

In Response to God
Activities for the week of December 1, 2024

Today's Lectionary: Jonah 3:1-5 and 10, Psalm 62:5-12, 1 Corinthians 7:29-31, Mark 1:14-20

Sunday	December 1	9:00 am – Church School 10:00 am – Worship 11 am-2 pm – Choir/Orchestra Rehearsal
Monday	December 2	7 pm – Houston Dragon Academy
Tuesday	December 3	3 -7 pm – Houston Dragon Academy 10 am-2 pm – CCSC food collection 7:00 pm –
Wednesday	December 4	3 -7 pm – Houston Dragon Academy
Thursday	December 5	11 am -1 pm – Men's Lunch Bunch 3 -7 pm – Houston Dragon Academy
Friday	December 6	3 -7 pm – Houston Dragon Academy
Saturday	December 7	9 am-6 pm – Houston Dragon Academy
Sunday	December 8	9:00 am – Church School
Save the Date:	December 15	10 am – Joyful Noel concert
	December 18	6 -8 pm – Live Nativity
	December 24	5:30 pm – Music of the Christmas season
	December 29	6:00 pm – Candlelight Service of Lessons and Carols 10:00 am – Worship/Carol Sing

ST. LUKE'S STAFF

Pastor	The Rev. W. Scott Harbison
Parish Associate	The Rev. Dr. Bill Wade
Director of Music-Organist/Choirmaster	Marvin Gaspard
Business Manager	Patti Ernst
Assistant to Head of Staff	Mary Ann White
Artists in Residence	
	Sarah Bunk, Ann Guercio, Don Mims, and Laura Smith



St. Luke's Presbyterian Church
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 Houston, Texas 77025
 713.667.6531
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Advent and Christmas 2024

December 15
Joyful Noel

A musical presentation during 10:00 a.m. worship celebrating that most glorious night of nights by St. Luke's Chancel Choir & Instrumentalists

December 18
Live Nativity

With scripture narration, choral music, and carols
 Re-enactments at 6 & 7 p.m.

December 24

Christmas Concert at 5:30 p.m.

St. Luke's musicians will provide music of the Christmas season

Candlelight Service of Lessons and Carols at 6 p.m.

The Christmas Story unfolds through scripture and song as we celebrate the eve of Jesus' birth.

December 29

Carol Sing at 10:00 a.m.

An opportunity to sing your favorite Christmas carols one more time.



St. Luke's Presbyterian Church
 December 1, 2024

The Order of Worship

December 1, 2024

FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT

GATHERING AROUND THE WORD

Please begin quiet preparation for worship as the Tolling begins.

PRELUDE In the Bleak Midwinter
Laura Smith, harp Gustav Holst (1874-1934), arr. Whitney Dobyns

WELCOME/PASSING OF THE PEACE

THE ADVENT WREATH **O Come, O Come, Emmanuel**
Angelyn and Gabrielle Griffing 12th c. Latin melody

Choir: *“O Come, o come, Emmanuel...
And ransom captive Israel.”*

**Congregation: “Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel
Shall come to thee, O Israel!”**

✦ OPENING HYMN 1 Come, Thou Long Expected Jesus
STUTTGART

CONFESSION OF SIN AND ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS

Congregation: Thanks be to God

HEARING THE WORD

SCRIPTURE READING (NT p. 204) 1 Thessalonians 3:9-13
Reading today, Ed Nicklas

SCRIPTURE READING (NT p. 85) Luke 21:25-33

REFLECTION ON THE WORD Rev. W. Scott Harbison
“Getting Dressed When You’re Already Late”

RESPONDING TO THE WORD

✦ APOSTLE’S CREED Hymnal p. 14
I believe in God the Father Almighty, Maker of heaven and earth. And in Jesus Christ his only Son our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Ghost, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, dead, and buried; he descended into hell; the third day he rose again from the dead; he ascended into heaven, and sitteth on the right hand of God the Father Almighty; from thence he shall come to judge the quick and the dead. I believe in the Holy Ghost; the holy catholic church; the communion of saints; the forgiveness of sins; the resurrection of the body; and the life everlasting. Amen

SHARING OF JOYS AND CONCERNS

PASTORAL PRAYERS

OFFERTORY Long Time Ago
Ensemble O WALY WALY, English folk melody, arr. Joseph Martin

✦ OFFERTORY RESPONSE 23 Please join the choir in singing.
“Gloria in excelsis Deo. Gloria in excelsis Deo”

✦ COMMUNION HYMN 510 Jesus, Thou Joy of Loving Hearts
QUEBEC

SACRAMENT OF THE LORD’S SUPPER

Minister: The Lord be with you.

People: And also with you.

Minister: Lift up your hearts!

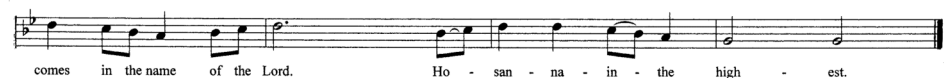
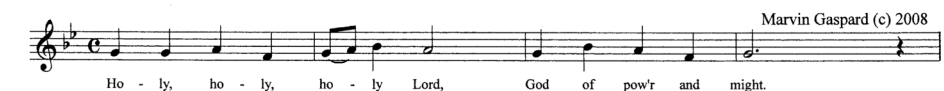
People: We lift them up to the Lord.

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

People: It is right to give our thanks and praise.

The prayer continues...

The congregation sings...



THE LORD’S PRAYER (Traditional) Hymnal p.16

COMMUNION Prepare the Way
From *The American Lutheran Hymnal*, 1930

CHORAL RESPONSE Rejoice!
12th c. Latin/arr. Marvin Gaspard

✦ BENEDECTION

POSTLUDE Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus
Based on HYFRYDOL Rowland Hugh Prichard (1811-1977)
Arr. Gerre Hancock (1934-2012)

Welcome to St. Luke’s Presbyterian Church! If you are looking for a church home in Houston, we invite you to unite with St. Luke’s. New members are welcomed by the Session following worship each Sunday. Speak to Rev. Harbison after worship if you have any questions.

Joys and Concerns are an opportunity to share a need for prayers of thanksgiving or intercession with the congregation. You will have an opportunity to mention them verbally at the time for Pastoral Prayer.

Sunday School: Children’s Sunday School meets at 9 a.m. in Room 115 with Don Mims teaching the class. **Our Youth** meet every other Sunday. **Adult Sunday School:** David Elledge is leading a study of Promise of the Spirit by William Barclay. Please join them in the Library on Sunday at 9am.

Today’s sanctuary flowers are given by Khanh Nguyen and Richard Cabrera who wishes Merry Christmas to all! Love, Khanh and Richard.

During worship on December 15 our Chancel Choir and Instrumentalists will present “Joyful Noel”, a collection of music celebrating the most glorious night of nights. Please make plans to attend this meaningful service.

We are adopting several families for Christmas to help them celebrate the holidays. If you would like to support these families, please note “holiday families” in your donation. Consider giving to this and to the Minister’s Discretionary Fund, as this will be a tough holiday season for some of our neighbors.

Sign up for Live Nativity on December 18: We are asking for cast members to sign up for Live Nativity 2024. Roles are available for reenactments at 6 & 7 p.m.: Mary, Joseph, Baby Jesus, 3 Wise Men, Angel Gabriel, 4 Angels, and 4 Shepherds. Also needed are narrators, costume set-up and traffic control. Check out the sign in sheet in the narthex and let us know you want to participate. Debbie Harbison is coordinating.

CCSC’s Jingle Bell Express program is prepared to serve 2,500 families and children in need in 3 ways: grocery gift cards to alleviate hunger, books to promote literacy, and toys for play and learning. You can support Jingle Bell Express (JBE) by donating new, unwrapped nonviolent toys and books for children, newborn to 15 years old, and by volunteering at the event. For more information call 713.961.3993 or email to seasonal@ccschouston.org.

The Elledge Toy Store: David and Loretta Elledge opened their toy store every year to make toy selection for JBE above convenient for you. You can shop on Sundays, December 1 and 8, and add it to the donation box. All toys will be collected on Monday, December 9 for distribution at the Jingle Bell Express event December 14.

Advent Devotionals are available today in the Narthex. Pick up a copy and open your heart and mind to the words of Scripture and the reflections of the Austin Seminary faculty during this season of Advent and Christmas.

Congregational meeting today: Please remain after worship to attend a brief meeting to elect the members of our Nominating Committee.

Today’s ensemble members: Janet Bardin, Randall Bardin, Ann Guercio, Ugo Obudulu, and Carol Wilson.