



SAINT LUKE'S  
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

December 17, 2023 10:30 am



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## In Preparation for Worship

"As mariners are guided into port by the shining of a star, so Christians are guided to heaven by Mary." - *Saint Thomas Aquinas*

### Prelude

O Come, All Ye Faithful

Children's Choir

## Welcome and Announcements

### Lighting of the Advent Candle

The Family of Fazal & Jessica Hussain

### Opening Hymn\* 107

Awake! Awake, and Greet the New Moon

### Prayer of Confession\*

Holy God,  
Somewhere in our childhood we face pressure to outgrow awe.  
We turn into adults who obsess over data and facts.  
We praise those who have answers,  
and assume that wonder is an answerless game.  
Forgive us for closing that door to you.  
Remind us that the kingdom of God belongs to children.  
Teach us the ways of awe and wonder, so that like Zechariah,  
when we find ourselves speechless,  
our first words will be words of praise.  
With hearts open wide, we pray. Hear now the silent prayers of our hearts...  
(a moment of silence is kept for personal prayers)

Leader: Lord, in your mercy

People: Hear our prayers. Amen.

### Assurance of Forgiveness\*

### Song of Praise\*

*Chancel Choir:* A thrill of hope the weary world rejoices, for yonder breaks a new and glorious morn. His power and glory evermore proclaim.

*All:* A thrill of hope the weary world rejoices, for yonder breaks a new and glorious morn. His power and glory evermore proclaim. Amen.

## Prayer for Illumination

Carol Hickey

## Scripture Reading

Luke 1:57-66

Leader: The Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

## Tell Us Our Story—Presentation of Chrismons

Catherine Anne Thomas

*Children are welcome to come forward for Tell Us Our Story. After Tell Us Our Story, parents will walk children across courtyard to Rm 117 (3 and under) and Rm 120 (PreK and K). 1st through 5th graders will gather in the narthex and walk with leaders to 252Kid and 252Preteen. Parents will pick up from The Dock and The Lighthouse. Of course, all children are always welcome to remain in worship with their families.*

## Anthem

He Comes to Us as One Unknown  
arr. John Ferguson

## Sermon

Mary Knew

David Lower

## Affirmation of Faith

from A Sanctified Art

We believe in a God who knows our names, who counts the hairs on our heads, and carries the dreams in our hearts.

We believe that God's fingerprints are all over creation, and that God is forever speaking to us in a million different ways.

We believe that awe and wonder, goosebumps and laughter, telling stories and paying attention, are all ways that we can say thank you to our creating, sustaining, and loving God.

Therefore we commit ourselves to moving through this world with eyes wide open, with porous hearts, and grateful spirits.

We commit ourselves to living lives of awe, wonder, and gratitude, trusting that these things will forever draw us deeper into God's loving arms.

We believe. We stand in awe. Thanks be to God!

## 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.

## Moment for Joy Offering

David King

## The Offering

Children, Go Where I Send Thee  
arr. Brent Edstrom

*All are invited to participate in support of God's work at Saint Luke's, in one of three ways:*

- 1) Giving envelopes, available in each pew, may be placed inside the Friendship Pads or in the offering plate as they are passed.*
- 2) Give online via [slpres.org/giving](https://slpres.org/giving),*
- 3) Send a text message to 73256, starting with the keyword GIVETOSLPRES followed by the amount.*

\*please stand

## **Closing Hymn\* 105**

People, Look East

## **Benediction\***

## **Postlude\***

Trépak  
*Peter Tchaikovsky*

**Please join us in the church lobby for fellowship and conversation!**

For the latest Saint Luke's news and information, go to [slpres.org](http://slpres.org).

If you would like to share prayer concerns, or know someone who would (with their permission), you may submit prayer requests for inclusion in the Prayer Guide by sending them to [prayerrequest@slpres.org](mailto:prayerrequest@slpres.org).

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