

99 Peirce Street, East Greenwich, RI 02818 | 401-884-4116 | stlukeseg.org | @stlukeseg

The Third Sunday of Advent | December 13, 2020 Daily Morning Prayer: Rite Two

The people's responses are in bold.

Prelude	Gottes Sohn ist kommen	Heinrich Buttstedt
	(based on Hymn 53, "Once he came in blessing	g")

In the wilderness prepare the way of the Lord, make straight in the desert a highway for our God. *Isaiah 40:3*

Let us confess our sins against God and our neighbor.

Silence may be kept.

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

THE INVITATORY AND PSALTER

Officiant Lord, open our lips. **People** And our mouth shall proclaim your praise.

Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit: as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be for ever. Amen. Alleluia.

Officiant Our King and Savior now draws near: **People** Come let us adore him.

Venite Psalm 95:1-7

Officiant and People

Come, let us sing to the Lord; * let us shout for joy to the Rock of our salvation. Let us come before his presence with thanksgiving * and raise a loud shout to him with psalms.

For the Lord is a great God, *

and a great King above all gods.

In his hand are the caverns of the earth, *

and the heights of the hills are his also.

The sea is his, for he made it, *

and his hands have molded the dry land.

Come, let us bow down, and bend the knee, * 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. * Oh, that today you would hearken to his voice!

Officiant Our King and Savior now draws near: **People** Come let us adore him.

Psalm 126

Officiant and People

1 When the LORD restored the fortunes of Zion, *
then were we like those who dream.
2 Then was our mouth filled with laughter, *
and our tongue with shouts of joy.
3 Then they said among the nations, *
"The LORD has done great things for them."
4 The LORD has done great things for us, * and we are glad indeed.
5 Restore our fortunes, O LORD, * like the watercourses of the Negev.
6 Those who sowed with tears * will reap with songs of joy.
7 Those who go out weeping, carrying the seed, * will come again with joy, shouldering their sheaves.
Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit: * as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be for ever. Amen

THE LESSONS

A Reading from the Book of the Prophet Isaiah 61:1-4, 8-11.

The spirit of the Lord GOD is upon me, because the LORD has anointed me; he has sent me to bring good news to the oppressed, to bind up the brokenhearted, to proclaim liberty to the captives, and release to the prisoners; to proclaim the year of the LORD's favor, and the day of vengeance of our God; to comfort all who mourn; to provide for those who mourn in Zion-to give them a garland instead of ashes, the oil of gladness instead of mourning, the mantle of praise instead of a faint spirit. They will be called oaks of righteousness, the planting of the LORD, to display his glory. They shall build up the ancient ruins, they shall raise up the former devastations; they shall repair the ruined cities, the devastations of many generations. For I the LORD love justice, I hate robbery and wrongdoing; I will faithfully give them their recompense, and I will make an everlasting covenant with them. Their descendants shall be known among the nations, and their offspring among the peoples; all who see them shall acknowledge that they are a people whom the LORD has blessed. I will greatly rejoice in the LORD, my whole being shall exult in my God; for he has clothed me with the garments of salvation, he has covered me with the robe of righteousness, as a bridegroom decks himself with a garland, and as a bride adorns herself with her jewels. For as the earth

brings forth its shoots, and as a garden causes what is sown in it to spring up, so the Lord GOD will cause righteousness and praise to spring up before all the nations.

Reader	The Word of the I	Lord.		
People	Thanks be to Go	d.		
Canticle	15	The Song of Mary M	lagnificat	Luke 1:46-55
my spirit for he From thi the Alr	rejoices in God r has looked with f s day all generation nighty has done g	atness of the Lord, ny Savior; * avor on his lowly ser ons will call me bless great things for me,		
He has n	ly is his Name. hercy on those wl y generation.	no fear him *		
He has s	hown the strengt	h of his arm, * oud in their conceit.		
He has c	-	hty from their throne	es, *	
	illed the hungry v e rich he has sent	vith good things, * away empty.		
	-	of his servant Israel, * his promise of mercy		
-	nise he made to c aham and his chi			

Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit: * as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be for ever. Amen.

A Reading from the First Letter of Paul to the Thessalonians 5:16-24.

Rejoice always, pray without ceasing, give thanks in all circumstances; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you. Do not quench the Spirit. Do not despise the words of prophets, but test everything; hold fast to what is good; abstain from every form of evil. May the God of peace himself sanctify you entirely; and may your spirit and soul and body be kept sound and blameless at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ. The one who calls you is faithful, and he will do this.

ReaderThe Word of the Lord.PeopleThanks be to God.

Anthem

What is the crying at Jordan Brad Logan and Birgitta Whited, soloists Irish melody

A Reading from the Gospel of John 1:6-8, 19-28.

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. This is the testimony given by John when the Jews sent priests and Levites from Jerusalem to ask him, "Who are you?" He confessed and did not deny it, but confessed, "I am not the Messiah." And they asked him, "What then? Are you Elijah?" He said, "I am not." "Are you the prophet?" He answered, "No." Then they said to him, "Who are you? Let us have an answer for those who sent us. What do you say about yourself?" He said, "I am the voice of one crying out in the wilderness, 'Make straight the way of the Lord," as the prophet Isaiah said. Now they had been sent from the Pharisees. They asked him, "Why then are you baptizing if you are neither the Messiah, nor Elijah, nor the prophet?" John answered them, "I baptize with water. Among you stands one whom you do not know, the one who is coming after me; I am not worthy to untie the thong of his sandal." This took place in Bethany across the Jordan where John was baptizing.

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

Sermon

The Rev. Tanya Watt

The Apostles' Creed

Officiant and People

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 power of 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

OfficiantThe Lord be with you.PeopleAnd also with you.OfficiantLet us pray.

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.

V. Save your people, Lord, and bless your inheritance;

- R. Govern and uphold them, now and always.
- V. Day by day we bless you;
- R. We praise your Name for ever.
- V. Lord, keep us from all sin today;
- R. Have mercy on us, Lord, have mercy.
- V. Lord, show us your love and mercy;
- R. For we put our trust in you.
- V. In you, Lord, is our hope;
- R. And we shall never hope in vain.

The Prayers of the People

Let us pray for the Church and for the world.

Grant, Almighty God, that all who confess your Name may be united in your truth, live together in your love, and reveal your glory in the world. For Michael our presiding bishop, Nicholas our bishop, for all bishops and other ministers; and for the clergy and lay staff of our parish. We join with communities throughout this diocese and pray for all laity in their several vocations and ministries that they may truly and devoutly serve God.

Silence

Lord, in your mercy, hear our prayer.

Guide the people of this land, and of all the nations, in the ways of justice and peace; that we may honor one another and serve the common good.

Silence

Lord, in your mercy, hear our prayer.

Give us all a reverence for the earth as your own creation, that we may use its resources rightly in the service of others and to your honor and glory.

Silence

Lord, in your mercy, hear our prayer.

Bless all whose lives are closely linked with ours, and grant that we may serve Christ in them, and love one another as he loves us.

Silence

Lord, in your mercy, hear our prayer.

We commend to your care all of those who work for justice, freedom, and peace. We pray for those in our Armed Forces.

Silence

Lord, in your mercy, hear our prayer.

Comfort and heal all those who suffer in body, mind, or spirit; give them courage and hope in their troubles, and bring them the joy of your salvation. We pray especially for Hannah's Family, Karen Cesaro, Ann Brough, Caroline, Tom Gunther, Bob Richert, Paula Thompson, Michael Joliceur, Rita, Lisbeth, Seamus Ryan Drago, Sherry Anderson, Kate & Callie, Bill, Patti & Gregory Lebeau, Rowen W., Dorothy Brown, Ellen Hall, Shirley W., Dot McDermott, Nancy Sachuk, Peter & Nancy W., Don & Mary S., Richard Fogarty, Jackie Hudson, Heather M., Wendy, Irene, Tyler, Sue & Mel Awes, Sam Hopp, Richard, Billy Leite, Bob Schulman, Urba Burton, Mackenzie C., Donna P., Neil & Tracy, Spencer Collins, Robbin Mackie, Kusum Singh, and Suzie Woodward.

And during this time of global pandemic we pray: God of compassion, be close to those who are ill, afraid or in isolation. In their loneliness, be their consolation; in their anxiety, be their hope; in their darkness, be their light.

Silence

Lord, in your mercy, hear our prayer.

We commend to your mercy all who have died, that your will for them may be fulfilled; and we pray that we may share with all your saints in your eternal kingdom.

Silence

Lord, in your mercy, hear our prayer.

Silence

Stir up your power, O Lord, and with great might come among us; and, because we are sorely hindered by our sins, 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 for ever. **Amen.**

The General Thanksgiving

Officiant and People

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 our selves 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.

Officiant Let us bless the Lord. **People Thanks be to God.**

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God, and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit, be with us all evermore. **Amen.** *2 Corinthians* 13:14

Hymn 65



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Participants

Preacher	The Rev. Tanya Watt, Assistant Rector
Officiant	The Rev. Timothy T. Rich, Rector
Minister of Music	Rodney Ayers
Soloists	Brad Logan and Birgitta Whited
First Reading	Sally House
Second Reading	Ben Lovejoy
Gospel Reading	Steve McLoughlin
Prayers	Betsy Fornal

THIS WEEK AT ST. LUKE'S

<u>Sunday, 12/13</u> Worship with us online at stlukeseg.org

<u>Monday, 12/14</u> 10:30-12 EG Food Cupboard

Wednesday, 12/16 10:30-12 EG Food Cupboard 7 pm Adult Faith Formation via Zoom

<u>Friday, 12/18</u> 10:30-12 EG Food Cupboard

<u>Sunday, 12/20</u> Worship with us online at stlukeseg.org 5 pm Christmas Party via Zoom

Come one, come all!

You're invited to the St. Luke's COVID-Christmas Party, 5:00PM, Sunday, December 20.

Zoom in prepared to share a personal <u>Christmas favorite</u>-- a favorite Christmas song (singing optional), a favorite Christmas poem (recitation preferred), a favorite Christmas drink (recipe required), a favorite Christmas drinking vessel, a favorite Christmas tradition, a favorite Christmas movie, a favorite Christmas sweater, or any other favorite Christmas tradition you might like to share!

It's only for an hour but let's see how many Christmas favorites we can pack in to those 60 minutes. And let's not let this Grinch of a pandemic steal our Christmas cheer!

Look for the Zoom invite in <u>next</u> week's invitation to worship.

From the Treasurer

I was in the checkout line the other day, waiting for my turn to approach the register, masked and socially distanced by the stick on feet placed on the floor. It brought me back to the annual meeting last year, where our floors (and walls and many other places, so it seemed) also had stick on feet for that year's commitment drive theme of taking our next step. Who knew we would be trend setters.

October and November were solid months financially. Pledges and gifts have continued in your support of our Parish. With all the good news of vaccines coming, and a potential return to less sickness and a less restrictive lifestyle, there is a reason to hope.

And hope sounds like a pretty good Christmas gift for all of us.

If you can, please help us close out 2020 on a positive note.

	2020 YTD	Budget	%	2019 YTD	Var
Pledge Income	\$382,778	\$400,000	95.69%	\$419,131	(\$36,353)
Loose Plate	\$17,960	\$17,700	101.47%	\$31,321	(\$13,361)
Other Personal Inc.	\$65,165	\$68,819	94.69%	\$130,517	(\$65,352)
Total Personal Inc.	\$465,903	\$486,519	95.76%	\$580,969	(\$115,066)
Total Other Inc	\$110,133	\$94,533	116.50%	\$47,201	\$62,932
Total Income	\$576,036	\$581,052	99.14%	\$628,170	(\$52,134)
Staff Expenses	\$384,676	\$391,199	98.33%	\$408,644	(\$23,968)
Facilities Expenses	\$102,289	\$111,926	91.39%	\$144,99 0	(\$42,701)
Program Expenses	\$21,825	\$29,296	74.50%	\$22,739	(\$914)
Outreach Expenses	\$12,067	\$7,506	160.76%	\$7,036	\$5,031
Total Expenses	\$607,610	\$626,658	96.96%	\$668,302	(\$60,692)
Net Income	(\$31,575)	(\$45,607)	69.23%	(\$40,132)	\$8,557

Peace, Michael Sullivan

CELEBRATE CHRISTMAS WITH US!



Hope, Peace, Joy and Love!

Join Us inVirtual Worship, Reflection, and Song

www.stlukeseg.org Facebook & YouTube

- Morning Prayer Services -- Each Sunday of Advent
- Daily Advent Blog -- Nov. 29 through Dec. 24
- St. Luke's Christmas Concert -- as of 5pm, Sat., Dec. 12
- Christmas Eve Day -- as of Noon
 - A Celebration of Christmas --Stories, Songs and Prayers for Children & Families
 - Lessons & Carols -- Scripture Readings, Seasonal Prayers, Christmas Music, and Sermon

Resources For Your Advent Journey

From Forward Movement - forwardmovement.org:

"Waiting and Watching" "A Way to the Manger" "O Wisdom – Advent Devotions on the Name of Jesus" "I Witness" Kate Moorehead "What Are You Waiting For?" Christine McSpadden "Expecting Jesus" Danielle Elizabeth Tumminio "Joy of Heaven, to Earth Come Down" Margaret Bullitt-Jonas

From Amazon:

"Advent and Christmas: Wisdom from Henri Nouwen" "The Soul of Christmas" Thomas Moore "Preparing for Christmas" Richard Rohr "Our December Hearts" Anne McConney "Faithful Celebrations" Sharon Ely Pearson

Advent Blog

During the season of Advent we experience the longing for Christ's presence among us, the call to wait and to endure faithfully because we know God is faithful to us and the inbreaking of Christ into our world is so very near. This year, Advent has a special resonance; we are enduring and waiting in a way that we never have before. As we live into this season of longing and hope, we are physically apart. But while we are apart, we are able to be together, to hear each other's voices, through our Advent Blog. We are so glad to offer a resource for reflection and connection with one another, to hear the voices of the saints of St. Luke's through their reflections on the scripture for the day. Our Advent Blog is just one click away: <u>https://stlukeseg.org/advent-blog/</u>

12 Days of Christmas Blog!

Our cup is truly running over, and the enthusiasm for our Advent Blog has spilled over into the coming season of Christmas. During the 12 Days of Christmas, we will have the opportunity to continue to hear from members of our faith community as they reflect on the scripture for the day. We have seven open slots for writers. Please consider contributing your voice to the chorus of reflections! You don't need to be an expert or even have any experience writing about Scripture; just an open heart and willingness to share. If you would be willing to write a short (1-3 paragraph) reflection, email Mother Tanya at <u>tanya@stlukeseg.org</u> and she will send you a set of daily readings and some more detailed instructions.

<u>The Diocese of Rhode Island is offering a</u> <u>Blue Christmas Service</u>

The longest night of the year occurs during Advent, this year on December 21. The Diocese of Rhode Island is offering a Blue Christmas service via Zoom on that night. Blue Christmas services recognize the deep griefs that people may be bearing while also orienting us to the promise of hope that marks our shared faith.

The Service will be held on December 21 at 7 pm at this link: https://zoom.us/j/98551264816#success

Christmas Flower & Music Memorials

POINSETTIA MEMORIALS

REQUESTED BY:	_
In loving memory of	
	-
	_
	_



As in years past, we invite you to remember loved ones this Christmas season by making a memorial gift to St. Luke's. Although services will be different in this time of COVID, by your generosity, they still will include the beauty of both music and flowers. Simply make out your check to St. Luke's Church and let us know both how you would like it directed and for whom your contribution has been given. Please submit names to the office by **Sunday, December 13**.

Suggested donation for the Poinsettias and Music Memorials is \$10 per name. You can email names to Christina in the office at <u>cimondi@stlukeseg.org</u> or fill out this form and mail or drop off with your check to St. Luke's.

Thank you for your generosity. May your loved ones continue to rest eternal with the communion of saints and may God bless you in the weeks to come.



Deck Your Halls with Dazzling Bonuses for St. Luke's!



Looking for an easy way to shop for and send gifts? RaiseRight ecards and gift cards will help on both accounts! Purchase now to lock in 'Dazzling Bonuses' that will earn up to 17% for St. Luke's. Not only can you lock in these bonuses for Christmas, but they will also apply for early shopping purchases you might consider for upcoming birthdays, special occasions, or general shopping needs. You can even purchase your Giving Tree Walmart gift cards through RaiseRight! With new bonuses every week, there are ample possibilities ...



So, please, add the RaiseRight app to your phone today and help raise additional funds for St. Luke's! Scan the QR code below to get more details on the app. Most importantly, when downloading the app, please enter the following enrollment code to specify St. Luke's as your charitable organization of choice: FEB88LAC73L81



Use the Holiday Gift Guide and take advantage of increased bonus rewards during the upcoming holiday season. Stay tuned for more information on this exciting opportunity to support St. Luke's.

Thank you, Mark & Susan Cordle, Deborah Collins & Jeremy Stowe Your Faithful RaiseRight Project Team

Stained Glass Window Books and Note Cards

If you are missing church, here is an idea that will lift your spirits!

The Pastoral Care team will be selling The Stained Glass Window Books and Note Cards. They make wonderful Christmas gifts! The cost for our book is \$25 each or two for \$40. Shipping cost is \$2 if books are mailed to the recipient. The cost for our cards is \$10 for a package of 5 cards. They can also be picked up at the church office. Please call the office or email Christina, <u>cimondi@stlukeseg.org</u>, if you would like to purchase these. We accept cash and checks made out to St. Luke's Church. All proceeds go for the restoration and maintenance of our beautiful windows!



Thank you!

THE CHIMES OF ST. LUKE'S PISCOPAL (HURGH VOL 1

Another Great Holiday Gift Idea

Many of you may have heard the chimes playing from our church tower on Sundays after services or on many a Tuesday evening over the last year. Now, a recording of 31 hymns is available on CD! Selections range from 'old chestnuts' such as *Rock of Ages*, patriotic tunes--*My Country Tis of Thee*, gospel songs--*It's Me O Lord*, to traditional favorites like *O Praise Ye the Lord*. Contact Christina Imondi, Parish Administrator, at <u>cimondi@stlukeseg.org</u> to obtain a copy. There is no set price—rather, a donation to St. Luke's would be gratefully accepted.

HAPPY 90TH BIRTHDAY, TOM GREENE!

Many of us know Thomas Casey Greene, Jr., a lifelong resident of Warwick, living at Forge Farm, the birthplace of his famous ancestor, Gen. Nathanael Greene. Though Tom was born in Boston in 1930, he has resided at the family homestead ever since. We also know that Tom is an accomplished musician in his own right, classically skilled at the organ, piano and harpsichord. In times past, he assisted with our choirs, and played for services on the organ. Nowadays, when we are open for worship, Tom customarily sits in the pew beneath the Casey family plaque on the north aisle, ponders the sermons carefully, and especially delights in the music, both instrumental and vocal.

Tom does not have access to a computer or cell phone, so he counts on snail mail and telephone conversations to stay in touch with what's going on at St. Luke's. Therefore, his parish family is in a position to surprise him with birthday cards! He'll mark his 90th birthday on **December 15th**, so please mail your well wishes to:

Thomas Casey Greene 40 Old Forge Road Warwick, RI 02818

Thanks so much for your thoughtfulness as we celebrate our newest Nonagenarian!

Laura Sullivan

A Special Thank You!

We would like to send out a special thank you to Cindi and Ben Lovejoy for providing us with our lovely prelude "Come Holy Light" this past Sunday! We look forward to another piece by this amazing duo on the 4th Sunday of Advent entitled "In Our Midst". We would also like to thank them for the beautiful wooden heart distance markers along our sidewalk entering the church. Thank you Cindi and Ben!

St. Luke's Choirs Sing for You!

As a special gift from the Canterbury, St. Cecilia, and Angel Choirs to our St. Luke's family and friends, choir members compiled a special 'arrangement' of "How Can I Keep From Singing". The music is from an American folk song originally composed by Baptist minister Robert Wadworth Lowry in 1868 with the four-part arrangement published by Jeffrey Honoré in 1991. The choirs performed this piece at their 2019 Spring Concert and happily recreated that performance in this video. Here is the link: <u>https://stlukeseg.org/virtual-hymn-2020/</u> (It is also available on St. Luke's website and Facebook page).

Use your phone to scan this QR code to make an online donation to St. Luke's!



Theology on Tap Holiday Service

While TOT won't be able to meet this year for our traditional face to face Eucharist, we will still be meeting via **Zoom on Tuesday Dec 15 at 7:00pm**. Father Tim will be presiding over a special service we've designed to bring us together to appreciate the warmth and fellowship during the holiday season.

The Zoom link

is: https://zoom.us/j/93890668175?pwd=QkU3NjZHNGtCZkhtUllNMHlOM1Zx Zz09

Meeting ID: 938 9066 8175 Passcode: 316950

We'll send the Service bulletin and instructions out prior to Tuesday and, if you are not on the TOT distribution list and would like to attend, please contact Brent Bostick (908-230-7569 or <u>brentbostick1@gmail.com</u>)

Pastoral Care Ministry

We have a new convenient way to request to add someone to our Prayer List. Our new Prayer List Request Form is available on our website under our Parish Life tab, in our Weekly Newsletter, and it is also available in the back of the church where the prayer list is kept. Our online form is easy to fill out or you can fill out and return the hard copy form at the back of church and drop it in our basket on Sunday. The prayer list is updated weekly and available for all of us to view in a link in the Weekly Newsletter. The Pastoral Care Ministry continues to pray for all on the prayer list and send cards to the homebound and those in the hospital. By filling out the information on this new form, you will help us to keep in touch.

Thank you and stay well.

The Pastoral Care Ministry