



***This Sunday at St. Luke's***  
**January 12, 2025**

**8:15 a.m. – Holy Communion (said service)**

**10:15 a.m. – Morning Prayer and Sermon together with  
Shortened Holy Communion**

**The First Sunday after Epiphany**



**Living in the Light:  
Hearing and Doing**

The Epiphany season is concerned with the Christian life -- that life of which Christ Himself is the Light. Each Sunday the Gospel provides a “manifestation of Christ”; the Epistle shows how the special feature of the Gospel is reproduced in the Christian character, and the Collect turns the Sunday lesson into a

prayer.

The Gospel story tells of the manifestation of Christ in the Temple. There was always, in every Jewish home, great preparation for a twelve-year-old boy’s visit to Jerusalem, and there was much to be learned. Now at last, “know” and was turned into

”doing”. Jesus was “at Father’s”, as a modern boy might say. His Father’s house, His Father’s business – that and nothing else – was His absorbing interest and concern; so much so that he forgot about Mary and Joseph and companions, His mind being entirely focused on the teaching of the rabbis.

The Epistle shows that the Father’s business is the concern of every Christian. It means complete devotion to Him, in body as well as soul. “Give him your bodies, as a living sacrifice, consecrated to him and acceptable by him.” It means also resisting the world around us when it tries to “squeeze us into its mould”, for much of its business is not the Father’s business. (H.W. Dobson)

### **COLLECT FOR EPIPHANY 1**

O LORD, we beseech thee mercifully to receive the prayers of thy people who call upon thee; and grant that they may both perceive and know what things they ought to do, and also may have grace and power faithfully to fulfil the same; through Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

### **COLLECT FOR EPIPHANY**

O GOD, who by the leading of a star didst manifest thy only-begotten Son to the Gentiles; Mercifully grant that we, who know thee now by faith, may after this life have the fruition of thy glorious Godhead; through Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

### **THE EPISTLE – Romans 12:1-5 (J.B. Phillips)**

*We have seen God’s mercy and wisdom: how shall we respond?*

**12** <sup>1-2</sup> With eyes wide open to the mercies of God, I beg you, my brothers, as an act of intelligent worship, to give him your bodies, as a living sacrifice, consecrated to him and acceptable by him. Don’t let the world around you squeeze you into its own mould, but let God re-mould your minds from within, so that you may prove in practice that the plan of God for you is good, meets all his demands and moves towards the goal of true maturity.

<sup>3-5</sup> As your spiritual teacher I give this piece of advice to each one of you. Don’t cherish exaggerated ideas of yourself or your importance, but try to have a sane estimate of your capabilities by the light of the faith that God has given to you all. For just as you have many members in one physical body and those members differ in their functions, so we, though many in number, compose one body in Christ and are all members of one another.

NOTE: The Christian’s vocation is so to live that he bears witness to the “good, and acceptable, and perfect, will of God.” This contrasts sharply with the world’s standards. In the course of the next two Sundays all of Romans 12 will be read. The chapter deals at length with the relations of persons to one another within the Church (vv.6-13) and with one’s relations to one’s enemies (vv.12-21). (William Sydnor)

## **THE GOSPEL – St. Luke 2:41-52 (J.B. Phillips)**

*Jesus goes with his parents to Jerusalem*

<sup>41-48</sup> Every year at the Passover festival Jesus' parents used to go to Jerusalem. When he was twelve years old they went up to the city as usual for the festival. When it was over they started back home, but the boy Jesus stayed behind in Jerusalem, without his parents' knowledge. They went a day's journey assuming that he was somewhere in their company, and then they began to look for him among their relations and acquaintances. They failed to find him, however, and turned back to the city, looking for him as they went. Three days later, they found him—in the Temple, sitting among the teachers, listening to them and asking them questions. All those who heard him were astonished at his powers of comprehension and at the answers that he gave. When Joseph and Mary saw him, they could hardly believe their eyes, and his mother said to him, "Why have you treated us like this, my son? Here have your father and I been very worried, looking for you everywhere!"

<sup>49</sup> And Jesus replied, "But why were you looking for me? Did you not know that I must be in my Father's house [about my Father's business]?"

<sup>50-52</sup> But they did not understand his reply. Then he went home with them to Nazareth and was obedient to them. And his mother treasured all these things in her heart. And as Jesus continued to grow in body and mind, he grew also in the love of God and of those who knew him.

*NOTE: Anciently the Epiphany season was a time for emphasis on this and other passages in which Jesus reveals God's glory. (William Sydnor)*

## **LECTIONARY READING**

### **OLD TESTAMENT LESSON – Proverbs 8:22-35 (RSV)**

*Wisdom praised*

<sup>22</sup> The LORD created me at the beginning of his work,  
the first of his acts of old.

<sup>23</sup> Ages ago I was set up,  
at the first, before the beginning of the earth.

<sup>24</sup> When there were no depths I was brought forth,  
when there were no springs abounding with water.

<sup>25</sup> Before the mountains had been shaped,  
before the hills, I was brought forth;

<sup>26</sup> before he had made the earth with its fields,  
or the first of the dust of the world.

<sup>27</sup> When he established the heavens, I was there,  
when he drew a circle on the face of the deep,

<sup>28</sup> when he made firm the skies above,

when he established<sup>[f]</sup> the fountains of the deep,  
29 when he assigned to the sea its limit,  
so that the waters might not transgress his command,  
when he marked out the foundations of the earth,  
30 then I was beside him, like a master workman;  
and I was daily his delight,  
rejoicing before him always,  
31 rejoicing in his inhabited world  
and delighting in the sons of men.  
32 And now, my sons, listen to me:  
happy are those who keep my ways.  
33 Hear instruction and be wise,  
and do not neglect it.  
34 Happy is the man who listens to me,  
watching daily at my gates,  
waiting beside my doors.  
35 For he who finds me finds life  
and obtains favor from the LORD.

NOTE: This passage is part of one of the classic O.T. descriptions of the Wisdom of God. Wisdom is personified both as a part of God and as having a divine identity all wisdom's own. A part of Christian thinking regarding the nature of God the Son, the second person of the Trinity is rooted in this passage. (William Sydnor)

## **THIS SUNDAY**

**Preacher: The Rector**

### **Options**

**In-church.**

**Online.** Services are livestreamed on Facebook and available for viewing following the service on YouTube. To access both put "Parish Church of St. Luke, Blue Ridge, Ga." In the search bar.



**Tip of the Canterbury Cap** to Neil McDonald and his team of ushers for the service they provide Sunday by Sunday.



## **JOIN THE CHOIR!**

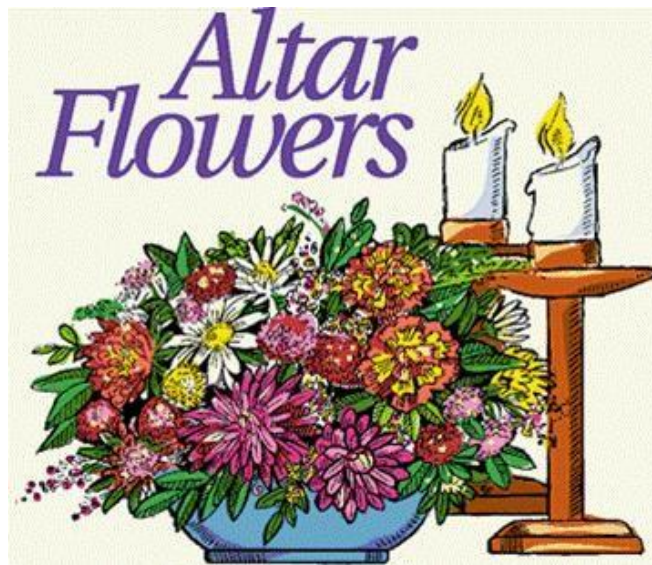


For information, contact, Diana Burden at 678-852-6907 or email [dburden6907@gmail.com](mailto:dburden6907@gmail.com).



## OUR MISSION

St. Luke's mission is to grow spiritually in the knowledge and love of Jesus Christ and in the fellowship of the Holy Spirit and to share our faith, our hands and hearts for the sake of the Gospel, our community and the world.



## SIGN-UP FOR FLOWERS

A sign-up sheet for Altar flowers is available in Thomason Hall for 2025.

Please sign up for days you wish to commemorate.

Flowers are needed throughout the end of the year. Please email or call Kathryn Noblett at the church office to sign up.

## Financial Pledge for the Year of our Lord 2025

*As stewards of God's gifts and in gratitude for all blessings, I pledge the following amount to the work of Christ through St. Luke's Church for 2025*

Name

Address

Amount

\_\_\_\_\_ Weekly \_\_\_\_\_ Monthly \_\_\_\_\_ Yearly

(Please tick the appropriate blank)



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