
DEC. 9, 2020

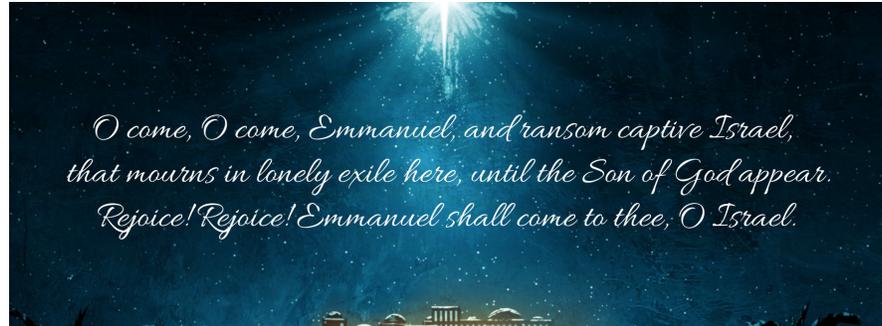


SoundFourth!

Weekly Newsletter for the Choir of First Baptist Church

CHOIR NEWS THIS WEEK:

An Announcement
A Word from the Director
New COVID Policies
Prayers & Praises



*O come, O come, Emmanuel, and ransom captive Israel,
that mourns in lonely exile here, until the Son of God appear.
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel.*

Announcement!

We will not have practice on the Wednesdays of December 16th, 23rd, 30th, & January 6th!

However, we will still have choir in services on Sunday.
Rehearsal will start at 10:30am in the Choir Room!

A Word from the Director

"Men had turned from the contemplation of God above, and were looking for Him in the opposite direction, down among created things and things of sense. The Savior of us all, the Word of God, in His great love took to Himself a body and moved as Man among men, meeting their senses, so to speak, half way. He became Himself an object for the senses, so that those who were seeking God in sensible things might apprehend the Father through the works which He, the Word of God, did in the body. Human and human minded as men were, therefore, to whichever side they looked in the sensible world they found themselves taught the truth. Were they awe-stricken by creation? They beheld it confessing Christ as Lord. Did their minds tend to regard men as Gods? The uniqueness of the Savior's works marked Him, alone of men, as Son of God. Were they drawn to evil spirits? They saw them driven out by the Lord and learned that the Word of God alone was God and that the evil spirits were not gods at all. Were they inclined to heroworship and the cult of the dead? Then the fact that the Savior had risen from the dead showed them how false these other deities were, and that the Word of the Father is the one true Lord, the Lord even of death. For this reason was He both born and manifested as Man, for this He died and rose, in order that, eclipsing by His works all other human deeds, He might recall men from all the paths of error to know the Father. As He says Himself, "I came to seek and to save that which was lost" (Luke 19:10)."

~St. Athanasius, from his book "On the Incarnation"~

Our joy today is in the fact that God did not just leave us here or reveal Himself to us, but in fact came to be with us - Emmanuel. He came to seek and save the lost, and reached out to us and called us from the halfway point like He did with Peter on the sea. Even though He has been physically gone from the earth for almost 2,000 years, His call remains the same. He is still standing between God and us, calling us back to His side; and every year, we have this chance again to look at the story of human history - the story of Jesus Christ.

Thank you for everything that you have done in this past year. 2020 has been a wild, and hopefully 2021 will get us more back to normal. Let's not forget what we have learned this year, though, in how we value the simple things in life. The pinnacle of this is in the person of Jesus, in Whom we have the greatest gift. Our cantata shows this to everyone around us, and still shows how God is never gone - He is still Emmanuel, God with us.

In His Service, Braxton

New COVID Policies

As I said this last Wednesday, I am thankful for the ways in which God has blessed us in this time. In spite of the first positive test in the members of the choir, I am so blessed by those of you who have taken on the weekly sacrifice of your time and talent for our services. In light of the ever-evolving state of COVID-19, these new policies will be enacted **immediately and without exception**:

- All choir members will enter at the back of the Sanctuary.
 - Temperatures will be taken at the door and questions pertaining to your recent health will be asked.
 - If you have had any symptoms of **any** illness in the preceding 3 days before rehearsal and have not been tested, you will be asked to leave.
 - If you have been tested and found negative, you may enter.
 - If you are currently awaiting results for a COVID test, you will not be allowed to enter.
 - Masks will still be required, and must be worn at any moment where we are not singing.
 - If you have a reason to question anything related to your health, please do not come - your health and welfare is the most important thing.
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Prayers & Praises

- **Hank Roberson** - Recovery (COVID)
- **Jan Ashley** - Father (Hospice)
- **Mallory Kubasko** - Recovery (surgery)
- **Joyce Wright** - Recovery (knee replacement surgery)
- **Pope Hardee** - Recovery (blood pressure)
- **Amanda Howell**, daughter of **Jimmy & Jackie Jones** - Recovery (COVID-19)
- **Jimmy Jones** - Recovery (surgery)
- Our nation in the midst of the virus.