

CHURCH STAFF

Senior Pastor Rev. Dr. David Lower
Associate Pastor Rev. Shannon Dill
Associate Pastor Rev. 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
Treasurer Mark Rogers
Program Coordinator for CE & Music Ministry Erin Murray
Intern for Children & Youth Ministry Erin Rugh
Church Administrator Lindsay Moss
Interim Facility Manager Ted Guerrant
Receptionist Matthew Dobson
A/V Director Roby Price

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

Chancel Guild: Andrea Price

Continental Breakfast: Diane Lemaster

Lay Reader: Diane Markel

Open/ Close: Roby Price

Sound: Bob Burroughs

Ushers: Kari Young, captain; Miles, Clara & Cole Young

LEADERSHIP

ELDERS

Class of 2020:

Carol Ciepluch, Leslie Hamlin, Kay Loerch (*Clerk of Session*), Florence Luranc, JJ Singley, Kelly Sloan, Steve Thornton, Brad Troha, Casey Singley (*Youth Elder*)

Class of 2021:

Bob Burroughs, Steve Cashwell, Tracy Coffie, Val DeFriece, Matt Fogarty, Nael McCarty, Todd Parker, Kristen Wescott

Class of 2022:

Rosemary Armstrong-Burton, Sylvia Jackson, Julie Lee (*Asst. Clerk of Session*), Tom Mangum, Nancy Moore, Cathie Rogers, Dustin Waller, Justin Wilkes

DEACONS

Class of 2020:

Thomas Brown, Karleen Buchholz, Jenny Cumiskey, Ron Davis, Mark Douglass, Kris Hull (*Moderator*), Daryl Moore, Emily Ritzler, Suzanne Thatcher, Carol Waller, Nelson Cumiskey (*Youth Deacon*)

Class of 2021:

Marylyn Brown, Carol Hickey, Janis Jones, Alan Keel, Christy Keohane, Betsy King, Molly Naugher (*Vice Moderator*), Gena Spears, Steve Wassell

Class of 2022:

Tricia Bridges, Donna Crutchfield, Chas Davis, Lindy Farley, Janis Kilgore, David Strickland, Angela Thayer, Miles Young



To view bulletins online, go to:
<https://slpres.org/worship-music/worship/bulletins/>

10:30 am



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



SAINT LUKE'S
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

December 15, 2019

3rd Sunday of Advent

Liturgical Color: Purple

Liturgical colors can orient us to the season of the church year and help to engage the sense of sight in worship. Purple marks the seasons of penitence and preparation, Advent and Lent.

SUNDAY SCHEDULE

8:15am Chapel Communion Service

9:15am Sunday School

10:30am Sanctuary Worship Service

Nursery available at all services and Sunday School.

MISSION

Responding to God's
astonishing grace,
we are moved to love God,
love each other,
and love our neighbors
near and far.

VISION

Boldly following Jesus,
we will love all people
and work to build a compassionate,
just, and peaceful world.

WELCOME, GUESTS!

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

AFTER worship, please join us outside the Sanctuary where our Pastors or a church officer 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 precious to us, and we welcome them in worship. Activity sheets and tactile activities are available in the back of the sanctuary. Each week, children are invited to join us for "Tell Us Our Story." Afterwards, they may remain in worship, go to Faithful Friends (PreK-1st) or go to child care.

SPECIAL CONNECTIONS We welcome children, youth and adults with special needs. If someone in your family could benefit from having a buddy during their time here today please ask an usher or greeter for assistance.



SUNDAY SPOTLIGHT:

For information on all activities and events at Saint Luke's, please go to slpres.org.

TODAY! PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN (PW) BAKE SALE—Cranberry Orange and Triple Chocolate cakes on sale *today* from 9 am - Noon. \$5 each. Cash or checks accepted. These delicious baked goods are wonderful to have during the Christmas holidays. PW appreciates your support of our fundraiser!

TONIGHT! CHURCH-WIDE CHRISTMAS PARTY— The church-wide Christmas party will be Sunday, Dec. 15, from 5:30-9 pm at the home of Dan & Sally Joyce (7430 Stoney Kirk Close). Please bring an appetizer or dessert. On-location babysitting available. Questions? Contact Sally Joyce at sallyjoyce@comcast.net.

POINSETTIAS FOR CHRISTMAS — Help decorate the church *and* honor a loved one with a poinsettia. Donation envelopes are in the pew boxes. \$15. **Deadline is TODAY.**

DEC. 19: LIVE NATIVITY— Join us for our annual Live Nativity, Dec. 19, from 6-7:30 pm. Visit animals from the Little Red Barn and enjoy hot chocolate, cookies and Christmas music. If you or a member of your family would like to be a part of the Live Nativity scene, please contact Kelly Sloan at kellymsloan@yahoo.com.

CHRISTMAS EVE CREATIONS — All children are invited to create nativity artwork to be enjoyed by our church family during the Advent season! Deliver your masterpiece to the church office in the box marked "Kids' Christmas Creations" by Sunday, Dec. 15.

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. 22 bulletin. Make checks payable to SL PW. Place your contribution in the envelope on the Thornwell poster (lobby) or in the specially marked envelope in the pew rack. **Deadline: TODAY, Dec. 15.** Questions? Contact Julie Knotts, 404-668-4008.

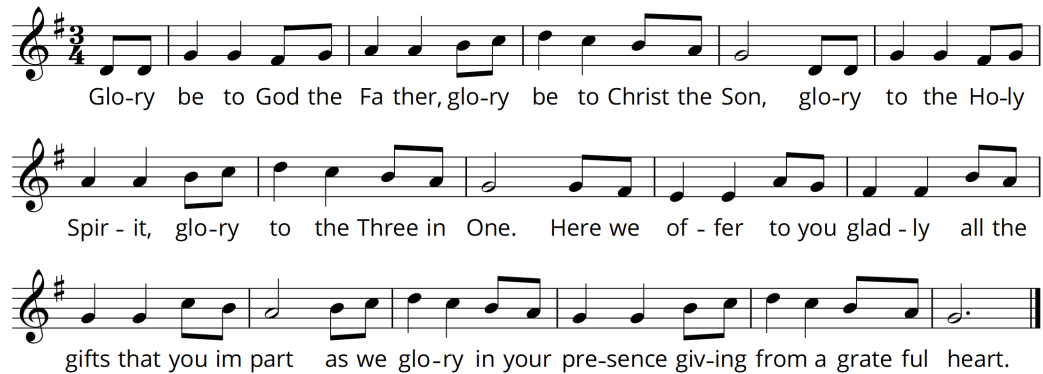
2020 WOMEN'S RETREAT— March 6-8 at Dillard House with guest speaker Rev. Betsy Turner. Registration is open! Go to slpres.org for all the details.

2019 ADVENT DEVOTIONAL— We have a variety of options to offer!

- Pittsburgh Theological Seminary's Advent Devotional. Go to slpres.org for details.
- "Following the Star" is a free online daily devotional. Go to slpres.org for details.
- "Words for Waiting" combines a daily devotional combined with Instagram visual reflection you will find on Saint Luke's Instagram (@saintlukespres or <https://www.instagram.com/saintlukespres/>) and on the Saint Luke's Youth Instagram (@slpresyouth).
- Family Devotion jars are available in the lobby or contact Catherine Anne Thomas.

SAINT LUKE'S LITTLE SAINTS PRESCHOOL & KINDERGARTEN REGISTRATION— Enroll your Little Saint in our church weekday school! We welcome all children ages 12 Months Old through Kindergarten. Registration for the 2020-2021 school year begins on Jan. 21 for church members. Current families register on Jan. 22 and new community families register on Jan. 23. For a tour or questions: carolperry@slpres.org.

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 grate ful heart.

Closing Hymn #107* Awake, Awake, and Greet the New Morn

Benediction*

Response #92* While We are Waiting, Come

While we are waiting, come. While we are waiting, come.
Jesus, our Lord, Emanuel. While we are waiting, come.

Postlude* From Heaven Above to Earth I Come
Johann Pachelbel

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In Preparation for Worship

“When one's life has been shattered into a million pieces, most set out to pick up the pieces and rebuild. Others look at those broken pieces and decide this is their opportunity to start anew, the bigger picture comes into view... so they leave those pieces scattered as a memorial to who they used to be.”

– Sanjo Jendayi

Gathering Prayer

Prelude

In Dulci Jubilo (In Quiet Joy) *Dietrich Buxtehude*

Chiming of the Hour

Welcome and Announcements

At this time, please print the requested information on the Friendship Pad and pass it down the pew.

Lighting of the Advent Candle

Kari & Gerald Aldridge

Opening Hymn #99*

My Soul Gives Glory to My God

Call to Confession*

Leader: The Lord be with you.

People: And also with you.

Leader: Let us pray.

Prayer of Confession*

Eternal God,

We confess that we resist your holy realm.

You look with favor on the poor while we often treat the lowly with disdain.

You scatter the plans of the proud while we aspire to power and privilege.

Forgive us, God of love.

Teach us what you desire, so that our hearts may leap with joy

at the coming of our Savior, Jesus Christ our Lord.

Hear also the personal confessions on our hearts...

(silence is kept for personal reflection...)

Leader: Lord, in your mercy.

People: Hear our prayer. Amen.

Assurance of Forgiveness*

Song of Praise #360*

Christ is Coming (*first verse*)

**Christ is coming! Let creation from its groans and labor cease;
let the glorious proclamation hope restore and faith increase:
Christ is coming! Christ is coming! Come, O blessed Prince of peace.**

Passing the Peace of Christ*

Leader: May the peace of Christ be with you.
People: And also with you.

Prayer for Illumination

Diane Markel

First Lesson

Luke 1:26-45

Leader: The Word of the Lord.
People: Thanks be to God.

Anthem

A Maiden Most Pure *arr. Michael Paget*

Chancel Choir

A maiden most pure, as the prophets foretold,
Hath brought forth a baby in winter so cold,
To be our Redeemer from death, hell and sin,
Which Adam's transgression hath wrapped us in.
Rejoice and be merry, set sorrows aside!
Christ Jesus, our Savior, was born at this tide.
The King of all kings to this world had been brought,
And fine linen garments to clothe him were sought;
When Mary had swaddled her young son so sweet,
Within an ox manger she laid him to sleep.
Then God sent an angel from heaven on high,
To certain poor shepherds in fields as they lie,
And bade them no longer in sorrow to stay,
For Jesus, our Savior, was born on this day.
Soon after this visit, the shepherds did spy
Great numbers of angels adorning the sky.
They joyfully talked, and sweetly did sing,
"To God be the glory, for Jesus, our King." (*18th Century English*)

Second Lesson

Ezra 1:1-4, 3:1-4,10-13

Leader: The Word of the Lord.
People: Thanks be to God.

Tell Us Our Story

Catherine Anne Thomas

The Saint Luke's Presbyterian Women have been making Chrismons for the children of our church for 27 years. The word "Chrismon" stands for "Christ Monogram" and is an abbreviation for His name or a representation of Him. This year's Chrismon symbol is the Celtic Cross, which symbolizes eternity and emphasizes the eternal and infinite love of God, depicted through Jesus Christ's sacrifice on the cross.

After Tell Us Our Story, parents may walk children 3 and younger to their classrooms in Sheppard Hall. Pre-K, K and 1st graders may gather in the narthex, get a nametag, and walk together to The Harbor for Faithful Friends.

Sermon

The Gift of Freedom

David Lower

Hymn #646*

Sing Out My Soul

Affirmation of Faith*

Apostles' Creed

**I believe in God, the Father Almighty, Maker of heaven and earth,
and in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord;
who was conceived by the Holy Ghost, born of the Virgin Mary,
suffered under Pontius Pilate;
was crucified, dead, and buried;
he descended into hell;
the third day he rose again from the dead; he ascended into heaven,
and sitteth on the right hand
of God the Father Almighty;
from thence he shall come to judge the quick and the dead.
I believe in the Holy Ghost;
the holy catholic Church;
the communion of saints;
the forgiveness of sins;
the resurrection of the body; and the life everlasting. Amen.**

Prayers of the People and 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

Lo, How a Rose E'er Blooming *Johannes Brahms*