



The Holy Communion

The Holy Innocents

10:15 a.m. - FM 98.1

Diana Burden, piano

8:15 a.m. – The Order of Service is found in the Book of Common Prayer beginning on page 67. Propers (Collect, Epistle and Gospel) begin on page 102.

PRELUDE

“The Coventry Carol with Away in a Manger”

arr. Cindy Berry

HYMN 130 (verses 1-4)

ALL SAINTS

“Who are these like stars appearing”

OPENING ACCLAMATION

Minister: The Word was made flesh. Alleluia.

People: **And dwelt among us. Alleluia.**

Minister: The Lord be with you.

People: **And with thy spirit.**

Minister: Let us pray.

THE COLLECT FOR PURITY (kneel or sit)

ALMIGHTY God, unto whom all hearts are open, all desires known, and from whom no secrets are hid; Cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of thy Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love thee, and worthily magnify thy holy Name; through Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

THE SUMMARY OF THE LAW

Hear what our Lord Jesus Christ saith.

THOU shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy mind. This is the first and great commandment. And the second is like unto it; Thou shalt love thy neighbour as thyself. On these two commandments hang all the Law and the Prophets.

KYRIE ELEISON

Lord, have mercy upon us.

Christ, have mercy upon us.

Lord, have mercy upon us.

COLLECT FOR HOLY INNOCENTS

ALMIGHTY God, who out of the mouths of babes and sucklings hast ordained strength, and madest infants to glorify thee by their deaths: Mortify and kill all vices in us, and so strengthen us by thy grace, that by the innocency of our lives, and constancy of our faith even unto death, we may glorify thy holy Name; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

COLLECT FOR CHRISTMAS

ALMIGHTY God, who hast given us thy only- begotten Son to take our nature upon him, and as at this time to be born of a pure virgin; Grant that we being regenerate, and made thy children by adoption and grace, may daily be renewed by thy Holy Spirit; through the same our Lord Jesus Christ, who liveth and reigneth with thee and the same Spirit ever, one God, world without end. **Amen.**

OLD TESTAMENT LESSON – Jeremiah 31:1-6, 15-16 (RSV)

In describing God's unswerving concern for His people, the prophet gives in verse 3 one of the Bible's best word pictures of the faithful God. Verse 15 is quoted in today's Gospel.

31 “At that time, says the LORD, I will be the God of all the families of Israel, and they shall be my people.”

² Thus says the LORD:

“The people who survived the sword
found grace in the wilderness;
when Israel sought for rest,

³ the LORD appeared to him from afar.

I have loved you with an everlasting love;

therefore I have continued my faithfulness to you.
⁴ Again I will build you, and you shall be built,
O virgin Israel!
Again you shall adorn yourself with timbrels,
and shall go forth in the dance of the merry-makers.
⁵ Again you shall plant vineyards
upon the mountains of Samar'ia;
the planters shall plant,
and shall enjoy the fruit.
⁶ For there shall be a day when watchmen will call
in the hill country of E'phraim:
'Arise, and let us go up to Zion,
¹⁵ Thus says the LORD:
"A voice is heard in Ramah,
lamentation and bitter weeping.
Rachel is weeping for her children;
she refuses to be comforted for her children,
because they are not."
¹⁶ Thus says the LORD:
"Keep your voice from weeping,
and your eyes from tears;
for your work shall be rewarded,
says the LORD,

FOR THE EPISTLE – Revelation 14:1-5

In the language of poetry, St. John, the Divine describes the martyrs and the Lamb of God on Mount Zion. His description might be considered an elaboration of "Blessed are the pure in heart, for they shall see God."

I LOOKED, and, lo, a Lamb stood on the mount Sion,
and with him a hundred forty and four thousand, having

his Father's name written in their foreheads. And I heard a voice from heaven, as the voice of many waters, and as the voice of a great thunder: and I heard the voice of harpers harping with their harps: and they sung as it were a new song before the throne, and before the four beasts, and the elders: and no man could learn that song but the hundred and forty and four thousand, which were redeemed from the earth. These are they which were not defiled with women for they are virgins. These are they which follow the Lamb whithersoever he goeth. These were redeemed from among men, being the firstfruits unto God and to the Lamb. And in their mouth was found no guile: for they are without fault before the throne of God.

THE GOSPEL –St. Matthew 2:13-18 (stand)

Here is the heart-rending story of Herod's effort to destroy the Christ Child and how God brought to nought his plan.

HE angel of the Lord appeareth to Joseph in a dream, saving, Arise, and take the young child and his mother, and flee into Egypt, and be thou there until I bring thee word: for Herod will seek the young child to destroy him. When he arose, he took the young child and his mother by night, and departed into Egypt: and was there until the death of Herod: that it might be fulfilled which was spoken of the Lord by the prophet, saying, Out of Egypt have I called my son. Then Herod, when he saw that he was mocked of the wise men, was exceeding wroth, and sent forth, and slew all the children that were in Bethlehem, and in all the coasts thereof, from two years old and under, according to time which he had diligently enquired of the wise men.

Then was fulfilled that which was spoken by Jeremy the prophet, saying, In Rama was there a voice heard, lamentation, and weeping, and great mourning, Rachel weeping for her children, and would not be comforted, because they are not.

THE NICENE CREED (stand)

I BELIEVE in one God the Father Almighty, Maker of heaven and earth, And of all things visible and invisible: And in one Lord Jesus Christ, the only begotten Son of God; Begotten of his Father before all worlds, God of God, Light of Light, Very God of very God; Begotten, not made; Being of one substance with the Father; By whom all things were made: Who for us men and for our salvation came down from heaven, And was incarnate by the Holy Ghost of the Virgin Mary, And was made man: And was crucified also for us under Pontius Pilate; He suffered and was buried: And the third day he rose again according to the Scriptures: And ascended into heaven, And sitteth on the right hand of the Father: And he shall come again, with glory, to judge both the quick and the dead; Whose kingdom shall have no end. And I believe in the Holy Ghost, The Lord, and Giver of Life, Who proceedeth from the Father and the Son; Who with the Father and the Son together is worshipped and glorified; Who spake by the Prophets: And I believe one Catholic and Apostolic Church: I acknowledge one Baptism for the remission of sins: And I look for the Resurrection of the dead: And the Life of the world to come. Amen.

HYMN 44

CRANHAM

“In the bleak mid-winter”

ANNOUNCEMENTS, WELCOME..... The Rector

SERMON – The Rector

OFFERTORY

Online Giving: A portal for on-line giving is now available on St. Luke’s webpage page:

www.stlukesblueridge.org.

DOXOLOGY

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;

Praise him all creatures here below;

Praise him above, ye heav’nly host;

Praise Father, Son and Holy Ghost. Amen.

PRAYER FOR THE CHURCH (kneel or sit)

Minister: Let us pray for the whole state of Christ's Church.

ALMIGHTY and everliving God, who by thy holy Apostle hast taught us to make prayers, and supplications, and to give thanks for all men; We humbly beseech thee most mercifully to accept our [alms and] oblations, and to receive these our prayers, which we offer unto thy Divine Majesty; beseeching thee to inspire continually the Universal Church with the spirit of truth, unity, and concord: And grant that all those who do confess thy holy

Name may agree in the truth of thy holy Word, and live in unity and godly love. We beseech thee also, so to direct and dispose the hearts of all Christian Rulers, that they may truly and impartially administer justice, to the punishment of wickedness and vice, and to the maintenance of thy true religion, and virtue.

Give grace, O heavenly Father, to all Bishops and other Ministers, that they may, both by their life and doctrine, set forth thy true and lively Word, and rightly and duly administer thy holy Sacraments.

And to all thy People give thy heavenly grace; and especially to this congregation here present; that, with meek heart and due reverence, they may hear, and receive thy holy Word; truly serving thee in holiness and righteousness all the days of their life.

And we most humbly beseech thee, of thy goodness, O Lord, to comfort and succour all those who, in this transitory life, are in trouble, sorrow, need, sickness, or any other adversity.

And we also bless thy holy Name for all thy servants departed this life in thy faith and fear beseeching thee to grant them continual growth in thy love and service, and to give us grace so to follow their good examples, that with them we may be partakers of thy heavenly kingdom. Grant this, O Father, for Jesus Christ's sake, our only Mediator and Advocate. **Amen.**

GENERAL CONFESSION

¶ *Then shall the Priest say to those who come to receive the Holy Communion,*

YE who do truly and earnestly repent you of your sins, and are in love and charity with your neighbours, and intend to lead a new life, following the commandments of God, and walking from henceforth in his holy ways; Draw near with faith, and take this holy Sacrament to your comfort; and make your humble confession to Almighty God, devoutly kneeling.

ALMIGHTY God, Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, Maker of all things, Judge of all men; We acknowledge and bewail our manifold sins and wickedness, Which we, from time to time, most grievously have committed, By thought, word, and deed, Against thy Divine Majesty, Provoking most justly thy wrath and indignation against us. We do earnestly repent, And are heartily sorry for these our misdoings; The remembrance of them is grievous unto us; The burden of them is intolerable. Have mercy upon us, Have mercy upon us, most merciful Father; For thy Son our Lord Jesus Christ's sake, Forgive us all that is past; And grant that we may ever hereafter Serve and please thee In newness of life, To the honour and glory of thy Name; Through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

THE ABSOLUTION

¶ *Then shall the Priest (the Bishop if he be present) stand up, and turning to the People, say,*

ALMIGHTY God, our heavenly Father, who of his great mercy hath promised forgiveness of sins to all those who with hearty repentance and true faith turn unto 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. **Amen.**

THE COMFORTABLE WORDS

¶ *Then shall the Priest say,*

Hear what comfortable words our Saviour Christ saith unto all who truly turn to him.

COME unto me, all ye that travail and are heavy laden, and I will refresh you. *St. Matt. xi. 28.*

So God loved the world, that he gave his only-begotten Son, to the end that all that believe in him should not perish, but have everlasting life. *St. John iii. 16*

Hear also what Saint Paul saith.

This is a true saying, and worthy of all men to be received, That Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners. *1 Tim. i. 15.*

Hear also what Saint John saith.

If any man sin, we have an Advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous; and he is the Propitiation for our sins. *1 St. John ii. 1, 2.*

SURSUM CORDA

Priest. Lift up your hearts.

Answer. **We lift them up unto the Lord.**

Priest. Let us give thanks unto our Lord God.

Answer. **It is meet and right so to do.**

IT is very meet, right, and our bounden duty, that we should at all times, and in all places, give thanks unto thee, O Lord, Holy Father, Almighty, Everlasting God.

THEREFORE with Angels and Archangels, and with all the company of heaven, we laud and magnify thy glorious Name; evermore praising thee, and saying,

SANCTUS (Merbecke, Hymnal Chant 704)

**HOLY, HOLY, HOLY, Lord God of hosts,
Heaven and earth are full of thy glory: Glory be
to thee, O Lord Most High. Amen.**

PRAYER OF CONSECRATION

ALL glory be to thee, Almighty God, our heavenly Father, for that thou, of thy tender mercy, didst give thine only Son Jesus Christ to suffer death upon the Cross for our redemption; who made there (by his one oblation of himself once offered) a full, perfect, and sufficient sacrifice, oblation, and satisfaction, for the sins of the whole world; and did institute, and in his holy Gospel command us to continue, a perpetual memory of that his precious death and sacrifice, until his coming again: For in the night in which he was betrayed, he took Bread; and when he had given thanks, he brake 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, he took the Cup; and when he had given thanks, he gave it to them, saying, Drink ye all of this; for this is my Blood of the New Testament, which is shed for you, and for many, for the remission of sins; Do this, as oft as ye shall drink it, in remembrance of me.

The Oblation

WHEREFORE, O Lord and heavenly Father, according to the institution of thy dearly beloved Son our Saviour Jesus Christ, we, thy humble servants, do celebrate and make here before thy Divine Majesty, with these thy holy gifts, which we now offer unto thee, the memorial thy Son hath commanded us to make; having in remembrance his blessed passion and precious death, his mighty resurrection and glorious ascension; rendering unto thee most hearty thanks for the innumerable benefits procured unto us by the same.

The Invocation

AND we most humbly beseech thee, O merciful Father, to hear us; and, of thy almighty goodness, vouchsafe to bless and sanctify, with thy Word and Holy Spirit, these thy gifts and creatures of bread and wine; that we, receiving them according to thy Son our Saviour Jesus Christ's holy institution, in remembrance of his death and passion, may be partakers of his most blessed Body and Blood.

AND we earnestly desire thy fatherly goodness, mercifully to accept this our sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving; most humbly beseeching thee to grant that, by the merits and death of thy Son Jesus Christ, and

through faith in his blood, we, and all thy whole Church, may obtain remission of our sins, and all other benefits of his passion. And here we offer and present unto thee, O Lord, ourselves, our souls and bodies, to be a reasonable, holy, and living sacrifice unto thee; humbly beseeching thee, that we, and all others who shall be partakers of this Holy Communion, may worthily receive the most precious Body and Blood of thy Son Jesus Christ, be filled with thy grace and heavenly benediction, and made one body with him, that he may dwell in us, and we in him. And although we are unworthy, through our manifold sins, to offer unto thee any sacrifice; yet we beseech thee to accept this our bounden duty and service; not weighing our merits, but pardoning our offences, through Jesus Christ our Lord; by whom, and with whom, in the unity of the Holy Ghost, all honour and glory be unto thee, O Father Almighty, world without end. **Amen.**

THE LORD'S PRAYER

Minister: And now, as our Saviour Christ hath taught us, we are bold to say,

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.

PRAYER OF HUMBLE ACCESS

WE do not presume to come to this thy Table, O merciful Lord, trusting in our own righteousness, but in thy manifold and great mercies. We are not worthy so much as to gather up the crumbs under thy Table. But thou art the same Lord, whose property is always to have mercy: Grant us therefore, gracious Lord, so to eat the flesh of thy dear Son Jesus Christ, and to drink his blood, that our sinful bodies may be made clean by his body, and our souls washed through his most precious blood, and that we may evermore dwell in him, and he in us.

Amen.

AGNUS DEI

**O Lamb of God that takest away the sins of the world,
Have mercy upon us.**

**O Lamb of God that takest away the sins of the world.
Have mercy upon us.**

**O Lamb of God that takest away the sins of the world.
Grant us thy peace.**

THE COMMUNION

All persons who have been baptized and have accepted Jesus Christ as Lord and Saviour are welcomed to receive Holy Communion.

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

ALMIGHTY and everliving God, we most heartily thank thee, for that thou dost vouchsafe to feed us who have duly received these holy mysteries, with the spiritual food of the most precious Body and Blood of

thy Son our Saviour Jesus Christ; and dost assure us thereby of thy favour and goodness towards us; and that we are very members incorporate in the mystical body of thy Son, which is the blessed company of all faithful people; and are also heirs through hope of thy everlasting kingdom, by the merits of his most precious death and passion. And we humbly beseech thee, O heavenly Father, so to assist us with thy grace, that we may continue in that holy fellowship, and do all such good works as thou hast prepared for us to walk in; through Jesus Christ our Lord, to whom, with thee and the Holy Ghost, be all honour and glory, world without end. Amen.

GLORIA IN EXCELSIS (Old Scottish Chant)

GLORY be to God on high, and on earth peace, good will towards men. We praise thee, we bless thee, we worship thee, we glorify thee, we give thanks to thee for thy great glory, O Lord God, heavenly King, God the Father Almighty.

O Lord, the only-begotten Son, Jesus Christ; O Lord God, Lamb of God, Son of the Father, that takest away the sins of the world, have mercy upon us. Thou that takest away the sins of the world, receive our prayer. Thou that sittest at the right hand of God the Father, have mercy upon us.

For thou only art holy; thou only art the Lord; thou only, O Christ, with the Holy Ghost, art most high in the glory of God the Father. Amen.

THE BLESSING

THE Peace of God, which passeth all understanding, keep your hearts and minds in the knowledge and love of God, and of his Son Jesus Christ our Lord:

And the blessing of God Almighty, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Ghost, be amongst you and remain with you always. **Amen.**

HYMN 31

IN DULCI JUBILO

“Good Christian men, rejoice”

DISMISSAL

Officiant: Go in peace to love and serve the Lord!

Congregation: **Thanks be to God!**

POSTLUDE

“O Come, All Ye Faithful”

by John F. Wade

IN YOUR PRAYERS

Members of St. Luke's – Ron Wikander, Dick Gensel, Jennifer Higdon, Stacy and Chris Johnson and Family, Jordan Van Horn, Christina Pinkerton, Bob Herrington, Bob Morgan, David Johnston, Sheila McConnell, Glenda Robinson, Deacon Tony McConnell, Tom McCormick, Rodney Allen, Charles Sims, Barbara Newman, Elizabeth Ann White, Bruce Berkinshaw, Pat and Sherron Dearing, Tom Hoffer, Ann Thomason, MaryLynn Kipfmiller, Rosanne Johnston, Thomas Heard, Martha Millsaps, and Paul Hiller.

Family & Friends –Debbie Ross, Meagan Boscque, Kaiston Nijssen, Tammy and Sammy Holloway (daughter and son-in-

law of Ron and Diane Wikander), Jean Fisher, Evan Simpson, Janice Cary, Elma Donaldson, Helen Dotson, Cheryl Smith, Janet Thomas, Leland Thomas, Noah, Amy and child, Jan Newberry, Patsy Horsford, Gabriella Calla, Clara Bradley, Matt Cross, Michael Briggs, Bill Morgan, Charles Cecil, April Weich, Bob Jost, Lynn Grimme, Donna Dotson, and Alan Jackson.

THE PARISH STAFF

THE REVEREND VICTOR H. MORGAN, Rector

THE REVEREND W. A. "TONY" MCCONNELL,

Deacon

THE REVEREND WILLIAM "BILL" BAIO

Assisting Clergy

THE REV. RICK GILLERT

Assisting Clergy

DIANA BURDEN, Parish Musician

RANDY WILBUR, Choir Director (interim)

D.J. FULTON, Treasurer

DR. AL CASH, Webmaster

KEVIN SARTAIN, Webmaster

www.stlukesblueridg.org stlukesblueridge@gmail.com

THE WARDENS AND VESTRY

Kevin Sartain, Senior Warden

Jodi Beauregard

Jennifer Higdon, Junior Warden

Neil McDonald

Frank Rule

Tim Kirby

Dr. Alvin Cash

BISHOPS AND AFFILIATIONS

The Rt. Rev. Julian Dobbs, Acting Archbishop
Anglican Church in North America

The Rt. Rev. Dr. William Wesley Millsaps, Bishop *EMC*
Diocese of the South

The Rt. Rev. John Greaves, Coadjutor Bishop
EMC Diocese of the South

ALTAR FLOWERS

Given to the glory of God

BIRTHDAYS

Stephanie VanCampen, Dec. 28, Bill Baio, Dec. 28, Deb Walls,
Dec. 29, Christina Pinkerton, Jan. 3.

“Watch over thy children as their days increase.”

WEDDING ANNIVERSARIES

“And over all these virtues put on love, which binds them all together in perfect unity” (Colossians 3:14)

IN MILITARY SERVICE

Please remember in your prayers those serving in the Armed Services, especially those who have connections with St. Luke’s particularly, Alex Mark, Tyler Ketron, Wesley Ryan McIntosh, Christian Wade Newman, Kyle Morgan, Sam Sonn, Marc Rodriguez, Brooks Johnson, Jessica Wyllie Andres-Jansz, Kyle Yates and Ian Yates

CURRENT AND UPCOMING EVENTS

December and January

- **St. Stephen Deacon & Martyr** – Friday, Dec. 26, HC Jennus Chapel at noon.
- **The Circumcision of Christ** – Thursday, Jan. 1, HC Jennus Chapel at noon.
- **The Epiphany of Our Lord Jesus Christ** – Tuesday, Jan. 6, HC Jennus Chapel at noon.
- **Annual Parish Meeting** – Sunday, Jan. 18 at 9:15 a.m.
- **WSL Bible Study** – Wednesday, Jan. 21. for 6 weeks. For more info contact Judy Brooten, 706-851-6296.

DEADLINE FOR CALENDAR

All additions to the calendar should be submitted to the church office — stlukesblueridge@gmail.com — no later than Wednesday at noon.

FROM THE TREASURER

Summary for 12-21-25

Attendance in person: 8:15 - 20 / 10:15 - 37 = 57

General Fund: Contributions / Budget

12-21-25	\$9,133	\$ 3,260
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YTD:	\$203,601	\$165,554
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Happy NEW YEAR

*You crown the year with Your goodness,
And Your paths drip with abundance.*

PSALM 65:11



St. Luke's Church

The Parish Church of the Mountains

7 Ewing Street

P.O. Box 1821

Blue Ridge, Georgia, 30513

Telephone (706) 632-8245

stlukesblueridge@gmail.com

www.stlukesblueridge.org