

Holy Eucharist
Christmas Day

Sunday, December 25, 2023—10:00 a.m.



Saint Luke's Episcopal Church

Los Gatos, California

Hark the Herald

Unless she was poor, the prettiest girl
always got to be Mary. Her mother
had to promise a new blue cape. There were
no other parts for girls, except the crowd
scene at the inn. And even Mary said
nothing, looked fragile, and was still.
I finally opted for the bright archangel,
conveniently sexless and with the longest speech.

Balanced on scaffold I sang hosannahs,
one of a shaky heavenly host.
Jostling through the scruffy straw the shepherds
giggled and were sore afraid, while Joseph—
who really doesn't matter much—cinched up
his faded bathrobe and sighed with impotence.

Wobbling forward under precarious
crowns the kings of heavenly wisdom gazed
on the clever cardboard trough that held a
low-watt bulb, which lighted up us Gentiles.
With empty shoe box wrapped in foil, a tall
contrivance that once held spray cologne, and
someone's grandma's sewing box the infant
was presented his predestined treasures.
I thought the gifts peculiar even then.

Down from my laddered perch I peered at what
I never dreamed was tragedy. Drama
rarely invades our innocence. And yet
what I looked on was the entire plot:
Birth, family, Shepherd King, Message from God,
the bitter Myrrh. There is no other play.

Nayan McNeill (1968)

The Holy Eucharist

Preludes

Angel's Carol

John Rutter

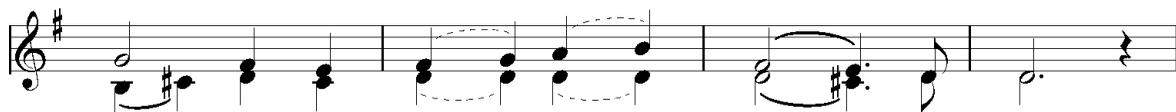
What Child Is This? Ralph Vaughan Williams

Opening Hymn 83 (v. 1, 2, 3, & 6)

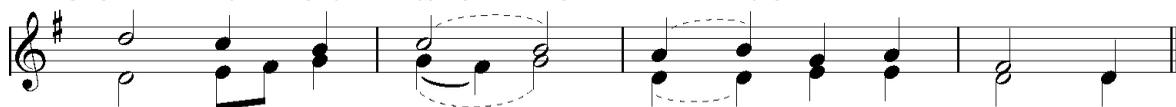
"O come, all ye faithful"



1 O come, all ye faith - ful, joy - ful and tri - um - phant, O
2 God from God, Light from Light e - ter - nal,
3 Sing, choirs of an - gels, sing in ex - ul - ta - tion,



1 come ye, O come ye to Beth - le - hem;
2 lo! he ab - hors not the Vir - gin's womb;
3 sing, all ye ci - ti - zens of heaven a - bove;



1 come, and be - hold him, born the King of an - gels;
2 on - ly - be - got - ten Son of the Fa - ther;
3 glo - ry to God, glo - ry in the high - est;

Refrain



O come, let us a - dore him, O come, let us a -



dore him, O come, let us a - dore him, Christ the Lord.

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

Opening Acclamation

Celebrant 
Bless - ed be God: Father, Son, and Ho - ly Spi - rit.

People 
And blessed be God's kingdom, now and for ev - er. A - men.

The Collect for Purity

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.**

Hymn 96 (Gloria)



- 1 An - gels we have heard on high, sing - ing sweet - ly through the night,
- 2 Shep - herds, why this ju - bi - lee? Why these songs of hap - py cheer?
- 3 Come to Beth - le - hem and see him whose birth the an - gels sing;



and the moun - tains in re - ply ech - o - ing their brave de - light.
What great bright - ness did you see? What glad tid - ings did you hear?
come, a - dore on bend - ed knee Christ, the Lord, the new - born King.

Refrain



Glo - - - - - ri - a

in ex - cel - sis De - o. Glo - - - - -
 - - - - - ri - a in ex - cel - sis De - o.

The Collect for Christmas Day

Celebrant The Lord be with you.

People **And also with you.**

Celebrant Let us pray.

Almighty God, you have given your only-begotten Son to take our nature upon him, and to be born this day of a pure virgin: Grant that we, who have been born again and made your children by adoption and grace, may daily be renewed by your Holy Spirit; through our Lord Jesus Christ, to whom with you and the same Spirit be honor and glory, now and for ever. **Amen.**

The Liturgy of the Word

The First Lesson

Isaiah 52:7-10

A Reading from the Book of the Prophet Isaiah.

How beautiful upon the mountains
 are the feet of the messenger who announces peace,

who brings good news,
 who announces salvation,
 who says to Zion, "Your God reigns."

Listen! Your sentinels lift up their voices,
together they sing for joy;

for in plain sight they see
the return of the Lord to Zion.

Break forth together into singing,
you ruins of Jerusalem;

for the Lord has comforted his people,
he has redeemed Jerusalem.

The Lord has bared his holy arm
before the eyes of all the nations;

and all the ends of the earth shall see
the salvation of our God.

Reader The Word of the Lord.
People **Thanks be to God.**

Psalm 98

- 1 Sing to the Lord a new song, *
 for he has done marvelous things.
- 2 With his right hand and his holy arm *
 has he won for himself the victory.
- 3 The Lord has made known his victory; *
 his righteousness has he openly shown
 in the sight of the nations.
- 4 He remembers his mercy and faithfulness
 to the house of Israel, *
 and all the ends of the earth have seen
 the victory of our God.
- 5 Shout with joy to the Lord, all you lands; *
 lift up your voice, rejoice, and sing.

- 6 Sing to the Lord with the harp, *
with the harp and the voice of song.
- 7 With trumpets and the sound of the horn *
shout with joy before the King, the Lord.
- 8 Let the sea make a noise and all that is in it, *
the lands and those who dwell therein.
- 9 Let the rivers clap their hands, *
and let the hills ring out with joy before the Lord,
when he comes to judge the earth.
- 10 In righteousness shall he judge the world *
and the peoples with equity.

The Second Lesson

Hebrews 1:1–12

A Reading from the Letter to the Hebrews.

Long ago God spoke to our ancestors in many and various ways by the prophets, but in these last days he has spoken to us by a Son, whom he appointed heir of all things, through whom he also created the worlds. He is the reflection of God's glory and the exact imprint of God's very being, and he sustains all things by his powerful word. When he had made purification for sins, he sat down at the right hand of the Majesty on high, having become as much superior to angels as the name he has inherited is more excellent than theirs.

For to which of the angels did God ever say,

“You are my Son;
today I have begotten you”?

Or again,

“I will be his Father,
and he will be my Son”?

And again, when he brings the firstborn into the world, he says,

“Let all God's angels worship him.”

Of the angels he says,

“He makes his angels winds,
and his servants flames of fire.”

But of the Son he says,

“Your throne, O God, is forever and ever,
and the righteous scepter is the scepter of your kingdom.
You have loved righteousness and hated wickedness;
therefore God, your God, has anointed you
with the oil of gladness beyond your companions.”

And,

“In the beginning, Lord, you founded the earth,
and the heavens are the work of your hands;
they will perish, but you remain;
they will all wear out like clothing;
like a cloak you will roll them up, and like clothing they will be changed.

But you are the same,
and your years will never end.”

Reader The Word of the Lord.
People **Thanks be to God.**

Gospel Hymn 112

“In the bleak midwinter”



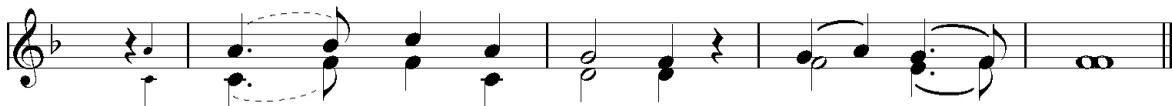
1 In the bleak mid - win - ter, frost - y wind made moan,
2 Our God, heaven can - not hold him, nor — earth sus - tain;
3 An - gels and arch - an - gels may have gath - ered there,
4 What — can I give him, poor — as I am?



earth stood hard as i - ron, wa - ter like a stone;
heaven and earth shall flee a - way when he comes to reign;
cher - u - bim and se - ra - phim thron - ed the air;
If I were a shep - herd, I would bring a lamb;



snow had fal - len, snow on snow, snow — on — snow,
in the bleak mid - win - ter a sta - ble - place suf - ficed
but his mo - ther on - ly, in her maid - en bliss,
if I were a wise — man, I would do my part;



in the bleak mid - win - ter, long a - go.
the Lord — God in - car - nate, Je - sus Christ.
wor - shiped the be - lov - ed with a kiss.
yet what I can I give him— give my heart.

Words: Christina Rossetti (1830-1894) Music: *Cranham*, Gustav Theodore Holst (1874-1934)

The Holy Gospel

John 1:1–14

Clergy The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ
 according to John.

People **Glory to you, Lord Christ.**

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was in the beginning with God. All things came into being through him, and without him not one thing came into being. What has come into being in him was life, and the life was the light of all people. The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overcome it.

There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. He came as a witness to testify to the light, so that all might believe through him. He himself was not the light, but he came to testify to the light. The true light, which enlightens everyone, was coming into the world.

He was in the world, and the world came into being through him; yet the world did not know him. He came to what was his own, and his own people did not accept him. But to all who received him, who believed in his name, he gave power to become children of God, who were born, not of blood or of the will of the flesh or of the will of man, but of God.

And the Word became flesh and lived among us, and we have seen his glory, the glory as of a father's only son, full of grace and truth.

Clergy The Gospel of the Lord.

People **Praise to you, Lord Christ.**

The Sermon

The Rev. Ricardo Avila

The Nicene Creed

Said by all

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: was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the Virgin Mary, and became truly human.

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, who with the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified, who 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.

Prayers of the People

Form VI

In peace, we pray to you, Lord God.

Silence

For all people in their daily life and work;

For our families, friends, and neighbors, and for those who are alone.

For this community, the nation, and the world;

For all who work for justice, freedom, and peace.

For the just and proper use of your creation;

For the victims of hunger, fear, injustice, and oppression.

For all who are in danger, sorrow, or any kind of trouble;

For those who minister to the sick, the friendless, and the needy.

For the peace and unity of the Church of God;

For all who proclaim the Gospel, and all who seek the Truth.

For Michael, our Presiding Bishop, Lucinda, our Bishop,
and for all bishops and other ministers;

For all who serve God in God's Church.

For the special needs and concerns of this congregation, hear us, Lord;

For your mercy is great.

We thank you, Lord, for all the blessings of this life, and we will exalt you,
O God our King;

And praise your Name for ever and ever.

We pray for all who have died, that they may have a place in your eternal
kingdom. Lord, let your loving-kindness be upon them;

Who put their trust in you.

Silence.

The People may add their own petitions.

The Celebrant concludes with a suitable Collect.

The Peace

Celebrant The peace of Christ be always with you.
People **And also with you.**

Welcome and Announcements

The Holy Communion

Offertory Anthem

I Saw Three Ships come Sailing In
Trad. English, Arr. Willcock

I saw three ships come sailing in
On Christmas Day, on Christmas Day;
I saw three ships come sailing in
On Christmas Day in the morning.

And what was in those ships all three,
On Christmas Day, on Christmas Day?
And what was in those ships all three,
On Christmas Day in the morning?

Our savior Christ and his lady were there,
On Christmas Day, on Christmas Day;
Our savior Christ and his lady were there,
On Christmas Day in the morning.

Pray, wither sailed those ships all three,
On Christmas Day, on Christmas Day;
Pray, wither sailed those ships all three,
On Christmas Day in the morning?

O they sailed into Bethlehem,
On Christmas Day, on Christmas Day;
O they sailed into Bethlehem,
On Christmas Day in the morning.

And all the bells on earth shall ring,
On Christmas Day, on Christmas Day;
And all the bells on earth shall ring,
On Christmas Day in the morning.

And all the Angels in Heaven shall sing,
On Christmas Day, on Christmas Day;
And all the Angels in Heaven shall sing,
On Christmas Day in the morning.

And all the souls on earth shall sing,
On Christmas Day, on Christmas Day;
And all the souls on earth shall sing,
On Christmas Day in the morning.

Then let us all rejoice again,
On Christmas Day, on Christmas Day;
Then let us all rejoice again,
On Christmas Day in the morning.

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 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

S 130

Celebrant and People

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of power and
might, Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord,
God of power and might, hea - ven and earth are
full, full of your glo - ry. Ho -
san - na in the high - est. Ho - san - na

in the high - est. Bless - ed is he who comes _____

_____ in the name of the Lord. _____ Ho - san - na

in the high - est. Ho - san - na in the high - est.

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;

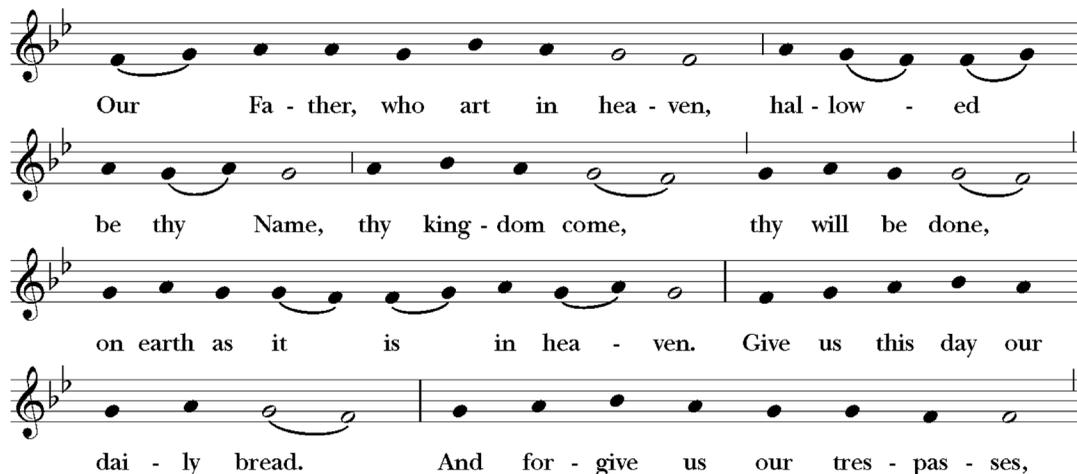
And we offer our sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving to you, O Lord of all;
presenting to you, from your creation, this bread and this wine.

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 blessed Virgin Mary, blessed Joseph, 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.

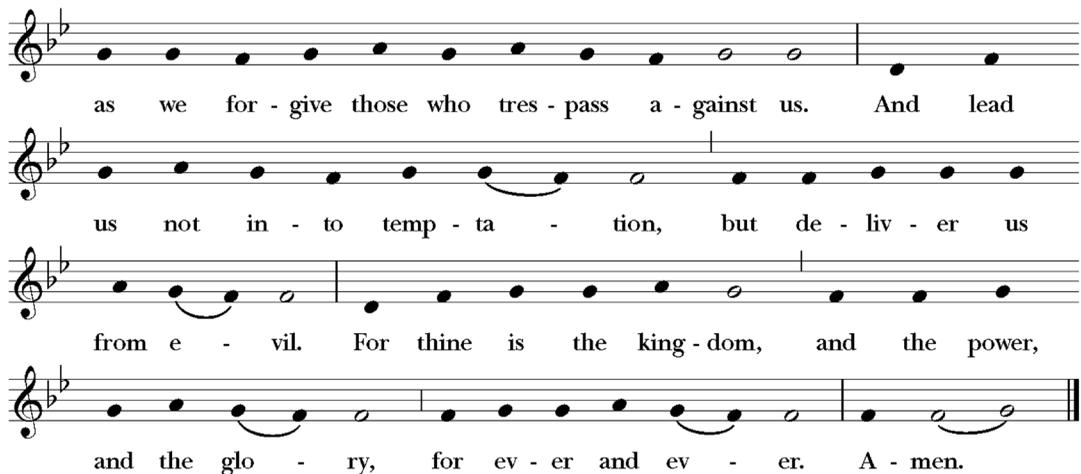
By him, and with him, and in him, in the unity of the Holy Spirit all honor and
glory is yours, Almighty Father, now and for ever. **AMEN.**

The Lord's Prayer

And now, as our Savior Christ has taught us, we are bold to pray,



Our Fa - ther, who art in hea - ven, hal - low - ed
be thy Name, thy king - dom come, thy will be done,
on earth as it is in hea - ven. Give us this day our
dai - ly bread. And for - give us our tres - pas - ses,



as we for - give those who tres - pass a - gainst us. And lead
 us not in - to temp - ta - tion, but de - liv - er us
 from e - vil. For thine is the king - dom, and the power,
 and the glo - ry, for ev - er and ev - er. A - men.

Setting plainsong; adapt. Charles Winfred Douglas (1867-1944). ©1985 Church Publishing, Inc. All rights reserved. Reprinted, podcast and streamed with permission under One License #A-706525. All rights reserved.

The Breaking of the Bread

Celebrant Alleluia. Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us.

People **Therefore let us keep the feast. Alleluia.**

Celebrant The gifts of God for the people of God.

Communion Hymn 109

“The first Nowell the angel did say”



1 The first No - well the an - gel did say
 2 They look - ed up and saw a star
 3 And by the light of that same star
 4 This star drew nigh to the north - west,
 5 Then en - tered in those wise men three



1 was to cer - tain poor shep - herds in fields as they lay;
 2 shin - ing in the east be - yond them far,
 3 three wise men came from coun - try far;
 4 o'er Beth - le - hem it took its rest,
 5 full rev - erent - ly up - on their knee,



1 in fields as they lay, keep - ing their sheep,
2 and to the earth it gave great light,
3 to seek for a king was their in - tent,
4 and there it did both stop and stay
5 and of - fered there in his pres - ence



1 on a cold win - ter's night that was so deep.
2 and so it con - tin - ued both day and night.
3 and to fol - low the star wher - ev - er it went.
4 right o - ver the place where Je - sus lay.
5 their gold, and myrrh, and frank - in - cense.

Refrain



No - well, No - well, No - well, No - well,



born is the King of Is - ra - el.

6 Then let us all with one accord
sing praises to our heavenly Lord;
that hath made heaven and earth of nought,
and with his blood our life hath bought.

Refrain

Words: English carol, 18th cent. Music: *The First Nowell*, English carol, 17th cent.; harm. John Stainer (1840-1901)

Post Communion Prayer

Celebrant Let us pray.

Said by all

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

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.**

Closing Hymn 87

“Hark! the herald angels sing”



1 Hark! the her-ald an - gels sing glo - ry to the new-born King!
2 Christ, by high-est heaven a - dored; Christ, the ev - er - last - ing Lord;
3 Mild he lays his glo - ry by, born that we no more may die,



Peace on earth and mer - cy mild, God and sin - ners rec - on - ciled!
late in time be - hold him come, off - spring of the Vir - gin's womb.
born to raise us from the earth, born to give us sec - ond birth.



Joy - ful, all ye na - tions, rise, join the tri - umph of the skies;
Veiled in flesh the God - head see; hail the in - car - nate De - i - ty.
Risen with heal - ing in his wings, light and life to all he brings,



with the an - gel - ic host pro - claim Christ is born in Beth - le - hem!
Pleased as man with us to dwell; Je - sus, our Em - man - u - el!
hail, the Sun of Right - eous - ness! hail, the heaven-born Prince of Peace!

Refrain



Hark! the her - ald an - gels sing glo - ry to the new - born King!

Words: Charles Wesley (1707-1788), alt. Music: *Mendelssohn*, Felix Mendelssohn (1809-1847); adapt. William H. Cummings (1831-1915)

The Dismissal

The clergy dismisses the People and they respond

Thanks be to God.

Postlude

For Unto Us a Child Is Born

G.F. Handel



Servers—December 25, 2023

Celebrant/Preacher	The Rev. Ricardo Avila
Lay Assistant	Linda Walton
Acolyte	Warren Hackbarth
Lectors	Grady Jeter & Lewis Pollard
Organist	Laura Green
Flutist	Allison Green
Singers	St. Luke's Choir
Live-streaming Technician	Art Feather
Usher	Lewis Pollard
Altar Guild	Carol Graham & Gigi Fait



Cover: *Merry Christmas* by Viggo Johansen (1851-1935), b. Denmark

*St. Luke's Episcopal Church is a place of peace, beauty,
and relationship that reflects God's saving presence
through our rich Tradition, our intellectual curiosity,
and our work in the wider community.*

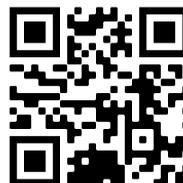
Saint Luke's Clergy & Staff

Rector	The Rev. Ricardo Avila revrico@stlukeslg.org
Assisting Clergy	The Rev. Ernest Cockrell The Rev. R. Clark Emerson The Rev. Nayan McNeill, Ph.D. The Very Rev. William S. Stafford, Ph.D.
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Parish Administrator	Mr. Michael King office@stlukeslg.org
Treasurer	Mr. Art Feather afeather@stlukeslg.org
Altar Guild Coordinator	Ms. Carol Graham
Outreach/Pantry Director	Ms. Jo Greiner
Rector Emeritus	The Rev. David R. Breuer

Saint Luke's Vestry • vestry@stlukeslg.org

Toni Dick (Senior Warden)	Grady Jeter
Genevieve Cleveland (Junior Warden)	Jane Ogle
Glenn Katz (Clerk)	Martha Sterne
Kelly Conway	Colin Whitby-Stevens
John Culwell	

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