

## DISCOVER/SHARE

### Fellowship Lunch Today

After Bible study, join your church family in Turner Fellowship Hall for a delicious lunch. Today's menu includes Sherrie's shrimp and grits (chicken option), sautéed greens, hush puppies, and dessert (\$12) or buttered noodles with grilled chicken, fresh fruit, and dessert (\$8).

### Advent 2024—How Can This Be?

Our Advent worship this year will be steeped in the marvelous notion of wonder—the wonder of Christmas and the wondrous beauty of experiencing divine Hope, heavenly Peace, the Joy of the Gospel, and God's Love as expressed in the birth of Christ. During this Advent season, culminating in a glorious Christmas Eve service and the celebration of Christmas Day, through our worship together, through story and music, through our fellowship, we will ask this guiding question: How can this be? How is it that God is not merely mindful of us but so loved the world, so loved us, that He has given His only begotten Son, in mercy, with compassion, and through grace, in exchange for our eternal salvation?

### Advent Schedule

In addition to glorious worship each Sunday of Advent, we experience the wonder of the season through the following events:

- December 8: Journey to the Baby
- December 11: Family Ministry Christmas Program
- December 14: Family Ministry Christmasfest
- December 18: Service of Hope & Remembrance
- December 17: MainStreamers Christmas
- December 24: Christmas Eve services  
at 4:00 & 6:00 PM

### Giving Tuesday

Giving Tuesday is a recently popularized movement designed to unleash the generosity of ordinary people around the world on a specific day. This year, it's December 3. While there are many organizations doing remarkable work around the world, a Giving Tuesday gift to your church will contribute to funding the Kingdom work we've set out to accomplish at South Main through our Missions Offering. To make a gift, go to [smbc.org/giving](https://smbc.org/giving), click on Give Now, and select Missions from the Fund drop down menu.

### Guest QR Code



Welcome! We are glad you have chosen to worship with us today. Please scan this QR code to share your information so we can connect with you this week.



SOUTH MAIN  
BAPTIST CHURCH

4100 MAIN ST., HOUSTON, TX 77002  
(713) 529-4167 • [SMBC.ORG](https://smbc.org)  
DR. STEVE WELLS, PASTOR

CCLI #1763254

# HOW CAN THIS BE?

## ADVENT I

WORSHIP  
DECEMBER 1, 2024  
10:00 AM  
STREAMING AT [SMBC.ORG](https://smbc.org)

## FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT – HOPE

*How can this be, since I am a virgin?*

Luke 1:34

### GATHER

#### Tolling the Hour

##### Prelude

*Comfort, Comfort*  
(arr. John Ferguson)  
Sanctuary Choir  
Brad Jernberg, tambourine

“Comfort, comfort now my people;  
Tell of peace!” So says our God.  
Comfort those who sit in darkness  
Mourning under sorrow’s load.  
To God’s people now proclaim  
That God’s pardon waits for them!  
Tell them that their war is over;  
God will reign in peace forever!

For the herald’s voice is crying  
In the desert far and near,  
Calling us to true repentance  
Since the Kingdom now is here.  
O that warning cry obey!  
Now prepare for God a way;  
Let the valleys rise to meet Him,  
And the hills bow down to greet Him.

Straight shall be what long was crooked,  
And the rougher places plain;  
Let your hearts be true and humble,  
As befits His holy reign.  
For the glory of the Lord  
Now on earth is shed abroad;  
And all flesh shall see the token  
That God’s word is never broken.

##### Call to Worship

Steve Wells  
Pastor

##### Ordinance of Baptism

Torri Richardson

### PRAISE

##### Processional Hymn 83

*Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus*

##### Lighting the Hope Candle

Nick and Christina Curato  
Paul and Meredith

### REFLECT

##### Hymn 138

*How Far Is It to Bethlehem?*

(Children are invited to come forward during the hymn.)

##### Children’s Message

Alyssa Carter  
Minister to Children

##### Good News

Steve Wells  
Pastor

### RESPOND

##### Hymn 112

*Child in the Manger*

##### Offertory

*Allegro from Concerto in A minor*  
(Antonio Vivaldi, arr. J. S. Bach)  
Yuri McCoy  
Organist

##### Doxology (OLD HUNDREDETH)

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.

##### Offertory Prayer

Angie Fox

### SHARE

##### Welcoming and Covenant with New Members

In response to your decision,  
we pledge ourselves  
to be the family of God for you in this place.  
We offer you our love, our care,  
our kinship, and our hopes.  
We hope to learn from you,  
give to you, and receive from you  
by God’s grace.

##### Sung Benediction (GREENSLEEVES)

What meekness and what majesty  
Is in this Babe—a Mystery.  
Amazing love, how can this be,  
A Savior, King, and Baby?  
O what a wondrous night,  
Such questions answered with the Light!  
O bless our questions now,  
And guide us as we seek You.

##### Postlude

*Toccata on Veni Emmanuel*  
(Andrew Carter)  
Yuri McCoy



### MINISTERS

**Steve Wells**  
Pastor

**Susan Moore**  
Executive Minister

**Amy Brown**  
Minister to Youth

**Alyssa Carter**  
Minister to Children

**Adam Cogliano**  
Minister for Music and Worship

**Greg Funderburk**  
Minister for Pastoral Care

**J Hill**  
Minister for Missions

**Brad Jernberg**  
Minister for Administration

**Dolores Rader**  
Minister to Families

**Matt Walton**  
Minister for Discipleship