



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-2nd 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].

Leading us in worship today:

Pastoral Intern Zach Hood

LORD'S DAY WORSHIP
DECEMBER 24, 2023
THE FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT

GATHERING

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: Then shall your light break forth like the dawn,
and your healing shall spring up speedily;
your righteousness shall go before you;
the glory of the Lord shall be your rear guard. (Isaiah 58:8)

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

†PRAYER FOR GOD'S PRESENCE

†HYMN OF PRAISE

"Hark! The Herald Angels Sing"

#203

†CORPORATE CONFESSION OF OUR FAITH

Westminster Shorter Catechism, #21-23

Minister: Who is the Redeemer of God's elect?

People: **The only Redeemer of God's elect is the Lord Jesus Christ, who, being the eternal Son of God, became man, and so was, and continues to be, God and man in two distinct natures, and one person, forever.**

Minister: How did Christ, being the Son of God, become man?

People: **Christ, the Son of God, became man, by taking to himself a true body, and a reasonable soul, being conceived by the power of the Holy Ghost, in the womb of the Virgin Mary, and born of her, yet without sin.**

Minister: What offices does Christ execute as our Redeemer?

People: **Christ, as our Redeemer, executes the offices of a prophet, of a priest, and of a king, both in his estate of humiliation and exaltation.**

REMEMBERING THE GOSPEL

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.

Behold, the LORD's hand is not shortened, that it cannot save, or his ear dull, that it cannot hear; but your iniquities have made a separation between you and your God, and your sins have hidden his face from you so that he does not hear. (Isaiah 59:1-2)

SILENT CONFESSON OF SIN

HYMN OF CONFESSON & GRACE

"What Child Is This?"

#213

†WORDS OF GRACE

Minister: She will bear a son, and you shall call his name
Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins.
(Matthew 1:21)

People: **We rejoice in the gift of God's Son, Jesus Christ,
who is our Redeemer from sin's power and it's
penalty!**

†GREETING ONE ANOTHER

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

†HYMN OF CELEBRATION

"Angels We Have Heard on High"

#214

SPECIAL MUSIC

Anna Shelton & Elizabeth Weiss

"The First Noel"

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

Ruling Elder Erik Fuqua

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

†**SCRIPTURE READING**

John 1:9-13

p.886

Minister: This is the Word of the Lord!

People: **Thanks be to God!**

SERMON

Rev. Paul L. Bankson

Joy to the World!

MEETING GOD AT HIS TABLE

Words of Institution

Sharing of the Bread and the Cup

COMMUNION HYMN "Come Behold the Wondrous Mystery"
(We will sing stanzas 1& 2 as we distribute the bread and stanzas 3 & 4 as we distribute the cup)

1. Come behold the wondrous myst'ry
In the dawning of the King.
He the theme of heaven's praises, robed in frail humanity.
In our longing, in our darkness,
now the light of life has come
Look to Christ, who condescended
Took on flesh to ransom us.

2. Come behold the wondrous myst'ry:
He ,the perfect Son of Man:
In His living, in His suffering, never trace nor stain of sin.
See the true and better Adam
come to save the hell-bound man.
Christ the great and sure fulfillment
Of the law; in Him we stand.

3. Come behold the wondrous myst'ry:
Christ the Lord upon the tree.
In the stead of ruined sinners Hangs the Lamb in victory.
See the price of our redemption;
See the Father's plan unfold.
Bringing many sons to glory grace unmeasured love untold

4. Come behold the wondrous myst'ry:
Slain by death the God of life.
But no grave could e'er restrain Him.
Praise the Lord; He is alive!
What a foretaste of deliv'rance; how unwavering our hope.
Christ in power resurrected, as we will be when He comes.

RESPONDING TO THE GOD OF GRACE

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.

And God is able to make all grace abound to you, so that having all sufficiency in all things at all times, you may abound in every good work. (2 Corinthians 9:8)

DEPARTING

†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

Please join us **tonight at 5:30pm** for our **Christmas Eve Candlelight service**. There will not be a nursery for this service.

The church office is closed this coming week. Please be reminded that in order for gifts to be counted toward 2023 they must be received and/or postmarked by December 31, 2023.

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Hymns: Public Domain

THIS WEEK AT HLPC

Sunday 9:45 am Prayer
10:30 am Worship Service
5:30 pm Christmas Eve Candlelight Service

*No Midweek studies until January

Children's Ministry Volunteer Schedule

Teach Me to Worship Coordinator: Cathy Alvord

Nursery Coordinator: Jessica Fuqua

ROOM	December 24	December 31	January 7
School of Discipleship	N/A	N/A	Heather Collins Bonnie Martin
Walkers & 2/3's	Jessica Fuqua	Laura Duvall Joanna Kotlarski Amanda Pradarits	Jennifer & Sean Waters
Teach Me to Worship	Kim Waters, Jennifer Waters Amy Booth	Cathy Alvord	Suzanne & Angelica Williams Carlie Ezell

GREETERS: Tieman & Angie Slagh

Next week: Kevin & Kristin Epperson

SAFETY TEAM: Jim Micko

Next Week: Edith Norniella

SOUND TEAM: Tony Bermudez, Jed Jessup, Larry Wadsworth

Next Week: David Carnes, Dave Maddox, Joshua Strasser

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 2nd Saturday (resumes in January)
- Men's MidWeek Study (Wed.) 6:30pm (resumes in January)
- Friday: 7:30 am Bible Study via Zoom. Contact Paul Bankson for information (resumes January 5).

Prime Timers - Fellowship & Lunch Monthly

LIFE Groups (Call the church office for information)

Bankson	2 nd & 4 th Sunday	6:00 pm
Epperson	Every other Sunday	6:00 pm
Kinnebrew/Moore	2 nd Sunday	5:30 pm
Waters/Bermudez	One Sunday a month	12:00 pm
Rahn/Slagh	4 th Sunday	12:00 pm
Young Adults	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

Zach Hood ♦ *Pastoral Intern for Student Ministries* ♦
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James Galeazzo ♦ *Facilities Manager* ♦ jimg208@gmail.com

Jessica Fuqua ♦ *Nursery Coordinator* ♦ 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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www.houstonlakepres.org

WiFi password HLPC-Members: *faithalone*



**PRESBYTERIAN
CHURCH IN
AMERICA**