

The First Sunday of Advent

November 29, 2020



St. Luke's Episcopal Church
515 Second Street | Woodland, California

This Advent at St. Luke's

During this season of waiting and watching, St. Luke's Sunday worship will center around the old tradition of Morning Prayer, officiated from the chancels. This service has been said many times in this place, though it sounds a bit different today because we're using inclusive language for God and humanity, from *Enriching Our Worship I*.

Inclusive language won't be the biggest change we'll notice when comparing Advent 2020 with Advent seasons we've known before. This year, many of us will have more solitude and more time at home, with less pre-holiday bustling about. We may be more aware of darker days and longer nights. We may be more sensitive to the suffering of our neighbors, to scarcity of resources and a feeling of *lonely exile*. Some of us may need to ask for help.

All of that is in the spirit of the Advent season, when we are called to watch for signs of change emerging around us, and to prepare for the emergence that which is growing within, so that we can welcome, swaddle and tend the new life of God with us.

O Come, O Come, Emmanuel is a refrain as ancient as our practice of Morning Prayer. We are so glad you are with us in this time.

Advent Morning Prayer

with Eucharistic readings

Ring of the Bells

Organ Prelude The Angel Gabriel from Heaven Came, Setting by Paul Manz

Welcome

Opening Hymn O Come, O Come, Emmanuel



1 O come, O come, Em - man - u - el, and ran - som
2 O come, thou Wis - dom from on high, who or - derest
3 O come, O come, thou Lord of might, who to thy

1 cap - tive Is - ra - el, that mourns in lone - ly ex - ile
2 all things might - i - ly; to us the path of know - ledge
3 tribes on Si - nai's height in an - cient times didst give the

1 here un - til the Son of God ap - pear.
2 show, and teach us in her ways to go. Re - joice! Re - joice!
3 law, in cloud, and ma - jes - ty, and awe.

Em - man - u - el shall come to thee, O Is - ra - el!

Opening Sentence

Officiant O Jerusalem, stand upon the height and look toward the east,
and see your children gathered from west and east at the word
of the Holy One. *Baruch 5:5*

or

Shower, O heavens, from above, and let the skies rain down righteousness; let the earth open, that salvation may spring up, and let it cause righteousness to sprout up also. *Isaiah 45:8, NRSV*

Confession & Absolution

Officiant Let us confess our sins to God.

Silence may be kept.

All **God of all mercy, we confess that we have sinned against you, opposing your will in our lives. We have denied your goodness in each other, in ourselves, and in the world you have created. We repent of the evil that enslaves us, the evil we have done, and the evil done on our behalf. Forgive, restore, and strengthen us through our Savior Jesus Christ, that we may abide in your love and serve only your will. Amen.**

Officiant Almighty God have mercy on you, forgive you all your sins through the grace of Jesus Christ, strengthen you in all goodness, and by the power of the Holy Spirit keep you in eternal life. **Amen.**

Versicle

Officiant O God, let our mouth proclaim your praise.

People **And your glory all the day long.**

Praise to the holy and undivided Trinity, one God: as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be for ever. Amen. Alleluia.

Antiphon

Officiant Our God and Savior now draws near:

All **O come let us worship.**

All **Come, let us sing to the Lord; *
let us shout for joy to the Rock of our salvation.
Let us come before God's presence with thanksgiving *
and raise to the Lord a shout with psalms.
For you are a great God; *
you are great above all gods.
In your hand are the caverns of the earth, *
and the heights of the hills are yours also.
The sea is yours, for you made it, *
and your hands have molded the dry land.
Come, let us bow down and bend the knee, *
and kneel before the Lord our Maker.
For you are our God,
and we are the people of your pasture
and the sheep of your hand. *
Oh, that today we would hearken to your voice!
Let us listen today to God's voice:
Harden not your hearts, as your forebears did in the wilderness, *
at Meribah, and on that day at Massah, when they tempted me.
They put me to the test, *
though they had seen my works.
Forty years long I detested that generation and said, *
"This people are wayward in their hearts;
they do not know my ways."
So I swore in my wrath, *
"They shall not enter into my rest."**

- ¹ Hear, O Shepherd of Israel, leading Joseph like a flock; *
shine forth, you that are enthroned upon the cherubim.
- ² In the presence of Ephraim, Benjamin, and Manasseh, *
stir up your strength and come to help us.
- ³ Restore us, O God of hosts; *
show the light of your countenance, and we shall be saved.

- ⁴ O Lord God of hosts, *
how long will you be angered
despite the prayers of your people?
- ⁵ You have fed them with the bread of tears; *
you have given them bowls of tears to drink.
- ⁶ You have made us the derision of our neighbors, *
and our enemies laugh us to scorn.
- ⁷ Restore us, O God of hosts; *
show the light of your countenance, and we shall be saved.
- ¹⁶ Let your hand be upon the man of your right hand, *
the son of man you have made so strong for yourself.
- ¹⁷ And so will we never turn away from you; *
give us life, that we may call upon your Name.
- ¹⁸ Restore us, O Lord God of hosts; *
show the light of your countenance, and we shall be saved.

All **Praise to the holy and undivided Trinity, one God: as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be for ever. Amen. Alleluia.**

Antiphon

Officiant Our God and Savior now draws near:
All **O come let us worship.**

The Lessons

Hebrew Scripture

Isaiah 64:1-9

O that you would tear open the heavens and come down,
so that the mountains would quake at your presence—
as when fire kindles brushwood
and the fire causes water to boil—

to make your name known to your adversaries,
so that the nations might tremble at your presence!

When you did awesome deeds that we did not expect,
you came down, the mountains quaked at your presence.

From ages past no one has heard,
no ear has perceived,

no eye has seen any God besides you,
who works for those who wait for him.

You meet those who gladly do right,
those who remember you in your ways.

But you were angry, and we sinned;
because you hid yourself we transgressed.

We have all become like one who is unclean,
and all our righteous deeds are like a filthy cloth.

We all fade like a leaf,
and our iniquities, like the wind, take us away.

There is no one who calls on your name,
or attempts to take hold of you;

for you have hidden your face from us,
and have delivered us into the hand of our iniquity.

Yet, O Lord, you are our Father;
we are the clay, and you are our potter;
we are all the work of your hand.

Do not be exceedingly angry, O Lord,
and do not remember iniquity forever.
Now consider, we are all your people.

Canticle E

A Song of Jerusalem Our Mother, Isaiah 66:10-14

All **Rejoice with Jerusalem and be glad for her ***
all you who love her,
Rejoice, rejoice with her, *
all you who mourn over her,

**That you may drink deeply with delight *
from her comforting breast.
For thus says our God, *
“I will extend peace to her like a river,
the wealth of nations like an overflowing stream.
“You shall nurse and be carried on her arm, *
and you shall nestle in her lap.
“As a mother comforts her child, so will I comfort you; *
you shall be comforted in Jerusalem.
“You shall see, and your heart shall rejoice, *
you shall flourish like the grass of the fields.”**

Epistle

1 Corinthians 1:3-9

Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

I give thanks to my God always for you because of the grace of God that has been given you in Christ Jesus, for in every way you have been enriched in him, in speech and knowledge of every kind-- just as the testimony of Christ has been strengthened among you-- so that you are not lacking in any spiritual gift as you wait for the revealing of our Lord Jesus Christ. He will also strengthen you to the end, so that you may be blameless on the day of our Lord Jesus Christ. God is faithful; by him you were called into the fellowship of his Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

Canticle B

A Song of Pilgrimage, Ecclesiasticus 51:13-16, 20b-22

All **Before I ventured forth, even while I was very young, *
I sought wisdom openly in my prayer.
In the forecourts of the temple I asked for her, *
and I will seek her to the end.
From first blossom to early fruit, *
she has been the delight of my heart.
My foot has kept firmly to the true path, *
diligently from my youth have I pursued her.
I inclined my ear a little and received her; *
I found for myself much wisdom and became adept in her.**

**To the one who gives me wisdom will I give glory, *
for I have resolved to live according to her way.
From the beginning I gained courage from her, *
therefore I will not be forsaken.
In my inmost being I have been stirred to seek her, *
therefore have I gained a good possession.
As my reward the Almighty has given me the gift of language,*
and with it will I offer praise to God.**

Holy Gospel

Mark 13:24-37

Jesus said, “In those days, after that suffering,
the sun will be darkened,
and the moon will not give its light,
and the stars will be falling from heaven,
and the powers in the heavens will be shaken.

Then they will see ‘the Son of Man coming in clouds’ with great power and glory. Then he will send out the angels, and gather his elect from the four winds, from the ends of the earth to the ends of heaven.

“From the fig tree learn its lesson: as soon as its branch becomes tender and puts forth its leaves, you know that summer is near. So also, when you see these things taking place, you know that he is near, at the very gates. Truly I tell you, this generation will not pass away until all these things have taken place. Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will not pass away.

“But about that day or hour no one knows, neither the angels in heaven, nor the Son, but only the Father. Beware, keep alert; for you do not know when the time will come. It is like a man going on a journey, when he leaves home and puts his slaves in charge, each with his work, and commands the doorkeeper to be on the watch. Therefore, keep awake—for you do not know when the master of the house will come, in the evening, or at midnight, or at cockcrow, or at dawn, or else he may find you asleep when he comes suddenly. And what I say to you I say to all: Keep awake.”

Homily

The Rev. Carren Sheldon

The Apostles' Creed

All I believe in God, the Father almighty,
creator of heaven and earth.
I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord,
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,
born of the Virgin Mary,
suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, died, and was buried;
he descended to the dead.
On the third day he rose again;
he ascended into heaven,
he is seated at the right hand of the Father,
and he will come again to judge the living and the dead.
I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the holy catholic Church,
the communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body,
and the life everlasting. Amen.

The Prayers

Officiant Hear our cry, O God.

People **And listen to our prayer.**

Officiant Let us pray.

Help us, O God our Savior;

People **Deliver us and forgive us our sins.**

Officiant Look upon your congregation;

People **Give to your people the blessing of peace.**

Officiant Declare your glory among the nations;

People **And your wonders among all peoples.**

Officiant Do not let the oppressed be shamed and turned away;

People **Never forget the lives of your poor.**

Officiant Continue your loving-kindness to those who know you;

People **And your favor to those who are true of heart.**

Officiant Satisfy us by your loving-kindness in the morning;
People **So shall we rejoice and be glad all the days of our life.**

Officiant Almighty God, give us grace to cast away the works of darkness, and put on the armor of light, now in the time of this mortal life in which your Son Jesus Christ came to visit us in great humility; that in the last day, when he shall come again in his glorious majesty to judge both the living and the dead, we may rise to the life immortal; through him who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

O God, you have made of one blood all the peoples of the earth, and sent your blessed Son to preach peace to those who are far off and to those who are near: Grant that people everywhere may seek after you and find you; bring the nations into your fold; pour out your Spirit upon all flesh; and hasten the coming of your kingdom; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Offerings of prayer and/or money are welcome at this or any time.
[Click here to donate: https://tithe.ly/give?c=409634](https://tithe.ly/give?c=409634)

Lord's Prayer

All **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.**

Blessing

St. Clare

Presider Live without fear:
your Creator has made you holy,
has always protected you,
and loves you as a mother.
Go in peace to follow the good road
and may the blessing of God,
Creator, Christ, and Holy Spirit,
be with you, today and always. Amen

Closing Hymn

Sleepers Awake

The musical score is written for three voices (Soprano, Alto, and Tenor/Bass) and piano accompaniment. It consists of three systems of staves. Each system has a vocal line (treble clef) and a piano line (bass clef). The lyrics are written below the vocal line.

1 "Sleep - ers, wake!" A voice a - stounds us, the
2 Zi - on hears the watch - men sing - ing; her
3 Lamb of God, the heavens a - dore you; let

shout of ram - part - guards sur - rounds us, "A -
heart with joy - ful hope is spring - ing, she
saints and an - gels sing be - fore you, as

wake, Je - ru - sa - lem, a - rise!" Mid - night's peace their
wakes and hur - ries through the night. Forth he comes, her
harps and cym - bals swell the sound. Twelve great pearls, the

cry has bro - ken, their ur - gent sum - mons clear - ly spo -
 Bride-groom glo - rious in strength of grace, in truth vic - to -
 ci - ty's por - tals; through them we stream to join the im - mor -

ken: "The time has come, O maid - ens wise!
 rious: her star is with risen, O her light grows bright.
 tals as we with joy your throne sur - round.

Rise up, and give us light; the Bride - groom is in
 Now come, most wor - thy Lord, God's Son, In - car - nate
 No eye has known the sight, no ear heard such de -

sight. Al - le - lu - ia! Your lamps pre - pare and
 Word, Al - le - lu - ia! We fol - low all and
 light: Al - le - lu - ia! There - fore we sing to

has - ten there, that you the wed - ding feast may share."
 heed your call to come in - to the ban - quet hall.
 greet our King; for ev - er let our prais - es ring.

Concluding Sentence

Ephesians 3:20, 21

Officiant Glory to God whose power, working in us, can do infinitely more than we can ask or imagine: Glory to God from generation to generation in the Church, and in Christ Jesus for ever and ever.

All **Amen.**

Postlude

Zachau, Choral Partita on “From Heaven Above to Earth I Come”

Come to Coffee Hour, it's online!

All are welcome!

Grab a cup of coffee and join us online for Zoom “coffee hour” conversation immediately following Morning Prayer.

What is your Advent hope?

Getting Involved Is Easy!

Get our weekly e-mail updates for all the latest information on opportunities to learn and serve with St. Luke's. Sign-up at our website, or contact our Church Administrator at stlukechurchwoodland@gmail.com

Conflict Resolution & Communication Training Starting This Tuesday, 12/1 & 12/8, 3-5pm, via Zoom

There's never been a better time for us all to get better at resolving conflicts through communication. Yolo Conflict Resolution Center will lead this learning opportunity, brought to us through St. Luke's Resource Navigators. Training is free, but space is limited so registration is required. For more information email lfvetter@sbcglobal.net.

"The Way of Love" (Forward Movement) Wednesdays, 7 pm, via Zoom

A weekly gathering for a short reading, reflection, and prayer. Books can be purchased in paperback online. Drop-in as your schedule allows. Email margaretwisehart@yahoo.com for information and Zoom link.

St. Luke's Queer Alliance Thursdays, 6:30 pm via Zoom

St. Luke's welcomes sisters, brothers and non-binary queers in search of a faith community that supports everyone's unique path on the spiritual journey. We offer a home where diversity isn't silenced but celebrated, where belonging grows from the soil of respect, love, inclusion, commitment and joy. For more information, email Metamairic@gmail.com.

Inquirers' Group Tuesdays, in January, February & March, 2021, 6pm, via Zoom

This group will meet to explore and discuss the Episcopal Church, our teachings and questioning. While no experience is necessary, you'll need an inquiring heart. Participants who discern a call to the sacrament of Confirmation will be prepared for it. For information, contact Rev, Carren, interimrector@stlukeswoodland.org



St. Luke's provides a welcoming sanctuary for all people,
takes faithful risks to foster community and proclaim God's love
through our words, deeds and relationships.

**At St. Luke's Episcopal Church,
we affirm God's love for all of God's people.**

Whoever you are, wherever you are on your spiritual journey,
whatever your age, abilities, ethnicity, sexual orientation, gender identity,
religious background, socio-economic circumstance, or political affiliations:
you are welcome here.

We intend to:

- *Provide a welcoming sanctuary for all*
- *Prioritize being and staying in relationship*
- *Nurture the next generation*
- *Weave God into the fabric of our daily lives*
- *Engage the world around us*
- *Speak truth in love*
- *Honor our legacy and traditions*
- *Take faithful risks, having courage to evolve*

With Christ and in Christ, We Welcome, Celebrate, Collaborate and Grow

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*St. Luke's is steadfast
in its commitment to
full-inclusion for queer
folk in God's Church.*