

1879 "THE FORTY-SIXTH YEAR OF OUR SECOND CENTURY" 2025

SECOND BAPTIST CHURCH

3310 E. COMMERCE STREET, SAN ANTONIO, TEXAS 78220
THE REV. DR. ROBERT L. JEMERSON, SR., D. MIN., PASTOR

"In 2025, We are Walking in the Will of the Divine"

**"The steps of a *good* man are ordered by the LORD,
And He delights in his way." Psalm 37: 23**

DECEMBER 7, 2025

11:00 A.M. WORSHIP SERVICE

Enter to Worship

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

Depart to Serve

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



"God make this house of worship we have raised to You 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 Your 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

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

Second 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.

Third 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.

Fourth 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!

THE LIGHTING OF THE SECOND ADVENT CANDLE

The Bethlehem Candle Mrs. Bernice Walker

- 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 Second 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 Second Advent Candle

- Leader:** As we light the second 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.



The Preparation for Worship “For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life.” John 3:16

The Prelude

“O Come All Ye Faithful” arr. Swann

Mrs. La Faye Duren, Organist

The Call To Worship and the Invocation

Rev. Keith Jackson

WORSHIP IN PRAISE

***The Opening Hymn of Praise**

“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 everlasting light; The hopes and fears of all the years are met in thee tonight.

For Christ is born of Mary, And, gathered all above, While mortals sleep, the angels keep Their watch of wond'ring love. O morning stars, together proclaim the holy birth! And praises sing to God the King, And peace to all on earth.

The Lighting of the Second Advent Candle

Mrs. Bernice Walker

The Responsive Reading

John 1: 1-5, 11-14

Rev. Angela Jackson

Minister:

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was in the beginning with God. All things were made through Him, and without Him nothing was made that was made. In Him was life, and the life was the light of men. And the light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not comprehend it.

People:

He came to His own, and His own did not receive Him. But as many as received Him, to them He gave the right to become children of God, to those who believe in His name: who were born, not of blood, nor of the will of the flesh, nor of the will of man, but of God.

***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 Morning Prayer

Rev. Nicholas Williams

WORSHIP IN GIVING

The Offertory Sentence and Prayer Rev. Dr. Argra Thompson - **The Hand Bell Choir “Joyful, Joyful”**

***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

“Joy”

The Voices of Second Baptist Church

The Sermon

“The Salvation of the Lord”

Rev. Keith Jackson

The Text: “And behold, there was a man in Jerusalem whose name *was* Simeon, and this man *was* just and devout, waiting for the Consolation of Israel, and the Holy Spirit was upon him. And it had been revealed to him by the Holy Spirit that he would not see death before he had seen the Lord’s Christ. So he came by the Spirit into the temple. And when the parents brought in the Child Jesus, to do for Him according to the custom of the law, he took Him up in his arms and blessed God and said: “Lord, now You are letting Your servant depart in peace, According to Your word; For my eyes have seen Your salvation Which You have prepared before the face of all peoples, A light to *bring* revelation to the Gentiles, And the glory of Your people Israel.” Luke 2: 25-32

The Invitation to Discipleship

“I Surrender All”

The Voices of Second Baptist Church

The Service of Holy Communion

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

The Communion Hymn

“Down at the Cross”

Down at the cross where my Savior died, Down where for cleansing from sin I cried, There to my heart was the blood applied; Glory to his name! **Refrain: Glory to His name, Glory to His Name, There to my heart was the blood applied; Glory to His Name!**

The Benediction

Rev. Keith Jackson

The Postlude

“Praise the Lord, Ye Heavens Adore Thee” arr. Osterman

Mrs. La Faye Duren, Organist

*** Please Stand**

ANNOUNCEMENTS

WELCOME: Second Baptist Church welcomes the members of The National Council of Negro Women, Inc., Ruth Jones McClendon Section who are worshipping with us today.

SYMPATHY TO: Trustee Dr. Louis and Mr. Bob Levy in the loss of their loved one and our member Mrs. Betty Levy. The visitation for Mrs. Levy will be held **Wednesday, December 10, 2025 at 10:00 A.M.** in the **Second Baptist Church Sanctuary** and the funeral service will follow at **11:00 A.M.**

Rev. Angela and Rev. Keith Jackson in the loss of Rev. Angela Jackson's father **Mr. Wendell Coleman**. The funeral service for Mr. Coleman will be held **Monday, December 15, 2025 at 11:00 A.M.** in the **Second Baptist Church Sanctuary**.

Mrs. Marian and Wheatley Olison in loss of their aunt **Mrs. Eva Williams**. The funeral service for Mrs. Williams will be held **Tuesday, December 9, 2025 at Word of Life Community Church, 351 S Craft Hwy, Chickasaw, Alabama, 36611.**

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.

2026 ANNUAL BUDGET PACKETS

All auxiliaries, ministries, and department heads that utilize church funds must complete 2026 Annual Budget Request Forms. Organization officers are asked to pick up the packets from the church office beginning Monday, November 3, 2025, Monday thru Friday, 9:00 A.M. to 5:00 P.M. Completed forms must be returned to the church office no later than Sunday, December 14, 2025. This is a requirement in order for you to receive funds for the year. You may contact Trustee Martha Taylor at (210) 887-1935 if you have any questions.

WE ARE PRAYING FOR YOUR HEALING

| | | | |
|---|---------------------------------------|---------------------------------------|----------------------|
| Rev. Dr. Robert L. Jemerson | Mrs. Robbie Alexander | Mrs. Roslyn Barksdale | Mrs. Lizzie Barfield |
| Mrs. Shirley Bateman | Mrs. Oweta Bowman | Mrs. Jeanette and Mr. Kirk Brown | Mrs. Corean Carter |
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| Deacon Stacey and Mrs. Martha Fairbanks | Mr. Lincoln and Mrs. Nellie Hardaway | Mrs. Karen Dowden | |
| Mr. E. B. and Mrs. Erma Jackson | Mr. Robert and Mrs. Wilma Johnson | Dr. Willie J. and Mrs. Patsy Lett | |
| Mr. James and Mrs. Charlotte Mulkey | Mr. Willie and Mrs. Sheralin Mitchell | Deacon Bruce and Mrs. Dot Scott | |
| Mr. Anthony and Mrs. Carla Smith | Trustee Will and Mrs. Gloria Wright | Mr. Gerald Embry | |
| Deacon Charlie and Mrs. Sandra Wesley | Mr. Raymond and Mrs. Larnette LeBlanc | Mr. James T. Clark | |

HAPPY BIRTHDAY TO MEMBERS CELEBRATING THIS WEEK

December 7 Mrs. Ernestine Handy, Mr. Patrick Bail **December 8** Mr. Carl James, Mr. Charles McKinney
December 9 Deacon Thomas Johnson, Mr. Darian Harris, Ms. Sabrina Jones **December 10** Mrs. Jeanne Drew
December 11 Miss Constance Davis, Ms. Loi Taylor, Mrs. Minnie Monroe, Mrs. Doris Vicks **December 12** Mr. Joe Blakey, Mr. Omar Nesbit **December 13** Mr. Richard Matthews Jr.

DEACON OF THE WEEK DECEMBER 7-13, 2025

The Deacon of the Week is **Deacon Patrick Lewis**. Members may call the Deacon or the Pastor at (210) 227-2605 to express concerns or encouragement. Deacon Lewis can be reached at (210) 602-8274.

MIDWEEK WORSHIP SERVICE

Wednesday, December 10, 2025

Church Family Dinner 6:00 P.M. - Bible Study 6:30 P.M. Fellowship Hall

Youth Bible Study 6:30 P.M. Taylor, Bland Burns Choir Room

ADVENT SERVICE THURSDAY, DECEMBER 11 and 18, 2025 11:30 A.M. CHAPEL

LUNCH WITH THE KING 12:00 P.M. S.H. JAMES FELLOWSHIP HALL

Second Baptist Church

146TH CHURCH ANNIVERSARY



"THE MIND OF CHRIST"

SCRIPTURE: PHILIPPIANS 2: 5-11

GUEST SPEAKER:

Rev. Dr. Gina Jacobs-Strain
General Secretary,
American Baptist
Churches USA



CHAIRPERSONS:

Deacon Daniel and
Mrs. Jennifer Martin and
The Carter Family

SERVICE 11:00 A.M.

Sunday, December 14, 2025



3310 East Commerce Street

San Antonio, Texas 78220

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

COMING SOON

TO YOUR
SECOND BAPTIST CHURCH COMMUNITY CENTER



**Mark Your
Calendar**

**SATURDAY
DECEMBER
20**

WMU WOMEN'S SPIRITUAL RETREAT

9:30 A.M. TO 3:30 P.M.

Spiritual Spa Moment

Making Lemonade out of Lemons

What is God Asking ME to Do?

Meditation - Sanctuary of Silence

The Power of Prayer in Every Season

Are you Suffering in Silence?

Legacy of Women in Scripture

Let's Move



Mrs. Candi Ellis-Davis, President, WMU

Dr. Eva M. Mason, Chairperson

Rev. Dr. Robert L. Jemerson, Pastor

**You may Text to Register
210 364 9821**



SECOND BAPTIST CHURCH

3310 E. COMMERCE ST., SAN ANTONIO, TEXAS 78220

REV. DR. ROBERT L. JEMERSON, PASTOR



THE CHRISTMAS STORY IN CAROLS,



HOLY COMMUNION



CHRISTMAS RECEPTION

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 21, 2025

Second Baptist Church Sanctuary | 11:00 A.M.

A LUNCH RECEPTION WILL FOLLOW IMMEDIATELY AFTER THE SERVICE
VOLUNTEERS ARE NEEDED TO PARTICIPATE IN THE WORSHIP SERVICE



Christmas Teddy Bear Drive 2025

Deadline:
Sunday, December 21, 2025
Second Baptist Church Narthex



Second Baptist Church
Rev. Robert L. Jemerson, Sr., Pastor
Deborah and Rebekah Circle of the
Women's Missionary Union

Second Baptist Church
3310 E. Commerce Street,
San Antonio, Texas 78220
Rev. Dr. Robert L. Jemerson, Pastor

READY TO MAKE A DIFFERENCE?
DONATE A TOOTH BRUSH TO SAMMINISTRIES



OPERATION TOOTH BRUSH

SAMMinistries is an interfaith ministry whose mission is to help the homeless and those at risk of becoming homeless. SAMMinistries believes that life on Earth is a community and it is their desire that all who come there will find a place which mirrors God's love for the world...

DONATION LOCATION:
NARTHEX OF SECOND BAPTIST CHURCH

*Donations can be dropped off from
November 2025-Decemembr 2025

SECOND BAPTIST CHURCH
WOMEN'S MISSIONARY UNION
PRESIDENT, MRS. ERMA ELLIS-DAVIS
REBEKAH AND DEBORAH CIRCLE

CHURCH DIRECTORY

THE REV. DR. ROBERT L. JEMERSON, DMIN., PASTOR

RESIDENCE: 11402 FOREST SQUARE 78233 Cell Phone: (726) 241-9710

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 Cell Phone: (210) 947-7624

DIRECTOR OF YOUTH MINISTRY: Rev. Dr. Argra Nell Thompson

CHURCH SECRETARY: Miss Miracle McCloud

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

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BASS GUITAR

Mr. James Pickens

CLARINET

Mrs. Elaine Curry

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Mr. Alexander Ambrozaitis, Director/Musician

DRUMMER

Deacon Patrick Lewis

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Mr. Lloyd Bagwell, President

CHIMES CHOIR

Mrs. Alice Powell-Brown, Director

COMFORTERS CHOIR

Mrs. Marian Olison, President

CONTEMPORARIES CHOIR

Mrs. Ernestine "Tina" Dickerson, President

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HAND BELL CHOIR

Mrs. Alice Powell-Brown, Director

Mrs. Vanessa Lewis, President

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Mrs. Ernestine "Tina" Dickerson, Director

JUNIOR CHOIR

MENS' CHORUS

Mrs. La Faye Duren, Director

Deacon Archie Brown, President

PRAISE DANCE AND MIME MINISTRY

Mrs. Nancy Willridge, Sponsor

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James Pickens, Jr., Drum Major

YOUTH CHORUS

Mrs. Tenesia Gaston-Ennis, Sponsor

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