

## CHANCEL CHOIR

Soprano

Glenda Dickinson, Alana Glover, Ann Guercio\*

Alto

Janet Bardin\*, Sharon Cooper, Patti Ernst, Amanda Thorp\*, Carol Wilson

Tenor

Randall Bardin\*, Nathan Thorp\*, Trudy Timian

Bass

Chris Bias\*, Ugo Obudulu, Quinton Parmenter\*

\*St. Luke's Ringers

## INSTRUMENTALISTS

Sara Bunk, flute

Lauren Sanders, flute

Micah Sanders, cello

David Klingensmith, bass

Cindy Qin, harp

Michael Metz, percussion



### Director of Music

Marvin Gaspard

**Friends of Music** helps provide special instrumental and vocal guests throughout the year and supplements funding for our choir staff singers. For more information, please speak to Marvin Gaspard.



### Advent and Christmas 2024

**December 18**  
*Live Nativity*

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

**December 24**

*Christmas Concert* at 5:30 p.m.

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

*Candlelight 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 29**

*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 15, 2024

Today's Lectionary: Zephaniah 3:14-20, Isaiah 12:2-6, Philippians 4:4-7, Luke 3:7-18

Sunday	December 15	9:00 am – Church School 10:00 am – Worship - <i>Joyful Noel</i> Chancel Choir & Instrumentalists 11:00 am – Fellowship and Refreshments Prepare Grace Bags for Street Reach
Monday	December 16	3-7 pm – Houston Dragon Academy
Tuesday	December 17	10 am-2 pm – CCSC food collection 3 -7 pm – Houston Dragon Academy
Wednesday	December 18	3 -7 pm – Houston Dragon Academy 6-8 pm – Live Nativity
Thursday	December 19	3 -7 pm – Houston Dragon Academy
Friday	December 20	3 -7 pm – Houston Dragon Academy
Saturday	December 21	9 am-6 pm – Houston Dragon Academy
Sunday	December 22	9:00 am – Church School 10:00 am – Worship Congregational Meeting
<b>Save the Date:</b>	December 24	5:30 pm – Music of the Christmas season 6:00 pm – Candlelight Service of Lessons & Carols
	December 29	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	Sandra Wang
Artists in Residence	Sarah Bunk, Ann Guercio, Don Mims, and Laura Smith



St. Luke's Presbyterian Church  
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Lyrics and Music by Permission  
CCLI No. 3460677



St. Luke's Presbyterian Church  
December 15, 2024

# The Order of Worship

December 15, 2024

THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT

## GATHERING AROUND THE WORD

PRELUDE Gloria Fanfare  
St. Luke's Ringers 19th c. French carol, arr. Michael E. Akers

WELCOME/PASSING OF THE PEACE

THE ADVENT WREATH O Come, O Come, Emmanuel  
The Dees Family 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 Hark! The Herald Angels Sing  
MENDELSSOHN

CONFESSION OF SIN AND ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS  
**Congregation: Thanks be to God**

## HEARING THE WORD

SCRIPTURE READING (OT p. 667) Isaiah 40:1-11  
Reading today, Annemieke Luckey

SCRIPTURE READING (OT p. 57) Luke 1:46-55

## Joyful Noel



Il est Ne  
French carol, arr. Marvin Gaspard (b. 1953)

Sing We Now of Christmas  
French carol, arr. Salli Terri (1922-1996)

African Noel  
African melody, arr. André J. Thomas (b. 1952)

The First Noel  
English carol, arr. Dan Forrest (b. 1973)

Go Tell It on the Mountain  
African-American spiritual, arr. Marvin Gaspard  
Ugo Obudulu, bass



## RESPONDING TO THE WORD

SHARING OF JOYS AND CONCERNS

PASTORAL PRAYERS

OFFERTORY Calypso Noel  
Gordon Krunnfusz (1931-2011)

✦ OFFERTORY RESPONSE Please join the choir in singing  
*"Gloria in excelsis Deo. Gloria in excelsis Deo!"*

✦ HYMN 38 It Came Upon The Midnight Clear  
CAROL

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...

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.

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

COMMUNION Meditation on GREENSLEEVES  
16th c. English ballad, arr. Sylvia Woods

✦ 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.

**Joy and Concerns** are an opportunity to share a need for prayers of thanksgiving and intercession with the congregation. You will have an opportunity to mention them verbally at the time for Pastoral Prayer.

**Today's flowers** are given to the glory of God and in honor of Mary Ann White's faithful service to our congregation for the past 20 years.

**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. **Our Youth Group** meets every other Sunday at 9 a.m.

**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!

**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 Joy Offering** provides assistance to current and retired workers, and supports developing future leaders at Presbyterian-related schools and colleges. The joy offering will be on Christmas Eve.