



Come As You Are Eucharist

Christmas Eve | December 24, 2024

3:00 PM

Saint Luke's Parish
Darien, Connecticut

Merry Christmas!

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 all generations. If you'd like more information, please fill out a Welcome card using the QR code below. We'd love to know more about you, and tell you a little about Saint Luke's.

Everything you need to participate in today's service is included in this leaflet. Thank you for joining us for worship this Christmas!



Fill out a Welcome Card on our website.

The Feast of the Nativity of our Lord Jesus Christ

Prelude "O Little Town of Bethlehem"

Welcome

"O Come All Ye Faithful"

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, O come let us adore him,
O come, let us adore him, 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]

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

Welcome to visitors and members alike. Our church's motto is: "The Episcopal Church Welcomes You" and we hope you find this a most hospitable place to worship, to grow, and to be.

The order for our service is from the **Book of Common Prayer**. The order is called the liturgy, which means "work of the people." It is responsive and participatory because your contribution to worship is what truly makes us a worshiping community.

"O Come All Ye Faithful"
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Opening Acclamation & Collect of the Day

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.

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

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

The Word of God

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.

The Word of the Lord
Thanks be to God.

“Angels We Have Heard On High”

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

Refrain:

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? [Refrain]

Come to Bethlehem and see
him whose birth the angels sing;
come, adore on bended knee
Christ, the Lord, the newborn King. [Refrain]

See him in a manger laid,
whom the angels praise above;
Mary, Joseph, lend your aid,
while we raise our hearts in love. [Refrain]

The Gospel | Luke 2:1-20

The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Luke.
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.

The Lectionary: The choice of readings comes from the Revised Common Lectionary, a three-year cycle of readings covering the whole Bible that we share with other major Christian denominations.

“Angels We Have Heard On High”
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There is always a **Gospel** reading and it is proclaimed by the deacon or priest from among the people. The gospel is the story of Jesus Christ among us, but it is also our story, the good news of our faith.

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.

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

The Homily

The Rev. Susan C. Wyper

“Joy to the World”

Joy to the world! the Lord is come:
let earth receive her King;
let every heart prepare him room,
and heaven and nature sing.

Joy to the world! the Savior reigns;
let us our songs employ,
while fields and floods, rocks, hills and plains,
repeat the sounding joy.

No more let sins and sorrows grow,
nor thorns infest the ground;
he comes to make his blessings flow
far as the curse is found.

He rules the world with truth and grace,
and makes the nations prove
the glories of his righteousness,
and wonders of his love.

The Prayers of the People

In peace let us pray to the Lord.

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

Lord, in your mercy,
Hear our prayer.

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.

Lord, in your mercy,
Hear our prayer.

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

Lord, in your mercy,
Hear our prayer.

“Joy to the World”
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The **prayers of the people** are always responsive. They are “of the people” because everyone gives voice to the supplications. It is part of our liturgy where it is most evident that we would be noticeably less without the contribution of each person present.

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

Lord, in your mercy,
Hear our prayer.

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.

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. **Amen.**

The Peace

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

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

Welcome and Announcements

The Holy Communion

Today'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

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

-Isaiah 40:5

Offertory Song “O Holy Night”

The Great Thanksgiving | Eucharistic Prayer B

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, 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

The Peace has been exchanged at the Eucharist since the time of the Apostles. It is both the proper response to the Word, and our expression of reconciliation with one another before we come to the altar to be reconciled with God.

The Offertory is where we bring our gifts of bread, wine, money, and our very selves to present to the Lord as our initial act of Thanksgiving, which is what Eucharist means.

For Episcopalians, the Eucharist, rather than the sermon, is the principle act of Christian worship. The Eucharistic prayer always entails a full proclamation of the heart of the Gospel.

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 for ever sing this hymn to proclaim the glory of your Name:

Sanctus & Benedictus

Sung by all.

Grayson Warren Brown



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,

We remember his death,

We proclaim his resurrection,

We await his coming in glory;

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 John the Baptist, blessed 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.

AMEN.

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.

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

Invitation to Communion

The Table is ready. So, come, you who have much faith and you who would like to have more; you who have been here often and you who have not been for a long time; you who have tried to follow Jesus, and you who have fallen short. Come, because it is Christ who invites you to meet him here.

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. After receiving communion, you are welcome to light a candle at the table in back as a symbol of your prayer.

Communion Song

“Silent Night”

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,
heav'nly hosts sing, “Alleluia!
Christ the Savior is born!
Christ the Savior is born!”

“Light of the World”

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!

Silent night! Holy night!
Wondrous star, lend thy light;
with the angels let us sing
"Alleluia" to our King:
“Christ the Savior is born!
Christ the Savior is born.”

The Lord's Prayer is the prayer that Jesus gave to his followers when they asked him to teach them to pray. It is a form on which we can model our prayers.

The Eucharist, or **Communion**, is reminiscent of the Passover meal that Jesus shared with his disciples before his death. Now he shares it with us and invites all of us to share symbolically in his life, death, and resurrection, through it. It should remind us that we are Christ's body in our time.

“Silent Night”
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Postcommunion Prayer

Let us pray.

**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.**

The Postcommunion Prayer concludes the Eucharist. In it we always say "thank you" to God for the gift of Christ, the Spirit, and the community of the Church.

A Christmas Blessing

May Almighty God, who sent his Son to take our nature upon him, bless you in this holy season, scatter the darkness of sin, and brighten your heart with the light of his holiness. **Amen.**

May God, who sent his angels to proclaim the glad news of the Savior's birth, fill you with joy, and make you heralds of the Gospel. **Amen.**

May God, who in the Word made flesh joined heaven to earth and earth to heaven, give you his peace and favor. **Amen.**

And the blessing of God Almighty, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, be upon you and remain with you for ever. **Amen.**

"Hark the Herald Angels Sing"

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 th'angelic hosts proclaim,
"Christ is born in Bethlehem!"

Hail the heaven-born Prince of Peace!
Hail the Sun of Righteousness!
Light and life to all he brings,
risen with healing in his wings.
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. [Refrain]

"Hark the Herald Angels Sing"
CCLI License # 11394986

Refrain:

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 th'incarnate Deity,
pleased with us in flesh to dwell,
Jesus, our Immanuel. [Refrain]

The Dismissal

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

The Dismissal is an important part of the service. Having heard the gospel and been served at the table of Christ, we are sent out into the world to proclaim the good news and be Christ's hands and feet on earth.

Participants in Today's Service

Celebrant	The Rev. G. Hartwell Hylton
Preacher	The Rev. Susan C. Wyper
Lay Reader	Porter Bowman
Intercessor	David Johnson
Ushers	Fred Elliott, Trez Moore
Altar Guild	The CAYA Altar Guild
Flowers	The Saint Luke's Flower Guild
Musicians	Tod Baharian, Guitar, Vocals Tom Diehl, Percussion Tod Hedrick, Bass Anna Jacobson, Vocals Bob Leinbach, Keyboards, Vocals

Prayer List

(Current as of printing on 12/16/2024)

For the Church

In our Anglican cycle of prayer, we pray for The Church of the Province of Uganda.

In our Diocese, we pray for St. Luke/St. Paul, Bridgeport; St. John's, Bridgeport; St. Mark's, Bridgeport. We pray for the children of the world, the Bishops' Fund for Children, and all ECCT ministries for children at risk.

In our parish cycle of prayer, we give thanks for all who make our worship possible, including musicians, ushers, readers, acolytes, lay assistants, altar guild and flower guild members.

Those who have requested our prayers

For members and friends of the parish who are sick, sorrowful, or in any kind of trouble: Charlie, Cody, Lauren, Anne, Foster, Joel, Nathan, Desi, Mary, Parker, Chloe, Richard, Christian, George, David, Joleen, Pat, Quay, Elizabeth, Jim, Michael, Melissa, Debbie, Anne, Patty, Sophie, Ronnie, Karen, Fred, Steven, Tim and his children, Bill, London, Anna, Amanda, and Samantha.

In our Outreach cycle of prayer, we pray for all our Outreach Partners: Community Supper, Person to Person, Pacific House, Future 5, Laundry Love, Homefront, and Cuba.

In Thanksgiving

For all those who made 2024 and 2025 financial commitments to support the mission and ministry of Saint Luke's.

Those who have died

All whom we love but see no more, especially those in whose memory this space is tonight adorned.

All those killed in civil and military conflict around the world, especially in the Holy Land and Ukraine.

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*

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Mimi Griffith
Brian Van Elslander

Class of 2026
Al Briganti
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Associate Rector

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Seminarian Intern

Kelly Wheeler
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Oak Martin
Associate Organist

Ron Wilson
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The Rev. Susan C. Wyper
Pastoral Associate

The Rev. Hannah G. Pommersheim
Associate Rector

Priest Associates

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The Rev. G. Hartwell Hylton

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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.

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