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No. 12

March 22, 2020

Volume 56

## St. Luke Church Update

Dear Members and Friends of St. Luke Church:

In attempting to faithfully lead our response to the COVID-19 virus, I am staying in touch with the best public health medical advice, our district superintendent and our bishop about best practices for our congregation. In light of these consultations, the St. Luke campus and all its ministries are closed until at least April 5. This closure includes: St. Luke School, St. Early Learning Center, St. Luke Preschool and St. Luke Respite Care, as well as all facilities and activities of St. Luke Church. The situation changes day by day, even hour by hour. At this point, the CDC is suggesting that closures will need to remain in place 6-8 weeks. While we hope to return for in person worship by Palm Sunday, we realize it could be Mother's Day before we are able to do so. We will use every means at our disposal to keep in touch, to continue worship in a virtual format, and to be the body of Christ in the world.

### Pastoral Care

Pastors will continue to be available for pastoral care. While visitation in hospitals, nursing homes and other facilities and homes are being strictly limited, we want to remain in contact with anyone in need of pastoral care. Much care can be expressed by phone. You can help your pastors by reaching out to other members of our congregation and letting the church office know anything of which we should be aware.

### Church Staff

While we cannot welcome members and guests in the church office or facilities, we will have a strategic communications center at the church office. Please stay in touch in and through the office (706-327-4343) and by email. Several of our church program directors are setting up virtual groups for people to stay connected. We will have more information about our virtual connects in future updates.

Finally, remember Dr. Leslie Weatherhead's translation of Psalm 59:10. "My God, in his steadfast love will meet me at the turn of every corner." This pandemic has already turned corners that we could not have imagined a few short weeks ago and there will be more corners to be turned in days ahead. However, our assurance is the dependability of God who will meet us at those corners in steadfast love.

Robert Beckum, Senior Pastor  
[rbeckum@stlukeum.com](mailto:rbeckum@stlukeum.com)

# ORDER OF WORSHIP

The 11:00 a.m. service is streamed at [www.stlukeum.com](http://www.stlukeum.com) and broadcast at WLTC 103.7 Lite FM  
Rebroadcast on WTVM Channel 9 at 10:00 a.m.

March 22, 2020

4th Sunday in Lent

Prelude..... “Passacaglia in D Minor” .....Dietrich Buxtehude

Welcome and Opening Prayer.....Rev. Robert Beckum

\*Hymn..... “Guide Me, O Thou Great Jehovah” .....Number 127

\*The Affirmation of Faith..... “The Apostles’ Creed” .....Number 881  
**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 Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, dead, and buried, the third day he rose from the dead; he ascended into heaven, and sitteth at 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 Spirit, the holy catholic\*\*\* church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.**

\*The Gloria Patri (Glory Be to the Father).....Number 70  
**Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost.  
As it was in the beginning, is now and ever shall be,  
world without end, Amen, Amen.**

\*\*Anthem (*Chancel Choir*)..... “Alas, and Did my Savior Bleed” .....John Purifoy

Pastoral Prayer and Lord’s Prayer.....Rev. Dr. Adriane Burgess  
**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 trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever.**

Choral Prayer Response..... “Dresden Amen” .....Johann Naumann

The Children’s Sermon.....Rev. Brett Maddocks  
*After the Children’s Sermon, children who are in Kindergarten-5th grade are invited to go to Corner Kidz for a time of extended worship. Parents pick them up in Stockwell Hall when this service is completed.*

\*Hymn..... “Glorious Things of Thee are Spoken” .....Number 731

Offertory Prayer.....Rev. Beckum

Offertory..... “Abide with Me” .....arr. Diane Bish

\*The Dedication of Offerings..... “The Doxology” .....Number 95  
**Praise God, from whom all blessings flow; praise him, all creatures here below;  
praise him above, ye heavenly host; praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost.**

The Written Word.....Psalm 46 (p. 489, OT in pew Bible)

The Spoken Word..... “**GOD IS OUR REFUGE**” .....Rev. Beckum

\*Hymn..... “When I Survey the Wondrous Cross” .....Number 298

\*The Benediction.....Rev. Beckum

Choral Benediction Response (11:00 a.m.)..... “Fivefold Amen” .....Marc Boensel

Postlude..... “Glorious Things of Thee are Spoken” ..... Improvisation

\**Standing as able*

\*\* *Music Box*

\*\*\* *quick* means “living”; *catholic* means “universal”

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## Guide Me, O Thou Great Jehovah

Guide me, O thou great Jehovah, pilgrim through this barren land.  
I am weak, but thou are mighty; hold me with thy powerful hand.  
Bread of heaven, bread of heaven, feed me till I want no more;  
feed me till I want no more.

Open now the crystal fountain, whence the healing stream doth flow;  
let the fire and cloudy pillar lead me all my journey through.  
Strong deliverer, strong deliverer, be thou still my strength and shield;  
be thou still my strength and shield.

When I tread the verge of Jordan, bid my anxious fears subside;  
death of death and hell's destruction, land me safe on Canaan's side.  
Songs of praises, songs of praises, I will ever give to thee;  
I will ever give to thee.

## Glorious Things of Thee Are Spoken

Glorious things of thee are spoken, Zion, city of our God.  
God, whose word cannot be broken, formed thee for his own abode.  
On the Rock of Ages founded, what can shake thy sure repose?  
With salvation's walls surrounded, thou mayst smile at all thy foes.

See, the streams of living waters, springing from eternal love,  
well supply thy sons and daughters, and all fear of want remove.  
Who can faint while such a river ever will their thirst assuage?  
Grace which like the Lord, the giver, never fails from age to age.

Round each habitation hovering, see the cloud and fire appear  
for a glory and a covering, showing that the Lord is near!  
Thus deriving from our banner light by night and shade by day,  
safe we feed upon the manna which God gives us when we pray.

Blest inhabitants of Zion, washed in our Redeemer's blood;  
Jesus, whom our souls rely on, makes us monarchs, priests to God.  
Us, by his great love, he raises, rulers over self to reign,  
and as priests his solemn praises we for thankful offering bring.

## When I Survey the Wondrous Cross

When I survey the wondrous cross on which the Prince of Glory died,  
my richest gain I count but loss, and pour contempt on all my pride.

Forbid it, Lord, that I should boast, save in the death of Christ, my God;  
all the vain things that charm me most, I sacrifice them to his blood.

See, from his head, his hands, his feet, sorrow and love flow mingled down.  
Did e'er such love and sorrow meet, or thorns compose so rich a crown?

Were the whole realm of nature mine, that were an offering far too small;  
love so amazing, so divine, demands my soul, my life, my all.



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# MUSIC BOX

**Dr. Marc F. Boensel, Director of Music Ministries, [mboensel@stlukeum.com](mailto:mboensel@stlukeum.com)**

**The Music Scholarship Fund** assists eight students from Columbus State University with expenses related to their study of music. All of these students sing in our Chancel Choir at 8:30 a.m. and 11:00 a.m. and are a vital part of the Music Ministry. Please consider supporting the Music Scholarship Fund so that St. Luke can continue to assist these students with their music education. Donations can be placed in the offering and marked 'Music Scholarship.'

**The Music Ministry** welcomes new vocal and instrumental members throughout the year. No auditions are required. Please contact Marc Boensel at the e-mail address above or at 706-256-2682.

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## WELCOME NEW MEMBERS:

**Isabel Suarez** comes by profession of faith.

**Moises Cardona** comes by profession of faith.

**Maria Lomas** comes by profession of faith.

**Ordina Paulino** comes by profession of faith.

**Stefano Zamorano** comes by profession of faith.

**Miguel Angel Hernandez** comes by profession of faith.

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The **S.A.W. (Servants At Work) Ministry** is looking for twin and double beds, chests of drawers and household furniture you may want to donate. Generally, these items will be used in apartments and rental units for families who, many times, have been without beds, chairs and other household items. Please contact Lee Myers, Richard Jarboe or the church office at 706-327-4343 if you have items that may be of service to this ministry.

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**STAYING UPDATED:** Please remember to call the church office and let us know when you have a change of address, phone, or email, etc. We also love to hear about births, marriages, etc. Thank you for your help in keeping our records up to date!

## OUR CLERGY STAFF

Rev. Robert Beckum  
*Senior Minister*

Rev. Brett Maddocks  
*Associate Pastor*

Rev. Dr. Adriane Burgess  
*Associate Pastor*

Rev. Dick Reese  
*Minister of Pastoral Care*

Rev. Dr. José Resto  
*Hispanic Ministries*

Bishop James King  
*Bishop in Residence*

## HOW DO I JOIN THE CHURCH?

You may become a part of the St. Luke family of God in one of the following ways:

1. If you have never joined a church before, you may become a member by profession of faith in Jesus Christ and by being baptized. If you have already been baptized (as a child or as an adult) in a Christian church, your baptism is recognized by St. Luke United Methodist Church. You will be asked to uphold St. Luke Church with your prayers, presence, gifts, service, and witness.
  2. If you are a member of another United Methodist Church or another Christian denomination, indicate to one of the pastors that this is your desire. St. Luke will then transfer your membership.
  3. If you have any questions about faith in Christ, about United Methodism in general or St. Luke in particular, please ask one of the pastors!
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## We are the Church!

It is no secret that we are living in uncertain times. That uncertainty can bring about anxiety, worry, and fear in ways we have never imagined. A St. Luke colleague and I were just talking this week about how unprecedented this has all been for us. As one friend said to me, "We are living in history right now."

As with everything in my life, I have found great comfort and authority in God's word. One verse in particular has been standing out to me in the last few days. Paul, writing to the church in Colossae, proclaims the supremacy of Jesus Christ as the Son of God. He writes, "He (Jesus) is before all things, and in him all things hold together." What this one verse reminds me is that Jesus is not caught off guard by the COVID-19 pandemic. He is not weakened, defeated, or dethroned. Christ is STILL the Lord and as such he holds all things together. Historically, the church has always been best when it bore witness to Christ her Lord during the most difficult times in history.

Historian Rodney Stark said that you can trace the rise of Christianity to the three major plagues in the second, third, and sixth centuries. He wrote, "Christianity grew because people looked at the incredible witness of Christians during times of crisis. Instead of panicking, they demonstrated tremendous faith and compassion." The Church today has a great opportunity to bear witness to the Lordship of Jesus and to be who we were created to be.

The bishop of the South Georgia Conference wrote four helpful responses for the church, who have closed our doors for the time being, that I want to share with you as we move forward.

1. Our physical doors may be closed, but the church is not. We are called to continue to BE the church.
2. We are loving our neighbors by protecting our neighbors. By practicing social distancing, we are protecting those who are most vulnerable.
3. We are not being fearful. We are being responsible; we have a role to play in defeating this virus.
4. This is what love requires of us in this season.

Remember, continue to look to the CDC ([cdc.gov](https://www.cdc.gov)), Ga. Dept. of Health ([dph.georgia.gov](https://dph.georgia.gov)), and other valid sites to keep track of what's happening during this pandemic. Many of these sites have very practical advice on how to keep you and your neighbors safe. Also, continue to look to our website ([saintlukecolumbus.org](https://saintlukecolumbus.org)) and our Facebook page for important updates from the church.

We love each and every one of you. Don't live in fear. Jesus is STILL Lord and nothing can change that.

Looking up, unto the hills,

Brett

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## ABIDING GIFTS

If you wish to honor or remember someone, please attach to your check the name of that person and the address to which you wish the acknowledgement sent and mail or bring to the church office. Contact [maggie@stlukeum.com](mailto:maggie@stlukeum.com).

**Music Scholarship Fund:** In memory of Alice R. Wiley by Mrs. Susan Wiley. In honor of Dr. Marc Boensel by Mr. and Mrs. Mark Sigmund.

**Music Fund:** In memory of Mr. Sonny Ward by the Adelpian Study Club.

**Memorial Maintenance Fund:** In memory of Rev. Ted Bass by Mrs. Joanne Cole. In memory of Mrs. Jean Amos by the Adelpian Study Club. In memory of Mr. Fred Mitchell, Jr. by Miss Dee Rainey, Mr. and Mrs. Dennis Calhoun, and Dr. and Mrs. H. Daniel Sigman.

**Samaritan Fund:** In memory of Mr. Steve Ellis by Mr. and Mrs. Bill Montgomery.

**St. Luke School Fund:** In memory of Mr. Ric Shean by Mr. and Mrs. John Wood.

**Bereavement Ministry Fund:** In memory of Mr. Kenneth Green by Ms. Nancy Pedersen.

**F.A.N.N.:** In honor of Mr. Richard Jarboe by Mr. and Mrs. Bryan Newman.

**Respite Care:** In memory of Lt. (Ret.) Frederic Shean by Mr. and Mrs. William M. Brandon.

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## OUR PHONE NUMBERS

Church Office, 706-327-4343 • Preschool, 706-327-4343

St. Luke School, 706-256-1301 • Early Learning Center, 706-322-2703

Ministry Center, 706-256-1017 • Respite Care Ministry, 706-256-3117

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## Tithes and Offerings

Our physical doors may be closed for the time being but the mission of St. Luke Church continues. You can continue to support St. Luke Church with your tithes and offerings by going to the St. Luke website, <https://saintlukecolumbus.org/give/>, and clicking on "SecureGive" and then clicking on the "Church" button. If you need help with this option, please contact Renee Wilkinson at [renee@stlukeum.com](mailto:renee@stlukeum.com) or Brett Maddocks at [bmaddocks@stlukeum.com](mailto:bmaddocks@stlukeum.com).

You can also mail in your offering to our physical address, P.O. Box 867 Columbus, GA 31902.

*As always, thank you for your continued support of the mission and ministry of St. Luke Church.*

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## Call to Daily Prayer

St. Luke Church will be joining other churches in the South Georgia Conference of the United Methodist Church in a time a daily prayer for our communities, churches, country, and the world.

You are invited to join this daily prayer time at 12:19 p.m. every day. This time is purposeful in helping us remember for what we are specifically praying. Remember the words of Scripture from Philippians 4:

*"Rejoice in the Lord always. I will say it again: Rejoice! Let your gentleness be evident to all. The Lord is near. Do not be anxious about anything, but in every situation, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God. And the peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus." (Philippians 4:4-7)*

Let us be faithful to our call to pray in these days. We will be posting prayer points for the day on Facebook each day in preparation for the 12:19 prayer time.

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