

In Response to God
Activities for the week of December 18, 2022

Today's Lectionary: Isaiah 7:10-16; Psalm 80:1-7, 17-19; Romans 1:1-7; Matthew 1:18-25

Sunday	December 18	9:00 am – Church School & Confirmation Class 10:00 am – Worship
Monday	December 19	3 -7 pm – Houston Dragon Academy
Tuesday	December 20	3 -7 pm – Houston Dragon Academy 10 am-2 pm – CCSC food collection
Wednesday	December 21	3 -7 pm – Houston Dragon Academy
Thursday	December 22	7 a.m-6 pm – Houston Dragon Academy
Friday	December 23	7 a.m-6 pm – Houston Dragon Academy
Saturday	December 24	5:30 pm – Music of the Christmas season 6:00 pm – Candlelight Service of Lessons & Carols
Sunday	December 25	9:00 am – Church School 10:00 am – Worship
Save the Date:		
	January 1	10:00 am – First Day Prayer Service
	January 14	10 am-1 pm – Shred Day



Advent and Christmas 2022

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

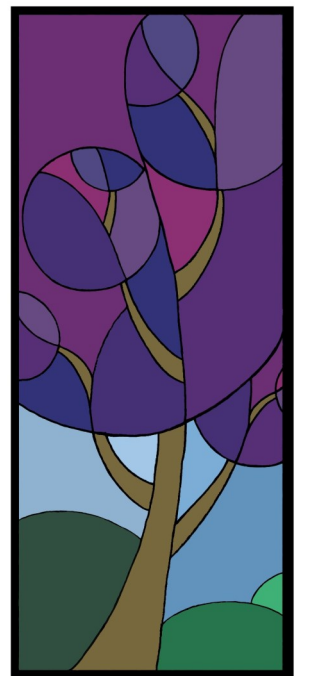
Christmas Day Worship at 10:00 a.m.
 Carol Sing with meaningful Christmas reflection

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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LOVE

St. Luke's Presbyterian Church
 December 18, 2022

The Order of Worship

December 18, 2022

FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT

GATHERING AROUND THE WORD

Please begin quiet preparation for worship as the Tolling begins.

PRELUDE Gloria!
Quan Jiang, violin French carol, arr. Marvin Gaspard

WELCOME/PASSING OF THE PEACE .

THE ADVENT WREATH O Come, O Come, Emmanuel
Pastoral Staff 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 (NT p. 1) Matthew 1:18-25

REFLECTION ON THE WORD Rev. W. Scott Harbison

“Doing the Right Thing”

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 In the Bleak Midwinter
Ann Guercio, Janet Bardin, soloists Harold Darke (1888-1976)
arr. Marvin Gaspard

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

✦ COMMUNION HYMN 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 Marvin Gaspard (c) 2008

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow'r and might.
Heav'n and earth are full of your glo - ry. Ho - san - na in the high - est. Bless - ed is He who
comes in the name of the Lord. Ho - san - na - in - the high - est.

COMMUNION It Came Upon the Midnight Clear
CAROL Richard S. Willis (1819-1900), arr. Marvin Gaspard

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

✦ BENEDECTION

POSTLUDE Postlude 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.

Sunday School Schedule: Children’s Sunday School meets in Room 115 at 9 a.m. with Don Mims teaching the class. They will not meet on Christmas Day. **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. The class will be taking a break until January 8th. Our **Youth Group** meets at 9 a.m. in the history room (#129), but will take a break until January 8. **The Confirmation Class** will resume on January 8. 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.

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.

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.

Christmas Eve Concert: Come at 5:30 p.m. and hear beautiful seasonal music by our St. Luke’s musicians.

By giving to the Christmas Joy Offering you can provide assistance to current and retired church workers in their time of need. Your offering also helps in developing future leaders at Presbyterian-related schools and colleges equipping communities of color. The Joy Offering collection will be taken on Christmas Eve..

Shred Day at St. Luke’s: Texas Security Shredding will be on site January 14 from 10 a.m.-1 p.m. to accept paper and small electronics. A donation of \$10 is suggested. We are also collecting non-perishable food for CCSC.

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. Tax deductible gifts may be given in honor or memory of loved ones, or in celebration of birthdays, anniversaries, and special milestone events. You may make your check payable to St. Luke’s Presbyterian Church and include “Friends of Music” on the memo line. For more information contact Marvin Gaspard at mjgaspard@sbcglobal.net or 713.667.6531 ext.103.