

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 AssociateThe Rev. Laureen Suba
Parish AssociateThe Rev. Dr. Bill Wade
Business Manager.....Patti Ernst
Director of Music-Organist/Choirmaster.....Marvin Gaspard
Assistant to the PastorAlana 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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CHRISTMAS EVE

ST. LUKE'S PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

CHRISTMAS EVE CANDLELIGHT COMMUNION

DECEMBER 24, 2025

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
Ann Guercio and Janet Bardin, soloists

In the Bleak Midwinter
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

OFFERTORY

Nathan Thorp, soloist

The First Noel

English carol, arr. Dan Forrest

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.