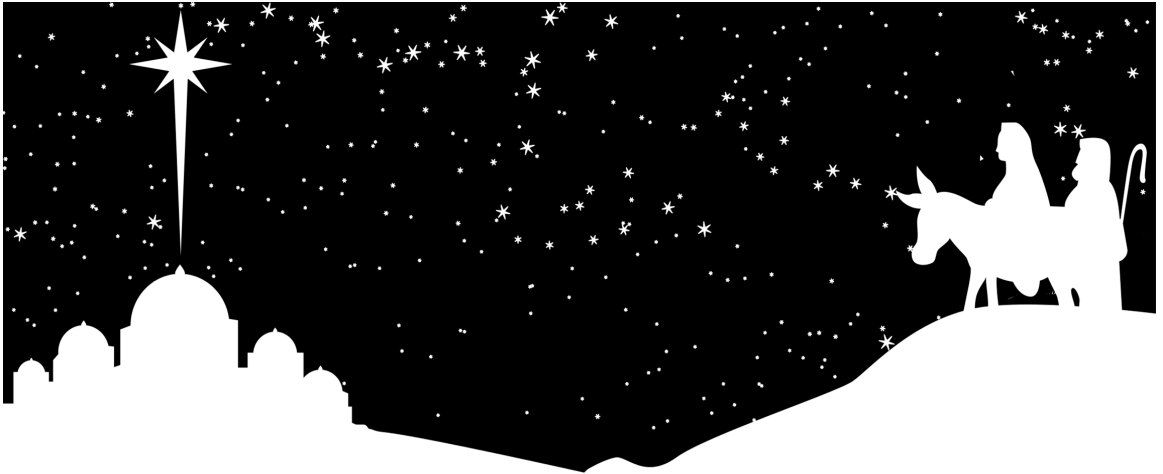


# Coming and Going



Service of Comfort and Rest

December 11, 2011

5:00 p.m.

Chapel

## In Preparation for Worship

*In this season of short days and long nights, of grey and white and cold, teach us the lessons of endings; children growing, friends leaving, loved ones dying, grieving over, grudges over, blaming over, excuses over. O God, grant us a sense of Your timing. In this season of short days and long nights, of grey and white and cold, teach us the lessons of beginnings; that such waitings and endings may be the starting place, a planting of seeds which bring to birth what is ready to be born - something right and just and different, a new song, a deeper relationship, a fuller love - in the fullness of Your time. O God, grant us the sense of Your timing.*

(from Ted Yoder, *Guerrillas of Grace*)

### Prelude

*Lo, How a Rose E'er Blooming*

arr. Fred Bock

### Welcome

Shannon Dill

### Call to Worship

**Leader:** In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God.

**People:** **The Word became flesh and lived among us, full of grace and truth, and we have seen His glory.**

**Leader:** In Him was life, and that life was the light of all.

**People:** **The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has never been able to extinguish it.**

**ALL:** **Let us worship God.**

### Solo

*E'en So, Lord Jesus, Quickly Come*

Paul Manz

Wendy Moreland, soprano

Peace be to you and grace from Him Who freed us from our sin, Who loved us all, and shed His blood that we might saved be. Sing holy, holy to our Lord, the Lord Almighty God Who was and is, and is to come. Rejoice in heaven, all ye that dwell therein; rejoice on earth, ye saints below for Christ is coming, is coming soon. E'en so Lord Jesus quickly come and night shall be no more. They need no light, no lamp, nor sun for Christ will be their All!

(*Revelation 22*)

### Call to Prayer

Dave Elkins

**Leader:** The Lord be with you

**People:** **And also with you**

**Leader:** Let us pray

**\*congregation standing, who are able; † seating of worshippers.**

## Prayer (in unison)

God who is with us, in this season of looking forward; of anticipating the celebration of Your Son's birth and return in glory; we often find ourselves uncomfortable, uneasy, worried and sad. The lights and cheerfulness, the music, the bright joy around us, often make us more unquiet, more out of step, feeling even more disconnected and different. Some of these feelings come from false expectations. Others come from real situations and issues that face us or those we love. Some are from events we may influence and some are beyond our control. Trusting in Your grace and provision, we name these situations and face the pain and dislocation they cause us. We claim Your promise to be with us. We claim Your steadfast love for us, knowing You will help us find peace for our troubled spirits. We claim Your wise and merciful power, that You will meet each need as is best for us. Amen.

## The Lighting of Candles and God's Word

The candle lighting service includes the lighting of six memorial candles along with scripture readings, each followed by a brief time of reflection. **As each candle is lit, we are reminded that in the midst of darkness, light will shine.**

### Candle of Grief

**Reading:** Psalm 22:1-11

Leslie Berry

**Reader:** Gracious God, we light this candle for all those who are estranged from You, who are besieged with doubts, who are overwhelmed by the world and do not claim Your presence in their lives. We pray for them, and therefore ourselves, for we confess that each of us knows this condition. Lord, may the light of Your love lead us all home to You. *(Silent reflection follows)*

### Candle of Hope

**Reading:** Luke 6:17-23

Amy Stewart

**Reader:** Loving God, we light this candle for all those who are victims of violence in any of its forms. May its light lead to peace, safety, and truth. Pour forth encouragement to claim Your help in healing physically and spiritually, to trust in Your justice, to find assistance, to resist blaming ourselves, to be confident in the future You have planned for us, a future full of hope. *(Silent reflection follows)*

### Candle of Courage

**Reading:** Psalm 121

Paula Morris

**Reader:** Merciful God, we light this candle for all those who are struggling with issues involving financial concerns, job loss, seemingly insurmountable debt. May its light remind us all that You are the Great Provider; You will give us our daily bread. Empower us to take the steps we need to solve these problems. Draw us to the right people and programs to help us. *(Silent reflection follows)*

## Candle of Comfort

**Reading:** Isaiah 40: 1-5; 27-31

Leslie Berry

**Reader:** Comforting God, we light this candle for all those who grieve. You know our deepest need; You understand our pain - lost dreams, lost opportunities, the separation of death. May its light remind us that we are not alone. Grant us grace that in pain we may find comfort, in sorrow hope, and in death resurrection. *(Silent reflection follows)*

## Candle of Faith

**Reading:** Revelation 7:15-17

Cathie Rogers

**Reader:** God of Light and Life, we light this candle for all those who are struggling with issues involving physical or mental health. We especially remember those struggling with depression, or thoughts of suicide. May its light remind us all of the healing available to us in Christ Jesus. Hear our prayers that anguish be minimized and Your good plan fulfilled for each who suffer. *(Silent reflection follows)*

## Candle of Rest

**Reading:** Matthew 11:28-29

Laura Strange

**Reader:** Healing God, we light this candle for all those who are experiencing the pain of broken relationships with family, children, spouses, and friends. May its light remind us of the pure communion You desire for all Your creation. Our desire for this same communion makes estrangement so painful. Lead us to relinquish the hold broken relationships have on us, to forgive ourselves for our contribution to the breach, to forgive those who have hurt us, and to take the steps to mend that relationship, if possible. Lord, we know that sometimes we suffer from a broken relationship with someone who is now deceased. Help us to prayerfully examine, receive and extend forgiveness in that situation, that we may live again. *(Silent reflection follows)*

**Unison Prayer:**

Amy Stewart

**Loving God, hear our prayers and remind us that by Your grace, mercy and love light will shine in the midst of darkness. We ask all these things in the strong name of Jesus. Amen.**

Hymn #3

*Comfort, Comfort You My People*

PSALM 42

The Lord's Supper *(Worshippers will be served where they are seated)*

## Prayer of Thanksgiving and 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 debts, as we forgive our debtors; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For Thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever. Amen.**

### Duet

*The Coventry Carol* Traditional, arr. Michael McGlynn  
Clair Maxwell and Wendy Moreland, soloists

Lully, lullay, Thou little tiny Child, By, by, lully, lullay. O sisters, too, how may we do, for to preserve this day this poor Youngling for whom we do sing. Herod the King, in his raging, charged he hath this day his men of might, in his own sight, all young children to slay. That woe is me, poor Child, for Thee, and ever mourn and day for Thy parting, neither say nor sing.

## Intercession for Healing and Wholeness

Cathie Rogers

Leader: The God of strength moves within us;  
**People: The God of courage hears our distress.**  
Leader: The God of hope reveals wholeness to us;  
**People: The God of healing touches us when we are broken.**  
Leader: When the pain overwhelms us, when the burden is too heavy,  
**People: We turn to our God, who is sustaining and redeeming.**  
Leader: When there is loneliness, when there is isolation,  
**People: We turn to our God, who is loving and present.**  
Leader: For God created us, redeemed us and sustains us,  
**People: And we are not alone.**  
**ALL: Lead us in Your ways, O God, and bring us Your healing touch.**

## Hymn #24

*Away in a Manager*

CRADLE SONG

## Benediction

## Postlude

*O Come, O Come, Emmanuel*

arr. Fred Bock

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*Light refreshments will be served in the Chapel foyer. Please come and stay for the solace known to those who gather in the name and community of Christ Jesus.*



Stephen Ministry is a caring and listening ministry providing confidential, one-to-one Christian care to people facing difficulty. Men are assigned to male caregivers and women to female caregivers. Stephen Ministers benefit our pastors, our congregation and our community.

Stephen Ministry can provide care for people with different types of needs such as: unemployment, relocation, severe financial setback, living with a degenerative or chronic disease, empty nest, parent support of an adult child, divorce, caring for an elderly or ill family member, or following the death of a loved one. These are only a few examples.

Stephen Ministers are members of St. Luke's who receive fifty hours of training before they are commissioned and assigned care receivers. They participate in monthly group supervision and continuing education.

If you are experiencing difficult times and would like a Stephen Minister to help, please contact Stephen Ministry Referrals Coordinators: Rev. Shannon Dill (shannondill@slpres.org, 770-393-1424, ext. 229) or Laura Strange (jandlstrange@comcast.net, 770-392-9284). If you have a friend in need, have the person call or obtain permission to inquire on their behalf.

## St. Luke's Stephen Ministers

Leslie Berry  
Jim Giesler  
Bob Polensek  
Stan Thornton

Candy Cox  
Janis Jones  
Sharon Polensek

Sandra DuBois  
Liz Humphrey Lee  
Jan Slater

Dave Elkins  
Jo Hutchison  
Michelle Styring

## Stephen Ministry Leaders

Shannon Dill      Paula Morris  
Cathie Rogers      Amy Stewart      Laura Strange

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**Elders serving Communion:** Dave Elkins, Jan Slater, Laura Strange, Stan Thornton

**Greeter:** Sandra DuBois **Ushers:** Paula Morris, Cathie Rogers

**Refreshments:** Dave Elkins, Liz Humphrey Lee, Jo Hutchison, Amy Stewart, Laura Strange

## St. Luke's Presbyterian Church

1978 Mt. Vernon Road, Dunwoody, GA 30338-4617  
770-393-1424 Fax 770-393-3278 www.slpres.org

8:30 a.m. Chapel Communion Service  
9:30 Sunday School  
11 a.m. Worship Service in the Sanctuary  
(Nursery Provided for all services and Sunday School)

Office Hours: 8:30 a.m. - 4:30 p.m. Monday-Friday  
(After hours pastoral emergency, please call one of the pastors at home.)

### **Our Mission**

Responding to God's call and empowered by the Holy Spirit, we invite all to join us in knowing, serving, and sharing Jesus Christ here and around the world.

### **Our Vision**

To be a beacon of faith, hope, and love ~ every member  
an active disciple in Christ's ministry.

## Church Staff

Pastor, Dr. Jason Whitener	Director of Children's Ministries,
Associate Pastor, Rev. Shannon Dill	Catherine Anne Thomas
Associate Pastor, Rev. Phil Brown	Intern, Youth & Children's Ministries, Brittany Harrold
Pastor Emeritus, Dr. E. Moss Robertson	Director of Music & Organist, Clair Maxwell
Facilities Manager, Roby Price	Director of St. Luke's Little Saints Preschool &
Receptionists, Sally Hawkins & Betsy Turner	Kindergarten, Carol Perry
Treasurer, Gary Phipps	Administrative Assistants, Shirley Carrier & Liz Catlett

## Pastoral Counseling

St. Luke's Perimeter Counseling Center ~ Georgia C. Griffin, J.D., M. Div., Director  
Perimeter Center, Licensed Marriage & Family Therapist/Mediator  
404-636-1457, ext. 452