

CHANCEL CHOIR

Soprano

Glenda Dickinson, Alana Glover, Ann Guercio

Alto

Janet Bardin, Patti Ernst, Amanda Thorp, Carol Wilson

Tenor

Randall Bardin, Nathan Thorp, Trudy Timian

Bass

Chris Bias, Gage Campos, Jadon Campos

INSTRUMENTALISTS

Randall Bardin, percussion

Sara Bunk, flute

Micah Sanders, cello

Laura Smith, harp



Director of Music

Marvin Gaspard



Advent and Christmas 2023

December 13

Live Nativity

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

December 24

Casual, shortened Worship at 10:00 a.m.

Christmas Concert at 5:30 p.m.

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

Service of Lessons and Carols at 6:00 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 10, 2023

Today's Lectionary: Isaiah 40:1-11; Psalm 85:1-2, 8-13; 2 Peter 3:8-15a; Mark 1:1-8

Sunday	December 10	9:00 am – Church School 10:00 am – Worship - <i>That Holy Night</i> Chancel Choir & Instrumentalists 11:00 am – Fellowship and Refreshments Prepare Grace Bags for Street Reach
Monday	December 11	3-7 pm – Houston Dragon Academy 6:45 pm – Session Meeting @ Escalante's
Tuesday	December 12	10 am-2 pm – CCSC food collection 3 -7 pm – Houston Dragon Academy
Wednesday	December 13	3 -7 pm – Houston Dragon Academy 6-8 pm – Live Nativity
Thursday	December 14	3 -7 pm – Houston Dragon Academy
Friday	December 15	3 -7 pm – Houston Dragon Academy
Saturday	December 16	9 am-6 pm – Houston Dragon Academy
Sunday	December 17	9:00 am – Church School 10:00 am – Worship Congregational Meeting
Save the Date:	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 – Carol Sing 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
Artists in Residence	Sarah Bunk, Ann Guercio, and Laura Smith



St. Luke's Presbyterian Church
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FEAR NOT

St. Luke's Presbyterian Church
December 10, 2023

The Order of Worship

December 10, 2023

SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT

GATHERING AROUND THE WORD

Please begin quiet preparation for worship as the Tolling begins.

TOLLING

INTROIT

On This Day Earth Shall Ring
Piae Cantiones, Gustav Theodore Holst (1874-1934)
Arr. Marvin Gaspard

WELCOME/PASSING OF THE PEACE

THE ADVENT WREATH

Marty & Tom Gwillim, Jeanne Leach, & Pansy Mayer

O Come, O Come, Emmanuel

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 31
MENDELSSOHN

Hark! The Herald Angels Sing

CONFESSION OF SIN AND ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS

Congregation: Thanks be to God

HEARING THE WORD

SCRIPTURE READING (OT p. 667)

Isaiah 40:1-11

That Holy Night

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As It Fell Upon a Night
Katherine K. Davis (1892-1980)

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

How Dark the Night
Greg Habegger, arr. Molly Ijames

Peace, Peace
Rick & Silvia Powell, arr. Fred Bock (1939-1998)
Janet Bardin, soprano

The First Noel
English Carol, arr. Rhonda Polay
Jadon Campos, baritone

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RESPONDING TO THE WORD

✠HYMN OF RESPONSE 48

ES IST EIN' ROS'

Lo, How a Rose E'er Blooming

SHARING OF JOYS AND CONCERNS

PASTORAL PRAYERS

OFFERTORY

Laura Smith, harp

In the Bleak Midwinter

Gustav Theodore Holst (1874-1934), arr. Marvin Gaspard

✠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 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.

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 is studying the Gospel of Luke in December. It seems fitting to read the 24 chapters of Luke, one each day ending on Christmas Eve. This is a wonderful daily assignment for our class and any other St. Luke's readers. You are welcome to join the class Sundays at 9 a.m. in the Library.

During worship this morning our Chancel Choir will present “That Holy Night”, a collection of music celebrating the most glorious night of nights.

A Congregational Meeting will be held next Sunday immediately after worship to elect new officers of the church. Installation of officers will be held during worship on January 14th.

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 Christmas Families have been identified by Jim Mayer, who is a chaplain with Vitas Hospice. You can make your donation through St. Luke's or give to Jim or Karen Mayer and they will buy gifts for the families. You can also purchase gifts for family members. Pick up a list of the families on the narthex table with ages, sizes, and toy preferences. If you purchase a gift, please wrap it and secure a name tag to the package.

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. Thank you!

Live Nativity is Wednesday, December 13: 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 16th annual Live Nativity the best! Speak to Debbie Harbison today to let her know you would like to help.

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 at 5:30 p.m., and hear our St. Luke's musicians in concert.