



**Welcome to St. Luke's Church
Sunday, December 3, 2023**

The First 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.net

Processional

"O Come, O Come, Emmanuel"

O come, O come, Emmanuel,
and ransom captive Israel
that mourns in lonely exile here
until the Son of God appear.
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel.

O come, Thou Wisdom from on high,
Who ord'rest all things mightily
To us the path of knowledge show,
And teach us in her ways to go.
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel.

O come, thou rod of Jesse's stem,
from every foe deliver them
that trust thy mighty power to save,
and give them vict'ry o'er the grave.
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel.

O come, thou Day-spring from on high,
and cheer us by thy drawing nigh;
Disperse the gloomy clouds of night
and death's dark shadow put to flight.
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel.

O come desire of nations, bind
In one the hearts of all mankind
Bid Thou our sad divisions cease
And be Thyself our King of Peace
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel.

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

Opening Sentence

Officiant: Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the
Lord Jesus Christ. Philippians 1:2

Lighting of the Advent Wreath

Celebrant: Today is the first Sunday of Advent. The Sunday in which we recall the Hope we have in Christ. The prophets of Israel all spoke of the coming of Christ, of how a savior would be born, a king in the line of David. They spoke of how he would rule the world wisely and bless all nations.

On Christmas day the Christ of our Hope was born, On Good Friday the Christ of our hope died. On Easter day the Christ of our hope rose from the dead. He then ascended into heaven. On the last day, the Christ of our hope will come again to establish his kingdom over all things on earth.

As the followers of Christ, we await his return. We light this candle to remember that he came to us humbly in the manger at Bethlehem and gave light to the world, so he is coming again in power to deliver his people. We light this candle to remind us to be alert and to watch for his return.

Lighting of the First Candle: The Candle of Hope

**Sung: 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.**

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

Confession of Sin

Officiant: Dearly beloved, the Scriptures teach us to acknowledge our many sins and offenses, not concealing them from our heavenly Father, but confessing them with humble and obedient hearts that we may obtain forgiveness by his infinite goodness and mercy. We ought at all times humbly to acknowledge our sins before Almighty God, but especially when we come together in his presence to give thanks for the great benefits we have received at his hands, to declare his most worthy praise, to hear his holy Word, and to ask, for ourselves and on behalf of others, those things which are necessary for our life and our salvation. Therefore, draw near with me to the throne of heavenly grace.

All sitting or kneeling as able.

All: Almighty and most merciful Father, we have erred and strayed from your ways like lost sheep. We have followed too much the devices and desires of our own hearts.

We have offended against your holy laws. We have left undone those things which we ought to have done, and we have done those things which we ought not to have done; and apart from your grace, there is no health in us.

O Lord, have mercy upon us. Spare all those who confess their faults. Restore all those who are penitent, according to your promises declared to all people in Christ Jesus our Lord.

And grant, O most merciful Father, for his sake, that we may now live a godly, righteous, and sober life, to the glory of your holy Name. Amen.

Officiant: Grant to your faithful people, merciful Lord, pardon, and peace; that we may be cleansed from all our sins and serve you with a quiet mind; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

All: Amen.

Invitatory

All stand.

Officiant: O Lord, open our lips,

All: And our mouth shall proclaim your praise.

Officiant: O God, make speed to save us,

All: Lord, make haste to help us.

Officiant: Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit,

All: As it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, world without end. Amen.

Officiant: Praise the Lord.

All: The Lord's Name be praised.

Seasonal Antiphon

Officiant: Our King and Savior now draws near:

All: O Come, let us adore him. Alleluia.

Venite

All: O come, let us sing unto the Lord; let us heartily rejoice in the strength of our salvation.

Let us come before his presence with thanksgiving and show ourselves glad in him with psalms.

For the Lord is a great God and a great King above all gods. In his hand are all the depths of the earth, and the heights of the hills are his also. The sea is his, for he made it, and his hands prepared the dry land.

O come, let us worship and fall down, and kneel before the Lord our Maker. For he is our God, and we are the people of his pasture, and the sheep of his hand.

Today, if you will hear his voice, harden not your hearts as in the provocation, and as in the day of temptation in the wilderness, when your fathers tested me, and put me to the proof, though they had seen my works.

Forty years long was I grieved with this generation and said, "It is a people that err in their hearts, for they have not known my ways," of whom I swore in my wrath that they should not enter into my rest.

Officiant: Our King and Savior now draws near:

All: O Come, let us adore him. Alleluia.

Praise and Worship

"Prepare The Way"

Prepare the way, prepare the way
Prepare the way of the Lord (repeat)

Chorus: Jesus, Jesus, Jesus, Jesus
Jesus, Jesus, Jesus, Jesus

You are the light of the world
You are the light of the world
You are the light of the world Jesus (repeat)

You are the King of the earth
You are the King of the earth
You are the King of the earth Jesus (repeat)

Charlie Hall | Louie Giglio © sixsteps music, worshiptogether.com songs
CCLI # 73146

“Glory”

Chorus: Lift up your heads, open the doors
Let the King of glory come in
And forever be our God

Great is the Lord God Almighty
Great is the Lord on high
The train of His robe fills the temple
And we cry out highest praise

Pre-Chorus: Glory to the risen King
Glory to the Son, glorious Son

Holy is the Lord God Almighty
Holy is the Lord on high
Let all the earth bow before You
And crown You Lord of all

Reuben Morgan© 2002 Hillsong Music Publishing CCLI 73146

“King Of Kings”

Chorus: Praise the Father, praise the Son
Praise the Spirit three in one
God of Glory, majesty
Praise forever to the King of kings

In the darkness we were waiting
Without hope without light
Till from Heaven You came running
There was mercy in Your eyes
To fulfil the law and prophets
To a virgin came the Word
From a throne of endless glory to a cradle in the dirt

To reveal the kingdom coming
And to reconcile the lost
To redeem the whole creation
You did not despise the cross
For even in Your suffering
You saw to the other side
Knowing this was our salvation
Jesus for our sake You died (Chorus)

And the morning that You rose
All of heaven held its breath
Till that stone was moved for good
For the Lamb had conquered death
And the dead rose from their tombs
And the angels stood in awe
For the souls of all who'd come
To the Father are restored

And the Church of Christ was born
Then the Spirit lit the flame
Now this Gospel truth of old
Shall not kneel shall not faint
By His blood and in His Name
In His freedom I am free
For the love of Jesus Christ
Who has resurrected me (Chorus)

Brooke Ligertwood | Jason Ingram | Scott Ligertwood © 2019 Hillsong Music
Publishing Australia, Fellow Ships Music, So Essential Tunes
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

Dismissal of Children to Sunday School

Announcements

The Reading of the Psalm

Psalm 80 ESV

Psalm 80 The Message

At the end of the reading the following is said:

All: Glory be to the Father and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit, as it was in the beginning, is now and ever shall be, world without end. Amen.

Lessons

Isaiah 64:1-9a

1 Corinthians 1:1-9

At the end of each lesson the following is said:

Lector: The Word of the Lord.

All: Thanks be to God.

Benedictus (The Song of Zechariah)

All: Blessed be the Lord, the God of Israel; he has come to his people and set them free. He has raised up for us a mighty savior, born of the house of his servant David.

Through his holy prophets he promised of old that he would save us from our enemies, from the hands of all who hate us. He promised to show mercy to our fathers and to remember his holy covenant.

This was the oath he swore to our father Abraham, to set us free from the hands of our enemies, free to worship him without fear, holy and righteous in his sight all the days of our life.

You, my child, shall be called the prophet of the Most High, for you will go before the Lord to prepare his way, to give his people knowledge of salvation by the forgiveness of their sins.

In the tender compassion of our God the dawn from on high shall break upon us, to shine on those who dwell in darkness and in the shadow of death, and to guide our feet into the way of peace.

Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit; as it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, world without end. Amen.

Luke 1:68-79

Gospel Lesson

Deacon: The Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Mark 13:24-37.

All: Glory to you, Lord Christ.

At the end of the lesson the following is said:

Deacon: The Gospel of the Lord

All: Praise to you, Lord Christ.

The Message

Congregational Prayer

"Change My Heart, Oh God"

Change my heart oh God, make it ever true.
Change my heart oh God, may I be like You.
You are the potter, I am the clay,
Mold me and make me, this is what I pray.

Ending:

Change my heart oh God, make it ever true.
Change my heart oh God, may I be like You.

Eddie Espinosa © 1982 Mercy / Vineyard Publishing CCLI# 73146

"Here In Your Presence"

Found in Your hands, fullness of joy
Every fear suddenly wiped away
Here in Your Presence

All of my gains now fade away
Every crown no longer on display
Here in Your Presence

Heaven is trembling in awe of Your wonders
The kings and their kingdoms are standing amazed

Chorus: Here in Your Presence, we are undone
Here in Your Presence
Heaven and earth become one
Here in Your Presence, all things are new
Here in Your Presence
Everything bows before You

Bridge: Wonderful, beautiful, glorious
Matchless in every way

Jon Egan © 2006 Vertical Worship Songs CCLI License # 73146

The Offertory

Officiant: Let your light shine before others, so that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father who is in heaven.

“Behold Him”

He who was before there was light
Walked across the pages of time
He who made every living thing, Behold Him
He who heard humanity's cry
Left His throne to wake as a child
He became like the least of us, Behold Him

Chorus 1: Jesus Son of God Messiah
The Lamb the roaring Lion
Oh be still and behold Him

He who dined with sinners and saints
Healed the blind the lost and the lame
Even now He is in our midst, Behold Him
He who chose a criminal's end
Paid with blood to settle our debt
Buried death as He rose to life, Behold Him

Chorus 2: Jesus Son of God Messiah
The Lamb the roaring Lion
Oh be still and behold Him
Jesus Alpha and Omega
Our God the risen Savior
Oh be still and behold Him

Bridge: Holy holy holy is the Lord God Almighty
Worthy worthy worthy to receive all praise

Mitch Wong | Paul Baloche © 2019 A Wong Made Write Publishing; Integrity
Worship Music; Integrity's Praise! Music; Leadworship Songs
CCLI License # 73146

Doxology

All stand while the offerings are presented.

**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

Officiant: Yours, O Lord, is the greatness, and the power, and the glory, and the victory and the majesty; for everything in heaven and on earth is yours; yours is the Kingdom, O Lord, and you are exalted as Head above all. All things come from you, O Lord

All: And of your own have we given you. 1 Chronicles 29:11. 14

Apostles Creed

All stand.

**All: I believe in God, the Father almighty,
creator of heaven and earth.**

I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord.

He was conceived by the Holy Spirit and born of the Virgin Mary. He 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 and is seated at the right hand of the Father. 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: The Lord be with you.

All: And with your spirit.

Officiant: Let us pray.

All kneel or stand.

Officiant: Lord, have mercy.

All: Christ, have mercy.

Officiant: Lord, have mercy.

**All: Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your Name,
your kingdom come, your will be done,
on earth as it is in heaven.**

Give us today our daily bread.

And forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us. Save us from the time of trial, and deliver us from evil. For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours, now and for ever. Amen.

Prayers of the People

Officiant: O Lord, show your mercy upon us;

All: And grant us your salvation.

Officiant: O Lord, guide those who govern us;

All: And lead us in the way of justice and truth.

Officiant: Clothe your ministers with righteousness;

All: And let your people sing with joy.

Officiant: O Lord, save your people;

All: And bless your inheritance.

Officiant: Give peace in our time, O Lord;

All: And defend us by your mighty power.

Officiant: Let not the needy, O Lord, be forgotten;

All: Nor the hope of the poor be taken away.

Officiant: Create in us clean hearts, O God;

All: And take not your Holy Spirit from us.

The Collect of the day

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.

All: Amen.

A Collect for Strength to Await Christ's Return

Officiant: O God our King, by the resurrection of your Son Jesus Christ on the first day of the week, you conquered sin, put death to flight, and gave us the hope of everlasting life:

Redeem all our days by this victory; forgive our sins, banish our fears, make us bold to praise you and to do your will; and steel us to wait for the consummation of your kingdom on the last great Day; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

All: Amen.

Prayer for Mission

Officiant: Almighty and everlasting God, who alone works great marvels: Send down upon our clergy and the congregations committed to their charge the life-giving Spirit of your grace, shower them with the continual dew of your blessing, and ignite in them a zealous love of your Gospel; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

All: Amen.

The General Thanksgiving

All: Almighty God, Father of all mercies, we your unworthy servants give you humble thanks for all your goodness and loving-kindness to us and to all whom you have made.

We bless you for our creation, preservation, and all the blessings of this life; but above all for your immeasurable love in the redemption of the world by our Lord Jesus Christ; for the means of grace, and for the hope of glory.

And, we pray, give us such an awareness of your mercies, that with truly thankful hearts we may show forth your praise, not only with our lips, but in our lives, by giving up ourselves to your service, and by walking before you in holiness and righteousness all our days; through Jesus Christ our Lord, to whom, with you and the Holy Spirit, be honor and glory throughout all ages. Amen.

Prayer of St. John Chrysostom

Officiant: Almighty God, you have given us grace at this time, with one accord to make our common supplications to you; and you have promised through your well-beloved Son that when two or three are gathered together in his Name you will grant their requests: Fulfill now, O Lord, our desires and petitions as may be best for us; granting us in this world knowledge of your truth, and in the age to come life everlasting.

All: Amen.

The Blessing

Recessional

“Behold Him”

Chorus 1: Jesus Son of God Messiah
The Lamb the roaring Lion
Oh be still and behold Him

He who was before there was light
Walked across the pages of time
He who made every living thing, Behold Him
He who heard humanity's cry
Left His throne to wake as a child
He became like the least of us, Behold Him

Chorus 2: Jesus Son of God Messiah
The Lamb the roaring Lion
Oh be still and behold Him
Jesus Alpha and Omega
Our God the risen Savior
Oh be still and behold Him

Bridge: Holy holy holy is the Lord God Almighty
Worthy worthy worthy to receive all praise

Mitch Wong | Paul Baloche © 2019 A Wong Made Write Publishing; Integrity
Worship Music; Integrity's Praise! Music; Leadworship Songs
CCLI License # 73146

Dismissal

Deacon: Let us bless the Lord.

All: Thanks be to God.

This Week at St. Luke's Church, December 4th – December 10th

Monday

Boy Scout Troop 411, 7:00-8:30 PM (The Harbor)

Tuesday

Worship With the Word, 6:30-8:30 PM (Sanctuary)

Stage 4 Ministry, 6:30-8:30 PM (Lower Conference Room)

Women's Group, 7:00-8:30 PM (Common Room)

Wednesday

Thursday

Morning Intercession, 9:30-11:30 AM (Sanctuary)

Stage 4 Ministry, 9:30 AM-12:30 PM (Lower Conference Room)

Friday

Saturday

Men's Group, 9:00-10:30 AM (Café)

Angel Tree Party, 1:00-3:00 PM (The Harbor)

Sunday

Sunday Morning Worship, 10:00 AM (Sanctuary)

Serving the Homeless, 11:00 AM-2:00 PM (Peter Maurin Center)

Bethel Akron Worship, 5:00-7:00 PM (Sanctuary & Upper Level)

Youth Group, 6:30-8:30 PM (The Harbor)

Upcoming:

Dec. 24th – Christmas Eve Service, 7:00 PM

Dec. 25th – Christmas Day Service, 10:00 AM

**Readings for December 10: Isaiah 40:1-11, Psalm 85,
2 Peter 3:8-18, Mark 1:1-8**