



# Advent

## PINES PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

12751 Kimberley Lane, Houston, Texas 77024 ~ 713-467-2234 ~ pinespc.org

### Growing Inward

**Prelude** "While We Are Waiting, Come" Tim Holder  
*Don Cason*

### Gathering for Worship

**Introit** "Emmanuel"  
*Bob McGee*

### \*Call to Worship

One Voice: Our souls magnify the Lord.

**All Voices: Our spirits rejoice in God our Savior.**

One Voice: The Mighty One has done great things for us.

**All Voices: Holy is God's name.**

One Voice: God's mercy is ever near, from generation to generation.

**All Voices: God's strength scatters the proud,  
but lifts the humble of heart.**

One Voice: God's love fills us up, nourishing our hungry souls.

**All Voices: God's grace has called us here,  
strengthening our lives of faith.**

**\*Hymn** "People, Look East" See Screen

**Lighting of the Advent Candle** Peace Cindy and JD Houlihan

**SUNG RESPONSE BY CONGREGATION: "O Come, O Come Emmanuel"** See Screen

## Prayer of Confession

We watch for packages to arrive  
and Christmas cards to be delivered,  
but we do not keep our eyes open  
for your coming, Approaching God.  
We expect our Christmas 'wish list' to be filled,  
and for the pile under the tree to grow and grow,  
but we hope you do not expect  
to transform our lives.

We notice where to find the best bargains,  
and what decorations our neighbors have put on their houses,  
but we do not notice  
the little, the least, the lost, the last  
walking down our streets.

Forgive us, Saving God, for our misplaced priorities.  
May we watch for your coming,  
may we reach out to those in need,  
may we wait for hope to come,  
even as Jesus Christ, our Lord and Savior,  
arrives to live in our hearts.

## Silent Confession

Confessional Response "O Little Town of Bethlehem" See Screen

## Assurance of Grace

One Voice: Rejoice! God has looked with favor  
upon the powerless and the lowly.

**All Voices: Christ has come to redeem us from our sin.  
The Spirit has strengthened us  
with the power of grace and love.**

One Voice: In the mercy of the triune God,  
we all are forgiven.

**All Voices: Thanks be to God!**

## Children's Message

**Jesus Loves Me! This I know, For the Bible tells me so;  
Little ones to Him belong; They are weak, but he is strong.  
Yes, Jesus loves me! Yes, Jesus loves me!  
Yes, Jesus loves me! The Bible tells me so.**

First Reading Psalm 89:1-4, 19-26

Anthem "O Come, O Come Emmanuel" Space City Sound  
*Plainsong by Thomas Helmore*

Second Reading Luke 1:26-38

Sermon "What Kind of Gift is That?" Rev. Andy Gans

\*Hymn "O God, We Long for Better Days" See Screen

## Serving Outward

\*Saying What We Believe (adopted from an Affirmation of Faith by Susan Bock)

Leader: In Advent, we renew our trust in God.

People: **We believe in God,  
who came to us as one of us,  
who bends and kneels toward our world,  
drenching it with love.**

Leader: In Advent, we renew our trust in Jesus.

People: **We believe in Jesus,  
who came to us as in the fragile promise of a baby  
and emerged as a herald of hope.**

# TODAY December 20, 2020 IN WORSHIP

## Welcome to Pines

Pines is a joyful Christian community that welcomes all. Our Mission is to make disciples who know, love, and trust in Jesus Christ. We live into our Mission by Looking Upward, Growing Inward, and Serving Outward.

## Helpful devices:

Auditory assistance receivers are available with the Ushers.

Sound: Dan Schafer

Liturgist: Jesse Parker

## Sanctuary:

The Becky O'Connor Memorial Advent Candelabra was given in loving memory by the O'Connor Family.

\*All who are able may stand



**A Stephen Ministry  
Congregation**

Leader: In Advent, we renew our trust in the Holy Spirit.

**People: We believe in the Spirit,  
hovering God, present among us,  
abiding, upholding,  
awaking all things to her grace.**

Leader: In Advent we renew our commitment to the community around us.

**People: We believe we are called  
to do justice, love kindness,  
and walk humbly with God and each other,  
ready for God’s reign, awake and alert,  
as we work to bring it near.  
We believe we are called,  
as Christmas comes close,  
to lift up our hearts in hope and in love,  
seeking God’s advent.**

Leader: In Advent we renew our trust that Jesus is still with us.

**People: Come, Lord, Jesus, Come!**

**\*Gloria Patri**

**Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost;  
As it was in the beginning, is now and ever shall be, world without end.  
Amen. Amen.**

**Prayers of the People and the Lord’s Prayer**

**Hymn “Love Has Come” See Screen**

**Charge and Benediction**

**\*Benediction Response “Joy to the World” See Screen**

**\*Sending Out The Light of Christ**

**\*Postlude “The Snow Lay on the Ground”  
Italian Folk Melody**

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***Calendar for the Week of December 20, 2020***

Today	p.m. 5:00	In-Car-Nation Worship.....Back Parking Lot
	8:00	AA.....C3
Monday	a.m. 10:00	Office Staff Meeting.....C3
Tuesday	a.m. 7:00	Men’s Bible Study.....(Meet by Zoom)
Wednesday	a.m. 11:00	Bible Study.....(Meet by Zoom)
	p.m. 8:00	Westside AA.....C3/FH
Thursday	p.m. 4:00	Christmas Eve Drive-In-Worship Service.....Back Parking Lot
	6:30	Christmas Eve Worship Service.....Sanctuary
Friday	a.m./p.m.	.....Church Office Closed for Christmas.....
Saturday	a.m./p.m.	.....
Sunday	a.m. 9:00	Nursery open until noon.....
	10:45	Worship Service.....Sanctuary/Live Streaming on Web and . Facebook
	p.m. 8:00	AA.....C3

**The Lord’s Prayer**

Our Father, who art in heaven,  
hallowed be thy name. Thy  
kingdom come, thy will be done, on  
earth as it is in heaven. Give us this  
day our daily bread; and forgive us  
our debts, as we forgive our  
debtors; and lead us not into  
temptation, but deliver us from evil.  
For thine is the kingdom and the  
power and the glory, forever. Amen.



## Church Staff

The Reverend Andy Gans  
Pastor  
The Reverend Cindy Mood  
Interim Associate Pastor  
Tim Holder  
Director, Music Ministry  
Jesse Parker  
Director, Youth Ministry  
Micah Meyers  
Communications Coordinator  
Cindy Houlihan  
Office Manager  
Alexis Graham  
Accounting Manager  
Genny Bogue  
Receptionist  
Patrick Peña  
Custodian

## Preschool

Connie Pike  
Director, Preschool  
Karen Cooper  
Administrative Assistant

## Session

### Class of 2021

Linda Carlson  
Karen Davis  
Jim Patterson  
Margaret Schafer

### Class of 2022

Elizabeth Deraps  
Linda Johnson  
Karen MacAllister  
Bob Miller  
Violet O'Brien

### Class of 2023

Linda Aldred  
Shirley Bollich  
Phil Buelow  
Emily Gairo  
Ray Stauffacher  
John Work

# OPPORTUNITIES *To Grow* UPWARD, INWARD AND OUTWARD

**Newsletter:** Input must be in the office by January 24th at 9 a.m.

**Next Week's Bulletin:** Input must be in the office by Wednesday at 9 a.m.

**Calendar Items:** Input must be in the office by Thursday at 9 a.m.

**This Week at Pines email:** Input must be in the office by Friday at Noon

**Welcome, Guests!** If you have questions about our church, or would like to discuss church membership, please speak with the pastor.

**In need of someone to talk to?** If you want to know more about getting a Stephen Minister, please contact Bill Willis or call the church office.

**Sunday School!** While the youth room doors are once again open, we are still keeping an online option for those that are staying home and wish to join us! Sunday School from 9:30am – 10:30am can be accessed here: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83682869768> every week.

**Songs of Encouragement:** Each Wednesday, at 2:00 p.m. Tim Holder will host a special time of songs and reflection. This is a great time to sing along and learn. These videos will be posted on the Pines Facebook and Website pages. [www.pinespc.org](http://www.pinespc.org).

**Vision and Planning Needs Your Input!** Communication Surveys were emailed out November 19th to all Pines members with email addresses on file. Your feedback to this survey will help keep you informed as well as improve our communications process. If you did not receive a copy, hardcopies are available in the Adult Education Hallway and can be returned to the Vision and Planning mailbox behind the front desk. Let us hear from you by December 31.

**We will be collecting The Christmas Joy Offering in specially marked envelopes located in the pew back pockets.** The Christmas Joy Offering provides equal support to retired church workers and their families who have special needs, as well as students needing assistance who are attending one of the eight ethnically diverse schools in covenant with the Presbyterian Church (USA). Please place the special marked envelope, or your check marked "Joy Offering" in the memo line, in the offering plate during worship.

## CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICE

**December 24 ~ 4:00PM ~ Outside Worship ~ West Bough Parking Lot**

**6:30PM ~ Sanctuary and Livestreamed with Candlelight and Communion**

Poinsettias may be taken home after the Final Service on Christmas Eve or any day thereafter.