



ADVENT AT PINES PRESBYTERIAN

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

Growing Inward

Gathering for Worship

Introit "Prepare Ye" Stephen Schwartz

Prelude

***Call to Worship** Morriss Partee

One Voice: Listen to what the Lord our God says to us:

**All Voices: my hope for you is peace;
Salvation is my gift in every moment.**

One Voice: See what the Lord our God reveals to us:

**All Voices: righteousness is the path to the kingdom;
faithfulness is the highway being built for us.**

One Voice: Tell what the Lord our God asks us to speak:

**All Voices: prepare God's way!
The Christ is coming to redeem us.**

***Hymn** "Prepare the Way, O Zion" See Screen

Lighting of the Advent Candle Patsy Jackson and Nolan Holland

Prayer After Candle Lighting

Lord Jesus, as we search for signs of peace this week, help us to become the signs of peace 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's peace. Amen.

Advent Response "O Come, O Come Emmanuel" See Screen

Prayer of Confession

We have heard that our penalty has been paid, God of Comfort,
yet we still insist on earning our way into your heart.

We confess that you are patient with us,
but wish you would act quickly against those who hurt us.

We confess your word will stand forever,
but it is our words of pain and anger
that cause long-term harm to others.

Your Messenger has come, Approaching God,
crying out to us of your forgiveness and hope.

2nd SUNDAY
December 10, 2023
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 with the Ushers.

Sound: Ron Strawser

Liturgist: Morriss Partee

Flowers: The Advent wreath is in memory of Becky O'Connor.

*All who are able may stand

A congregation of the



Through Jesus Christ, our Lord and Savior, you speak to us:
not of punishment, but of peace;
not of judgment, but of justice;
not of a sentence, but salvation.

Silent Confession

Confessional Response "Breathe" See Screen

Assurance of Grace

Leader: Hear the Good News God speaks to you:
I love you;
I forgive you;
I restore you to new life.

People: **We will not ignore the fact that God comes:
not to condemn, but to comfort us;
not to scold, but to speak tenderly to us
of hope, of love, of joy. Thanks be to God. Amen.**

Children's Message

Looking Upward

First Reading Mark 1:1-8

Anthem "Angels Are Making Their Rounds" Chancel Choir
From "Night of the Father's Love", Pepper Choplin

Second Reading Isaiah 40:1-11

Sermon "So Many Voices" Rev. Andy Gans

*Hymn "Lift Up Your Heads, Ye Mighty Gates" See Screen

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

Leader: In Advent, we renew 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: In Advent, we renew 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: In Advent, we renew 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.**

Leader: In Advent, we renew 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: In Advent, we renew our trust that Jesus is still with us.

People: **Come, Lord Jesus, come!**

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

Words printed by permission
CCLI 998238
Portions of our liturgy are from
The Abingdon Worship Annual
Copyright © 2019 by Abingdon Press
and the Presbyterian Outlook. Used by
permission.

*Gloria Patri See Screen

Offering and Offertory

*Doxology

Preparation for Prayers of the People and The Lord's Prayer

*Hymn "Angels We Have Heard on High" See Screen

*Charge and Benediction

*Benediction Response "Joy to the World" See Screen

Postlude



Save The Date!
December 17

Christmas Cantata - 10:45am
Christmas Lunch - Noon

Sign Up to Bring a Dessert!



Together @PINES+

CHRISTMAS EVE
AND
CHRISTMAS DAY

December 24 @PINES+

Sunday Worship | 10:45am
Christmas Eve Candlelight Worship | 5:00 & 7:00pm
Communion at Both Evening Services
All Services Livestreamed

December 25

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

SERMON NOTES

access
ONLINE GIVING
scan QR code
with your camera phone:



[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/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.

Poinsettias arrive this week! Hard copy versions of the Poinsettia list can be found on the credenza in the Narthex.

Calendar for the Week of December 10, 2023

Sunday

12:00 pm	2nd Sunday Lunch	Café' Express
3:30pm	Raise up Families dinner	Fellowship Hall
3:30 pm	Pines Youth Group	Sanctuary & Youth rooms

Monday

12:00 pm	Worship Committee meeting	C-8
12:00 pm	This Week articles due to Dan Schafer	
1:00 pm	Stephen Leaders	C7
5:45 pm	Tending to Grief Potluck dinner	Parlor
7:00 pm	Tending to Grief	Parlor
7:00 pm	Al-Anon	Fellowship Hall

Tuesday

7:00 am	Men's Bible Study	Zoom
9:00 am	Bulletin articles due to Laurie	
11:30 am	Clara Gay Circle	C3
6:00 pm	Miriam Circle	C8
6:30 pm	Missions Committee meeting	C3

Wednesday

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

Thursday

6:00 pm	Advent Bible Study	Fellowship Hall
8:00 pm	AA	C3

Saturday

6:00 pm	AA	C3
---------	----	----

Sunday

9:00 am	Nursery open	
9:15 am	Sunday School for all	
10:15 am	Coffee Fellowship	Narthex
10:45 am	Worship—Christmas Cantata	Sanctuary
12:00 pm	Christmas Luncheon	Fellowship Hall

Today's duty elder: Walt Penberthy