

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION *in unison*

Rev. Cliff Ritter

O Holy God, we thank you

for the saving knowledge of your Son our Savior,  
for the living presence of your Spirit, the Comforter,  
for your Church, the body of Christ,  
for the ministry of Word and Sacrament, and all the means of grace.

In all these things, O heavenly God,

may we render an acceptable thanksgiving unto you  
all the days of our lives;

through Jesus Christ our Lord. 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**

277

*Tell Me the Stories of Jesus*

STORIES OF JESUS

**\*BENEDICTION**

Rev. Cliff Ritter

**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**

*Offertoire*

Grigny

At places marked \* those who are able may stand.

### What's Happening at St. Luke's

**Coffee With the Pastor**

Today | 4-6 p.m. | Hines Baker

Be a part of this casual group gathering with Dr. Tom Pace, Senior Pastor. He will share his spiritual journey and invite you to examine your own. Learn more about St. Luke's vision and what it means to be a member of our church. Register: [StLukesMethodist.org/cwp](http://StLukesMethodist.org/cwp)

**The Big Serve | March 2 & Big Build | Assorted March dates**

How much impact can we make in the city of Houston? Choose from numerous service opportunities throughout our community for The Big Serve or pick a date from our assigned days in March to help build a Habitat for Humanity home. Or, sign up to deliver lunch or snacks to volunteers. Information and sign ups; [StLukesMethodist.org/bigserve](http://StLukesMethodist.org/bigserve)

**Lenten Music for Meditation and Reflection**

Thursdays, February 15–March 28 | 12 p.m. | Chapel

Join us in the Chapel every Thursday at noon during Lent for 30-minute musical offerings from a diverse group of professional musicians.

**Honor or remember your loved ones by contributing to the Lenten flowers.** Dedications will be accepted through March 14 and printed in the Easter bulletin on March 31.

Contact Monica Griffin: [mgriffin@stlukesmethodist.org](mailto:mgriffin@stlukesmethodist.org) or 713-402-5110.

For everything Lent & Easter, visit [StLukesMethodist.org/Easter](http://StLukesMethodist.org/Easter)

## 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](http://StLukesMethodist.org/app).

**Sermon Notes**

*The B.I.B.L.E.*

Second in the Series, "This I Believe?"

- clarity, confidence, and conundrums
- inerrant and/or inspired (The Holy Spirit)
- a book or a savior (Jesus)

**Leading in Worship Today:** Dr. Tom Pace; Rev. Cliff Ritter; Drew Scoggins, Pastoral Intern; Mary Schuler, Senior Adult Ministries.

**Musicians:** Randy Murrow, Associate Director of Music and Fine Arts; Victoria Shorokhova, Organ Scholar; Barbara Bamberg, Accompanist; St. Cecilia.

**Acolytes:** Marion Tallon.

**The altar flowers are dedicated to the glory of God** and given in celebration of the baptism of Parker Andrew Jones by his parents, Kristin Leigh and Taylor Jones, and brother, Owen Jones; in loving memory of Thomas Monroe's birthday by Kendall and Will Monroe; in celebration of the baptism of Beatrice Lois Smith by her parents, Alexandra and Austen Smith; in celebration of the baptism of Juliana Nixon Mafrige by her parents, Juliana and Zach Mafrige.



**St. Luke's**

United Methodist Church

Dr. Tom Pace, Senior Pastor

713-622-5710 | [StLukesMethodist.org](http://StLukesMethodist.org)



St. Luke's United Methodist Church

February 25, 2024 | 8:30 a.m.

**PRELUDE** *Melody* Skoryk

**\*HYMN OF PRAISE**  
529 *How Firm a Foundation* FOUNDATION

**\*AFFIRMATION OF FAITH** UMH #884 Drew Scoggins

We believe in the one God,  
creator and sustainer of all things, Father of all nations,  
the source of all goodness and beauty, all truth and love.

We believe in Jesus Christ,  
God manifest in the flesh,  
our teacher, example, and Redeemer, the Savior of the world.

We believe in the Holy Spirit,  
God present with us for guidance, for comfort, and for strength.

We believe in the forgiveness of sins,  
in the life of love and prayer,  
and in grace equal to every need.

We believe in the Word of God  
contained in the Old and New Testaments  
as the sufficient rule both of faith and of practice.

We believe in the church,  
those who are united in the living Lord  
for the purpose of worship and service.

We believe in the reign of God  
as the divine will realized in human society,  
and in the family of God,  
where we are all brothers and sisters.

We believe in the final triumph of righteousness  
and in the life everlasting.

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** Dr. Tom Pace

**SCRIPTURE READING** 2 Timothy 3:16-17 Mary Schuler

<sup>16</sup>All scripture is inspired by God and is useful for teaching, for reproof, for  
correction, and for training in righteousness, <sup>17</sup>so that the person of God may  
be proficient, equipped for every good work.

Matthew 5:17-18  
<sup>17</sup>"Do not think that I have come to abolish the Law or the Prophets; I have  
come not to abolish but to fulfill. <sup>18</sup>For truly I tell you, until heaven and earth  
pass away, not one letter, not one stroke of a letter, will pass from the law  
until all is accomplished.

John 5:39-40  
<sup>39</sup>"You search the scriptures because you think that in them you have eternal  
life, and it is they that testify on my behalf. <sup>40</sup>Yet you refuse to come to me to  
have life.

### SCRIPTURE RESPONSE

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

### CHORAL CALL TO PRAYER

### PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Have mercy upon us, O God, according to your lovingkindness.  
According to the multitude of your tender mercies,  
blot out our transgressions.

Wash us thoroughly from our iniquities, and cleanse us from our sins.  
For we acknowledge our transgressions, and our sin is ever before us.  
Create in us clean hearts, O God, and renew a right spirit within us;  
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

*W.E. Orchard, England, 20th Cent., alt.*

### WORDS OF ASSURANCE AND PARDON

The Lord is gracious and merciful,  
slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love.  
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. Cliff Ritter

**SERMON** *The B.I.B.L.E.* Dr. Tom Pace  
Second in the Series, "This I Believe?"

**OFFERTORY** *Shalom* Dan Forrest  
St. Cecilia

Peace I leave with you, peace I give to you:  
Peace. Shalom.  
Not as this world gives, I give to you,  
Do not be afraid.

*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.

**INVITATION TO HOLY COMMUNION** Rev. Cliff Ritter

### 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.

**\*HYMN OF PREPARATION** 601 *Thy Word Is a Lamp* THY WORD

### 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** 382 *Have Thine Own Way, Lord* ADELAIDE