



Third Sunday of Advent

December 11, 2016

11:00am



1978 Mount Vernon Road • Dunwoody, Georgia 30338
770.393.1424 • www.slpres.org

December 11, 2016

Third Sunday of Advent

Liturgical Color: *Purple*
Purple marks the season of preparation and penitence: Advent and Lent.

SUNDAY SCHEDULE

8:30am Chapel Communion Service
9:30am Sunday School
11:00am Sanctuary Worship Service
Nursery available at all services and Sunday School.

MISSION

Responding to God's call
and empowered by the Holy Spirit,
we invite all to join us in
knowing, serving, and sharing
Jesus Christ here and
around the world.

VISION

To be a beacon
of faith, hope, and love—
every member an active disciple
in Christ's ministry.

WELCOME, GUESTS!

We are delighted you are worshipping with us.

DURING the Welcome, please print the requested information on the Friendship Pad and pass the Friendship Pad down the pew.

AFTER the worship service, please join us outside the Sanctuary where our Pastors will be available to answer questions and provide you with a loaf of freshly-baked bread.

FOR MORE information about our programs, ministries or membership, please contact one of our Pastors at 770.393.1424, or visit our website: slpres.org.

THAT ALL MAY WORSHIP

ASSISTIVE A hearing loop is accessible by switching hearing aids to T-coil. Also, large print hymnals and back cushions are available. Please contact an usher for further assistance.



CHILDREN are a precious part of our church family, and we welcome them in worship. Worship notebooks and activity packets are available on the back ledges of the sanctuary for preschool and elementary ages. Each week, children are invited to walk up for an age-appropriate message during "Tell Us Our Story." After that time, they may remain in worship, go to Faithful Friends (K-2nd) or go to child care (PreK and younger).

In Preparation for Worship

The traditional spiritual posture of Advent is waiting for God to enter the world in the birth of Jesus. But if we understand that God is already in the world—indeed, deeply and inextricably intertwined with all of creation—then perhaps Advent takes on a slightly different meaning. Instead of us waiting for God, what if God is waiting for us? Waiting for us to realize that God is already here among us and within us. Waiting for us to align our wills with the divine will that is woven into the fabric of the universe. Waiting for us to be born anew and grow into the likeness of Christ.

Rev. Dr. John Vest, Union Seminary Advent Devotional, November 30, 2016

Gathering Prayer

Prelude

Chiming of the Hour

Welcome and Announcements

Lighting of the Advent Wreath

The Wellford Family

Opening Hymn #82*

Come Thou Long Expected Jesus *HYFRYDOL*

Call to Confession*

Leader: The Lord be with you.

People: **And also with you.**

Leader: Let us pray.

Prayer of Confession*

Refining God, you have sent us prophets and we have not listened.

We have not always determined what is best

or made way for your reign in our lives, our church, and our society.

Forgive us, we pray and renew your covenant within us,

for the sake of Jesus Christ, our Lord...*(time of silent confession)*

Leader: Lord, in Your mercy,

People: **Hear our prayer. Amen.**

* please stand

Sermon

Phil Brown

Affirmation of Faith*

From Statement 3 of the Confession of Belhar

**We believe that God has entrusted the church
with the message of reconciliation in and through Jesus Christ;
that the church is called to be the salt of the earth and the light of the world,
that the church is called blessed because it is a peacemaker,
that the church is witness both by word and by deed
to the new heaven and the new earth in which righteousness dwells.
That God's lifegiving Word and Spirit has conquered the powers of sin and death,
and therefore also of irreconciliation and hatred, bitterness and enmity,
that God's lifegiving Word and Spirit will enable the church to live in a new obedience
which can open new possibilities of life for society and the world;...**

Prayers of the People

The Lord's Prayer

**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 debts,
as we forgive our debtors;
and lead us not into temptation,
but deliver us from evil.
For thine is the kingdom, and the power,
and the glory, forever. Amen.**

Offering

Giving is a tangible sign of worship. If you give electronically, there is a blue, laminated, electronic giving card in the pew rack to place in the offering plate as it is passed.

Offertory

* please stand

Song of Thanksgiving*



Glo-ry be to God the Fa ther, glo-ry be to Christ the Son, glo-ry to the Ho-ly
Spir - it, glo-ry to the Three in One. Here we of - fer to you glad - ly all the
gifts that you im-part as we glo-ry in your pre-sence giv-ing from a grateful heart.

Prayer of Dedication*

The Lord's Supper

Communion will be served by intinction (dipping the bread into the cup). Everyone is invited to participate in the sacrament. Children who have discussed the sacrament with their parents and/or pastor are welcome. The cup holds grape juice, not wine, during this service. A server with gluten-free wafers will be standing directly in front of the communion table for those who prefer this option. If you would prefer to be served where you are sitting, please raise your hand.

Communion Music

Soul, Adorn Yourself with Gladness *Johann Crüger*

Closing Hymn #88*

O Come, O Come Emmanuel *VENI EMMANUEL* Stanzas 1-5; 7

Charge and Blessing*

Choral Benediction*

Postlude*

Worship Notes:

The organ selections this morning are from a set of variations on the VENI EMMANUEL tune written by American composer Daniel Pinkham. Music: All rights reserved. Reprinted under OneLicense.net A-719333.

Sunday Spotlight:

2017 COMMITMENT UPDATE—Last Sunday, David quoted the late, great preacher/theologian Peter Gomes, who used to say this time of year, "There's good news and there's bad news. The good news is we indeed have everything we need. The bad news is it's in your pockets!" This summarizes the moment in our 2017 commitment campaign, as we work to meet our budget goal. As of 12/5/16, we received 173 pledges totaling \$1,201,438. THANK YOU for your generous pledges to date! If the 65 member givers who pledged last year, but have not yet responded for 2017, get their pledges in, we will have everything we need for a prosperous year ahead. Our church is poised for more growing and thriving! Our congregation has always responded with generous gratitude for God's gifts to us. The Finance Committee requests that you complete 2016 pledges before December 31st and make your pledge for 2017 as soon as possible, so that planning can begin in earnest. Thank you for your faithful pledges of support, so our forthcoming year can be all that God has in mind for all those we serve.

TOYS FOR TOTS BENEFIT CONCERT TODAY—4pm at Saint Luke's.

Celebrate the Arts presents our annual Toys for Tots benefit concert featuring our choirs and the Premiere Brass Quintet. Retired Colonel Richard H. White, Chairman of the Board, Georgia Military Veterans' Hall of Fame will be there for the presentation of the Certificate of Honor to Master Sergeant Cecil W. Hannaford and Lieutenant Colonel Byron Craig Brown. Marylyn Brown will receive this recognition for her late husband, Byron. All are cordially invited to a reception after the concert in the church lobby.

THORNWELL CHRISTMAS OFFERING—Join our tradition of donating to

Thornwell in lieu of sending Christmas cards to your Saint Luke's family; names will be published in the Dec. 18th bulletin. Make checks payable to SL PW, place your contribution in the specially marked envelope in the pew rack & then place in offering plate or on the tree in the lobby. Today is the deadline for this offering.

SAINT LUKE'S LITTLE SAINTS PRESCHOOL & KINDERGARTEN

Mark your calendars for 2017-2018 registration.

Church members register on Jan.24. Current families register on Jan.25.

New community families register on Jan 26.

At our accredited Saint Luke's Little Saints Preschool & Kindergarten we honor the individuality of the child as we prepare each student for elementary school.

Questions or tours, Carol Perry, carolperry@slpres.org, 770.393.1424 x240



ADVENT HAPPENINGS!

3rd Sunday of Advent. Some highlights include:

POINSETTIAS FOR CHRISTMAS, FINAL SUNDAY—You can help decorate the church *and* honor or remember a loved one by purchasing a poinsettia. Donation envelopes are in the pew boxes. \$15 per plant (please write poinsettias on the memo line). Names will be published in the bulletin on Dec. 18. On Jan. 1, plants may be taken home to enjoy! Questions? Contact Nancy Self, 404.237.6551 or nself@comcast.net.

PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN (PW) CHRISTMAS BAKE SALE TODAY!—The PW will have two types of mini loaves available for purchase, Triple Chocolate & Cranberry-Orange. These delicious, homemade breads make wonderful hostess gifts. \$4 each. Please, cash or check.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY JESUS AND FELLOWSHIP BRUNCH—Sun., Dec. 18 from 9:30-11:00am. The Fellowship Committee invites all ages to enjoy a wonderful brunch, and share the joy of fellowship during this holy Advent season. Children's Ministries will have new and wonderful resources on hand to create seasonal masterpieces!

COOKIES AND CHRISMONS—Sun., Dec. 18, Chrismons (Christ's Monogram) presentation at both services. Following the 11am service, to celebrate this sharing of faith, the children of Saint Luke's, their families and the PW members are invited to enjoy Christmas cookies in the parlor.

SERVICE OF COMFORT AND REST—Sun., Dec. 18 at 5pm in the Chapel. Stephen Ministry invites you to this special service of quiet reflection and blessing in the midst of this busy season. This is a time to quiet our hearts and reflect on the changes, losses, and joys of the year. Do know someone for whom this time of year is especially hard? Be sure to invite them to join you.

THERE'S A PLACE FOR YOU IN BETHLEHEM!

Our annual **Live Nativity** is scheduled for:

Thursday, Dec. 15th, Beginning at 5:30pm

We need adults, youth and children to be the characters
in this living story of Christ's birth.

All costumes provided. Hot chocolate and s'mores, too!

Come claim your "JOY" and be a part of this memorable,
meaningful community event!

AWAIT, AWAKEN, ARISE, ASTOUND and ABIDE

DEC 11 3rd Sunday of Advent

PW Christmas Bake Sale
4PM Toys for Tots Benefit Concert

DEC 15

5:30PM Live Nativity

DEC 18 4th Sunday of Advent

JOY and Thornwell Offering
Cookies and Chrismons

DEC 18 4th Sunday of Advent (cont.)

9:30-11AM Happy Birthday Jesus & Fellowship Brunch

5PM Service of Comfort & Rest

DEC 24 Christmas Eve

5PM Family Service (*Sanctuary*)

8PM Candlelight & Communion (*Sanctuary*)

11PM Candlelight & Communion (*Chapel*)

DEC 25 Christmas Day

11AM Worship Service (*Chapel*)

S P L A S H ! CHILDREN'S MINISTRIES

Catherine Anne Thomas cathomas@slpres.org / 770.393.1424 ext. 228

LIVE NATIVITY – Thur., Dec. 15 at 5:30pm. Consider if your family would like to portray a costumed Bethlehem character. Contact Mary Kent at gkent4@aol.com, if you are interested in playing a role or if you would like to intern with Mary Kent to take the reins in 2017.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY, JESUS & FELLOWSHIP BRUNCH – Sun., Dec. 18 from 9:30-11:00am. The Fellowship Committee invites all ages to enjoy a wonderful brunch, & share the joy of fellowship during this holy Advent season.

HELP TELL THE GREATEST STORY! Elementary-age children, youth, and their families are invited to help tell the story of Christ's birth at two amazing events! Sign-up sheets are on the Children's Ministries bulletin board in the main lobby for both the Christmas Eve 5:00 Family Worship service AND our Live Nativity on Dec.15.

HELP TELL THE GREATEST STORY-PART 2! Of course younger children will also help tell the story by putting on a special headpiece on Christmas Eve and walking up to the steps to see baby Jesus – and at the Live Nativity they will certainly share God's great love for people and creatures by coming to pet our furry friends from the Little Red Barn. They will love the lights, music, the hot chocolate, and especially the S'mores!

ADULT MINISTRY

Shannon Dill shannondill@slpres.org / 770.393.1424 ext. 229

ADULT SUNDAY SCHOOL classes meet between the worship services, 9:30-10:30am
Descriptions of current groups are available on our website (slpres.org) or
<http://bit.ly/AdultSundaySchool>. Please join us!

FRIDAY MORNING MEN'S BIBLE STUDY Fellowship and Bible study every Fri. from
6:40-8:00am in the Parlor with Dan Joyce.

DISCIPLE SERIES The final study in the Disciple Series, *Christian Believer*, focuses on
essential doctrines of the Christian faith and makes connections between the doctrine and daily
living. Classes are Tuesdays, 7-9pm.

BIBLE STUDY: "WAYFARERS" Come join David, Shannon or Phil as this week's preacher leads a
study of the scripture for the upcoming Sunday's worship. Wed. at 10am in the church library
on the 2nd floor.

YOUTH MINISTRY

Phil Brown philbrown@slpres.org / 770.393.1424 ext. 238

Emily Wilmesherr emilywilmesherr@slpres.org / 770.393.1424 ext. 234

YOUTH SUNDAY SCHOOL- Youth will meet in the lobby at 9:30am for breakfast out during
Sunday school. Please bring your money. We will be back around 10:30am.

YOUTH GROUPS- Childcare during Toys for Tots concert. See below.

HIGH SCHOOL BREAKFAST- Tues., Dec. 20 at Chick-Fil-A Jeff Ferry. Text Phil by Mon. night at
8pm if you need a ride in the morning.

MARK YOUR CALENDARS

- ◆ Toys for Tots , From 3-6pm, youth will be providing childcare for 3yr. olds through
5th graders during the concert. This is a great opportunity to prepare for Mountain TOP
camp. We would also like a few adult volunteers. Talk to Phil or Emily if you can help out.
- ◆ Live Nativity on Dec. 15. Come in your Tartan Trot gear to help set up at 4:30pm. We will
be selling hot chocolate to raise money and awareness for Tartan Trot.
- ◆ Christmas Parties: Middle School Party- at Underhill's home on Dec.18, 3:30-5:00pm
with White Elephant gift exchange, treats, food and games!
High School Party- at Singley's home on Dec. 18, 5:30-7:30pm, Christmas Murder Mystery
Party and dinner.

MUSIC MINISTRY

Clair Maxwell clairmaxwell@slpres.org / 770.393.1424 ext. 227

There are some exciting opportunities for music this holiday season. They include:

- ◆ Today at 4 pm – Celebrate the Arts presents our annual Toys for Tots benefit concert featuring our choirs and the Premiere Brass Quintet.
- ◆ Thurs., Dec. 15, from 5:30 to 7:00 pm – Sing Christmas carols at our outdoor Live Nativity event. All ages welcome.

CHOIRS IN DECEMBER:

Regular Wed. choir rehearsals continue through Dec. 21 (no Festival Ringers that evening).
Combined Cherub & Westminster Choir rehearsals in Dec. – refreshments served on Dec. 21.
NO rehearsals -Dec. 28.
Adults resume rehearsals - Jan. 4., Children resume rehearsals -Jan. 11.

CHRISTMAS EVE:

5pm - Combined children's choir sings – warm up at 4:30 pm.
8pm – Chancel Choir sings – warm up at 7:15 pm.

SEEKING NEW OFFICERS—The Officer Nominating Committee (ONC) is seeking recommendations of members to serve as deacons and elders beginning in 2017. Please speak to a member if you are interested in serving or would like to suggest a candidate. These candidates would enhance and further the ministry and programs of our church. The ONC members are: Gerald Aldridge, Fern Mitropoulos, Lucy Painter, Shawn Hamlin, Sarah Caverhill, Mark Reed and Stephanie McGoldrick. You may also email Gerald Aldridge with suggestions at geraldaldrige@gmail.com.

FAMILY PROMISE—We welcome homeless children & their parents to make themselves at home at SLPC this week through Dec.18. We are so thankful for each of you who are able to offer your time & support. Sign up to help using the link: <http://tinyurl.com/SLPCFP2016-12>. David King at cardheel@yahoo.com or Beth Underhill, bunderhill.mail@gmail.com.

WOMEN'S RETREAT Mark your calendars now for the 2017 Women's Retreat! It will be held on March 3-5 at the Dillard House in Dillard, GA. We are excited to announce our guest speaker will be Kelly Fitzgerald, who is a former intern for Saint Luke's. Join us for a weekend of fellowship, fun & spiritual growth! Registration will begin Dec. 5 & continues through Feb. 19. Cost is \$250 (or \$258 if paying online) which includes 2 nights lodging, dinner Fri., three meals Sat. & breakfast on Sun. Contact Christy Keohane at christykeohane@yahoo.com, Jenny Troha at jbtroha@bellsouth.net or Shannon Dill at shannondill@slpres.org.

CHRISTMAS BOOKS IN THE LIBRARY—Have you been upstairs to the library at Saint Luke's? Be sure to come by and "check out" the seasonal books for all ages.

CHURCH STAFF

Senior Pastor David Lower
Associate Pastor Shannon Dill
Associate Pastor. Phil Brown
Director of Music & Organist. Clair Maxwell
Director of Children's Ministries. Catherine Anne Thomas
Director of Saint Luke's Little Saints Preschool. Carol Perry
Director of Communications. Tina Knoedler
Facility Manager. Roby Price
Treasurer. Mark Rogers
Intern for Children & Youth Ministry. Emily Wilmesherr
Church Administrator. Pam Melton
Administrative Assistant, CE & Music Ministry. Liz Catlett
Receptionist. Sally Hawkins

SAINT LUKE'S PERIMETER COUNSELING CENTER

Georgia C. Griffin, J.D., M.Div.
Director, Perimeter Center
Licensed Marriage & Family Therapist/Mediator
404.636.1457, ext.452 • www.cccgeorgia.org

SERVING TODAY

Acolytes– Supervisor, Arlene Anderson

Bell Ringer– Emily Anderson

Bible Bearer– Brady Anderson

Candle Lighter– Pearson Vivian

Crucifer– Eliza Thatcher

Water Bearer–Mason Douglass

Chancel Guild– Ted and Mary Guerrant

Communion Servers– Captain, Ken Painter; Gerald Aldridge, Julie Knotts, Pete Shelton, Dwight and Sally Shelton

Continental Breakfast– The Presbyterian Women

Open/Close– Josh Nunez

Lay Reader– Mary Nielsen

Sound Crew– Roby Price

Ushers–Captain, Krissy Williams; Bob and Christine Crutchfield and Dustin Waller

LEADERSHIP

Terry Nall, *Clerk to Session*

ELDERS

Class of 2017:

Zachary Burroughs (*youth*),
John Eagar, Gil Hearn, Saralyn Hill,
TJ McGoldrick, Paula Morris,
Donna Nall, Rob Price,
Pete Shelton

Class of 2018:

Gerald Aldridge, Carol Allen,
Barbara Douglass, Anne Hallum,
Dan Joyce, Jean Kammerer,
Chip Williams, Bill Womack

Class of 2019:

Al Bridges, Beth Eisenmesser,
Sonny Jester, Cindy Nunez,
Bob Pile, Bob Polensek,
Whitney Samuelson, Steven Vivian

DEACONS

Class of 2017:

Sandra DuBois, Kris Hull,
Caroline Hurst (*youth*),
Joyce Kratzenberg, Stacey Brooks,
Joanna Mangum, Stephen Moss,
Sharon Polensek,
Rebecca Strickland (*Moderator*),
Russell Wolfe

Class of 2018:

Justine Burney, Bobby Ferretti,
Diane Lemaster, Joe Luranc,
Lucy Painter, Debbie Parkes,
David Stover, Shari Wassell,
Kristen Wescott (*Vice Moderator*)

Class of 2019:

Melissa Blakely, Mark Douglass,
A.J.Favero, Carol Hickey,
Dorothy Kitchens, Richard Lawry,
Carol Waller, Al Wang,
Scott Zannini



SAINT LUKE'S
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

1978 Mount Vernon Road Dunwoody, GA 30338
770.393.1424 www.slpres.org Office Hours: M-F, 8:30am-4:30pm