



# CHRISTMAS AT PINES PRESBYTERIAN

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

## Growing Inward

Prelude

Gathering for Worship

Introit

**\*Call to Worship**

Kristen Davis-Owen

One Voice: Praise the Lord from the highest heaven.

**All Voices: The sun and moon,  
and all the stars in the sky,  
sing praises to our God.**

One Voice: Praise the Lord from the deepest valley.

**All Voices: The mountains and hills,  
and all the trees in the forest,  
worship the Lord on high.**

One Voice: Praise the Lord from heart filled with song.

**All Voices: The old and young,  
and all the saints of God,  
sing with songs of joy.**

One Voice: Come! Let us worship the ruler of heaven and earth.

**\*Hymn**

"Gentle Mary Laid Her Child"

See Screen

Prayer of Confession

Father of mercy, Mother of holy love,  
we yearn to turn to you,  
as we seek to grow in your wisdom  
and increase in your grace.

We long to crawl into your loving arms,  
and your never-failing acceptance.  
Strengthen the roots of our hope and faith,  
that we may be heirs of your promise  
all the days of our lives.

Silent Confession

Confessional Response "O Little Town of Bethlehem"

See Screen

TODAY  
December 31, 2023  
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:** Ron Strawser

**Liturgist:** Kristen Davis-Owen

\*All who are able may stand

A congregation of the



**Assurance of Pardon**

One Voice: Hear the good news.  
The time is now; the place is here; God has redeemed us from sin. God has claimed us as the children of Hope.

All Voices: **Praise God, all people, for life is given to us anew; eternity is our home. Thanks be to God. Amen.**

**Children’s Message**

Kristin Beall

**Looking Upward**

**First Scripture Reading**

Luke 2:22-40

**Anthem**

“The Sky Can Still Remember”  
Michael A. Gray

Chancel Choir

**Second Scripture Reading**

Psalms 148

**Sermon**

“Praise the Lord!”

Rev. Andy Gans

**\*Hymn**

“Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus”

See Screen

**\*Saying What We Believe (Apostle’s Creed)**

**I believe in God, the Father almighty,  
Maker of heaven and earth.**

**and in Jesus Christ his only Son, our Lord;  
who was conceived by the Holy Ghost,  
born of the Virgin Mary,  
suffered under Pontius Pilate,  
was crucified, dead, and buried;  
he descended into hell;  
the third day he rose again from the dead;  
he ascended into heaven,  
and sitteth on the right hand  
of God the Father Almighty;  
from thence he shall come to judge the quick and the dead.**

**I believe in the Holy Ghost;  
the holy catholic church;  
the communion of saints;  
the forgiveness of sins;  
the resurrection of the body;  
and the life everlasting. Amen.**

**\*Gloria Patri**

**Offering and Offertory**

**\*Doxology**

**Preparation for Prayers of the People and The Lord’s Prayer**

**\*Hymn**

“Awake! Awake, and Greet the New Morn”

See Screen

**\*Charge and Benediction**

**\*Benediction Response**

“Joy to the World”

See Screen

**Postlude**

**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

**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". Click "Enter". Enter "private registration code" and use code—PPC2024.

**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

**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](mailto:alexis@pinespc.org).

**Calling all the Children!** Children's Choir will begin on Sunday, January 7, 2024, following the worship service, in the choir room. We will plan to sing the anthem on Sunday, January 28, so come rehearse — *make a joyful noise to the Lord!!*

**Flowers:** Don't forget to honor with flowers. The cost is \$75.00 for the Sanctuary and \$50.00 for the Narthex. We will continue to offer the option to give to a benevolence or order a real arrangement. Please email or call Melissa Gravett or Linda Aldred.

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[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.

## 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.

## Calendar for the Week of December 31, 2023

### Monday — office closed

12:00 pm	This Week articles due to Dan Schafer	
1:00 pm	Congregational Fellowship Committee	C7
6:00 pm	Staff Committee	Zoom
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	Chancel Choir rehearsal	Choir Room
7:30 pm	AA	C3

### Thursday

8:00 pm	AA	C3
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### Saturday

6:00 pm	AA	C3
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### Sunday

9:00 am	Nursery open	
10:45 am	Worship	Sanctuary
12:00 pm	Youth Apartment Outreach	Youth Rooms

Today's duty elder: Judy Shamp