



# Houston Lake

*Presbyterian Church*

*Proclaiming and Living in the Light  
of the Gospel of Jesus Christ*

## *Welcome to HLPC!*

*Houston Lake Presbyterian Church (PCA) is here for the glory of God to be a graciously redeemed worshiping body that proclaims and lives in the light of the gospel of Jesus Christ so that people, families, and communities in Houston County and beyond may know Christ in all His fullness.*

Please set all mobile phones to silent mode.

Children of all ages are welcome in the worship service. A crying room is in the back of the sanctuary. Children ages 4 yrs-2<sup>nd</sup> grade are dismissed during the sermon for “Teach Me to Worship” in the church Fellowship Hall.



For **online giving** you may use this QR code:

*The Lord's Supper is being served this morning.*

HLPC welcomes all Christians who are willing to forsake their sin and trust in Jesus Christ for salvation, and who are baptized members of a congregation that proclaims the gospel, to participate in the Lord's Supper. Children who have been examined by the elders and admitted to the Lord's Table are able to partake of this Sacrament. If you are not a Christian, or you are not prepared to share in this sacrament, we encourage you to spend this time in prayer. [Gluten free wafers are in the center bread cups].

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*Leading us in worship today:*

Pastoral Intern Zach Hood

**LORD'S DAY WORSHIP**  
**DECEMBER 17, 2023**  
***THE THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT***

**GATHERING**

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**PRELUDE**

*We enter the sanctuary and gather as God's people with the intent of worshiping the one, true, and living God. Let the music being played remind us of our purpose here this morning.*

**WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS**

*Please fill out the connection card located in the seatbacks and drop it in the collection boxes located in the foyer at the end of the service.*

**SILENT PREPARATION FOR WORSHIP**

**†CALL TO WORSHIP** - *The First Word*

*We continue our celebration of **Advent**- the season of preparation for the coming of God's Son. We are using an Advent Wreath to remind us that the light of the world has come! The wreath has five candles: four for each of the four Sundays of Advent and the fifth is the Christ candle, which we will light at our Christmas Eve Candlelight service.*

Leader: Jesus said, "I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will not walk in darkness, but will have the light of life."

**All: We light this candle as a sign of the coming light of Christ.**

Leader: And I will lead the blind in a way that they do not know, in paths that they have not known I will guide them. I will turn darkness before them into light, the rough places into level ground. These are the things I do, and I do not forsake them. (Isaiah 42:16)

**All: Come, Lord Jesus, our light and life.**

**†PRAYER FOR GOD'S PRESENCE**

†**HYMN OF PRAISE**

"O Come, All Ye Faithful"

#208

†**CORPORATE CONFESSION OF OUR FAITH**

*Heidelberg Catechism, Lord's Day 1*

Minister: What is your only comfort in life and in death?

People: **That I am not my own, but belong- body and soul- to my faithful Savior, Jesus Christ. He has fully paid for all my sins with his precious blood, and has set me free from the tyranny of the devil. He also watches over me in such a way that not a hair can fall from my head without the will of my Father in heaven; in fact, all things must work together for my salvation. Because I belong to him, Christ, by his Holy Spirit, assures me of eternal life and makes me wholeheartedly willing and ready from now on to live for him.**

Minister: What must you know to live and die in the joy of this comfort?

People: **Three things: first, how great my sin and misery are; second, how I am set free from all my sins and misery; third, how I am to thank God for such deliverance.**

## **REMEMBERING THE GOSPEL**

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### **CALL TO CONFESS OUR SINS**

*Confession of sin is a way that we are refreshed in the gospel and are reminded that it is truly good news. Rather than wallowing in our sin, we deal with sin and guilt by confessing it and claiming God's promise of forgiveness in Christ.*

Search me, O God, and know my heart! Try me and know my thoughts! And see if there be any grievous way in me, and lead me in the way everlasting! (Psalm 139:23-24)

### **SILENT CONFESSION OF SIN**

#### **HYMN OF CONFESSION & GRACE**

"It Came Upon the Midnight Clear"

#200

#### **†WORDS OF GRACE**

Minister: The LORD passed before [Moses] and proclaimed, "The LORD, the LORD, a God merciful and gracious, slow to anger, and abounding in steadfast love and faithfulness, keeping steadfast love for thousands, forgiving iniquity and transgression and sin," (Exodus 34:6-7)

People: **Our God is a merciful and gracious God who sent His only Son to atone for our sins. We stand forgiven and clothed in the righteousness of Christ! Praise be to God!**

#### **†GREETING ONE ANOTHER**

*Therefore welcome one another as Christ has welcomed you, for the glory of God. (Romans 15:7)*

#### **†HYMN OF CELEBRATION**

"Go Tell It on the Mountain"

#224

## **SPECIAL MUSIC**

HLPC Ensemble

“Hark! the Herald Angels Sing”

## **PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE**

Ruling Elder Chuck Ezell

**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.**

*Children ages 4 to second grade will come to the front to pray with the Pastor before being dismissed to their time of “Teach Me to Worship.”*

## **HEARING GOD SPEAK**

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†**SCRIPTURE READING**

Jeremiah 33:14-22

p.662

Minister: This is the Word of the Lord!

People: **Thanks be to God!**

## **SERMON**

Rev. Paul L. Bankson

*Christmas Comfort*

## **MEETING GOD AT HIS TABLE**

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Words of Institution

Sharing of the Bread and the Cup

## **COMMUNION HYMN**

“All to Jesus I Surrender”

#562

*(We will sing stanzas 1& 2 as we distribute the bread and stanzas 3 & 4 as we distribute the cup)*

## **RESPONDING TO THE GOD OF GRACE**

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### **OFFERING**

*Our giving to God is a response to the gospel. We give as an act of worship and as an expression of our trust in God to meet all our needs. You may place your gifts in the offering box in the church foyer or you may use the QR code on inside cover of this bulletin for online giving.*

Each one must give as he has decided in his heart, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver.  
(2 Corinthians 9:7)

### **DEPARTING**

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#### **†BENEDICTION** - *The Last Word*

*God always has the last word in our worship, and for those who are in Christ Jesus these are always words of blessing. These words come from God, and not from the Pastor. As an expression of receiving this blessing we open our hands.*

### **SINGING OF THE DOXOLOGY**

Hymn #731

## SERMON NOTES:

Song lyrics reprinted by permission. CCLI licenses #2633730 and #202900-/ +8233 (streaming).

**Hymns:** Public Domain

## THIS WEEK AT HLPC

Sunday      8:45 am   Prayer  
              9:15 am   School of Discipleship  
              10:30 am   Worship Service  
              6:00 pm   Youth Group

\*No Midweek studies until January

## Christmas at HLPC

12/18      Prime Timers Christmas gathering  
12/20      Caroling at the Canopy (meet at HLPC at 3:45pm)  
12/22      Young Adult Christmas at Shane & Christina Halls  
12/24      Christmas Eve Candlelight service 5:30pm

## **Children's Ministry Volunteer Schedule**

*Teach Me to Worship Coordinator:* Cathy Alvord

*Nursery Coordinator:* Jessica Fuqua

<b>ROOM</b>	<b>December 17</b>	<b>December 24</b>	<b>December 31</b>
<b>School of Discipleship</b>	Connie Bankson Kelly Moore	N/A	N/A
<b>Walkers &amp; 2/3's</b>	Christina & Ryan Watson	Jessica Fuqua	Laura Duvall Joanna Kotlarski Amanda Pradarits
<b>Teach Me to Worship</b>	Kim Waters Jennifer Waters Sarah Shelton	Kim Waters, Jennifer Waters Amy Booth	Cathy Alvord

**GREETERS:** Jim & Lyn Micko

*Next week: Tieman & Angie Slagh*

**SAFETY TEAM:** Jed Jessup

*Next Week: Jim Micko*

**SOUND TEAM:** Dave Maddox, Josh Strasser, Larry Wadsworth

*Next Week: Tony Bermudez, Jed Jessup, Larry Wadsworth*

### **Women's Ministries**

*Women in the Church Coordinator:* Monica Kinnebrew  
tekbrew1@gmail.com

*"Take Them a Meal" Coordinator:* Rachel Wadsworth  
ugagirl85@gmail.com

- Women of the Word Study, Wednesday, 6:30 pm
- Women of the Word Study, Thursday, 9:30-11 am
- Women of the Word Study, Thursday, 6:30-8 pm

### **Men's Ministries**

*Men's Ministries Coordinator:* Erik Fuqua etfuqua@gmail.com

- Men's Breakfast 2<sup>nd</sup> Saturday (resumes in January)
- Men's MidWeek Study (Wed.) 6:30pm (resumes in January)
- Friday: 7:30 am via Zoom. Contact Paul Bankson for information.

### **Prime Timers - Fellowship & Lunch Monthly**

### **LIFE Groups (Call the church office for information)**

<b>Bankson</b>	2 <sup>nd</sup> & 4 <sup>th</sup> Sunday	6:00 pm
<b>Epperson</b>	Every other Sunday	6:00 pm
<b>Kinnebrew/Moore</b>	2 <sup>nd</sup> Sunday	5:30 pm
<b>Waters/Bermudez</b>	One Sunday a month	12:00 pm
<b>Rahn/Slagh</b>	4 <sup>th</sup> Sunday	12:00 pm
<b>Young Adults</b>	First Saturday of the month	11am

## **HLPC ELDERS (Session)**

Paul Bankson: Moderator

Michael Collins: Youth Ministry

Keith Duvall: Clerk of Session/ Administration

Kevin Epperson: Worship

Chuck Ezell: LIFE Groups

Erik Fuqua: Men's Ministry

Gregg Jerome: Youth Ministry

Todd Kinnebrew: Women in the Church/ Missions

Kenny Rahn: (Elder Emeritus) Shut-ins

Tieman Slagh: Children's Ministry

Sean Waters: Shepherding

## **HLPC DEACONS**

Kirby Moore, *Chairman*

Dave Maddox

Tony Bermudez

Bob McCullough

Joe Weiss

Roger Hill

Jed Jessup

## **OUR STAFF**

**Paul L. Bankson** ♦ *Pastor* ♦ [pbankson@houstonlakepres.org](mailto:pbankson@houstonlakepres.org)

**Zach Hood** ♦ *Pastoral Intern for Student Ministries* ♦  
[zhood@houstonlakepres.org](mailto:zhood@houstonlakepres.org)

**Kristin Epperson** ♦ *Office Administrator* ♦  
[kepperson@houstonlakepres.org](mailto:kepperson@houstonlakepres.org)

**Elizabeth Weiss** ♦ *Music Director* ♦  
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**Cathy Alvord** ♦ *Children's Ministry Director* ♦  
[calvord@houstonlakepres.org](mailto:calvord@houstonlakepres.org)

**Heather Collins** ♦ *Bookkeeper* ♦ [hcollins@houstonlakepres.org](mailto:hcollins@houstonlakepres.org)

**James Galeazzo** ♦ *Facilities Manager* ♦ [jimg208@gmail.com](mailto:jimg208@gmail.com)

**Jessica Fuqua** ♦ *Nursery Coordinator* ♦ [Jessfuqua@gmail.com](mailto:Jessfuqua@gmail.com)

## MISSIONS & MINISTRIES WE SUPPORT

- ◆ **Grace Bailey** - RUF intern, UGA
- ◆ **Marshall & Cathryn Brown** - Czech Republic
- ◆ **Bob & Andrea Burnham** - Odessa, Ukraine (MTW)
- ◆ **Jeff & Robyn Candell** - Church planting in British Columbia (MNA)
- ◆ **Covenant Care Services** - Christian Adoption Agency serving the State of Georgia.
- ◆ **John & Sarah Gordy**- RUF @ Valdosta State University
- ◆ **Tim & Anna Grider** - RUF @ Columbus State University
- ◆ **Marlin & Caroline Harris** -RUF @ Mercer University
- ◆ **Russell & Amanda Jeffares**- church planting in Ireland with Serge
- ◆ **Clay & Hannah Jones**- El Salvador (MTW)
- ◆ **Samaritan's Purse** - **Operation Christmas Child**
- ◆ **Mike & Eli Sabin** - Trans World Radio in Guam (MTW)
- ◆ **Seminario Reformado Latinoamericano (SRL)** - Reformed Seminary serving Latin America, Noe & Mimi Acosta
- ◆ **Harvey & Carol Spears** - in Orlando, FL with Cru
- ◆ **Strong Tower Fellowship** - Macon, GA
- ◆ **Trail Life Troop 4316**
- ◆ **Ben & Shanna Wright**- Wycliffe Bible Translators

### **Houston Lake Presbyterian Church (PCA)**

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Kathleen, GA 31047  
478.987.7503

[www.houstonlakepres.org](http://www.houstonlakepres.org)

WiFi password HLPC-Members: *faithalone*



**PRESBYTERIAN  
CHURCH IN  
AMERICA**