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November 29, 2020

Volume 56

Advent Begins This Sunday, November 29

The Season of Advent begins with the fourth Sunday before Christmas. In keeping with the Church Year Calendar, this Sunday is the first day of a new year when it comes to keeping time with the gospel. The word “Advent” means “coming” and refers to Jesus’ coming into this world on Christmas Day. Throughout Advent, we will prepare to celebrate the coming of Jesus into the world and receive Him anew into our hearts.



But there is another side to Advent. As our Lord came once in Bethlehem, He will come again. As there was a first Advent there will also be a second. We do not know the day or the hour, but Jesus was very specific about it---someday, in God’s time, Jesus will come again to have the final word on the meaning of our lives in this world. Advent has, therefore a double significance. It is a time to look backward and remember the birth of our Savior. It is also a time to look forward and anticipate the coming of Christ our Lord and king.

If ever there was a year we needed Advent, this is the year. We hardly know how to describe the year we have lived through and the challenges still before us. We hesitate to reflect on all the mess around us in 2020. All we know is that nothing seems right, nothing seems like it used to be, nothing. We need Advent! In the four weeks leading to Christmas, we will be lighting our Advent wreath in worship and celebrating God’s coming to us in Jesus in whom our **HOPE** is fulfilled, our **PEACE** is sealed, our **JOY** is completed, and our **LOVE** is consummated.

As we worship our Lord Jesus in these weeks, recalling His first coming and looking forward to His second coming, let us also be attentive to His “present coming” in the midst of this challenging year. As Max Lucado has written, “The One who came still comes. The One who spoke still speaks...” May the Lord use this season of Advent worship to draw you and your family closer to Him, that you may know His presence, and hear His voice in a fresh, life-giving way.

When the world is at its worst, God calls the Church to be at its best: “For the glory of the Lord will be revealed, and all people will see it together. For the mouth of the Lord has spoken.” *Isaiah 40:4*


Robert Beckum, Senior Pastor
rbeckum@stlukeum.com

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.

November 29, 2020
8:30 a.m. & 11:00 a.m.

First Sunday of Advent

Prelude..... “Come, Thou Long Expected Jesus”arr. Paul Mickelson

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

Hymn..... “Come, Thou Long Expected Jesus”Dr. Marc Boensel

Lighting of the Advent Wreath....(8:30 a.m.) The Ruehl Family: Cliff, Christy, Maxwell & Henry
(11:00 a.m.) The Deal Family: Patrick, Jennifer, Kate & Emily

Congregation’s Sung Reponse

Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel

Anthem (*Chancel Choir*)..... “In the Shadows of Our Waiting”Joseph Martin

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.

Choral Prayer Response “Dresden Amen” Johann Naumann

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

Hymn..... “I Know Whom I Have Believed”Dr. Boensel

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

**Lord, open our hearts and minds
by the power of your Holy Spirit,
that, as the Scriptures are read
and your Word proclaimed,
we may hear with joy what you say to us today. Amen.**

The Written Word.....Isaiah 64:1-8; Psalm 80:1-7; 17-19

The Spoken Word..... “HOPE”Rev. Beckum

An Advent Affirmation

We believe that Jesus is the Son of God. He was born of the Virgin Mary in Bethlehem of Judea. He was the long-awaited Messiah whose coming was prophesied. The same Jesus lives today in our hearts. He deserves our highest loyalty and total commitment. In this same Jesus, our HOPE is fulfilled. AMEN

Hymn..... “Just As I Am, Without One Plea”Dr. Boensel

The Benediction.....Rev. Beckum

Choral Benediction Response (*11:00 a.m.*)..... “Come, Emmanuel”Marc Boensel

Postlude (Ken Bailey)..... “Veni Emmanuel”Improvisation

** Music Box

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*

COME, THOU LONG EXPECTED JESUS

Come, thou long expected Jesus, born to set thy people free;
from our fears and sins release us, let us find our rest in thee.
Israel's strength and consolation, hope of all the earth thou art;
dear desire of every nation, joy of every longing heart.

Born thy people to deliver, born a child and yet a king,
born to reign in us forever, now thy gracious kingdom bring.
By thine own eternal spirit rule in all our hearts alone;
by thine own sufficient merit, raise us to thy glorious throne.

I KNOW WHOM I HAVE BELIEVED

I know not why God's wondrous grace to me he hath made known,
nor why, unworthy, Christ in love redeemed me for his own.

Refrain

But I know whom I have believed, and am persuaded that he is able
to keep that which I've committed unto him against that day.

I know not how this saving faith to me he did impart,
nor how believing in his word wrought peace within my heart. **Refrain**

I know not how the Spirit moves, convincing us of sin,
revealing Jesus through the word, creating faith in him. **Refrain**

I know not when my Lord may come, at night or noontide fair,
nor if all walk the vale with him, or meet him in the air. **Refrain**

JUST AS I AM, WITHOUT ONE PLEA

Just as I am, without one plea, but that thy blood was shed for me,
and that thou bidst me come to thee, O Lamb of God, I come, I come.

Just as I am, and waiting not to rid my soul of one dark blot,
to thee whose blood can cleanse each spot, O Lamb of God, I come, I come.

Just as I am, though tossed about with many a conflict, many a doubt,
fightings and fears within, without, O Lamb of God, I come, I come.

Just as I am, poor, wretched, blind; sight, riches, healing of the mind,
yea, all I need in thee to find, O Lamb of God, I come, I come.

Just as I am, thou wilt receive, wilt welcome, pardon, cleanse, relieve,
because thy promise I believe, O Lamb of God, I come, I come.

Just as I am, thy love unknown hath broken every barrier down;
now, to be thine, yea, thine alone, O Lamb of God, I come, I come.

Permit

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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: "In the shadows of our waiting, in the stillness of our night, in the shadows, we are listening for the music of your light. Now into our fragile longing, we lift our voice and we pray. Come, O come, Emanuel, come sing into our lives today. In the quiet of our worship, in the whisper of our prayers. Lord, we are yearning for assurance, and new hope for our despair. With each candle's golden flicker, we cry to you in faith. Come, O come, Emanuel, come heal our wounded heart today. Come, Promised One! Come, and fill this place. How we long for your embrace, come live in our praise! (Come, Lord Jesus) In the rising of our spirits, in the beauty of your love. (Come, Messiah) We find mercy, we find comfort, strength to lift our eyes above. Now we see your star before us, teach us to follow and obey. Come, O come, Emanuel, come shine upon our world today. Come sing into our night. Come heal our wounded hearts. Come shine upon our world today."

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 honor of Mrs. Joan S. Dickson on the occasion of her 90th birthday with love from her children, grandchildren, and great-grandchildren.

CHRISTIAN LOVE AND SYMPATHY: To Mr. and Mrs. Anton (Melissa) Fish and family in the death of his father, Mr. Glenn Fish, on November 23, 2020, Phenix City, AL.

CRADLE ROLL: Captain and Mrs. Joseph (Adrienne) Di Pietro announce the birth of a daughter, Catherine Marea Di Pietro, November 15, 2020, Columbus, GA.

Mr. and Mrs. Matthew (Millie) Martin announce the birth of a son, Lewis Brunson Martin, November 16, 2020, in Atlanta, GA. Proud grandparents are Mr. and Mrs. Brad (Sally) Turner.

Mr. and Mrs. David (Sallie) Lassen, announce the birth of a daughter, Rosemary "Romy" Joan Lassen, on November 22, 2020, Brooklyn, NY. Proud grandparents are Mr. and Mrs. George (Genie) Mize.

Roses have been placed in the chancel area in their honor.

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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CHILDREN'S MINISTRY

mhubbard@stlukeum.com www.cornerkidz.com

All aboard!!! On Saturday December 5th, St. Luke Children's Ministry, together with The Darby Project, is pleased to bring you *The Polar Express*! There will be two free showings of this holiday classic, one at 5:30 p.m. and the second at 8:00 p.m. Space is limited and registration is required so be sure to visit www.cornerkidz.com to reserve your spot today!



Calling all 4th and 5th graders! Join us December 13th for a Nativity Escape Room. We'll decorate cookies, dine together and then compete to be the first to solve the ciphers and crack the code. Due to the nature of the activities planned, I do need an accurate headcount. Email me at mhubbard@stlukeum.com by December 9th to reserve your spot.

Save the Date! On Sunday, December 20th from 5-7 PM, Children's Ministry will bring the nativity to life. Plan to drive by the church sanctuary that evening for what is sure to be a memorable and meaningful way to begin Christmas week.

Christmas Week Schedule at St. Luke

In order to assure space availability we ask you to register by calling the church at 706-327-4343 or at www.saintlukecolumbus.org

December 20	5-7:00 p.m.	Live Nativity
December 21	7:00 p.m.	Candlelight Communion (Sanctuary)
December 22	5:00 p.m.	Candles and Communion (Ministry Center)
	7:00 p.m.	Candlelight Communion (Sanctuary)
December 23	5:00 p.m.	Candles and Communion (Ministry Center)
	7:00 p.m.	Candlelight Communion (Sanctuary)
December 24	11:00 a.m.	Communion (Sanctuary)
	1-2:00 p.m.	Drive-Thru Communion (Church parking lot, main office entrance)
	3:00 p.m.	Communion (Sanctuary)
	5:00 p.m.	Candles and Communion (Ministry Center)
	7:00 p.m.	Candlelight Communion (Sanctuary)

11:00 p.m. *St. Luke Christmas Eve pre-recorded Broadcast,*
www.stlukeum.com, WTVM Channel 9

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.

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.

Music Fund: In memory of Mr. Jens Sturup, Mr. Bill Montgomery, Ms. Carol Leach, and Mrs. Virginia Whisnant by Mr. and Mrs. Ben Holton.

Memorial Maintenance Fund: In memory of George and Franke Adams by Ms. Susan Binns. In memory of Mr. Larry Neal by Mr. and Mrs. Chip Naramore.

New Beginnings Circle: In memory of Mrs. Frances McCluskey by Mrs. Jeanne P. Robinson.

Samaritan Fund: In memory of Mr. Bill Montgomery by Mr. and Mrs. Rick Anthony and Mr. and Mrs. Doyle Register.

Food Pantry: In memory of Mr. Richard Crozier Watkins by Mr. and Mrs. James D. Pate.



Free Spirits Christmas Extravaganza

Join us for the 2020 VIRTUAL Extravaganza

Tuesday, December 1 at 12:00 Noon

Questions? Call Kym at 706-327-4343

<https://video.ibm.com/channel/st-luke-united-methodist-church>



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.**

BULLETIN COMING LATE?

We have heard from many of you that the weekly bulletin is coming late. Unfortunately we are unable to control when the post office delivers the mailed bulletin. We know this is frustrating but please know we are doing all we can on our end to avoid these delays. If you have access to email or internet, we encourage you to sign up for the emailed bulletin. Or you can view it on our website each week. It is posted to the website and emailed on Thursday afternoons. If you do not receive the bulletin by email already, please contact Maggie at 706-327-4343 or maggie@stlukeum.com to make sure we have your correct email address.



THE CORNER

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



We are still selling our incredible new Corner and Crosswalk merch!
Grab yours TODAY!

CORNER AND CROSSWALK UPCOMING DATES!

November 29- **BONFIRE!** 5pm-8pm. This event is for middle school and high school students. Make sure to bring a blanket and a chair and come ready to eat, worship, and have a blast! Address will be sent via email. We hope to see you there!!!

December 11-12- **Leadership Retreat!**

December 13- **Corner and Crosswalk Christmas parties!**