



## ADVENT AT PINES PRESBYTERIAN

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

### Growing Inward

#### Gathering for Worship

Introit "Prepare Ye" Stephen Schwartz

#### Prelude

\*Call to Worship John Work

One Voice: Come! Rejoice in our God.  
Let us give thanks, whatever life brings.

**All Voices: May those who sow in tears reap with shouts of joy.**

One Voice: Let us prepare our hearts and our world  
for the Prince of Peace, who is coming.

**All Voices: May all who weep come home with shouts of joy.**

One Voice: Prepare the way of the Lord,  
and make straight the path for God's arrival.

**All Voices: In prayer, song and service,  
let us prepare for the birth of love.**

\*Hymn "O Worship the King, All Glorious Above!" See Screen

Lighting of the Advent Candle Buelow Family

#### Prayer After Candle Lighting

Lord Jesus, as we search for signs of joy this week, help us to become the signs of joy that others are searching for. As these candles are but a glimpse of the light of the heavens, help us to be a glimpse of heaven's joy. Amen.

Advent Response "O Come, O Come Emmanuel" See Screen

#### Prayer of Confession

God of the prophets,  
we give thanks for the voices that cry out and demand our attention.  
They call us to put our trust and hope in you.  
Forgive us when we close our eyes to your vision,  
and when we stop our ears to your promise.  
Heal our weakness when we give up on ourselves,  
on one another, and on you.  
Free us from hopeless living,  
that we may joyfully love and serve others in your holy name.

3rd SUNDAY  
December 17, 2023  
IN ADVENT

#### 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: John Work

Flowers: The Advent wreath is given to the glory of God and in memory of Becky O'Connor. Kristen Davis-Owen has made a donation to Books Between Kids in memory of her grandmother and celebration of her birthday today.

\*All who are able may stand

A congregation of the



## Silent Confession

**Confessional Response** "Breathe" See Screen

## Assurance of Grace

**Leader:** Know that we are forgiven in Christ's name.

**People:** **May Love live in us and through us, that we all may know God's peace.**

**Children's Message** Kristin Beall

### Looking Upward

**Scripture Reading** Luke 1:47-55

**Music Ministry Cantata** "Night of the Father's Love" Pepper Choplin  
Narrators: Cole Liles, Scott Greene, Chris Wolfe

1. The Coming of the Lord
2. Waiting
3. Angels Are Making Their Rounds
4. Night of the Father's Love
5. Fall on Your Knees
6. Christ is Born, Nowell!

**\*Saying What We Believe** (*adapted 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.**

**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** See Screen

## Offering and Offertory

## Pray for the People of Pines

Sara Anderson Nancy Watler  
Bob Barr Darlene Wendt  
Jean Danny Williams  
Breitenwischer  
Barbara Caffall  
Carolyn Craig  
Carol Schneider  
Sam Singer

## Pray for Friends in Mission

Joy Kreider

## Pray for Pines Members and their family in the Military:

Olivia Williams (Army)  
Jackie Hayre (Navy)

## 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.

A Stephen Ministry



Congregation

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## SERMON NOTES

### \*Doxology

### Preparation for Prayers of the People and The Lord's Prayer

\*Hymn "Hark the Herald Angels Sing" See Screen

### \*Charge and Benediction

\*Benediction Response "Joy to the World" See Screen

### Postlude

**Special thanks** to the choir — *sopranos*: Shirley Bollich, Sydney Conner, Leslie Friedrich, Cheryl Gans, Patsy Jackson, Judy Shamp, Bethel Strawser; *altos*: Karen Davis, Allie Guerra, Valerie Harelson, Sue Master, Donna Partee, Carol Schneider; *tenors*: Steve Ballard, Roger Mowell, Jimmy Sewell, David Timms; *basses*: Stephen Banks, Andy Gans, Ben Liles, Morriss Partee, Jim Patterson. Kudos to our tympanist, Andy Gans! Thank you to the children of Pines for their contribution and hard work. And always, a special thank you to Shawn Heller!

**Feed My Starving Children** will be here before you know it. Dates for our MobilePack are February 23 & 24 and we need you to join us in packing meals for starving children. To register to volunteer go online to: [give.fmssc.org/pines](http://give.fmssc.org/pines) then click "Volunteer".

**Christmas Joy Offering** is being collected this month. By giving to the Christmas Joy Offering, you honor God's gift of Jesus Christ by providing assistance to current and retired church workers in their time of need and developing our future leaders at Presbyterian-related schools and colleges equipping communities of color. Please use the special "Christmas Joy" envelope located in the pew backs.

### access ONLINE GIVING

scan QR code  
with your camera phone:



[Instagram.com/pineshouston](https://www.instagram.com/pineshouston)

Get the latest announcements and reminders right before events happen. Find us here:  
<https://twitter.com/HoustonPines>.

Find us on Facebook  
[www.facebook.com](http://www.facebook.com)  
PinesPresbyterianChurch

The newsletter is available in the Narthex for those unable to access it online.

Our Worship services are recorded and livestreamed.

**CHRISTMAS EVE**  
AND  
**CHRISTMAS DAY**  
@PINES 

**December 24**  
Sunday Worship | 10:45am  
Christmas Eve Candlelight Worship | 5:00 & 7:00pm  
Communion at Both Evening Services  
All Services Livestreamed

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**December 25**  
Breakfast | 10:30am  
Christmas Day Worship | 10:45am  
Bring a Gift for the "Blessing of the Gifts"  
Fellowship Hall | No Livestream Christmas Day

## Church Staff

The Reverend Andy Gans  
Pastor  
Kristin Beall  
Director of Family Ministries  
Laurie Conner  
Director of Music Ministries  
Shawn Heller  
Church Musician  
Cindy Houlihan  
Office Manager  
Alexis Graham  
Accounting Manager  
Adrian Roman  
Custodian/Maintenance

## Preschool

Connie Pike, Director  
Karen Cooper, Admin Asst

## Session

### Class of 2024

Bob Barr  
Leslie Friedrich  
Judy Shamp  
Connie Sipp  
Phil Wetz

### Class of 2025

Susan Babineck  
Sharon Dotson  
Linda Johnson  
Walter Penberthy  
Chris Wolfe

### Class of 2026

Linda Aldred  
Shirley Bollich  
Emily Gairo  
Donna Partee  
Tim Timmons

### Class Elect of 2027

Patsy Jackson  
Phil Wetz  
Beth Patterson  
Ron Langston  
Brad Hofstetter

# OPPORTUNITIES *To Grow* UPWARD, INWARD AND OUTWARD

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

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

**A hard copy of the Poinsettia list** can be found on the credenza in the Narthex.

## Calendar for the Week of December 17, 2023

<b>Today</b>		
12:00 pm	Christmas Luncheon	Fellowship Hall
<b>Monday</b>		
12:00 pm	This Week articles due to Dan Schafer	
7:00 pm	Tending to Grief	Parlor
7:00 pm	Al-Anon	Fellowship Hall
<b>Tuesday</b>		
7:00 am	Men's Bible Study	Zoom
9:00 am	Bulletin articles due to Laurie	
11:30 am	Potpourri Circle — call Linda Aldred for details	
<b>Wednesday</b>		
1:30 pm	Prayer Team	Prayer Room
5:45 pm	Pines Pealers	C12
7:00 pm	Chancel Choir rehearsal	Sanctuary
7:30 pm	AA	C3
<b>Thursday</b>		
6:00 pm	Advent Bible Study	Fellowship Hall
8:00 pm	AA	C3
<b>Friday</b>		
	Newsletter articles due to Cindy	
<b>Saturday</b>		
6:00 pm	AA	C3
<b>Sunday</b>		
9:00 am	Nursery open	
9:15 am	Sunday School for all	
10:15 am	Coffee Fellowship	Narthex
10:45 am	Worship	Sanctuary
5:00 pm	Candlelight Christmas Eve service	Sanctuary
7:00 pm	Candlelight Christmas Eve service	Sanctuary
<b>Monday</b>		
10:30 am	Christmas Breakfast	Fellowship Hall
10:45 am	Christmas service — Blessing of the Gifts	Fellowship Hall

Today's duty elder: Phil Wetz