

A SERVICE OF ADVENT LESSONS AND CAROLS

IN THE NAME OF GOD, WELCOME to this community of faith and to this special Advent service. Advent leads us to be watchful in two ways. First, God calls us to see both the signs of God's preparing and the significance of God's loving purpose behind it all. Second, God calls us to watch the steps of our daily lives and the 'signs' those activities proclaim. Do you see what God sees? This Service of the traditional seven Advent Lessons, this year paired with selections from Handel's Messiah, is sung by the choir with orchestra and soloists: Amanda DeMaris, soprano; Michael Clarkson, tenor; and Angus Godwin, baritone.

A Service of Seven (7) Advent Lessons with Selections from G. F. Handel's "Messiah"

Prelude "Overture"

The Introduction and Invocation

***Hymn 263** "Savior of the Nations, Come"

NUN KOMM, DER HEIDEN HEILAND

*The Opening Prayer

Pastor: Stir up our hearts, Lord God,

ALL: **to prepare the way of your only Son. By his coming strengthen us to serve you with purified lives; through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.**

A Word of Welcome

George Conneman

The First Lesson: *The Prophet proclaims Light to the people who have walked in darkness*

Scripture: Isaiah 9: 2-4

Anthem: "The People that Walked in Darkness"

Angus Godwin, baritone

The Second Lesson: *The Prophet proclaims good news to a people in exile*

Scripture: Isaiah 40: 1-8

Anthem: "And the Glory to the Lord"

The Third Lesson: *The Lord promises that the King will come to Israel in peace.*

Scripture: Zechariah 9: 9-10

Anthem: "Rejoice Greatly"

Amanda DeMaris, soprano

The Children's Sermon: "Favor"

Pastor Bair

Including the Lighting of the Third Candle on the Advent Wreath

The Fourth Lesson: *The Prophet foretells the advent of the desire of all nations.*

Scripture: Haggai 2:6-9

***Hymn 250** "Blessed Be the God of Israel"

FOREST GREEN

The Fifth Lesson: *The Prophet foretells the glory of the Kingdom of God.*

Scripture: Isaiah 35: 1-6

Anthem: "O Thou That Tellest Good Tidings to Zion"

The Sixth Lesson: *The angel Gabriel salutes the Blessed Virgin Mary.*

Scripture: Luke 1: 26-35, 38

***Hymn 265** "The Angel Gabriel from Heaven Came"

GABRIEL'S MESSAGE

ACOLYTES NEEDED for the 9:00 p.m. Christmas Eve Service. Please contact the church office 273-6811 or lluthera@twcny.rr.com, if you can help out.

FAITH AND CARE COORDINATORS will be at their table in the narthex on **Sunday December 21**, for sign-ups for the January and February volunteer opportunities. How can you help?

ORDER YOUR COPY OF THE MORAVIAN DAILY TEXT sign-up sheet is in the narthex.

2009 ALTAR FLOWER CHART is posted in the narthex. Sign up for the Sunday of your choice, noting both donor and occasion.

FIRST COMMUNION – Are there any children who share in St. Luke who did not participate in the October classes but who are in 2nd grade or above and who would like to participate in another class to prepare for communing? Be in touch with PB.

ACOLYTES, READERS & ASSISTING MINISTERS, if you have not already handed in your schedule for January – March 09, please return TODAY. If you need another form, you can pick one up in the narthex.

SANTA'S SALARIES FOR THE ELCZ. With the recent cholera outbreak and with hunger spreading our brothers and sisters in Zimbabwe need help more than ever. We will be taking a special collection for our sister synod, the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Zimbabwe. Look for a small Christmas tree in the Narthex with donation envelopes on it. Please take an envelope and return it to the collection plate by Christmas with a donation for the ELCZ (make checks out to St. Luke with "ELCZ" in the memo line). Just \$5 can pay a pastor's salary for a month, but any amount will help!

FAITH AND CARE: USHERS: Mehravari family & Marnie Johnson; GREETERS: Lena Trancik & Jean Robinson; ASSISTING MINISTER: Claire Chadwick; ACOLYTE: Katie Peterson; READERS: Angie Wolfgang & Marnie Johnson; COFFEE SERVERS: SET-UP: Bill & Grais Brown; CLEAN-UP; BAKERS (AFTER CHURCH): Marnie Johnson & Jean Robinson.

NEXT SUNDAY. ADVENT 4. Holy Communion. Sunday Church School Proclamation; Lessons: 2 Samuel 7: 1-11, 16; Romans 16: 25-27; Luke 1: 26-38. Children's Sermon: "House"; The Hymns: 251, 257, 259.

ST. LUKE MINISTERS

The People of this Community

ST. LUKE STAFF:

Rick L. Bair

[rlb8@cornell.edu] (h) 387-3479

Pastor

Erik Kibelsbeck

[ekibelsbeck@ithaca.edu]

Music Director

Michelle Gray

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Stephen Devlen

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Sexton

Tammy Devlen

Sexton

ST. LUKE OFFICE

607 273-6811

ST. LUKE WEBSITE

www.stlukeithaca.org

ST. LUKE MISSION CENTER

109 Oak Avenue, Ithaca, NY



**FLOWERS OF CHRISTMAS to
Make the Holy Night Radiant**



Celebrate the Gift that we receive at Christmas with the gift of a poinsettia plant for the sanctuary. Gifts can be presented in memory or in honor of special individuals. The cost of each plant this year is \$10.00. You will be able to take your plant home after the 9:00 p.m. service on Christmas Eve, if you wish. Remaining plants will continue to brighten our worship on the Sundays after Christmas and can be distributed to the shut-ins in our parish after the first of the year.

I/we would like to donate _____(number) of poinsettias.

In memory of:

In honor of:

Given by:

TOTAL: \$ _____

Enclosed: _____

PLEASE PLACE YOUR ORDER(S) BY FRIDAY, DECEMBER 19.

Please indicate "Poinsettias" on the memo of your check so that the treasurer can properly record your donation. Place in the collection plate or mail to the church.

The Seventh Lesson: *Jesus proclaims the coming of the kingdom of God.*

Scripture: Mark 1: 1-15

***Hymn 249** "On Jordan's Bank the Baptist's Cry"

PUER NOBIS

Offering

Offertory "Ev'ry Valley"

Michael Clarkson, tenor

***Prayers**

***The Lord's Prayer**

***The Blessing**

***Hymn 435** "Lo! He Comes with Clouds Descending"

HELMSLEY

Postlude "March in G"

G. F. Handel

ABOUT THE SERVICE

WORSHIPPING with this faith community for the first time? Sign the book in the narthex so that we may greet you more personally, and please share in the relaxed after-church time over goodies.

LARGE PRINT BULLETINS are available from an usher.

HEARING ASSIST devices are available from the table in the narthex. Each device has an earpiece and volume control.

THE ALTAR FLOWERS are given to the Glory of God by Angus and Joan Godwin.

TODAY - FAITH AND CARE LUNCHEON, after the Worship Service. The lunch will be hosted by the December Faith and Care Team for the January volunteers. If you can't stay for lunch, coffee is also available. Everyone is invited to share!



DOUBLE DIAPER DUTY. Thanks to the generosity of Thrivent Financial Services for Lutherans we have received additional funding to make more diaper bags for the Ithaca Kitchen Cupboard. We will gather after the service **TODAY** in the Adult Forum Room to assemble bags. As with all Thrivent supported activities, we particularly need the help of six Thrivent members. We welcome everyone to help since many hands make light work. Please bring your coffee and piece of cake downstairs and join us.

WEDNESDAY – DECEMBER 17 at 5:30 p.m. a brief Advent Vespers Service [Holden Evening Prayer]. Everyone welcome to come and share.

WE THANK GOD FOR the members of our choir: **Soprano:** Amanda DeMaris, Nicole Nelson, Becky Smith, Erin Winker; **Altos:** Robin Booth, Joan Carlson, Rachel Clarkson, Betta Hedlund, Beth Peterson, Donna Stewart and Susan Wohlhueter; **Tenors:** Michael Clarkson, Peter Cousins, Jim Hedlund and Everett Nelson; **Basses:** Andy Antal, Gabe Hohag, Joe Marion, Jack Muckstadt, Steve Peterson, Jeff Snedeker, Bud Stanton, Carl Whitaker and David Wohlhueter. Members of the orchestra: **Violinists:** William Hurley and Jaime Kibelsbeck; **Violist:** Aara Edwards; **Cellist:** Ruth Grigorov; and **Bassist:** Joseph Arcuri.

**ST. LUKE WORSHIP AND MINISTRIES
LOOKING AHEAD**

Today

- Faith and Care Luncheon after the worship service.
- Diaper Bags – Adult Education Room after the worship service.

Wednesday, December 17

- Advent Vespers Service at 5:30 p.m.

Sunday, December 21

- Church School Proclamation during 10:45 a.m. service.
- No 5:00 p.m. Service. It will resume January 21.

Wednesday, December 24, Christmas Eve Services

- 6:00 p.m. – A Family Service with candle lighting and special music. No Communion or nursery care provided.
- 9:00 p.m. – A Service of Holy Communion, including candle lighting and special music.

Sunday, December 28 – Holy Innocents

- A relaxed service of lessons, hymns, carols and communion.

Don't Forget – Monday's Mid-Day Brown Bag Bible Study at 12:15-1:00; Tuesday's Student Discussion Group at 6:00 p.m.; and Quilting for the World – First and Third Thursday of each month starting at 9:00 a.m. Everyone welcome.

OUTREACH AND MISSION SEMINAR, January 10, 2009. "Equipping the Congregation for Outreach and Mission" will be held Saturday, January 10, 9:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m. at Fayetteville United Methodist Church, 601 E. Genesee St., Fayetteville, NY. Sponsored by the Center for Lifelong Learning at Colgate Rochester Crozer Divinity School, the course will be taught by Rev. Dr. Dana Horrell, Executive Director of the Center for the Congregation in Public Life at CRCDS.

This program will look inward (at congregational renewal) and outward (at social renewal) with a focus developing program ideas, recruitment and team building skills, neighborhood analysis, tools for measuring effectiveness, and ideas for integrating charity and justice. Through an assessment tool, discussion and multi-media presentations, participants are provided examples of "best practices" in social ministry.

Seminar cost is \$65, (\$75 after January 7) and includes lunch and handouts. Groups of two or more from the same church are encouraged, with additional registrations (after the first) at \$35. For more information or to register, call 315-439-9154, send an email to dhhorrell@crcds.edu or visit www.congregationinpubliclife.org and look for "What's New."

MID-WEEK FELLOWSHIP EVENT. Interested in getting together with folks from church beyond the Sunday service? Several members of the congregation have expressed an interest in starting an evening fellowship event during the week. The council would like to know how much interest there is in having some sort of event—whether it be a discussion group, a movie night, a kids' night—so if you would be interested in coming to a regular fellowship event, email Tom McSweeney at tjm37@cornell.edu to get on the email list.

THE CONGREGATIONAL MEETING last Sunday, December 7, 2008, was fairly brief and rather direct. The Budget proposal for 2009 was presented, discussed, and approved. Thanks to the Finance Committee, Treasurer Beth Housel, Assistant Treasurer Jim Hedlund, and Council for their careful leadership. Thanks also to the Congregational Life for setting up and coordinating the luncheon. The next Congregational meeting (to be held in late April or early May) will involve elections.

ADULT FORUM "The Heavens are Telling" with Dr. Matthias Liepe sharing discoveries (revelations?) from his teachings of physics. Next Sunday: "The End". In the Adult Education room downstairs at 9:30 a.m.

FAIR TRADE COFFEE, TEA, AND CHOCOLATE AVAILABLE FOR CHRISTMAS PRESENTS! Fair trade coffee, tea, hot chocolate, and chocolate bars make great Christmas presents - not only are they useful and welcome, but your purchases support providing a living wage to the farmers who grow these crops. These items will be available for sale after church on TODAY. As always, you can mail in your order form (available on the table in the lobby) and order that way. Please contact Judy Mehravari if you have any questions. 257-8653, mjudy@twcny.rr.com. Please note that we will have expanded our chocolate bar selection this year!

VISITOR INFORMATION PACKAGE: The Church Council is planning to develop a "Visitor Information package" to be made available to first time visitors. It is intended to include the type of information that would be beneficial to visitors who might not be as familiar with our Church and its surroundings (e.g., directions, parking information, service hours). Suggestions for the type of material to be included in such a packet is solicited. Please send your ideas to Nader Mehravari, 607-257-8653, nmehrava@twcny.rr.com.

ARE YOU ACCESSING ST. LUKE WEBSITE? [<http://www.stlukeithaca.org>] It now includes photos, a calendar of events, documents (from weekly bulletins to the Constitution and By-laws), and improved audio of our morning worship services. Please contact Scott Adams with your ideas.

STUDENT DISCUSSION/STUDY GROUP meet Tuesdays at 6:00 p.m. in the study, with a Lutheran 101 focus.

FAITH IN ACTION: DIRECT PRAYER REQUESTS to Louise McGee at 844-4303. A prayer chain of St. Luke folks prays regularly, privately, and confidentially for the parishioners' concerns.

NURSERY CARE is provided for young children during worship in two nurseries, which are on the same level as the sanctuary. Please feel free to use the facilities for your children.

INTERESTED IN A LUNCH TIME BIBLE STUDY? Monday Midday Brown Bag Bible Study (MMBBBS) continues at 12:15 p.m., in the church library. Contact Susan Hoskins, sbh1@cornell.edu, Day 255-4864, Eve 564-3483 for information.

NAME TAGS. Thanks for helping us all remember by wearing one. Your help in returning your tag to the rack in alphabetical order with the string tucked in is also appreciated.

ADVENT TIDINGS and TIDBITS

THIS SEASON gets its name from the Latin *ad* - "to" .. and *venio* - "I come". Advent proclaims God's promise: "I come to you" and invites us to prepare. As you prepare for what is to come (papers, finals, projects, shopping, etc.) please reserve some time to prepare for Who is to come: God-with-us!

ADVENT HISTORY: The celebration of Christ's nativity on December 25 was introduced in the middle of the Fourth century. Soon the church began to establish a period of preparation preceding it. In France and Spain, and later in Germany, that period became a 40-day penitential time of fasting - i.e., like Lent. In Italy the period began only 4 or 5 Sundays before Christmas and its mood was joyful preparation. Both elements were combined over the period from the 8th to the 12th centuries. In the 13th century, a compromise was reached: Advent became a 4-Sunday season, yet it had a penitential character and was marked with purple paraments. Today, many churches decorate in blue, the liturgical color of hope, and are moving toward a less penitential focus while still emphasizing preparation and joyful expectation.

ADVENT SIGNS: the Advent wreath with 1992 mini-banners (Thanks: Debbie Antal, Katy Gropp, Velma Markwardt, Emily Metz, Marge Porterfield, Jean Robinson); the stunning blue paraments; the Moravian Star; and the blue banners on the pillars (Thanks, Trudy Kopp). How grateful we are to all.

THE BLUE PARAMENTS were created in 1989 by the vision and loving work of many folks in the parish. The Lamp reminds us of God's call to watchful, prepared waiting. The Star symbolizes divine presence and guidance. The Christ symbols, the Alpha(A) & the Omega(Ω) "I am the Alpha and the Omega, the beginning and the end" and the Chi (X) -Rho (P) [the first two letters of the title Christ in Greek], complete the proclamation on a background of blue, the liturgical color of hope.

THE ADVENT STAR, a favorite Advent/Epiphany decoration for over 100 years, originated in a Moravian settlement in Germany. Also known as the Moravian Star, it reminds us of the star that guided the Magi to the Christ child, as well as of the Christ Child himself: "A star shall come out of Jacob" (Numbers 24: 17) and "the bright and morning star" (Revelation 23: 16). It will enhance our worship through the Epiphany season.

THE ADVENT WREATH originated a few hundred years ago among Lutherans in eastern Germany. The symbol of light in the darkest month had long been part of many cultures and religions. In the 16th century such lights were used as a religious symbol of Advent in the houses of the faithful, as the Sundays preceding Christmas were marked with increasing light. Today we light the second or Bethlehem candle. Its theme is preparation.