



Insisting on Hope

December 14, 2025
Third Sunday of Advent

10:30 AM WORSHIP SERVICE
WELCOME TO SAINT LUKE'S!
DECEMBER 14, 2025
THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT

In Preparation for Worship

“This week, we’re not asked to fix the world. We’re asked to take each other’s hands and walk forward into it—together.” – Rev. Dr. Boyung Lee, *What Do We Fear?*

Prelude

Mary's Boy Child
Jester Hairston

Cherub & Children's Choirs

Welcome and Announcements

Lighting of the Advent Candle

The McGoldrick Family

Please respond, "Let us live in the joy of the Lord," each time the leader prompts with "People of God."

Leader: People of God,

All: Let us live in the joy of the Lord.

Opening Hymn* 100

My Soul Cries Out with a Joyful Shout

Prayer of Confession*

Loving God, thank you for your grace.
You have called us to walk with you, but we have not followed.
Forgive us when we ignore you and each other.
Have mercy on us and show us your way
so that we can learn to do your will.
We have prayed together, and now quietly...
(a moment of silence is kept for personal prayers)

Leader: In Jesus' name,

People: Hear our prayers. Amen.

Assurance of Forgiveness*

Song of Thanksgiving* 137 He Came Down

He came down that we may have joy; he came down that we may have joy;
he came down that we may have joy; hallelujah forevermore.

Passing of the Peace*

Prayer for Illumination

Scripture Reading

Matthew 11:2-11

Leader: The Word of the Lord

People: Thanks be to God.

Tell Us Our Story - Presentation of Chrismons

Shannon Dill

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

Anthem

We Have Seen the God of Glory
Text by David Gambrell, arr. by Jim Vyhanek

Chancel Choir

We have seen the God of glory in the face of Jesus Christ:
wholly human, truly holy, source and summit of our life.
God, who summoned light from darkness, shining in our hearts today,
we will praise your name forever.

We have heard the voice of wisdom in the Word of God made flesh,
calling for the new creation, singing with the Spirit's breath.
God, who summoned light from darkness, shining in our hearts today,
we will praise your name forever.

We will share the gospel story, we will bear the light of Christ,
bringing good news to the nations, lifting up the bread of life.
God, who summoned light from darkness, shining in our hearts today,
we will praise your name forever.

Sermon

Christmas is Coming!

David Lower

Affirmation of Faith

adapted from work of Rev. Sarah Speed
Sanctified Art LLC

We believe in a with-us God.
We believe in the hope of tomorrow.
We believe that good news is louder than fear.
We believe this good news is for all people.
So even when our knees shake,
even when our voice trembles,
even when fear is all around us,
we will hold onto that good news.
We will reach for each other.
We will look for God in our midst.
We will sing songs of joy.
We will proclaim:
Unto us, love is born.

Prayers of Thanksgiving 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 Tartan Trot

TJ McGoldrick

The Offering

Light is Kindled in the Darkness
Text by David Bjorlin, Music by Kate Williams

Amanda Lower

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 in the offering plates 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* 82

Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus

Benediction*

Choral Amen*

Postlude*

Comfort, Comfort Now My People
arr. Jerry Westenkuehler





Special note: There will be a brief congregational meeting immediately following worship for the purpose of electing members of the Officer Nominating Committee.

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.



SAINT LUKE'S
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH