

John the Baptist, rugged, fearless and faithful, was known and called by God before his birth.

Morning Prayer and Sermon together with Shortened Holy Communion

The Third Sunday in Advent

10:15 A.M. - FM 98.1

Diana Burden, pianist

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 93.

PRELUDE

"Savior of the Nations, Come"

PLAINSONG

HYMN 10.....WINCHESTER NEW

"On Jordan's bank, the Baptist's cry!"

OPENING SENTENCES

Prepare ye the way of the LORD, make straight in the desert a highway for our God. *Isaiah* xl. 3.

INVITATION TO CONFESSION

LET us humbly confess our sins unto Almighty God.

GENERAL CONFESSION (kneel or sit)

ALMIGHTY and most merciful Father; We have erred, and strayed from thy ways like lost sheep. We have followed too much the devices and desires of our own hearts. We have offended against thy 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 there is no health in us. But thou, O Lord, have mercy upon us, miserable offenders. Spare thou those, O God, who confess their faults. Restore thou those who are penitent; According to thy promises declared unto mankind in Christ Jesus our Lord. And grant, O most merciful Father, for his sake; That we may hereafter live a godly, righteous, and sober life, To the glory of thy holy Name. Amen.

ABSOLUTION

 \P To be made by the Priest alone, standing; the People still kneeling.

ALMIGHTY God, the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who desireth not the death of a sinner, but rather that he may turn from his wickedness and live, hath given power, and commandment, to his Ministers, to declare and pronounce to his people, being penitent, the Absolution and Remission of their sins. He pardoneth and absolveth

all those who truly repent, and unfeignedly believe his holy Gospel.

Wherefore let us beseech him to grant us true repentance, and his Holy Spirit, that those things may please him which we do at this present; and that the rest of our life hereafter may be pure and holy; so that at the last we may come to his eternal joy; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

THE LORD'S PRAYER

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.

VERSICLES AND RESPONSES

Minister: O Lord, open thou our lips.

People: And our mouth shall show forth thy praise.

Minister: O God, make speed to save us.

People: O Lord, make haste to help us.

GLORIA PATRI (please stand)

Minister: Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and

to the Holy Ghost;

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

VERSICLE AND RESPONSE

Minister: Praise ye the Lord.

People: The Lord's Name be praised.

VENITE

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 | **thanks**giving;

* 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 corners | of the earth; * and the strength of the hills is | **his al**so.

The sea is | his, and • 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 the Lord | our God;

* and we are the people of his pasture,

and the | sheep of his hand.

O worship the LORD in the | beauty • of holiness;

* let the whole earth | stand in awe of him.

For he cometh, for he cometh to | judge *the* earth;

* and with righteousness to judge the world, and the | peoples with his truth.

GLORY be to the Father, and | to the Son,

* and | to the Holy Ghost;

As it was in the beginning, is now, and | ever shall be,

* world without **end**. **A**men.

THE PSALTER

Psalm 85. Benedixisti, Domine.

LORD, thou art become gracious unto thy land; * thou hast turned away the captivity of Jacob.

- 2 Thou hast forgiven the offence of thy people, * and covered all their sins.
- 3 Thou hast taken away all thy displeasure, * and turned thyself from thy wrathful indignation.
- 4 Turn us then, O God our Saviour, * and let thine anger cease from us.
- 5 Wilt thou be displeased at us for ever? * and wilt thou stretch out thy wrath from one generation to another?
- 6 Wilt thou not turn again, and quicken us, * that thy people may rejoice in thee?
- 7 Show us thy mercy, O LORD, * and grant us thy salvation.
- 8 I will hearken what the LORD God will say; * for he shall speak peace unto his people, and to his saints, that they turn not again unto foolishness.
- 9 For his salvation is nigh them that fear him; * that glory may dwell in our land.
- 10 Mercy and truth are met together: * righteousness and peace have kissed each other.
- 11 Truth shall flourish out of the earth, * and righteousness hath looked down from heaven.
- 12 Yea, the LORD shall show loving-kindness; * and our land shall give her increase.
- 13 Righteousness shall go before him, * and shall direct his going in the way.

Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost;

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

FIRST LESSON – Jeremiah 1:4-10, 17-19 (RSV) (sit)

Jeremiah, not unlike John the Baptist in the New Testament, was called by God from before birth. Both would be fearless spokesmen for God and suffer for it

⁴ Now the word of the LORD came to me saying,

⁵ "Before I formed you in the womb I knew you, and before you were born I consecrated you; I appointed you a prophet to the nations."

⁶ Then I said, "Ah, Lord GOD! Behold, I do not know how to speak, for I am only a youth." ⁷ But the LORD said to me,

"Do not say, 'I am only a youth'; for to all to whom I send you you shall go, and whatever I command you you shall speak.

⁸Be not afraid of them, for I am with you to deliver you, says the LORD."

⁹ Then the LORD put forth his hand and touched my mouth; and the LORD said to me,

"Behold, I have put my words in your mouth.

¹⁰ See, I have set you this day over nations and over kingdoms,

to pluck up and to break down, to destroy and to overthrow, to build and to plant."

¹⁶ And I will utter my judgments against them, for all their wickedness in forsaking me; they have burned incense to other gods and worshiped the works of their own

hands. ¹⁷ But you, gird up your loins; arise, and say to them everything that I command you. Do not be dismayed by them, lest I dismay you before them. ¹⁸ And I, behold, I make you this day a fortified city, an iron pillar, and bronze walls, against the whole land, against the kings of Judah, its princes, its priests, and the people of the land. ¹⁹ They will fight against you; but they shall not prevail against you, for I am with you, says the LORD, to deliver you."

TE DEUM LAUDAMUS (said)

The Te Deum is a Latin Christian hymn, believed to date back to A.D. 387, with origins in the Ambrosian hymnal.

WE praise thee, O God; we acknowledge thee to be the Lord.

All the earth doth worship thee, the Father everlasting.

To thee all Angels cry aloud; the Heavens, and all the Powers therein;

To thee Cherubim and Seraphim continually do cry,

Holy, Holy, Holy, Lord God of Sabaoth;

Heaven and earth are full of the Majesty of thy glory.

The glorious company of the Apostles praise thee.

The goodly fellowship of the Prophets praise thee.

The noble army of Martyrs praise thee.

The holy Church throughout all the world doth acknowledge thee;

The Father of an infinite Majesty;

Thine adorable, true and only Son;

Also the Holy Ghost the Comforter.

THOU art the King of Glory, O Christ.

Thou art the everlasting Son of the Father.

When thou tookest upon thee to deliver man, thou didst humble thyself to be born of a Virgin.

When thou hadst overcome the sharpness of death, thou didst open the Kingdom of Heaven to all believers.

Thou sittest at the right hand of God, in the glory of the Father.

We believe that thou shalt come to be our Judge.

We therefore pray thee, help thy servants, whom thou hast redeemed with thy precious blood.

Make them to be numbered with thy Saints, in glory everlasting.

O LORD, save thy people, and bless thine heritage. Govern them and lift them up for ever.

Day by day we magnify thee;

And we worship thy Name ever, world without end.

Vouchsafe, O Lord, to keep us this day without sin.

O Lord, have mercy upon us, have mercy upon us.

O Lord, let thy mercy be upon us, as our trust is in thee.

O Lord, in thee have I trusted; let me never be confounded.

NEW TESTAMENT LESSON – St. Matthew 11:2-10 (sit)

Messengers from John the Baptist

² Now when John heard in prison about the deeds of the Christ, he sent word by his disciples ³ and said to him, "Are you he who is to come, or shall we look for another?" ⁴ And Jesus answered them, "Go and tell John what you hear and see: ⁵ the blind receive their sight and the lame walk, lepers are cleansed and the deaf hear, and

the dead are raised up, and the poor have good news preached to them. ⁶ And blessed is he who takes no offense at me."

Jesus Praises John the Baptist

⁷ As they went away, Jesus began to speak to the crowds concerning John: "What did you go out into the wilderness to behold? A reed shaken by the wind? ⁸ Why then did you go out? To see a man^[a] clothed in soft raiment? Behold, those who wear soft raiment are in kings' houses. ⁹ Why then did you go out? To see a prophet? ^[b] Yes, I tell you, and more than a prophet. ¹⁰ This is he of whom it is written, 'Behold, I send my messenger before thy face, who shall prepare thy way before thee.'

JUBILATE DEO (stand)

Psalm 100

O BE joyful in the LORD | all ye lands:

* serve the LORD with gladness, and come before his | presence with a song.

Be ye sure that the LORD he is God;

it is he that hath made us, and not | we ourselves;

- * we are his people and the | sheep of his **pas**ture.
- O go your way into his gates with thanksgiving, and into his | courts with praise;
 - * be thankful unto him, and | **speak** | good of his Name.

For the LORD is gracious, his mercy is | everlasting;

- * and his truth endureth from generation to | generation.
- GLORY be to the Father, and | to the Son, * and | to the Holy Ghost;
- As it was in the beginning, is now, and | ever shall be,

* world without **end**. Amen.

THE APOSTLES' CREED

I BELIEVE IN GOD the Father Almighty, Maker of heaven and earth: And in Jesus Christ his only Son our Lord: Who was conceived by the Holy Ghost, Born of the Virgin Mary: Suffered under Pontius Pilate, Was crucified, dead, and buried: He descended into hell; The third day he rose again from the dead: He ascended into heaven, And sitteth on the right hand of God the Father Almighty: From thence he shall come to judge the quick and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Ghost: The holy Catholic Church; The Communion of Saints: The Forgiveness of sins: The Resurrection of the body: And the Life everlasting. Amen.

SALUTATION AND VERSICLES

Minister: The Lord be with you.

Answer: And with thy spirit.

Minister: Let us pray.

¶ Here, all kneeling or sitting, the Minister shall say,

Minister: O Lord, show thy mercy upon us.

Answer: And grant us thy salvation.

Minister: O God, make clean our hearts within us. Answer: And take not thy Holy Spirit from us.

COLLECT FOR ADVENT 3

O LORD Jesus Christ, who at thy first coming didst send thy messenger to prepare thy way before thee; Grant that the ministers and stewards of thy mysteries may likewise so prepare and make ready thy way, by turning the hearts of the disobedient to the wisdom of the just, that at thy second coming to judge the world we may be found an acceptable people in thy sight, who livest and reignest with the Father and the Holy Spirit ever, one God, world without end. **Amen.**

COLLECT FOR ADVENT

ALMIGHTY God, give us grace that we may cast away the works of darkness, and put upon us the armour of light, now in the time of this mortal life, in which thy 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 quick and dead, we may rise to the life immortal, through him who liveth and reigneth with thee and the Holy Ghost, now and ever. **Amen.**

COLLECT FOR PEACE

O GOD, who art the author of peace and lover of concord, in knowledge of whom standeth our eternal life, whose service is perfect freedom; Defend us thy humble servants in all assaults of our enemies; that we, surely trusting in thy defence, may not fear the power of any adversaries, through the might of Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

COLLECT FOR GRACE

O LORD, our heavenly Father, Almighty and everlasting God, who hast safely brought us to the beginning of this day; Defend us in the same with thy mighty power; and grant that this day we fall into no sin, neither run into any kind of danger; but that all our doings, being ordered by thy governance, may be righteous in thy sight; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

PRAYER FOR THE PRESIDENT

O LORD our Governor, whose glory is in all the world; We commend this nation to thy merciful care, that being guided by thy Providence, we may dwell secure in thy peace. Grant to THE PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES, and to all in Authority, wisdom and strength to know and to do thy will. Fill them with the love of truth and righteousness; and make them ever mindful of their calling to serve this people in thy fear; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who liveth and reigneth with thee and the Holy Ghost, one God, world without end. **Amen.**

PRAYER FOR THE CLERGY AND PEOPLE

ALMIGHTY and everlasting God, from whom cometh every good and perfect gift; Send down upon our Bishops, and other Clergy, and upon the congregations committed to their charge, the healthful Spirit of thy grace; and, that they may truly please thee, pour upon them the continual dew of thy blessing. Grant this, O Lord, for the honour of our Advocate and Mediator, Jesus Christ. **Amen.**

PRAYER FOR ALL CONDITIONS OF MEN

O GOD, the Creator and Preserver of all mankind, we humbly beseech thee for all sorts and conditions of men; that thou wouldest be pleased to make thy ways known unto them, thy saving health unto all nations. More especially we pray for thy holy Church universal; that it may be so guided and governed by thy good Spirit, that all who profess and call themselves Christians may be led into the way of truth, and hold the faith in unity of spirit, in the bond of peace, and in righteousness of life. Finally, we commend to thy fatherly goodness all those who are any

ways afflicted, or distressed, in mind, body, or estate; [*especially those for whom our prayers are desired;] that it may please thee to comfort and relieve them, according to their several necessities; giving them patience under their sufferings, and a happy issue out of all their afflictions. And this we beg for Jesus Christ's sake. Amen.

GENERAL THANKSGIVING

ALMIGHTY God, Father of all mercies, we, thine unworthy servants, do give thee most humble and hearty thanks for all thy goodness and loving-kindness to us and to all men; We bless thee for our creation, preservation, and all the blessings of this life; but above all, for thine inestimable 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 beseech thee, give us that due sense of all thy mercies, that our hearts may be unfeignedly thankful; and that we show forth thy praise, not only with our lips, but in our lives, by giving up ourselves to thy service, and by walking before thee in holiness and righteousness all our days; through Jesus Christ our Lord, to whom, with thee and the Holy Ghost, be all honour and glory, world without end. Amen.

PRAYER OF ST. CHRYSOSTOM

ALMIGHTY God, who hast given us grace at this time with one accord to make our common supplications unto thee; and dost promise that when two or three are gathered together in thy Name thou wilt grant their requests; Fulfil now, O Lord, the desires and petitions of thy servants, as may be most expedient for them; granting us in this world

knowledge of thy truth, and in the world to come life everlasting. Amen.

GRACE

2 Corinthians 23:14

THE grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God, and the fellowship of the Holy Ghost, be with us all evermore. **Amen.**

HYMN 574 (omit verses 2 and 7).....HOLLEY "Lord, speak to me"

ANNOUNCEMENTS, WELCOME...... The Rector

ANTHEM

"Still"

arr. Jean Anne Shafferman

Duet, Frank Rule and Diana Burden

SERMON – The Rector

OFFERTORY "I Call to Thee" by J.S. Bach **On-line Giving:** A portal for on-line giving is now available on St. Luke's webpage page: www.stlukesblueridge.org.

DOXOLOGY, AMERICA (LAST STANZA)
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. Our fathers' God, to thee, Author of liberty, To Thee we sing; Long may our land be bright With freedom's holy light; Protect us by Thy might Great God, our King. Amen.

PRAYERS (parish birthdays, anniversaries military, etc.)

HYMN 1.....STUTTGART"Come, thou long-expected Jesus"

DISMISSAL

Officiant: Go in peace to love and serve the Lord. Congregation: Thanks be to God!

POSTLUDE

"Lo, He Comes with Clouds Descending" by Charles Wesley

Those wishing to receive Holy Communion from elements consecrated at the 8:15 a.m. service are invited to remain in the church. This next service will not begin until the postlude is completed and those leaving the service of Morning Prayer and Sermon have departed.

Shortened Holy Communion

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 baptised 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.

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.**

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, Ethan Steinbaugh, Meagan

Family & Friends –Debbie Ross, Ethan Steinbaugh, 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, Mildred Woody, 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 Neil McDonald Jennifer Higdon, Junior Warden

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 in loving memory of Roy D. Johnston by Michaelene Johnston

BIRTHDAYS

Victor Morgan, Dec. 14, Sally Granda, Dec. 16, Brooke McHan, Dec. 17, William Millsaps, Dec. 19, Randy Romig, Dec. 19. "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 2025

- Christmas by Candlelight Saturday, Dec. 20 at 6 p.m. and Sunday, Dec. 21 at 3 p.m. For tickets call 706-851-7548 or go to the St. Luke's website.
- St. Thomas the Apostle Monday, Dec. 22, HC Jennus Chapel at noon.
- Christmas Eve Festival Family Service with Carols Dec. 24 at 5 p.m.
- Christmas Eve Festive Choral Communion (traditional late-night candlelight service) Dec. 24 at 10 p.m.
- Christmas Day, Holy Communion, Dec. 25, 9 a.m.
- St. Stephen Deacon & Martyr Friday, Dec. 26, HC Jennus Chapel at noon.

DEADLINE FOR CALENDAR

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

Poinsettias may be purchased for Christmas for \$15.50. If paying by check, please note at the bottom of the check that it is for poinsettias.

FROM THE TREASURER Summary for 12-07-25

Attendance in person: 8:15 - 26 / 10:15 - 60 = 86 General Fund: Contributions / Budget 12-07-25 \$4,555 \$ 3,260 YTD: \$194,468 \$159,034



St. Luke's Church

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