



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 December 7, 2025

Today's Lectionary: Isa. 11:1-10 and Ps. 72:1-7, 18-19; Rom. 15:4-13; Matt. 3:1-12

Sunday	December 7	9:00 am – 10:00 am – 11:00 am –	Church School Worship Service Refreshments and Fellowship Chancel Choir Rehearsal
Monday	December 8	3-7 pm –	Houston Dragon Academy
Tuesday	December 9	3-7 pm – 4 pm –	Houston Dragon Academy Strength Training Class
Wednesday	December 10	3-7 pm – 7-8:30 pm–	Houston Dragon Academy ReMIND Support Group
Thursday	December 11	3-7 pm – 4 pm –	Houston Dragon Academy Strength Training Class
Friday	December 12	3-7 pm –	Houston Dragon Academy
Saturday	December 13	9 am-5 pm –	Houston Dragon Academy
Sunday	December 14	9:00 am – 10:00 am – 11:00 am –	Church School Worship Service Refreshments & Fellowship Grace Bag Day 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 – 6:00 pm –	Music of the Christmas Season 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 .....  
.....Sarah Bunk, Ann Guercio, Don Mims & Laura Smith

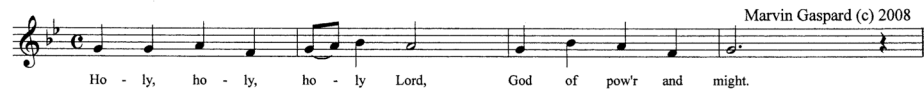

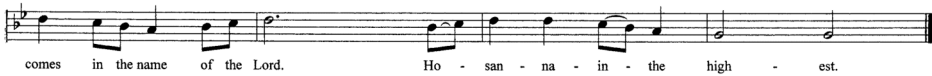


St. Luke’s Presbyterian  
Church  
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Houston, Texas 77025  
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www.stlukespres.org



Deliver Us

St. Luke’s Presbyterian Church  
December 7, 2025

The Order of Worship		
December 7, 2025		
SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT		
GATHERING AROUND THE WORD		
TOLLING		
WELCOME/PASSING OF THE PEACE		
THE ADVENT WREATH	O Come, O Come, Emmanuel	
The Hodgson Family	12 <sup>th</sup> c. Latin melody	
Choir:	“O come, thou Dayspring, come and cheer.... Our spirits by thine advent here.”	
Congregation:	“ <i>Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel Shall come to thee, O Israel!</i> ”	
✠OPENING HYMN 1	Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus	
STUTTGART		
CONFESSION OF SIN AND ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS		
Congregation:	Thanks be to God	
HEARING THE WORD		
SCRIPTURE READING (OT p. 640)	Isaiah 11:1-10	
Liturgist, Ed Nicklas		
SCRIPTURE READING (NT p. 2)	Matthew 3:1-12	
REFLECTION ON THE WORD	Rev. W. Scott Harbison	
“Eh...”		
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	People, Look East	
BESANÇON	French folk melody, arr. Eugene Butler (1935-2024)	
✠DOXOLOGY NO. 23 REFRAIN	Please join the choir in singing.	
“Gloria in excelsis Deo. Gloria in excelsis Deo”		
✠COMMUNION HYMN 49	Once in Royal David’s City	
IRBY		
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...		
		
		
		
COMMUNION	The Majesty and Glory of Your Name	
Based on Psalm 8	Linda Johnson and Tom Fettke	
✠CHORAL RESPONSE	Rejoice!	
	12th c. Latin/arr. Marvin Gaspard	
✠BENEDICTION		
POSTLUDE	Postlude on <i>Watchman, Tell Us of the Night</i>	
Based on ABERYSTWYTH	Joseph Parry (1841-1903)	
	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. New members are welcomed by the Session following worship each Sunday. Speak to Rev. Harbison after worship if you have any questions.		
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.		
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.		
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.		
The flowers today are given to the glory of God and in honor of Roy and Robin Jacoby’s 31st wedding anniversary.		
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.		
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.		
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 drop off donations at Bellaire United Methodist Church on Monday, December 8th for distribution at the Jingle Bell Express event December 12th & 13th.		
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 the Jacoby family.		
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.		
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.		
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.		
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.		
The image on our bulletin cover was created by our very own Gage Campos.		