douglass, Music Director

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Services every Sunday at 10 a.m.