



HOUSTON LAKE

Presbyterian Church

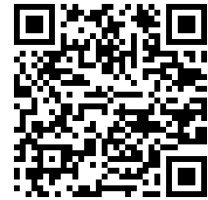
*Proclaiming and Living in the Light
of the Gospel of Jesus Christ*

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].

Assisting in worship today:

Pastoral Intern Zach Hood

LORD'S DAY WORSHIP
DECEMBER 22, 2024
THE FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT

† -indicates congregation is to stand

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 "O Come, All Ye Faithful" #208

†CORPORATE CONFESSION OF OUR FAITH

The Heidelberg Catechism, #35-36

Q. What do you confess when you say: "He was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the virgin Mary?"

A. The eternal Son of God, who is and remains true and eternal God, took upon himself true human nature from the flesh and blood of the virgin Mary, through the working of the Holy Spirit. Thus, he is also the true seed of David, and like his brothers in every respect, yet without sin.

Q. What benefit do you receive from the holy conception and birth of Christ?

A. He is our Mediator, and with his innocence and perfect holiness covers, in the sight of God, my sin, in which I was conceived and born.

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 CONFESSION OF SIN

HYMN OF CONFESSION AND GRACE

“O Come, O Come, Emmanuel”

#190

†WORDS OF GRACE

Leader: 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

*“Twelve Days of Christmas Praise”
HLPC Ensemble*

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 first grade who wish to attend “Teach Me to
Worship” time are welcome to come to the front to pray with the
Pastor.*

HEARING GOD SPEAK

†**SCRIPTURE READING**

Matthew 2:13-23

p.808

Minister: This is the Word of the Lord!

People: **Thanks be to God!**

SERMON

Rev. Paul Bankson

“The Part of the Story We Often Skip”

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 mystery
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 mystery
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 mystery
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,
Grace unmeasured, love untold.

4. Come, behold the wondrous mystery
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 deliverance
How unwavering our hope!
Christ in power resurrected
As we will be when he comes.

What a foretaste of deliverance
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. Do not neglect to do good and to share what you have, for such sacrifices are pleasing to God. (Hebrews 13:16)

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 for our
Christmas Eve Candlelight Service
at 5:30pm.

No School of Discipleship next Sunday, December 29th.

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Hymns: Public Domain

THIS WEEK AT HLPC:

Sunday 9:45 am: Prayer

10:30 am: Worship Service

Tuesday: 5:30 pm: Christmas Eve Candlelight Service

Children's Ministry Volunteer Schedule

Teach Me to Worship Coordinator: Cathy Alvord

Nursery Coordinator: Tish Roberts, Laura Duvall

ROOM	December 22	December 29	Jan 5
School of Discipleship	N/A	N/A	Grace Jeter Becca Bright
Walkers & 2/3's	Sherry & Matt Walker Jessica Fuqua	Angie Slagh Courtney Martin Amy Booth	Kristen & Will Daniels Holly Kirkpatrick
Teach Me to Worship	Cathy Alvord Jake Barker	Cathy Alvord Hali Sampson	Shane & Christina Hall

GREETERS: Mary Catherine Cutrell, Edith Norniella

Next week: Kirby & Kelly Moore

SAFETY TEAM: Matt Walker

Next Week: Will Booth

SOUND TEAM: Jed Jessup, David Carnes

Next Week: Joshua Strasser, Dave Maddox

USHERS: Lee Ledger, John Kotlarski

Next Week: Kody Morrison, Daniel Martin

HLPC 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

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

HLPC STAFF

Paul L. Bankson ♦ *Pastor* ♦ pbankson@houstonlakepres.org

Zach Hood ♦ *Pastoral Intern for Student Ministries* ♦

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Heather Collins ♦ *Bookkeeper* ♦ hcollins@houstonlakepres.org

Tish Roberts & Laura Duvall ♦ *Nursery Coordinators* ♦

joeandtish@gmail.com, kandlduvall@gmail.com

Women's Ministries

Women in the Church Coordinator: Holly Kirkpatrick
hollyandhenry@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, 9:30-11am

Men's Ministries

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

- Men's Monthly Fellowship; join us for breakfast in January
- Men's MidWeek Study (Wednesday) Contact Paul Bankson for information [on break until January 2025]
- Bible Study Friday morning: 7:30 am via Zoom. Contact Paul Bankson for information.

Fellowship Groups

Prime Timers - (55+) Fellowship & Meal Monthly

Coordinator: Mary Catherine Cutrell maryccutrell@gmail.com

Solas (Single Ladies Of all Ages) Second Sunday of the month

LIFE Groups (Call church office for info)

Bankson	2 nd & 4 th Sunday	6:00 pm
Ezell/Martin	One Sunday a month	12:00 pm
Fuqua	One Sunday a month	12:00pm
Kinnebew/Moore	2 nd Sunday	5:30 pm
Waters/Bermudez	One Sunday a month	12:00 pm
Hall/Weiss (Young Families)	One Saturday a month	
Blevins/Bankson Young Adults	1 st , 3 rd , & 5 th Tuesdays	

Trail Life Troop 4316 Will Booth william.booth82@gmail.com

MISSIONS & MINISTRIES WE SUPPORT

- ◆ **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.
- ◆ **Tim & Anna Grider** - RUF @ Columbus State University
- ◆ **Marlin & Caroline Harris** - RUF @ Mercer University
- ◆ **Matt & Emma Hegler** - Japan (MTW)
- ◆ **Russell & Amanda Jeffares** - church planting in Ireland with Serge
- ◆ **Nathanael & Anna Kristen Miller** - RUF @ Georgia Southern
- ◆ **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**