



Candlelight Communion

Christmas Eve | December 24, 2024

5:00 PM | Chapel



Saint Luke's Parish
Darien, Connecticut

Welcome!

Whoever you are and wherever you may be on your spiritual journey, we are so glad you have joined us for worship tonight. Everything you need to participate in tonight's service is included in this leaflet. Ushers are available to answer any questions or direct you as needed. May you know the presence of the living God who welcomes you here.



In an effort to make this a positive worship experience for every member of the family, please note the following:

- The restroom is located across the hall from the Chapel.
- Childcare is available for children ages 0-3 years old in the Education Building.
- Children are always welcome in worship! But if you need to step out for a quick break, The Taylor Room, across the hall from the Chapel, is a great place to take a quick break or change a diaper.

If this is your first time with us, we invite you to complete and return a welcome card (in the Pews or through the QR code below) so we can be in touch.



Fill out a Welcome Card on our website.



Thank you for joining us for worship and to celebrate
the beauty of Christmas Eve here at Saint Luke's.

Merry Christmas!

The Feast of the Nativity of our Lord Jesus Christ

Opening Voluntary

Hymn in Procession

Sung by all, standing.

O come, all ye faithful, joyful and triumphant,
O come ye, O come ye, to Bethlehem;
come, and behold him, born the King of angels;
O come, let us adore him, O come let us adore him,
O come, let us adore him, Christ, the Lord.

Sing, choirs of angels, sing in exultation,
sing, all ye citizens of heaven above;
glory to God, Glory in the highest; *Refrain*

Yea, Lord, we greet thee, born this happy morning;
Jesus, to thee be glory given:
Word of the Father, now in flesh appearing. *Refrain*

Text: John Francis Wade (1711-1786); tr. Frederick Oakeley (1802-1880) and others
Music: *Adeste fideles*, present form of melody att. John Francis Wade (1711-1786); harm. *The English Hymnal*, 1906

The Word of God

Opening Acclamation

Celebrant

Behold, I bring you good news of great joy, which will be for all people. For unto you is born this day in the city of David, a Savior, who is Christ the Lord.

People

Blessed be God: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.
And blessed be God's kingdom, now and forever. Amen.

The Collect for Purity

All

Almighty God, to you all hearts are open, all desires known, and from you no secrets are hid:
Cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit, that we may
perfectly love you, and worthily magnify your holy Name; through Christ our Lord. Amen.

Song of Praise

Sung by all.

Angels we have heard on high,
singing sweetly through the night,
and the mountains in reply
echoing their brave delight.
Gloria in excelsis Deo.

Text: French carol; tr. James Chadwick (1813–1882), alt.
Music: *Gloria*, French carol; arr. Edward Shippen Barnes (1887–1958)

The Collect of the Day

Celebrant The Lord be with you.
People **And also with you.**
Celebrant Let us pray.

O God, you make us glad by the yearly festival of the birth of your only Son Jesus Christ: Grant that we, who joyfully receive him as our Redeemer, may with sure confidence behold him when he comes to be our Judge; who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

Please be seated.

The First Lesson | Isaiah 9:2-7

The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light; those who lived in a land of deep darkness—on them light has shined. You have multiplied the nation, you have increased its joy; they rejoice before you as with joy at the harvest, as people exult when dividing plunder. For the yoke of their burden, and the bar across their shoulders, the rod of their oppressor, you have broken as on the day of Midian. For all the boots of the tramping warriors and all the garments rolled in blood shall be burned as fuel for the fire. For a child has been born for us, a son given to us; authority rests upon his shoulders; and he is named Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace. His authority shall grow continually, and there shall be endless peace for the throne of David and his kingdom. He will establish and uphold it with justice and with righteousness from this time onward and forevermore. The zeal of the Lord of hosts will do this.

Reader The Word of the Lord
People **Thanks be to God.**

Hymn at the Sequence *Sung by all, standing.*

O little town of Bethlehem,
How still we see thee lie!
Above thy deep and dreamless sleep
The silent stars go by.
Yet in thy dark streets shineth
The everlasting Light;
The hopes and fears of all the years
Are met in thee tonight.

For Christ is born of Mary
And gathered all above,
While mortals sleep the Angels keep
Their watch of wondering love.
O morning stars, together
Proclaim the holy birth!
And praises sing to God the King,
And peace to men on earth.

Text: Phillips Brooks (1835-1893)
Music: *St. Louis*, Lewis H. Redner (1831-1908)

The Gospel | Luke 2:1-20

Deacon The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Luke.
People **Glory to you, Lord Christ.**

In those days a decree went out from Emperor Augustus that all the world should be registered. This was the first registration and was taken while Quirinius was governor of Syria. All went to their own towns to be registered. Joseph also went from the town of Nazareth in Galilee to Judea, to the city of David called Bethlehem, because he was descended from the house and family of David. He went to be registered with Mary, to whom he was engaged and who was expecting a child. While they were there, the time came for her to deliver her child. And she gave birth to her firstborn son and wrapped him in bands of cloth, and laid him in a manger, because there was no place for them in the inn.

In that region there were shepherds living in the fields, keeping watch over their flock by night. Then, an angel of the Lord stood before them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. But the angel said to them, “Do not be afraid; for see—I am bringing you good news of great joy for all the people: to you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is the Messiah, the Lord. This will be a sign for you: you will find a child wrapped in bands of cloth and lying in a manger.” And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host, praising God and saying, “Glory to God in the highest heaven, and on earth peace among those whom he favors!”

When the angels had left them and gone into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, “Let us go now to Bethlehem and see this thing that has taken place, which the Lord has made known to us.” So they went with haste and found Mary and Joseph, and the child lying in the manger. When they saw this, they made known what had been told them about this child; and all who heard it were amazed at what the shepherds told them. But Mary treasured all these words and pondered them in her heart. The shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen, as it had been told them.

Deacon The Gospel of the Lord.
People **Praise to you, Lord Christ.**

The Sermon

The Rev. Susan C. Wyper

The Nicene Creed

Said by all, standing.

We believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty, maker of heaven and earth, of all that is, seen and unseen.

We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only Son of God, eternally begotten of the Father, God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God, begotten, not made, of one Being with the Father. Through him all things were made. For us and for our salvation he came down from heaven: by the power of the Holy Spirit he became incarnate from the Virgin Mary, and was made man. For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate; he suffered death and was buried. On the third day he rose again in accordance with the Scriptures; he ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead, and his kingdom will have no end.

We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son. With the Father and the Son he is worshiped and glorified. He has spoken through the Prophets. We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic Church. We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins. We look for the resurrection of the dead, and the life of the world to come. Amen.

The Prayers of the People

Deacon In peace, let us pray to the Lord.

A period of silence is kept.

Leader Jesus, whose mother was Mary: we pray for our families and friends, our neighbors, and all those we love.

People Lord, in your mercy,
Hear our prayer.

Leader Jesus, cradled in a manger: we pray for those who don't have food or shelter this winter, and ask that you will give us hearts to love and hands to serve.

People Lord, in your mercy,
Hear our prayer.

Leader Jesus, sharing the stable with the animals: you made everything that is and called it good; help us to take care of your creation.

People Lord, in your mercy,
Hear our prayer.

Leader Jesus, worshipped by shepherds and kings: we pray for people everywhere, and ask that there may be justice and peace on earth.

People Lord, in your mercy,
Hear our prayer.

Leader Jesus, our Emmanuel: you showed us that God is love, and that we are surrounded by God's love. Help us always to love one another.

People Lord, in your mercy,
Hear our prayer.

The Celebrant concludes the prayers with a collect

Almighty God, angels and shepherds worshipped your Son Jesus in a manger. Receive the worship we offer, and strengthen us to do your will, through him who is your Word made flesh, our Savior Jesus Christ.

People **Amen.**

The Peace *Please stand.*

Celebrant The peace of the Lord be always with you.
People **And also with you.**

The Clergy and People may greet one another in the name of the Lord.

Welcome and Announcements

The Holy Communion

Tonight's Christmas Offering supports Saint Luke's mission and outreach partners, here and around the world. Your gift helps feed, clothe, shelter, educate, refresh, and restore the minds, bodies, and spirits of those in need within our parish, in our community, and beyond.

To make an electronic gift today, please either visit www.saintlukesdarien.org/give or scan the QR code below with your smart phone's camera. Thank you for your generosity.



Offertory Sentence

Celebrant The glory of the Lord shall be revealed, and all flesh shall see it together.

-Isaiah 40:5

The Great Thanksgiving | Eucharistic Prayer B

Celebrant The Lord be with you.

People And also with you.

Celebrant Lift up your hearts.

People We lift them to the Lord.

Celebrant Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

People It is right to give God thanks and praise.

Celebrant It is right, and a good and joyful thing, always and everywhere to give thanks to you, Father Almighty, Creator of heaven and earth. Because you gave Jesus Christ, your only Son, to be born for us; who, by the mighty power of the Holy Spirit, was made perfect man of the flesh of the Virgin Mary his mother; so that we might be delivered from the bondage of sin, and receive power to become your children. Therefore we praise you, joining our voices with Angels and Archangels and with all the company of heaven, who forever sing this hymn to proclaim the glory of your Name:

People Holy, holy, holy Lord,
God and power and might,
heaven and earth are full of your glory.
Hosanna in the highest.
Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.
Hosanna in the highest.

The people stand or kneel as the Celebrant continues

We give thanks to you, O God, for the goodness and love which you have made known to us in creation; in the calling of Israel to be your people; in your Word spoken through the prophets; and above all in the Word made flesh, Jesus, your Son. For in these last days you sent him to be incarnate from the Virgin Mary, to be the Savior and Redeemer of the world. In him, you have delivered us from evil, and made us worthy to stand before you. In him, you have brought us out of error into truth, out of sin into righteousness, out of death into life.

On the night before he died for us, our Lord Jesus Christ took bread; and when he had given thanks to you, he broke it, and gave it to his disciples, and said, "Take, eat: This is my Body, which is given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me."

After supper he took the cup of wine; and when he had given thanks, he gave it to them, and said, "Drink this, all of you: This is my Blood of the new Covenant, which is shed for you and for many for the forgiveness of sins. Whenever you drink it, do this for the remembrance of me."

Therefore, according to his command, O Father,

All

**We remember his death,
We proclaim his resurrection,
We await his coming in glory;**

Celebrant

And we offer our sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving to you, O Lord of all; presenting to you, from your creation, this bread and this wine.

We pray you, gracious God, to send your Holy Spirit upon these gifts that they may be the Sacrament of the Body of Christ and his Blood of the new Covenant. Unite us to your Son in his sacrifice, that we may be acceptable through him, being sanctified by the Holy Spirit. In the fullness of time, put all things in subjection under your Christ, and bring us to that heavenly country where, with the ever-blessed Virgin Mary, blessed Joseph, Luke, and all your saints, we may enter the everlasting heritage of your sons and daughters; through Jesus Christ our Lord, the firstborn of all creation, the head of the Church, and the author of our salvation.

By him, and with him, and in him, in the unity of the Holy Spirit all honor and glory is yours, Almighty Father, now and for ever.

All

AMEN.

Celebrant

And now as our Savior Christ has taught us, we are bold to say,

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 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,
 for ever and ever. Amen.**

The Breaking of the Bread

The Celebrant breaks the consecrated Bread. A period of silence is kept.

Celebrant

Alleluia. Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us.

People

Therefore, let us keep the feast. Alleluia.

The Invitation to Communion

Celebrant

The Gifts of God for the People of God.

All baptized Christians are invited to receive Holy Communion, regardless of age or denomination. Please come forward at the direction of the ushers. If you require a gluten-free wafer, please request one. If you wish to receive a blessing instead of Communion, please cross your arms over your chest.

Carol after Communion

Sung by all.

Silent night, holy night, all is calm,
all is bright round yon virgin mother and child.
Holy infant so tender and mild,
sleep in heavenly peace.
Sleep in heavenly peace.

Silent night, holy night, shepherds quake
at the sight, glories stream from heaven afar,
heavenly hosts sing alleluia;
Christ, the Savior, is born!
Christ, the Savior, is born!

Silent night, holy night, Son of God,
Love's pure light radiant beams from thy holy face,
with the dawn of redeeming grace,
Jesus, Lord at thy birth.
Jesus, Lord at thy birth.

Text: Joseph Mohr (1792-1848); tr. John Freeman Young (1820-1885)
Music: *Stille Nacht*, melody Franz Xaver Gruber (1787-1863); harm. Carl H. Reinecke (1824-1910)

The Postcommunion Prayer

Celebrant

Let us pray.

People

Eternal God, heavenly Father,
you have graciously accepted us as living members
of your Son our Savior Jesus Christ,
and you have fed us with spiritual food
in the Sacrament of his Body and Blood.
Send us now into the world in peace,
and grant us strength and courage
to love and serve you
with gladness and singleness of heart;
through Christ our Lord. Amen.

A Christmas Blessing

Celebrant

May Christ, who by his Incarnation gathered into one things earthly and heavenly, fill you with
his joy and peace; and the blessing of God Almighty, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, be
upon you and remain with you always. **Amen.**

Hymn in Procession

Sung by all, standing.

Hark! the herald angels sing
glory to the newborn King!
Peace on earth and mercy mild,
God and sinners reconciled!
Joyful, all ye nations, rise,
join the triumph of the skies;
with the angelic host proclaim
Christ is born in Bethlehem!
*Hark! the herald angels sing
glory to the newborn King!*

Christ, by highest heaven adored;
Christ, the everlasting Lord;
late in time behold him come,
offspring of the Virgin's womb.
Veiled in flesh the Godhead see;
hail the incarnate Deity.
Pleased as man with man to dwell;
Jesus, our Emmanuel! *Refrain*

Mild he lays his glory by,
born that we no more may die,
born to raise us from the earth,
born to give us second birth.
Risen with healing in his wings,
light and life to all he brings,
hail, the Sun of Righteousness!
hail, the heaven-born Prince of Peace! *Refrain*

Text: Charles Wesley (1707-1788), alt.

Music: Mendelssohn, Felix Mendelssohn (1809-1847); adapt. William H. Cummings (1831-1915)

The Dismissal

Deacon Let us go forth in the name of the newborn Christ.
People **Thanks be to God.**

Closing Voluntary

Participants in Today's Service

Celebrant & Preacher	The Rev. Susan C. Wyper
Lector	Win Courtemanche
Intercessor & Chalice bearer	Howard Courtemanche
Musician	Oak Martin
Ushers	Jay Maguire, Bill Cleary
Altar Guild Flowers	Lorna Young, Kinsey Ferguson, Anne Andreae The Saint Luke's Flower Guild
Cover Art	<i>Shepherds</i> , John August Swanson, 1985; from <i>Art in the Christian Tradition</i> , a project of the Vanderbilt Divinity Library, Nashville, TN

Saint Luke's Parish

A parish in the Episcopal Church in Connecticut,
a member of the world-wide Anglican Communion.

The Most Rev. Sean W. Rowe, Presiding Bishop

The Rt. Rev. Jeffrey W. Mello, Bishop of Connecticut

The Rt. Rev. Laura J. Ahrens, Bishop Suffragan

Rector

The Rev. Ryan C. Fleenor

2024-2025 Vestry

Michael Moore, *Senior Warden*

Lisa Baird, *Junior Warden*

Bill Bowman, *Treasurer*

Fred Elliott, *Clerk*

Class of 2025

Barclay Bowen
Mimi Griffith
Brian Van Elslander

Class of 2026

Al Briganti
Maggie Machir
Barbara May

Class of 2027

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Oak Martin

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Amy O'Kane

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The Rev. Hannah G. Pommersheim

Associate Rector

H. David Pulliam

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The Rev. Ansley E. Walker

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The Rev. Susan C. Wyper

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The Rev. Dawn Stegelmann

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Saint Luke's Parish

Grow

—

Love

—

Serve

Our Vision

A world transformed by the love of Jesus Christ for all people.

Our Mission

Living together as disciples of Christ, we seek to:

Grow personally in faith,
acknowledging our imperfection and need of grace;

Build an accepting & transforming community,
extending God's unconditional welcome to all;

Work alongside our neighbors,
forming partnerships to serve the world.

Let it begin with me.

Our Invitation

Grow in love of God.

Love your neighbor as yourself.

Serve the world in Christ's name.