



Christmas Lessons & Carols

Christmas Eve | December 24, 2024

5:00 PM | Church

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:

- 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! But if you need to step out for a quick break, know that the service is broadcast into the Narthex. Childcare is also available for children ages 0-3 years old in the Education Building.

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

Rector's Welcome

Hymn 102

Soloist Once in royal David's city,
Stood a lowly cattle shed,
Where a mother laid her Baby,
In a manger for His bed:
Mary was that mother mild,
Jesus Christ, her little Child.

Congregation He came down to earth from heaven,
Who is God and Lord of all,
And his shelter was a stable,
And his cradle was a stall:
With the poor, the scorned, the lowly,
Lived on earth our Savior holy.

For he is our lifelong pattern;
Daily when on earth he grew;
He was tempted, scorned, rejected,
Tears and smiles, like us he knew.
Thus he feels for all our sadness,
And he shares in all our gladness.

And our eyes at last shall see him,
Through his own redeeming love;
For that Child who seemed so helpless
Is our Lord in heaven above:
And he leads his children on,
To the place where he is gone.

Not in that poor lowly stable,
With the oxen standing round,
We shall see him; but in heaven,
Where his saints his throne surround:
Christ, revealed to faithful eye,
Set at God's right hand of high.

The Bidding Prayer

Celebrant Beloved in Christ, in this Christmastide, let it be our care and delight to hear again the message of the Angels, and in heart and mind to go even unto Bethlehem, and see this thing which is come to pass, and the Babe lying in a manger.

Let us read and mark in Holy Scripture the tale of the loving purposes of God from the first days of our disobedience unto the glorious Redemption brought us by this holy Child; and let us make this place glad with our carols of praise.

But first, let us kneel and pray for the needs of his whole world:

For peace and goodwill over all the earth; for the mission and unity of the Church he came to build, and for which he died; and especially for this country, this town of Darien, and this congregation at Saint Luke's.

And because this of all things would rejoice his heart, let us at this time remember in his name the poor and the helpless; the hungry and the oppressed; the sick and those who mourn; the lonely and the unloved; the aged and the little children; and all those who know not the Lord Jesus, or who love him not, or who by sin have grieved his heart of love.

Lastly, let us remember before God his pure and lowly Mother, and all those who rejoice with us, but upon another shore and in a greater light, that multitude which no one can number, whose hope was in the Word made flesh, and with whom, in this Lord Jesus, we for evermore are one.

These prayers and praises let us humbly offer up to the throne of heaven, in the words which Christ himself hath taught us:

**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 Almighty God bless us with his grace; Christ give us the joys of everlasting life; and unto the fellowship of the citizens above may the King of Angels bring us all. **Amen.**

Invitational Carol

Sung by the St. Nicholas & St. Cecilia Choirs.

John Robb

Oh, sleep now, holy baby, with your head against my breast;
meanwhile the pangs of my sorrow are soothed and put to rest.
A la ru, a la mè; a la ru, a la mè.

Text: Hispanic folk song; tr. John Donald Robb (1892-1989), alt.
Music: *A la ru*, Hispanic folk melody; arr. John Donald Robb (1892-1989)

The First Lesson

Isaiah 9:2-7

The prophet Isaiah foretells the coming of the Savior.

Reader: Per Sekse

Hymn 81

Sung by all, remain seated.

Lo, how a Rose e'er blooming
From tender stem hath sprung!
Of Jesse's lineage coming
As seers of old have sung.
It came, a blossom bright,
Amid the cold of winter,
When half spent was the night.

Isaiah 'twas foretold it,
The Rose I have in mind.
With Mary we behold it,
The Virgin Mother kind.
To show God's love aright,
She bore to us a Savior,
When half spent was the night.

The Second Lesson

Luke 1:26-35, 38

The angel Gabriel salutes the Blessed Virgin Mary.

Reader: Barclay Bowen

Hymn 265

Sung by all, remain seated.

The angel Gabriel from heaven came,
His wings as drifted snow, his eyes as flame;
"All hail," said he, "thou lowly maiden Mary,
Most highly favored lady," Gloria!

"For know a blessed Mother thou shalt be,
All generations laud and honor thee,
Thy Son shall be Emmanuel, by seers foretold,
Most highly favored lady," Gloria!

Then gentle Mary meekly bowed her head,
"To me be as it pleaseth God," she said,
"My soul shall laud and magnify his holy Name."
Most highly favored lady, Gloria!

The Third Lesson

Luke 2:1-7

Saint Luke tells of the birth of Jesus.

Reader: Gavin Doody

Hymn 79

Sung by all, remain seated.

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 starts, together
Proclaim the holy birth!
And praises sing to God the King,
And peace to men on earth.

The Fourth Lesson

Luke 2:8-16

The shepherds go to the manger.
Reader: Page Gostling

Hymn 111

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.

Silent night, holy night,
Shepherds quake at the sight,
Glories stream from heaven afar,
Heavenly hosts sing alleluia;
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.

The Fifth Lesson

John 1:1-14

Saint John unfolds the great mystery of the Incarnation.
Reader: Maggie Domont

Hymn 83

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,
Christ the Lord.

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

The Sermon

The Reverend Ryan C. Fleenor

Hymn 96

Sung by all, standing.

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.

Welcome and Announcements

At the Offertory

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 Anthem

Sung by the St. Nicholas & St. Cecilia Choirs.

Greg Gilpin

Little star up in the sky,
Shining brightly from on high.
Leading to a tiny child,
Little star up in the sky.
Venite adoremus Dominum

Text & Music: Greg Gilpin (b. 1964)

Presentation Hymn

Sung by all, standing.

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.

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

Closing Prayers

Please kneel.

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.**

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.**

A Christmas Blessing

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 87

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

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

Officiant	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 The Rev. Charles G. Martin
Lectors	Maggie Domont Barclay Bowen Gavin Doody Page Gostling Per Sekse
Musicians	The Saint Luke's Choristers David Pulliam Garth Greenup, Tiago Linck, <i>Trumpets</i> Susan Panny, <i>Horn</i> Keith Green, <i>Trombone</i> Tyler Woodbury, <i>Tuba</i> Hans Broecking, <i>Timpani</i>
Ushers	Bion Piepmeier, Chris Hughan, Jenny Hayes Edwards, Maggie Machir, Matt Edwards, Pat Houlahan
Acolytes	Patch Hurty, Parker Rebbechi, JJ Doody, Reid Faulkner, Reagan Faulkner, Fletcher McMahon, Crosby McMahon
Altar Guild	Lorna Young, Kinsey Ferguson, Anne Andreeae
Flowers	The Saint Luke's Flower Guild
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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

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Lida Ward

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Erika Caputo

Director of Children's Ministries

Lyle Foster

Facilities Manager

The Rev. Charles G. Martin

Seminarian Intern

Oak Martin

Associate Organist

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

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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.