

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 17, 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 ADVENT WREATH CANDLES

Mr. Jeremiah and Mrs. Brittany Welch

The Bethlehem Candle

Leader: Let us draw near to God with a sincere heart knowing that the Promised One will come. Behold, a virgin shall be with child, and shall bring forth a son, and they shall call his name Emmanuel, which being interpreted is, God with us. Matthew 1:23

People: “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

Leader: Our scripture for the Third Sunday of Advent is taken from Micah 5:2-6, it reads: But thou, Bethlehem Ephratah, though thou be little among the thousands of Judah, yet out of thee shall he come forth unto me that is to be ruler in Israel; whose goings forth have been from of old, from everlasting. Therefore will he give them up, until the time that she which travaileth hath brought forth: then the remnant of his brethren shall return unto the children of Israel. And he shall stand and feed in the strength of the LORD, in the majesty of the name of the LORD his God; and they shall abide: for now shall he be great unto the ends of the earth.

People: And this man shall be the peace, when the Assyrian shall come into our land: and when he shall tread in our palaces, then shall we raise against him seven shepherds, and eight principal men. And they shall waste the land of Assyria with the sword, and the land of Nimrod in the entrances thereof: thus shall he deliver us from the Assyrian, when he cometh into our land, and when he treadeth within our borders.

The Lighting of the Third Advent Candle

Leader: As we light the third candle of the Advent wreath, our thoughts focus on the birth and second coming of Jesus Christ.

People: **O Little Town Of Bethlehem**

O little town of Bethlehem, How still we see thee lie! Above thy deep and dreamless sleep The silent stars go by. Yet in thy dark streets shineth The ever lasting Light; The hopes and fears of all the years Are met in thee tonight.



SUNDAY, DECEMBER 17, 2023

THE 11:00 A.M. WORSHIP SERVICE

The Preparation for Worship “I am come a light into the world, that whosoever believeth on me should not abide in darkness.” John 12:46

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

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

The Lighting of the Third Advent Candle Mr. Jeremiah and Mrs. Brittany Welch

WORSHIP IN PRAISE

***The Opening Hymn of Praise** “Joy, Joy, God’s Great Joy”

Refrain: Joy, joy, God's great joy. Joy, joy, down in my soul; sweet, beautiful, soul saving joy, oh, joy, joy in my soul.

Early in the morning, before the break of day, I asked the Lord to make me whole. He holds me and the Lord keeps me; oh, joy, joy in my soul.

When I get weak and I can't go on, I feel all my hope, all my joy is gone. Late in the midnight hour I talk to my God and He gives me joy, joy in my soul.

One of these ol' mornings, it won't be very long, You just might look for me, but I'm going on home; I'm going up to glory where I'm gonna sing and shout, oh joy, joy in my soul.

***The Responsive Reading** Rev. Keith Jackson

Galatians 5:22, Zechariah 9:9, Proverbs 15:1

Minister: But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, gentleness, goodness, faith. Rejoice greatly, O daughter of Zion! Shout, O daughter of Jerusalem! Behold, your King is coming to you; A soft answer turneth away wrath: but grievous words stir up anger.

I Corinthians 4:21, Philippians 4:4-5, I Peter 3:15

People: What will ye? shall I come unto you with a rod, or in love, and in the spirit of meekness? Rejoice in the Lord always: and again I say, Rejoice. Let your moderation be known unto all men. The Lord is at hand. But sanctify the Lord God in your hearts: and be ready always to give an answer to every man that asketh you a reason of the hope that is in you with meekness and fear:

*** 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. Larnette LeBlanc

WORSHIP IN MEDITATION

The Choral Readers **Luke 2:1-14** Mrs. Delores Lewis, Director
Mrs. Rhonda Harrison, Sponsor

Morning Prayer Rev. Nicholas Williams **The Music of Meditation “In My Father’s House”**

WORSHIP IN GIVING

The Offertory Sentence and Prayer Rev. Cornell Evans **Jesus in Action Music Ministry** Tina Dickerson, 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

“Give Me A Clean Heart”

The Voices of Second Baptist Church

The Sermon

“The Gift Of Gentleness”

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

The Text: “Come unto me, all ye that labour and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you, and learn of me; for I am meek and lowly in heart: and ye shall find rest unto your souls. For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light.” Mathew 11:28-30

The Invitation to Discipleship

“Celebrate”

The Voices of Second Baptist Church

Benediction

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

The Postlude

Toccata on “Hark the Herald the Angels Sing” arr. Bish

Mrs. LaFaye Duren, Organist

***Please Stand**

ANNOUNCEMENTS

The last Advent Service will be **Thursday, December 21, 2023** at 11:30 A.M, in the Second Baptist Church Chapel. The speaker will be **Rev. Nicholas Williams**. Following the service, lunch will be served in the S. H. James Fellowship Hall.

The Second Baptist Church Annual Christmas Ball will be **Thursday, December 21, 2023** at 6:00 P.M. The musical entertainment for the night will be Europa Jazz Band. Tickets are \$25.00 donation for Adults and \$12.50 donation for children 12 and under, and can be purchased in the church office.

New Member Orientation and Luncheon will be held on **Sunday, February 4, 2024**, in the S.H. James Fellowship Hall following the 11:00 A.M. Worship Service. If you will attend, please RSVP to the church office no later than January 14, 2023.

The Christmas Break Day Camp will be held **January 2-5, 2024** at the Second Baptist Church Community Center. **The camp is free and is for children, ages 5-14.** Camp participants will participate in bowling, basketball, art, and other activities. Lunch and an afternoon snack will be provided. Camp hours are 9:00 A.M.-5:00 P.M. **The theme is “Make a Joyful Noise”, Psalm 100:1.** We need volunteers to assist with games, meal service, and art activities.

For more information, contact Rev. Keith Jackson at 210-227-2605.

WE ARE PRAYING FOR YOUR HEALING

Mrs. Robbie Alexander	Mr. Troy Anderson	Mrs. Roslyn Barksdale	Mrs. Jeanette Brown
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Deacon Stacey and Mrs. Martha Fairbanks	Mr. Rudolph and Mrs. Vivian Coleman	Mrs. Katrina King Jemerson	
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Christmas BALL



JAZZ BAND
THURS, DEC 21, 2023

SBC Community Center | 3310 E. Commerce St. | San Antonio, TX 78220

Dinner Served: 6:00 pm – 7:00 pm
Christmas Giving: 7:00 pm – 7:30 pm
Concert & Entertainment: 7:30 pm – 8:30 pm

Preferred Dress Code:
Tuxedos for Men &
Gowns for Women

Alternate Dress Code:
Wear Your Sunday Best

TICKETS:

\$25 PER PERSON

Please call the Church Office at
(210) 227-2605

Email: baptistoffice@sbcglobal.net

HAPPY BIRTHDAY TO OUR MEMBERS CELEBRATING THIS WEEK

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

The Church Office will be closed Monday, December 25, 2023 in observance of Christmas Day.
Regular business hours will resume Tuesday, December 26, 2023.

CHURCH DIRECTORY

ROBERT L. JEMERSON, D. MIN., PASTOR

RESIDENCE: 11402 FOREST SQUARE 78233 Cell Phone: (210) 847-1449

Office Phone: (210) 227-2605 Fax: (210) 227-7419

Email address: baptistoffice@sbcglobal.net

Website: www.secondbaptistsat.org

ASSISTANT TO THE PASTOR: Rev. Keith Jackson

CHURCH SECRETARY:

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

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Dr. Sarah Williams, President

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MUSIC DEPARTMENT

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Mrs. LaFaye Duren

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Mr. James Pickens

CLARINET

Mrs. Elaine Curry

VOICES OF SECOND BAPTIST CHURCH

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DRUMMER

Deacon Patrick Lewis

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