



GLORY TO GOD
IN THE
HIGHEST
HEAVEN

AND ON EARTH
PEACE AMONG
THOSE WHOM
HE FAVORS!

To give light
to those
who sit in darkness
and in
the shadow
of death

Festal Eucharist

Christmas Eve | December 24, 2025

7:30 PM & 10:00 PM

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. Merry Christmas! May you know the presence of the living God who welcomes you here.



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.

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

- Restrooms are located at the bottom of the Narthex stairs and across the Cloister in the Education Building.
- Please be aware that we expect a full congregation; the reserving of pews at tonight's services cannot be accommodated.
- Children are always welcome in worship at Saint Luke's! But if you need to step out for a quick break, know that the service is broadcast into the Narthex.

If this is your first time with us, we invite you to complete and return a welcome card (either in the pew 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 tonight.

Merry Christmas!

Christmas Eve | December 24, 2025

The Feast of the Nativity of our Lord Jesus Christ

Music Before the Services

Carols for Harp

Wendy Kerner

Carols Sung by the Choir

Torches — John Joubert (1927-2019)

Unto Us a Son is Born — Sir David Willcocks (1919-2015)

In The Bleak Midwinter — Harold Darke (1888-1976)

Still, still, still — Norman Luboff (1917-1980)

Carols for Brass

Bryan McKinney, Tiago Linck, *Trumpets*

Susan Panny, *Horn*

Keith Green, *Trombone*

Benjamin Kauffman, *Tuba*

Rector's Welcome

Festal Eucharist

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.

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*

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.

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

1. 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.

2. 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.

3. How silently, how silently,
The wondrous gift is given!
So God imparts to human hearts
The blessings of his Heaven.
No ear may hear his coming,
But in this world of sin,
Where meek souls will receive him still,
The dear Christ enters in.

4. O holy Child of Bethlehem,
Descend to us, we pray;
Cast out our sin and enter in,
Be born in us today.
We hear the Christmas angels,
The great glad tidings tell;
O come to us, abide with us,
Our Lord Emmanuel!

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

The Gospel | Luke 2:1-20

Deacon
People

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.

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
People

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

The Sermon

The Reverend Ryan C. Fleenor

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 kneel and pray to the Lord.

After the people kneel, the Prayer Leader continues

Leader Father, in this holy night your Son was born among us, and Christians all over the world sing for joy; renew your Church and open our hearts that Christ may find in us a dwelling place prepared for himself.

People Lord, in your mercy,
Hear our prayer.

Leader In this holy night, the angels sang of "Peace on earth and good will among men." We pray for the leaders of this country and all in authority in the nations of the world, that they may work for peace and promote the well-being of all.

People Lord, in your mercy,
Hear our prayer.

Leader In this holy night, the shepherds found the Christ Child lying in a manger, with Blessed Mary and Joseph; bless our homes and families, and all those we love.

People Lord, in your mercy,
Hear our prayer.

Leader In this holy night, darkness is scattered with the light of Christ's presence; bring comfort to all who suffer, who grieve, or who are alone.

People Lord, in your mercy,
Hear our prayer.

Leader In this holy night, heaven is come down to earth, and earth is raised to heaven; keep in safety those who have died, especially those whom we love but see no more and those in whose loving memory the church is tonight adorned, and bring us all to the joys of heaven.

People Lord, in your mercy,
Hear our prayer.

The Celebrant concludes the prayers with a collect

People O God, you have caused this holy night to shine with the brightness of the true Light: Grant that we, who have known the mystery of that Light on earth, may also enjoy him perfectly in heaven; where with you and the Holy Spirit he lives and reigns, one God, in glory everlasting.
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

Sanctus and Benedictus

Sung by all.

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow - er and might,
heaven and earth are full of your glo - ry. Ho -
san - na in the high - est. Ho - san - na in the high - est.
Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Ho -
san - na in the high - est. Ho - san - na in the high - est.

Setting: From *A Community Mass*; Richard Proulx (1937-2010)

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.

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

**What child is this, who, laid to rest,
on Mary's lap is sleeping?
Whom angels greet with anthems sweet,
while shepherds watch are keeping?
This, this is Christ the King,
whom shepherds guard and angels sing;
haste, haste to bring him laud,
the babe, the son of Mary.**

Text: William Chatterton Dix (1837-1898)
Music: *Greensleeves*, English Melody; harm. *Christmas Carols New and Old*, 1871, alt.

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.*

Communion Anthem

Sung by the Choir.

O magnum mysterium,
et admirabile sacramentum,
ut animalia viderent Dominum natum,
iacentem in praesepio!
O beata virgo, cuius viscera
meruerunt portare
Dominum Christum.
Alleluia!

O great mystery,
and wonderful sacrament,
that animals should see the newborn Lord,
lying in a manger!
O blessed virgin, whose womb
was worthy to bear
the Lord Jesus Christ.
Alleluia!

Text: from Matins for Christmas Day
Music: Malcolm Archer (b. 1953)

Music During Communion

Wendy Kerner, *Harp*

During the singing of Silent Night, acolytes will light parishioners' hand-held candles.

Carol after Communion

Sung by all, kneeling.

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
People

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.**

A Christmas Blessing

Celebrant

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.**

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	The Rev. Ryan C. Fleenor
Assisting Clergy	The Rev. Hannah G. Pommersheim The Rev. Ansley E. Walker The Rev. Susan C. Wyper The Rev. G. Hartwell Hylton
Musicians	The Saint Luke's Parish Choir David Pulliam, Huw Jones Wendy Kerner, <i>Harp</i> Bryan McKinney, Tiago Linck, <i>Trumpets</i> Susan Panny, <i>Horn</i> Keith Green, <i>Trombone</i> Benjamin Kauffman, <i>Tuba</i> Hans Broecking, <i>Timpani</i>

**Thank you to those serving today as readers, greeters,
and members of the Altar and Flower Guilds.**

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About these Prayers

Saint Luke's is a community committed to prayer. Holding one another's joys, sorrows, and concerns before God in prayer is a spiritual practice at the heart of our life together. We encourage you to pray throughout the week for these members of our parish family.

We invite you to add yourself or others to the Saint Luke's prayer list by submitting a prayer request card or notifying the Parish Office at 203-655-1456 or info@saintlukesdarien.org.

Pastoral Visits

Please notify us if you or a family member is hospitalized and/or in need of a pastoral call or visit. We often have no other way of knowing a visit is needed. Please email a member of the clergy or call the Parish Office.

Sharing Holy Communion

If illness prevents you or a loved one from joining us for services, a priest or a lay eucharistic visitor can share Holy Communion with you at home or in a health care facility. Please contact the Parish Office.

Celebrations

If you would like to ask for prayers for the celebrations in your life or in the life of a loved one, please contact the Parish Office.

Flowers

The Flower Guild adorns the church with flowers and greens thanks to donations given in memory of loved ones or in thanksgiving for special occasions. The names are listed in the service bulletins. If you would like to make a gift of flowers, please contact Aynsley Joyce at aynsleyjoyce@gmail.com.

12 Step Groups

Saint Luke's hosts multiple 12 Step Recovery and Support groups, including AA, AlAnon, Alateen, and Fabulous Women of Wednesday. Call the Parish Office for meeting times, or see our online calendar.

Prayer List

Current Pastoral List 12/15/25

For the Church

In our Anglican cycle of prayer, we pray for The Anglican Church of Burundi.

In our Diocese, we pray for Calvary St. George's, Bridgeport; St. Luke/St. Paul, Bridgeport; St. John's, Bridgeport. The children of the world & 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, Nathan, Desi, Mary, Chloe, Christian, Quay, Elizabeth, Jim, Beth, Pete, Kerry, Chris, Ava, April, Ann, Jack, Bridgette, Jackie, Mari, Gaffney, Drayton, Robert, Ellen, Donna, Melissa, Patrick, Cooper, John, Dave, Julia, Kara.

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, Cuba, and Jerusalem.

In Thanksgiving

For all those who made 2025 and 2026 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 Church 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

2025-2026 Vestry

Beverly Kelsey, *Senior Warden* Bill Bowman, *Junior Warden* Eric Bickford, *Treasurer* Fred Elliott, *Clerk*

Class of 2026

Al Briganti
Whitney Creutz
Barbara May

Class of 2027

Eric Bickford
Victoria Bolton
Lida Ward

Class of 2028

Barclay Bowen
Bion Piepmeier
Tammy Sload

Assisting Clergy and Program Staff

Jodie Azzopardi
Office Manager

Erika Caputo
Director of Children's Ministries

Lyle Foster
Facilities Manager

Huw Jones
Associate Organist

Misty Krasawski
Seminarian Intern

Amy O'Kane
Director of Communications

The Rev. Hannah G. Pommersheim
Associate Rector

H. David Pulliam
Director of Music and Organist

The Rev. Ansley E. Walker
Associate Rector

Kelly Wheeler
Director of Engagement

Ron Wilson
Director of Finance

The Rev. Susan C. Wyper
Pastoral Associate

Priest Associates

The Rev. Dawn Stegelmann

The Rev. G. Hartwell Hylton

Campus Partners

Elizabeth Hearle
Parish School Director

Nancy Coughlin
Director of Person-to-Person

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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.