

In Response to God
Activities for the week of December 21, 2025

Today's Lectionary: Isa. 7:10-16 and Ps. 80:1-7, 17-19; Rom 1:1-7; Matt. 1:18-25

Sunday	December 21	9:00 am – 10:00 am – 11:00 am –	Church School Worship Service Refreshments and Fellowship Chancel Choir Rehearsal
Monday	December 22	3-7 pm –	Houston Dragon Academy
Tuesday	December 23	3-7 pm – 4 pm –	Houston Dragon Academy Strength Training Class
Wednesday	December 24	3-7 pm – 5:30 pm – 6:00 pm –	Houston Dragon Academy Music of the Christmas Season Candlelight Service
Thursday	December 25	3-7 pm –	Houston Dragon Academy
Friday	December 26	3-7 pm –	Houston Dragon Academy
Saturday	December 27	9 am-5 pm –	Houston Dragon Academy
Sunday	December 28	9:00 am – 10:00 am – 11:00 am –	Church School Worship/Carol Sing Refreshments & Fellowship
Save the Date: January 5		9:00am –	Church Office Opens

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



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Deliver Us

St. Luke's Presbyterian Church
December 21, 2025



The Order of Worship

December 21, 2025

FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT

GATHERING AROUND THE WORD

Please begin quiet preparation for worship as the Tolling begins.

PRELUDE

Laura Smith, harp

What Child Is This?

16th c. English ballad, arr. Ray Pool

WELCOME/PASSING OF THE PEACE

THE ADVENT WREATH

Kenna and Trey Waldrop

O Come, O Come, Emmanuel

12th c. Latin melody

Choir:

*"O Come, Desire of nations
Fill all the world with heaven's peace..."*

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

OPENING HYMN 36

CRANHAM

In the Bleak Midwinter

CONFSSION OF SIN AND ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS

Congregation: **Thanks be to God**

HEARING THE WORD

SCRIPTURE READING (OT p. 663)

Liturgist, Ed Dickinson

Isaiah 7:10-16

SCRIPTURE READING (NT p. 1)

Matthew 1:18-25

REFLECTION ON THE WORD

Rev. W. Scott Harbison

"Working Definition"

RESPONDING TO THE WORD

APPOSTLE'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

St. Luke's Ringers

Carol of the Bells

UKRAINIAN CAROL, Mykola Leontovych (1887-1921)

arr. Kevin McChesney

DOXOLOGY NO. 23 REFRAIN

"Gloria in excelsis Deo. Gloria in excelsis Deo"

Please join the choir in singing.

COMMUNION HYMN 44

ST. LOUIS

O Little Town of Bethlehem

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.

COMMUNION

Ann Guercio, Soloist

Gesu, Bambino

Pietro Yon (1886-1943)

Arr. Benjamin Harlan

CHORAL RESPONSE

Rejoice!

12th c. Latin, arr. Marvin Gaspard

BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE

GOD REST YE MERRY

God Rest Ye Merry, Gentleman

15th c. 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.

The Flowers Today are given to the glory of God and in loving memory Alan Lucas by Julie, Will, and Emily Lucas.

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.

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.

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 Dickinson Family.

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.

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.

The Montrose Street Reach: The upcoming service date is **January 22nd**. 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.**

Our Annual Carol Sing is on December 28 at 10:00 a.m. This 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. Our Director of Music, Marvin Gaspard, will be taking your requests during worship.

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.

St. Luke's Ringers: Janet Bardin, Chris Bias, Ben Cinun, Alana Glover, Ann Guercio, Quinton Parmenter, Amanda Thorp, Nathan Thorp, Ugo Obudulu. Director: Randall Bardin

Thank you, ringers, for your hard work and for sharing your talents with us.