

**God With Us**  
By Leslie Jordan

You've come to bring peace	Our Deliverer
To be love, to be nearer to us	You are Savior
You've come to breathe life	In Your presence
To be light, to shine brighter in us	We find our strength
Oh Emmanuel God with us	Over everything
	Our redemption
Our Deliverer	God with us
You are Savior	You are God with us
In Your presence	
We find our strength	You are here
Over everything	You are holy
Our redemption	We are standing
God with us	In Your glory (Repeat)
You are God with us	
	Our Deliverer
You've come to be hope	You are Savior
To this world	In Your presence
For Your honor and name	We find our strength
You've come to take sin	Over everything
To bear shame	Our redemption
And to conquer the grave	God with us (Repeat)
Oh Emmanuel, oh God with us	
	You are God with us
	You are God with us
	You are God with us

**In Response to God**  
**Activities for the Week of December 16, 2018**

Today's Lectionary: Zephaniah 3:14-20; Isaiah 12:2-6; Philippians 4:4-7; Luke 3:7-18

Sunday	December 16	9:00 am – 10:00 am – 11:00 am –	Church School Worship Service Refreshments and Fellowship Choir Sectional Rehearsal
Monday	December 17	3-7 pm – 7 pm –	Houston Dragon Academy Re-Mind support group
Tuesday	December 18	10:30 am – 3-7 pm –	Pastor's Bible Study Houston Dragon Academy
Wednesday	December 19	3-7 pm –	Houston Dragon Academy
Thursday	December 20	3-7 pm – 7 pm –	Houston Dragon Academy Choir Rehearsal
Friday	December 21	7:30 am-7 pm – 3:00 pm –	Houston Dragon Academy "Pray Where You Are"
Saturday	December 22	9 am-5 pm –	Houston Dragon Academy
Sunday	December 23	9:00 am – 10:00 am – 11:00 am –	Church School Worship Service Refreshments & Fellowship
Save the date:	December 19 December 23	7:15 pm 10:00 am	Montrose Street Reach "The Seven Joys of Christmas"

**Advent and Christmas 2018**

We will feature special music on each Sunday of Advent.  
Come and enjoy these meaningful services as part of your Advent & Christmas journey.

**December 16**

Worship with "Yuletide Classical Strings" at 10 a.m.  
With violinists, Quan, Chizu, and Mitsuki Jiang

**December 23**

Worship with "The Seven Joys of Christmas" at 10 a.m.  
Musical presentation by Chancel Choir & harpist, Laura Smith

**December 24**

Worship with "Candlelight Lessons and Carols" at 6 p.m.  
The Christmas Story unfolds through scripture and song  
as we celebrate the eve of Jesus' birth.

**December 30**

Worship with "Carol Sing" at 10 a.m.  
With guest vocalists, Betsy Uschkrat & Tyler Smith



**ST. LUKE'S STAFF**

Pastor.....Rev. W. Scott Harbison  
Parish Associate ..... Rev. Dr. Bill Wade  
Director of Music-Organist/Choirmaster ..... Marvin Gaspard  
Music Worship Leader ..... Ryan Klasen  
Handbell Director ..... Jayne Manry  
Administrative Assistant..... Mary Ann White  
Nursery Caregiver ..... Andrea Nitsch  
Pastor's Aide .....Jean Kopp



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St. Luke's Presbyterian Church  
December 16, 2018

# The Order of Worship

December 16, 2018

THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT

We joyfully greet each other and share the gifts of friendship and love.  
Please begin quiet preparation for worship as the Tolling begins.

## GATHERING AROUND THE WORD

TOLLING OF THE HOUR

PRELUDE Vivace, from *Concerto for 2 Violins in D. minor, BWV 1043*  
Johann Sebastian Bach (1685-1750)

WELCOME/PASSING OF THE PEACE

SONG OF PRAISE (see insert) \*God With Us  
Ryan Klasen and Ruth Heidelberger Leslie Jordan

LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT CANDLE O Come, O Come Emmanuel  
St. Luke's Youth 12<sup>th</sup> c. Latin melody

Choir: "O come, thou wisdom from on high ...  
And order all things far and nigh ..."

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

PRAYER OF INVOCATION Rev. Dr. Bill Wade

OPENING HYMN NO. 13 Prepare the Way  
BEREDEN VÄG FÖR HERRAN

CONFESSION OF SIN AND ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

Minister: With joy, let us draw water from the springs of salvation

People: **Give thanks to the Lord! Call on God's name. In the name of  
Jesus Christ, we are forgiven! Thanks be to God.**

RESPONSE NO. 23 The Gloria Patri (Please join the choir in singing)

Refrain: "Gloria in excelsis Deo;  
Gloria in excelsis Deo!"

## HEARING THE WORD

SCRIPTURE READING (OT p. 865) Micah 5:2-5a

TIME FOR YOUNG DISCIPLES Rev. Harbison

ANTHEM Quia respexit, from *Magnificat*, BWV 243  
Ann Guercio, soprano Johann Sebastian Bach (1685-1750)

(\*Song of the Month)

GOSPEL READING (NT p. 57)

Luke 1:37-45

A REFLECTION ON THE WORD Rev. W. Scott Harbison

"Just a Small Town Girl ..."

## RESPONDING TO THE WORD

SHARING OUR JOYS AND LIFTING OUR CONCERNS

PASTORAL PRAYERS

GIVING OUR GIFTS BACK TO GOD Largo Ma Non Tanto  
from *Concerto for 2 Violins in D minor, BWV 1043*  
Johann Sebastian Bach (1685-1750)

DOXOLOGY NO. 592

COMMUNION HYMN NO. 49 Once in Royal David's City  
IRBY

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.**

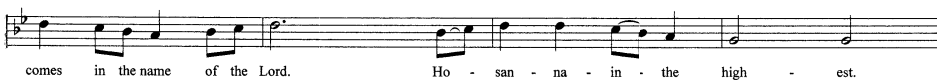
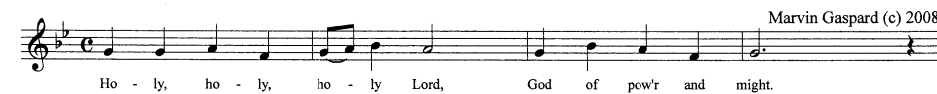
Minister: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

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

The prayer continues . . .

The congregation sings . . .

Sanctus



DISTRIBUTION OF ELEMENTS

CHORAL RESPONSE Rejoice!  
12<sup>th</sup> c. Latin melody/arr. Marvin Gaspard

BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE Festive Postlude on JUNGST  
Based on a 16th century German hymn Hugo Jungst (1853-1923)  
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. New members are welcomed by the Session following worship each Sunday. You may join by profession of faith and reception of baptism, reaffirmation of faith, or transfer of church letter. Speak to Rev. Harbison if you have any questions.

**St. Luke's Nursery** is available for child care during Sunday worship services and special services during the year. Care is available beginning at 9:00 a.m. for children through age 5. Sunday School classes are available for ages 3 and older during the Sunday School hour.

**Joys and Concerns** are an opportunity to share a need for prayers of thanksgiving or intercession with the congregation. You will have opportunity to mention your joys and concerns verbally at the time for Pastoral Prayer or you can fill out one of the small slips found in the pew racks and pass them to the usher during the Welcome and Announcements. To share confidential prayer requests, please hand them to Rev. Harbison following the benediction.

**The flowers today** are given to the glory of God and in honor of Ora Lee Haehl's 100th birthday by her St. Luke's family. Happy birthday, dear Ora Lee.

**Our special musical guests today** are Quan, Chizu, and Mitsuki Jiang. Thank you for sharing your incredible gifts with us this morning and welcome back to St. Luke's.

**Sign up for Montrose Street Reach on December 19:** St. Luke's partners with Montrose Street Reach every other month to serve a meal to the homeless. On December 19th Street Reach will serve a meal and distribute sleeping bags, pillows, and backpacks with hygiene items and our Grace Bags. You are welcome to attend the worship service at 6:30 p.m. or come at 7:15 p.m. to help with distribution. If you would like to bake cookies or volunteer to help, use the sign up sheet in the narthex to let us know. Street Reach is held in the parking lot of the Presbytery of New Covenant, 1110 Lovett Blvd. Call Jeanne Leach (713.409.0997) for more information

**Our Christmas musical presentation, *The Seven Joys of Christmas*,** will be part of our worship service next Sunday. Thanks to our Chancel Choir, and harpist, Laura Smith, who will be sharing their gifts with us.

**Christmas Eve Candlelight and Communion, 6:00 p.m.:** This Service of Lessons and Carols will tell the Christmas Story through scripture and song as we celebrate the eve of the birth of the Christ Child. Come a little early and hear beautiful seasonal music.

**The Christmas Joy Offering:** Your generosity provides assistance for those who have dedicated their lives to the service of the church, as well as racial ethnic education, and leadership development at Presbyterian-related schools and colleges. St. Luke's traditionally takes the Joy Offering on Christmas Eve. Watch for bulletin inserts which will tell you more about this 70 year Presbyterian tradition of sharing our gifts with those who need our support.

**We invited our neighbors** to the Live Nativity on Wednesday and over 200 people attended. Adults and children sat on the lawn, listened to scripture and Christmas hymns, and watched the nativity come to life. Thanks to everyone who contributed hearts and hands to the 2018 Nativity, our Christmas gift to the community.