



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

### **Growing Inward**

Prelude

Gathering for Worship

Introit

**\*Call to Worship**

Beth Patterson

One Voice: Rejoice! God's promises are ever near.

**All Voices: We wait for Christ's birth with patience.**

One Voice: Rejoice! God's strength is with us.

**All Voices: We rest in the power of God's mighty love.**

One Voice: Rejoice! We gather in the joy of our salvation.

**All Voices: In this love, we gather to worship and pray.**

**\*Hymn**

"Awake! Awake, and Greet the New Morn"

See Screen

**Lighting of the Advent Candle**

The Onstott Family

**Prayer after Candle Lighting**

See Screen

**Advent Response** "O Come, O Come, Emmanuel", v. 1

See Screen

**Prayer of Confession**

See Screen

Upside-down God,  
you announce your coming with exciting news:  
the hungry will eat their fill,  
the oppressed with dance  
in newfound freedom;  
you proclaim your mission with hard news:  
the well-fed will go hungry,  
the powerful will lose their status.

We find ourselves squirming  
as we acknowledge our participation  
in structures that oppress and marginalize.

Help us accept and proclaim  
the coming of your Son  
as truly good news.

Give us the courage  
to set aside our privilege,  
and help bring about this upside-down world,  
where everyone can sing together for joy.

3rd SUNDAY  
December 14, 2025  
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 from the Ushers.

**Liturgist:** Beth Patterson

**Sound:** Dan Schafer

**Pines Presbyterian Church**  
is located at 12751 Kimberley Lane Houston, Texas 77024 ~ 713-467-2234 ~ pinespc.org

A Congregation of the



## Silent Confession

**Confessional Response** "O Little Town of Bethlehem", v. 4

See Screen

## Assurance of Grace

One Voice: The desert shall rejoice and blossom.  
Waters shall break forth in the wilderness.

**All Voices: The burning sand shall become a pool.**

One Voice: The God who can transform the dry lands  
can also transform the desert of our lives.

**All Voices: Abundant forgiveness is ours from the God who turns  
sorrow and sighing into joy and gladness.**

## 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.

### Looking Upward

## Scripture Reading

Matthew 11:2-11

**Response to the Word** "Born a Savior, Born a King"  
Stan Pethel

Chancel Choir

Born a Savior	We Would See Jesus
Song of Mary	Hear the Angels Sing
All the Earth Rejoices	O Heavenly Light
He Came	Born a King

### Serving Outward

## \*Saying What We Believe

*(adapted from an Affirmation of Faith by Susan Bock)*

See Screen

One Voice: In Advent, we renew our trust in God.

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

One Voice: In Advent, we renew our trust in Jesus.

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

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

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

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

**All Voices: 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.

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

**All Voices: Come, Lord Jesus, come!**

## Pray for the People of Pines

Sara Anderson	Angie Mills
Jean Breitenwischer	Donna Partee
Barbara Caffall	Herb Schulze
Marsha Deison	Tim Timmons
Sydney DeLaSalle	Juanita Vislocky
Elizabeth Deraps	Nancy Watler
Sharon Dotson	Danny Williams
Cheryl Gans	Bill Willis

## 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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<b>*Gloria Patri</b>		See Screen
<b>Offering and Offertory</b>		
<b>*Doxology</b>		
<b>Prayers of the People and The Lord's Prayer</b>		
<b>*Hymn</b>	"Gentle Mary Laid Her Child"	See Screen
<b>*Charge and Benediction</b>		
<b>*Benediction Response</b>	"Joy to the World", v. 4	See Screen
<b>Postlude</b>		

## SERMON NOTES

### *Calendar for the Week of December 14, 2025*

#### Sunday

9:00 am	Cantata Rehearsal	Sanctuary
9:15 am	Sunday School	
9:15 am	Christmas Play rehearsal/costumes in Sunday School	
10:45am	Worship — Christmas Cantata	
12:00 pm	Christmas Luncheon	Fellowship Hall

#### Monday

12:00 pm	This Week at Pines to Dan	
7:00 pm	Tending to Grief meeting	Parlor
7:30 pm	Al Anon Group	Fellowship Hall

#### Tuesday

7:00 am	Men's Bible Study	Zoom
9:00 am	Bulletin articles due to Laurie	
11:30 pm	Potpourri Circle Christmas gathering	Linda Aldred's house

#### Wednesday

1:30 pm	Weekly Prayer Team	Prayer Room
5:30 pm	Advent Art with Kezzie	Fellowship Hall
7:30 pm	Westside AA	C3

#### Thursday

6:30 pm	Missions Committee meeting	C8
7:00 pm	Stephen Ministers	Parlor
8:00 pm	AA Group	C3

#### Sunday

9:00 am	Christmas play rehearsal	Sanctuary
9:15 am	Sunday School	
10:45am	Worship — Christmas play	Sanctuary
12:00 pm	Congregational meeting	Sanctuary
12:00 pm	Caring Committee meeting	C7

Next Newsletter articles due December 19.  
Today's Duty Elder: Ron Langston

Get the latest announcements and reminders right before events happen. Find us here:

Facebook:

[www.facebook.com](https://www.facebook.com)

[PinesPresbyterianChurch](https://www.facebook.com/PinesPresbyterianChurch)

Instagram:

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

[PinesHouston](https://www.instagram.com/PinesHouston)

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

Our Worship services are recorded and livestreamed.

# OPPORTUNITIES TO GROW UPWARD, INWARD AND OUTWARD

## Church Staff

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



Connie Pike  
Director, Preschool  
Alicia Flick  
Administrative Assistant  
  
PinesPresbyterianPreschool.com

## Session

### Class of 2026

Linda Aldred  
Shirley Bollich  
Emily Gairo  
Donna Partee  
Tim Timmons

### Class of 2027

Brad Hofstetter  
Patsy Jackson  
Ron Langston  
Beth Patterson  
Phil Wetz

### Class of 2028

Mark Babineck  
Steve Ballard  
Terrie Cardwell  
Fred Ellis  
Roger Mowell

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

**You will want to join us in worship** on Sunday, December 21, for the annual Christmas play, where we take an intergenerational look at the true meaning of Christmas!

**Come experience Advent Art with Kezzie** each Wednesday of Advent from 6pm – 7pm. All ages are welcome to come and learn to paint from the master artist herself as she helps us create beautiful pieces of art that you can gift to friends and family. A light dinner will be served from 5:30-6:00pm. If you're interested, and to make sure we have enough supplies for you, please contact Pastor Andy. [andy@pinespc.org](mailto:andy@pinespc.org)

**Our Pines Advent Devotionals** are available around the church. Pick up your copy to see what your Pines family members have to share about the gifts of Christmas.

**Joy Gift Christmas Offering will be collected** during the month of December. This gift supports current and retired church leaders and the future leaders studying at Presbyterian-related colleges.

You're invited to join us on our **Footsteps of Faith through Scotland and the Reformation**, September 1-11, 2026. Our trip won't just be admiring Scotland's rugged landscapes and ancient castles, but we'll also be delving into a pivotal period of its past: the Scottish Reformation and the history of the Presbyterian Church. For a brochure and application go to [pinespc.org/Scotland](http://pinespc.org/Scotland) or talk to Pastor Andy.

**Alternative Gift Market is back** today the in Fellowship Hallway, benefitting four of Pines' Mission Partners. Donate in a loved one's name, help a worthy organization.

**Our final results this year depend on each of us!** In order to be recorded on your charitable giving report from Pines for 2025, gifts (including stock donations) must be postmarked or received via Zelle by December 31, or received in the church office no later than noon on Wednesday, December 31. If you have questions, please contact Alexis Graham at

**Congregational Meeting** — Sunday, December 21 following worship for the purpose of electing elders to the class of 2029.

**Christmas Luncheon** — Join the Pines family for the Christmas Luncheon after worship today in the Fellowship Hall.

**CanCare** — On December 5th, CanCare presented Pines Presbyterian its **2025 Partner Congregation Award** for Pines' long commitment to CanCare and specifically, our focus on CanCare during cancer survivorship month each June with our Wrapping Up Cancer Agape offering. Each June since 2019, Pines has provided both handmade and purchased scarves, shawls, blankets, caps, and more to wrap up those facing a cancer diagnosis with warmth and God's love. It was a great honor to receive this award!!