

SAINT LUKE'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH

Sunday Liturgy---10:00 O'clock AM The Reverend Rebecca A. Barnes, Priest-in-Charge Our Mission Statement

To spread the Gospel to all people through hospitality, service, and spiritual growth.

The Last Sunday after Pentecost: Christ the King November 22, 2020

Broadcast Link: https://www.facebook.com/St-Lukes-Episcopal-Church-Scranton-PA-215512459865/

PRAYER BEFORE THE SERVICE

O Almighty God, who pourest out on all who desire it the spirit of grace and of supplication: Deliver us, when we draw near to thee, from coldness of heart and wanderings of mind, that with steadfast thoughts and kindled affections we may worship thee in spirit and in truth; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

PRELUDE Lobe den Herren Johann Gottfried Walther (1684-1748)

THE OPENING ACCLAMATION

BCP page 351

Celebrant Blessed be God: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

People And blessed be his kingdom, now and for ever. Amen.

The Celebrant may read the following sentence

BCP page 352

Since we have a great high priest who has passed through the heavens, Jesus, the Son of God, let us with confidence draw near to the throne of grace, that we may receive mercy and find grace to help in time of need. *Hebrews 4:14,16*

Celebrant then says

Let us confess our sins against God and our neighbor.

Silence may be kept.

Minister and People

Most merciful God,
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 neighbors 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 on you, forgive you all your sins through our Lord Jesus Christ, strengthen you in all goodness, and by the power of the Holy Spirit keep you in eternal life. **Amen.**

GLORIA BCP page 356

When appointed, the following hymn or some other song of praise is sung or said, all standing

Glory to God in the highest, and peace to his people on earth.

Lord God, heavenly King, almighty God and Father, we worship you, we give you thanks, we praise you for your glory.

Lord Jesus Christ, only Son of the Father, Lord God, Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world: have mercy on us; you are seated at the right hand of the Father: receive our prayer.

For you alone are the Holy One, you alone are the Lord, you alone are the Most High,
Jesus Christ,
with the Holy Spirit,
in the glory of God the Father. Amen.

THE COLLECT OF THE DAY

BCP page 236

Celebrant The Lord be with you.

People And also with you.

Celebrant Let us pray.

Almighty and everlasting God, whose will it is to restore all things in your well-beloved Son, the King of kings and Lord of lords: Mercifully grant that the peoples of the earth, divided and enslaved by sin, may be freed and brought together under his most gracious rule; who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. *Amen.*

THE FIRST READING

Ezekiel 34:11-16, 20-24

THUS SAYS the Lord GOD: I myself will search for my sheep, and will seek them out. As shepherds seek out their flocks when they are among their scattered sheep, so I will seek out my sheep. I will rescue them from all the places to which they have been scattered on a day of clouds and thick darkness. I will bring them out from the peoples and gather them from the countries, and will bring them into their own land; and I will feed them on the mountains of Israel, by the watercourses, and in all the inhabited parts of the land. I will feed them with good pasture, and the mountain heights of Israel shall be their pasture; there they shall lie down in good grazing land, and they shall feed on rich pasture on the mountains of Israel. I myself will be the shepherd of my sheep, and I will make them lie down, says the Lord GOD. I will seek the lost, and I will bring back the strayed, and I will bind up the injured, and I will strengthen the weak, but the fat and the strong I will destroy. I will feed them with justice.

Therefore, thus says the Lord GOD to them: I myself will judge between the fat sheep and the lean sheep. Because you pushed with flank and shoulder, and butted at all the weak animals with your horns until you scattered them far and wide, I will save my flock, and they shall no longer be ravaged; and I will judge between sheep and sheep.

I will set up over them one shepherd, my servant David, and he shall feed them: he shall feed them and be their shepherd. And I, the LORD, will be their God, and my servant David shall be prince among them; I, the LORD, have spoken.

Reader The Word of the Lord.

People Thanks be to God.

PSALM 95:1-7a Venite, exultemus

1 Come, let us sing to the LORD; *

let us shout for joy to the Rock of our salvation.

- 2 Let us come before his presence with thanksgiving * and raise a loud shout to him with psalms.
- 3 For the LORD is a great God, * and a great King above all gods.
- 4 In his hand are the caverns of the earth, * and the heights of the hills are his also.
- 5 The sea is his, for he made it, * and his hands have molded the dry land.
- 6 Come, let us bow down, and bend the knee, * and kneel before the LORD our Maker.
- 7 For he is our God, and we are the people of his pasture and the sheep of his hand.

THE SECOND READING Ephesians 1:15-23

HAVE heard of your faith in the Lord Jesus and your love toward all the saints, and for this reason I do not cease to give thanks for you as I remember you in my prayers. I pray that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, may give you a spirit of wisdom and revelation as you come to know him, so that, with the eyes of your heart enlightened, you may know what is the hope to which he has called you, what are the riches of his glorious inheritance among the saints, and what is the immeasurable greatness of his power for us who believe, according to the working of his great power. God put this power to work in Christ when he raised him from the dead and seated him at his right hand in the heavenly places, far above all rule and authority and power and dominion, and above every name that is named, not only in this age but also in the age to come. And he has put all things under his feet and has made him the head over all things for the church, which is his body, the fullness of him who fills all in all.

Reader The Word of the Lord.

People Thanks be to God.

THE HOLY GOSPEL Matthew 25:31-46

Celebrant The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Matthew.

People Glory to you, Lord Christ.

TESUS SAID, "When the Son of Man comes in his glory, and all the angels with him, then he J will sit on the throne of his glory. All the nations will be gathered before him, and he will separate people one from another as a shepherd separates the sheep from the goats, and he will put the sheep at his right hand and the goats at the left. Then the king will say to those at his right hand, 'Come, you that are blessed by my Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world; for I was hungry and you gave me food, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink, I was a stranger and you welcomed me, I was naked and you gave me clothing, I was sick and you took care of me, I was in prison and you visited me.' Then the righteous will answer him, 'Lord, when was it that we saw you hungry and gave you food, or thirsty and gave you something to drink? And when was it that we saw you a stranger and welcomed you, or naked and gave you clothing? And when was it that we saw you sick or in prison and visited you?' And the king will answer them, 'Truly I tell you, just as you did it to one of the least of these who are members of my family, you did it to me.' Then he will say to those at his left hand, You that are accursed, depart from me into the eternal fire prepared for the devil and his angels; for I was hungry and you gave me no food, I was thirsty and you gave me nothing to drink, I was a stranger and you did not welcome me, naked and you did not give me clothing, sick and in prison and you did not visit me.' Then they also will answer, 'Lord, when was it that we saw you hungry or thirsty or a stranger or naked or sick or in prison, and did not take care of you?' Then he will answer them, 'Truly I tell you, just as you did not do it to one of the least of these, you did not do it to me.' And these will go away into eternal punishment, but the righteous into eternal life."

Celebrant The Gospel of the Lord.

People Praise to you, Lord Christ.

THE SERMON Mother Barnes

THE NICENE CREED BCP page 358

We believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty, maker of heaven and earth, of all that is, seen and unseen.

We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only Son of God, eternally begotten of the Father, God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God, begotten, not made, of one Being with the Father.

Through him all things were made.

For us and for our salvation
he came down from heaven:
by the power of the Holy Spirit
he became incarnate from the Virgin Mary,
and was made man.

For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate;
he suffered death and was buried.

On the third day he rose again
in accordance with the Scriptures;

He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead, and his kingdom will have no end.

and is seated at the right hand of the Father.

We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son.

With the Father and the Son he is worshiped and glorified. He has spoken through the Prophets.

We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic Church.

We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins.

We look for the resurrection of the dead,

and the life of the world to come. Amen.

THE PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

The Leader and People pray responsively

he ascended into heaven

Let us pray to Christ, enthroned on high, who seeks the lost sheep, binds up the injured, and strengthens the weak, saying Sovereign God, *hear our prayer*.

For the Church: especially Michael, our Presiding Bishop, and Kevin, our bishop, that in all times and places we may bear witness to God's reign of justice, love, and peace. Sovereign God, *hear our prayer*.

For this parish family, that we may recognize Christ in one another, and respect the dignity of every person. Sovereign God, *hear our prayer*.

For strong faith, that in times of chaos and confusion, we may be confident that Christ will defeat all evils, including death, and lead us to fullness of life with God. Sovereign God, *hear our prayer*.

For all elected officials, that they may follow the example of Jesus, who served those in need and reached out to those who were forgotten. Sovereign God, *hear our prayer*.

For all who are sick, particularly those with Covid19, that God will heal them, give strength to those who care for them, and preserve the human family from suffering and death. Sovereign God, *hear our prayer*.

For all who have died, remembering especially Erin, Ruth, Sheila, Bob, Rob+, and BJ, that they may be welcomed into eternal life and share in the joy of God presence forever. Sovereign God, *hear our prayer*.

Lifting our voices with all creation, with Blessed Mary, the God-bearer, Blessed Luke, Blessed Cecilia, and all the saints, let us offer ourselves, and one another, to the living God, through Christ. *Glory and Praise to you, O Sovereign God.*

Celebrant Gracious Shepherd, by your grace you have raised us up, and enthroned us with Christ in the heavenly realm. Hear the prayers we offer you this day, and grant that we may know the kindness of your care, and the riches of your glory, through Jesus Christ our Savior. **Amen.**

THE PEACE BCP page 360

The Celebrant says to the people

The peace of the Lord be always with you.

People And also with you.

THE LORD'S PRAYER

BCP page 364

And now, as our Savior Christ has taught us, we are bold to say, As our Savior Christ has taught us, we now pray,

People and Celebrant

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.

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,
and deliver us from evil.

For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, for ever and ever. Amen. For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours, now and for ever. Amen.

AGNUS DEI BCP page 337

The following or some other suitable anthem may be sung or said here O Lamb of God, that takest away the sins of the world, have mercy upon us.

O Lamb of God, that takest away the sins of the world, have mercy upon us.

O Lamb of God, that takest away the sins of the world, grant us thy peace.

AN ACT OF SPIRITUAL COMMUNION

Prayer of St. Alphonsus de Liguori

A spiritual communion is a personal devotional that anyone can pray at any time to express their desire to receive Holy Communion at that moment, but in which circumstances impede them from actually receiving Holy Communion.

People and Celebrant

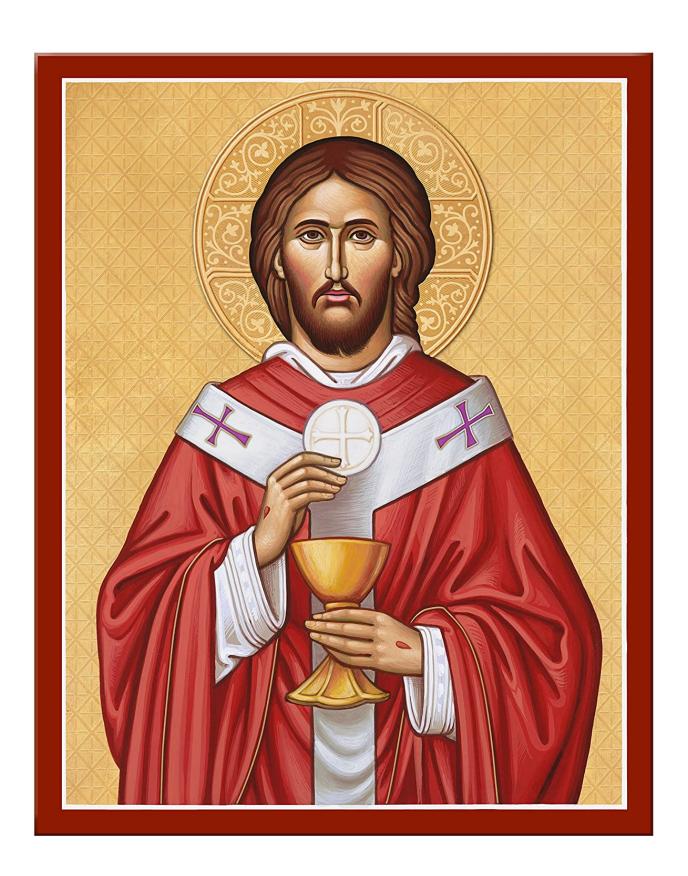
In union, blessed Jesus, with the faithful gathered at every altar of your Church where your blessed Body and Blood are offered this day, I long to offer you praise and thanksgiving, for creation and all the blessings of this life, for the redemption won for us by your life, death, and resurrection, for the means of grace and the hope of glory.

I believe that you are truly present in the Holy Sacrament, and, since I cannot at this time receive communion, I pray you to come into my heart. I unite myself with you and embrace you with all my heart, my soul, and my mind. Let nothing separate me from you; let me serve you in this life until, by your grace, I come to your glorious kingdom and unending peace. *Amen*.

A moment of silence is observed

Celebrant Come Lord Jesus,

All and dwell in my heart in the fullness of your strength; be my wisdom and guide me in right pathways; conform my life and actions to the image of your holiness; and, in the power of your gracious might, rule over every hostile power that threatens or disturbs the growth of your kingdom, who with the Father and the Holy Spirit, lives and reigns, one God, in glory everlasting. *Amen*.



A GENERAL THANKSGIVING

People and Celebrant

Almighty God, Father of all mercies, we your unworthy servants give you humble thanks for all your goodness and loving-kindness to us and to all whom you have made. We bless you for our creation, preservation, and all the blessings of this life; but above all for your immeasurable love in the redemption of the world by our Lord Jesus Christ; for the means of grace, and for the hope of glory. And, we pray, give us such an awareness of your mercies, that with a truly thankful hearts we may show forth your praise, not only with our lips, but in our lives, by giving up our selves to your service, and by walking before you in holiness and righteousness all our days; through Jesus Christ our Lord, to whom, with you and the Holy Spirit, be honor and glory throughout all ages. *Amen.*

GREETING AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

THE BLESSING

DISMISSAL BCP page 337

Celebrant Let us go forth into the world, rejoicing in the power of the Spirit.

People Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE Herr Gott, dich loben wir Johann Friedrich Alberti (1642-1710)

PRAYER AFTER THE SERVICE

Grant, we beseech *thee*, Almighty God, that the words which we have heard this day with our outward ears, may, through *thy* grace, be so grafted inwardly in our hearts, that they may bring forth in us the fruit of good living, to the honor and praise of *thy* Name; through Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen*.



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Pastoral letter from Mother Barnes

November 12, 2020

Dear St. Luke's family and friends,

This afternoon, Bishop Kevin released an announcement regarding indoor gatherings which may be read by clicking **HERE**. (This letter is also posted immediately below.)

In his email, the Bishop specifically said, "After consulting with health experts, diocesan leaders, and other bishops in the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, it has become clear that, in order to help ensure the health and safety of the people of the diocese, *I must call upon you to suspend all indoor gatherings of our parishes effective November 22nd (or immediately, if you are able) until the end of Advent, December 20th."* (Bolding is Bishop Kevin's, not mine.)

The wording that jumps out to me is "immediately, if you are able" Sadly, while I would like to stay open for indoor worship and providing space to the NA group, we are able to close immediately. Therefore, following tomorrow's NA meeting, there will be no further indoor gatherings at St. Luke's until further notice. Please note, services times will remain unchanged and will be live streamed.

When we reopened on the Feast of St. Luke, I said repeatedly that this may happen. Indeed, it has. It is disappointing because we miss each other and have missed worshiping in our sacred space. Moreover, we worked hard and successfully and safely reopened. We will do so again! But, for now, I feel it is best to follow the Bishop's instructions and close immediately. There is no reason for us not to.

I will be at St. Luke's tomorrow to talk to the NA group. That will be the last indoor gathering until further notice. To that end, the Bishop has asked for indoor gatherings to cease until December 20. He will then reassess the situation and notify the Diocese regarding Christmas.

No one wants to be closed for Christmas, and I pray we will not be. I do think it is important to remain realistic, however. With the pandemic raging out of control across the country, it is very likely that we will not be able to gather indoors for Christmas. I think it is only fair to be honest about that probability. For now, let's be patient and prudent though; time will tell.

Whatever Christmas brings, we know that it brings one thing without question, and that is Emmanuel - God with us! And he is indeed. In all things God is with us, and will be with us, and through him all things are possible.

Thank you all for your anticipated understanding and good will. Should you have any questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to contact me.

In Christ's peace,

Mother Barnes

Christ the King Sunday

Where all are queens and kings

By J. Davey Gerhard



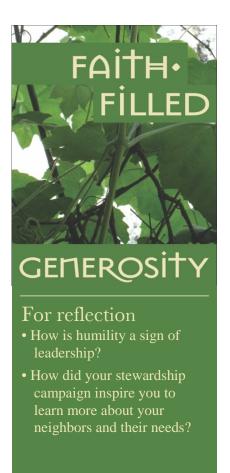
The Church designates the final Sunday of the Church year as the Feast of Christ the King, a day in which the united rule of Christ over all of the universe is celebrated. In many communities, it is a high feast, with altar guilds preparing white vestments, flower guilds celebrating God's glory in elaborate displays, and hymns filled with alleluias. What a

way to end the year, to celebrate stewardship, and to prepare for Advent!

But before we get too carried away with the grandeur of it all, today's Gospel tells a different story about kingship and leadership: It tells of service. Typical of Jesus, he begins with what we expect — in this case power and triumph — and turns it upside down and in doing so, reminds us that it is through our ministry that we increase the role of the Church in our community. True power doesn't come through force or wealth or conquest, it is derived from generosity, charity, and love. We change the hearts and minds of our neighbors by loving them and serving them.

Throughout this stewardship season we have heard about the mission of our own churches. You have learned about the ways that your gifts impact the life of your church and your neighbors. Perhaps this year you met the challenges of a global pandemic by adapting your worship. Maybe you responded to the needs of your community by increasing your outreach or your ministry to serve your neighbors. What is certain is that you had the opportunity to express your love and your hope for the world through your annual gift to your church.

We seek and serve Christ in all people by serving our neighbors. This is the great commandment of Jesus to his followers and it is one of the promises we make at our Baptism. When we are asked by those we meet on the street or those to whom we minister in our communities if we will offer them drink when they thirst, or visit them when they are lonely, or give them food when they hunger, our answer will be yes! Through our generosity and our faith, we are called to that same royal line as Jesus, leaders in our communities. Now that is a feast worth celebrating!



J. Davey Gerhard is the Executive Director of The Episcopal Network for Stewardship, and lives and teaches his faith in San Francisco, California.

THIS WEEK AT ST. LUKE'S

Live streaming and zoom gatherings from St. Luke's.

Daily Office: Morning and Evening Prayer – Morning Prayer at 9 AM; Evening Prayer at 5PM. Are live-streamed on Sunday; Tuesday through Saturday.

• SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 21 – Evening Prayer livestreamed from St. Luke's at 5PM. Click here for Service Leaflet

• SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 22

Morning Prayer, Rite I at 9AM live streamed from the Memorial Garden.

Sunday School, 9:30 AM – From Sunday, September 6 until Advent we will be offering a virtual program on the Beatitudes. On November 29, The First Sunday of Advent, we begin a 4-week Godly Play journey through Advent! Godly play is a Montessori –based curriculum. Please email Mother Barnes at mthrbarnes@gmail.com to register and receive Zoom log-on information.

Sunday Liturgy, 10AM –Sunday Liturgy is a service of Ante-Communion with spiritual communion. A full service leaflet for the Sunday service may be found by clicking below:

Service Leaflet for November 22, 2020

Please join us on our **Facebook page** for the streaming of the services listed above.

Virtual Coffee Hour, Sundays, 11:15AM (following 10AM Sunday Liturgy). Click <u>here</u> to join coffee hour.

Children's Christian Education Materials

Click below to access free faith formation resources for kids.

For **Sunday, November 22, 2020**. Materials include:

- Lectionary based **Sunday Paper Junior**.

See our <u>Children and Youth page</u> for more offerings including resources for talking with kids about the challenging issues of our time.

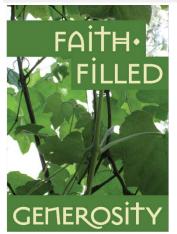
• THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 26 - Thanksgiving Day

Thanksgiving Day Liturgy, 10AM – Our St. Luke's Thanksgiving Day Service will be a service of Ante-Communion with spiritual communion. The service will be livestreamed from St. Luke's.

Centering Prayer – Thursdays at 5:30 PM. Join in the virtual chapel by clicking here. Click here for a brochure on The Method of Centering Prayer.

November 1 – December 6: The St. Luke's Sunday School class will collect toys again this year for Toy for Tots. New unwrapped toys may be brought to the parish office. Please – No toy weapons of any kind. For more information, please contact Mother Barnes at mthrbarnes@gmail.com or call the parish office at 570-342-7654.





Faith-filled Generosity - Annual Stewardship Campaign: On Sunday, October 18, 2020 we launched our Annual Stewardship Campaign. On <u>Sunday, November 29, 2020</u> we will have the in-gathering and blessing of pledges. Please note, due to the suspension of indoor worship, we are extending the date of the ingathering by one week. Please return your pledge cards by mailing them to the parish office at 232 Wyoming Ave., Scranton, PA 18503.

The program we are using this year is an ongoing year-long program offered through The Episcopal Network for Stewardship (TENS). TENS has chosen "Faith-filled"

Generosity as the theme for 2020.

The TENS theme for 2020/21 is a call to each one of us to be "generous and ready to share" so that our futures are secure and our lives are worth living. Eugene Peterson writes in The Message:

"Tell them to go after God, who piles on all the riches we could ever manage — to do good, to be rich in helping others, to be extravagantly generous. If they do that, they'll build a treasury that will last, gaining life that is truly life."

During this pledge drive, each of us is asked to make as generous a financial pledge, as able, for the coming year. The pandemic has made this a challenging year and we are aware that many are impacted in unimagined ways. Thanks to each one of you doing your part in your homes, workplaces, schools, neighborhoods, families, and here in our church.

-- Mother Barnes and The Stewardship Committee

Upcoming Events and Services



LIGHT of the WORLD



Advent Adult Formation Book Study – Tuesdays in Advent at 7PM via Zoom

Join us for our Advent Adult Formation book study of Amy Jill Levine's book, *Light of the World: A Beginner's Guide to Advent.* Book study will be Tuesday evenings in Advent (December 1, 8, 15, 22) at 7pm via Zoom. Please see our website for more information. Session may be accessed on Zoom by clicking here.

"In Light of the World: A Beginner's Guide to Advent, author, professor, and biblical scholar Amy-Jill Levine explores the biblical texts surrounding the story of the birth of Jesus. Join her as she traces the Christmas narrative through the stories of Zechariah and Elizabeth, Mary, the

journey to Bethlehem, and the visit from the Magi. These stories open conversations around connections of the Gospel stories to the Old Testament, the role of women in first-century Jewish culture, the importance of Mary's visitation and the revolutionary implications of Mary's Magnificat, the census and the stable, and the star of Bethlehem and the flight to Egypt."

Amy-Jill Levine is University Professor of New Testament and Jewish Studies and Mary Jane Werthan Professor of Jewish Studies at Vanderbilt Divinity School and College of Arts and Sciences. An internationally renowned scholar and teacher, she is the author of numerous books including *The Misunderstood Jew: The Church and the Scandal of the Jewish Jesus and The Meaning of the Bible: What the Jewish Bible and the Christian Old Testament Can Teach Us.* She is also the co-editor of the *Jewish Annotated New Testament.* Professor Levine, who has done over 300 programs for churches, clergy groups, and seminaries, has been awarded grants from the Mellon Foundation, the National Endowment for the Humanities, and the American Council of Learned Societies. Institutions granting her honorary degrees include Christian Theological Seminary and the Episcopal Seminary of the Southwest.

Click here to watch an introductory video with Professor Levine.



ST. LUKE'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH "In the heart of things"

The Rev'd Rebecca A. Barnes, Priest-in-Charge

Ms. Maria Zengion, Organist and Choirmaster

The Vestry

Deirdre Frazier (2021—Clerk), Mickey Baccoli, (2022—Senior Warden), Francis McMullen (2021), Jane Merolla (2023—Treasurer), Robin O'Hearn (2021), Bernard Ott (2022), Kathy Selemba (2022), Sharon Sollami (2023), and Amanda Wrazien (2023).

232 Wyoming Avenue, Scranton, Pennsylvania 18503-1464 www.StLukeScranton.org

E-Mail: <u>StLukesScranton@verizon.net</u>; Phone: (570) 342-7654