

DISTRIBUTION OF THE ELEMENTS

COMMUNION MEDLEY

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

*Please join the choir in singing the following carols.*

IT CAME UPON THE MIDNIGHT CLEAR

It came upon the midnight clear, That glorious song of old,  
From angels bending near the earth, To touch their harps of gold:  
Peace on the earth, good will to all, From heaven's all gracious King:  
The world in solemn stillness lay, To hear the angels sing.

GOOD CHRISTIAN FRIENDS, REJOICE

Good Christian friends rejoice with heart and soul and voice;  
Give ye heed to what we say; Jesus Christ is born today;  
Ox and ass before Him bow, and He is in the manger now.  
Christ is born today! Christ is born today!

HARK, THE HERALD ANGELS SING

Hark, the herald angels sing, "Glory to the newborn King;  
Peace on earth, and mercy mild, God and sinners reconciled!  
Joyful, all ye nations, rise, Join the triumph of the skies;  
With the angelic host proclaim, Christ is born in Bethlehem!  
Hark, the herald angels sing, Glory to the new-born King.

✦ THE LIGHT BROUGHT INTO THE WORLD Silent Night, Holy Night  
See insert STILLE NACHT

*As the introduction to the hymn is played, the Pastor will light his candle from the Christ candle of the Advent wreath, then light the Elders' candles. The Elders will light the candles of the people at the end of each pew. Please pass the light down your pew. Bend the unlighted candle to the lighted one to prevent dripping hot wax.*

✦ CHARGE AND BENEDICTION

✦ CLOSING HYMN 40 Joy to the World!  
ANTIOCH

✦ POSTLUDE Postlude on ANTIOCH  
George Frederic Handel (1685-1759)  
Arr. Antony Baldwin

*Merry Christmas!*

**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.

**The musicians participating** in tonight's service are: St. Luke's Chancel Choir, St. Luke's Ringers, Sarah Bunk, flautist, Micah Sanders, cellist, and Laura Smith, harpist.

**The insert in tonight's bulletin** includes lyrics to two new carols, *How Dark the Night* and *As it Fell Upon a Night*.

**Joy Gift Offering Today:** This annual offering of the PCUSA supports medical needs of clergy, active and retired, and their families, and the denominations racial ethnic schools and colleges. Please make a note on your check for "Joy Gift" or use the envelopes in your bulletin.

**The Wednesday Word:** If you would like to receive our weekly e-mail newsletter, *The Wednesday Word*, please add your name and email to the sign-in sheet in the Narthex.

**Our annual Carol-Sing** on December 31 will be a casual worship service for the whole family, full of Christmas carols and an opportunity to sing your favorite carols one more time.

**Ordination and Installation** of church officers will be held during worship on January 14th. Please plan on attending this meaningful service in the life of our church.

**The church office** will be open on Wednesday, December 27th next week.

ST. LUKE'S STAFF

Pastor..... The Rev. W. Scott Harbison  
Parish Associate .....The Rev. Dr. Bill Wade  
Business Manager..... Patti Ernst  
Director of Music-Organist/Choirmaster..... Marvin Gaspard  
Assistant to Head of Staff..... Mary Ann White  
Artists in Residence ..... Sarah Bunk, Ann Guercio & Laura Smith



The mission of St. Luke's Presbyterian Church is to proclaim the Word of God in Jesus Christ, nurture and support one another, and serve the community.

St. Luke's Presbyterian Church  
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CHRISTMAS EVE

ST. LUKE'S  
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

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# CHRISTMAS EVE CANDLELIGHT COMMUNION

DECEMBER 24, 2023

We joyfully greet each other and share the gifts of friendship and love.  
Please begin quiet preparation for worship as the prelude begins.

## PREPARING FOR THE WORD

PRELUDE  
Bell Quartet Nathan Thorp, soloist  
Ding, Dong, Merrily on High  
Jehan Tabourot (1519-1593), arr. Marvin Gaspard  
Cantique de Noël  
Adolphe Adam (1803-1856)

## WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

*Please return to your seats when the music begins*

## PASSING OF THE PEACE

Leader: The Lord be with you.  
**People: And also with you.**

## LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT CANDLE

Artists in Residence: Sarah Bunk, Ann Guercio & Laura Smith

Choir: O Come, O Come Emmanuel...  
and ransom captive Israel!

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

## ✦CALL TO WORSHIP Rev. W. Scott Harbison

Leader: For unto us a Child is born, unto us a Son is given.

**People: O come, let us adore Him!**

Leader: The government shall be on His shoulder.

**People: O come, let us adore Him!**

Leader: His name shall be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God.

**People: O come, let us adore Him!**

Leader: The Everlasting Father, the Prince of Peace.

## ✦PROCESSIONAL HYMN 41 O Come, All Ye Faithful ADESTE FIDELES

## PRAYER OF PRAISE AND ADORATION (people in unison)

Glory to you, Almighty God, for you sent your only-begotten Son that we might have new life. Glory to you, Lord Jesus Christ, for you became flesh and dwelt among us that we might become your people. Glory to you, Holy Spirit, for you direct and rule our lives. Glory to you, Almighty God, and to your Son, Jesus Christ, and to the Holy Spirit, now and forever. Amen.

ANTHEM  
How Dark the Night  
Greg Habegger, arr. Molly Ijames

## THE SERVICE OF LESSONS AND CAROLS

LESSON ONE Isaiah 40:1-2  
Julie Lucas

Leader: Comfort, O comfort my people, says your God.

**People: Speak tenderly to Jerusalem, and cry to her that she has served her term, that the penalty is paid, that she has received from the Lord's hand double for all her sins.**

READING Isaiah 9:2, 6-7

HYMN 9 O Come, O Come, Emmanuel (verses 1, 2 & 3)  
VENI EMMANUEL

LESSON TWO Psalm 62:1-2  
Jackson Moore

Leader: For God alone my soul waits in silence;  
from God comes my salvation.

**People: God alone is my rock and my salvation, my fortress;  
I shall never be shaken.**

READING Isaiah 7:14-16

VOLUNTARY Greensleeves  
Laura Smith, harpist 16th c. English ballad, arr. Ray Pool

LESSON THREE Ezekiel 34:30-31  
Sean Bunk

Leader: They shall know that I, the Lord their God,  
am with them and that they, the house of Israel,  
are my people, says the Lord God.

**People: You are my sheep, the sheep of my pasture  
and I am your God, says the Lord God.**

READING Micah 5:2-5a

HYMN 44 O Little Town of Bethlehem (verses 1 & 2)  
ST. LOUIS

LESSON FOUR Isaiah 12:2  
Annemieke Luckey

Leader: Surely God is my salvation;  
I will trust, and will not be afraid,

**People: For the Lord God is my strength and my might;  
and has become my salvation.**

READING Luke 1:26-38

OFFERTORY SENTENCE

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

PRAYER OF DEDICATION

LESSON FIVE John Simmons

Leader: All my heart today rejoices,  
As I hear, far and near, sweetest angel voices.

**People: Christ is born, their choirs are singing,  
till the air, everywhere, now with joy is ringing.**  
Johann Georg Ebeling

READING Luke 2:1-7

HYMN 25 Away in a Manger (verses 1 & 3)  
MUELLER

LESSON SIX Rev. W. Scott Harbison

Leader: This, this, is Christ the King,  
Whom shepherds guard and angels sing;

**People: Haste, haste, to bring Him laud,  
the Babe, the Son of Mary** William Chatterton Dix

READING Luke 2:8-20

RESPONSE Gloria in excelsis Deo; (please join the choir in singing)  
Gloria in excelsis Deo!

HOMILY Rev. W. Scott Harbison

✦APOSTLE'S CREED (Traditional) Hymnal, page 14

## SACRAMENT OF THE LORD'S SUPPER

INVITATION TO THE TABLE

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING AND THE LORD'S PRAYER

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.**

WORDS OF INSTITUTION

SANCTUS

Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might.  
Heaven and earth are full of your glory. Hosanna in the highest.  
Blessed is He who comes in the name of the Lord  
Hosanna in the highest.