

DISCOVER/SHARE

Manna Christmas

You are invited to join our Manna Ministry at 2:00 PM on Christmas Eve at Trinity Pines Chapel to share Christmas with our neighbors who are homeless or hungry.

Christmas Eve Services

On Christmas Eve, we gather at 4:00 PM and 6:00 PM for our traditional Candlelight Service to tell the beautiful and most consequential story of Christ's birth and to celebrate the impending arrival of Christmas. This story of question upon question culminates in an answer: the Christ child in the manger. Our 4:00 PM service will end with the singing of *Silent Night* in our Sanctuary, while the 6:00 PM service will conclude with singing the carol outside.

New Year's Brunch

We continue to celebrate the joy of Christmas with a brunch in Turner Fellowship Hall at 9:00 AM on December 29, then at 10:00 AM we'll worship together in the Sanctuary ahead of the New Year. On this day, there will be no Family Ministry or Adult Bible Study.

Save the Date for January Bible Study

We'll kick off the new year with Dr. Elizabeth Shively from Truett Seminary leading us in worship and Bible study on Sunday, January 12.

Fellowship Lunch Today

After Bible study, join your church family in Turner Fellowship Hall for lunch (rosemary pork chop or chicken, roasted potatoes, English peas, roll, and dessert for \$12 or turkey sandwich, carrots w/ranch dressing, chips, and dessert for \$8).

A Note from the Finance Office

Beginning Monday, December 23, we encourage you to make all online gifts through the Church's giving portal at smbc.org/giving. This will ensure that we have a record of your transaction dated in 2024 so that your gift will (1) not be potentially delayed in the holidays and (2) will be credited to you for your 2024 taxes. All gifts must be made by 11:00 PM on December 31 to count for 2024 (our processing company is on Eastern time).

HOW CAN THIS BE

ADVENT IV



SOUTH MAIN
BAPTIST CHURCH

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

DR. STEVE WELLS, PASTOR

CCLI #1763254

WORSHIP

DECEMBER 22, 2024

10:00 AM

STREAMING AT [SMBC.ORG](https://smbc.org)

FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT – LOVE

“I bring you Good News of great joy which shall be for all the people.”

Luke 2:10

GATHER

(During Advent, children in second grade and younger will remain in the Sanctuary for the entire service.)

Tolling the Hour

Prelude

This Lovely Lady Sat and Song (arr. Bryan Kelly)
Chamber Choir

This lovely lady sat and song,
And to her Child did say,
“My Son, my Brother, my Father dear,
Why liest Thou in hay?
My sweetest bird, thus it betide,
Though Thou be king veray, veray,
But nevertheless I will not cease
To sing ‘By by, lullay, lullay.’”

“My dear mother, when time it be,
Thou take Me up on loft,
And set Me upon thy knee,
And handle me full soft.
And in thy arm thou will Me warm,
And keep Me night and day, night and day,
If that I weep, and may not sleep,
Thou sing, ‘By by, lullay, lullay.’”

“Now sweet Son, since it is so,
That all thing is at Thy will,
I pray Thee grant to me a boon
If it be both right and skill,
That child or man, that will or can
Be merry upon my day, my day,
To bless Him bring—and I shall sing,
‘Lullay, by by, lullay.’”

—From *This Endris Night*, 15th century anonymous carol

Call to Worship and Litany

Brad Jernberg, Minister for Administration

Leader: We wonder as we wander,
looking up to the stars in the sky.

Congregation: How can this be?

Leader: Who is this angel of the Lord?

Congregation: How are we to “fear not?”

Leader: What is this star shining in the east?

Congregation: How might we follow it?

Leader: Who is the Creator of all these stars?

Congregation: How should we worship Him?

Leader: Why has He so loved the world?

Congregation: Who are we that He is mindful of us?

Leader: Amazing love.

Congregation: How can this be?

Leader: Light, shine in our darkness.

Congregation: Love, come down.

Leader: Word, become flesh.

All: Tabernacle among us.

PRAISE

“For all to see there was a star...”

Processional Hymn 124

The First Nowell
Stanzas 1, 2, and 4

Lighting the Love Candle

Clay and Allison Tompkins
Warren, Austin, and Lila

REFLECT

“In Him there is no darkness at all...”

Hymn 96

I Want to Walk As a Child of the Light
Stanzas 1 and 2

Anthem

Seek Him That Maketh the Seven Stars
(Jonathan Dove)
Chamber Choir

Seek Him that maketh the
seven stars and Orion
and turneth the shadow of death
into the morning.
Alleluia, yea, the darkness shineth as the day, and
the night is light about me.
Amen.

— Based on Amos 5:8 and Psalm 139

Good News

Steve Wells, Pastor

RESPOND

“In thy dark streets shineth the everlasting Light...”

Hymn 107

O Little Town of Bethlehem

Offertory

Sure On This Shining Night (Morten Lauridsen)
Chamber Choir

Doxology (OLD HUNDREDDTH)

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

Susan Young

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.

Staff Recognition

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 Hark the Herald Angels Sing
(Diane Bish)
Yuri McCoy, Organist



YEAR-END GIVING NEED

\$1,155,937 is the amount we, as a congregation, need to give between now and the end of the year to fully fund our 2024 budget. We have the capacity to give this amount and to meet our Challenge Budget (an extra \$120,000) if each of us gives in accordance with our gratitude for all the blessings God has bestowed on us in the past year. To make a gift, please visit smbc.org/giving.