

## Participants in Today's Service

Celebrant	The Rev. Derek J. Stefanovsky
Assisting Clergy	The Rev. Ryan C. Fleenor
Christmas Story	The Rev. Susan C. Wyper
Musicians	The Clergy and Staff of Saint Luke's Parish
Ushers	David Pulliam, Will Roslak
Altar Guild	Kip Hewitt, Craig Shiner, Peter Dressler, Marilyn Fahrman, Brendan Dickinson, Patrick Houlihan
Flowers	Tammy Sload, Sally Schlachtenhaufen, Kim Westcott
	The Saint Luke's Flower Guild



**Christmas Eve 2021  
3 PM Children's Service  
Saint Luke's Parish  
Darien, CT**



Saint Luke's Parish  
1864 Post Road  
Darien, CT 06820  
[www.saintlukesdarien.org](http://www.saintlukesdarien.org)

## Welcome to Saint Luke's!

*On this Christmas Eve, it is with great joy that we welcome you to Saint Luke's. If you are seeking a spiritual home, for yourself or your family, we would love for Saint Luke's to be that place.*

*Saint Luke's is a vibrant congregation—learning, growing, reaching out to serve the world. We offer superb programs for children and youth as we seek to minister to families. If you'd like more information, please fill out a Welcome card found in the pew rack and place it in the offering plate, or give it to an usher or one of the clergy as you leave. We'd love to know more about you, and tell you a little about Saint Luke's. Find us online at [www.saintlukesdarien.org](http://www.saintlukesdarien.org).*

*Please be aware that we expect a full congregation;  
the reserving of pews at today's services cannot be accommodated.*

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

- *Childcare is available for children ages 0-3 years old in the Education Building.*
- *The front cover of this bulletin is meant to be a coloring page. Crayons are in the Narthex.*
- *The Taylor Room, across the cloister and to the right, is a great place to take a quick break or change a diaper.*
- *Restrooms are located at the bottom of the Narthex stairs.*
- *This service is designed for our youngest parishioners. Please feel comfortable to wiggle, giggle, squirm and scream as much as is needed. All are welcome here!*

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

***Merry Christmas!***

### Carol    *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.

### A Christmas Blessing

May Jesus Christ, who came as a baby to show us God's love, fill you with hope, joy, and peace. **Amen.**

And may God the Father, God the Son, and God the Holy Spirit, bless you and keep you, this day and forever more. **Amen.**

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

### Carol    *Sung by all.*

**Refrain:**  
Go, tell it on the mountain  
Over the hills and everywhere  
Go, tell it on the mountain  
That Jesus Christ is born.  
The shepherds feared and trembled  
When, lo! Above the Earth  
Rang out the angel chorus  
That hailed our Savior's birth. *Refrain.*

While shepherds kept their watching  
O'er silent flocks by night  
Behold throughout the heavens  
There shone a Holy light. *Refrain.*  
Down in a lowly manger  
Our humble Christ was born  
And brought us all salvation  
That blessed Christmas morn. *Refrain.*

All this we ask through your Son Jesus Christ. By him, and with him, and in him, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, all honor and glory is yours, Almighty God, now and for ever.

AMEN.

### 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.*

Alleluia. Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us.  
Therefore let us keep the feast. Alleluia.

### The Invitation to Communion

The Gifts of God for the People of God.

*At the direction of the ushers, please come forward to receive Christ's Real Presence in the sacrament of Holy Communion. Communion will be administered in one kind (only the consecrated Bread) due to COVID precautions. 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.*

### The Postcommunion Prayer

Let us pray.

Loving God, you give us everything. We thank you for feeding us with this Bread and Wine, and for sending your Son to show us your love. Help us now to go from here and make that love known to everyone we meet in this Christmas season. Through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

### Rector's Welcome

Opening Carol *Sung by all.*

*Gloria*

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

*Gloria in excelsis Deo. Gloria in excelsis Deo.*

Shepherds, why this jubilee? Why these songs of happy cheer?  
What great brightness did you see? What glad tidings did you hear?  
*Gloria in excelsis Deo. Gloria in excelsis Deo.*

### Opening Acclamation

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

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

### A Prayer for Christmas

Let us pray.

O God, we are happy to come together again to celebrate Jesus' birth. We pray that all of us who know the joy of Christmas today, may live in its peace and spread Christ's love throughout the whole year. We pray this in the name of your son, Jesus Christ. Amen.

### The Christmas Story

Carol *Sung by all.*

Away in a manger, no crib for his bed,  
The little Lord Jesus laid down his sweet head;  
The stars in the sky looked down where he lay,  
The little Lord Jesus, asleep in the hay.

### The Peace *Standing.*

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

*All of God's people greet one another in the name of the Lord.*

## 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](http://www.saintlukesdarien.org/give) or scan the QR code below with your smart phone's camera. Thank you for your generosity.*



### Offertory Hymn

*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;

*Refrain: O come, let us adore him, (x8) Christ the Lord.*

God from God, Light from Light eternal,  
lo! he abhors not the Virgin's womb;  
only-begotten Son of the Father; *Refrain*

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

See how the shepherds, summoned to his cradle,  
leaving their flocks, draw nigh to gaze;  
we too will thither bend our joyful footsteps; *Refrain*

Child, for us sinners poor and in the manger,  
we would embrace thee, with love and awe;  
who would not love thee, loving us so dearly? *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*

## The Great Thanksgiving

The Lord be with you.  
**And also with you.**

Lift up your hearts  
**We lift them to the Lord!**

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.  
**It is right to give God thanks and praise.**

It is right, and a good and joyful thing, O God, to give you thanks and praise. You made the whole world and each one of us. We thank you for all that is good and beautiful. We thank you for loving each one of us. We thank you for being with us always. And so we sing this song to praise your Name:

**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.**

Holy God, you loved us so much that you sent your only Son, Jesus, to be born of Mary and live on earth among us. He taught everyone a better way to live. He fed the hungry, healed the sick, welcomed strangers, and forgave those who had done bad things. Dying on the cross, he saved us from our sins. Rising from the dead, he gives us new life. And he is with us always.

On the night before he died, Jesus shared a meal with his friends. He took a loaf of bread, blessed it, and gave it to his friends, saying: "Take, eat. This is my Body, given for you. Do this to remember me."

Then Jesus took a cup of wine and said, "Drink this, all of you. This is my blood, poured out for you and for all people, to forgive your sins. Do this to remember me."

And so, every time we come together at this table, we remember Jesus, and the way he feeds all of his friends.

Great is the mystery of faith.

**Christ has died.  
Christ is risen.  
Christ will come again.**

Dear God, we pray you to send your Holy Spirit upon us and upon this bread and wine. May they be for us the Body and Blood of Jesus Christ. We ask you to bless us too, so that we can become Jesus' hands and feet and heart for each other. Help us love one another as you have loved us. And help us remember that you are with us always.