



Advent and Christmas 2022

December 11

Tapestry of Light...A Celtic Christmas
A musical presentation during 10:00 a.m. worship
by St. Luke's Chancel Choir & Chamber Orchestra

December 13

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

December 24

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.
St. Luke's musicians will provide music of
the Christmas season at 5:30 p.m.

December 25

Christmas Day Worship at 10:00 a.m.
Carol Sing with meaningful Christmas reflection

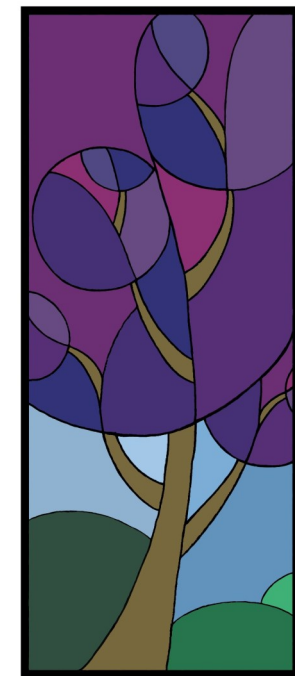
In Response to God Activities for the week of December 4, 2022

Today's Lectionary: Isaiah 11:1-10; Psalm 72:1-7, 18-19; Romans 15:4-13; Matthew 3:1-12

Sunday	December 4	9:00 am – Church School & Confirmation Class 10:00 am – Worship 12-2 pm – Choir/Orchestra Rehearsal
Monday	December 5	3 -7 pm – Houston Dragon Academy
Tuesday	December 6	3 -7 pm – Houston Dragon Academy 10 am-2 pm – CCSC food collection
Wednesday	December 7	3 -7 pm – Houston Dragon Academy
Thursday	December 8	3 -7 pm – Houston Dragon Academy
Friday	December 9	3 -7 pm – Houston Dragon Academy
Saturday	December 10	9 am-6 pm – Houston Dragon Academy
Sunday	December 11	9:00 am – Church School 10:00 am – Worship - Choir & Chamber Orchestra – <i>Tapestry of Light...A Celtic Christmas</i>
Save the Date:	December 13	6 –8 pm – Live Nativity
	December 17	6 –7 pm – Tonya Burton, viola & Yvonne Chen, piano
	December 24	5:30 pm – Music of the Christmas season 6:00 pm – Candlelight Service of Lessons & Carols
	December 25	10:00 am – Christmas Day Worship
	January 1	10:00 am – First Day Prayer Service

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
Pastor's Aide	Jean Kopp



PEACE



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St. Luke's Presbyterian Church
December 4, 2022

The Order of Worship

December 4, 2022

SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT

GATHERING AROUND THE WORD

Please begin quiet preparation for worship as the Tolling begins.

PRELUDE *Sarabande*, from Cello Suite No. 6 in G Major
Tonya Burton, viola Johann Sebastian Bach (1685-1750)

WELCOME/PASSING OF THE PEACE .

THE ADVENT WREATH O Come, O Come, Emmanuel
Confirmation & Sunday School 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 1 Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus
STUTTGART

CONFESSION OF SIN AND ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS

Congregation: Thanks be to God

HEARING THE WORD

SCRIPTURE READING (OT p. 533) Psalm 72:1-7, 18-19

REFLECTION ON THE WORD Rev. W. Scott Harbison

“Be Careful What You Wish For”

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 Now the Heavens Start to Whisper
Based on SUO GAN Welsh melody, arr. Nicholas Palmer

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

✦COMMUNION HYMN 48 Lo, How a Rose E’er Blooming
ES IST EIN ROS’

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.

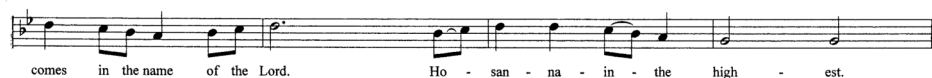
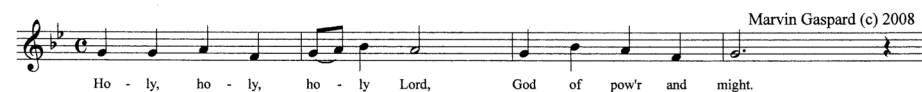
Minister: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

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

The prayer continues...

The congregation sings...

Sanctus



COMMUNION Meditation on *Let All Mortal Flesh Keep Silence*
PICARDY French carol, arr. Marvin Gaspard

CHORAL RESPONSE Rejoice!
12th c. Latin/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. If you would like more information, please speak to Rev. Harbison after worship.

Sunday School: Children’s Sunday School meets in Room 115 at 9 a.m. with Don Mims teaching the class. **The Adult Sunday School** class meets in the Library at 9 a.m. Patti Ernst is leading the class on a study of the Book of Romans. Our **Youth Group** meets at 9 a.m. in the history room (#129). Children and adult classes offer a virtual class alternative. Please let us know if you would like to receive a Zoom invitation.

Today’s flowers are given by Khanh Nguyen and Richard Cabrera in gratitude to God, Christ, Scott, Marvin, St. Luke’s staff, and congregation. Merry Christmas and may peace and love be with all throughout the holidays.

The image of the Jesse Tree on today’s bulletin was created by our own Gage Campos. It symbolizes Jesus’ ancestors and other important people, events, and ideas in his heritage. Thank you, Gage, for creating this lovely image.

Tonya Burton, violist, and member of Monarch Chamber Players, joins us today as a guest musician. Monarch has performed at St. Luke’s on multiple occasions during their concert residency. Thank you, Tonya, for sharing your gifts with us today.

Tonya and pianist, Yvonne Chen, will present a duo program at St. Luke’s, performing works by Viardot, Vieuxtemps, and Franck on December 17th at 6:00 p.m. Admission is free, with donations accepted on site to support the performers.

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.

The musicians of St. Luke’s will present “Tapestry of Light...a Celtic Christmas”, by Joseph M. Martin on Sunday, December 11 at 10:00 a.m. The text is set to traditional Celtic melodies, retelling the story of Christ’s birth in a fresh and exciting way. Our confirmation class will provide the narration as our Chancel Choir and Chamber Orchestra present this beautiful program. Invite your family and friends to join you next Sunday.

Live Nativity is Tuesday December 13th: Nativity re-enactments will take place at 6 & 7 p.m. with scripture narration, choral music, and our nativity animals to set the scene. Please consider volunteering for the cast or crew to help make our 15th annual Live Nativity the best! Speak to Rev. Harbison today to let him know you would like to help.

St. Luke’s partners with Montrose Street Reach each month to serve a meal to people experiencing homelessness in the Montrose area. On December 15th, in addition to the monthly meal, backpacks will be distributed with essential hygiene items along with the Grace bags from St. Luke’s. Our bags will be assembled on December 11th after worship. Speak to Jeanne Leach, Ed Dickinson or Rev. Harbison for more info.