

1879 "THE FORTY-THIRD YEAR OF OUR SECOND CENTURY" 2022

SECOND BAPTIST CHURCH

3310 E. COMMERCE STREET, SAN ANTONIO, TEXAS 78220

THE REV. DR. ROBERT L. JEMERSON, D. MIN., PASTOR

THE 11:00 A.M. WORSHIP SERVICE

DECEMBER 18, 2022

Enter to Worship

Depart to Serve

**Only one life
It'll soon be past**

**Only what's done
For Christ will last!**



"God make this house of worship we have raised to Thee wide enough to receive all who need human love, fellowship and the Father's care and narrow enough to shut out envy, pride and hate. Make its threshold smooth that it may be no stumbling block to childhood weakness or straying feet, but rugged and strong enough to turn back the tempter's power. God make this house of worship the gateway to Thy eternal Kingdom."

ADVENT

A TIME OF ANTICIPATION

Advent, a period of four weeks before the Nativity, is observed in the Western Churches as a Season of Solemnity of Emotion and action, and a Great Time of Anticipation!

It became a general observance in the sixth century. Its four Sundays were believed to have been introduced into the calendar by Gregory the Great, and on these grounds, the Gospel readings were chosen for the four Sundays preceding the Birth of our Savior.



Traditionally, the candles represent
The number of weeks before the
Christmas celebration. They represent
FAITH, FREEDOM, JUSTICE, MERCY. The
Large Candle or “CHRIST CANDLE” reminds
us that Christ is the “LIVING LIGHT OF THE
WORLD.”

THE MEANING OF THE ADVENT WREATH

“The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light . . .” (Isaiah 9:2).

Light is the most powerful symbol of the Advent season. For the four weeks before Christmas, the People of God wait in prayerful hope for the dawning of the Messiah, the Perfect Light to burn away the darkness of sin and alienation.

The first reference to Christmas as we know it is found in a Christian calendar of the fourth century. The feast of Jesus’ birth was celebrated by the early Christians of Rome on December 25, to coincide with the pagan feast of *Sol Invictus* “The Birthday of the Unconquered Sun.” It is believed that Pope Julius I adopted this pagan feast of the *Sun* to celebrate the birth of the *Son* of God.

The lights of Christmas trees and decorations should remind us that Christ is God’s light to the world, shattering the darkness of mistrust and misunderstanding.

In the midst of the shopping, decorating, cooking, writing Christmas cards, and other activities of the holiday season, the custom of the *Advent wreath* is an excellent way for families and communities to keep the real meaning of Christmas in perspective.

The *four candles* of the Advent wreath represent the four weeks of Advent and the thousands of years that the People of God awaited the promised Messiah. The candles are *purple* in color, a reminder of the spirit of penance and prayer that marks the Advent season (one of the candles may be rose for the Third Sunday of Advent, traditionally known as “Gaudete Sunday” from the opening words of that Sunday’s liturgy: “Rejoice in the Lord always!”). Each week one candle is lit until all four are aglow on the Fourth Sunday of Advent.

The *round* wreath itself symbolizes the eternity of God and the Father’s presence throughout human history. *Evergreen* branches are often used in decorating the wreath, reminders of the eternal life of God in Christ.

Advent

Over hundreds of years, Advent has become a favorite custom for those who celebrate Christmas.

The circle of the wreath represents eternity, while the lighting of candles renews the journey towards hope, love, joy and peace in the world.



Candle Lighting Guide

for Advent

First Sunday

Angels' Candle

Angels appeared to Joseph and Mary, saying "do not be afraid." Joseph took Mary to Bethlehem, where she gave birth to her son, Jesus. This is the Son sent to the world to show God's love. That love still shines for us today. Knowing that the of Christ ends in suffering and our world is filled with pain and turmoil, we pause to marvel at Christ's birth and rejoice in God's glory. We have much for which to be thankful. Let us be joyful and sing with the angels in praise!

Second Sunday

Shepherds' Candle

"And this shall be a sign unto you; Ye shall find the babe wrapped in swaddling clothes, lying in a manger. And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host praising God, and saying, Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace, good will toward men." Luke 2:12-14 The wise men traveled far to see the child born in a manger under the star of Bethlehem. They brought their earthly gifts, and returned home by another route, having knelt before the Prince of Peace. May the gift of Christ bring hope, love, joy, and peace into our lives and throughout the world.

Third Sunday

Bethlehem Candle

And Joseph also went up from Galilee, out of the city of Nazareth, into Judaea, unto the city of David, which is called Bethlehem; (because he was of the house and lineage of David:;) To be taxed with Mary his espoused wife, being great with child. And so it was, that, while they were there, the days were accomplished that she should be delivered. And she brought forth her firstborn son, and wrapped him in swaddling clothes, and laid him in a manger; because there was no room for them in the inn." Luke 2:4-7 The wise men traveled far to see the child born in a manger under the star of Bethlehem. They brought their earthly gifts, and returned home by another route, having knelt before the Prince of Peace. May the gift of Christ bring hope, love, joy, and peace into our lives and throughout the world.

Fourth Sunday

Prophecy Candle

*"Behold, the days come, saith the LORD, that I will perform that good thing which I have promised unto the house of Israel and to the house of Judah. In those days, and at that time, will I cause the Branch of righteousness to grow up unto David; and he shall execute judgment and righteousness in the land."
Jeremiah 33:14-15*

THE LIGHTING OF THE FOURTH ADVENT CANDLE

Reverend Cornell and Mrs. Toni Evans

The Prophecy Candle

Leader: Let us draw near to God so that we may be filled with joy and hope and obedience as was Mary, the servant of God chosen to bear the Son in human form. “May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, so that you may abound in hope by the power of the Holy Spirit.” Romans 15:13-14

People: “Behold, the days come, saith the LORD, that I will perform that good thing which I have promised unto the house of Israel and to the house of Judah. In those days, and at that time, will I cause the Branch of righteousness to grow up unto David; and he shall execute judgment and righteousness in the land.” Jeremiah 33:14-15

Leader: Our scripture for the Fourth Sunday of Advent is taken from the Gospel of Luke, the First chapter, verses twenty-six through thirty-eight it reads:

All: And in the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent from God unto a city of Galilee, named Nazareth, To a virgin espoused to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David; and the virgin's name was Mary. And the angel came in unto her, and said, Hail, thou that art highly favoured, the Lord is with thee: blessed art thou among women. And when she saw him, she was troubled at his saying, and cast in her mind what manner of salutation this should be. And the angel said unto her, Fear not, Mary: for thou hast found favour with God. And, behold, thou shalt conceive in thy womb, and bring forth a son, and shalt call his name JESUS. He shall be great, and shall be called the Son of the Highest: and the Lord God shall give unto him the throne of his father David:

Leader: And he shall reign over the house of Jacob for ever; and of his kingdom there shall be no end. Then said Mary unto the angel, How shall this be, seeing I know not a man? And the angel answered and said unto her, The Holy Ghost shall come upon thee, and the power of the Highest shall overshadow thee: therefore also that holy thing which shall be born of thee shall be called the Son of God. And, behold, thy cousin Elisabeth, she hath also conceived a son in her old age: and this is the sixth month with her, who was called barren. For with God nothing shall be impossible. And Mary said, Behold the handmaid of the Lord; be it unto me according to thy word. And the angel departed from her.

The Lighting of the Fourth Advent Candle

Leader: As we light the Fourth candle of the Advent wreath, our thoughts focus on the actions of The Shepherds regarding the birth of Our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.

Congregation: Oh, come, Oh come, Emmanuel now let all the heavens adore you, And saints and angels Sing before you. Let us dwell in grace and in truth victoriously. Your star is rising, and your light is come. Oh, come you Blessed One, Lord Jesus, God’s own Son. Amen

The Preparation for Worship “And as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, even so must the Son of man be lifted up: That whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have eternal life. For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life.” John 2:14-16

The Prelude “Angels We Have Heard On High” arr. Swann Mrs. LaFaye Duren, Organist

The Call To Worship and The Invocation Rev. Dr. Robert L. Jemerson, Sr.

WORSHIP IN PRAISE

***The Opening Hymn of Praise** “Joyful, Joyful, We Adore You”

Joyful, Joyful, we adore You, God of glory, Lord of light; Angels lifting praise before You Sing thro’ - out this holy night. In a manger lies a Baby- Child of Mary, Son of God. Voices joined in joyful chorus Praise You for your gift of love.

All Your works declare Your glory, All creation joins to sing. Praise resounds as earth rejoices In the birth of Christ, the King. Shepherds kneel before the Infant. Trumpets sound and anthems raise As with joy our hearts are lifted, Joined in wonder, love, and praise

***The Responsive Reading** **Psalm 98:3-9** Rev. Nicholas Williams

Minister: He hath remembered his mercy and his truth toward the house of Israel: all the ends of the earth have seen the salvation of our God. Make a joyful noise unto the LORD, all the earth: make a loud noise, and rejoice, and sing praise. Sing unto the LORD with the harp; with the harp, and the voice of a psalm. With trumpets and sound of cornet make a joyful noise before the LORD, the King.

People: Let the sea roar, and the fulness thereof; the world, and they that dwell therein. Let the floods clap their hands: let the hills be joyful together Before the LORD; for he cometh to judge the earth: with righteousness shall he judge the world, and the people with equity.

The Choral Readers **Luke 2:1-5, Luke 2:6-7, Luke 2:8-14** Mrs. Delores Lewis, Director

***The Gloria Patri** Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Ghost, As it was in the Beginning is now and ever shall be world with out end. Amen, Amen.

The Welcome Mrs. Jacqueline Jemerson

WORSHIP IN MEDITATION

The Silent Meditation and The Morning Prayer Rev. Dawarren Ennis

WORSHIP IN GIVING

The Offertory Sentence and Prayer Rev. Angela Jackson

The Offertory Music and Offering Mrs. LaFaye Duren, Organist

***THE DOXOLOGY** Praise God from whom all blessings flow; Praise Him all creatures here below; Praise Him above ye heavenly host; Praise Father, Son and Holy Ghost. Amen

WORSHIP IN PROCLAMATION

The Music of Preparation “Silent Night” Mrs. Connie Jackson , Soloist

The Sermon “Give Your Best To The Master” Rev. Dr. Robert L. Jemerson, Sr.

Text: “When they had heard the king, they departed; and, lo, the star, which they saw in the east, went before them, till it came and stood over where the young child was. When they saw the star, they rejoiced with exceeding great joy. And when they were come into the house, they saw the young child with Mary his mother, and fell down, and worshipped him: and when they had opened their treasures, they presented unto him gifts; gold, and frankincense and myrrh.” Matthew 2:9-11

The Invitation to Discipleship

“O Come, All Ye Faithful”

Mrs. Connie Jackson, Soloist

Benediction

Rev. Dr. Robert L. Jemerson, Sr.

The Postlude

“Hallelujah Chorus” Handel

Mrs. LaFaye Duren, Organist

***Please Stand**

ANNOUNCEMENTS

THANK YOU: Mrs. Ella Ellison, Mrs. Annie Spruell, Mr. Robert Spruell and the Wells Families send: “Rev. Jemerson and Second Baptist Church Family, Just a note to let you know our families appreciated the Resolution and beautiful floral wreath sent for the home going of our brother Elwood M. Murphy, Jr. and my sister-in-law Dr. Thelma Wells. We thank you again for your prayers, calls and cards during this time.”

Mrs. Thomasine Johnson and Mrs. Kellie and Mr. Tony Garner for the donation of the two Nutcrackers placed at the entrance to the church.

Thank you to the decorating and table arrangement committee, **Trustee Virginia Pope and Mrs. Shirleta Plummer**, Chairpersons.

WE ARE PRAYING FOR YOUR HEALING

- | | | | |
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HAPPY BIRTHDAY TO MEMBERS CELEBRATING BIRTHDAYS IN DECEMBER

DEC 20 Mrs. Lory Pope, **DEC 21** Jarett Dillard, Sayvon Frye, **DEC 24** Mrs. Virginia Smothers, **DEC 27** Mr. Robert Johnson, Mrs. Lizzie Barefield, **DEC 29** Mrs. Vernice Seastrunk, **DEC 31** Mr. Kirk Brown, Kea Hudson

***WE THE SECOND BAPTIST CHURCH FAMILY
PRAY THAT YOU WILL HAVE A VERY***



AND A HAPPY NEW YEAR

“SERMON NOTES”

Who were the Main Characters? _____

Why and where is this Text in the Bible? _____

What other Scriptures were mentioned and what were the main points? _____

What were the meanings of the illustrations? _____

How did the Message affect your spiritual and moral life? _____

Suggested Sermon Scriptures _____

CHURCH DIRECTORY

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