



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

### **Growing Inward**

Prelude

Gathering for Worship

Introit

**\*Call to Worship**

Phil Wetz

One Voice: Prepare the way of the Lord.

**All Voices: God's kingdom has drawn near.**

One Voice: Prepare the way of peace.

**All Voices: God's salvation is at hand.**

One Voice: Prepare the way of righteousness.

**All Voices: God's Spirit moves among us.**

One Voice: Prepare the way of the Lord.

**All Voices: Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord.**

**\*Hymn**

"Angels, from the Realms of Glory"

See Screen

Lighting of the Advent Candle

Prayer after Candle Lighting

See Screen

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

See Screen

Prayer of Confession

See Screen

O God,

the stories of our faith have lost their power.

We have heard the prophecies spoken so many times,

the promises retold again and again,

the call to prepare ourselves for your coming

repeated so often,

we don't really hear or heed them anymore.

We have replaced these messages of life:

with guessing what presents we are getting,

with preparing for parties

and the social obligations of Christmas.

Bring us back to a sense of mystery:

a sense of awe, a sense of wonder,

a sense of excitement, a sense of anticipation,

a sense that something special

is about to break into our everyday world.

Help us prepare our hearts, souls, and minds

for the coming of the messiah.

2nd SUNDAY  
December 7, 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:** Phil Wetz

**Sound:** Ron Strawser

#### **Pines Presbyterian Church**

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

**Flowers:** The Sanctuary flowers today are given to the Glory of God and in honor of Val and Linda Aldred's 50th wedding anniversary.

A Congregation of the



## Silent Confession

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

## Assurance of Grace

One Voice: We confess, and so we rejoice, for God has accepted us for who we are, and claimed us as God's own children.

**All Voices: We lift our praise to God, who fills us with hope and grace.  
Thanks be to God, we are forgiven! Amen.**

## 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

## First Reading

Matthew 3:1-12

## Anthem

"Silent Night"  
Franz Gruber, arr. Jim Clancy

Space City Sound

## Gospel Reading

Isaiah 11:1-10

## Sermon

"Flipping Christmas" Rev. Andy Gans

### Serving Outward

## \*Hymn

"Lo, How a Rose E'er Blooming" See Screen

## \*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!**

## 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, 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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The Abingdon Worship Annual  
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**\*Gloria Patri** See Screen

**Offering and Offertory** "Coventry Carol" Space City Sound  
Jim Croo, arr. The Barbershop Harmony Society

**\*Doxology**

**Communion of the People and The Lord's Prayer**

**\*Hymn** "May the God of Hope Go with Us" See Screen

**\*Charge and Benediction**

**\*Benediction Response** "Joy to the World", v. 4 See Screen

**Postlude**

## ***Calendar for the Week of December 7, 2025***

### **Sunday**

9:15 am	Sunday School	
9:15 am	Christmas Play rehearsal	Sanctuary
10:45am	Worship	

### **Monday**

12:00 pm	This Week at Pines to Dan	
12:00 pm	Worship Committee meeting	C10
6:00 pm	Property Committee meeting	C7
6:00 pm	Pre-school Committee meeting	C3
7:00 pm	Tending to Grief meeting	Parlor
7:30 pm	Al Anon Group	Fellowship Hall
8:00 pm	Fonn Villas	C3

### **Tuesday**

7:00 am	Men's Bible Study	Zoom
9:00 am	Bulletin articles due to Laurie	
11:30 am	Clara Gay Circle	C3
12:30 pm	Blue Christmas service	Sanctuary

### **Wednesday**

1:30 pm	Weekly Prayer Team	Prayer Room
5:30 pm	Advent Art with Kezzie	Fellowship Hall
6:30 pm	Mission Committee meeting	C3
7:00 pm	Chancel Choir rehearsal	Choir Room
7:30 pm	Westside AA	C3

### **Thursday**

7:00 pm	Stephen Ministers	Parlor
7:00 pm	Mahjong	Cafe
8:00 pm	AA Group	C3

### **Saturday**

12:00 pm	Chancel Choir rehearsal	Sanctuary
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### **Sunday**

9:00 am	Cantata rehearsal	Sanctuary
9:15 am	Sunday School	
10:45am	Worship—Christmas Cantata	Sanctuary
12:00 pm	Christmas Luncheon	Fellowship Hall
2:30 pm	NAMI	C3

## **SERMON NOTES**

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

Facebook:

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

Next Newsletter articles due December 19.  
Today's Duty Elder: Steve Ballard

# 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.

**Save the Date** — Join us Sunday, December 14th for the Christmas Cantata followed by the Christmas Luncheon, hosted by the Congregational Fellowship Committee.

**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**, Dec. 7 & 14, in Fellowship Hall Hallway, benefitting four of Pines' Mission Partners. Donate in a loved one's name, help a worthy organization.

**Response to MAM's Urgent Request:** The Missions Committee gave \$500 for MAM's Christmas Share program. If you're interested in donating toys, contact Margaret Schafer for all the details.

**It's time for our Sign-ups for Poinsettias** from Brookwood to decorate our Sanctuary for the Christmas Season. The cost is \$12.00. Sign up in the hallway outside of Fellowship Hall today or email/call Linda or Melissa ASAP. Please designate whether the poinsettias are "In Honor Of" or "In Memory Of" when you make your selection and you may order as many as you like. The poinsettias may be taken home after the last service on Christmas Eve, December 24<sup>th</sup>. Linda Aldred [lindaaldred1@aol.com](mailto:lindaaldred1@aol.com), Melissa Gravett [mgravett0123@gmail.com](mailto:mgravett0123@gmail.com)

**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.

**Today we will be celebrating the Lord's Supper.** When the time comes during worship to partake in Communion, you will be invited to come down the center aisle to receive a piece of gluten-friendly bread and grape juice. After being given the juice and the bread, please return to your seat and hold the elements until we can all partake together, as one church.