



# THE BELLRINGER

SAINT LUKE'S CHURCH

FOREST HILLS, NEW YORK

DECEMBER 2020



## *It's Advent. Slow Down. Quiet.*

Someone once said that there are two kinds of people in the world; those who start each day saying "Good morning, God!" and those who groan, "Oh God, morning!" I think most of us fall somewhere between the two extremes, but given the pressures of these challenging times, we tend more to the latter, worrying about our children, our friends, ourselves as Christmas approaches. To help us cope with our anxieties, an Advent wall calendar has been sent by land mail to Saint Luke's parishioners and friends. Each day's box offers a point for reflection and possible action.

## *Listen!*

Parishioners and friends can also receive a daily Advent meditation voice clip by email. Father Tom delivers a one- to two-minute perspective each day, keyed into the themes presented for that day on the wall calendar. If you haven't already signed up, it's not too late. Just send an email request to Father Tom at [stlukestom@gmail.com](mailto:stlukestom@gmail.com).

Before you steel yourself each morning to learn the latest news of the pandemic, before you plunge into the day's stressful activities, take a few moments to listen, meditate, and quietly reflect on the good news contained in each message. It will help you to say "Good morning, God!"

--Jane Thornton

## *Advent Series*

## ***THEOTOKOS / GOD-BEARER***

**Wed, Dec. 9; Thurs. Dec. 17**

**At 7:30pm on ZOOM**



## *In what ways are we like Mary, the mother of Jesus?*

To register and reserve a copy of ***Theotokos/God-Bearer***, a manuscript in progress by Fr. Tom, Please email [stlukestom@gmail.com](mailto:stlukestom@gmail.com)



## *Hark! The Saint Luke's Choir Sings!*

On Saturday 21 November, a quartet of choir members recorded Christmas music for our ZOOM liturgy on Christmas Eve. Included were familiar carols for congregation, solos, and organ music for the festive season. The format of the liturgy will be traditional Lessons and Carols.

To begin the season of Advent at the ZOOM service of November 29, the choir's recording of the Advent *Matin Responsory* was featured, along with verses from the hymn, "Come Thou Redeemer of the Earth." On the second Sunday of Advent, Alonso Jordan will sing the "Comfort

Ye" and "Ev'ry Valley" tenor selections from Handel's *Messiah*, and on fourth Advent, Olivia Smith-Grugan will sing the lovely Basque Carol, "The Angel Gabriel." Organ music of the season will frame these liturgies.

--Bill Stokes

**"Spruce" Up Your Home for the Holidays  
With Saint Luke's Own  
CHURCH-GROWN CHRISTMAS HOLLY!  
SALE DAY: Saturday, December 12  
from Noon until 1:00pm**

You are invited to stop by the church for this outdoor sale from 12 noon until 1:00pm. Parish elves will be harvesting bundles from the holly bushes on the church grounds that very morning.

**\*\*Masks and social distancing are required\*\***  
\*Exact change only  
for contactless transactions.

\*\$10 cash or check (payable to Saint Luke's Church with 'Outreach Holly' on the memo line).



***Come One, Come All!***

We are delighted to be able to offer our annual **CAROLING PARTY** to our community this year via ZOOM on **Sunday, December 20 from 4:30-6:00pm.** During a year of such change and disruption, it is a gift to still be able to make music together. Please join us virtually on ZOOM as we go through our holiday favorites with Olivia Grugan accompanying on the piano.

Have requests? Let Olivia know ahead of time so she can have music prepared. Feel free to email Olivia directly

[oliviasmithgrugan@gmail.com](mailto:oliviasmithgrugan@gmail.com) or fill out this Google Doc:

<https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLScPjIhptVIuA9VUpbjJSdg5rYxCLZOf0CrBZ9cKoGxWGNCEQ/viewform?usp=sf>

[link](#). Keep your eyes peeled for an email closer to the date with a link to PDFs of sheet music (if desired), and the ZOOM invite.

Looking forward to making music with all of you!

**Saint Luke's Gingerbread Players  
present  
Charles Dickens'  
"A CHRISTMAS CAROL"**



**via ZOOM, Mon., Dec. 21 at 8:00PM**

At this festive season of the year, it is more than usually desirable that we should revisit the most beloved ghost story in the English language, "***A Christmas Carol.***"

The Gingerbread Players invite you to spend the evening with Ebenezer Scrooge, Bob Cratchit, Tiny Tim, and even Mr. Dickens himself, as they present a reading of this classic tale on ZOOM, in a new adaptation by Christopher Dippel. Featuring Chris and Claire Dippel and David and Joanna Friedman, this adaptation challenges **four** actors in **two** different locations to take on **thirty-two** different roles in just **eighty** short minutes!

To receive the ZOOM link, email [boxoffice@gingerbreadplayers.org](mailto:boxoffice@gingerbreadplayers.org) by MIDNIGHT on SUNDAY, DEC. 20. (The spirits will try, but if you email us later than that we can't promise a response...)

***Donations are appreciated***, and all proceeds go to fund the mission and ministry of Saint Luke's Church. (The ZOOM link will include details on how to make a donation.)

## *Saint Luke's Annual Jesse Tree Project*



*The Jesse Tree* is an old Christian tradition in which the decorations placed on the tree symbolize Old Testament people of faith as well as Mary, the mother of Jesus. All these people remind us that faith helps us get through hard times by giving us hope that God's promise to be with us is true and real. As Christians, we celebrate that promise fulfilled in Jesus Christ. And as Christians, we bring this promise to others. In this particular year, let us answer Christ's call to bring light into a darkened world. Each year the people of Saint Luke's give from their hearts in hope of bringing joy to children whose families are experiencing hardship. Since 2000, we have gathered holiday gifts for children served by the Queens Community House.

In recent years we have gathered gifts for more than 100 children each holiday season. The need is even greater in 2020, given the shock waves of the pandemic. Because of the pandemic, Saint Luke's will need to adjust to alternative practices in order to supply gifts for **100 children** this year.

- Because of the pandemic, we will engage in **'contactless' gift-giving.**
- You are asked to make a financial contribution. **You can contribute for more than one child;** that's how we will reach our goal! We are suggesting **\$25 for each child**

which will be converted by Queens Community House into gift cards.

- Checks should be made **payable to Saint Luke's Church.** Then we will send the total amount electronically to the Queens Community House.
- ***Please send your contribution so that it arrives by Monday, December 14<sup>th</sup>.***
  - **Either place your check in the Sunday offering plate in-building or**
  - **Mail to Saint Luke's Church, 85 Greenway South, Forest Hills, NY 11375.**

We know you will give from your heart and to the extent of your abilities. Even during the pandemic, the people of Saint Luke's Church reach out to others in need. Thanks be to God!

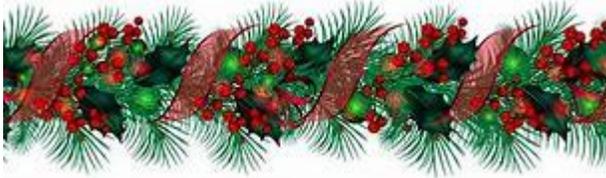
***Please help us raise \$2500  
by December 14<sup>th</sup>  
bringing holiday joy to 100  
children!***



### ***Just a Reminder...***

Keep in touch on a weekly basis with what is going on at Saint Luke's. The Sunday bulletin is sent out by email each Friday, and contains announcements of events for the upcoming week.

## Christmas Decorations and Music



In this year of so many challenges, your offerings will support a message of hope and light not only for our parish family but for a much wider community. We will emphasize outdoor decorations—church doors and front steps—so that passersby can see the message of "Love come to Earth."

Also, our online Advent and Christmas services will shine light in the darkness. We share tidings of joy. To that end, Saint Luke's Choir is dedicated to singing the Gospel proclamation of Christ's peace and love. Their recording projects, with the addition of one guest singer, will musically lead us all to Bethlehem.

So that your memorials and thanksgivings are included in the Christmas worship bulletin, please submit the following information along with your check to reach the parish office **by Friday, December 18.**

### Decorations

Circle one: *"In memory of..."*  
*"In Thanksgiving for..."*

Names:

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### Music

Circle one: *"In memory of..."*  
*"In Thanksgiving for..."*

Names:

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My Name :

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## Christmas Worship Schedule

### Christmas Eve, Thursday, December 24

**+4:00pm:** *In-building* Family Crèche Service with Holy Communion. The Birth of Jesus for children and Holy Communion from the reserved Sacrament (a short service – under twenty minutes -- with the needs of young children in mind).

**+8:00pm:** Christmas Lessons and Carols with Organ, Saint Luke's Choir and Sermon on **ZOOM.**

### Christmas Day, Friday, December 25

**+10:00am:** *In-building* Holy Eucharist with Organ and Sermon.

*Look for more details in the Christmas Letter land-mailed to you this week.*

*Details on RSVP reservations for in-building Christmas Worship will be in the letter and discussed next Sunday during services.*

*Birthdays and Anniversaries*



- 2 Aleyamma Varghese
- 2 Jim Chamberlain
- 2 Amy Jones
- 5 Margaret Reynolds
- 7 Jim VanWestering
- 8 Paris Singh
- 12 Anne Harte Su
- 13 Barbara Glick
- 15 Emily Taylor and Guennadi Boiko (A)
- 16 Jonathan Wallin
- 16 Siew Kwok
- 20 Vanessa Franqui
- 22 Brian Percival
- 22 Paula Santoro
- 26 Vincent LaDuca
- 27 Gert Hounsell
- 27 Giselle Bates
- 27 Mickey Zacarias
- 27 Harlow Tyrell
- 29 Jennifer Saver
- 29 Varghese and Aleyamma Varghese (A)
- 30 Kenneth Portz
- 30 Declan Hoyt Bowman

*Looking ahead to 2021...*

***When This Is Over***

When this is over,  
may we never again take for granted  
a handshake with a stranger  
conversations with neighbors  
a crowded theater  
Friday night out  
the taste of communion  
a routine checkup  
the school rush each morning  
coffee with a friend  
the stadium roaring  
each deep breath  
a boring Tuesday  
life itself.

When this is over,  
may we find that we have become  
more like the people we wanted to be,  
we were called to be,  
we hoped to be.  
And may we stay that way –  
better for each other because of the worst.  
--*Lauren Kelly Fanucci*



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