

In Response to God
Activities for the week of December 8, 2024

Today's Lectionary: Malachi 3:1-4 , Luke 1:68-79, Philippians 1:3-11, Luke 3:1-6

Sunday	December 8	9:00 am – Church School 10:00 am – Worship 11 am-2 pm – Choir/Orchestra Rehearsal
Monday	December 9	7 pm – Houston Dragon Academy
Tuesday	December 10	3 -7 pm – Houston Dragon Academy
Wednesday	December 11	3 -7 pm – Houston Dragon Academy
Thursday	December 12	11 am –1 pm – Men's Lunch Bunch 3 -7 pm – Houston Dragon Academy
Friday	December 13	3 -7 pm – Houston Dragon Academy
Saturday	December 14	9 am-6 pm – Houston Dragon Academy
Sunday	December 15	9 am – Church School 10 am – Joyful Noel concert
Save the Date:	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



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 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



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St. Luke's Presbyterian Church
 December 8, 2024

The Order of Worship

December 8, 2024

SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT

GATHERING AROUND THE WORD

Please begin quiet preparation for worship as the Tolling begins.

PRELUDE What Is This Lovely Fragrance?
French carol, arr. Daniel Burton

WELCOME/PASSING OF THE PEACE

THE ADVENT WREATH **O Come, O Come, Emmanuel**
Trey and Kenna Waldrop 12th c. Latin melody

Choir: *“O come, Thou Dayspring, come and cheer...
Our spirits by Thine advent here.”*

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

✦ OPENING HYMN 2 Come, Thou Long Expected Jesus
HYFRYDOL

CONFESSION OF SIN AND ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS

Congregation: Thanks be to God

HEARING THE WORD

SCRIPTURE READING (OT p. 889) Malachi 3:1-4
Reading today, Annemieke Luckey

ANTHEM Lo, How a Rose E'er Blooming
ES IST EIN ROS' 15th c. German carol, arr. Michael Praetorius, 1609

SCRIPTURE READING (NT p. 60) Luke 3:1-6

REFLECTION ON THE WORD Rev. W. Scott Harbison
“Shout!”

RESPONDING TO THE WORD

✦ HYMN 49 Once in Royal David's City
IRBY

SHARING OF JOYS AND CONCERNS

PASTORAL PRAYERS

OFFERTORY Watchman, Tell Us of the Night
ABERYSTWYTH Joseph Parry (1841-1903)

✦ OFFERTORY RESPONSE Please join the choir in singing.

“Gloria in excelsis Deo. Gloria in excelsis Deo”

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

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

✦ BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE Postlude on *Lift Up Your Heads, Ye Mighty Gates*
Based on TRURO Thomas Williams, 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 to the glory of God and in loving memory of Carlos Ortiz by his family.

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: 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.

The Elledge Toy Store: David and Loretta Elledge open their toy store every year to make toy selection for Jingle Bell Express convenient for you. You can shop before and after worship. The toys will be collected tomorrow for distribution on December 14.

Montrose Street Reach December 19: Each month we coordinate with Street Reach to serve a meal to people experiencing homelessness. We need our cookie bakers to help provide cookies for the dessert that evening. In addition to the monthly meal, Street Reach is having their annual Christmas Backpacks distribution, with essential hygiene items along with the Grace bags from St. Luke's. Our bags will be assembled on December 15th.

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.

Christmas Eve Candlelight Service at 6:00 p.m.: During the Christmas season we have many opportunities to share the love of Christ with our friends and neighbors. One of the special events we share together is our Candlelight Service. The service of lessons and carols, Holy Communion, and carol singing concludes with the lighting of candles as we celebrate the birth of our Lord and the light of His life. **Come at 5:30 p.m., and hear our musicians in concert.**