

**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



St. Luke's Presbyterian Church  
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**Advent and Christmas 2025**

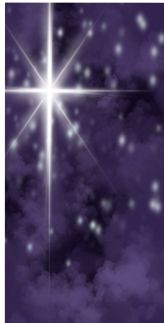
**December 24**

*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.

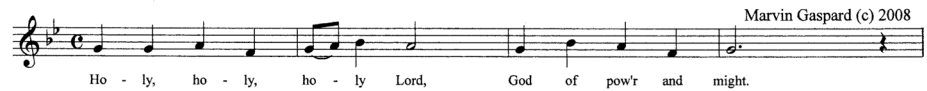


**December 28**

*Carol Sing* at 10:00 a.m.  
An opportunity to sing your favorite Christmas carols one more time.



***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	What Child Is This?	
Laura Smith, harp	16th c. English ballad, arr. Ray Pool	
WELCOME/PASSING OF THE PEACE		
THE ADVENT WREATH	O Come, O Come, Emmanuel	
Kenna and Trey Waldrop	12 <sup>th</sup> 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	In the Bleak Midwinter	
CRANHAM		
CONFESSION OF SIN AND ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS		
Congregation:	Thanks be to God	
HEARING THE WORD		
SCRIPTURE READING (OT p. 663)	Isaiah 7:10-16	
Liturgist, Ed Dickinson		
SCRIPTURE READING (NT p. 1)	Matthew 1:18-25	
REFLECTION ON THE WORD	Rev. W. Scott Harbison	
“Working Definition”		
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	Carol of the Bells	
St. Luke’s Ringers	UKRAINIAN CAROL, Mykola Leontovych (1887-1921) arr. Kevin McChesney	
✠DOXOLOGY NO. 23 REFRAIN	Please join the choir in singing.	
“Gloria in excelsis Deo. Gloria in excelsis Deo”		
✠COMMUNION HYMN 44	O Little Town of Bethlehem	
ST. LOUIS		
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	Gesu, Bambino	
Ann Guercio, Soloist	Pietro Yon (1886-1943) Arr. Benjamin Harlan	
CHORAL RESPONSE	Rejoice!	
	12th c. Latin, arr. Marvin Gaspard	
✠BENEDICTION		
POSTLUDE	God Rest Ye Merry, Gentleman	
GOD REST YE MERRY	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.		
✠ All who are able, please stand.		