

***HYMN OF PREPARATION**

617

I Come with Joy

DOVE OF PEACE

SHARING THE BREAD AND CUP

We are guests at Christ's table which is open to all. Receive the wafer in your hands, and the server will say, "The body of Christ, given for you," and your response could be, "Amen." Then dip the wafer into the juice and the server will say, "The blood of Christ, given for you," and again you may respond, "Amen."

Gluten-free wafers and pre-filled cups are available. Indicate your need to your server. Offerings left at the communion rail will be directed to the Member Care Fund, which aids our friends in need.

MUSIC DURING COMMUNION

616

Come, Sinners, to the Gospel Feast

FEAST

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION *in unison*

Rev. Cliff Ritter

God of grace and glory,
we thank you that you judge us not by the perfection of our actions,
but by our readiness to live boldly by faith.
Help us as individuals and as a congregation,
to trust you and follow where you lead,
that in Christ your name may be glorified in all the earth. Amen.

INVITATION TO CHRISTIAN DISCIPLESHIP

If you would like to become a follower of Jesus Christ, or are interested in joining St. Luke's United Methodist Church, we would love to talk to you about what that means. Please visit the Connection Desk to learn more.

***HYMN OF COMMITMENT**

92

For the Beauty of the Earth

DIX

***BENEDICTION**

Rev. Colin Bagby

CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE

Leader: "Then I heard the voice of the Lord saying, 'Whom shall I send, and who will go for us?'"

People: "And I said, 'Here am I; send me!'"

POSTLUDE

Fugue in E minor, BuxWV 142

Buxtehude

At places marked * those who are able may stand.

Welcome to worship at St. Luke's!

If you are visiting and would like to learn more about our church, please stop by the Connection Desk for a welcome gift.

Tell us you are here!

1. Is this your first visit?

Please text *iamnew* to 97000 to let us know you are worshipping with us today!

2. Check in on the St. Luke's App.

If you don't have the app installed on your phone, you can download it at: StLukesMethodist.org/app.

Sermon Notes

Let's Begin with This
First in the Series, "This I Believe?"

- *What Good is Doubt?*
- *Not by Chance: Intelligent Design*
- *Something More: Desire for Transcendence*
- *Everyone Agrees: Objective Morality*
- *Personal Experience: God in Me*
- *Undeniable Transformation: God in Others*

Leading in Worship Today: Rev. Katie Montgomery Mears; Rev. Cliff Ritter; Rev. Colin Bagby; Elizabeth Boudreaux, Caring Associate.

Musicians: Sid Davis, Director of Music and Fine Arts; Victoria Shorokhova, Organ Scholar; Barbara Bamberg, Accompanist; Pure Sound; VOCES8.

Acolytes: Viane Eicken-Zelko.

The altar flowers are dedicated to the glory of God and given in loving memory of Georgia and Buck Arnold, Lucy and Buck Arnold, Grace and Tom Arnold, and Beverly and Dan Arnold by their family.



St. Luke's United Methodist Church

February 18, 2024 | 8:30 a.m.



St. Luke's

United Methodist Church

Dr. Tom Pace, Senior Pastor

713-622-5710 | StLukesMethodist.org

PRELUDE *Andante* Willan

***HYMN OF PRAISE**
64 *Holy, Holy, Holy, Lord God Almighty* NICAEA

***AFFIRMATION OF FAITH** UMH #883 Rev. Cliff Ritter

We are not alone, we live in God's world.

We believe in God:

Who has created and is creating,
Who has come in Jesus, the Word made flesh,
To reconcile and make new,
Who works in us and others by the Spirit.

We trust in God.

We are called to be the church:

To celebrate God's presence,
To love and serve others,
To seek justice and resist evil,
To proclaim Jesus, crucified and risen,
Our judge and our hope.

**In life, in death, in life beyond death,
God is with us.**

We are not alone.

Thanks be to God. Amen.

***GLORIA PATRI** UMH #70 MEINEKE

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. Amen.

WELCOME Rev. Katie Montgomery Mears

SCRIPTURE READING Elizabeth Boudreaux

Psalm 19:1-4a

¹The heavens are telling the glory of God, and the firmament proclaims his handiwork. ²Day to day pours forth speech, and night to night declares knowledge. ³There is no speech, nor are there words; their voice is not heard; ⁴yet their voice goes out through all the earth

Acts 17:22-28

²²Then Paul stood in front of the Areopagus and said, "Athenians, I see how extremely spiritual you are in every way. ²³For as I went through the city and looked carefully at the objects of your worship, I found among them an altar with the inscription, 'To an unknown god.' What therefore you worship as unknown, this I proclaim to you. ²⁴The God who made the world and everything in it, he who is Lord of heaven and earth, does not live in shrines made by human hands, ²⁵nor is he served by human hands, as though he needed anything, since he himself gives to all mortals life and breath and all things. ²⁶From one ancestor he made all peoples to inhabit the whole earth, and he allotted the times of their existence and the boundaries of the places where they would live, ²⁷so that they would search for God and perhaps fumble about for him and find him—though indeed he is not far from each one of us. ²⁸For 'In him we live and move and have our being'; as even some of your own poets have said, 'For we, too, are his offspring.'

SCRIPTURE RESPONSE

The Word of God for the people of God.
Thanks be to God.

CHORAL CALL TO PRAYER

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Merciful God,
we confess that we have not loved you with our whole heart.
We have failed to be an obedient church.
We have not done your will,
we have broken your law,
we have rebelled against your love,
we have not loved our neighbors,
and we have not heard the cry of the needy.
Forgive us, we pray.
Free us for joyful obedience,
through Jesus Christ our Lord.
Amen.

WORDS OF ASSURANCE AND PARDON

Hear the good news:

Christ died for us while we were yet sinners;
that proves God's love toward us.

In the name of Jesus Christ, you are forgiven!

In the name of Jesus Christ, you are forgiven. Glory to God. Amen.

MORNING PRAYER Rev. Colin Bagby

SERMON Rev. Katie Montgomery Mears

Let's Begin with This
First in the Series, "This I Believe?"

OFFERTORY *Drop, Drop Slow Tears* Gibbons
VOCES8 & Pure Sound

Drop, drop, slow tears, and bathe those beautiful feet,
which brought from heaven the news and Prince of Peace.

Cease not, wet eyes, his mercies to entreat;
to cry for vengeance sin doth never cease.

In your deep floods drown all my faults and fears;
nor let his eye see sin, but through my tears.

As an alternative to the offering plate, text gift amount to: 832-669-5500.

***DOXOLOGY** UMH #95 OLD 100TH

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. Amen.

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them up to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

...the pastor continues

we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

Jim Roman

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow'r and
might, heav'n and earth are full of your glo - ry. Ho - san - na in the
high - est. Bles-sed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Ho - san - na
in the high - est.

....the pastor continues

...in union with Christ's offering for us, as we proclaim the mystery of faith.

Christ has died; Christ is ri - sen; Christ will come a - gain.

...the pastor continues

All honor and glory is yours, almighty Father, now and forever.

A - men A - men A - men

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, forever. Amen.