



Advent and Christmas 2025

December 17

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 28

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 November 30, 2025

Today's Lectionary: Isa. 2:1-5 and Ps. 122; Rom. 13:11-14; Matt. 24:36-44

Sunday	November 30	9:00 am –	Church School
		10:00 am –	Worship Service
		11:00 am –	Refreshments and Fellowship
			Chancel Choir Rehearsal
Monday	December 1	3-7 pm –	Houston Dragon Academy
Tuesday	December 2	3-7 pm –	Houston Dragon Academy
		4 pm –	Strength Training Class
Wednesday	December 3	3-7 pm –	Houston Dragon Academy
		7-8:30 pm–	ReMIND Support Group
Thursday	December 4	3-7 pm –	Houston Dragon Academy
		4 pm –	Strength Training Class
Friday	December 5	3-7 pm –	Houston Dragon Academy
Saturday	December 6	9 am-5 pm –	Houston Dragon Academy
Sunday	December 7	9:00 am –	Church School
		10:00 am –	Worship Service
		11:00 am –	Refreshments & Fellowship
			Chancel Choir Rehearsal
Save the Date:	December 14	after worship–	Grace Bag Day
	December 17	6-8 pm –	Live Nativity
	December 24	5:30 pm –	Music of the Christmas Season
		6:00 pm –	Candlelight Service
	December 28	10:00am –	Worship/Carol Sing

ST. LUKE'S STAFF

Pastor..... The Rev. W. Scott Harbison  
Parish Associate ..... The Rev. Laureen Suba  
Parish Associate ..... The Rev. Dr. Bill Wade  
Director of Music-Organist/Choirmaster ..... Marvin Gaspard  
Business Manager ..... Patti Ernst  
Assistant to the Pastor ..... Alana Glover  
Artists in Residence.....



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Deliver Us

St. Luke's Presbyterian Church  
November 30, 2025

The Order of Worship			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.		
November 30, 2025			Children’s Sunday School meets at 9 a.m. in Rm 115 with Don Mims. Youth Group meets every other Sunday at 9 a.m. with Rev. Harbison leading the group.		
FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT			Adult Sunday School: How might a house look for Christmas based on what each Gospel says about Christmas? Beginning Nov. 30, the Adult Sunday School Class will enjoy a study based on “Christmas in the Four Gospel Homes” by Cynthia M. Campbell and illustrated by architect and bible teacher Kevin Burns. This is a study of the four Gospels as a “house” which the church visits at Christmas. We invite you to join us for this study and to see the house designs suggested by Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John.		
GATHERING AROUND THE WORD			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 these verbally at the time for Pastoral Prayer.		
Please begin quiet preparation for worship			The flowers today are given to the glory of God and in honor of her son, Travis and all of the November birthdays by Linda Wiley.		
PRELUDE			Fifth Sunday Food Focus: Today is St. Luke’s fifth Sunday food focus. Grocery bags will be collected today for CCSC.		
In the Bleak Midwinter Gustav Holst (1874-1934)			Grace Bags: St. Luke’s will be preparing 300 Grace Bags for the Street Reach Christmas Backpack Project. We are requesting donations of: granola bars, fruit cups, juice boxes/ pouches, cans of Vienna sausage, snack crackers, and 8oz water bottles. All donations need to be turned in by December 7th. Please also consider staying after service December 14th to help assemble grace bags for delivery to Montrose Street Reach.		
WELCOME/PASSING OF THE PEACE			The Montrose Street Reach: The upcoming service date is December 18th. Let Jeanne Leach (713.409.0997) know if you would like to bring a dessert or help serve.		
THE ADVENT WREATH			Jingle Bell Express: Since 1980, CCSC has spread holiday cheer by giving underserved children new toys and books. If you missed out on the Elledge Toy Store, no worries. You can still purchase gifts through the Jingle Bell Express Amazon Wish List that can be found at ccschouston.org/jingle-bell-express/. You can ship your donations straight to CCSC until December 1, or you can drop off donations at Bellaire United Methodist Church on Monday, December 8th for distribution at the Jingle Bell Express event December 12th & 13th.		
O Come, O Come, Emmanuel			Drop by the Cookie Room: If you would like to provide cookies for an upcoming Sunday, please add your name to the sign-up sheet on the bulletin board in the Cookie Room. Todays cookies are provided by Jeanne Leach.		
Members of St. Luke’s Chancel Choir			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.		
Choir: “O come, o come, Emmanuel... And ransom captive Israel.”			Sign up for Live Nativity on December 17: We are asking for cast members to sign up for Live Nativity 2025. Roles are available for reenactments at 6 & 7 p.m.: Mary, Joseph, Baby Jesus, 3 Wise Men, Angel Gabriel, 4 Angels, and 4 Shepherds. Also needed are narrators, costume set-up and traffic control. Check out the sign in sheet in the narthex and let us know you want to participate. Debbie Harbison is coordinating.		
Congregation: “Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel Shall come to thee, O Israel!”			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 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 musicians in concert.		
✠OPENING HYMN 13			ReMIND Support Group: St. Luke’s will be the host of one of ReMIND’s new support groups starting December 3rd. The group is free for all and all are welcome to join on Wednesdays 7:00-8:30pm for connection and support in the Cookie Room. Please contact Alana for more information.		
BEREDEN VÄG FÖR HERRAN					
CONFESSIOIN OF SIN					
All: Holy God, remind us that you have formed us with your own hands, made us in your own image, and placed us in this world to be stewards of your good creation. You are reckless with generosity, while we calculate unknowns. You delivered us for the purpose of making your goodness known, and yet we allow lesser tasks to occupy our time. You are keen to rejoice, we are quick to judge. Forgive our failure to live in the light of your grace. Renew within us the knowledge of your love so that we may live joyfully and gratefully, sharing what we have. This we pray in the name of Jesus Christ, who offered himself for us. Amen					
ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS					
One: Believe in the good news! In Jesus Christ we are forgiven.					
All: And we’re free to try again.					
HEARING THE WORD					
SCRIPTURE READING (NT p. 162)					
Liturgist, Ed Dickinson					
Romans 13:11-14					
ANTHEM					
Ensemble					
Long Time Ago					
O WALY WALY, English folk melody					
arr. Joseph Martin					
SCRIPTURE READING (NT p. 27)					
Matthew 24:36-44					
REFLECTION ON THE WORD					
Rev. Laureen Suba					
RESPONDING TO THE WORD					
✠HYMN 2					
HYFRYDOL					
Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus					
SHARING OF JOYS AND CONCERNS					
PASTORAL PRAYERS/LORD’S PRAYER (Traditional)					
Hymnal p.16					
OFFERTORY					
Advent Meditation					
Based on Dona Nobis Pacem					
Arr. Patrick M Liebergen					
✠DOXOLOGY					
Gloria No. 23 Refrain					
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					
Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus					
Rowland Hugh Prichard (1811-1887)					
Based on HYFRYDOL					
Arr. Gerre Hancock (1934-2012)					
Ensemble members: Janet Bardin, Randall Bardin, Ann Guercio, Ugo Obudulu, Carol Wilson.					
Our Guest Musician today is Lauren Sanders. Thank you for sharing your gifts with us, Lauren, and welcome back to St. Luke’s.					
✠ All who are able, please stand.					