

In Response to God
Activities for the week of December 22, 2022

Today's Lectionary: Micah 5:2-5a; Luke 1:46b-55; Ps 80:1-7; Hebrews 10:5-10; Luke 1:39-45

Sunday	December 22	9:00 am – Church School 10:00 am – Worship
Monday	December 23	3 -7 pm – Houston Dragon Academy
Tuesday	December 24	3 -7 pm – Houston Dragon Academy 10 am-2 pm – CCSC food collection
Wednesday	December 25	3 -7 pm – Houston Dragon Academy
Thursday	December 26	7 a.m-6 pm – Houston Dragon Academy
Friday	December 27	7 a.m-6 pm – Houston Dragon Academy
Saturday	December 28	2-7 pm — Houston Dragon Academy
Sunday	December 29	9:00 am – Church School 10:00 am – Carol Sing
Save the Date:	January 7	9:00 am – Church Office Opens



Advent and Christmas 2024

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	Laureen Suba
Parish Associate	The Rev. Dr. Bill Wade
Director of Music-Organist/Choirmaster	Marvin Gaspard
Business Manager	Patti Ernst
Administrative Assistant	Sandra Wang
Artists in Residence	



St. Luke's Presbyterian Church
 8915 Timberside Drive
 Houston, Texas 77025
 713.667.6531
 www.stlukespres.org

Lyrics and Music by Permission
 CCLI No. 3460677



St. Luke's Presbyterian Church
 December 22, 2024

The Order of Worship

December 22, 2024

FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT

GATHERING AROUND THE WORD

PRELUDE What Child Is This?
Laura Smith, harp 16th century English ballad, arr. Daniel Burton

WELCOME/PASSING OF THE PEACE

THE ADVENT WREATH O Come, O Come, Emmanuel
Adult Sunday Class 12th c. Latin melody

*Choir: "O come, Desire of nations
Fill all the world with heaven's peace..."*

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

✦ OPENING HYMN 56 (v. 1-4) The First Nowell
THE FIRST NOWELL

CONFESSION OF SIN AND ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS

Congregation: Thanks be to God

HEARING THE WORD

SCRIPTURE READING (OT p. 865) Micah 5:2-5a
Reading today, John Simmons

ANTHEM Gesu Bambino
Alana Glover, soprano Pietro Yon (1886-1943)
arr. Benjamin Harlan

SCRIPTURE READING (NT p. 57) Luke 1:39-45

REFLECTION ON THE WORD Rev. W. Scott Harbison
"Long Night's Journey Into Day"

RESPONDING TO THE WORD

SHARING OF JOYS AND CONCERNS

PASTORAL PRAYERS

OFFERTORY Joy to the World
Amanda Thorp George Frederic Handel (1685-1759)
arr. Timothy Shaw

✦ OFFERTORY RESPONSE 23 Gloria No. 23 Refrain
Please join the choir in singing

"Gloria in excelsis Deo. Gloria in excelsis Deo"

✦ COMMUNION HYMN 38 Angels, From the Realms of Glory
REGENT SQUARE

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

✦ BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE Postlude on *It Came Upon The Midnight Clear*
Based on CAROL Richard S. Willis (1819-1900)
arr. Gordon Young (1919-1998)



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. If you would like more information, please speak to Rev. Harbison after worship.

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 in Room 115 at 9 a.m. with Don Mims teaching the class. **Adult Sunday School** meets in the Library at 9 a.m. for fellowship and will start a new study in January. **Youth Group** meets every other Sunday but will take a break until January.

Congregational meeting is after worship today in the sanctuary. Please join us as we elect new officers for the next year.

Christmas Eve Candlelight Service at 6:00 p.m.: One of the special events we share together is our Candlelight Service. This includes the service of lessons and carols, Holy Communion, and carol singing which 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. for the concert.**

Our Annual Carol Sing is on December 29 at 10:00 a.m. This will be a casual worship service for the whole family, full of Christmas carols and an opportunity to sing your favorite carols one more time. Our Director of Music, Marvin Gaspard, will be taking your requests during worship.

We are adopting several families for Christmas to help them celebrate the holidays. Please consider giving to this and to the Minister's Discretionary Fund, as this will be a tough holiday season for some of our neighbors. Please note "holiday families" in your donation.

Friends of Music was established to help provide special instrumental and vocal guests throughout the year, and to supplement funding for our choir section leaders. For more information, please speak to Marvin Gaspard.

Christmas Joy Offering provides assistance to current and retired workers, and supports developing future leaders at Presbyterian-related schools and colleges. The joy offering will be on Christmas Eve.

Adult 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.

Church Office is closed from December 24 to Jan 6 except on December 23rd and December 30th. It will re-open on January 7.

The Wednesday Word will become the Friday Focus in 2025. Please keep an eye out as we move from paper and pen sign-up sheets to online sign up forms. These will be announced in the Friday Focus.