



**ST. LUKE'S**  
**CHURCH**  
FOREST HILLS

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**CHRISTMAS DAY**  
Wednesday, December 25, 2024 at 10AM

**W**elcome to Saint Luke's Episcopal Church! We extend a warm welcome to members, visitors and friends. We are blessed by your presence and pray you are blessed by this service. Thank you for celebrating the Feast of Christ's Incarnation with us.

Know that you are always welcome here. Following is the worship schedule for this holiday season:

Sunday, December 29, 2024: 10:30am Mass  
Sunday, January 5, 2024: 10:30am Mass  
Epiphany, Monday, January 6, 2025: 7pm Mass

Merry Christmas,  
The Reverend Bo Reynolds, Priest in Charge

† † † † †

#### **ORGAN PRELUDE**

*The people stand as the altar party processes in.*

#### **PROCESSIONAL HYMN – 96 – Gloria**

Angels we have heard on high,  
singly sweetly through the night,  
And the mountains in reply  
echoing their brave delight.  
Gloria in excelsis Deo.  
Gloria in excelsis Deo.

Shepherds, why this jubilee?  
Why these songs of happy cheer?  
What great brightness did you see?  
What glad tidings did you hear?  
Gloria in excelsis Deo.  
Gloria in excelsis Deo.

Come to Bethlehem and see  
him whose birth the angels sing;  
come, adore on bended knee  
Christ, the Lord, the newborn King.  
Gloria in excelsis Deo.  
Gloria in excelsis Deo.

# The Liturgy of the Word

## OPENING ACCLAMATION

*Celebrant* + Blessed be God: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

*People* **And blessed be God's kingdom, now and for ever. Amen.**

## COLLECT FOR PURITY

**A**lmighty 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 – S280 – *Gloria in excelsis*

Glory to God in the highest, and peace to his people on earth.  
Lord God, heavenly King, almighty God and Father,  
we worship you, we give you thanks, we praise you for your glory.

Lord Jesus Christ, only Son of the Father, Lord God, Lamb of God,  
you take away the sin of the world: have mercy on us;  
you are seated at the right hand of the Father: receive our prayer.

For you alone are the Holy One, you alone are the Lord,  
you alone are the Most High, Jesus Christ, with the Holy Spirit,  
in the glory of God the Father. Amen.

## THE CHRISTMAS COLLECT

*Celebrant* The Lord be with you.

*People* **And also with you.**

*Celebrant* Let us pray.

**O** God, you make us glad by the yearly festival of the birth of your only Son Jesus Christ: Grant that we, who joyfully receive him as our Redeemer, may with sure confidence behold him when he comes to be our Judge; who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever.

*People* **Amen.**

**H**ow beautiful upon the mountains are the feet of the messenger who announces peace, who brings good news, who announces salvation, who says to Zion, "Your God reigns." Listen! Your sentinels lift up their voices, together they sing for joy; for in plain sight they see the return of the Lord to Zion. Break forth together into singing, you ruins of Jerusalem; for the Lord has comforted his people, he has redeemed Jerusalem. The Lord has bared his holy arm before the eyes of all the nations; and all the ends of the earth shall see the salvation of our God.

*Lector*        The Word of the Lord

*People*        **Thanks be to God**

**PSALM 98** *is read by all in unison*

**1** Sing to the Lord a new song, \*  
for he has done marvelous things.

**2** With his right hand and his holy arm \*  
has he won for himself the victory.

**3** The Lord has made known his victory; \*  
his righteousness has he openly shown in the sight of the nations.

**4** He remembers his mercy and faithfulness to the house of Israel, \*  
and all the ends of the earth have seen the victory of our God.

**5** Shout with joy to the Lord, all you lands; \*  
lift up your voice, rejoice, and sing.

**6** Sing to the Lord with the harp, \*  
with the harp and the voice of song.

**7** With trumpets and the sound of the horn \*  
shout with joy before the King, the Lord.

**8** Let the sea make a noise and all that is in it, \*  
the lands and those who dwell therein.

**9** Let the rivers clap their hands, \*  
and let the hills ring out with joy before the Lord,  
when he comes to judge the earth.

**10** In righteousness shall he judge the world \*  
and the peoples with equity.

**L**ong ago God spoke to our ancestors in many and various ways by the prophets, but in these last days he has spoken to us by a Son, whom he appointed heir of all things, through whom he also created the worlds. He is the reflection of God's glory and the exact imprint of God's very being, and he sustains all things by his powerful word. When he had made purification for sins, he sat down at the right hand of the Majesty on high, having become as much superior to angels as the name he has inherited is more excellent than theirs.

*Lector*        The Word of the Lord

*People*        **Thanks be to God**

*All stand for the*

**SEQUENCE HYMN – 105 – God Rest You Merry**

God rest you merry, gentlemen, let nothing you dismay;  
remember Christ our Savior was born on Christmas Day,  
to save us all from Satan's power when we were gone astray.  
O tidings of comfort and joy, comfort and joy;  
O tidings of comfort and joy!

From God our heavenly Father a blessed angel came  
and unto certain shepherds brought tidings of the same:  
how that in Bethlehem was born the Son of God by name.  
O tidings of comfort and joy, comfort and joy;  
O tidings of comfort and joy!

"Fear not, then," said the angel, "Let nothing you affright;  
this day is born a Savior of a pure virgin bright,  
to free all those who trust in him from Satan's power and might."  
O tidings of comfort and joy, comfort and joy;  
O tidings of comfort and joy!

Now to the Lord sing praises, all you within this place,  
and with true love and charity each other now embrace;  
this holy tide of Christmas doth bring redeeming grace.  
O tidings of comfort and joy, comfort and joy;  
O tidings of comfort and joy!

## THE GOSPEL

*John 1:1-14*

*Deacon*        The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to John  
*People*        **Glory to you, Lord Christ.**

**I**n the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was in the beginning with God. All things came into being through him, and without him not one thing came into being. What has come into being in him was life, and the life was the light of all people. The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overcome it.

There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. He came as a witness to testify to the light, so that all might believe through him. He himself was not the light, but he came to testify to the light. The true light, which enlightens everyone, was coming into the world. He was in the world, and the world came into being through him; yet the world did not know him. He came to what was his own, and his own people did not accept him. But to all who received him, who believed in his name, he gave power to become children of God, who were born, not of blood or of the will of the flesh or of the will of man, but of God.

And the Word became flesh and lived among us, and we have seen his glory, the glory as of a father's only son, full of grace and truth.

*Deacon*        The Gospel of the Lord  
*People*        **Praise to you Lord Christ**

## THE SERMON

*Father Bo Reynolds*

*All stand for*

**THE NICENE CREED**

**W**e 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:  
by the power of the Holy Spirit  
he became incarnate from the Virgin Mary,  
and was made man.

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 and the Son.  
With the Father and the Son he is worshiped and glorified.  
He 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.

## PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

*Intercessor* By the birth of the timeless Son of God in the womb of the Virgin Mary, let us pray to the Lord, saying, "Hear our prayer."

*Silence may be kept.*

*Intercessor* For Justin, the Archbishop of Canterbury; Sean, our Presiding Bishop; Lawrence, our Bishop; and for all the clergy and people, let us pray to the Lord. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

*Intercessor* For the mission of the Church, that Christ's embracing love may be known throughout the world, let us pray to the Lord. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

*Intercessor* For the leaders of the nations and all in authority, that they may strive for justice and peace, let us pray to the Lord. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

*Intercessor* For our enemies, and those who wish us harm; and for all whom we have injured or offended, let us pray to the Lord. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

*Intercessor* For travelers, for the sick and the suffering, for the hungry and oppressed, for those in prison, and for the dying and the dead, let us pray to the Lord. Lord in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

*Intercessor* Remembering our most glorious and blessed Virgin Mary, Holy Mother of God, blessed Luke our patron, and all the saints, let us commend ourselves and one another to the living God through Christ. Lord in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

*Silence may be kept.*

*The Celebrant concludes with a collect.*

## THE PEACE

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

## WELCOME

*Father Bo Reynolds*



# The Holy Eucharist

## OFFERTORY HYMN – 89 – Carol

It came upon the midnight clear, that glorious song of old,  
from angels bending near the earth to touch their harps of gold:  
“Peace on the earth, good will to men, from heaven’s all-gracious King.”  
The world in solemn stillness lay to hear the angels sing.

Still through the cloven skies they come with peaceful wings unfurled,  
and still their heavenly music floats o’er all the weary world;  
above its sad and lowly plains they bend on hovering wing,  
and ever o’er its Babel sounds the blessed angels sing.

Yet with the woes of sin and strife the world has suffered long;  
beneath the heavenly hymn have rolled two thousand years of wrong;  
and warring humankind hears not the tidings which they bring;  
O hush the noise and cease your strife and hear the angels sing.

For lo! the days are hastening on, by prophets seen of old,  
when with the ever-circling years shall come the time foretold,  
when peace shall over all the earth its ancient splendors fling,  
and all the world give back the song which now the angels sing.

## THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

*Celebrant* The Lord be with you.

*People* **And also with you.**

*Celebrant* Lift up your hearts.

*People* **We lift them to the Lord.**

*Celebrant* Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

*People* **It is right to give him thanks and praise.**

**I**t 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 gave Jesus Christ, your only Son, to be born for us; who, by the mighty power of the Holy Spirit, was made perfect man by the flesh of the Virgin Mary his mother; so that we might be delivered from the bondage of sin, and receive power to become your children. 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:

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

#### EUCHARISTIC PRAYER B

**W**e 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 many for the forgiveness of sins. Whenever you drink it, do this for the remembrance of me."

Therefore, according to his command, O Father,

*People*        **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 the Blessed Virgin Mary, Holy Mother of God, Blessed Joseph, Blessed Luke our patron, 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. **AMEN.**

#### **THE LORD'S PRAYER**

*Celebrant* And now, as our Savior Christ has taught us, we are bold to say,

**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.**

*Silence is kept as the Celebrant breaks the bread. All join in singing the*

**AGNUS DEI** – S163 – Robert Powell

Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world: have mercy on us.

Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world: have mercy on us.

Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world: grant us peace.

#### **INVITATION TO COMMUNION**

*Celebrant* The gifts of God for the people of God. Take them in remembrance that Christ died for you and feed on him in your hearts by faith and with thanksgiving.

*All baptized Christians from any denomination are welcome to receive. You may receive the host on the palm of your hand and drink from the chalice. If you would like the host dipped in the wine, please leave the host in the palm of your hand. Gluten Free Hosts are available to those who need them.*

#### **COMMUNION HYMN – 101 – Cradle Song**

Away in a manger, no crib for his bed,

the little Lord Jesus laid down his sweet head.

The stars in the bright sky looked down where he lay,

the little Lord Jesus asleep on the hay.

The cattle are lowing, the baby awakes,  
but little Lord Jesus no crying he makes.  
I love thee, Lord Jesus! Look down from the sky,  
and stay by my side until morning is nigh.

Be near me, Lord Jesus; I ask thee to stay  
close by me for ever, and love me I pray.  
Bless all the dear children in thy tender care,  
and fit us for heaven to live with thee there.

*All stand for the*

#### POSTCOMMUNION PRAYER

*Celebrant* Let us pray.

**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.**

#### THE BLESSING

*Celebrant* May God who has sent his angels to proclaim the glad news of the Savior's birth, fill you with joy and make you heralds of the Gospel; and the blessing of God Almighty, the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit be with you now and remain with you forever.

*People* **Amen.**

#### HYMN IN PROCESSION – 100 – Antioch

Joy to the world! the Lord is come:  
let earth receive her King;  
let everyone prepare him room,  
and heaven and nature sing,  
and heaven and nature sing,  
and heaven, and heaven and nature sing.

Joy to the world! the Savior reigns;  
let us our songs employ,  
while fields and floods, rocks, hills and plains,  
repeat the sounding joy,  
repeat the sounding joy,  
repeat, repeat the sounding joy.

He rules the world with truth and grace,  
and makes the nations prove  
the glories of his righteousness,  
and wonders of his love,  
and wonders of his love,  
and wonders, and wonders of his love.

#### THE DISMISSAL

*Deacon*      Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.

*People*      **Thanks Be to God**

#### ORGAN POSTLUDE

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#### SERVING TODAY

The Reverend Bo Reynolds, *Celebrant and Preacher*

The Reverend Joseph J. Occhiuto, FCC, *Deacon*

Michael Cheng, *Organist*

Suzanne Schick, *Acolyte & Lector*

Marilyn Matthes, *Usher*

*Altar Guild*

# CHRISTMAS DECORATIONS

## Memorials

Nicholas Piacente by Christine Piacente

Debra & Zach Goodwin by Jane Kettlewell

Katherine & Lloyd Espenschied, Frances Russell  
& Elizabeth Sibicky by Ann Espenschied

Anna, Wei Ying & David Lin; Fred & Gabrielle Schick &  
Joyce & Tom Greiner by Robert Lin & Suzanne Schick

Eloise & Clarence Harte by Anne Harte Su

Henry, Mirabel & Robert Ogilvie & Robbie Rowley  
by Margaret Rowley and Jennifer Hudson-Phillips

Henry & Dorothy Okul; William & Patricia Thomas;  
John Leddick & John Conway by Stephen & DJ Leddick

## Thanksgivings

Sami Gowayed Occhiuto by the Reverend Joseph J. Occhiuto

the birth of Kyle Beau Snyder by Lauren Butler & family

# CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICE MUSIC

## Memorials

Geoffrey Kettlewell by Jane Kettlewell

Isabelle Smith by Robert Lin & Suzanne Schick

Wilson Su by Anne Harte Su

Robert Butler by Lauren Butler & family

Karl, Archie & Edwin Hudson-Phillips  
by Margaret Rowley and Jennifer Hudson-Phillips

Harriet Morin by Jane Thornton

## Thanksgivings

Rosalind, Juliet & Burke Chapin by Ann Espenschied

Olivia Grugan by Robert Lin & Suzanne Schick

Paige, Chelsea, Brandon, Caitlyn, Isabella,  
Norah & Clarity by Stephen & DJ Leddick

the gift of music by Brian & Marianne Percival

Olivia Grugan by Jeanine McPartlin



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Office Hours: Mon – Thurs 9am – 2pm; Fri 9am – 12pm

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**The Reverend Joseph J. Occhiuto**, FCC, Deacon  
718-290-6568

**Olivia Grugan**, Choirmaster  
**Michael Cheng**, Organist  
**Lauren Butler**, Parish & HR Administrator  
**Ann Espenschied**, Sacristan  
**Joe Dinas**, Sexton

**The Wardens and Vestry of Saint Luke's**  
Anne Harte Su, *Warden (2024)*  
Diane Santana, *Warden (2025)*  
[wardens@stlukesforesthills.org](mailto:wardens@stlukesforesthills.org)

**2024**  
Louise Foisy  
Jeanine McPartlin  
Jennifer Hudson-Phillips

**2025**  
Paul Dinas  
Jane Kettlewell  
Christopher Nyberg

**2026**  
Jyri Laatikainen  
Robert Lin  
Jonathan Wallin

**Sunday Worship Hours:**  
10:30am [church/Livestream]  
<https://www.youtube.com/@stlukesforesthills>

Church school: 10:15am on 1<sup>st</sup> & 2<sup>nd</sup>/3<sup>rd</sup> Sun, Sept-June  
Nursery care is available for children under 4