



PRESTON HOLLOW PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

9800 PRESTON ROAD • DALLAS, TX • 214.368.6348 • WWW.PHPC.ORG

Trusting that All Belong to God. Living Like We Belong to One Another.

DECEMBER 14, 2025

11 A.M.

Third Sunday of Advent

The Lens of Love: Agape

GATHERING

PRELUDE

O Come, O Come, Emmanuel

David Lowe

WELCOME & INVITATION TO DISCIPLESHIP

Please check in by signing the register found in the pew or by scanning this code with your phone.



***PASSING OF THE PEACE**

Please greet one another with “The peace of Christ be with you” or “And also with you.”

INTROIT

Love Came Down at Christmas
The Sanctuary Choir

arr. Howard Helvey

LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT WREATH

Kyle Lewis & Chris Villanueva

One: God loves us, for God is love.

All: May love burn bright this morning.

One: Igniting in us the Spirit of God.

All: Let love illumine our lives.

***HYMN 82**

Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus

HYFRYDOL

***PRAYER OF CONFESSION**

You call, but we have not listened. We walk away from neighbors in need, wrapped in our own concerns. God of grace, help us to admit our sin, so that as you come to us in mercy, we may repent, turn to you, and receive forgiveness; through Jesus Christ our Redeemer. Amen.

***WORDS OF FORGIVENESS**

One: Hear and believe the good news of the Gospel:

**All: We are saved by grace through faith. In Jesus Christ, we are forgiven.
Thanks be to God. Amen.**

***RESPONSE**

PICARDY

**Unto God be praise and glory: to the Father and the Son,
To th’eternal Spirit honor now and evermore be done;
Praise and glory in the highest, while unending ages run.**

**Please rise in body or in spirit*

PROCLAIMING

CHILDREN'S SERMON

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

SCRIPTURE READING

John 21:15-17

SERMON

The Lens of Love: Agape

A Word of Wisdom

Rev. Matthew Ruffner

RESPONDING

*AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

Christ teaches us, "You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your mind." This is the greatest and first commandment. And a second is like it: "You shall love your neighbor as yourself." On these two commandments hang all the law and the prophets."

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE AND 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.

INVITATION TO OFFERING

To give online, please visit www.phpc.org/give, scan the QR code, or text "PHPC" to 73256. All \$1 bills and all coins will be included in our 'Every Dollar Counts' offering, benefiting Project Unity. To learn more about EDC, visit phpc.org/impact.



OFFERTORY

In the Bleak Midwinter
The Sanctuary Choir
Text found at Hymn 144

arr. Mack Wilberg

*DOXOLOGY

VENI EMMANUEL

**Praise God, from whom all blessings flow; Praise God, all creatures here below;
Praise God above, ye heavenly host; Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost.
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel.**

*PRAYER OF DEDICATION

SENDING

*HYMN 110

Love Has Come

BRING A TORCH

*BENEDICTION

*CHORAL RESPONSE

Be Near Me, Lord Jesus

arr. John Rutter

*POSTLUDE

Noël Suisse

Louis-Claude Daquin

WORSHIP LEADERS

The preacher is Rev. Matthew Ruffner. Rev. Mark Brainerd, Isabelle Rivera, and Rev. Caroline Braskamp are the liturgists. The organist is Artist-in-Residence Bradley Hunter Welch. Steve Jobman, Artistic Director-in-Residence, conducts the Sanctuary Choir.

JOYS AND CONCERNS

Prayers for Mona Rizk Finne, Giselle Finne Gafford, and their families on the passing of their sister and aunt, Mimi Heggelund, on December 8 in Seattle, Washington.

FLOWERS

The flowers in the Columbarium Garden were made possible by James Roten to the glory of God and in loving memory of Jane Roten and by Nanette Illich to the glory of God and in loving memory of Harold Illich.

FOR OUR GUESTS

OUR SERVICE OF WORSHIP EXTENDS BEYOND THE WALLS OF THE SANCTUARY in the form of video recording and live streaming. Your presence with us today signifies consent to the possibility that your image may be included as part of our media broadcast. Children of all ages are welcome in worship! Worship kits are available on the white cube shelves in the north and south transepts. We also provide a professionally staffed nursery in room S168 (across from the church office) for infants through 36 months.



Rev. Matthew Ruffner
Senior Pastor



Rev. Mark Brainerd
Senior Associate Pastor



Rev. Caroline Grindrod
Associate Pastor for Young
Adults, Developing Families, &
Connection



Rev. Elizabeth Snyder
Monie Pastoral Resident



Rev. Caroline Braskamp
Pastoral Associate for
Faith Formation



Rev. Dr. John Roper
Parish Associate

OPPORTUNITIES FOR CONNECTION



Advent Candles and Their Meaning

Today | December 14 | 10 a.m. | Jubilee B

Our Monie Pastoral Resident, Rev. Elizabeth Snyder, will continue this two-week study on the classic Advent themes of hope, peace, joy, and love—and the Scriptures they are based on. Come explore God's word during this holy season—and get to know Pastor Elizabeth!

Concert Bells of Fort Worth Concert

Today | December 14 | 5 p.m. | Sanctuary

Enjoy a free handbell concert of holiday favorites conducted by our own Director of Worship and Music, Stephanie Rhoades. Bring a friend or the whole family! Doors open at 4:30 p.m.

Holiday Poinsettias and Wreaths

TODAY is the last day to purchase poinsettias and wreaths and have a dedication included in the bulletin next Sunday, December 21. Place your order at the counter in the Atrium. Each poinsettia is \$15 and wreaths are \$40 each. Poinsettias may be taken after the 9 p.m. service on Christmas Eve.

Christmas Angels

Online Orders - December 14

Atrium Drop Off - December 21

Thank you to everyone who has donated toys, books, and hats! Gifts are going to our partners in Vickery Meadow and South Dallas starting this week. Today is the last day to order from our Amazon wishlist. Still want to shop in person? Next Sunday will be the last day to drop off toys in the Atrium.

Visit phpc.org/christmasangels or scan the QR code above to donate.



Malawi Christmas Gifts of Hope

Share a Gift of Hope This Christmas. This holiday season, the PHPC Malawi Mission Team invites you to embrace the spirit of giving by supporting our mission partners in Malawi. Are you looking for a way to make an impact this season —no shopping or wrapping required? Discover how you can give gifts of Home, Care, Voice, Food, Education, Water, Health, Healing, or Future at www.phpc.org/malawi or stop by the Atrium counter.

Word of Wisdom Journal Part Two

Pick Up at Atrium Counter | \$5

Building on the meaningful conversations sparked by Part One, we're excited to share the next installment. Part Two offers fresh prompts, Scripture passages, and guided space to help you reflect more intentionally on each week's theme. Beginning in January, we will explore a new word every week, including reclaimed words, the seven deadly sins during Lent, and spring themes of wisdom. This journal is a simple, meaningful tool to support your spiritual growth. Order your copy using the QR code above for \$5, and you can pick it up in the Atrium on Sundays or at the front desk during the week.

Bagged with Love

Sunday | December 21 | 10 a.m. | Jubilee AB

When they take a day off, we take a day on. During the holidays, the kitchen staff of The Bridge is given well-earned days off. PHPC and Temple Emanu-El are partnering to fill this gap. On December 21, we will pack 600 bagged meals for our neighbors experiencing homelessness and food insecurity. All families of youth and children are invited to help make sandwiches and pack lunch sacks!



United Women in Faith

January 25-27, 2026 | Austin, TX OR Via Zoom

The Texas United Women in Faith will host the 39th Annual Texas Legislative Event in partnership with Texas Impact. The gathering will feature speakers, workshops, and connections for women of faith committed to justice, freedom, and opportunity, concluding in a visit to the Capitol to meet with lawmakers. Join with women from PHPC and Grace Presbytery for this special gathering. Bus travel to and from Austin is provided free of charge. Scan the QR code below for more information or to register.

*Early Bird Registration closes December 14.

Register today to save \$20!



Christmas Eve Hospitality

Please help us welcome our guests by volunteering as a greeter! Greeters arrive thirty minutes early and have reserved seating. Scan the QR code to sign up! For questions, contact Rev. Caroline Grindrod at cgrindrod@phpc.org.