## Holy Eucharist ~December 15, 2024

*10am in the Church*

# *The Third Sunday of Advent/Gaudete Sunday*

# *St. Luke’s Episcopal Church*

*North Main at Fourth Street Jamestown, New York*

 *The Rev. Luke Fodor, Rector;*

*The Rev. Deacon Cathy Smith; Mr. Paul Johnson, Verger;*

 *Ms. Karen Hewes Suber, Dir. of Music Ministry & Comm. Arts & Organist*

 *The Rev. Jessica Frederick, Curate for Children, Youth & Family Ministry*

www.stlukesjamestown.org ~ email: stlukes@stlukesjamestown.org

*The mission is simple:  to* ***Connect*** *all people, help them* ***Discover*** *God's love, empower them to* ***Serve*** *and watch them* ***Grow****.”*

#### **WELCOME TO ST. LUKE’S**

*Welcome to St. Luke’s Church! Your presence at worship is a delight. If you are* ***visiting*** *for the first time, or are looking for a church home, please complete a* ***pew card*** *and place it in the offering plate. At the time of Communion, all are invited to God’s Table. In addition to the altar rail, at the 10 a.m. service a floor-level Communion station is made available, which includes gluten-free wafers and grape juice, please indicate your preference. Children are encouraged to visit the Children’s Corner, and/or use “Children’s Activity Bag” found near the front of the church nave (ask an usher). Nursery care and children’s chapel is provided downstairs during the 10am service. Clergy and members of the congregation look forward to greeting you after services. Join us downstairs for refreshments. Audio transmitters are available for those who have difficulty hearing the service; please ask an usher. There is a hearing loop installed on the left side of the church nave. If you need to leave the nave during the service, please use the side aisles.*

*Copies of today’s sermon are available at the doors.*

**prelude**

**Lighting and Blessing of the Advent Wreath**

**Come, O Holy One, breaker of chains and renewer of life! Open our eyes to your presence in all the earth. Stir us to rejoice in the signs of your love: the liberation of the oppressed, the healing of the frail and broken, the springing up of water in parched places, and the coming once again of Jesus Christ our Redeemer, through whom we pray. Amen**

**opening hymn: #59 hark! a thrilling voice is sounding** *-Blue Pew Hymnal*

**advent acclamation**

*Celebrant:* Blessed are you, holy and living One.

*People:* **You come to your people and set them free.**

**Collect for Purity**, *said by all*

**Almighty God, to you all hearts are open, all desires known, and from you no secrets are hid: Cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love you, and worthily magnify your holy Name; through Christ our Lord. *Amen.***

**gloria** *-next page*



**The Collect of the Day**: The Lord be with you. *Response:* **And also with you.**

Let us pray. 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.***

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### **The First Reading: Zephaniah 3:14-20** Sing aloud, O daughter Zion; shout, O Israel! Rejoice and exult with all your heart, O daughter Jerusalem! The Lord has taken away the judgments against you, he has turned away your enemies. The king of Israel, the Lord, is in your midst; you shall fear disaster no more. On that day it shall be said to Jerusalem: Do not fear, O Zion; do not let your hands grow weak. The Lord, your God, is in your midst, a warrior who gives victory; he will rejoice over you with gladness, he will renew you in his love; he will exult over you with loud singing as on a day of festival. I will remove disaster from you, so that you will not bear reproach for it. I will deal with all your oppressors at that time. And I will save the lame and gather the outcast, and I will change their shame into praise and renown in all the earth. At that time I will bring you home, at the time when I gather you; for I will make you renowned and praised among all the peoples of the earth, when I restore your fortunes before your eyes, says the Lord. The Word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

### **Canticle #9: surely it is god who saves me #679** *sung by all**-Blue Pew Hymnal*

### **The Second Reading****: Philippians 4:4-7**

### Rejoice in the Lord always; again I will say, Rejoice. Let your gentleness be known to everyone. The

### Lord is near. Do not worry about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving

### let your requests be made known to God. And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will

### guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.The Word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

**Gospel sequence hymn:** **#75 there’s a voice in the wilderness v. 1 & 2** *-Blue Pew Hymnal*

**The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ, according to luke 3:7-18**

 *Response before the Gospel:* **Glory to you, Lord Christ.**

John said to the crowds that came out to be baptized by him, "You brood of vipers! Who warned you to flee from the wrath to come? Bear fruits worthy of repentance. Do not begin to say to yourselves, 'We have Abraham as our ancestor'; for I tell you, God is able from these stones to raise up children to Abraham. Even now the ax is lying at the root of the trees; every tree therefore that does not bear good fruit is cut down and thrown into the fire." And the crowds asked him, "What then should we do?" In reply he said to them, "Whoever has two coats must share with anyone who has none; and whoever has food must do likewise." Even tax collectors came to be baptized, and they asked him, "Teacher, what should we do?" He said to them, "Collect no more than the amount prescribed for you." Soldiers also asked him, "And we, what should we do?" He said to them, "Do not extort money from anyone by threats or false accusation, and be satisfied with your wages." As the people were filled with expectation, and all were questioning in their hearts concerning John, whether he might be the Messiah, John answered all of them by saying, "I baptize you with water; but one who is more powerful than I is coming; I am not worthy to untie the thong of his sandals. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire. His winnowing fork is in his hand, to clear his threshing floor and to gather the wheat into his granary; but the chaff he will burn with unquenchable fire." So, with many other exhortations, he proclaimed the good news to the people. The Gospel of the Lord. **Praise to you, Lord Christ.**

**Gospel sequence hymn: #75 there’s a voice in the wilderness, v. 3**  *-Blue Pew Hymnal*

**Sermon** *-**The Rev. Jessica Frederick, Curate*

**Nicene Creed,** *said by all, standing as able*

**We believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty, maker of heaven and earth, of all that is, seen and unseen. We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only Son of God, eternally begotten of the Father, God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God, begotten, not made, of one Being with the Father; through him all things were made. For us and for our salvation he came down from heaven, was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the Virgin Mary and became truly human. For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate; he suffered death and was buried. On the third day he rose again in accordance with the Scriptures; he ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead, and his kingdom will have no end. We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life, who proceeds from the Father, who with the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified, who has spoken through the prophets. We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic Church. We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins. We look for the resurrection of the dead, and the life of the world to come. Amen.**

**The Prayers of the People**

With all of our heart, mind and spirit let us pray to God for the Church and the world.

We give thanks for the blessings of this week; ***May our eyes may be opened to small miracles every day.***

We pray for all who seek God; ***May we seek the truth and live with love and compassion.***

We pray for the Church Universal and for Sean, our Presiding Bishop; our Diocesan Partnership churches of Trinity Memorial (Warren); Trinity (Warsaw) and St. David’s (West Seneca); for The Anglican Church of Tanzania; for Luke, Jessica, Cathy and Tom, our clergy, and for all other ministers and Religious; ***May they guide us in paths of righteousness.***

We pray for those in authority in our nation and community; ***May they lead with truth, compassion, and love for the benefit of all.***

We pray for the children and the vulnerable among us; ***May we protect, guide and care for them.***

We pray for the state of God’s creation remembering our responsibility to future generations of people and all living beings; ***May all live in a healthy environment****.*

We pray for all of those who don’t have enough to eat, potable water, healthcare or a safe place in which to live; ***May we see and respond to the needs of others.***

We pray for all in this country and around the world who live in places of conflict, violence, or war; ***May all hatred and hostilities cease.***

We pray for all who are dying, imprisoned, oppressed, or struggling — physically, emotionally, mentally or spiritually. Please join me in saying aloud the names of the people on our prayer list: **Joyce Crate, Mary Holton, Carol Boling, Mac Dawson, David Small, Dennis Lassi, Beth Kresge, Jennifer Pierce, Sue Erikson, Becky and Tom Svetz,** and those others we now name. *The people are invited to say names aloud or in their hearts.*

We pray for all who have died; ***May they rest in peace and rise in glory with St. Luke and all God’s saints.***

We thank you most Gracious God for all of your blessings especially for sending your precious son Jesus to us for our salvation and as an example of how to live. Loving God hear our prayers this Advent season—***As we await Christ’s coming again in glory****.*

*The celebrant adds a concluding Collect;*

Hasten, O Father, the coming of your kingdom; and grant that we your servants, who now live by faith, may with joy behold your Son at his coming in glorious majesty; Jesus Christ, our only Mediator and Advocate. ***Amen****.*

Let us confess our sins against God and our neighbor.

*Said by all, kneeling as able;*

**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.**

**Absolution**

**The Peace** *Let us exchange the Peace of Christ with one another!*

The peace of the Lord be always with you. *People* **And also with you.**

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##### **THE HOLY COMMUNION**

*If you’d like to give electronically, scan the QR code using the camera on your phone.*

**10am offertory Anthem: lo! he comes with clouds descending** *-T. Arne, Arr. R.E. Martin, St. Luke’s Choir*

**10am doxology,** *sung by all*

**Praise God from whom all blessings flow; praise God all creatures here below; praise God above ye heavenly hosts; Praise Father, Son and Holy Ghost. Amen.**

**The Great Thanksgiving:**  *Eucharistic Prayer B*

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It is right, and a good and joyful thing, always and everywhere to give thanks to you, Father Almighty, Creator of heaven and earth. Because you sent your beloved Son to redeem us from sin and death, and to make us heirs in him of everlasting life; that when he shall come again in power and great triumph to judge the world, we may without shame or fear rejoice to behold his appearing. Therefore we praise you, joining our voices with Angels and Archangels and with all the company of heaven, who for ever sing this hymn to proclaim the glory of your Name:

**Sanctus & Benedictus**, *spoken at 8am, sung at 10am*  *#S128 Blue pew hymnal*

**Holy, Holy, Holy Lord, God of power and might, heaven and earth are full of your glory. Hosanna in the highest. Blessed is the One who comes in the name of the Lord. Hosanna in the highest.**

We give thanks to you, O God, for the goodness and love which you have made known to us in creation; in the calling of Israel to be your people; in your Word spoken through the prophets; and above all in the Word made flesh, Jesus, your Son. For in these last days you sent him to be incarnate from the Virgin Mary, to be the Savior and Redeemer of the world. In him, you have delivered us from evil, and made us worthy to stand before you. In him, you have brought us out of error into truth, out of sin into righteousness, out of death into life.

 On the night before he died for us, our Lord Jesus Christ took bread; and when he had given thanks to you, he broke it, and gave it to his disciples, and said, "Take, eat: This is my Body, which is given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me." After supper he took the cup of wine; and when he had given thanks, he gave it to them, and said, "Drink this, all of you: This is my Blood of the new Covenant, which is shed for you and for all for the forgiveness of sins. Whenever you drink it, do this for the remembrance of me." Therefore, according to his command, O Father;

**We remember his death; We proclaim his resurrection; We await his coming in glory;**

And we offer our sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving to you, O Lord of all; presenting to you,

from your creation, this bread and this wine. We pray you, gracious God, to send your Holy

Spirit upon these gifts that they may be the Sacrament of the Body of Christ and his Blood of

the new Covenant. Unite us to your Son in his sacrifice, that we may be acceptable through

him, being sanctified by the Holy Spirit. In the fullness of time, put all things in subjection under

your Christ, and bring us to that heavenly country where, with Saint Luke and all your saints,

we may enter the everlasting heritage of your sons and daughters; through Jesus Christ our

Lord, the firstborn of all creation, the head of the Church, and the author of our salvation. By

him, and with him, and in him, in the unity of the Holy Spirit all honor and glory is yours, Almighty

****Father, now and for ever:

And now, as our Savior Christ has taught us, we are bold to sing *(see next page for music)*



**the breaking of the bread**

 **fraction anthem** -S161 Blue Pew Hymnal

**Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world: have mercy on us. Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world: have mercy on us. Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world: grant us your peace.**

**The Communion**

*Wherever you are on your spiritual journey, all are invited to receive Communion. Gluten-free wafers, as well as grape juice, are available, please indicate your preference;* If you have difficulty coming forward, communion can be brought to you at your seat. *You are invited to light a candle for a person or concern in your prayers. A candle station is located at the back of the Chapel and to the right of the pulpit in the Church.*

**Communion music:** *Please feel free to enjoy listening to the first hymn while you receive Communion.  All are welcome to join in song for the second communion hymn.*

**#69 what is the crying at jordan**

**wait for the lord**

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**Post Communion Prayer**, *said by all*

 **Eternal God, heavenly Father, you have graciously accepted us as living members of your Son, our Savior Jesus Christ, and you have fed us with spiritual food in the sacrament of his Body and Blood. Send us now into the world in peace, and grant us strength and courage to love and serve you with gladness and singleness of heart; through Christ our Lord. Amen.**

**Blessing**

**sending hymn: #65 prepare the way, o zion** *-Blue Pew Hymnal*

**Dismissal** Go in peace to love and serve the Lord. Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!

*Response:* ***Thanks be to God! Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia!***

*Please be seated for the postlude.*

**postlude**

*The flowers on the altar are given to the Glory of God by Jay and Lisa Yaggie in memory of Ida Childs and Velma Frew.*

*Today’s Lay Ministers*

*10am: Ushers: Sharon Drennen, Shirley Forbes, Elizabeth Gattman, Sandy Harle, MaryBeth Southwick, Ruth Wahl*

*Lay Readers/Eucharistic Ministers-Karl Costello (1st Reading), Nicole Gustafson (2nd Reading), Ryan Card (Prayers of the People written by Sr. Myriam Joy), Matt Smith (Eucharistic Minister), Selah Mason (Eucharistic Minister)*

*Acolytes: Karl Costello, Myrick Mathews, Zachary Pickett, William Hill, Gabby Hill, Reino Hill*

**Announcements**

**Caroling & Pub Crawl, 12/17 @ 6pm, the Pub**

The Caroling and Pub Crawl is an annual event recreating days of yore where singing in public is fun! Please come join us at **The Pub on 209 Main St. on Tuesday, Dec. 17th at 6 p.m.** to start the revelry. We’ll have small booklets available to hold with one hand if you happen to have a holiday drink in the other, and we’ll sing Christmastide favorites together and travel on foot to three additional locations including The Cherry Lounge, Wicked Warrens, and Brazil!

**Sacred Songs for Solstice**

On **Friday, Dec. 20th at 6 p.m.** is an opportunity for all people to honor the sacred final turn of the darkness and to feel connection and joy together using their voices in chant and hymn style songs from diverse religious and spiritual traditions. We’ll gather in the chapel in a supportive environment led by Sei Paulson and Karen Hewes Suber. Everyone is encouraged to come and learn heartfelt songs in this safe space! Refreshments will follow.

**Christmas in a Barn 12/21 @ 10am, Alpacaville**

On Saturday, December 21st at 10 am, St. Luke’s will celebrate Christmas in a Barn service at Alpacaville Farm (4463 Mahanna Road in Bemus Point). This is St. Luke’s fourth annual Christmas in a Barn, a service is designed to experience the Christmas story in a way that is interactive, engaging, and accessible for all ages. This year, the service will be the Church of the Wild gathering for this month.

**Blue Christmas: 12/21 @ 5pm**

St. Luke’s annual Blue Christmas Service at 5pm on December 21st is a time when we can acknowledge, with others, the “blue” feelings we have during the holidays and offer them to God. This year, the Blue Christmas service falls on Winter Solstice, and we light a candle in the darkness as a sign of healing while approaching the longest night of the year.

**Christmas Flowers**

Advent is the time to submit your Christmas flowers remembrances for printing in the Christmas Eve service bulletins. Please submit your memorials or thanksgivings by Sunday **December 22.** Envelopes are also available in the pews.

**Prayers of the People**

If you have people you would like to add to the prayer list during Sunday services, please write their name(s) and your name on the back of the visitor cards in the pews. You can also call the church office at 716-403-6405 or email the parish administrator at nicole.gustafson@stlukesjamestown.org. We ask for you to include your name so we can follow up with you and offer additional pastoral care to you or to the person for whom you have requested prayer. Names on our prayer list in the Prayers of the People are cycled out every two weeks, unless specifically requested. If you would like to remain anonymous or only include a first name, we will remember these individuals during our silent meditation at morning prayer to protect any desire for confidentiality.

**Christmas at St. Luke’s**

* **December 24 @ 4pm:** Christmas Eve Family Service with Pageant, Church
* **December 24 @ 11pm:** Christmas Eve Midnight Mass, Church
* **December 25 @ 10am:** Christmas Day Eucharist, Chapel