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Volume 56

The Gift of Hope

It is an interesting fact that in the catacombs beneath Rome the most common Christian symbol etched or painted on the wall was the anchor. The anchor was a reminder of hope. In the words of the writer of Hebrews, "We have this hope as an anchor for the soul, firm and secure" (Hebrews 6:19). The early church lived hope filled lives in the midst of painful circumstances. We all need the anchorage of hope for the living of these chaotic days. And that's what the word of God offers as nothing else can. Having a Savior in Christ means that the hopeless have hope, the dead have life, and the abandoned have the good news of God's love proclaimed to them.

The lives of the early Christians reflected a radiant hope in counter cultural, defiant practices. When loved ones died, the Romans of the day dressed in black, the color of somber mourning. Christians dressed in white as a reminder of their baptism and the promise of eternal life. Romans buried their dead facing West towards the setting sun. Christians turned everything around burying their dead facing East, anticipating the coming of the Son of God. This hope shaped more than Christian funeral practices. Hope filled the totality of Christian living. Feeding the hungry. Caring for the dying. Adopting babies abandoned by a callous Roman world. Proclaiming the good news of God's salvation to a hopeless world.

Hope was such a vital reality for the early church that Peter would remind his readers to, "...Always be ready to make your defense to anyone who demands an accounting for the hope that is in you" (1 Peter 3:15). Peter knew that the world would notice and would want to know more about a real and vital hope for living. Can you think of a more powerful witness or a more precious gift to the world in our time than Christ-centered hope? Indeed, it is an anchor for the soul.

Robert Beckum, Senior Pastor

rbeckum@stlukeum.com

St. Luke Safety Standards for All Services

1. **Social distancing**---seated six feet apart except for immediate family members living in the same household. Additionally, please refrain from physical contact such as handshaking, hugging, etc. Ushers/greeters will help you find safe seating. Remember, social distancing should be observed not only in the worship space but also in hallways, common areas and restrooms.
2. **Hand sanitizer** stations will be placed at each entrance and exit. We request that you use these stations upon entering and leaving any of our worship services.
3. **Temperature checks** with touchless thermometers. 100.3 is the maximum CDC recommendation for entrance into gatherings lasting fifteen minutes or more.
4. **Face masks**---We ask that you bring your own mask from home, but there will be masks available as you enter for worship. Masks are an incredibly important expression of our love and concern for the health of our fellow worshippers.
5. **Facilities will be sanitized** (anti-viral cleaning) immediately following each gathering.

ORDER OF WORSHIP

The 11:00 a.m. service is streamed at www.saintlukecolumbus.org and broadcast at WLTC 103.7 Lite FM • Broadcast on WTVM Channel 9 at 10:00 a.m.

September 20, 2020
8:30 a.m. & 11:00 a.m.

16th Sunday after Pentecost

Prelude (*Ken Bailey*)..... “Morning Has Broken”arr. Diane Bish

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

Hymn..... “Morning Has Broken”Dr. Marc Boensel

Psalm 121

The Affirmation of Faith..... “The 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 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.**

**Anthem (*Chancel Choir*)..... “Lord, I Stretch My Hands to You”Jay Althouse

Pastoral Prayer and Lord’s Prayer.....Rev. Beckum

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. Amen.

The Children’s Sermon.....Mrs. Mary Pat Beckum

Hymn..... “Jesus, The Very Thought Of Thee”Dr. Boensel

Prayer for Illumination

Gracious God, your Word surprises, challenges, upsets and overturns our way of seeing and thinking. Come and find us today wherever we are, however we are. By the power of your Holy Spirit, grant that we may hear with joy what you say to our lives today. AMEN

The Written Word.....Matthew 20:1-16

The Spoken Word..... “**GOD IS GOD AND WE ARE NOT**”Rev. Beckum

Invitation to Christian Discipleship and Congregational Prayer

God of the harvest, we are privileged to be counted among those whom you have called, graced to have been given work to do, blessed to have received more than we will ever earn. Accept, we pray, our offering of our lives and resources and do what You choose with what already belongs to You. In Christ’s name we pray, AMEN.

Hymn..... “Glorious Things Of Thee Are Spoken”Dr. Boensel

The Benediction.....Rev. Beckum

Choral Benediction Response (*11:00 a.m.*)..... “Dresden Amen”Johann Naumann

Postlude (*Ken Bailey*)..... “Glorious Things of Thee are Spoken”arr. Don Hustad

** Music Box

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

MORNING HAS BROKEN

Morning has broken like the first morning;
blackbird has spoken like the first bird.
Praise for the singing! Praise for the morning!
Praise for them springing fresh from the Word!

Sweet the rain's new fall, sunlit from heaven,
like the first dew fall on the first grass.
Praise for the sweetness of the wet garden
Sprung in completeness where His feet pass

Mine is the sunlight! Mine is the morning
born of the one light Eden saw play!
Praise with elation, praise every morning!
God's recreation of the new day!

JESUS, THE VERY THOUGHT OF THEE

Jesus, the very thought of thee with sweetness fills the breast;
but sweeter far thy face to see, and in thy presence rest.

O hope of every contrite heart, O joy of all the meek,
to those who fall, how kind thou art! How good to those who seek!

But what to those who find? Ah, this nor tongue nor pen can show;
the love of Jesus, what it is, none but his loved ones know.

Jesus, our only joy be thou, as thou our prize wilt be;
Jesus, be thou our glory now, and through eternity.

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 they 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.

MUSIC BOX

Dr. Marc F. Boensel, Director of Music Ministries, mboensel@stlukeum.com

Chancel Choir rehearsals are at 7:00 p.m. on Wednesday evenings in the Sanctuary. Rehearsals will be limited to 30 minutes, socially distanced and masked at all times. Temperature checks will be taken between 6:45 p.m. and 6:55 p.m. at the 3rd Avenue entrance to the Music Suite.

Handbell Choir rehearsals are at 5:45 p.m. on Wednesday evenings in the Sanctuary. Rehearsals will be limited to 30 minutes, socially distanced and masked at all times. Temperature checks will be taken between 5:30 p.m. and 5:40 p.m. at the 3rd Avenue entrance to the Music Suite.

Please consider a gift to the **Music Ministry**. You may mark your donation to the Music Fund, Music Scholarship Fund, Orchestra Fund, or Organ Fund.

Today's anthem: "Lord, I stretch my hands to you; no other help I know. If you should leave me all alone, where, then, shall I go, Oh Lord? Lord, I give my soul to you; I seek your care and love. No other blessings do I need but those from you above. Lord, I ask you: give me faith, and help me understand. And, Lord, when I this life shall leave, just hold me in your hand."

CONTEMPORARY SERVICE (THE NINE): 9:00 a.m., Ministry Center, The Rev. Brett Maddocks, preaching.

ALTAR FLOWERS: The beautiful flowers in the chancel area are given to the glory of God and in loving memory of Mrs. Jane Kendrick Blackmar by the family.

OPEN ALTAR FLOWER DATES: November 22, 29. To place flowers on the altar in memory or honor of someone contact Maggie Roberson at 706-327-4343 or maggie@stlukeum.com.

Ministerio Hispano "La Cosecha"

St. Luke, UMC, Columbus, Ga

Palabra Escrita: Mateo 20:1-16

Palabra Hablada: "Los Obreros de la viña"

Esta parábola en Mateo 20 comienza diciendo que el reino de los cielos es semejante a, entonces sabemos que la misma tiene como propósito dar un ejemplo de la naturaleza de este reino que Jesús viene anunciando desde el comienzo de su ministerio. La viña, como dijéramos, era un símbolo para hablar de Israel como nación gobernada por Dios. Aquí es un símbolo del reino de los cielos. Si el dueño necesita obreros para trabajar en su viña significa que el reino es algo que se construye en cooperación con Dios, no algo que Dios realiza por sí solo. Este trabajo es remunerado pero esta remuneración no depende de los méritos personales de los obreros sino de la generosidad del propietario.

El momento de la retribución, del pago, no depende de las obras de la persona sino de la gracia de Dios. Si nos sorprende la acción del propietario aquí deberíamos ver que algo similar sucede en Mateo 25:31-46, en donde los que heredan el reino son aquellos que se compadecieron de los afligidos y desposeídos de la sociedad.

En el Antiguo Testamento la viña es un símbolo para Israel, el pueblo de Dios (ver Isaías 5:1-7; la analogía de la parábola sugiere entonces que Dios necesita gente para trabajar en su viña.

Amen,

Rev. Dr. José D. Resto/ Pastor

CHILDREN'S MINISTRY

mhubbard@stlukeum.com www.cornerkidz.com

Popsicles on the Playground for all new Kindergartners is **TODAY** from 4-5 PM on the Ministry Center playground. Can't wait to welcome our newest Corner Kidz to the family! Parents, please come prepared to stay and play and don't forget your mask. Hope you will join us for an afternoon of fun and fellowship.

I am working on updating our contact list. If you aren't receiving communication from me and want to be, please email me at mhubbard@stlukeum.com and I will be sure to add you. Should you need to update your contact info, let me know that too! Thank you so much for your help with this!

Thank you to all who drove by and said hello this past Sunday! It was so wonderful to see all those smiling faces!

With gratitude,
Michelle

Tithes and Offerings

Offering plates/boxes are placed at entrances and exits at all of our in-person worship services. Of course, you can continue to support St. Luke Church with your tithes and offerings by mail, bank draft, or 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 or Brett Maddocks at bmaddocks@stlukeum.com.

CHURCH MAILING ADDRESS

Please do not use the physical address of the church for mailing. The church mailing address is P.O. Box 867, Columbus, GA 31902. The Post Office will no longer deliver items that are addressed to our physical address. Thank you!

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

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

OUR CLERGY STAFF

Rev. Robert Beckum - *Senior Minister*
Rev. Brett Maddocks - *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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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 acknowledgment sent and mail or bring to the church office. Contact maggie@stlukeum.com.

Memorial Maintenance Fund: In memory of Mr. George Adams and Mrs. Frances McCluskey by Mr. and Mrs. Lee Hutchens, Mr. Kevin Harcourt, Mr. and Mrs. Sloan Flournoy, Sr., and Mr. and Mrs. Len Sexton. In memory of Mrs. Frances McCluskey by the New Beginnings UMW, Mr. and Mrs. Claude G. Scarbrough III, Mr. and Mrs. Bill Buck, Mr. and Mrs. Larry Harper, Robinson Grimes & Company, P.C., Dr. and Mrs. Charles Scarborough, Mr. and Mrs. George Mize, Mr. and Mrs. Daniel Lowery, Mr. and Mrs. John Shinkle, Mr. and Mrs. Steve Butler, and Mr. and Mrs. Carl Porter. In memory of Mr. George Adams by Wade and Elizabeth Perry, Mr. and Mrs. William White, Ms. Allison Biggers Gardner, and Mr. and Mrs. Bob David. In memory of Mrs. Frances McCluskey and in honor of Mrs. Mary Pat Beckum by Mrs. Loraine Stewart.

Food Pantry: In memory of Mr. George Adams by Mr. Billy Cunningham and Mrs. Peggy Gindville. In memory of Mrs. Frances McCluskey and Mr. Bill Moorer by Mrs. Kathy Riley. In honor of Bill and Ann McWhirter by Mrs. Ruth Laney.

Respite Care: In memory of Mrs. Frances McCluskey by Mr. and Mrs. Mike Duncan. In honor of Mrs. Ingrid Griffin by Mrs. Annette Pollock.

Music Scholarship Fund: In honor of Joyce and Henry Schwob by Ms. Jeanne P. Robinson. In memory of Mr. Sonny Ward, Mrs. Jane Paul, Mr. Dick Jones and Mrs. Gladys Pitts by Mrs. Janice Sigmund.

Music Fund: In honor of the ministers and staff of St. Luke by Mr. and Mrs. Win Fowler.

Preschool Fund: In memory of Mrs. Frances McCluskey by Mr. and Mrs. Larry King.

Samaritan Fund: In memory of Mrs. Frances McCluskey by Mr. and Mrs. Doyle Register.

Naomi's Village: In memory of Mrs. Frances McCluskey by Ms. Julie King.



BEFORE ENTRY PLEASE FOLLOW THESE PROCEDURES

1. **SANITIZE** YOUR HANDS USING THE PROVIDED SANITIZING SOLUTION.
 2. PUT ON A PROVIDED **FACE MASK** (IF YOU ARE ALREADY WEARING A PERSONAL FACE MASK THAT WILL SUFFICE).
 3. HAVE YOUR **TEMPERATURE TAKEN** BY THE RECEPTIONIST WITH A "TOUCHLESS" THERMOMETER.
 - A **TEMPERATURE OF 100.3 OR LOWER** IS REQUIRED FOR ENTRY INTO THE BUILDING.
 4. MAINTAIN A **PHYSICAL DISTANCE** OF AT LEAST 6 FEET OF ALL PERSONS NOT LIVING IN YOUR IMMEDIATE HOUSEHOLD.
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THE CORNER

Jonathan and Lisa Moore, Directors of Student Ministries, jmoore@stlukeum.com



5:00 PM — 6:30 PM

Meet in Large Dining Room
Move to the gym for small groups



6:30 PM — 8:00 PM

Meet in Large Dining Room
