



Advent and Christmas 2023

December 10

That Holy Night

A musical presentation during 10:00 a.m. worship celebrating that most glorious night of nights by St. Luke's Chancel Choir & Instrumentalists

December 13

Live Nativity

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

December 24

Casual, shortened Worship at 10 a.m.

Christmas Concert at 5:30 p.m.

St. Luke's musicians will provide music of the Christmas season

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 31

Carol Sing at 10:00 a.m.

An opportunity to sing your favorite Christmas carols one more time.

In Response to God Activities for the week of December 3, 2023

Today's Lectionary: Isaiah 64:1-9; Psalm 80:1-7, 17-19; 1 Corinthians 1:3-9; Mark 13:24-37

Sunday	December 3	9:00 am – Church School 10:00 am – Worship 11 am-2 pm – Choir/Orchestra Rehearsal
Monday	December 4	3 -7 pm – Houston Dragon Academy
Tuesday	December 5	3 -7 pm – Houston Dragon Academy 10 am-2 pm – CCSC food collection 7:00 pm – KRG Mgt/HOA
Wednesday	December 6	3 -7 pm – Houston Dragon Academy
Thursday	December 7	3 -7 pm – Houston Dragon Academy
Friday	December 8	3 -7 pm – Houston Dragon Academy
Saturday	December 9	9 am-6 pm – Houston Dragon Academy
Sunday	December 10	9:00 am – Church School 10:00 am – Worship - <i>“That Holy Night”</i> with Chancel Choir & Instrumentalists 3:00 pm – Piano Recital
Save the Date:	December 13	6 -8 pm – Live Nativity
	December 24	10:00 am – Worship 5:30 pm – Music of the Christmas season 6:00 pm – Candlelight Service of Lessons & Carols
	December 31	10:00 am – Worship/Carol Sing

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
Artists in Residence	Sarah Bunk, Ann Guercio, and Laura Smith



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FEAR NOT

St. Luke's Presbyterian Church
December 3, 2023

The Order of Worship

December 3, 2023

FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT

GATHERING AROUND THE WORD

Please begin quiet preparation for worship as the Tolling begins.

PRELUDE Greensleeves
Laura Smith, harp 16th c. English ballad, arr. Ray Pool

WELCOME/PASSING OF THE PEACE .

THE ADVENT WREATH **O Come, O Come, Emmanuel**
The Lucas Family 12th c. Latin melody

Choir: *“O Come, o come, Emmanuel...
And ransom captive Israel.”*

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

✦OPENING HYMN 13 Prepare the Way
BEREDEN VAG FOR HERRAN

CONFESSION OF SIN AND ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS

Congregation: Thanks be to God

HEARING THE WORD

SCRIPTURE READING (OT p. 694) Isaiah 64:1-9
(Reading today, Steve Hurysz)

SCRIPTURE READING (NT p. 50) Mark 13:24-37

REFLECTION ON THE WORD Rev. W. Scott Harbison
“Every New Beginning is Some Other Beginning’s End”

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 O Come, O Come, Emmanuel
Amanda Thorp, piano VENI EMMANUEL, arr. Cindy Berry

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

✦COMMUNION HYMN 1 Come, Thou Long Expected Jesus
STUTTEGART

SACRAMENT OF THE LORD’S SUPPER

Minister: The Lord be with you.

People: And also with you.

Minister: Lift up your hearts!

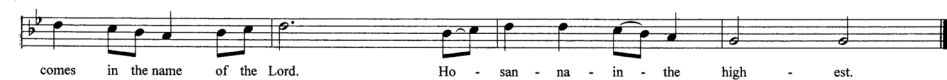
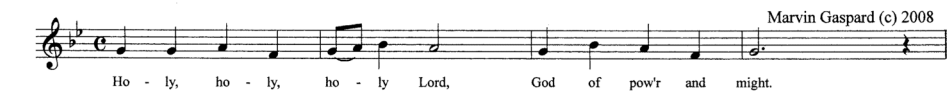
People: We lift them up to the Lord.

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...



THE LORD’S PRAYER (Traditional) Hymnal p. 16

COMMUNION Long Time Ago
Ensemble O WALY WALY, English folk melody, arr. Joseph Martin

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

✦BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus
Based on HYFRYDOL Rowland Hugh Prichard (1811-1977)
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. New members are welcomed by the Session following worship each Sunday. Speak to Rev. Harbison after worship if you have any questions.

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 your joys and concerns verbally at the time for Pastoral Prayer.

Sunday School: Children’s Sunday School meets at 9 a.m. in Room 115 with Don Mims teaching the class. **Adult Sunday School** meets at 9 a.m. in the Library. See the announcement below to learn more about their plans for December study. **Our Youth Group** meets every other Sunday at 9 a.m. in Room 129. The next meeting is December 10.

Today’s flowers are given by Roy and Robin Jacoby to the glory of God and in honor of their 29th wedding anniversary.

The beautiful image on today’s bulletin cover was created by our own Gage Campos. Thank you for sharing your amazing gifts with us, Gage!

The Adult Sunday School class will recess from the study of Colossians to study the Gospel of Luke in December. It seems fitting to read the 24 chapters of Luke, one each day ending on Christmas Eve. Six chapters will be discussed in class on the 4 Sundays in Advent, December 3, 10, 17 & 24. This is a hefty class assignment, but a wonderful daily assignment for our class and any other St. Luke’s readers. Join the class Sundays at 9 a.m. in the Library.

The Elledge Toy Store: Today is the final day you can purchase a gift for Jingle Bell Express from the Elledge Toy Store. David and Loretta shop for age appropriate and well priced gifts, provide a convenient shopping experience, and deliver your gifts to CCSC. Thank you David and Loretta!

During worship on December 10 our Chancel Choir and Instrumentalists will present “That Holy Night”, a collection of music celebrating the most glorious night of nights. Please make plans to attend this meaningful service.

We are adopting several families for Christmas to help them celebrate the holidays. If you would like to support these families, please note “holiday families” in your donation. Consider giving to this and to the Minister’s Discretionary Fund, as this will be a tough holiday season for some of our neighbors.

Live Nativity is Wednesday, 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. Speak to Debbie Harbison to become part of the cast or crew to help make our annual Live Nativity the best!

St. Luke’s partners with Montrose Street Reach to reach the forgotten and ignored at-risk street kids and older homeless in the Montrose area. We are providing 300 Grace Bags to be included in the backpacks distributed the week of December 10th. You are invited to help assemble our Grace Bags after worship next Sunday on **BAG DAY**.

Advent 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.