



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

Growing Inward

Prelude

Gathering for Worship

Introit

***Call to Worship**

Sam Singer

One Voice: We await the birth of a child.

All Voices: We can hardly wait.

One Voice: We await the arrival of God's greatest gift.

All Voices: We are ready to receive.

One Voice: We await the one who is God with us.

All Voices: We open our hearts to the Christ child.

One Voice: We await the salvation of the world.

***Hymn**

"Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus"

See Screen

Lighting of the Advent Candle

The Schultz Family

Prayer after Candle Lighting

See Screen

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

See Screen

Prayer of Confession

See Screen

O God,

we are so easily distracted.

We go out of our way

to see the beautiful Christmas lights,
but we fail to see the light of the world,
the light that came long ago
through the birth of a child.

We hurry to finish our Christmas shopping,

frantically seeking that perfect gift,
but we have forgotten how to be still
and treasure the Gift we have been given.

Forgive our angry tempers.

Overlook our impatience.

Teach us to see the signs of our salvation
in the smiles of children everywhere.

4th SUNDAY
December 21, 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: Sam Singer

Sound: Ron Strawser

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A Congregation of the



Silent Confession

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

Assurance of Grace

One Voice: Do not be afraid, dear friends.

All Voices: God is with us, now and forevermore.

One Voice: Christ's grace is ours, today and always.

All Voices: Emmanuel. Emmanuel. God is with us now.

Looking Upward

Scripture Reading

Matthew 1:18-25

Response to the Word

"Why Christmas?"
Elinor Brown

Christmas Play

Serving Outward

*Saying What We Believe

See Screen

(adapted from an Affirmation of Faith by Susan Bock)

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!

*Gloria Patri

See Screen

Offering and Offertory

*Doxology

Prayers of the People and The Lord's Prayer

*Hymn

"People Look East"

See Screen

*Charge and Benediction

*Benediction Response

"Joy to the World", v. 4

See Screen

Postlude

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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Calendar for the Week of December 21, 2025

Sunday

10:45am	Worship — Christmas Play	
12:00 pm	Congregational meeting	Sanctuary
12:00 pm	Caring Committee meeting	C7

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	

Wednesday

1:30 pm	Weekly Prayer Team	Prayer Room
5:00 pm	Christmas Eve Candlelight Service	Sanctuary
7:00 pm	Christmas Eve Candlelight Service	Sanctuary
7:30 pm	Westside AA	C3

Thursday — church offices closed

10:45 am	Christmas Day Worship Service	Fellowship Hall
8:00 pm	AA Group	C3

Friday — church offices closed

Sunday

9:15 am	Sunday School	
10:45 am	Worship Service	Sanctuary
2:30 pm	NAMI	C3

"Why Christmas?" Cast List

Main Character/Narrator.	Patsy Jackson
Mrs. Bickerson.	Kristen Davis-Owen
Mr. Bickerson.	Steve Ballard
Marie Bickerson.	Lily Johanneman
Junior Bickerson.	Luke Bullock
Mrs. Gimme.	Beth Patterson
Mr. Gimme.	Jim Patterson
Billy Gimme.	Eli Bullock
Bobby Gimme.	Robert Davis-Owen
Mrs. Overload.	Sandra Johanneman
Mr. Overload.	Scott Davis-Owen
Mikey Overload.	James Johanneman
Lorraine Overload.	Caitlyn Wolfe
Doris Overload.	Meredith Wolfe
Mrs. Newcomer.	Ann Guerra
Mr. Newcomer.	Chris Wolfe
Jack Newcomer.	Luke Wolfe
Julie Newcomer.	Rachel Wolfe
Jill Newcomer.	Kristen Wolfe

Mary.	Lily Johanneman
Joseph.	Luke Bullock
Shepherd.	Meredith Wolfe
Shepherd.	Caitlyn Wolfe
Angel.	Veronica Onstott
Angel.	Audrey Onstott
Angel.	Emilee Schultz
Magi.	James Johanneman
Magi.	Eli Bullock
Magi.	Robert Davis-Owen

SERMON NOTES

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

Facebook:

www.facebook.com

PinesPresbyterianChurch

Instagram:

[Instagram.com/](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.

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.

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.

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 or talk to Pastor Andy.

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 alexis@pinespc.org.

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!!



CHRISTMAS EVE AND CHRISTMAS DAY @PINES+

December 24
Christmas Eve Candlelight Worship | 5:00 & 7:00pm
Holy Communion at Both Services
Both Services Livestreamed

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

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Next Newsletter articles due January 23.
Today's Duty Elder: Mark Babineck