

Dear Congregation and Esteemed Guests,

Thank you for joining us on this holy and joyful Christmas Eve. Your presence is a true blessing, and we are grateful to gather together in celebration of the birth of our Savior.

As we reflect on the hope, peace, love, and joy of this sacred season, we wish you a very Merry Christmas and a blessed holiday season. May God's light shine brightly in your hearts and homes.

We also invite you to stay connected with us in the days ahead. Please take a moment to review the upcoming events listed, and know that we would be honored to have you join us again. Whether you are a long-time member or visiting for the first time, you are always welcome here.

With heartfelt gratitude and Christmas blessings,

St. Luke's UMC

## Upcoming Events

**Breaking Bread Together Again-Celebration of Epiphany & Service:** On Sunday, January 4, celebrate Epiphany with a simple lunch & time of service to others & our church. Contact Lynne McAlexander to help at 550-3091.

**The Chosen Study Group:** Beginning January 18 after Worship, join others to watch the first season of the video series "The Chosen" in the Library. Each Sunday we will watch one episode and have a discussion. Bring your own lunch. All welcome!

# What Do You Fear?



GOOD NEWS IS LOUDER THAN FEAR

Christmas Eve  
December 24, 2025

St. Luke's United Methodist Church  
480 S. Highland St. Memphis, TN 38111  
901.452.6262 | [stlukesumc.org](http://stlukesumc.org)

# Christmas Eve Service

## Order of Worship

### CHIMING OF THE HOUR

### WORDS OF WELCOME

### PRELUDE

*O Come, All Ye Faithful*

### \*CALL TO WORSHIP

On this holy night, we come,  
dazzled and awe-struck,  
ready to sing alongside the angels.

**On this holy night, we come,  
eager and hopeful,  
ready to journey alongside the shepherds.**

On this holy night, we come,  
quietly and tenderly,  
ready to worship alongside Mary.

**On this holy night, we come,  
singing, trusting, believing, proclaiming:  
good news is louder than fear.**

Let us worship our good news, with-us God.

### \*CAROL

*O Come, All Ye Faithful (vs. 1, 3-5)*

### LIGHTING OF THE CHRIST CANDLE

In a fearful world, where do you see the presence of God?

**We see God's fingerprints all around us. We see God in the beauty of the stars. We see God in the love of this community. We see God in the dreams we hold for a better world.**

You are right. Even in a fearful world, God is here. God is all around us.

On this holy night, we light the Christ Candle as a reminder of this good news. May this flicker of light help us remember that even in a fearful world, God's love is all around us. **Thanks be to God for a love like that!**

**Amen.**

### \*CAROL

*Joy to the World*

### OLD TESTAMENT READING

Arr. John Turner

UMH 234

UMH 246

Isaiah 9:2, 6-7

### \* CAROL

*Hark! The Herald Angels Sing (vs. 1 & 3)*

UMH 240

### NEW TESTAMENT READING

Titus 2:11-14

### ANTHEM

*O Holy Night*

Adolphe Adam

Arr. Richard Nichols

### \*GOSPEL READING

Luke 2:1-20

### \* CAROL

*The First Noel (vs. 1-3)*

UMH 245

### MESSAGE

Rev. Jim McKinney

### THE SACRAMENT OF HOLY COMMUNION

UMH 12

### PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

*We give you thanks, O God, that you have come to us through Jesus Christ, both in the midst of time and history in the city of Bethlehem, and in the timeless presence of Christ's Spirit as we receive the gifts of bread and cup. Send us out into the world rejoicing, ready to share your love with the people we meet, and with hope, knowing that good news is louder than fear; through the grace of Jesus Christ. Amen.*

### SCRIPTURE READING

John 1:1-14

### SHARING THE LIGHT

*The pastors will bring the light from the Christ candle to those seated on the aisles, who will share it with those beside them. The person receiving the light will tip their unlit candle to the lit candle, which should be kept upright.*

### \* CAROL

*Silent Night*

UMH 239

### BENEDICTION

*The congregation leaves in silence.*

\*Congregation stand as able.

CCLI #1111630

### Leading in Worship

Rev. Jim McKinney, Senior Pastor  
Rev. Amy Martin, Minister of Music and Worship  
Rev. Harry Colter, Liturgist  
Linda Hensley, Lighting the Christ Candle

St. Luke's Chancel Choir  
Wes Kirkpatrick, Organist  
Bright Oware, Pianist