

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 Phil Wetz

One Voice: Our souls magnify the Lord.

All Voices: Our spirits rejoice in God our Savior.
One Voice: The Mighty One has done great things for us.

All Voices: Holy is God's name.

One Voice: God's mercy is ever near, from generation

to generation.

All Voices: God's strength scatters the proud,

but lifts the humble of heart.

One Voice; God's love fills us up, nourishing our hungry souls.

All Voices: God's grace has called us here,

strengthening our lives of faith.

*Hymn "It Came Upon a Midnight Clear!" See Screen

Lighting of the Advent Candle

Babineck Family

Prayer After Candle Lighting

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

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

Prayer of Confession

We watch for packages to arrive and Christmas cards to be delivered, but we do not keep our eyes open for your coming, Approaching God. We expect our Christmas "wish list" to be filled, and for the pile under the tree to grow and grow, but we hope you do not expect to transform our lives.

We notice where to find the best bargains, and what decorations our neighbors have put on their houses,

but we do not notice the little, the least, the lost, the last walking down our streets.

We ask you to forgive us, Lord.

December 24, 2023

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: Phil Wetz

Flowers: The Advent wreath is given to the glory of God and in memory of Becky O'Connor.

*All who are able may stand

A congregation of the



Silent Confession

Confessional Response "Breathe" See Screen

Assurance of Grace

One Voice: Rejoice! God has looked with favor upon the powerless

and the lowly.

All Voices: Christ has come to redeem us from our sin.

The Spirit has strengthened us with the power of

grace and love.

One Voice: In the mercy of the triune God, we all are forgiven.

All Voices: Thanks be to God!

Children's Message Kristin Beall

Looking Upward

First Scripture Reading Luke 1:47-55

Anthem "Candlelight Carol" John Rutter

Sydney Conner, Laurie Conner, Allie Guerra, Donna Partee, Faith Taylor

Second Scripture Reading Luke 1:26-38

Sermon "Perplexed" Rev. Andy Gans

*Hymn "Great Is Thy Faithfulness" 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 Bob Barr Jean Breitenwischer Barbara Caffall Carolyn Craig

Carol Schneider

Sam Singer

Nancy Watler Darlene Wendt Danny Williams

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.

A Stephen Ministry



Congregation

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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 "Love Has Come" See Screen

*Charge and Benediction

*Benediction Response "Joy to the World" See Screen

Postlude

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.fmsc.org/pines then click "Volunteer".

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 Presbyterian-related schools and colleges equipping communities of color. Please use the special "Christmas Joy" envelope located in the pew backs.

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.

CHRISTMAS EVE 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





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 UPWARD, INWARD AND OUTWARD

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

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.

A hard copy of the Poinsettia list can be found on the credenza in the Narthex.

Calendar for the Week of December 24, 2023

Sunday		
5:00 pm	Christmas Eve Candlelight Service	Sanctuary
7:00 nm	Christmas Eve Candlelight Service	Sancutary

Monday — office closed

10:30 am	Christmas Breakfast	Fellowship Hall
10:45 am	Worship	Fellowship Hall
12:00 pm	This Week articles due to Dan Schafer	•

7:00 pm Al-Anon Fellowship Hall

Tuesday — office closed

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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	Sanctuary
7:30 pm	AA	C3

7:30 pm AA

Thursday 8:00 pm C3 AA

Friday

Saturday 6:00 pm C3 AA

Sunday

- aa.,	
9:00 am	Nursery open
9:15 am	Sunday School for all
10:15 am	Coffee Fellowship

Narthex 10:45 am Worship Sanctuary

Today's duty elder: Violet O'Brien