

# GATHERED WORSHIP SERVICE

for the  
**Glory of God  
and the**

**Renewal of His People**

**November 27, 2011**

**The First Sunday of Advent**

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(If the temperature of the building is too cool, please avail yourself of shawls in the lobby near our water fountain)

*To all who are spiritually weary and seek rest; to all who mourn and long for comfort;  
to all who struggle and desire victory; to all who sin and need a Savior;  
to all who are strangers and want fellowship; to all who hunger and thirst after righteousness;  
and to all who will come, this church opens wide her doors  
and offers welcome in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ.*



Southside Community Church exists as a *community*  
*redeemed* by and *dependent* upon *God's grace*,  
that we might be  
engaged in and renewed by the *worship* of the triune God,  
*matured* by His truth, as evidenced by *love*,  
and engaged in His *mission of renewal* to *His world*.

## REFLECTION and PREPARATION

Christmas, then, is not a dream, a moment of escapism. Christmas is the reality, which shows up the rest of “reality.” And for Christmas, here, read Christianity. Either Jesus is the Lord of the world, and all reality makes sense in his light, or he is dangerously irrelevant to the problems and possibilities of today’s world. There is no middle ground. Either Jesus was, and is, the Word of God, or he, and the stories Christians tell about him, are lies.

*N.T. Wright, For All God’s Worth*

Christ became what we are that he might make us what he is.

*St. Athanasius (c. 293-373), On the Incarnation of the Word of God*

The people walking in darkness have seen a great light; on those living in the land of the shadow of death a light has dawned.

*Isaiah 9:2*

“Come, thou long expected Jesus, born to set thy people free; from our fears and sins release us; let us find our rest in thee. Israel’s strength and consolation, hope of all the earth thou art, dear Desire of every nation, joy of every longing heart.”

*Charles Wesley*

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**BLESSED ARE THE POOR IN SPIRIT... THEIRS IS THE KINGDOM**

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(\*Indicates where congregation is invited to stand, as able)

**\*CALL to WORSHIP**

*from Luke 1:68-75 & Psalm 24*

*Leader: Praise be to the Lord, the God of Israel,  
because he has come and redeemed his people.*

**People: He has raised up a horn of salvation for us in the house of his  
servant David, as he said through his holy prophets of long ago.**

*Leader: He did this to show mercy to our fathers and to remember his holy covenant,  
the oath he swore to Abraham.*

**People: To rescue us from the hand of our enemies, and to enable us to serve  
him without fear in holiness and righteousness before him all our days.**

*Leader: The Lord, the King of glory, is coming!*

**People: O come, let us adore him!**

SONGS of ADORATION

**Joy to the World! The Lord Is Come**

Words: Isaac Watts, 1719

Music: George Frederick Handel, 1742

Joy to the world! The Lord is come:  
Let earth receive her King;  
Let ev'ry heart prepare Him room,  
And heav'n and nature sing,  
And heav'n and nature sing,  
And heav'n, and heav'n and nature sing.

Joy to the earth! The Savior reigns:  
Let men their songs employ;  
While fields and floods,  
Rocks, hills and plains  
Repeat the sounding joy,  
Repeat the sounding joy,  
Repeat, repeat the sounding joy.

No more let sins and sorrows grow,  
Nor thorns infest the ground;  
He comes to make His blessings flow  
Far as the curse is found,  
Far as the curse is found,  
Far as, far as the curse is found.

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.

## O Come, O Come, Emmanuel

Words: Latin Hymn, 1710  
Music: Plainsong, 13<sup>th</sup> century

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

O come, Thou rod of Jesse free,  
Thine own from Satan's tyranny;  
From depths of hell Thy people save  
And give them vict'ry o'er the grave.

Rejoice! Rejoice!  
Emmanuel  
Shall come to thee, O Israel.

O come, Thou Day-spring from on high,  
And cheer us by Thy drawing nigh;  
Disperse the gloomy clouds of night,  
And death's dark shadows put to flight.

O come, Thou Key of David, come  
And open wide our heav'nly home;  
Make safe the way that leads on high,  
And close the path to misery.

Rejoice! Rejoice!  
Emmanuel  
Shall come to thee, O Israel.

Rejoice! Rejoice!  
Emmanuel  
Shall come to thee, O Israel.

\*PRAYER of ADORATION

**AFFIRMATION of FAITH**

*from Isaiah 9*

*Leader: The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light;  
those who dwelt in a land of deep darkness,  
on them has light shined.*

**People: ...For to us a child is born, to us a son is given;  
and the government shall be upon his shoulder,  
and his name shall be called  
Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God,  
Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.**

*Leader: Of the increase of his government and of peace there will be no end,  
on the throne of David and over his kingdom,  
to establish it and to uphold it with justice and with righteousness from this time forth and forevermore.*

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BLESSED ARE THOSE WHO MOURN...

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CONFESSION of SIN

*from I John 1:5-9*

Minister: *This is the message we have heard from him and proclaim to you,  
that God is light, and in him is no darkness at all.*

**People: If we say we have fellowship with him while we walk in  
darkness, we lie and do not practice the truth.**

Minister: *If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us.*

**People: If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our  
sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.**

*(please confess silently, then join the minister in praying the following prayer aloud)*

God of grace and truth,  
in Jesus Christ,  
you came among us as light shining in darkness.

We confess that we have not welcomed the light,  
or trusted good news to be good.

We have closed our eyes to your glory in our midst,  
expecting little, and hoping for less.

Forgive our doubt,  
and renew our hope,  
so that we may receive the fullness of your grace,  
and live in the truth of Christ the Lord.

Amen.

*Advent Candle - "Prophecy"*

Lighting the Advent wreath originated in Germany in the nineteenth century, based on a Roman custom of the ceremonial entrance of a ruler to a province or city as his 'advent' (from the Latin *adventus*: 'arrival'). The wreath consists of four candles on the outside of the wreath and one candle in the center. One candle is lit the first Sunday of Advent. Two are lit the 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday, and so on. Each of the candles has particular symbolism: The first is the Prophecy candle; the second is the Bethlehem candle; the third is the Shepherds candle; the 4<sup>th</sup> is the Angels candle; and the center candle is the Christ candle, lit at Christmas.

SONG of RENEWAL

**Let All Mortal Flesh Keep Silence**

Words: Liturgy of St. James, 5<sup>th</sup> Century Music: French Melody, 17<sup>th</sup> Century

Let all mortal flesh keep silence,  
And with fear and trembling stand;  
Ponder nothing earthly minded,  
For with blessing in his hand,  
Christ our God to earth  
Descendeth,  
Our full homage to demand.

King of kings, yet born of Mary,  
As of old on earth he stood,  
Lord of lords, in human vesture,  
In the body and the blood,  
He will give to all  
The faithful  
His own self for heav'nly food.

Rank on rank the host of heaven  
Spreads its vanguard on the way,  
As the Light of light descendeth  
From the realms of endless day,  
That the pow'rs of hell  
May vanish  
As the darkness clears away.

At his feet the six winged seraph;  
Cherubim, with sleepless eye,  
Veil their faces to the presence,  
As with ceaseless voice they cry,  
"Alleluia, alleluia,  
Alleluia, Lord Most High!"

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BLESSED ARE THE MEEK...FOR THEY SHALL INHERIT THE EARTH

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**\*WORDS of ASSURANCE and the PEACE of CHRIST**

*from Isaiah 40*

Comfort, comfort my people, says your God.  
Speak tenderly to Jerusalem, and cry to her that her warfare is ended,  
that her iniquity is pardoned, that she has received from the LORD's hand double for all her sins.

*2 Corinthians 4:6*

God, who said, "Let light shine out of darkness," has shone in our hearts to give the  
light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ.

*Minister: The peace of the Lord be with you!*

**People: And also with you!**

## Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus

Words: St. 1,4 Charles Wesley, 1744; St. 2-3, Mark E. Hunt, 1978  
Music: Rowland Hugh Pritchard, 1855

Come Thou long-expected Jesus born to set Thy people free;  
From our fears and sins release us, let us find our rest in Thee.  
Israel's strength and consolation, hope of all the saints Thou art;  
Dear desire of every nation, joy of every longing heart.

Joy to those who long to see Thee, Dayspring from on high, appear;  
Come, thou promised Rod of Jesse, of Thy birth we long to hear!  
O'er the hills the angels singing news, glad tidings of a birth:  
"Go to Him, your praises bringing; Christ the Lord has come to earth."

Come to earth to taste our sadness, He whose glories knew no end;  
By His life He brings us gladness, our Redeemer, Shepherd, Friend.  
Leaving riches without number, born within a cattle stall;  
This the everlasting wonder, Christ was born the Lord of all.

Born Thy people to deliver, born a child and yet a King,  
Born to reign in us forever, now Thy gracious kingdom bring.  
By Thine own eternal Spirit rule in all our hearts alone;  
By Thine all sufficient merit, raise us to Thy glorious throne.

**MINISTRY OPPORTUNITIES**

*Fellowship Books.* Please take a moment to fill out the information on the attendance pads located underneath the seat on the inner aisles, providing any information to enable us to better serve you. When you finish, please pass the pads down the row so everyone has the opportunity to do so.

**PRAYER of COMMITTAL for our OFFERINGS**

**GIVING of OFFERINGS**

*The Jesse Tree*

The Jesse tree, at the center of our stage, is an artistic tradition, dating to the 11<sup>th</sup> century, and can serve as tool to visibly wed history and the story of God’s redemption in the coming of Jesus Christ. Its name comes from the biblical book of prophecy, *Isaiah*, which offers this metaphorical description of the descent of the Messiah from Jesse of Bethlehem, through his son David.

*“There shall come forth a shoot from the stump of Jesse, a branch from his roots shall bear fruit. And the Spirit of the Lord shall rest upon him...” –  
Isaiah 11:1*

Today’s Themes:

God Creates the World  
The First Sin of Mankind  
God Saves Noah and family  
Promise to Abraham  
Isaac Spared, Lamb Provided  
Jacob’s Ladder – a Way to God  
Joseph Sold to Slavery

Symbols:

Earth  
Apple & Snake  
Ark & Rainbow  
Stars  
Lamb  
Ladder  
Coat of many colors

*Childrens’ Worship.* We welcome children in our entire worship service. However, if you feel a child would benefit from a setting specifically designed for 4-8 years of age, you may escort them to Children’s Worship down the west hallway of our building after our offering.

**PRAYER for GOD’S PEOPLE and HIS WORLD**

*All Is Vanity*

<sup>1</sup>The words of the Preacher, the son of David, king in Jerusalem.

<sup>2</sup> Vanity of vanities, says the Preacher,  
vanity of vanities! All is vanity.

<sup>3</sup> What does man gain by all the toil  
at which he toils under the sun?

<sup>4</sup> A generation goes, and a generation comes,  
but the earth remains forever.

<sup>5</sup> The sun rises, and the sun goes down,  
and hastens to the place where it rises.

<sup>6</sup> The wind blows to the south  
and goes around to the north;  
around and around goes the wind,  
and on its circuits the wind returns.

<sup>7</sup> All streams run to the sea,  
but the sea is not full;  
to the place where the streams flow,  
there they flow again.

<sup>8</sup> All things are full of weariness;  
a man cannot utter it;  
the eye is not satisfied with seeing,  
nor the ear filled with hearing.

<sup>9</sup> What has been is what will be,  
and what has been done is what will be done,  
and there is nothing new under the sun.

<sup>10</sup> Is there a thing of which it is said,  
"See, this is new"?

It has been already  
in the ages before us.

<sup>11</sup> There is no remembrance of former things,  
nor will there be any remembrance  
of later things yet to be  
among those who come after.

### *The Vanity of Wisdom*

<sup>12</sup>I the Preacher have been king over Israel in Jerusalem.

<sup>13</sup>And I applied my heart to seek and to search out by wisdom all that is done under heaven. It is an unhappy business that God has given to the children of man to be busy with. <sup>14</sup>I have seen everything that is done under the sun, and behold, all is vanity and a striving after wind.

<sup>15</sup> What is crooked cannot be made straight,  
and what is lacking cannot be counted.

<sup>16</sup>I said in my heart, "I have acquired great wisdom, surpassing all who were over Jerusalem before me, and my heart has had great experience of wisdom and knowledge." <sup>17</sup>And I applied my heart to know wisdom and to know madness and folly. I perceived that this also is but a striving after wind.

<sup>18</sup>For in much wisdom is much vexation,  
and he who increases knowledge increases sorrow.

### **HOMILY**

#### ***"The Unhappy Busyness God has Given to Us to be Busy With"***

*from the series,*

*"Waiting for Jesus to Come –  
What Gain is there from What I Do in the Meantime?"*

*Based in Ecclesiastes*

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BLESSED ARE THE MERCIFUL, PURE IN HEART,  
PEACE MAKERS, PERSECUTED...

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\*SONG of RESPONSE

**All I Once Held Dear/Knowing You**

Words and Music: Graham Kendrick, 1993

All I once held dear, built my life upon  
All this world reveres, and wars to own  
All I once thought gain I have counted loss  
Spent and worthless now, compared to this

*Refrain:*

*Knowing you, Jesus  
Knowing you, there is no greater thing  
You're my all, you're the best  
You're my joy, my righteousness  
And I love you, Lord*

Now my heart's desire is to know you more  
To be found in you and known as yours  
To possess by faith what I could not earn  
All-surpassing gift of righteousness

*Refrain*

Oh, to know the power of your risen life  
And to know You in Your sufferings  
To become like you in your death, my Lord  
So with you to live and never die

*Refrain*

**\*BENEDICTION**

from Romans 15

Minister: *And again Isaiah says,*  
*"The root of Jesse will come,*  
*even he who arises to rule the Gentiles;*  
*in him will the Gentiles hope."*  
  
*May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing,*  
*so that by the power of the Holy Spirit*  
*you may abound in hope.*

**People:** **(Loudly) Amen!**

Minister: *Rejoice, the King has come and is coming again!*

**All:** **(Very loudly sung)**

**O come, let us adore him,**  
**O come, let us adore him,**  
**O come, let us adore him,**  
**Christ the Lord!**

**\*POSTLUDE**

*We praise the Lord for our accompanists this morning*  
*– vocalists and instrumentalists and audio and video technicians.*

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*The artwork of the bronze cross and Jesse Tree on our cover and throughout the guide is used with permission of Creator Mundi.  
You may view more of their art at [www.creatormundi.com](http://www.creatormundi.com).*



**Opportunities to Know, Connect, and Serve**

*Today*

**Lunch Bunch.** The congregation is invited to join the lunch bunch at B & J's Pizza 6662 S. Staples Street, following our worship service.

**Audio/Video Booth help needed.** Training will be provided for anyone interested in this opportunity. Please contact Jared at 774-6150 if you would desire in helping serve the church in this way.

**December Activity and Ministry Calendars.** Copies of the December Calendar have been placed in the narthex.

*Next Week*

**Serving The Kingdom through His Church Class – Friday evening, Dec 2<sup>nd</sup> and Saturday morning, Dec 3<sup>rd</sup>.** Our current class determined we'd like to accomplish our course in a weekend format this year. We will eat, study, and fellowship at the home of Andy & Lorree Folley. All are welcome to attend this course which seeks to equip anyone wishing to serve effectively with their gifts through Southside, asking questions about faith and Church, or seeking membership among us. Contact the office or Kyle if you are interested or have questions.

**Jason Pickard visit, RUF International minister, Texas A&M, College Station, Sunday, December 4<sup>th</sup>.** RUF International at this location in our presbytery is a brand new ministry from which we have much to learn and to which we may support in various ways. Jason will teach during our 9:15 educational hour on Sunday, share during our worship service, and help lead our liturgy. This is a tangible way on our home soil in which we may be a part of joining God's mission in sending the gospel to all nations.

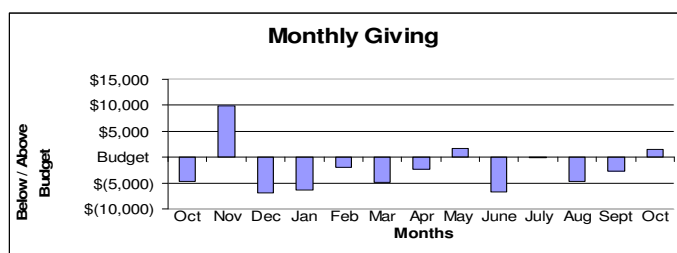
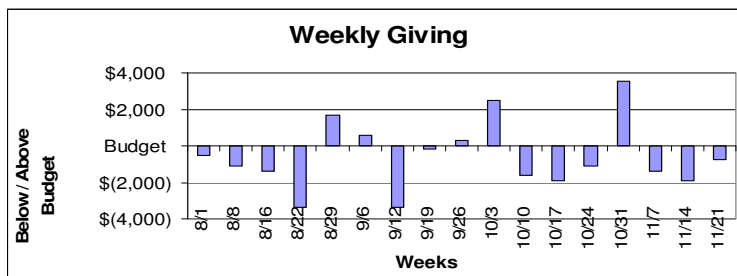
*Upcoming*

**Christmas Caroling Wednesday, December 7<sup>th</sup>.** Join us as we gather to sing Christmas Carols with the residents at Andy Beaver's place, Harbor Place Retirement Residence, 5518 Lipps. We'll meet in lobby there at 5:45 p.m.

**Womens' Christmas Ornament Exchange. December 11<sup>th</sup>.** We will gather at 6pm at the Sigler home, 441 Santa Monica Place. Bring a wrapped ornament and either a dessert or appetizer.

**Darren McGee willing to do odd jobs.** Please contact one of our deacons if you would be interested in having Darren do some work.

**Financial Update**



*Giving Month-to-Date: \$ 14,104.00*

*Budget Month-to-Date: \$ 18,243.00*

*Giving Year-to-Date: \$ 188,325.00*

*Budget Year-to-Date: \$ 202,693.00*

**Save the Date**

- **Dec. 4<sup>th</sup>** – visit by Jason Pickard, RUF International minister to Texas A&M, College Station
- **Dec. 7<sup>th</sup>** – Christmas Caroling
- **Dec. 11<sup>th</sup>** – Women's Ornament Exchange
- **Dec. 24<sup>th</sup>** – Christmas Eve Candlelight worship service, 6pm.

Also please note we will not gather for the monthly Fellowship Luncheon in either November or December.

**\*\*Ongoing Bible Study and Opportunities for Service with Groups**

**Sunday Christian Education Classes - 9:15 - 10:15**

Ages 2 - 3 *A Sure Foundation*  
Ages 4 - 9 *Camp Southside – "...set their hope in God"*  
Ages 10-13 *The Young Peacemaker*  
Ages 14 - 18 *The Peacemaker*  
Adults *The Pauline Epistles*

**Sunday Morning Worship Service 10:30 am**

4-8 Years, Children's Worship (children dismissed prior to Homily)  
Staffed nursery for newborns - 3 years for Education Hour and Worship Service

**Weekly Meetings**

**Tuesday Morning @ Town & Country Café**

**6:30 am Men's Study** "Sure I Believe - So What, How to Really Live Your Faith" by James Boice

**7:00 am Women's Breakfast**

Contacts: Bill and Jean Newberry at 537-0549 or 537-9681 or Gordon and Linda Landreth at 992-3046.

**Wednesday**

**Fall Midweek Study 11:00 am** Study -*Through His Eyes, God's Perspective on Women in the Bible* and meal.  
**Will resume on November 30<sup>th</sup>.**

Contact Meredith Hood at MeredithHood730@yahoo.com or 361-232-1364.

**Youth Gathering** Fellowship with study and food, 7:00pm.

**Will resume on November 30<sup>th</sup>.**

Contact Stephen Shepperd at 537.2281 or Shepshep3@gmail.com

**Monthly Meetings**

**Women's Book Club** Contact Jeanie Cotten @ 991-6478 or jcotten@stx.rr.com

**Tuesday Women's Noon Fellowship** Contact Andy Beaver @ 442-2721

We are studying Susan Hunt's "A Place of Grace"..

**Mercy and Service Opportunities**

**Mission 911 "The Center Peace"** Contact Paige Peden @ 290.2174 or hydrangeasplendor@yahoo.com  
Nutrition, Reading and Fun. If interested in volunteering please contact Paige for more details.

**Elder on Call**

|                 |                |                 |             |
|-----------------|----------------|-----------------|-------------|
| Harry Lundgaard | Nov 27 – Dec 3 | Gordon Landreth | Dec 4 – 10  |
| Johnny Cotten   | Dec 11 – 17    | Rob Sigler      | Dec 18 – 24 |

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