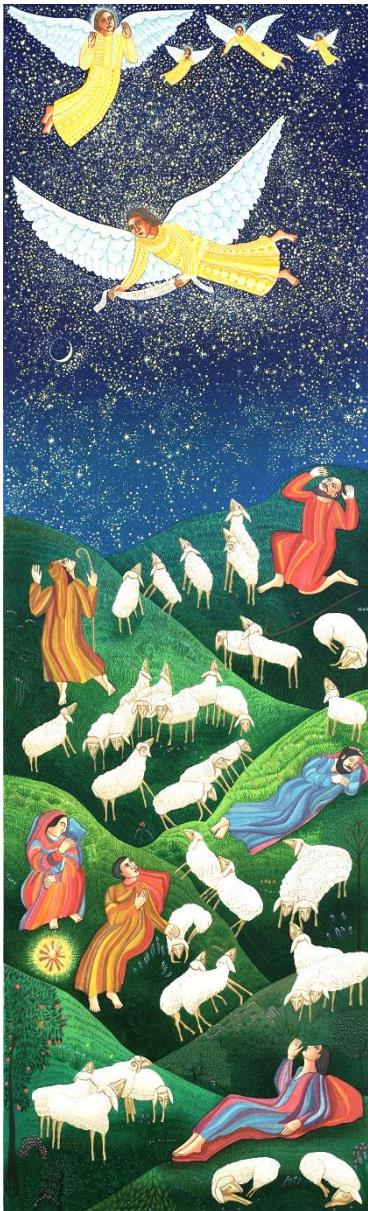




ST. LUKE'S ANGLICAN CHURCH, PALERMO

Christmas Eve Midnight Mass,
December 24, 2021 ♦ 11:00 pm



**The Reverend Garfield Wu
– Presider & Preacher**

Welcome to St. Luke's!

We are glad to be able to worship with you. Our service will look a little different than usual week as we take precautions to prevent the spread of COVID-19. Though this time may bring challenges, we know that nothing can separate us from the love of God.

None of us comes to church by accident. No matter what joys, burdens, or problems you bring with you this day, we pray that God's grace will touch you and fill you with the hope and commitment to live your life with peace, courage, compassion, and love.

THE PROCESSION

Processional Hymn

Shepherds in the Field Abiding – CP #135

1. Shepherds in the field abiding,
tell us, when the seraph bright
greeted you with wondrous tiding,
what you saw and heard that night.
Glo-r-ia in excelsis Deo!

2. We beheld (it is no fable),
God incarnate, King of bliss,
swathed and cradled in a stable,
and the angel strain was this:
Glo-r-ia in excelsis Deo!

3. Choristers on high were singing
Jesus and his virgin birth,
heavenly bells the while a-ringing,
“Peace, good will to all on earth.”
Glo-r-ia in excelsis Deo!

4. Thanks, good shepherds, true your story;
let us go to Bethlehem.
Angels hymn the King of glory;
carol we with you and them.
Glo-r-ia in excelsis Deo!

Greeting

Celebrant: The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God, and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit, be with you all.

All: **And also with you.**

Collect for Purity

Celebrant: Almighty God,

All: **to whom all hearts are open, all desires known, and from you no secrets are hidden, 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.**

Canticle 7

All: Arise, shine, for your light has come;
the glory of the Lord has risen upon you.
Though night still covers the earth
and darkness covers the nations,
Over you will the Lord arise,
over you will his glory appear.
Nations will stream to your light
and kings to your dawning brightness.
Your gates will always be open;
day or night, they will never be shut.
They will call you, The City of the Lord,
The Zion of the Holy One of Israel.
Violence will no more be heard in your land,
ruin or destruction within your borders;
you will name your walls, Salvation,
you will call your gates, Praise.
No longer will the sun be your light by day,
no longer the moon give you light by night;
the Lord will be your eternal light;
your God will be your glory.

Lighting of the Advent Wreath

Celebrant: We wait for the coming of Christ, the light of the world.

All: **Come Lord Jesus.**

The Christ candle is lit, followed by this response:

Celebrant: The true light, which enlightens everyone, is coming into the world.

All: **Come Lord Jesus.**

Celebrant: The light shines in the darkness and the darkness will not overcome it.

All: **Christ, shine in your church today.**

Collect of the Day

Eternal God, this holy night is radiant with the brilliance of your one true light. As we have known the revelation of that light on earth, bring us to see the splendour of your heavenly glory; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who is alive and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

THE PROCLAMATION OF THE WORD

A Reading from the Letter to the Hebrews:

Hebrews 1:1-12

In the past God spoke to our ancestors through the prophets at many times and in various ways, but in these last days he has spoken to us by his Son, whom he appointed heir of all things, and through whom also he made the universe. The Son is the radiance of God's

glory and the exact representation of his being, sustaining all things by his powerful word. After he had provided purification for sins, he sat down at the right hand of the Majesty in heaven. So he became as much superior to the angels as the name he has inherited is superior to theirs.

For to which of the angels did God ever say,

“You are my Son;
today I have become your Father”?
Or again,
“I will be his Father,
and he will be my Son”?

And again, when God brings his firstborn into the world, he says,

“Let all God’s angels worship him.”
In speaking of the angels he says,
“He makes his angels spirits,
and his servants flames of fire.”

But about the Son he says,

“Your throne, O God, will last for ever and ever;
a scepter of justice will be the scepter of your kingdom.
You have loved righteousness and hated wickedness;
therefore God, your God, has set you above your companions
by anointing you with the oil of joy.”

He also says,

“In the beginning, Lord, you laid the foundations of the earth,
and the heavens are the work of your hands.

They will perish, but you remain;
they will all wear out like a garment.
You will roll them up like a robe;
like a garment they will be changed.
But you remain the same,
and your years will never end.”

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Gradual Hymn

In the Bleak Midwinter – CP #122

1. In the bleak midwinter, frosty wind made moan,
earth stood hard as iron, water like a stone;
snow had fallen, snow on snow, snow on snow,
in the bleak midwinter, long ago.

2. Our God, heaven cannot hold him, nor earth sustain;
heaven and earth shall flee away
when he comes to reign.
In the bleak midwinter a stable place sufficed
the Lord God Almighty, Jesus Christ.

3. Angels and archangels may have gathered there;
cherubim and seraphim thronged the air;
but his mother only in her maiden bliss,
worshipped the beloved with a kiss.

The Gospel

John 1:1-14

The Lord be with you.

And also, with you.

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

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was with God in the beginning. Through him all things were made; without him nothing was made that has been made. In him was life, and that life was the light of all mankind. The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it.

There was a man sent from God whose name was John. He came as a witness to testify concerning that light, so that through him all might believe. He himself was not the light; he came only as a witness to the light.

The true light that gives light to everyone was coming into the world. He was in the world, and though the world was made through him, the world did not recognize him. He came to that which was his own, but his own did not receive him. Yet to all who did receive him, to those who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God— children born not of natural descent, nor of human decision or a husband's will, but born of God.

The Word became flesh and made his dwelling among us. We have seen his glory, the glory of the one and only Son, who came from the Father, full of grace and truth.

The Gospel of Christ.
Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

4. What can I give him, poor as I am?
If I were a shepherd, I would bring a lamb;
if I were a wiseman, I would do my part;
yet what I can, I give him – give my heart.

The Sermon By the Rev. Garfield Wu

The Apostle's Creed

Celebrant: Let us confess the faith of our baptism as we say,
All: **I believe in God, the Father almighty,
creator of heaven and earth.**

I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord. He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit and born of the Virgin Mary. He suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried. He descended to the dead. On the third day, he rose again. He ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.

The Prayers of the People Litany #13 (from BAS p. 120)

Celebrant: By the good news of our salvation brought to Mary by the angel, hear us, O Lord.

- All:** **Lord, grant us peace.**
- Celebrant:** By the mystery of the Word made flesh,
hear us, O Lord.
- All:** **Lord, grant us peace.**
- Celebrant:** By the birth in time of the timeless Son of
God, hear us, O Lord.
- All:** **Lord, grant us peace.**
- Celebrant:** By the manifestation of the King of glory
to the shepherds and magi, hear us, O
Lord.
- All:** **Lord, grant us peace.**
- Celebrant:** By the submission of the maker of the
world to Mary and Joseph of Nazareth,
hear us, O Lord.
- All:** **Lord, grant us peace.**
- Celebrant:** By the baptism of the Son of God in the
river Jordan, hear us, O Lord.
- All:** **Lord, grant us peace.**
- Celebrant:** Grant that the kingdoms of this world may
become the kingdom of our Lord and
Saviour Jesus Christ; hear us, O Lord.
- All:** **Lord, grant us peace.**

Family Cycle of Prayer:

Everie & Leonie Perera, Beatrice & Derek Prins, Ranji
& Arthur Rajaratnam, Answerd Ramcharan & Karen
Mewa Ramcharan, Lynette Reis, Mark & Barb
Robinson, and their families.

In the Diocese of Niagara:

St. John the Evangelist, Niagara Falls; the Rev. Mark Gladding, Priest in Charge; and the people of that parish.

Let us take a moment to say the names of those we know to be in need, or allow those things are weighing heavy our on our hearts this day to come before the Lord. [...]

So, we commend ourselves and all for whom we pray to the mercy and protection of our heavenly Father. **Amen.**

Confession and Absolution

Celebrant: Dear friends in Christ, God is steadfast in love and infinite in mercy; he welcomes sinners and invites them to his table. Let us confess our sins, confident in God's forgiveness.

Celebrant: Most merciful God,

All: **we confess that we have sinned against you in Thought, Word, and Deed, by what we have done, and by what we have left undone. We have not loved you with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbours as ourselves. We are truly sorry, and we humbly repent. For the sake of your Son Jesus Christ, have mercy on us and forgive us, that we may delight in your will, and walk in your ways, to the glory of your name. Amen.**

Celebrant: Almighty God have mercy upon you, pardon and deliver you from all your sins, confirm and strengthen you in all

goodness, and keep you in eternal life;
through Jesus Christ, our Lord.

All: **Amen.**

The Peace

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

THE CELEBRATION OF THE EUCHARIST

Preparation of the Gifts

Offertory Hymn

Silent Night – CP #119

1. Silent night! Holy night!
All is calm, all is bright,
round yon virgin-mother and child,
Holy Infant so tender and mild,
sleep in heavenly peace,
sleep in heavenly peace.

2. Silent night! Holy night!
Shepherds quake at the sight:
glories stream from heaven afar,
heavenly hosts sing alleluia,
Christ the Saviour is born,
Christ the Saviour is born.

3. Silent night! Holy night!
Son of God, love's pure light
radiant beams from thy holy face,
with the dawn of redeeming grace,
Jesus, Lord, at thy birth,
Jesus, Lord, at thy birth.

The Prayer over the Gifts

Source of light and gladness, accept all we offer on this joyful feast. May we grow up in him who unites our lives to yours; for he is Lord now and for ever. **Amen.**

The Great Thanksgiving (Eucharistic Prayer #3)

Celebrant: The Lord be with you.

All: **And also with you.**

Celebrant: Lift up your hearts,

All: **We lift them to the Lord.**

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

All: **It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

Celebrant: Blessed are you, gracious God, creator of heaven and earth; we give you thanks and praise through Jesus Christ our Lord, who in the mystery of his incarnation was made perfect man of the flesh of the Virgin Mary his mother; in him we have seen a new and radiant vision of your glory. Therefore with all the angels of heaven, we lift our voices and sing our joyful hymn of praise to proclaim the glory of your name.

All **□** **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.**

Celebrant: We give thanks to you, Lord our God, for the goodness and love you have made known to us

in creation; in calling 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 Saviour 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 he was handed over to suffering and death, a death he freely accepted, 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, Father, according to his command,
we remember his death,
we proclaim his resurrection,
we await his coming in glory;

Celebrant: and we offer our sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving to you, 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, made acceptable in him, may be sanctified by the Holy Spirit.

In the fullness of time, reconcile all things in Christ, and make them new, and bring us to that city of light where you dwell with all 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 whom, and with whom, and in whom, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, all honour and glory are yours, almighty Father, now and forever.

All: **Amen.**

The Lord's Prayer

Celebrant: And now, as our Saviour Christ has taught us, we are bold to say:

Our Father in Heaven,
hallowed be your name.
your kingdom come,
your will be done,
on earth as in Heaven.
Give us today our daily bread,
Forgive us our sins,
as we forgive those who sin against us.
Save us from the time of trial
but deliver us from evil,

**for the Kingdom, the Power,
and the Glory are yours,
now and for ever. Amen.**

The Breaking of the Bread

Celebrant: We break the bread of life, and that life is the light of the world.

All: **God here among us, light in the midst of us, bring us to light and life.**

The Communion

Celebrant: The gifts of God for the people of God.

All: **Thanks be to God. Alleluia!**

Invitation to Spiritual Communion

Celebrant: Dear friends, I invite you in this moment, wherever you may be, to receive Christ, in communion with the saints, and the gathering of God's people, unseen and yet present with us now. Many are made one.

The following prayer is said by all, during this prayer the elements may be elevated, in offering to the people.

Celebrant: We receive you Lord Jesus Christ,

All: **we welcome your presence in us, and together proclaim our love for you; with our hearts, minds, our souls and our strength, with the saints we worship you, with the angels we adore you, with your whole Church we proclaim your reign. Come to us, though many, and make us one in you. Amen.**

The Eucharist

A time of silence is kept to allow people to make their act of spiritual communion. Following this silence, the people physically present receive communion in one kind by taking the bread from the paten while the chalice remains covered upon the Altar. Finally, the celebrant reverently consumes the wine.

The following prayer may be used by those making spiritual communion from afar.

I worship and adore you, Lord Jesus Christ, present in bread and wine, and present in your people, who are gathered in spirit.

In this moment I join with them to receive you in my heart, and in our community. May you, enthroned on the altar, be now enthroned in my heart, may you, present in bread and wine, feed and renew my soul, may you, who gives yourself to us again, fill us with grace, and heavenly blessing.

Even as I am fed, may my hunger for you and for your reign of justice and peace increase, that I may, with your Spirit, work for that day when your kingdom shall come on earth as it is heaven. Amen.

Eucharist Music: Performed by Janet Correia

THE SENDING OF GOD'S PEOPLE

The Prayer after Communion

Father of all, tonight you have united earth and heaven in sending your Son to take our human nature. May we who have tasted heavenly things share in the life of his eternal kingdom. We ask this in the name of Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Doxology

Celebrant: Glory to God
All: whose power, working in us, can do infinitely more than we can ask or imagine. Glory to God from generation to generation, in the Church and in Christ Jesus, forever and ever. Amen.

Blessing

*The Celebrant blesses the people, and all respond,
Amen.*

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Recessional Hymn

Hark! The Herald Angels Sing – CP #138

1. Hark! The herald angels sing,
glory to the new-born King,
Peace on earth, and mercy mild,
God and sinners reconciled.
Joyful, all ye nations, rise,
join the triumph of the skies;
With the angelic host proclaim,
'Christ is born in Bethlehem.'

REFRAIN

Hark! The herald angels sing
Glory to the new-born King.

2. Christ, by highest heaven adored,
Christ, the everlasting Lord,
late in time behold him come,
offspring of a Virgin's womb.
Veiled in flesh the God head see!
Hail, the Incarnated Deity!

Pleased as man with man to dwell,
Jesus, our Emmanuel.

REFRAIN

Hark! The herald angels sing
Glory to the new-born King.

3. Hail, the heaven-born prince of peace!
Hail, the Son of righteousness!
Light and life to all he brings,
risen with healing in his wings.
Mild he lays his glory by,
born that we no more may die,
born to raise each child of earth,
born to give us second birth.
Hark! The herald and sing.

REFRAIN

The Dismissal

Let us go out in peace to love and serve the Lord!
Thanks be to God. Hallelujah!

Postlude

This liturgy is used with the permission of the Bishop of Niagara.

This service is adapted from *The Book of Alternative Services* (BAS). *The Book of Alternative Services*, copyright © 2019 by the General Synod of the Anglican Church of Canada; all rights reserved; reproduced under license. *Common Worship*, copyright © 2019 by the Archbishop's Council; used by permission; all rights reserved.

**MORNING PRAYER AND BIBLE STUDY
ON Break – Continuing January 5, 2022**

Our Morning Prayer services are taking a break during the Christmas holidays, but we will resume as usual on Wednesday, January 5 at 9:30 am. See you then – have a very Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!

ANNOUNCEMENTS

**Merry Christmas to You and Your Family
from St. Luke's, Palermo!**

Thank you for being with us through the changes and challenges of 2021. Although our worship this Christmas has looked unexpectedly different than we had planned, we pray that your Christmas season will be filled with the hope, peace, joy and love of Jesus, who was born to bring hope and light to the world.



St. Luke's New Year's Charity Concert

featuring the Clearview Ensemble

Has been POSTPONED

Due to COVID-19 health advisories, the members of Clearview Ensemble have decided to postpone their New Year's Concert to later in the winter. We apologize for this change but look forward to bringing this great event to you later. Watch for updates!



Health and Safety Protocol:

- Always wear a mask when in the Church.
- Please sanitize your hands as you come into the Church, going up for communion and coming down after communion and when you are leaving the building.
- Please take your bulletin home with you.

If you have any of the following symptoms, please contact your family doctor.

Symptoms of COVID-19 can vary from person to person.

Symptoms may also vary in different age groups. Some of the more commonly reported symptoms include:

- new or worsening cough
- shortness of breath or difficulty breathing
- temperature equal to or over 38°C
- feeling feverish
- chills
- fatigue or weakness
- muscle or body aches
- new loss of smell or taste
- headache
- gastrointestinal symptoms (abdominal pain, diarrhea, vomiting)
- feeling very unwell

Children have been more commonly reported to have abdominal symptoms and skin changes or rashes.

In severe cases, the infection can lead to death.

Symptoms may take up to 14 days to appear after exposure to COVID-19.

Evidence indicates that the virus can be transmitted to others from someone who is infected but not showing symptoms. This includes people who:

- have not yet developed symptoms (pre-symptomatic)
- never develop symptoms (asymptomatic)

While experts know that these kinds of transmissions are happening among those in close contact or in close physical settings, it is not known to what extent. This means it is extremely important to follow the proven preventative measures.

For more information, please look online at

<https://www.canada.ca/en/public-health/services/diseases/coronavirus-disease-covid-19.html>

Diocesan Vaccination Policy

The Diocese of Niagara has enacted a policy to increase the protection and safety of their parishioners, clergy, employees, and all whom we serve by reducing the transmission of COVID-19 in our church and office buildings and other ministry spaces.

Effective September 9, 2021, all clergy, licensed lay workers, diocesan staff, liturgical leaders (musicians, readers, servers, wardens, greeters, etc.), youth ministers, those ministering to vulnerable populations, and others in ministry positions will be required to receive at least one dose of vaccine for COVID-19 by September 30, 2021, with the second dose administered no later than October 31, 2021.

Staff and ministry personnel must submit proof of vaccination to Mary Anne Grant at the Diocese of Niagara.

If you volunteer at Nourishing Neighbours or another volunteer position, please submit your proof of vaccination to **office@stlukepalermo.ca**.

Anyone in a ministry position who is subject to legal exemption from vaccination under the Human Rights Code, must provide reasonable proof of this exemption.

Thank you for joining us today.

We do hope that you will come again.

-  fb.me/stlukepalermo
-  [@stlukepalermo](https://twitter.com/stlukepalermo)
-  [@stlukepalermo](https://www.instagram.com/stlukepalermo)





St. Luke's Anglican Church, Palermo

3114 Dundas Street West,
Oakville, Ontario, L6M 4J3

Tel: 905-825-3364

Email: office@stlukepalermo.ca

Website: stlukepalermo.ca

Rector: The Rev. Garfield Wu
Email: rector@stlukepalermo.ca

Tel: 647-878-8650

Reader: Kathy Parker
Music Director: Janet Correia
Duty Warden: Kathy Lentz
Greeter: Peter Malue