

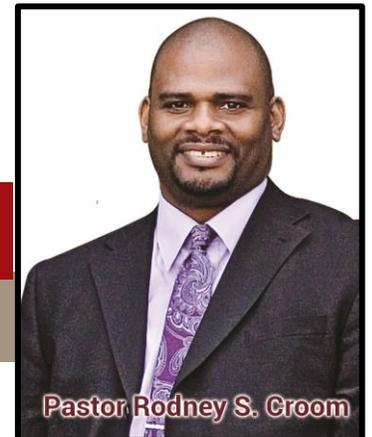


For unto you is born this day in the city of David
a Saviour, which is Christ the Lord.

Luke 2:11

FIRST BAPTIST-PS TIMES

A monthly newsletter of First Baptist Palm Springs Vol. 2 Issue 9 December 2022



Pastor Rodney S. Croom

From the Pastor's Desk...

Greetings, my brothers and sisters in Christ!

I pray all is well with you and yours. As we approach Christmas and a new year, I cannot help but reflect on God's goodness and faithfulness. We have seen more in these past three years by way of sickness and death than we've ever seen before. Yet, I am reminded of the Winan's song, "MILLIONS DIDN'T MAKE IT BUT I AM ONE OF THE ONES WHO DID." The Lord has, by His grace, given us another opportunity to declare His goodness to those who do not know Him. Let us be faithful in doing so during this holiday season. As we gather with family and friends who may or may not know the Lord, let us be witnesses for the Savior. May they hear from us more about the Gift that hung on a tree than the gifts that are under the tree.

Realizing that these seasons are not always blissful or jovial for many, I am reminded of this scripture that encourages and challenges me during these times. It is found in Matthew 5:13-16, ¹³ "You are the salt of the earth. But what good is salt if it has lost its flavor? Can you make it salty again? It will be thrown out and trampled underfoot as worthless. ¹⁴ "You are the light of the world—like a city on a hilltop that cannot be hidden. ¹⁵ No one lights a lamp and then puts it under a basket. Instead, a lamp is placed on a stand, where it gives light to everyone in the house. ¹⁶ In the same way, let your good deeds shine out for all to see, so that everyone will praise your heavenly Father."

I want to encourage us to be light and salt during this season. When we gather with our families and friends, may we influence and flavor them with Christ and the Gospel. People will be hurting because loved ones have moved from this life to the other side. May our lights shine bright with encouragement during this season. May the light of Christ shine through us to help lift someone's spirit during this season. We don't have to blend in; but rather let us stand out so that men may see our good deeds and glorify God our Father in heaven. In short, maintain your Christian influence. Don't lose your saltiness and do not allow your light to dim or be eclipsed by self, sin, and Satan. God has left us here for a reason and this is to be witnesses for Him. "MILLIONS DIDN'T MAKE IT, BUT YOU ARE ONE OF THE ONES WHO DID." May our time here not be squandered, but every opportunity seized for His glory!

Pastor "C"



Never too young to serve

Little Miss Crya Murrell on her post as a Junior Usher, Sis. Lela Adams trains the juniors to serve every second Sunday.



1And it came to pass in those days, that there went out a decree from Caesar Augustus, that all the world should be taxed. 2(And this taxing was first made when Cyrenius was governor of Syria.) 3And all went to be taxed, every one into his own city. 4And 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:) 5To be taxed with Mary his espoused wife, being great with child. 6And so it was, that, while they were there, the days were accomplished that she should be delivered. 7And 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.

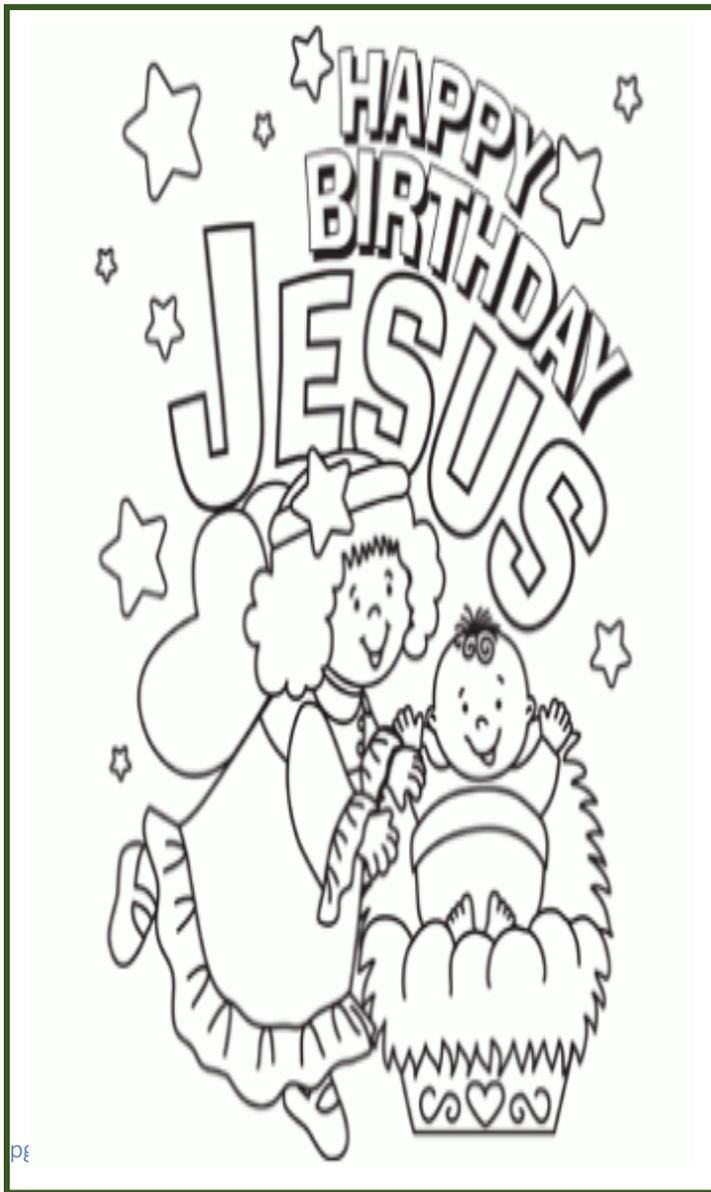
Luke 2:1-7



Prayer requests...



- **Pastor Croom – Attentive to God Devine Wisdom**
- **Croom Family- Protection & Divi**
- **Church Leadership -Spiritual Unity & Divine Wisdom**
- **Unity in the Family of God**
- **Sunday School -God would brings those who thirst for His Word**
- **The Community**
- **Kiyah Alexander & Family**
- **James Croom – Mental Health & Salvation**
- **Sis. Ann Curtis**
- **Bro. Orlando Harding – Spiritual Healing & Obedience to God**
- **Sis. Michelle Harding-Obedience to God, Application of the Word, Health & Healing (Spiritual & Physical)**
- **Sis. Sydney Harding- Spiritual Healing & Direction**
- **Sis. Jalisia Hated – Deepening of her relationship withe Lord**
- **The Bereaved Family of Nooney Hawkins**
- **Kym Humphrey-Health & Healing**
- **Sis. Fenita Kirkwood -Pain in the body**
- **Sis. Joyce Lockett – Health &**
- **The Bereaved Family of Brother Manning**
- **Sis. Diane Powell – Pain Relief**
- **Sis. Gina Robinson -Trust in the Lord**
- **The Bereaved Family of Ronald Roy**
- **Sis. Rita Session – Health & Healing**
- **Bro. Frankie Smith – Endurance & Trust in the Lord**
- **Sis. Turner – Health & Healing**
- **Sis. Thelma Ware – Health & Healing**
- **The sick, shut-in and those struggling with addictions**
- **Our Nation & World to acknowledge God & repent of its sins**
- **The gospel to go forth in the world unhindered**



JESUS is the Reason for the Season

Before time began there was God. He created the world and everything in it. In his love, God created man in his own image and placed him in a beautiful garden. Man disobeyed God's instructions. This disobedience was sin and separated man from God. He told them that they should sacrifice perfect young animals for their sins. These sacrifices did not pay for their sin but only pointed forward to the ultimate sacrifice that God would provide. Someday God would send his Son Jesus to this earth to be that ultimate sacrifice for the sins of all people.

Mary and the Angel

Four thousand years later, in the town of Nazareth, there lived a young woman named Mary. She was engaged to be married to Joseph. One day an angel appeared to Mary and told her she would have a special baby. She should name Him Jesus. This baby would not have an earthly father. He would be God's Son.

The Birth of Jesus

After the angel's visit, Joseph and Mary made a long journey to Bethlehem to pay their taxes. When they reached Bethlehem, the city was crowded. They spent the night in the stable because there was no room in the inn. There Jesus was born. Mary wrapped baby Jesus in swaddling clothes and laid Him in a manger.

The Shepherds

That same night, on a hill outside the city, shepherds were watching their sheep. An angel appeared and the glory of God shone around the shepherds. The angel said, "Don't be afraid. I have good news that will bring great joy to all people. This night a Savior has been born. He is Jesus Christ the Lord. You will find the baby wrapped in swaddling clothes, lying in a manger." Then many angels appeared glorifying and praising God, saying "Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace, good will to men." When the angels had gone away, the shepherds left their sheep and went quickly to Bethlehem. There they found the baby just as the angel had said they would.

The Wise Men

After Jesus was born, wise men came from another country to Jerusalem. They asked, "Where is the baby who is born King of the Jews? We have seen his star in the east and want to worship Him." When King Herod heard this, he was not happy. He called together the priests and teachers of the law. They told him the prophets had said a ruler would be born in Bethlehem. King Herod sent the wise men to Bethlehem to search for this king. As the wise men left Jerusalem, the star led them to the house where they found baby Jesus. They fell down and worshiped, giving Him gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh. God warned the wise men in a dream that they should not return to wicked King Herod, so they went home a different way.

The Reason for God's Gift

Jesus was God's Son. He lived without sin and was perfect in all his ways. At thirty years of age, Jesus began to teach the people about God, his Father. He did many miracles such as giving sight to the blind, healing many people of their diseases, and even raising the dead. Above all, He taught the way to have eternal life in heaven. Then He gave his life as a sacrifice for the sin of the whole world.

The Bible says in John 3:16, "For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life." Jesus came to this earth to die on a cross as the supreme sacrifice. By his death, the price for all sin has been paid. There is no more need to offer sacrifices for sin. This was the fulfillment of God's promise to send the Savior.

Although Jesus was killed by wicked men, death had no power over Him. After three days He arose victorious from the grave. During the days following his resurrection, Jesus was seen by many people. Then one day, after blessing his followers, He ascended to heaven.

When we choose to believe and surrender our life to Jesus, his blood cleanses us from all our sin. As we accept this gift of salvation, we are reunited with God. Jesus becomes our personal Savior, and we can enjoy the blessings of being his child! Someday Jesus is coming back. He will take all the true believers to heaven. There they will live forever with God.



*Praying for the bereaved
 Adams Family
 Thompson Family
 Evans Family
 Harrell Family
 Roy Family*

*With Sympathy...
 So sorry for your loss*



HAPPY BIRTHDAY!
to you

DECEMBER BIRTHDAYS	
Anthony Wilson	1
Angelina Coe	11
Rev. Rogers	22
Se-Vayah Rogers	22
Jarvis Crawford	30



CHOIR MEMBERS NEEDED!! See Rev. Coe

Start the New Year right...



JOIN
 ★ us at ★
Sunday School

Sisters Who Care
**Collecting socks, toys, and blankets for
 Shelter in a Storm**
December 18th
See Sis. Karen Williams



FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH
 A Church where LOVE is displayed
 and the Word is proclaimed

588 Rosa Parks Road
 Palm Springs, CA 92262
 (760) 325-2650
 Sunday School-Sunday 8:15 a.m.
 Sunday: Worship 10 a.m.
 Tuesday: Bible Study 6:30 p.m.
 Friday: The Word Proclaimed 7 p.m.
 Rev. Rodney S. Croom, Senior Pastor

