

TODAY'S MUSICIANS

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Soprano

Glenda Dickinson, Ann Guercio, Ruth Heidelberger

Alto

Janet Bardin, Patti Ernst, Carol Wilson

Tenor

Randall Bardin, Trudy Timian

Bass

Gage Campos, Jadon Campos

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Narrators

Eleanor Bunk, Gabrielle Griffing, Kyra Hebbert

Chamber Orchestra

Quan Jiang, violin Hyeok Kwon, cello Sara Bunk, flute

Laura Smith, harp Andrew Sneed, percussion

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Director of Music

Marvin Gaspard



Advent and Christmas 2022

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 11, 2022

Today's Lectionary: Isaiah 35:1-10; Psalm 146:5-10; Luke 1: 47-55; James 5:7-10; Matthew 11:2-11

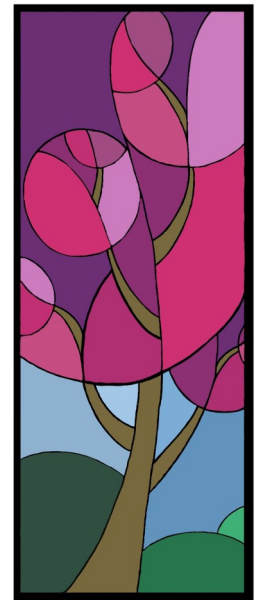
Sunday	December 11	9:00 am – Church School 10:00 am – Worship - Choir & Chamber Orchestra & <i>Tapestry of Light...A Celtic Christmas</i> 11:00 am – Fellowship and Refreshments
Monday	December 12	10:00 am – Memorial Service for Beth Stanaland 3-7 pm – Houston Dragon Academy 6:00 pm – Session Meeting
Tuesday	December 13	10 am-2 pm – CCSC food collection 3 -7 pm – Houston Dragon Academy 6-8 pm – Live Nativity
Wednesday	December 14	3 -7 pm – Houston Dragon Academy
Thursday	December 15	3 -7 pm – Houston Dragon Academy 6:00 pm – Timberside Circle HOA 6:30 pm – Montrose Street Reach
Friday	December 16	3 -7 pm – Houston Dragon Academy
Saturday	December 17	9 am-6 pm – Houston Dragon Academy 6-7 pm – Monarch Chamber Players
Sunday	December 18	9:00 am – Church School 10:00 am – Worship
Save the Date:	December 17 December 24	6:00 pm – Tonya Burton, viola & Yvonne Chen, piano 5:30 pm – Music of the Christmas season 6:00 pm – Candlelight Service of Lessons & Carols
	January 1 January 14	10:00 am – First Day Prayer Service 10 am-1 pm– Shred Day

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



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PEACE

St. Luke's Presbyterian Church
December 11, 2022

The Order of Worship

December 11, 2022

THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT

GATHERING AROUND THE WORD

Please begin quiet preparation for worship as the Tolling begins.

TOLLING

PRELUDE

Chamber Orchestra

Carols of the Quest
Carol Medley, arr. Joseph M. Martin

WELCOME/PASSING OF THE PEACE .

THE ADVENT WREATH

Chancel Choir

O Come, O Come, Emmanuel
12th 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!"**

✦ OPENING HYMN 31
MENDELSSOHN

Hark! The Herald Angels Sing

PRAYER OF CONFESSION (in unison)

God of the future, you are coming in power to bring all nations under your rule. We confess that we have not expected your kingdom, for we live casual lives, ignoring your promised judgment. We accept lies as truth, exploit neighbors, abuse the earth, and refuse your justice and peace. In your mercy, forgive us. Grant us wisdom to welcome your way, and to seek things that will endure when Christ comes to judge the world. Amen.

ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS

Congregation: Thanks be to God

HEARING THE WORD

SCRIPTURE READING (NT p. 57)

Luke 1:46b-55

Tapestry of Light...

A Celtic Christmas

by Joseph M. Martin



Carols of Hope and Light

Longing for the Light

Ann Guercio, Jadon Campos soloists

An Advent Garden

The Holy Child of Mary

O Wondrous Night

Janet Bardin, soloist

A Celtic Noel

A Celtic Gloria!

Carols of Celebration



RESPONDING TO THE WORD

SHARING OF JOYS AND CONCERNS

PASTORAL PRAYERS

OFFERTORY

Bethlehem Light
Based on FARE THE WELL, arr. Joseph M. Martin

✦ OFFERTORY RESPONSE

Please join the choir in singing

"Gloria in excelsis Deo;
Gloria in excelsis Deo!"

CHORAL RESPONSE

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

✦ BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE

I Saw Three Ships
English carol, arr. Marvin Gaspard

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.

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.

During worship this morning our Chancel Choir will present "Tapestry of Light...a Celtic Christmas", by Joseph M. Martin. 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 Choir and Chamber Orchestra present this beautiful program.

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.

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.

Assemble Christmas Grace Bags today. We will be assembling Grace Bags for the Montrose Street Reach Christmas Backpack project after worship. Drop by the session room after worship and help us complete the bags. They will be distributed on Thursday, December 15th.

St. Luke's is responsible for dessert at the meal provided by Street Reach on Thursday. Our baked cookies/brownies are always appreciated. Please drop off your cookies at the church on Thursday by noon. Thank you!

Monarch Chamber Players Tonya Burton, viola, and Yvonne Chen, piano, 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.

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 Christmas Eve 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 a little early, at 5:30 p.m., and hear our St. Luke's musicians in concert.