



Advent

PINES PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

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

Growing Inward

Prelude

“While We Are Waiting, Come”
Don Cason

Tim Holder

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.

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.