

DISTRIBUTION OF THE ELEMENTS

COMMUNION MEDLEY

Please join the choir in singing the following carols.

IN THE BLEAK MIDWINTER

In the bleak midwinter, Frosty wind made moan,
Earth stood hard as iron, Water like a stone;
Snow had fallen, snow on snow, snow on snow,
In the bleak midwinter, long ago.

IT CAME UPON THE MIDNIGHT CLEAR

It came upon the midnight clear, That glorious song of old,
From angels bending near the earth, To touch their harps of gold:
Peace on the earth, good will to all, From heaven’s all gracious King:
The world in solemn stillness lay, To hear the angels sing.

GOOD CHRISTIAN FRIENDS, REJOICE

Good Christian friends rejoice with heart and soul and voice;
Give ye heed to what we say; Jesus Christ is born today;
Ox and ass before Him bow, and He is in the manger now.
Christ is born today! Christ is born today!

HARK, THE HERALD ANGELS SING

Hark, the herald angels sing, “Glory to the newborn King;
Peace on earth, and mercy mild, God and sinners reconciled!
Joyful, all ye nations, rise, Join the triumph of the skies;
With the angelic host proclaim, Christ is born in Bethlehem!
Hark, the herald angels sing, Glory to the new-born King.

✦THE LIGHT BROUGHT INTO THE WORLD Silent Night, Holy Night
STILLE NACHT

As the introduction to the hymn is played, the Pastor will light his candle from the Christ candle of the Advent wreath, then light the Elders’ candles. The Elders will light the candles of the people at the end of each pew. Please pass the light down your pew. Bend the unlighted candle to the lighted one to prevent dripping hot wax.

✦CHARGE AND BENEDICTION

✦CLOSING HYMN 40 Joy to the World!
ANTIOCH

✦POSTLUDE Postlude on ANTIOCH
George Frederic Handel (1685-1759)
arr. Antony Baldwin

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 musicians participating in tonight’s service are: St. Luke’s Chancel Choir, St. Luke’s Ringers, and Laura Smith, harpist.

Joy Gift Offering Today: This annual offering of the PCUSA supports medical needs of clergy, active and retired, and their families, and the denominations racial ethnic schools and colleges. Please make a note on your check for “Joy Gift” or use the envelopes in your bulletin.

Weekly email: If you would like to receive our weekly e-mail newsletter *The Wednesday Word*, please add your name and email to the sign-in sheet in the Narthex, or sign up online at www.stlukespres.org/contact-us (bottom of page).

Our annual Carol Sing on December 28 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.

The church office is closed from December 24 and will reopen January 5th 2026. Merry Christmas and Happy New Year from St. Luke’s Staff!

ST. LUKE’S STAFF

Pastor..... The Rev. W. Scott Harbison
Parish Associate The Rev. Laureen Suba
Parish Associate The Rev. Dr. Bill Wade
Business Manager..... Patti Ernst
Director of Music-Organist/Choirmaster..... Marvin Gaspard
Assistant to the Pastor Alana Glover
Artists in Residence
Sarah Bunk, Ann Guercio, Don Mims & Laura Smith

The mission of St. Luke's Presbyterian Church is to proclaim
the Word of God in Jesus Christ, nurture and support



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LYRICS AND MUSIC BY PERMISSION
CCLI NO. 3460677



CHRISTMAS EVE

ST. LUKE’S
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

CHRISTMAS EVE CANDLELIGHT COMMUNION		THE SERVICE OF LESSONS AND CAROLS		OFFERTORY		The First Noel	
DECEMBER 24, 2025				Nathan Thorp, soloist		English carol, arr. Dan Forrest	
We joyfully greet each other and share the gifts of friendship and love. Please begin quiet preparation for worship as the prelude begins.							
PREPARING FOR THE WORD							
PRELUDE		Carol of the Bells					
St. Luke’s Ringers		UKRAINIAN CAROL, Mykola Leontovych (1887-1921) arr. Kevin McChesney					
WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS							
Please return to your seats when the music begins							
PASSING OF THE PEACE							
Leader: The Lord be with you.							
People: And also with you.							
LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT CANDLE							
Kenneth Russel and the Smith Family							
Choir:		O Come, O Come Emmanuel... and ransom captive Israel!					
Congregation:		Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel Shall come to thee, O Israel!					
✠CALL TO WORSHIP				Rev. W. Scott Harbison			
Leader: For unto us a Child is born, unto us a Son is given.							
People: O come, let us adore Him!							
Leader: The government shall be on His shoulder.							
People: O come, let us adore Him!							
Leader: His name shall be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God.							
People: O come, let us adore Him!							
Leader: The Everlasting Father, the Prince of Peace.							
People: O come, let us adore Him! Christ, the Lord!							
✠PROCESSIONAL HYMN 41				O Come, All Ye Faithful ADESTE FIDELES			
PRAYER OF PRAISE AND ADORATION (people in unison)							
Glory to you, Almighty God, for you sent your only-begotten Son that we might have new life. Glory to you, Lord Jesus Christ, for you became flesh and dwelt among us that we might become your people. Glory to you, Holy Spirit, for you direct and rule our lives. Glory to you, Almighty God, and to your Son, Jesus Christ, and to the Holy Spirit, now and forever. Amen.							
ANTHEM		In the Bleak Midwinter					
Ann Guercio and Janet Bardin, soloists		Harold Darke (1888-1976) Arr. Marvin Gaspard					

THE SERVICE OF LESSONS AND CAROLS	
LESSON ONE	Isaiah 40:1-2 Bob Patterson
Leader:	Comfort, O comfort my people, says your God.
People:	Speak tenderly to Jerusalem, and cry to her that she has served her term, that the penalty is paid, that she has received from the Lord’s hand double for all her sins.
READING	Isaiah 9:2, 6-7
HYMN 9	O Come, O Come, Emmanuel (verses 1, 2 & 3) VENI EMMANUEL
LESSON TWO	Psalm 62:1-2 Katelyn Harbison
Leader:	For God alone my soul waits in silence; from God comes my salvation.
People:	God alone is my rock and my salvation, my fortress; I shall never be shaken.
READING	Isaiah 7:14-16
VOLUNTARY	Greensleeves Laura Smith, harpist 16th c. English ballad, arr. Ray Pool
LESSON THREE	Ezekiel 34:30-31 Jackson Moore
Leader:	They shall know that I, the Lord their God, am with them and that they, the house of Israel, are my people, says the Lord God.
People:	You are my sheep, the sheep of my pasture and I am your God, says the Lord God.
READING	Micah 5:2-5a
HYMN 44	O Little Town of Bethlehem (verses 1 & 2) ST. LOUIS
LESSON FOUR	Isaiah 12:2 John Simmons
Leader:	Surely God is my salvation; I will trust, and will not be afraid,
People:	For the Lord God is my strength and my might; and has become my salvation.
READING	Luke 1:26-38
OFFERTORY SENTENCE	

PRAYER OF DEDICATION		
LESSON FIVE	Laureen Suba	
Leader:	All my heart today rejoices, As I hear, far and near, sweetest angel voices.	
People:	Christ is born, their choirs are singing, till the air, everywhere, now with joy is ringing. Johann Georg Ebeling	
READING	Luke 2:1-7	
HYMN 25	Away in a Manger (verses 1 & 3) MUELLER	
LESSON SIX	Rev. W. Scott Harbison	
Leader:	This, this, is Christ the King, Whom shepherds guard and angels sing;	
People:	Haste, haste, to bring Him laud, the Babe, the Son of Mary William Chatterton Dix	
READING	Luke 2:8-20	
RESPONSE	Gloria in excelsis Deo; (please join the choir in singing) Gloria in excelsis Deo!	
HOMILY	Rev. W. Scott Harbison	
✠APOSTLE’S CREED (Traditional)		Hymnal, page 14
SACRAMENT OF THE LORD’S SUPPER		
INVITATION TO THE TABLE		
PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING AND THE LORD’S PRAYER		
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.	
WORDS OF INSTITUTION		
SANCTUS		
Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might. Heaven and earth are full of your glory. Hosanna in the highest. Blessed is He who comes in the name of the Lord Hosanna in the highest.		