

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

THE 11:00 A.M. WORSHIP SERVICE

DECEMBER 24, 2023

Enter to Worship

Depart to Serve

Only one life
It'll soon be past

Only what's done
For Christ will last!

**CHRIST
LIGHT OF THE WORLD**



“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.”

THE LIGHTING OF THE FOURTH ADVENT AND CHRIST CANDLE

**Mr. Steve and Mrs. Cristal Smith-Byrd
Rev. Dawarren and Mrs. Tenesia Ennis**

The Prophecy Candle

The Byrd Family

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:

The Christ Candle

The Ennis Family

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 and the Christ Candle

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

All: 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 Son. Amen

SECOND BAPTIST CHURCH

A CHRISTMAS SERVICE OF SCRIPTURE LESSONS CAROLS AND SPIRITUALS

DECEMBER 24, 2023

11:00 A.M. WORSHIP SERVICE

Organ Prelude "The First Noel" arr. Dupre Mrs. LaFaye Duren, Organist

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

The Lighting Of The Prophecy and Christ Candle Mr. Steve and Mrs. Cristal Smith-Byrd
Rev. Dawarren and Mrs. Tenesia Ennis

O COME, ALL YE FAITHFUL, The Voices of Second Baptist Church and Congregation

O come, all ye faithful,
Joyful and triumphant,
O come ye, O come ye to Bethlehem;
Come and behold him,
Born the King of angels;

Refrain: O come, let us adore him,
O come, let us adore him,
O Come, let us adore him, Christ the Lord.

Sing, choirs of angels,
Sing in exultation,
Sing, all ye citizens of heaven above;
Glory to God
In the highest; Refrain

The Lord's Prayer Mrs. Cristal Smith-Byrd, Soloist

The First Lesson Rev. Keith Jackson

Genesis 3:8-15

And they heard the voice of the LORD God walking in the garden in the cool of the day: and Adam and his wife hid themselves from the presence of the LORD God amongst the trees of the garden.

And the LORD God called unto Adam, and said unto him, Where art thou?

And he said, I heard thy voice in the garden, and I was afraid, because I was naked; and I hid myself.

And he said, Who told thee that thou wast naked? Hast thou eaten of the tree, whereof I commanded thee that thou shouldest not eat?

And the man said, The woman whom thou gavest to be with me, she gave me of the tree, and I did eat.

And the LORD God said unto the woman, What is this that thou hast done? And the woman said, The serpent beguiled me, and I did eat.

And the LORD God said unto the serpent, Because thou hast done this, thou art cursed above all cattle, and above every beast of the field; upon thy belly shalt thou go, and dust shalt thou eat all the days of thy life:

And I will put enmity between thee and the woman, and between thy seed and her seed; it shall bruise thy head, and thou shalt bruise his heel.

Instrumental Solo

James Pickens, Jr., Violinist, Student, University of Houston

The Second Lesson

**Lawrence Harkless,
Assistant Chairman of Deacon's Ministry**

Genesis 22:15-18

And the angel of the LORD called unto Abraham out of heaven the second time,
And said, By myself have I sworn, saith the LORD, for because thou hast done this thing, and hast not withheld thy son, thine only son:
That in blessing I will bless thee, and in multiplying I will multiply thy seed as the stars of the heaven, and as the sand which is upon the sea shore; and thy seed shall possess the gate of his enemies;
And in thy seed shall all the nations of the earth be blessed; because thou hast obeyed my voice.

REJOICE

The Voices of Second Baptist Church

The Third Lesson

Rev. Cornell Evans

Isaiah 9:2, 6-7

The people that walked in darkness have seen a great light; They that dwell in the land of the shadow of death, upon them hath the light shined.
For unto us a child is born, unto us a son is given: and the government shall be upon his shoulder: and his name shall be called Wonderful, Counselor, The mighty God, The everlasting Father, The Prince of Peace.
Of the increase of his government and peace there shall be no end, upon the throne of David, and upon his kingdom, to order it, and to establish it with judgment and with justice from henceforth even for ever. The zeal of the LORD of hosts will perform this.

O COME, O COME, EMMANUEL

The Voices of Second Baptist Church and Congregation

**O come, O come, Emmanuel,
And ransom captive Israel
That mourns in lonely exile here
Until the Son of God appear.**

Refrain

**Rejoice! Rejoice! Emanuel
Shall come to thee, O Israel!**

The Fourth Lesson

**Mrs. Bridget L. McKinney,
Director of Christian Education**

Isaiah 2:1-5

The word that Isaiah the son of Amos saw concerning Judah and Jerusalem.
And it shall come to pass in the last days, that the mountain of the LORD's house shall be established in the top of the mountains, and shall be exalted above the hills; and all nations shall flow unto it.
And many people shall go and say, Come ye, and let us go up to the mountain of the LORD, to the house of the God of Jacob; and he will teach us of his ways, and we will walk in his paths: for out of Zion shall go forth the law, and the word of the LORD from Jerusalem.
And he shall judge among the nations, and shall rebuke many people: and they shall beat their swords into plowshares, and their spears into pruninghooks: nation shall not lift up sword against nation, neither shall they learn war any more.

**It came upon a midnight clear,
That glorious song of old,
From angels bending near the earth,
To touch their harps of gold:
"Peace on the earth, goodwill to men
From heavens all gracious King!"
The world in solemn stillness lay
To hear the angels sing.**

The Fifth Lesson**Rev. Nicholas Williams****Luke 1:26-38**

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:

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.

SILENT NIGHT**The Voices of Second Baptist Church**

**Silent night, holy nigh All is calm, all is bright
Round yon Virgin Mother and Child
Holy Infant so tender and mild
Sleep in heavenly peace
Sleep in heavenly peace**

**Silent night, holy night!
Shepherds quake at the sight
Glories stream from heaven afar
Heavenly hosts sing Alleluia!
Christ, the Savior is born**

The Sixth Lesson

Choral Readers
Mrs. Delores Lewis, Director
Mrs. Rhonda Harrison, Sponsor

Matthew 1:18-23

Now the birth of Jesus Christ was on this wise: When as his mother Mary was espoused to Joseph, before they came together, she was found with child of the Holy Ghost.

Then Joseph her husband, being a just man, and not willing to make her a public example, was minded to put her away privily.

But while he thought on these things, behold, the angel of the LORD appeared unto him in a dream, saying, Joseph, thou son of David, fear not to take unto thee Mary thy wife: for that which is conceived in her is of the Holy Ghost.

And she shall bring forth a son, and thou shalt call his name JESUS: for he shall save his people from their sins.

Now all this was done, that it might be fulfilled which was spoken of the Lord by the prophet, saying, 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.

ANGELS WE HAVE HEARD ON HIGH The Voices of Second Baptist Church and Congregation

Angels we have heard on high
Sweetly singing o'er the plains,
And the mountains in reply
Echoing their joyous strains.

Refrain

Gloria, in excelsis Deo!
Gloria, in excelsis Deo!

The Seventh Lesson

Rev. Dawarren Ennis

Luke 2:8-16

And there were in the same country shepherds abiding in the field, keeping watch over their flock by night. 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.

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.

And it came to pass, as the angels were gone away from them into heaven, the shepherds said one to another, Let us now go even unto Bethlehem, and see this thing which is come to pass, which the Lord hath made known unto us.

And they came with haste, and found Mary, and Joseph, and the babe lying in a manger.

Solo

“Away In A Manger”

Ms. Nalaniya Wilson, Soloist, Student,
University of California, Los Angeles

The Eighth Lesson

Choral Readers

**Mrs. Delores Lewis, Director
Mrs. Rhonda Harrison, Sponsor**

Matthew 2:1-11

Now when Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judaea in the days of Herod the king, behold, there came wise men from the east to Jerusalem,

Saying, Where is he that is born King of the Jews? for we have seen his star in the east, and are come to worship him.

When Herod the king had heard these things, he was troubled, and all Jerusalem with him.

And when he had gathered all the chief priests and scribes of the people together, he demanded of them where Christ should be born.

And they said unto him, In Bethlehem of Judaea: for thus it is written by the prophet,

And thou Bethlehem, in the land of Juda, art not the least among the princes of Juda: for out of thee shall come a Governor, that shall rule my people Israel.

Then Herod, when he had privily called the wise men, enquired of them diligently what time the star appeared.

And he sent them to Bethlehem, and said, Go and search diligently for the young child; and when ye have found him, bring me word again, that I may come and worship him also.

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.

Special Music

“Go Tell It”

The Voices of Second Baptist Church

Go and tell it, On the Mountain Over the hills and, Everywhere Go and tell it, On the mountain that Jesus Christ, is born

Here's my story, See I'm a watcher. And I watch my flock both, night and day. Tonight an angel, Came before me. These are the words that, I heard him say. Onto us, a son is given, And onto us, a child is born. In the city, A town called David. In a manger, is Christ the Lord.

Go and tell it, On the Mountain Over the hills and, Everywhere Go and tell it, On the mountain that Jesus Christ, is born

Go and tell it, He is a healer. Go and tell it, He is a strong deliverer. Tell it, He is our savior. Go and tell it, He's the Messiah. Tell it, it's Jesus. Tell it, it's Jesus. Go and Tell it, it's Jesus. Tell it, it's Jesus.

The Ninth Lesson

Mrs. Jacquelyn Jordan

John 1:1-14

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God.

The same was in the beginning with God.

All things were made by him; and without him was not any thing made that was made.

In him was life; and the life was the light of men.

In him was life; and the life was the light of men.
And the light shineth in darkness; and the darkness comprehended it not.
There was a man sent from God, whose name was John.
The same came for a witness, to bear witness of the Light, that all men through him might believe.
He was not that Light, but was sent to bear witness of that Light.
That was the true Light, which lighteth every man that cometh into the world.
He was in the world, and the world was made by him, and the world knew him not.
He came unto his own, and his own received him not.
But as many as received him, to them gave he power to become the sons of God, even to them that believe on his name:
Which were born, not of blood, nor of the will of the flesh, nor of the will of man, but of God.
And the Word was made flesh, and dwelt among us, (and we beheld his glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father,) full of grace and truth.

JOY TO THE WORLD

The Voices of Second Baptist Church and Congregation

**Joy to the world, the Lord is come!
Let earth receive her King;
Let every heart prepare Him room,
And Heaven and nature sing,
And Heaven and nature sing,
And Heaven, and Heaven, and nature sing.**

**He rules the world with truth and grace,
And makes the nations prove
The glories of His righteousness,
And wonders of His love,
And wonders of His love,
And wonders, wonders, of His love**

A Prayer for Renewal

Deacon Richmond Smith

JESUS, THE LIGHT OF THE WORLD

The Voices of Second Baptist Church and Congregation

**Hark! the herald angels sing.
Jesus, the light of the world.
Glory to the newborn King,
Jesus, the light of the world.**

**We'll walk in the light, beautiful light.
Come where the dewdrops of mercy shine bright.
Oh, shine all around us by day and by night.
Jesus, the light of the world.**

**Hail the heav'n-born Prince of Peace.
Jesus, the light of the world.
Hail, the Sun of righteousness!
Jesus, the light of the world.**

Instrumental Solo

“Deck the Halls”

Deckland Johnson, Violinist

The Gift of Tithes and Offering

Rev. Angela Jackson

The Music of Preparation

“Sweet Little Jesus Boy”

Mrs. Cristal Smith-Byrd, Soloist

The Christmas Message

Rev. Dr. Robert L. Jemerson, Sr.

“The Gift of Peace”

“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. 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 2:9-14

The Invitation to Discipleship

“Little Drummer Boy”

**The Voices of Second Baptist Church
and Congregation**

Come they told me

Pa rum pum pum pum

A new born king to see

Pa rum pum pum pum

Our finest gifts we bring

Pa rum pum pum pum

To lay before the king

Pa rum pum pum pum,

So to honor him

Pa rum pum pum pum

When we come

Pum pum pum pum

The Service of Holy Communion

Communion Hymn

“Amen”

Refrain: Amen, amen, amen, amen, amen. Amen, amen, amen, amen, amen.

See the baby, lyin' in the manger on Christmas mornin'. Refrain:

See Him at the temple, talkin' to the elders; how they marveled at his wisdom. Refrain:

Benediction

Rev. Dr. Robert L. Jemerson, Sr.

Postlude

“Christmas Fanfare” Shaw

Mrs. LaFaye Duren, Organist

*Please Stand

ANNOUNCEMENTS

THANK YOU: Dr. Eva Mason sends: “To Rev. Jemerson, Rev. Jackson, Mr. O.C. Clay and my Second Baptist Church Family: Thank you for assisting me in hosting the Second Annual Blue Cares/Blue Santa District 2 Toy & Food Bag Distribution on December 9, 2023. Because of your generosity in donating toys and money to purchase toys, we were able to bless 33 families this year. The majority of the children were from Cameron Elementary, the school we adopted this year. Thank you volunteers for coming out to support this event, and had as much fun as the children. To God Be the Glory for your Love, Generosity & Support.”

Mrs. Annie Spruell and Spruell Family send: “To Rev. Jemerson and my Second Baptist Church Family: Thank you, your kind and thoughtful expressions of sympathy is deeply appreciated and gratefully acknowledged.”

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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Mr. Raymond and Mrs. Larnett LeBlanc	Mr. James and Mrs. Charlotte Mulkey	Dr. Eula and Mr. George Pines	Dr. Eula and Mr. George Pines
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Deacon Stacey and Mrs. Martha Fairbanks	Mr. Rudolph and Mrs. Vivian Coleman	Mrs. Katrina King Jemerson	Mrs. Katrina King Jemerson
Deacon Charlie and Mrs. Sandra Wesley	Mrs. Cynthia Baker	Mr. Reginald Retledge	Mr. Reginald Retledge

HAPPY BIRTHDAY TO MEMBERS CELEBRATING THIS WEEK

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, Kea Hudson

DO NOT FORGET END-OF-YEAR GIVING

No later than Sunday, December 31, 2023. You are ask to give a financial gift of your choice.

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

“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

ROBERT L. JEMERSON, D. MIN., PASTOR

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Dr. Sarah Williams, President

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

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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

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Mrs. Elaine Curry, Director

James Pickens, Jr., Drum Major

YOUTH CHORUS

Mrs. Tenesia Gaston-Ennis, Sponsor

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