

## 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, Gage Campos, Ben Cinun, Ugo Obudulu, Quinton Parmenter

## INSTRUMENTALISTS

Anne Dion, oboe  
Laurie Meister, harp



## DIRECTOR OF MUSIC

Marvin Gaspard



## 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 14, 2025

Today's Lectionary: Isa. 35:1-10 and Ps. 146:5-10 or Luke 1:46b-55; James 5:7-10; Matt. 11:2-11

Sunday	December 14	9:00 am –	Church School
		10:00 am –	Worship Service
		11:00 am –	Refreshments and Fellowship
			Chancel Choir Rehearsal
Monday	December 15	3-7 pm –	Houston Dragon Academy
Tuesday	December 16	3-7 pm – 4 pm –	Houston Dragon Academy Strength Training Class
Wednesday	December 17	3-7 pm – 7-8:30 pm –	Houston Dragon Academy ReMIND Support Group
Thursday	December 18	3-7 pm – 4 pm –	Houston Dragon Academy Strength Training Class
Friday	December 19	3-7 pm –	Houston Dragon Academy
Saturday	December 20	9 am-5 pm –	Houston Dragon Academy
Sunday	December 21	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 – Music of the Christmas Season  
December 28 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.....	
.....	Sarah Bunk, Ann Guercio, Don Mims & Laura Smith



St. Luke's Presbyterian Church  
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**Deliver Us**

St. Luke's Presbyterian Church  
December 14, 2025

## The Order of Worship

December 14, 2025

### THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT

#### GATHERING AROUND THE WORD

##### PRELUDER

Greensleaves  
16th c. English ballad, arr. Dave Williamson

##### WELCOME/PASSING OF THE PEACE

##### THE ADVENT WREATH

The Heidelberger O'Brien Family

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  
MENDELSSOHN

Hark! The Herald Angels Sing

##### CONFESSON OF SIN AND ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS

Congregation: Thanks be to God

#### HEARING THE WORD

##### SCRIPTURE READING (OT p. 663)

Isaiah 35:1-10

##### SCRIPTURE READING (NT p. 57)

Liturgist, Olivia Harbison

Luke 1:46-55

# The Perfect Gift



Still, Still, Still  
Austrian melody, arr. Marvin Gaspard

Silent Night  
Franz Gruber (1787-1863), arr. Paul Sjolund  
Alana Glover, Soloist

The Jesus Gift  
Gilbert M. Martin  
Janet Bardin & Ann Guercio, Soloists



A RESPONSE IN GRATITUDE Rev. W. Scott Harbison

#### RESPONDING TO THE WORD

##### SHARING OF JOYS AND CONCERNS

PASTORAL PRAYERS/LORD'S PRAYER (Traditional) Hymnal p.16

##### OFFERTORY

Cantique de Noël  
Adolphe Adam (1803-1856)  
Arr. Suzanne McDonald (1925-2025)

##### DOXOLOGY NO. 23 REFRAIN

Please join the choir in singing

"Gloria in excelsis Deo. Gloria in excelsis Deo!"

##### HYMN 48

ES IST EIN' ROS'

##### CHORAL RESPONSE

Rejoice!  
12th c. Latin melody, arr. Marvin Gaspard

##### BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE  
CAROL

It Came Upon A Midnight Clear  
Richard Storrs Willis (1819-1900)  
Arr. Gordon Young (1919-1998)

**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.

**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 Khanh Nguyen and Richard Cabrera

**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** meets at 9 a.m. in the Library.

**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.

**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.

**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.

**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.**

**The image on our bulletin cover** was created by our very own Gage Campos.

**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.