

# SAINT LUKE'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH

## THE FIRST SUNDAY AFTER CHRISTMAS – YEAR A 28 DECEMBER 2025

*God calls us the people of St. Luke's  
to open wide our doors in the name of Christ:  
To all who are young or old and need counsel:  
To all who are strong and want a task;  
To all who are lonely, weak or mourn and need comfort;  
To all who are sinful and need a Savior;  
To all who are weary and need rest;  
To all who are left out and need acceptance;  
To all who are grateful and need a place to give thanks and pray;  
To all who are called by worship of the Lord into community outreach;  
To all in Christ's name we say "WELCOME."*

### A SERVICE OF LESSONS AND CAROLS

*(PLEASE LIGHT YOUR CANDLES)*

**PRELUDE**

Meditation on *"Of the Father's Love Begotten"*

ARR. SOUTHBRIDGE

**OPENING HYMN #102**

*Once in royal David's city (verses 1-3)*

**IRBY**

#### **BIDDING PRAYER**

Beloved in Christ, we come by this service to prepare ourselves to hear again the message of the angels and to go in heart and mind to Bethlehem, to see the loving-kindness of our God, and the Babe lying in a manger. Let us open our hearts to Scripture and ask the Lord to save us from our sins and make us pure and happy, and let us thank God with our carols and praise.

First, let us pray for the needs of this world; and especially for peace and goodwill among all people; especially in the Middle East, in the homeland of our Savior's birth, the Holy Land, and also for peace in our own land: that all will find the peace only you can give and we learn to love one another, as children of the one God of all.

And because this would most rejoice the heart of God, let us remember the poor and helpless, the cold, the hungry, the unemployed, the oppressed, the sick and those who mourn, the lonely and the unloved, the aged and the little children, and all who know not the Lord Jesus, or who love him not, or who by sins have grieved his heart.

Let us remember before God all those who rejoice with us, but upon another shore and in a greater light, that multitude no one can number, with whom in this Lord Jesus, we evermore are one. These prayers and praises let us humbly offer up to the throne of heaven. **Amen.**

**CAROL#56**

*O come, O Come, Emmanuel (Verses 1,2,7,8)*    **VENI, VENI, EMMANUEL**

**POEM:** I Salute You by Fra Giovanni Giocondo

I salute you! There is nothing I can give you which you have not;  
but there is much that, while I cannot give, you can take.

No heaven can come to us unless our hearts  
find rest in it today.    Take Heaven.

No peace lies in the future which is not hidden  
in this present instant.    Take Peace.

The gloom of the world is but a shadow;  
behind it, yet within our reach is joy.    Take Joy.

And so, at this Christmas time, I greet you, with the prayer that for you, now and forever, the  
day breaks and the shadows flee away.

**THE FIRST LESSON**

**ISAIAH 9: 1-7**

For there will be no gloom for those who were in anguish. In the former time he brought into contempt the land of Zebulun and the land of Naphtali, but in the latter time he will make glorious the way of the sea, the land beyond the Jordan, Galilee of the nations. 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 Counsellor, 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 and with righteousness from this time onwards and for evermore. The zeal of the LORD of hosts will do this.

The Word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

**POEM:** Incarnation by Penelope Duckworth

When the Holy One stepped from endless order into the chaos of our days, it was winter.  
Weather blew everywhere. Time itself was dying. The squirrel, with a tail soft as breath,

curled inside the maple trunk. The cold stayed. Five-fingered leaves pressed the ground,  
their stems perpendicular, thin wrists above each flame-tipped palm.  
Cataclysm scanned the days; like any future, like our own.

The Holy One took face and voice, beginning with an infant cry,  
took food and sleep, nestled in arms not unlike yours.  
He listened to the dropping rain, watched it bead the naked twigs,  
saw it polish stones and faces, stood once under this life of sky  
and still, in a word, understands.

**CAROL#265**

*The angel Gabriel from heaven came*

**GABRIEL'S MESSAGE**

**POEM:** A Song of True Motherhood by Julian of Norwich

God chose to be our mother in all things and so made the foundation of his work,  
most humbly and most pure, in the Virgin's womb.  
God, the perfect wisdom of all, arrayed himself in this humble place.  
Christ came in our poor flesh to share a mother's care.  
Our mothers bear us for pain and for death;  
our true mother, Jesus, bears us for joy and endless life.  
Christ carried us within him in love and travail, until the full time of his passion.  
And when all was completed and he had carried us so for joy,  
still all this could not satisfy the power of his wonderful love.  
All that we owe is redeemed in truly loving God, for the love of Christ works in us;  
Christ is the one whom we love.

**SECOND LESSON**

**LUKE 1: 26-38**

In the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent by God to a town in Galilee called Nazareth, to a virgin engaged to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David. The virgin's name was Mary. And he came to her and said, 'Greetings, favored one! The Lord is with you.' But she was much perplexed by his words and pondered what sort of greeting this might be. The angel said to her, 'Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favor with God. And now, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you will name him Jesus. He will be great, and will be called the Son of the Most High, and the Lord God will give to him the throne of his ancestor David. He will reign over the house of Jacob for ever, and of his kingdom there will be no end.' Mary said to the angel, 'How can this be, since I am a virgin?' The angel said to her, 'The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you; therefore the child to be born will be holy; he will be called Son of God. And now, your relative Elizabeth in her old age has also conceived a son; and this is the sixth month for her who was said to be barren. For nothing will be impossible with God.' Then Mary said, 'Here am I, the servant of the Lord; let it be with me according to your word.' Then the angel departed from her.

The Word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

**POEM:** For Christmas Day by John Hall

Immortal Babe, who this dear day  
Didst change Thine heaven for our clay,  
And didst with thy flesh Thy godhead veil,  
Eternal Son of God, all hail!  
Shine, happy star; ye angels, sing  
Glory on high to heaven's King:  
Run, shepherds, leave your nightly watch  
See heaven come down to Bethlehem's cratch.  
Worship, ye sages of the east,  
The King of gods in meanness dressed,  
O blessed maid, smile and adore  
The God thy womb and arms have bore.  
Star, angels, shepherds, and wise sages,  
Thou virgin glory of all ages,  
Restored frame of heaven and earth,  
Joy in your dear Redeemer's birth!

**CAROL #87**

*Hark! the herald angels Sing*

**MENDELSSOHN**

**POEM:** Christ's Part by Robert Herrick

Christ, He requires still, wheresoe'er He comes  
To feed or lodge, to have the best of rooms:  
Give Him the choice; grant Him the nobler part  
Of all the house: the best of all's the heart.

**THIRD LESSON**

**LUKE 2: 1-12**

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: <sup>11</sup>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. '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. After eight days had passed, it was time to circumcise the child; and he was called Jesus, the name given by the angel before he was conceived in the womb.

The Word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

**POEM:** God Comes to Us      Source Unknown

In the piercing cry of a baby,  
The blind, naked cry  
of a human soul  
entering the world for the first time —  
God comes to us  
deliberately  
vulnerable  
and unclothed

**CAROL #115**

*What Child is this? (verses 1-3)*

**GREENSLEEVES**

**POEM:** At the Manger Mary Sings by W. H. Auden

O shut your bright eyes that mine must endanger  
With their watchfulness; protected by its shade  
Escape from my care: what can you discover  
From my tender look but how to be afraid?  
Love can but confirm the more it would deny.  
Close your bright eye.

Sleep. What have you learned from the womb that bore you  
But an anxiety your Father cannot feel?  
Sleep. What will the flesh that I gave do for you,  
Or my mother love, but tempt you from His will?  
Why was I chosen to teach his son to weep?  
Little one, sleep.

Dream. In human dreams earth ascends to Heaven  
Where no one need pray nor ever feel alone.  
In your first few hours of life here, O have you

Chosen already what death must be own your own?  
How soon will you start on the Sorrowful way?  
Dream while you may.

#### **FOURTH LESSON**

**JOHN 1:1-14**

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.

The Word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

**POEM:** from Christmas by John Betjeman

And is it true? And is it true,  
This most tremendous tale of all,  
Seen in a stained-glass window's hue,  
A Baby in an ox's stall ?  
The Maker of the stars and sea  
Become a Child on earth for me ?

And is it true ? For if it is,  
No loving fingers tying strings  
Around those tissued fripperies,  
The sweet and silly Christmas things,  
Bath salts and inexpensive scent  
And hideous tie so kindly meant,

No love that in a family dwells,  
No carolling in frosty air,  
Nor all the steeple-shaking bells  
Can with this single Truth compare -  
That God was man in Palestine  
And lives today in Bread and Wine.

**POEM:** Epiphany by Stephen Wentworth Arndt

When the dawn-blood of our day bled  
 On its flooded sunset death bed,  
 Then the stark burst of a star's birth  
 Lit the cursed dark on straying earth.  
 Now a sky-light at the twilight  
 Guided aging sages all night  
 From the Far East till the star ceased  
 Near a fabled child mid stabled beasts.  
 In a straw bed was a starred boy,  
 And the light he shed instilled joy,  
 For our sin's gloom, in his sun-gleam,  
 Is illumined by a wond'rous beam  
 Healing blind eyes, making minds wise,  
 Ever bringing things their true guise.  
 In his soft glow, from aloft flow  
 Long remembered ardors embers know  
 To the dim hearth of the dark heart  
 To be kindled by divine art...  
 May our star-lit sparkles flare up awed  
 By your love light, Christ, our Infant God!

#### **FIFTH LESSON**

#### **MATTHEW 2:1-10**

In the time of King Herod, after Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea, wise men from the East came to Jerusalem, asking, "Where is the child who has been born king of the Jews? For we observed his star at its rising, and have come to pay him homage." When King Herod heard this, he was frightened, and all Jerusalem with him; and calling together all the chief priests and scribes of the people, he inquired of them where the Messiah was to be born. They told him, "In Bethlehem of Judea; for so it has been written by the prophet: 'And you, Bethlehem, in the land of Judah, are by no means least among the rulers of Judah; for from you shall come a ruler who is to shepherd my people Israel.'" Then Herod secretly called for the wise men and learned from them the exact time when the star had appeared. Then he sent them to Bethlehem, saying, "Go and search diligently for the child; and when you have found him, bring me word so that I may also go and pay him homage." When they had heard the king, they set out; and there, ahead of them, went the star that they had seen at its rising, until it stopped over the place where the child was. When they saw that the star had stopped, they were overwhelmed with joy. On entering the house, they saw the child with Mary his mother; and they knelt down and paid him homage. Then, opening their treasure chests, they offered him gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh. And having been warned in a dream not to return to Herod, they left for their own country by another road.

The Gospel of the Lord. **Praise to you, Lord Christ.**

**POEM:** The Beginning of Wisdom Edith Lovejoy Pierce (b. 1904)

These are the rich men lumbering by, Whose camels have passed through the needle's eye;  
For Christ are the costly gifts they hold: The myrrh, the frankincense, and gold.  
They have made the self so small, It slips like thread through the eye of an awl.  
For the Highest slips into human flesh, the Godhead caught in a golden mesh.  
And lowliness fills their rescued mind As light slips into the eyes of the blind,  
And freedom slips through the captives bars Till the crown of thorns is a crown of stars.

**CAROL #109**

*The First Nowell (verses 1-5)*

**THE FIRST NOWELL**

**THE PEACE**

Unto us a child is born, unto us a son is given: and his name is called the Prince of Peace.  
The peace of the Lord be always with you. **And also with you.**

## **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

### **THE HOLY COMMUNION**

**OFFERTORY CAROL #83**

*O Come all ye faithful (verses 1-3)*

**ADESTE FIDELIS**

### **PRESENTATION OF THE GIFTS**

All things come from You, O Lord,  
**And of Your own have we given to You.**

## **EUCCHARISTIC PRAYER 2 FROM “ENRICHING OUR WORSHIP”**

The Lord be with you.

**And also with you.**

Lift up your hearts.

**We lift them to the Lord.**

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

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

We praise you and we bless you, holy and gracious God, source of life abundant. From before time you made ready the creation. Your Spirit moved over the deep and brought all things into being: sun, moon, and stars; earth, winds, and waters; and every living thing.



You made us in your image, and taught us to walk in your ways. But we rebelled against you, and wandered far away; and yet, as a mother cares for her children, you would not forget us.

Time and again you called us to live in the fullness of your love. And so this day we join with Saints and Angels in the chorus of praise that rings through eternity, lifting our voices to magnify you as we sing

### **SANCTUS S-130**

**SCHUBERT**

**Holy, Holy, Holy Lord, God of power and might,  
heaven and earth are full of your glory.**

**Hosanna in the highest.**

**Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord.**

**Hosanna in the highest.**

Glory and honor and praise to you, holy and living God. To deliver us from the power of sin and death and to reveal the riches of your grace, you looked with favor upon Mary, your willing servant, that she might conceive and bear a son, Jesus the holy child of God.

Living among us, Jesus loved us. He broke bread with outcasts and sinners, healed the sick, and proclaimed good news to the poor. He yearned to draw all the world to himself yet we were heedless of his call to walk in love.

Then the time came for him to complete upon the cross the sacrifice of his life, and to be glorified by you. On the night before he died for us, Jesus was at table with his friend. He took bread, gave thanks to you, broke it, and gave it to them, and said: "Take, eat: This is my Body, which is given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me."

As supper was ending, Jesus took the cup of wine. Again he gave thanks to you, gave it to them, and said: "Drink this, all of you: This is my Blood of the new Covenant, which is poured out for you and for all for the forgiveness of sins. Whenever you drink it, do this for the remembrance of me."

Now gathered at your table, O God of all creation, and remembering Christ crucified and risen, who was and is and is to come, we offer to you our gifts of bread and wine, and ourselves, a living sacrifice.

Pour out your Spirit upon these gifts that they may be the body and blood of Christ. Breathe your Spirit over the whole earth and make us your new creation, the Body of Christ given for the world you have made.

In the fullness of time bring us, with Luke and all your saints, from every tribe and language and people and nation, to feast at the banquet prepared from the foundation of the world. Through Christ and with Christ and in Christ, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, to you be honor, glory, and praise, for ever and ever. **Amen.**

## THE LORD'S PRAYER

As our Savior Christ has taught us, we are bold to say. **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

Alleluia. Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us;  
**Therefore let us keep the feast. Alleluia.**

## AGNUS DEI S-164

SCHUBERT

**Jesus, Lamb of God: have mercy on us.  
Jesus, bearer of our sins: have mercy on us.  
Jesus, redeemer, redeemer of the world:  
Give us your peace, give us your peace.**

## MUSIC DURING COMMUNION

*Gesu Bambino*  
Joy Jones, soprano

YON

**HYMN #27 (LEVAS)** *Away in a manger, no crib for a bed*

MURRAY

**HYMN #111** *Silent night, holy night*

STILLE NACHT

## A CLOSING POEM: Refugee by Malcolm Guite

*read at a 2022 Royal Carol Service in Westminster Abbey at the request of King Charles III*

We think of him as safe beneath the steeple,  
or cosy in a crib beside the font,  
But he is with a million displaced people,  
on the long road of weariness and want.  
For even as we sing our final carol,  
his family is up and on that road,  
Fleeing the wrath of someone else's quarrel,  
glancing behind and shouldering their load.  
Whilst Herod rages still from his dark tower,  
Christ clings to Mary, fingers tightly curled,  
The lambs are slaughtered by the men of power,  
and death squads spread their curse across the world.  
But every Herod dies, and comes alone,  
to stand before the Lamb upon the throne.

## THE BLESSING

The peace of God, which passeth all understanding, keep your hearts and minds in the knowledge and love of God, and of his Son Jesus Christ our Lord; and the blessing of God Almighty, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, be amongst you, and remain with you always. **Amen.**

**RECESSIONAL HYMN #100**     *Joy to the world! (Verses 1,2, & 4)*

**ANTIOCH**

## THE SENDING FORTH

Go in the peace to love and serve of the Lord.  
**Thanks be to God!**

## POSTLUDE

*Masters In This Hall*

**ARR. YOUNG**

---

**Eucharistic Ministers:** *Lys Marigold, Dianne Benson*

**Scripture Readers:** *Lys Marigold, Dianne Benson, Katie Simon, Amayrani Martinez,  
Benjamin Shambaugh*

**Poetry Readers:** *Wendy Phillips, Dan Mongan, John Phillips, Roy Parker, Gail Parker,  
Tina Giles, Courtney Wood, Jeffrey Sussman, Joy Jones, Bobby Peterson, Marshall Watson*

**Acolytes:** *Tina Giles, John Paul O'Leary*

**Greeters:** *Paul Bowden, Jeff Conway*

**Altar Guild:** *Gail & Roy Parker, Diane Russo*

---

## THE FOLLOWING REQUEST OUR PRAYERS FOR GOD'S LOVING AND HEALING MERCY:

*George Kneip, Ken Miller, Evelina Langdale, Paulette Brinka, Julie Nielson, Charles Lewis,  
Robbie Balnis, Nick Marlin, Keith Scott, Courtney Wessling, Deidre Henderson,  
Martin Foggo, Jeffrey Lane, Mark Gregory, Mary Libby, Jose, David, Edmond L. Craig, III,  
Joanne, Michael Swerdlow, Wilson Nieves, Rachelle Rainville, Mary Mason,  
Sara Babin, Wendy Benson, Laurie Rosen, Denny Kiner*

---

## ABOUT THIS SERVICE

The Festival of Lessons and Carols is based on a service by Edward Benson, later Archbishop of Canterbury but at that time Bishop of Truro, in Cornwall, for use on Christmas Eve 1880. The original liturgy has since been adapted and used by other churches all over the world. The best-known version is broadcast annually from King's College, Cambridge, on Christmas Eve. The innovation of adding poetry comes from Albert Melton, retired organist of St. Luke's Cathedral in Portland, Maine. Thank you to all our participants today!

# **Saint Luke's Episcopal Church**

Office Hours: Mon.— Fri., 9am—4pm

18 James Lane, East Hampton, NY 11937

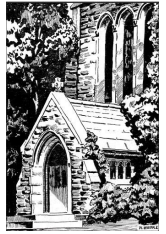
[www.stlukeseasthampton.org](http://www.stlukeseasthampton.org)

631-329-0990 (Telephone) | 631-329-1674 (FAX)

Office: [office@stlukeseasthampton.org](mailto:office@stlukeseasthampton.org)

Rector: [rector@stlukeseasthampton.org](mailto:rector@stlukeseasthampton.org),

Director of Christian Ed: [christianed@stlukeseasthampton.org](mailto:christianed@stlukeseasthampton.org)



## **REGULAR SCHEDULE OF WORSHIP**

Sunday Eucharist - 8 a.m. (Rite I) & 10 a.m. (Rite II)

Wednesday Eucharist Service - 10 a.m. (Rite II)

Saturday at St. Peter's Chapel (Memorial Day-Labor Day) - 5:30 p.m. (Rite II)

## **VESTRY**

Brian Craig, Senior Warden, David Mellgard, Junior Warden

Lucy Kazickas, Martha Murray, Eileen O'Reilly (2026)

John Hadden (Treasurer), Dan Mongan, Roy Parker (2027)

Caroline Dean, Hersey Egginton, Kitt Zuk (2028)

## **STAFF**

The Rev. Dr. Benjamin A. Shambaugh, Rector

Robert Peterson, Music Director | Tara Brinka, Parish Administrator

Colleen Stonemetz, Christian Ed. Director | Oscar Giles, Verger

## **DIGITAL GIVING TO SUPPORT OUR MINISTRIES**

Your time, talent, and treasure are vital for St. Luke's to bring the Good News of Christ Jesus to the people of East Hampton and the world. You can contribute via the QR code below or by using Venmo (@StLukesEHNY). Or you can support our ministries by giving via our parish website: [www.stlukeseasthampton.org](http://www.stlukeseasthampton.org).



*The Scripture translation is from the New Revised Standard Version Bible ©1989 by the Division of Christian Education of the National Council of Churches of Christ in the USA and used with permission.*