

1879 "THE FORTY-FOURTH YEAR OF OUR SECOND CENTURY" 2023

## **SECOND BAPTIST CHURCH**

**3310 E. COMMERCE STREET, SAN ANTONIO, TEXAS 78220**

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

**December 3, 2023**

**THE 11:00 A.M. WORSHIP SERVICE**

**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 FIRST ADVENT CANDLE

## Deacon Archie and Mrs. Terry Brown The Angels' Candle

Leader: "And this shall be a sign unto you; Ye shall find the babe wrapped in swaddling clothes, lying in a manger." Luke 2:12

Congregation: "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 2:13-14

Leader: Our scripture for the First Sunday of Advent was taken from the Gospel of Luke, the First Chapter, verses twenty six through thirty five and 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 favored, the Lord is with thee; blessed are 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 has 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; 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.

## The Lighting of the First Advent Candle

Leader: As we light the First candle of the Advent Wreath, our thoughts focus on the message of the Angels 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** “Therefore the redeemed of the Lord shall return, and come with singing unto Zion; and everlasting joy shall be upon their head: they shall obtain gladness and joy; and sorrow and mourning shall flee away.” Isaiah 51: 11

**The Prelude** “Jesus, the Light of the World” Wesley-Elderkin Mr. Oscar Ford, Organist

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

**The Lighting of the First Advent Candle** Deacon Archie and Mrs. Terry Brown

### WORSHIP IN PRAISE

**\*The Opening Hymn of Praise** “Center of My Joy”

**Refrain:** Jesus, you're the center of my joy, All that's good and perfect comes from you, You're the heart of my contentment, hope for all I do, Jesus, you're the center of my joy. When I've lost my direction, you're the compass for my way, You're the fire and light when nights are long and cold, In sadness, you are the laughter, that shatters all my fears, When I'm all alone, your hand is there to hold. **Refrain:**

**\*The Responsive Reading** Luke 15: 1-7 Rev. Keith Jackson

**Minister:** Then drew near unto him all the publicans and sinners for to hear him. And the Pharisees and scribes murmured, saying, This man receiveth sinners, and eateth with them. And he spake this parable unto them, saying, What man of you, having an hundred sheep.

**People:** And when he hath found it, he layeth it on his shoulders, rejoicing. And when he cometh home, he calleth together his friends and neighbours, saying unto them, Rejoice with me; for I have found my sheep which was lost. I say unto you, that likewise joy shall be in heaven over one sinner that repenteth, more than over ninety and nine just persons, which need no repentance.

**\* The Glory 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. Simone Isom

### WORSHIP IN MEDITATION

**Morning Prayer** Rev. Dawarren Ennis **The Music of Meditation** “O Come all Ye Faithful”

### WORSHIP IN GIVING

**The Offertory Sentence and Prayer** Rev. N. Williams **Music—The Hand Bell Choir** Mrs. A. Powell-Brown, Director

**\*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** “Jesus Will” The Voices of Second Baptist Church

**The Sermon** “The Gift of Joy” Rev. Dr. Robert L. Jemerson, Sr., Pastor

**The Text:** “And, lo, the angel of the Lord came upon them, and the glory of the Lord shone round about them: and they were sore afraid. And the angel said unto them, Fear not: for, behold, I bring you good tidings of great joy, which shall be to all people. For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Saviour, which is Christ the Lord.” Luke 2: 9-11

**The Invitation to Discipleship** “Falling In Love With Jesus” The Voice of Second Baptist Church

## The Service of Holy Communion

Rev. Dr. Robert L. Jemerson, Sr., Pastor

### Communion Hymn "Hark! The Herald Angels Sing"

Hark! the herald angels sing, "Glory to the newborn King: peace on earth, and mercy mild, God and sinners reconciled!" Joyful, all ye nations, rise, join the triumph of the skies; with th'angelic hosts proclaim, "Christ is born in Bethlehem!"

## Benediction

Rev. Dr. Robert L. Jemerson, Sr., Pastor

## The Postlude

"Go Tell It On The Mountain"

Mr. Oscar Ford, Organist

## \*Please Stand

### ANNOUNCEMENTS

**THANK YOU: Rev. Nicholas Williams sends:** "To Pastor Jemerson, Officers, Members and Friends of Second Baptist Church, I am extremely grateful for everything that was done to make my wife's, Rev. Eunice I. Williams homegoing service on 23 October 2023 a memorable occasion. Thank you to all that ensured everything was in place and in order. I am still trying to cope with the fact that my life partner of 46 years is no longer with me physically. Her spirit will be with me until I take my last breath on this side of the Jordan River! Second Baptist Church Family, my sincere thanks to everyone and may God bless you for the kindness that you displayed to me and my family."

**SANCTUARY FLOWERS: The flowers in the Sanctuary** today were given by **Mrs. Lillian Hunter** and **Mr. Ray and Mrs. Maxine Littlejohn** in loving memory of **Mr. James E. B. Hunter** who was a loving husband, father, grandfather and great grandfather.

**The Women's Missionary Union (WMU)** will hold their annual Christmas Gathering on Thursday, Dec 7th, 1:00 P.M. in the SH James Fellowship Hall. Our own Rev. Angela Jackson will be the speaker. She will speak on the "Joy of Christmas." A Festive Thanksgiving meal will be served. Although not required, Women who are interested may participate in a White Elephant Gift Exchange (\$20-25 cost limit). All women of the church are invited to attend.

**Decorating Committee** all members are asked to attend a brief meeting in the Church Chapel, immediately after the 11:00 A.M. Worship Service today. If you are interested in becoming a member of this committee please attend the meeting.

**The 144th Church Anniversary 11:00 A.M. Worship Service will be next Sunday, December 10, 2023.** Our guest speaker will be the Rev. Dr. Theophilus O. Berry, Greater True Light Missionary Baptist Church, Houston, Texas.

### WE ARE PRAYING FOR YOUR HEALING

Mrs. Robbie Alexander	Mr. Troy Anderson	Mrs. Roslyn Barksdale	Mrs. Jeanette Brown
Trustee Alfred Jack Carter, Jr.	Mrs. Doris Vicks	Mrs. Barbara Dawson	Mrs. Marvene Elliott
Mr. L. C. Farley	Mrs. Sarah Ford	Mrs. Vera Galloway	Mr. and Mrs. Terry Gaskin
Mrs. Linda Grant	Mrs. Blondell Galloway	Mrs. Laura Houston-Harris	Mrs. Lillian Hunter
Deacon Jay Johnson	Deacon Thomas Johnson	Mrs. Jacquelyn Jordan	Mrs. Margaret Kelley
Mrs. Mary Malveaux	Mr. Clarence Marshall	Mrs. Jennifer Martin	Mrs. Lillian Moore
Mrs. Eleanor Owens	Mrs. Thelma Pete	Mrs. Mahalia Price	Mrs. Daisy Richardson
Trustee Henry Ross	Mrs. Tobortha Samples	Mrs. Wanda Smith	Mrs. Annie Spruell
Mr. Allee Wallace	Mrs. Alvis Whitlow	Mrs. Jeri White	Mr. Burnett Williams
Mrs. Liz Porter	Mrs. Ethel Young	Mrs. Anna Galimore	Mrs. Sandra Thomas Ojimadu
Mrs. Sylvia Gramby	Deacon Archie Brown	Mrs. Alice Powell-Brown	Mrs. Cynthia Vaughn
Mrs. Sheralin Mitchell	Mrs. Charita Jemerson	Mr. Clarence Bell and Family	Mr. Ray and Mrs. Reba Grant
Mr. Anthony and Mrs. Rose Cook	Mr. Henry and Mrs. Helen Embry	Mr. Charles and Mrs. Sandra Gunter	
Mr. Lincoln and Mrs. Nellie Hardaway	Mr. James and Mrs. Rhonda Harrison	Mr. E. B. and Mrs. Erma Jackson	
Rev. Lowell and Mrs. Mary Johnson	Mr. Robert and Mrs. Wilma Johnson	Dr. Willie J. and Mrs. Patsy Lett	
Mr. Raymond and Mrs. Larnett LeBlanc	Mr. James and Mrs. Charlotte Mulkey	Dr. Eula and Mr. George Pines	
Mr. Mark and Mrs. Nina Winters and sons Alex and Karter	Mr. Alexander Ambrozaitis and son Alexander Jr.		
Deacon Thomas and Mrs. Katyna Washington	Deacon Bruce and Mrs. Dot Scott	Mr. Anthony and Mrs. Carla Smith	
Trustee Will and Mrs. Gloria Wright	Deacon Stacey and Mrs. Martha Fairbanks		
Mr. Rudolph and Mrs. Vivian Coleman	Deacon Charlie and Mrs. Sandra Wesley		



# SAVE THE DATE

## **TEDDY BEAR CHRISTMAS TREE**

**Brighten a Child's Christmas by Donating a Teddy Bear  
November 26, 2023 to December 17, 2023  
Place your Teddy Bear under the Christmas Tree in the Narthex.**

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## **ADVENT DEVOTION SERVICE AND LUNCH**

**DECEMBER 7-Rev. Keith Jackson, 14-Rev. Verell Nelson, and 21-Rev. Nicholas Williams  
11:30 A.M.**

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## **144TH CHURCH ANNIVERSARY SERVICE AND LUNCHEON**

**SUNDAY, DECEMBER 10, 2023 11:00 A.M.**

**SPEAKER: THE REV. DR. THEOPHILUS O. BERRY, PASTOR  
GREATER TRUE LIGHT MISSIONARY BAPTIST CHURCH, HOUSTON, TEXAS  
THE LUNCHEON WILL BE HELD IN THE  
SECOND BAPTIST CHURCH COMMUNITY CENTER**

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## **SECOND BAPTIST CHURCH CHRISTMAS BALL**

**WEAR YOUR TUXEDOS AND GOWNS**

**OR SUNDAY BEST**

**THURSDAY, DECEMBER 21, 2023**

**DINING - 6:00 P.M.- 7:00 P.M.**

**CHRISTMAS GIVING - 7:00 P.M.-7:30 P.M.**

**CONCERT AND ENTERTAINMENT - 7:30 P.M.-8:30 P.M.**

**STARRING: BEVERLY HOUSTON AND BREEZIN**

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## **CHRISTMAS EVE CANDLELIGHT SERVICE**

**SECOND BAPTIST CHURCH SANCTUARY**

**SUNDAY, DECEMBER 24, 2023**

**6:00 P.M.**

## **HAPPY BIRTHDAY TO OUR MEMBERS CELEBRATING THIS MONTH**

**DEC 2 Mr. Terry Powell DEC 3 Mrs. Patsy Lett, Mr. Tommy C. Brown DEC 5 Mr. Daniel Scott, Mr. Matthew Phrease, James Pickens DEC 7 Mrs. Ernestine Handy DEC 8 Mr. Carl James, Mr. Charles McKinney DEC 9 Deacon Thomas Johnson, Mr. Darian Harris, Ms. Sabrina Jones DEC 10 Mrs. Jeanne Drew DEC 11 Ms. Constance Davis, Ms. Loi Taylor, Mrs. Minnie Monroe, Mrs. Doris Vicks DEC 12 Mr. Joe Blakey, Omar Nesbit DEC 13 Mr. Richard Matthews DEC 14 Mrs. Mary Odukoya, Mrs. Dana Cruz, Mr. Clement Bruce, Mrs. Sharon Shumpert DEC 16 Deacon Archie Brown, Mr. George Pines DEC 17 Mrs. Carolyn Meadors DEC 18 Ms. Yvonne Lewis DEC 19 Mr. Jason Prewitt DEC 20 Mrs. Lory Pope DEC 21 Jarett Dillard, Sayvon Frye DEC 24 Mrs. Virginia Smothers DEC 25 Ms. Shoneka Smith DEC 26 Mr. Jeff Williams DEC 27 Mr. Robert Johnson, Mrs. Lizzie Barefield DEC 29 Ms. Stacey Whitfield DEC 31 Mr. Kirk Brown, Ms. Kea Hudson**

# CHURCH DIRECTORY

ROBERT L. JEMERSON, D. MIN., PASTOR

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ASSISTANT TO THE PASTOR: Rev. Keith Jackson

CHURCH SECRETARY:

FINANCE SECRETARIES: Mrs. Carolyn Shakir and Mrs. Nancy Willridge

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Deacon Alley Jackson, Chairperson

### **BOARD OF TRUSTEES**

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Deacon James Brown, Assistant Treasurer

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Deacon Charles Thurston

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Deacon Thomas Washington

### **SUNDAY SCHOOL SUPERINTENDENT**

Mrs. Bridget Lewis-McKinney, Superintendent

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Deacon James Hudson, Chairperson

Mrs. Gladys Dixon, Co-Chairperson

### **GOODWILL**

Chairperson

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### **YOUTH AWARDS**

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Dr. Shirley Davis, Assistant Coordinator

Dr. Sarah Williams, Assistant Coordinator

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Mrs. Bridget Lewis-McKinney, Coordinator

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Mrs. Tracy Shelton, President

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##### **PUBLIC RELATIONS**

Mrs. Tobortha Samples, Chairperson

##### **RADIANCE NEWSLETTER**

Trustee Louis Levy, Chairperson

Mrs. Tobortha Samples, Chief Editor

##### **SINGLES PARTICIPATING IN CHRISTIAN**

##### **ENDEAVORS**

Dr. Argra Nell Thompson, President

##### **LEGAL MINISTRY**

Attorney Johnny Thomas, Chairperson

## **SPEECH ARTS GUILD (Choric Reading)**

Mrs. Delores Doyle-Lewis, Director

Mrs. Rhonda Harrison, Sponsor

Nalaniya Wilson, President

## **WOMEN'S MISSIONARY UNION**

Dr. Sarah Williams, President

## **YOUTH IN ACTION FOR CHRIST (Y.A.C.)**

Mrs. Sandra Thomas-Ojimadu, Chairperson

Deacon Patrick Lewis, Co-Chairperson

## MUSIC DEPARTMENT

### **ORGANIST**

Mrs. LaFaye Duren

### **BASS GUITAR**

Mr. James Pickens

### **CLARINET**

Mrs. Elaine Curry

## **VOICES OF SECOND BAPTIST CHURCH**

Mr. Alexander Ambrozaitis, Director/Musician

### **DRUMMER**

Deacon Patrick Lewis

## **JUNIOR CHURCH MUSICIAN**

### **CHANCEL CHOIR**

Mr. Lloyd Bagwell, President

### **CHIMES CHOIR**

Mrs. Alice Powell-Brown, Director

### **COMFORTERS CHOIR**

Mrs. Marian Olison, President

### **CONTEMPORARIES CHOIR**

Mrs. Ernestine "Tina" Dickerson, President

### **GOSPEL PEARLS CHORALE**

Mrs. Ethel Young, Co-Chairperson

### **HAND BELL CHOIR**

Mrs. Alice Powell-Brown, Director

## **JESUS ACTION MUSIC MINISTRY**

Mrs. Ernestine "Tina" Dickerson, Director

### **JUNIOR CHOIR**

Mrs. Diana Pope, Sponsor

### **MENS' CHORUS**

Mrs. La Faye Duren, Director

Deacon Archie Brown, President

## **PRAISE DANCE AND MIME MINISTRY**

Mrs. Nancy Willridge, Sponsor

### **INSTRUMENTS OF PRAISE**

Mrs. Elaine Curry, Director

James Pickens, Jr., Drum Major

### **YOUTH CHORUS**

Mrs. Tenesia Gaston-Ennis, Sponsor

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Mrs. Shirleta Plummer, President

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### **YOUTH USHER BOARD**

Deacon James Brown, Sponsor

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