

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?

Prelude "Veni, Emmanuel" Michael Bedford

The Introduction and Invocation

***Hymn 257** "O Come, O Come, Emmanuel" VENI, EMMANUEL
Stanza 1 – Choir Men
Stanza 2 – All Men
Stanza 3 – All Women
Stanzas 4-8 – All

***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 Angus Godwin

The First Lesson: *The Lord God forms and enlivens humanity – and creates boundaries.*
Scripture: Genesis 2: 4b-9, 15-17 Andy Novakovic
Antiphon: O Wisdom
*O wisdom, coming forth from the Most High,
filling all creation and reigning to the ends of the earth:
come and teach us the way of truth.*

***Hymn 245** "Creator of the Stars of Night" CONDITOR ALME SIDERUM

The Second Lesson: *The Lord God confronts the boundary-crossers with consequences.*
Scripture: Genesis 3: 8-19 Pastor Bair
Antiphon: O Lord of Lords
*O Lord of Lords, and ruler of the House of Israel,
you appeared to Moses in the fire of the burning bush and gave him the law on Sinai:
come with your outstretched arm and ransom us.*

Anthem: "A Spotless Rose" (see insert) Herbert Howells

The Third Lesson: *The Prophet tells of God sending a messenger to prepare the way.*
Scripture: Malachi 3: 1-4 Dan Snedeker
Antiphon: O Root of Jesse
*O root of Jesse, standing as a sign among the nations;
Kings will keep silence before you for whom the nations long:
Come and save us and delay no longer.*

***Hymn 243** "Lost in the Night" LOST IN THE NIGHT

The Children's Sermon: "Repent" Pastor Bair
Including the Lighting of the Third Candle on the Advent Wreath



**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 MONDAY, DECEMBER 21.

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.

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ST. LUKE OFFICE
ST. LUKE WEBSITE
ST. LUKE MISSION CENTER

The People of this Community

Pastor
Music Director
Admin. Assistant
Sexton
Sexton

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ST. LUKE WORSHIP AND MINISTRIES - LOOKING AHEAD

Today

- Faith and Care Luncheon after the worship service.

Wednesday, December 16

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

Sunday, December 20

- Church School Proclamation during 10:45 a.m. service.
- No 5:00 p.m. Service.

Thursday, 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 27 – St. John, Evangelist

- 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.

DURING ADVENT, three saints of the church are remembered. Two such days fall on Sundays this year. We did not have any shoes at the door last week to celebrate Nicolas, but we will have a few reminders of Lucy during our after-church time today: perhaps a crown of lights and some Scandinavian cookies

Nicholas (December 6) was the bishop of Myra in Asia Minor. Exiled and imprisoned during the persecution under Emperor Diocletian (303-304), he was released from prison by Constantine along with many Christians who had suffered for the faith. He returned to Myra and is said to have shown his boundless love and care for all, but particularly for those in need. Having been an orphan himself, his heart went out to widows and orphans. His kindness and charity were especially bestowed upon children, who gathered around him as he instructed them in the word of God. He delighted them with many little gifts. One 'legend' has him secretly at night throwing money through a window or down a chimney to a needy family. In his character, in his benevolence, and even in his name, St. Nicholas becomes the real image behind the later figure of Santa Claus.

Lucy (December 13) was killed in Sicily during the Diocletian persecution. Because her name means "light", she very early became a model for carrying the Light of the World even in the face of dark and threatening times. She also was regarded as the guardian of the light of the body -- i.e., eyes. Because her day of observance once fell on the shortest day of the year, candles and fires came to be a part of her observance. Many in Scandinavia observe the custom of a white-robed Lucy, with candles set in a wreath on her head, waking family members with a tray of coffee and cakes.

Thomas (December 21), the Aramaic word for 'twin', is referred to in all four Gospels, but the most detailed picture emerges through several references in John's gospel. There Thomas appears as one who is questioning, doubting, and slow to understand or comprehend. In many instances, he asks *our* questions and expresses *our* confusions. In many ways, the climax of John's gospel is Thomas' confession that week after Easter: "My Lord and my God!". Tradition holds that Thomas became a missionary carrying the story of his Lord and God to India, where he died in Madras.

The Fourth Lesson: *The Prophet foretells God is Glory and comfort for all people.*

Scripture: Isaiah 40: 1-11

Andy Novakovic

Antiphon: O Key of David

*O key of David and scepter of the House of Israel;
you open and none can shut, you shut and none can open:
come and free the captives from prison, and break down the walls of death.*

Anthem: "The King Shall Come" (text at ELW 260)

arr. Robert Hobby

The Fifth Lesson: *The Prophet foretells the rising of a righteous branch and the Peaceful Kingdom.*

Scripture: Isaiah 11: 1-10

Dan Snedeker

Antiphon: O Morning Star

*O morning star, splendor of the light eternal and bright sun of righteousness:
come and bring light to those who dwell in darkness and walk in the shadow of death.*

Anthem: "The Lamb" (see insert)

John Tavener

The Sixth Lesson: *The Prophet calls people to repent and to prepare.*

Scripture: Matthew 3: 1-12

Andy Novakovic

Antiphon: O King of the Nations

*O king of the nations, you alone can fulfill their desires; cornerstone, binding all together
come and save the creature you fashioned from the dust of the earth.*

***Hymn 264** "Prepare the Royal Highway"

BEREDEN VÄG FÖR HERRAN

The Seventh Lesson: *The Angel Gabriel announces to Mary the coming of the birth of Jesus.*

Scripture: Luke 1: 26-38

Pastor Bair

Antiphon: O Emmanuel

*O Emmanuel, our King and Lawgiver, hope of the nations and their savior:
come and save us, O Lord our God.*

Anthem: "Ave Maria" (see insert)

Franz Biebl

Offering

Offertory "Thou Shalt Know Him When He Comes"

Mark Sirrett

***Prayers**

***The Lord's Prayer**

***The Blessing**

***Hymn 259** "Fling Wide the Door"

MACHT HOCH DIE TÜR

Postlude "Nun komm, der heiden Heiland"

Johann Pachelbel

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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. If you would welcome conversation, pick-up a green cup for your coffee/tea.

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 CONGREGATIONAL MEETING last Sunday, December 6, 2009, was fairly brief and rather direct. The Budget proposal for 2010 was presented, discussed, and approved. Thanks to the Finance Committee, Treasurer Beth Housel, Assistant Treasurer Jim Hedlund, and Council for their careful leadership. The next Congregational meeting (to be held in late April or early May) will involve elections.

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!

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

2010 ALTAR FLOWER CHART is posted in the narthex. Sign up for the Sunday of your choice, noting both donor and occasion.

ACOLYTES, READERS & ASSISTING MINISTERS, if you have not already returned your availability schedule for January – March 10, 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!

"AM AHL AND THE NIGHT VISITORS" 2nd Annual Performance, by Cornell Savoyards Robin Booth, Nola Booth, Douglas Booth, William Christoffels, Doug Mathews and a Savoyard chorus of *Shepherds* and *Shepherdesses*. The performance is **Saturday, December 19, at 4:00 p.m.** at St. Luke. It's a beautiful production of the Christmas operetta, *Amahl and the Night Visitors*, by Gian Carlo Menotti. The story is of a poor crippled boy and his mother who one night receive three visitors on their way to Bethlehem to see a newborn baby. The story is fun and poignant and speaks to the heart about what Christmas should be about. Suitable for the whole family.

WEDNESDAY – DECEMBER 19 at 5:30 p.m. a brief Advent Vespers Service [Holden Evening Prayer]. Everyone welcome to come and share.

HAVE A FEW MINUTES to give but at your convenience? Like to help fellow worshippers but quietly "behind the scenes"? Can you change the colorful paraments and fill the altar candles? You may be just the person to become our new sacristan, who gives care to such things among us. Speak to PB or Everett Nelson.



ADVENT NEW HUMANITY NEWSLETTER NOW AVAILABLE. You can pick-up a hard copy of the newsletter in the narthex, or go to our website [stlukeithaca.org](http://www.stlukeithaca.org).

FAITH AND CARE: *USHERS:* Jean Robinson & Ronald Shewchuk; *GREETERS:* Bill Brown; *ASSISTING MINISTER:* Michael Clarkson; *ACOLYTES:* Jaana & Ruth Grigorov; *READERS:* Dan Snedeker & Andrew Novakovic; *COFFEE SERVERS:* *SET-UP:* Doris Mowson; *CLEAN-UP:* Susan Hoskins; *BAKERS (AFTER CHURCH):* Andrew Novakovic & Jean Robinson .

CHRISTMAS EQUAL EXCHANGE GIFTS will be available Again this year, the Social Ministry committee will make Lutheran World Relief Coffee Project Items available for your Christmas gift giving. This will consist of Fair Trade Coffee, Tea, Hot Chocolate, and Chocolate Bars. These products make great gifts - not only are they useful and appreciated by the recipients, but your purchase is a great way to support economic justice at the same time. There will be a table in the narthex today and December 20. You can also pick up an order form in the narthex any time, and send your order to Judy Mehravari. Call if you have any questions! 257-8653.

COMMUNICATIONS: Team Members (Scott Adams, Janelle Alvstad-Mattson, Mary Margaret Carmichael, and Diane Conneman) will be around with clipboards before and after church to gather your ideas. They want to know about the newsletter, web site and email updates on events. Please take a few minutes to talk with them. Another option is to use an online survey which you can access from the St. Luke website (www.stlukeithaca.org) or the December email update.

ARE YOU ACCESSING ST. LUKE WEBSITE? [<http://www.stlukeithaca.org>] It includes the New Humanity Newsletter, 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, but ALL questions are welcome and discussed.

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.

MONDAY MIDDAY BIBLE BROWN BAG BIBLE STUDY meets on Mondays at 12:15 p.m. Join the group for quiet meditation and direction-setting for the coming year. All are welcome. Questions? Contact Susan Hoskins (sbh1@cornell.edu) or Diane Conneman (dyk2@cornell.edu).

NAME TAGS. Thanks for helping us all remember by wearing one. Your help in returning your magnetic tag to the rack in alphabetical order is appreciated. Magnetic nametags are not recommended for those who have a pacemaker. We will be happy to accommodate you with a paper nametag.

BUFFALO STREET BOOKS and Autumn Leaves Used Books, two locally-owned bookstores, voluntarily pay their employees a living wage, as do 66 other Tompkins County employers, including St. Luke Lutheran Church. During this Christmas season the Tompkins County Religious Taskforce for a Living Wage, is asking that after you shop at Barnes & Noble or Borders you sign a post card encouraging these two large retailers to start paying a living wage. This gives you an opportunity to promote living wages in a store you patronize. Post cards for this purpose and stamps will be available on the Social Ministry table in the narthex each Sunday until Christmas. Information on the living wage is also available at the table.

NEXT SUNDAY. ADVENT 4. Holy Communion. Sunday Church School Proclamation, of the Christmas Story; Lessons: Micah 5: 2-5a; Hebrews 10: 5-10; Luke 1: 39-45; Children's Sermon: "Lift and Fill"; The Hymns: 248, 263.

Ave Maria

*Angelus Domini nuntiavit Mariae et concepit
de Spiritu sancto.*

The angel of the Lord made his
annunciation to Mary and she conceived by
the Holy Spirit.

*Ave Maria, gratia plena, Dominus tecum;
benedicta tu in mulieribus,
et benedictus fructus ventris tui, Jesus.*

Hail Mary, full of grace, the Lord is with thee.
Blessed art thou among women,
and blessed is the fruit of they womb, Jesus.

*Maria dixit: Ecce ancilla Domini;
fiat mihi secundum verbum tuum.*

Mary said: Behold the handmaiden of the Lord.
Let it be unto me according to Thy word.

Et verbum caro factum est et habitavit in nobis.

And the Word was made flesh and dwelt
among us.

*Sancta Maria, mater Dei ora pro nobis peccatoribus,
Sancta Maria, ora pro nobis,
nunc et in hora mortis nostrae. Amen.*

Holy Mary, mother of God, pray for us sinners
Holy Mary, pray for us,
now and at the hour of our death. Amen.

Thou Shalt Know Him When He Comes

Thou shalt know him when he comes,
not by any din of drums,
nor his manners,
nor his airs,
nor by anything he wears,
not by his crown or by his gown,
but his coming known shall be,
by the holy harmony which his coming makes in thee.

A Spotless Rose

A spotless Rose is blowing,
Sprung from a tender root,
Of ancient seers' foreshowing,
Of Jesse promised fruit;

Its fairest bud unfolds to light
Amid the cold, cold winter,
And in the dark midnight.

The Rose which I am singing,
Whereof Isaiah said,
Is from its sweet root springing
In Mary, purest Maid;

For, through our God's great love and might,
The blessed Babe she bare us
In a cold winter's night.

The King Shall Come - text at *ELW 260*

The Lamb

Little lamb, who made thee?
Dost thou know who made thee,
Gave thee life, and bade thee feed
By the stream and o'er the mead;
Gave thee clothing of delight,
Softest clothing, woolly, bright;
Gave thee such a tender voice,
Making all the vales rejoice?
Little lamb, who made thee?
Dost thou know who made thee?

Little lamb, I'll tell thee;
Little lamb, I'll tell thee:
He is called by thy name,
For He calls Himself a lamb,
He is meek, and He is mild,

He became a little child;
I a child, and thee a Lamb,
We are called by His Name.
Little lamb, God bless thee!
Little lamb, God bless thee!

[William Blake, Songs of Innocence and Experience, 1789]

OVER

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 third or Shepherd candle. Its theme is sharing Christ and joy.