



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

Growing Inward

Gathering for Worship

Prelude

”Silent Night”

Bethel Strawser and Valerie Harelson, handbells and hammered dulcimer

***Call to Worship**

Margaret Schafer, 5pm
Ashley Gans, 7pm

One Voice: The people who walked in darkness
have seen a great light.

**All Voices: Those who lived in a land of deep darkness,
on them light has shined.**

One Voice: We are that people.
Christ is that light.

**All Voices: For a child has been born for us.
God’s own Son has been given to us.**

One Voice: He is called Wonderful Counselor,
Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.

**All Voices: His authority shall grow continually,
and there shall be endless peace
through his glorious reign.**

One Voice: Let the trees of the forest shout for joy.
Let heaven and nature sing.

***Hymn**

“Joy to the World”

See Screen

Lighting of the Advent Candle

Wolfe Family (5pm)
Kristin Beall & Family (7pm)

Prayer After Candle Lighting

Lord Jesus, as we search for signs of Christ’s presence this week, help us to become the signs of Christ’s presence 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 on earth. Help us to shine like stars in the world. Amen.

CHRISTMAS
December 24, 2023
EVE

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: Margaret Schafer, 5pm;
Ashley Gans, 7pm

Flowers: The Advent wreath is given to the glory of God and in memory of Becky O’Connor.

*All who are able may stand

A congregation of the



Prayer of Confession

Lord, we have rushed through Advent, just to get to this time, the time of the birth of the Christ Child. We have tried to slow down, to wait, to watch, to listen. We have rejoiced at the blessings given and the wonder of this incarnation. But we have to admit that we are still very drawn to our own celebrations and obligations. Free us this night to truly celebrate the wondrous birth of your Son. Give us the light that will warm our lives and illuminate our pathways of service. Forgive us when we stumble and fall. Lift us again and brush us off. Place us on the pathway to your Son.

Silent Confession

Confessional Response "O Little Town of Bethlehem" See Screen

Assurance of Grace

Leader: Rejoice! Jesus is born! The darkness is gone!
God's Light has overcome it!

People: **We are healed and forgiven, loved and cherished by God.
AMEN!**

Looking Upward

Prayer for Illumination

Scripture Reading Luke 2:1-7
Kristen Wolfe, 5pm. Danny Williams, 7pm

Hymn "Away in the Manger" See Screen

Scripture Reading Luke 2:8-20
Luke and Rachel Wolfe, 5pm
Paige Wright, 7pm

Anthem "Go Tell It on the Mountain" (5pm) Children's Choir
"O Holy Night" (7pm) Faith Taylor

Meditation "Little Packages" Rev. Andy Gans

Serving Outward

***Hymn** "Hark! The Herald Angels Sing" See Screen

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

Leader: This Christmas night, we reclaim 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: This Christmas night, we reclaim 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: This Christmas night, we reclaim 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.**

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, which 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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Leader: This Christmas night, we reclaim 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: This Christmas night, we reclaim our trust that Jesus is still with us.

People: **Welcome, Emanuel, welcome!**

***Gloria Patri**

Offering and Offertory "O Holy Night"
Bethel Strawser and Valerie Harelson, handbells and hammered dulcimer

***Doxology**

Communion of the People and The Lord's Prayer

***Hymn** "Silent Night" See Screen

***Charge and Benediction**

***Benediction Response** "Go, Tell It on the Mountain" See Screen

***Postlude**

SERMON NOTES

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ONLINE GIVING
scan QR code
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[Instagram.com/pineshouston](https://www.instagram.com/pineshouston)

Find us on Facebook
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 DAY
Breakfast | 10:30am
Christmas Day Worship | 10:45am
Bring a Gift for the "Blessing of the Gifts"
Fellowship Hall | No Livestream Christmas Day

@PINES++

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.

Please take your poinsettias home after the 7:00 pm service tonight.

Communion will be celebrated tonight using gluten-friendly elements. When invited to partake, the center sections will come forward down the center aisle to receive the bread and cup, and the outer two sections will go to the rear of the Sanctuary via the outer aisles to receive the elements. We will hold the elements until we can all partake together. Following worship, we ask that you place your used cup into the waste baskets located in the lobby.

Lighting of the Candles: The pastor or an usher will light the candle of the first worshiper in each pew. That person in turn will light the candle of the next person and so on until all the candles in the pew are lit. For safety's sake, please tip only the unlit candles and please supervise young children.

Remember Year-End Giving - Be sure your financial gifts are received in the church office or postmarked by December 31. If you have a question, email alexis@pinespc.org.

Calendar for the Week of December 24, 2023

Monday — Merry Christmas!!

10:30 am	Christmas Breakfast	Fellowship Hall
10:45 am	Christmas service — blessing of the gifts	Fellowship Hall
12:00 pm	This Week articles due to Dan Schafer	
7:00 pm	Al-Anon	Fellowship Hall

Tuesday — office closed

7:00 am	Men's Bible Study	Zoom
9:00 am	Bulletin articles due to Laurie	

Wednesday

1:30 pm	Prayer Team	Prayer Room
5:45 pm	Pines Pealers	C12
7:00 pm	Choir Rehearsal	Choir Room
7:30 pm	AA	C3

Thursday

6:00 pm	Advent Bible Study	Fellowship Hall
7:00 pm	Stephen Ministers	Parlor
8:00 pm	AA	C3

Saturday

6:00 pm	AA	C3
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Sunday

9:00 am	Nursery open	
9:15 am	Sunday School for all	
10:15 am	Coffee Fellowship	Narthex
10:45 am	Worship	Sanctuary