



Welcome to St. Luke's Church Sunday, December 21, 2025

Fourth Sunday of Advent

**Our Vision:
To Know God and To Make Him Known**

*Visitors are not expected to participate in the offering.
We hope you enjoy visiting with us today. Please come again soon.*

www.stlukesakron.com

Processional Hymn

O Come O Come Emmanuel (Veni Emmanuel)

O come O come Emmanuel
And ransom captive Israel
That mourns in lonely exile here
Until the Son of God appear

Chorus: Rejoice Rejoice
Emmanuel shall come to thee O Israel

O come Thou Dayspring come and cheer
Our spirits by Thine advent here
Disperse the gloomy clouds of night
And death's dark shadows put to flight

O come Thou Wisdom from on high
And order all things far and nigh
To us the path of knowledge show
And cause us in her ways to go

O come Desire of nations bind
All peoples in one heart and mind
Bid envy strife and quarrels cease
Fill the whole world with heaven's peace

John Mason Neale | Thomas Helmore© Words & Music: Public Domain
CCLI License # 73146

Welcome and Call to Worship

Celebrant: Surely the Lord is coming soon.

All: Amen. Come Lord Jesus!

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.

Lighting of the Advent Wreath

Celebrant: Last Sunday we lit the Candle of Joy. We light it and the candles of Hope and Peace again as we remember that Christ will come again and bring us everlasting peace and joy.

Its light is meant to remind us of the love that God has for us. Jesus shows us God's perfect love. He is God's love in human form. The scripture states that "God so loved the world that He gave His only Son, so that whoever believes in him should not perish, but have everlasting life."

Love is patient; love is kind and envies no one. Love is never boastful or conceited, rude or selfish. Love is not quick to take offense; it keeps no record of troubles, but rejoices in the right, the good, and the true.

There is nothing that love cannot face; there is no limit to its faith, to its hope, to its endurance. Love never ends. We light this candle today to remind us of how God's perfect love is found in Jesus.

Lighting of the Advent Candles: The Candle of Love

Sung: **By Thine own eternal Spirit**
 Rule in all our hearts alone:
 By Thine all-sufficient merit
 Raise us to Thy glorious throne.

Charles Wesley | Rowland Hugh Prichard © Words & Music: Public Domain
CCLI License # 73146

Collect of the Day

Celebrant: The Lord be with you.

All: And with your spirit.

Celebrant: Stir up your power, O Lord, and with great might come among us; and as we are sorely hindered by our sins from running the race that is set before us, let your bountiful grace and mercy speedily help and deliver us; through Jesus Christ our Lord, to whom, with you and the Holy Spirit, be honor and glory, now and forever.

All: Amen.

Praise and Worship

“Gratitude”

All my words fall short I got nothing new
How could I express all my gratitude

I could sing these songs as I often do
But every song must end and You never do

Chorus: So I throw up my hands
 And praise You again and again
 ‘Cause all that I have is a hallelujah
 Hallelujah
 And I know it’s not much
 But I’ve nothing else fit for a king
 Except for a heart singing hallelujah
 Hallelujah

I’ve got one response I’ve got just one move
With my arms stretched wide I will worship You

Bridge: Come on my soul don’t you get shy on me
 Lift up your song cause you’ve got a lion
 Inside of those lungs get up and praise the Lord

Benjamin Hastings | Brandon Lake | Dante Bowe © 2019 Bethel Worship
Publishing; Brandon Lake Music; Maverick City Publishing; Maverick City
Publishing Worldwide; SHOUT! Music Publishing Australia; Bethel Music
Publishing CCLI License # 73146

“Way Maker”

You are here moving in our midst
I worship You I worship You
You are here working in this place
I worship You I worship You

Chorus: (You are) Way Maker, Miracle Worker
 Promise Keeper, Light in the darkness
 My God that is who You are

You are here touching every heart
I worship You I worship You
You are here healing every heart
I worship You I worship You

You are here turning lives around
I worship You I worship You
You are here mending every heart
I worship You yeah I worship You Lord

Tag: That is who You are, that is who You are
 That is who You are, that is who You are

Bridge: Even when I don't see it You're working
 Even when I don't feel it You're working
 You never stop You never stop working
 You never stop You never stop working

Osinachi Kalu Okoro Egbu © 2016 Integrity Music Europe CCLI License # 73146

“Agnus Dei”

Alleluia, Alleluia for our Lord God Almighty reigns
Alleluia, Alleluia for our Lord God Almighty reigns

Alleluia, Holy, Holy are You Lord God, Almighty
Worthy is the Lamb Worthy is the Lamb
You are Holy, Holy are You Lord God, Almighty
Worthy is the Lamb Worthy is the Lamb Amen

You are Holy, Holy are You Lord God, Almighty
Worthy is the Lamb Worthy is the Lamb Amen
Worthy is the Lamb Worthy is the Lamb Amen, Amen!

Michael W. Smith© 1990 Sony/ATV Milene Music CCLI#73146

Children Released for Sunday School / Announcements

The Lessons

Old Testament Reading – Isaiah 7:10-17

Psalm – Psalm 24 (*read responsively*)

New Testament Reading – Romans 1:1-7

The Gospel

Sung: **Rejoice! Rejoice!**
 Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel.

Deacon: Hear the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Matthew 1:18-25.

All: Glory to You, Lord Christ.

At the end of the reading:

Deacon: This is the Gospel of the Lord.

All: Praise to you, Lord Christ.

Sung: **Rejoice! Rejoice!**
 Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel.

John Mason Neale | Thomas Helmore © Words & Music: Public Domain
CCLI License # 73146

The Message

The Nicene Creed

Celebrant: Let us confess our faith in the words of the Nicene Creed:

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: 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 worshipped 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: Let us pray for the Church and for the world, saying, "Hear our prayer." For the peace of the whole world, and for the well-being and unity of the people of God. Lord, in your mercy:
All: Hear our prayer.

Deacon: We pray for Steve, our Archbishop, and Julian, our Provincial Dean during the Archbishop's leave of absence. Lord, in your mercy:
All: Hear our prayer.

Deacon: We pray for Mark, our Bishop, for Allen, our Suffragan Bishop, and for all the clergy and people of our diocese and congregation. Lord, in your mercy:
All: Hear our prayer.

Deacon: Gracious Father, Look favorably on your holy catholic church. Fill it with all truth, in all truth with all peace. Where it is corrupt, purify it; where it is in error, direct it; where in anything it is amiss, reform it. Where it is right, strengthen it; where it is in want, provide for it; where it is divided, reunite it; for the sake of Jesus Christ your Son our Savior. Lord, in your mercy:
All: Hear our prayer.

Deacon: We pray for the diocesan Search Committee for our next bishop. Almighty God, giver of every good gift:

Look graciously on your Church, and so guide the minds of those who shall choose a Bishop for this Diocese that we may receive a faithful pastor who will preach the Gospel, care for your people, equip us for ministry, and lead us forth in fulfillment of the Great Commission; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Lord, in your mercy:
All: Hear our prayer.

Deacon: For all those who proclaim the Gospel at home and abroad; and for all who teach and disciple others. Lord, in your mercy:
All: Hear our prayer.

Deacon: For our brothers and sisters in Christ who are persecuted for their faith. Lord, in your mercy:
All: Hear our prayer.

Deacon: For our nation, for those in authority, and for all in public service, especially our Donald, our President, Mike, our Governor, and our senators and representatives. Lord, in your mercy:
All: Hear our prayer.

Deacon: For all those who are in trouble, sorrow, need, sickness, or any other adversity. Lord, in your mercy:
All: Hear our prayer.

Deacon: For all those who have departed this life in the certain hope of the resurrection, in thanksgiving let us pray. Lord, in your mercy:
All: Hear our prayer.

Celebrant: Heavenly Father, grant these our prayers for the sake of Jesus Christ, our only Mediator and Advocate, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever.
All: Amen.

The Confession and Absolution of Sin

Celebrant: Let us humbly confess our sins to the Lord.

All: Most merciful God, we confess that we have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done, and by what we have left undone.

We have not loved you with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves.

We are truly sorry and we humbly repent. For the sake of your Son Jesus Christ, have mercy on us and forgive us; that we may delight in your will, and walk in your ways, to the glory of your Name. Amen.

Celebrant: Almighty God, our heavenly Father, who in his great mercy has promised forgiveness of sins to all those who sincerely repent and with true faith turn to him, have mercy upon you, pardon and deliver you from all your sins, confirm and strengthen you in all goodness, and bring you to everlasting life, through Jesus Christ our Lord.

All: Amen.

The Comfortable Words

Celebrant: Hear the Word of God to all who truly turn to him.

Come to me, all who labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. (Matthew 11:28)

God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life. (John 3:16)

The saying is trustworthy and deserving of full acceptance, that Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners. (1 Timothy 1:15)

If anyone sins, we have an advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous. He is the propitiation for our sins, and not for ours only but also for the sins of the whole world. (1 John 2:1-2)

The Peace

Celebrant: The Peace of the Lord be always with you.

All: And with your spirit.

Celebrant: Exchange with one another the Lord's Peace.

The Offertory *(Tithes and offerings are collected at this time)*

Celebrant: Our offertory sentences are from scripture. "Do not neglect to do good and to share what you have, for such sacrifices are pleasing to God."
(Hebrews 13:16)

"Goodness Of God"

I love You, Lord, for Your mercy never fails me
All my days I've been held in Your hands
From the moment that I wake up until I lay my head
Oh, I will sing of the goodness of God

Chorus: And all my life You have been faithful
And all my life You have been so, so good
With every breath that I am able
Oh, I will sing of the goodness of God

I love Your voice, You have led me through the fire
In the darkest night You are close like no other
I've known You as a Father, I've known You as a Friend
And I have lived in the goodness of God (Chorus)

Bridge: 'Cause Your goodness is running after
It's running after me
Your goodness is running after
It's running after me
With my life laid down I'm surrendered now
I give You everything
'Cause Your goodness is running after
It's running after me

Ben Fielding | Brian Johnson | Ed Cash | Jason Ingram | Jenn Johnson © 2018
Alletrop Music, SHOUT! Music Publishing Australia, Fellow Ships Music, So
Essential Tunes, Bethel Music Publishing CCLI License # 73146

Doxology *[All rise]*

**Sung: Praise God from whom all blessings flow
Praise Him all creatures here below
Praise him above ye heavenly host
Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.**

Louis Bourgeois | Thomas Ken © Words & Music: Public Domain Music CCLI# 73146

Celebrant: All things come of you, O Lord.

All: And of Your own have we given You.

The Great Thanksgiving

[We invite all baptized Christians to join us at the Lord's table. We offer communion in the form of bread, wafer, gluten-free wafer, or individually packaged juice and wafer. Once received, step left to drink from the communal cup, or step to the right to intinct (dip) the wafer.]

Celebrant: The Lord be with you.

All: And with your spirit.

Celebrant: Lift up your hearts.

All: We lift them up to the Lord.

Celebrant: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

All: It is right to give him thanks and praise.

Celebrant: It is right, our duty and our joy, always and everywhere to give thanks to you, Father Almighty, Creator of heaven and earth.

Because you sent your beloved Son to redeem us from sin and death, and to make us heirs in him of everlasting life; that when he shall come again in power and great glory to judge the world, we may without shame or fear rejoice to behold his appearing.

Therefore, we praise you, joining our voices with Angels and Archangels and with all the company of heaven, who forever sing this hymn to proclaim the glory of your Name:

The Sanctus

**Sung: Holy, Holy, Holy Lord, God of power and might,
Heaven and earth are filled with your glory.
Holy, Holy, Holy Lord, God of power and might,
Heaven and earth are filled with your glory.
Hosanna, Hosanna in the highest.
Hosanna, Hosanna in the highest.
Blessed is He who comes in the name of the Lord,
Hosanna in the highest!**

Peter Scholtes © 1966, 1970 F.E.L. Publications CCLI License # 73146

The Prayer of Consecration

Celebrant: Holy and gracious Father: In your infinite love you made us for yourself; and when we had sinned against you and become subject to evil and death, you, in your mercy, sent your only Son into the world for our salvation.

By the Holy Spirit and the Virgin Mary he became flesh and dwelt among us. In obedience to your will, he stretched out his arms upon the cross and offered himself once for all, that by his suffering and death we might be saved.

By his resurrection he broke the bonds of death, trampling Hell and Satan under his feet. As our great high priest, he ascended to your right hand in glory; that we might come with confidence before the throne of grace.

On the night that he was betrayed, our Lord Jesus Christ took bread; and when he had given thanks, he broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying, "Take, eat; this is my Body which is given for you: Do this in remembrance of me."

Likewise, after supper, Jesus took the cup, and when he had given thanks, he gave it to them, saying, "Drink this, all of you; for 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 in remembrance of me."

Mystery of Faith

Deacon: Therefore, we proclaim the mystery of faith:

All: Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.

Celebrant: We celebrate the memorial of our redemption, O Father, in this sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving, and we offer you these gifts.

Sanctify them by your Word and Holy Spirit to be for your people the Body and Blood of your Son Jesus Christ.

Sanctify us also that we may worthily receive this holy sacrament, and be made one body with him, so that he may dwell in us and we in him.

And bring us with all your saints into the fullness of your heavenly kingdom, where we shall see our Lord:

All: Face to Face.

All this we ask through your Son Jesus Christ: 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 forever.

All: Amen.

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

**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, the power, and the glory
Forever and ever. Amen.**

The Breaking of the Bread

Celebrant: Alleluia. Christ our Passover has been sacrificed for us.

All: Therefore, let us keep the feast. Alleluia.

The Prayer of Humble Access

**Sung: We do not presume to come to Your table
Trusting in our own righteousness
For we are not worthy so much as to gather
The crumbs from under Your table**

**But trusting O Lord in Your great and manifold mercies
For You are the same Lord
Whose nature is always to have mercy**

**So cleanse us and feed us
With the body and blood of Your son
That we may live in Him and that He may live in us
Forever and ever Amen**

The Agnus Dei

Celebrant: Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world

All: Have mercy on us.

Celebrant: Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world

All: Have mercy on us.

Celebrant: Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world

All: Grant us your peace.

Celebrant: The gifts of God, for the people of God. Take them in remembrance that Christ died for you, and feed on him in your hearts by faith with thanksgiving.

Music During Communion:

“Creator Of The Stars Of Night”

J. M. Neale | Rachel Wilhelm © 2012 RachelWilhelmMusic
CCLI License # 73146

“Here I Am To Worship”

Tim Hughes © 2000 Thankyou Music CCLI # 73146

"Emmanuel"

Bob McGee© 1976 C.A. Music (Admin. by Music Services, Inc.) CCLI # 73146

Post Communion Prayer

All: Heavenly Father, we thank you for feeding us with the spiritual food of the most precious Body and Blood of your Son our Savior Jesus Christ. And for assuring us in these holy mysteries that we are living members of the Body of your Son, and heirs of your eternal kingdom.

And now, Father, send us out into the world to do the work you have given us to do, to love and serve you as faithful witnesses of Christ our Lord. To him, to you, and to the Holy Spirit, be honor and glory, now and forever. Amen.

Celebrant: All our problems

All: We send to the cross of Christ

Celebrant: All our difficulties

All: We send to the cross of Christ

Celebrant: All the devil's works

All: We send to the cross of Christ

Celebrant: And all of our hopes

All: We set on the risen Christ

The Blessing

The Recessional

“Come Thou Long Expected Jesus”

Come, Thou long expected Jesus
Born to set Thy people free
From our fears and sins release us
Let us find our rest in Thee
Israel's strength and consolation
Hope of all the earth Thou art
Dear desire of every nation
Joy of every longing heart

Born Thy people to deliver
Born a child, and yet a king
Born to reign in us for ever
Now Thy gracious kingdom bring
By Thine own eternal Spirit
Rule in all our hearts alone
By Thine all-sufficient merit
Raise us to Thy glorious throne

Charles Wesley | Rowland Hugh Prichard © Words & Music: Public Domain
CCLI License # 73146

The Dismissal

Deacon: Let us go forth in the Name of Christ.

All: Thanks be to God.

This Week at St. Luke's Church, December 22nd – December 28th

Monday

Boy Scout Troop 411, 6:30 PM (The Harbor)

Tuesday

Worship With the Word, 6:30 PM (Sanctuary)

Stage 4 Ministry, 6:30 PM (Conference Room)

Women's Group, 7:00 PM (Common Room)

Wednesday

Christmas Eve Service, 7:00 PM (Sanctuary)

Thursday

Birth of the King of Kings, Church Offices CLOSED

Christmas Day Service, 10:00 AM (Sanctuary)

Friday

Church Offices CLOSED

Saturday

Men's Group, 9:30 AM (Lower Kitchenette)

Sunday

Sunday Morning Worship, 10:00 AM (Sanctuary)

Prayer Team Meeting, 12:30 PM (Sanctuary)

Youth Group, 6:30 PM (The Harbor)

**Readings for December 28: Isaiah 61:10-62:5
Psalm 147:12-20 ○ Galatians 3:23-4:7 ○ John 1:1-18**