

THE WAY OF PEACE

ADVENT 2024



SAINT LUKE'S
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

December 22, 2024 10:30 am



In Preparation for Worship

“Certainly God loves Mary, but by loving God in return, Mary magnifies the unnoticeable, unrecognized, unappreciated goodness of God.”

– Justin Kosec, *More Than Words*

Prelude

A La Nanita Nana
arr. Mark Hayes

Welcome and Announcements

Lighting of the Advent Candle

The Phillips Family

Opening Hymn* 93

Lift Up Your Heads, Ye Mighty Gates

Prayer of Confession*

Creator God, what you have planned for us unfolds slowly.
Your love is often unrecognizable, unappreciated, unnoticed.
We have often fallen short of who you call us to be.
And yet, you continue to speak to us, in us,
and through us through the work of the Spirit.
Help us to magnify your love through our thoughts, words, and actions
so that the world might know about your gracious promises.
Fill us with the love you desire us to know through the birth of Jesus, who hears our
prayers both aloud and now silently. *(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*

Gloria

Glory to God in the highest! Sing glory to God! Glory to God in the highest, and peace
to God's people on earth!

Prayer for Illumination

Scripture Reading

Luke 1:39-55

Leader: The Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

Tell Us Our Story

Michael Sanchez

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 119 (PreK and K). 1st through 5th graders will gather in the narthex and walk with leaders to 252Kids 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

Süßer die Glocken nie klingen
arr. Karsten Gundermann

Chancel Choir

*Sweeter the bells never sound than at Christmas time;
It's as if angels are singing again of peace and joy
As they sang on the blessed night.
Bells with a holy sound, the earth rings along!*

Sermon

Looking Back to the Future

Shannon Dill

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.

The Offering

Bagatelles, Op. 126, III. Andante, Cantabile e grazioso
Ludwig van Beethoven

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,

3) Send a text message to 73256, starting with the keyword GIVETOSLPRES followed by the amount.

Closing Hymn* 105

People, Look East

Benediction*

Choral Amen*

Postlude*

Dance of the Reed Flutes
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.

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.

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