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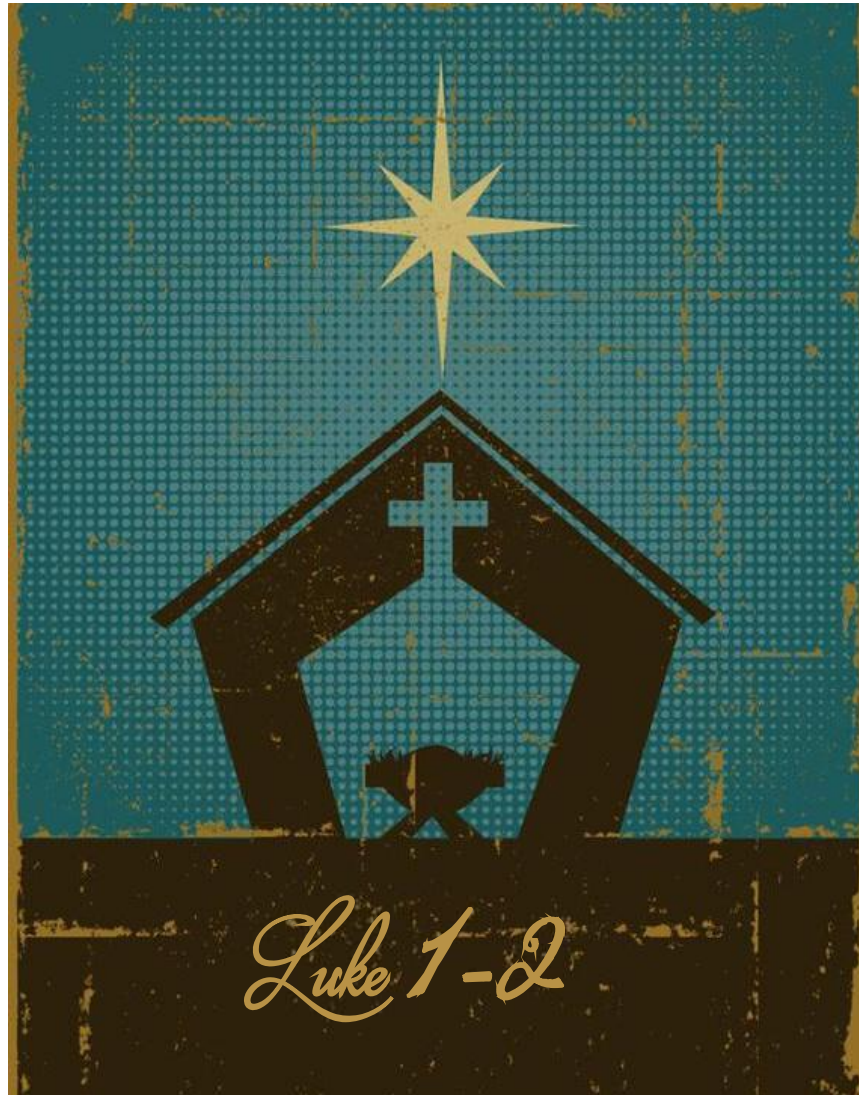
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CHRISTCOMMUNITY  
CHURCH  
*Changed Hearts. Changed Lives. Changed Community.*



# dvent 2016 | *Luke 1-2*



# Introduction



What makes you want to share something with

other people? What makes you say, “You’ve gotta see this (or read this, listen to this, taste this, think about this)? For Luke, it was the transformative power of the Gospel displayed in the lives of fellow followers of Christ that compelled him to take the time to compose Jesus’ life, death, and life again story for his friend Theophilus. Thankfully for the sake of the Church, this personal letter survived and continues to tell the story of Jesus generation after generation.

The Gospel of Luke contains several unique features and emphases that we will encounter in our time in Christ’s Advent story in Luke 1-2. Immediately, we will notice that Luke cares about the stories of individuals involved in redemptive history. In Chapter 1, he tells the stories of Elizabeth and Zechariah, the parents of John the Baptist, and Mary, the mother of Jesus. Luke then tells the stories of a group of blessed shepherds, Simeon’s patient endurance and consolation, and Anna the prophetess’ evangelism. Interestingly, these individuals reside at the margins of society. The childless, a pregnant virgin, children, shepherds, the poor, and a widow serve as the unlikely ambassadors of reconciliation who pronounce the coming of the true King of heaven and earth. Angels also feature prominently as evidence of the truth of Peter’s declaration that this story is one that even angels long to look into.<sup>1</sup> The final unique feature of note is the offer of shalom, the Hebrew declaration of the full reconciliation of peace between God, humanity, and Creation, to both Jews and Gentiles in Christ. Leon Morris sums up the uniqueness of Luke’s Gospel well: “...God’s love is portrayed as active in a variety of ways and among a variety of people.”<sup>2</sup>

The unique features of Luke should be a great comfort to us, a variety of individuals who have experienced God’s love in a variety of ways in Christ by the power of the Holy Spirit. All of this should encourage us to want to share with others this Gospel story and its tangible impact on our lives. J.C. Ryle wisely writes, “Let us bless God daily that we are not

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<sup>1</sup> See **1 Peter 1:10-12**.

<sup>2</sup> Leon Morris, *Luke: An Introduction and Commentary* (Downers Grove: InterVarsity Press, 2008), 18.

left dependent on man's traditions, and need not be led astray by ministers' mistakes. We have a written volume, which is "able to make us wise unto salvation, through faith which is in Christ Jesus." (2 Tim. iii. 15) Let us begin St. Luke's Gospel with an earnest desire to know more ourselves of the truth as it is in Jesus, and with a hearty determination to do what in us lies to spread the knowledge of that truth throughout the world."<sup>3</sup>

We will continue to seek nourishment from our historic faith and the Old and New Testaments for our weekly devotion and worship. The calls to worship will come from passages in Isaiah that pointed forward to the advent of Christ. We will confess together a prayer that Luke's words would administer a healing balm to our souls from the Book of Common Prayer.<sup>4</sup> Our assurances of pardon will be granted from the Acts of the Apostles in which Luke records the beginnings of the spread of the Gospel and the genesis of the Church. Our benedictory blessings each week will come from Hebrews so as to remind us of the blessings of Jesus being fully man in his first advent. The sum of these elements will hopefully serve to deepen our appreciation for the first coming of Christ and look forward with great anticipation to His return.

This devotional is designed to encourage daily meditation and prayer in personal devotions and/or family worship. You are encouraged to use it the week prior to the associated sermon so that you and your family are prepared for worship. In addition to the Scriptures and associated questions, there are opportunities each Wednesday to engage one of the Advent hymns that we will sing weekly. We also have the opportunity to prepare each Saturday for the Lord's Day Sabbath and its associated means of grace. Our desire is to continue to facilitate and grow in our dependence on the Lord through prayer.

May God bless our time in personal devotion, family worship, and corporate worship as we seek to for the Church to grow in the joy of salvation and unity in Christ for the sake of its mission in the world!

**S**oli **D**eo **G**loria!

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<sup>3</sup> J.C. Ryle, *Expository Thoughts on the Gospels: Luke 1-10* (Grand Rapids: Baker House Books, 1977), 5.

<sup>4</sup> The Book of Common Prayer was a product and tool of the English Reformation published originally in 1559. It has undergone a host of revisions over the years.

# Sermon Schedule

| Date                                   | Call to Worship       | Affurance of Pardon  | Benediction             | Sacrament     |
|--|-----------------------|----------------------|-------------------------|---------------|
| Sunday, 11/ 27:<br><i>Luke 1:1-25</i>  | <i>Isaiah 40:1-11</i> | <i>Acts 2:14-21</i>  | <i>Hebrews 1:1-4</i>    | Bread and Cup |
| Sunday, 12/ 4:<br><i>Luke 1:24-45</i>  | <i>Isaiah 7:10-17</i> | <i>Acts 2:36-41</i>  | <i>Hebrews 2:14-18</i>  | Baptism       |
| Sunday, 12/ 11:<br><i>Luke 1:46-56</i> | <i>Isaiah 9:1-7</i>   | <i>Acts 4:5-12</i>   | <i>Hebrews 4:14-16</i>  | Bread and Cup |
| Sunday, 12/ 18:<br><i>Luke 1:57-80</i> | <i>Isaiah 11:1-16</i> | <i>Acts 3:17-26</i>  | <i>Hebrews 7:23-25</i>  | Baptism       |
| Sunday, 12/ 25:<br><i>Luke 2:1-21</i>  | <i>Isaiah 35:1-10</i> | <i>Acts 13:32-41</i> | <i>Hebrews 10:19-25</i> |               |
| Sunday, 1/ 1:<br><i>Luke 2:22-38</i>   | <i>Isaiah 49:1-13</i> | <i>Acts 10:34-43</i> | <i>Hebrews 12:1-3</i>   | Bread and Cup |

# Weekly Congregational Confession

Almighty God, who called Luke the Physician, whose praise is in the Gospel,

to be an Evangelist, and Physician of the soul:

May it please thee that, by the wholesome medicines of the doctrine delivered by him,

all the diseases of our souls may be healed

through the merits of thy Son Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

*The Book of Common Prayer* | 1662

# The Week of November 27<sup>th</sup> |

## Luke 1:1-25

**Monday:** *Isaiah 40:1-11*: Meditate on how comforting it will be for our warfare to end some day and for all our iniquities to know the fullness of pardon at last.

**Tuesday:** *Acts 2:14-21*: What is required for us to do to be saved?

**Wednesday:** Read the lyrics to “Tell Me the Story of Jesus” praying for opportunities to share with others the reason for the hope that is within you.

**Thursday:** *Luke 1:1-25*: What are some ways in which God’s word has helped you to have certainty in the Gospel that you have been taught?

**Friday:** *Hebrews 1:1-4*: How has the coming of Christ been a blessing to you? What has the person and work of Christ taught you about the glory of God?

**Saturday:** Take time to read the preparatory letter and pray to prepare for the Lord’s Table. Give thanks for nourishing and assuring our faith in the story of Jesus.

**Sunday:** *The Lord’s Day Sabbath with the Lord’s Table*: Pray for the means of grace to bear fruit in our lives.



# Song of Response

## Luke 1: 1-4 | *Tell Me the Story of Jesus*

**Fanny Crosby (1880)**

**1** Tell me the story of Jesus,  
write on my heart every word;  
tell me the story most precious,  
sweetest that ever was heard.  
Tell how the angels, in chorus,  
sang as they welcomed His birth,  
"Glory to God in the highest!  
Peace and good tidings to earth."

**Refrain:**

Tell me the story of Jesus,  
write on my heart every word;  
tell me the story most precious,  
sweetest that ever was heard.

**2** Fasting alone in the desert,  
tell of the days that are past;  
how for our sins He was tempted,  
yet was triumphant at last.  
Tell of the years of His labor,  
tell of the sorrow He bore;  
He was despised and afflicted,  
homeless, rejected and poor. **[Refrain]**

**3** Tell of the cross where they nailed Him,  
writhing in anguish and pain;  
tell of the grave where they laid Him,  
tell how He liveth again.  
Love in that story so tender,  
clearer than ever I see:  
stay, let me weep while you whisper,  
love paid the ransom for me. **[Refrain]**

# The Week of December 4<sup>th</sup> |

## Luke 1:26-45

**Monday:** *Isaiah 7:10-17*: Give thanks as you take time to remember how Jesus has been uniquely present in your family and in the life of our church.

**Tuesday:** *Acts 2:36-41*: How have you grown since last Advent in living out your freedom in union with Christ as signified in your repentance and baptism ?

**Wednesday:** Read the lyrics to “Savior of the Nations, Come” giving thanks for Christ being the true savior of the nations.

**Thursday:** *Luke 1:26-45*: Why is the virgin conception so important to the person and work of Jesus?

**Friday:** *Hebrews 2:14-18*: How has the humanity of Christ as described in this passage been a blessing to you?

**Saturday:** Take time to read the preparatory letter and pray to prepare for Baptism. Give thanks for the birth of Christ to reign over the kingdom without end.

**Sunday:** *The Lord's Day Sabbath with the Baptism*: Pray for the means of grace to bear fruit in our lives.

# Song of Response

## Luke 1: 34-38 | *Savior of the Nations, Come*

Ambrose of Milan, (4<sup>th</sup> Century); Modified by Holy City Hymns

### Verse 1:

Savior of the nations, come  
Virgin's Son, here make Thy home  
Marvel now, O heaven and earth  
That the Lord chose such a birth

### Verse 2:

Not by human flesh and blood  
By the Spirit of our God  
Was the Word of God made flesh  
Woman's offspring, pure and fresh

### Chorus 1:

He will come, He will come  
He will come down and rescue us. (2X)

### Verse 3:

Brightly doth Thy manger shine,  
Glorious is its light divine.  
Let not sin conceal this light;  
Ever be our faith thus bright

### Verse 4:

Thou, the Father's only Son,  
Have o'er sin the vict'ry won.  
Boundless shall Thy kingdom be  
When shall we its glories see

### Chorus 2:

Jesus come, Jesus come  
Jesus come down and rescue us

# The Week of December 11<sup>th</sup> |

## Luke 1:46-56

**Monday:** *Isaiah 9:1-7*: Whose governance do you place your trust in? Why do you place your trust in it?

**Tuesday:** *Acts 4:5-12*: What are some ways in which Christ's salvation has resulted in healing in your life?

**Wednesday:** Read the lyrics to "O Come, Devine Messiah" praying for your family and friends to find their hope in God alone by faith alone through Christ alone.

**Thursday:** *Luke 1:46-56*: Who does God oppose? Who does God care for as Father?

**Friday:** *Hebrews 4:14-16*: How does the work of Christ as our great high priest blessed your prayer life?

**Saturday:** Take time to read the preparatory letter and pray to prepare for the Lord's Table. Give thanks for God having mercy on those who fear Him in every generation.

**Sunday:** *The Lord's Day Sabbath with the Lord's Table*: Pray for the means of grace to bear fruit in our lives.

# Song of Response

## Luke 1: 46-56 | *O Come, Divine Messiah*

Abbe Simon-Joseph Pellegrin, (18<sup>th</sup> Century); Modified by Robby Seay

O come, Divine Messiah  
The world is longing for the day  
When hope shall sing its triumph  
And her sadness flies away

Dear Savior come to tired earth  
and bring the grace of dawn  
Dispel the night and show Thy face  
Come, Messiah, Come

O come, Divine Messiah, come  
come Messiah come

O Thou whom nations sigh for  
Whom priest and prophet long foretold  
Will break the captive fetters  
and bring the wayward home

There is hope today  
that God Himself might shine upon our souls and say  
Unto you a Savior comes  
and everything will change  
everything will change  
There is hope today  
That God Himself will heal our wounded world and say  
Unto you Savior comes  
and everything will change

# The Week of December 18<sup>th</sup> |

## Luke 1:57-80

**Monday:** *Isaiah 11:1-16*: Meditate on the coming results of the last advent of Christ. What do you most look forward to?

**Tuesday:** *Acts 9:17-26*: Are you walking in the fruit of your repentance free from fear, shame, and guilt for the sins you have committed?

**Wednesday:** Read the lyrics to “Come Thou Long Expected Jesus” giving thanks for Christ having won the victory over sin and death.

**Thursday:** *Luke 1:57-80*: What are some ways in which you are reflecting the light of Christ to those who sit in darkness and in the shadow of death?

**Friday:** *Hebrews 7:23-25*: How does Christ’s ability to save to the uttermost bless you pursue and pray for the lost?

**Saturday:** Take time to read the preparatory letter and pray to prepare for Baptism. Give thanks for God visiting and redeeming His people in Christ.

**Sunday:** *The Lord’s Day Sabbath with the Baptism*: Pray for the means of grace to bear fruit in our lives.

# Song of Response

## Luke 1:67-79 | *Come Thou Long Expected Jesus*

Ambrose of Milan, (4<sup>th</sup> Century); Modified by Holy City Hymns

### Verse 1:

Savior of the nations, come  
Virgin's Son, here make Thy home  
Marvel now, O heaven and earth  
That the Lord chose such a birth

### Verse 2:

Not by human flesh and blood  
By the Spirit of our God  
Was the Word of God made flesh  
Woman's offspring, pure and fresh

### Chorus 1:

He will come, He will come  
He will come down and rescue us. (2X)

### Verse 3:

Brightly doth Thy manger shine,  
Glorious is its light divine.  
Let not sin conceal this light;  
Ever be our faith thus bright

### Verse 4:

Thou, the Father's only Son,  
Have o'er sin the vict'ry won.  
Boundless shall Thy kingdom be  
When shall we its glories see

### Chorus 2:

Jesus come, Jesus come  
Jesus come down and rescue us

# The Week of December 25<sup>th</sup> |

## Luke 2:1-21

**Monday:** *Isaiah 95:1-10*: Give thanks for how the coming of the Lord transforms Creation to beautifully reflect His glory and bless us His people.

**Tuesday:** *Acts 13:32-41*: What makes the good news truly good?

**Wednesday:** Read the lyrics for “While Shepherds Watched Their Flocks” praying for more people in our spheres of influence to come to know joy and peace in Christ by faith.

**Thursday:** *Luke 2:1-21*: What are some ways in which you have experienced the promised peace of Christ?

**Friday:** *Hebrews 10:19-25*: What are some ways that you are being a blessing to others by stirring them up to love and good works?

**Saturday:** Pray for opportunities to humbly share the hope that is within you in Christ alone through faith alone by grace alone with others who dwell in darkness.

**Sunday:** *The Lord's Day Sabbath*: Pray for the means of grace to bear fruit in our lives.



# Song of Response

## Luke 2:8-14 | *While Shepherds Watched Their Flocks*

Nahum Tate, (1700)

1 While shepherds watched their flocks by night,  
all seated on the ground,  
an angel of the Lord came down,  
and glory shone around.

2 "Fear not," said he for mighty dread  
had seized their troubled mind  
"glad tidings of great joy I bring  
to you and all mankind.

3 "To you, in David's town, this day  
is born of David's line  
a Savior, who is Christ the Lord;  
and this shall be the sign:

4 "The heavenly babe you there shall find  
to human view displayed,  
all simply wrapped in swaddling clothes  
and in a manger laid."

5 Thus spoke the angel. Suddenly  
appeared a shining throng  
of angels praising God, who thus  
addressed their joyful song:

6 "All glory be to God on high,  
and to the earth be peace;  
to those on whom his favor rests  
goodwill shall never cease."

# The Week of January 1

## Luke 2:22-38

**Monday:** *Isaiah 49:1-13*: What causes you to sing for joy each Lord's Day Sabbath?

**Tuesday:** *Acts 10:34-43*: Consider the ways in which God showed no partiality in redeeming in through the person and work of Christ, and give God praise.

**Wednesday:** Read the lyrics for "Let All Mortal Flesh Keep Silence" praying for the Spirit to help you to set your mind on things eternal over the coming year.

**Thursday:** *Luke 2:22-38*: Does Jesus' Advent story bring you consolation as well as compel you to share this story with others?

**Friday:** *Hebrews 12:1-3*: Give thanks to God for providing Jesus as the founder and perfecter of your faith who for the joy that was set before him endured the cross.

**Saturday:** Take time to read the preparatory letter and pray to prepare for the Lord's Table. Give thanks for Christ bringing salvation for all peoples.

**Sunday:** *The Lord's Day Sabbath with the Lord's Table*: Pray for the means of grace to bear fruit in our lives.

# Song of Response

## Luke 2:29-32 | *Let All Mortal Flesh Keep Silence*

Gerard Moultrie, (1864)

**1** Let all mortal flesh keep silence,  
and with fear and trembling stand;  
set your minds on things eternal,  
for with blessing in his hand  
Christ our God to earth descended,  
come our homage to command.

**2** King of kings, yet born of Mary,  
once upon the earth he stood;  
Lord of lords we now perceive him  
in the body and the blood.  
He has given to all the faithful  
his own self for heavenly food.

**3** Rank on rank, the host of heaven  
stream before him on the way,  
as the Light of Light, descending  
from the realms of endless day,  
comes, the powers of hell to vanquish,  
clears the gloom of hell away.

**4** At his feet the six-winged seraph,  
cherubim with sleepless eye  
veil their faces to his presence,  
as with ceaseless voice they cry:  
“Alleluia, alleluia!  
Alleluia, Lord Most High!”