

# Preparing in Promise



*Welcome to Long Beach Alliance Church*

*Sunday, December 6, 2020*

# Christmas Eve SERVICE

Thursday  
December 24  
6:30PM

\* masks & social distancing required

COMMUNION SUNDAY

...DO THIS IN REMEMBRANCE OF ME

## LBAC Year-to-Date Financial Report

|                | <u>Budget</u> | <u>Received</u>          | <u>Budget %</u> |
|----------------|---------------|--------------------------|-----------------|
| Weekly:        | \$12,803.78   | \$8,172.95               | 63.8%           |
| Month-to-Date: | \$64,018.90   | \$56,942.77              | 88.9%           |
| Year-to-Date:  | \$166,449.14  | \$153,871.09             | 92.4%           |
| Disbursed YTD: | \$160,432.47  | GF Balance: \$34,133.23* |                 |

\*Denotes General Fund (GF) balance after subtracting \$47,232.00 of Paycheck Protection Plan (PPP) Small Business Loan funds. LBAC's application has been submitted for the promised complete loan forgiveness and is expected soon. Until then, we will report the GF balance with PPP funds subtracted.

# **Worship Songs ~ Sunday, December 6, 2020**

## ***Angels From the Realms of Glory***

### **V-1**

Angels from the realms of glory,  
Wing your flight o're all the earth  
Ye who sang creation's story  
Now proclaim Messiah's birth  
Come and worship, come and worship  
Worship Christ the newborn King!

### **V-2**

Shepherds in the fields abiding,  
Watching o're your flocks by night  
God with man is now residing,  
Yonder shines the infant light  
Come and worship, come and worship  
Worship Christ the newborn King  
Come and worship, come and worship  
Worship Christ the newborn King

### **V-3**

Saints before the altar bending,  
Watching long in hope and fear  
Suddenly the Lord descending  
In His temple shall appear  
Come and worship, come and worship  
Worship Christ the newborn King!  
Come and worship, come and worship  
Worship Christ the newborn King

## ***Come Thou Long Expected Jesus***

### **V-1**

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

## **Come Thou Long Expected Jesus (cont.)**

**V-2**

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  
(Repeat V-1)

## ***Advent confession 2***

Father,

we confess that we often do not live as though You are our first love.

We quickly run after the world's affections  
though they cannot satisfy our hearts true desire.  
We prove this by the choices we make everyday.

You've commanded us to love one another, but we don't.

You've commissioned us to share Your story  
with others around us, but we don't.

You've called us to care for the widow, the fatherless,  
the poor and the immigrant, but we fall very short.

Father, fill us with Your Holy Spirit.

Return us to our first love so that the world may see  
Your beauty and glory shining in the places we live.

Amen.

## ***Blessing and Honor***

**V-1**

When the stars burn down and the earth wears out  
And we stand before the throne  
With the witnesses who have gone before  
We will rise and all applaud  
Singing blessing and honor, and glory and power,  
Forever to our God (2x)

## **Blessing and Honor (cont.)**

### **V-2**

When the hands of time wind fully down  
And the earth is rolled up like a scroll  
The trumpets will call and the world will fall  
To its knees as we go home

### **Chorus**

Singing blessing and honor, and glory and power,  
Forever to our God (4x)

### **Bridge**

Star of the morning, light of salvation, majesty  
God of all mysteries  
Lord of the universe  
Righteous king (2x)

### **V-3**

There will come a day, standing face to face  
In a moment we will be like Him  
He will wipe our eyes dry  
And Take us up to His side  
And forever we will be His

### **Last Chorus**

Singing blessing and honor, and glory and power,  
Forever to our God (4x)

## ***Come Adore Him***

O come let us adore Him  
O come let us adore Him  
O come let us adore Him,  
Christ the Lord  
For He alone is worthy  
For He alone is worthy  
For He alone is worthy,  
Christ the Lord  
We'll give Him all the Glory  
We'll give Him all the Glory  
We'll give Him all the Glory,  
Christ the Lord

# ***It Came Upon the Midnight Clear***

## **V-1**

It came upon the midnight clear,  
That glorious song of old  
From angels bending near the earth  
To touch their harps of gold  
Peace on the earth good will to men,  
From heaven's all gracious King  
The world in solemn stillness lay  
To hear the angels sing, sing, sing Oh...to hear the angels sing  
Sing, sing, sing Oh...to hear the angels sing

## **V-2**

Still through the cloven skies they come  
With peaceful wings unfurled  
And still their heavenly music floats  
Over this weary world  
Above its sad and lowly plains  
They bend on hovering wings  
And ever over its babel sounds  
The blessed angels sing, sing, sing Oh...to hear the angels sing  
Sing, sing, sing Oh...to hear the angels sing

## **V-3**

And ye beneath life's crushing load,  
Whose forms are bending low  
Who toil along the climbing way  
With painful steps and slow  
Look now for glad and golden hours  
Come swiftly on the wing  
Oh rest beside the weary road  
And hear the angels sing, sing, sing Oh... to hear the angels sing  
Sing, sing, sing Oh... to hear the angels sing **\*(2x)**

# Preparing in Promise

*The Promise of a Better Love*

*Advent Week #1 • Long Beach Alliance Church • December 6, 2020 • Pastor Chris Lankford*

**1) God's Supremacy Over Government Harassment**  
**([Luke 2:1-6](#); [Matthew 2:13-15](#) ([Hosea 11:1](#)); [Micah 5:2](#); [John 7:41-52](#))**

**2) Jesus Christ Reveals God's Love**  
**([Matthew 23:2-12](#); [Jeremiah 23:14-22](#); [John 3:16-21](#))**

**3) God's Love Melts Us For Loving Others**  
**([1 John 4:7-12](#); [1 John 3:16-18](#); [1 John 5:3-5](#))**

## **Some Room For Notes!**

**(IT'S ALWAYS GOOD TO JOT DOWN YOUR QUESTIONS AND NOTE THE THINGS GOD IS TEACHING YOU THROUGH HIS WORD. THERE'S A MUCH BETTER CHANCE YOU WILL REMEMBER WHAT GOD IS DOING IN YOUR LIFE THROUGH HIS WORD IF YOU WRITE DOWN NOTES AND QUESTIONS AS YOU ENGAGE THE BIBLE! TRY IT, YOU'LL LIKE IT! 😊)**



## Verses Sheet

(PLEASE READ ALONG IN YOUR OWN BIBLES EACH SUNDAY, IT IS GOOD PRACTICE FOR READING  
THE BIBLE ON YOUR OWN FROM MONDAY THROUGH SATURDAY!)

### Luke 2:1-6

<sup>1</sup> In those days a decree went out from Caesar Augustus that all the world should be registered. <sup>2</sup> This was the first registration when Quirinius was governor of Syria. <sup>3</sup> And all went to be registered, each to his own town. <sup>4</sup> And Joseph also went up from Galilee, from the town of Nazareth, to Judea, to the city of David, which is called Bethlehem, because he was of the house and lineage of David, <sup>5</sup> to be registered with Mary, his betrothed, who was with child. <sup>6</sup> And while they were there, the time came for her to give birth.

### Matthew 2:13-15

<sup>13</sup> Now when they had departed, behold, an angel of the Lord appeared to Joseph in a dream and said, "Rise, take the child and his mother, and flee to Egypt, and remain there until I tell you, for Herod is about to search for the child, to destroy him." <sup>14</sup> And he rose and took the child and his mother by night and departed to Egypt <sup>15</sup> and remained there until the death of Herod. This was to fulfill what the Lord had spoken by the prophet, "Out of Egypt I called my son."

### Hosea 11:1

<sup>1</sup> When Israel was a child, I loved him,  
and out of Egypt I called my son.

## **Micah 5:2**

<sup>2</sup> But you, O Bethlehem Ephrathah,  
who are too little to be among the clans of Judah,  
from you shall come forth for me  
one who is to be ruler in Israel,  
whose coming forth is from of old,  
from ancient days.

## **John 7:41-52**

<sup>41</sup> Others said, "This is the Christ." But some said, "Is the Christ to come from Galilee?" <sup>42</sup> Has not the Scripture said that the Christ comes from the offspring of David, and comes from Bethlehem, the village where David was?" <sup>43</sup> So there was a division among the people over him. <sup>44</sup> Some of them wanted to arrest him, but no one laid hands on him.

<sup>45</sup> The officers then came to the chief priests and Pharisees, who said to them, "Why did you not bring him?" <sup>46</sup> The officers answered, "No one ever spoke like this man!" <sup>47</sup> The Pharisees answered them, "Have you also been deceived?" <sup>48</sup> Have any of the authorities or the Pharisees believed in him? <sup>49</sup> But this crowd that does not know the law is accursed." <sup>50</sup> Nicodemus, who had gone to him before, and who was one of them, said to them, <sup>51</sup> "Does our law judge a man without first giving him a hearing and learning what he does?" <sup>52</sup> They replied, "Are you from Galilee too? Search and see that no prophet arises from Galilee."

## **Matthew 23:2-12**

<sup>2</sup> "The scribes and the Pharisees sit on Moses' seat, <sup>3</sup> so do and observe whatever they tell you, but not the works they do. For they preach, but do not practice. <sup>4</sup> They tie up heavy burdens, hard to bear, and lay them on people's shoulders, but they themselves are not willing to move them with their finger. <sup>5</sup> They do all their deeds to be seen by others. For they

make their phylacteries broad and their fringes long, <sup>6</sup> and they love the place of honor at feasts and the best seats in the synagogues <sup>7</sup> and greetings in the marketplaces and being called rabbi by others. <sup>8</sup> But you are not to be called rabbi, for you have one teacher, and you are all brothers. <sup>9</sup> And call no man your father on earth, for you have one Father, who is in heaven. <sup>10</sup> Neither be called instructors, for you have one instructor, the Christ. <sup>11</sup> The greatest among you shall be your servant. <sup>12</sup> Whoever exalts himself will be humbled, and whoever humbles himself will be exalted.

## **Jeremiah 23:14-22**

- <sup>14</sup> But in the prophets of Jerusalem  
I have seen a horrible thing:  
they commit adultery and walk in lies;  
they strengthen the hands of evildoers,  
so that no one turns from his evil;  
all of them have become like Sodom to me,  
and its inhabitants like Gomorrah.”
- <sup>15</sup> Therefore thus says the LORD of hosts  
concerning the prophets:  
“Behold, I will feed them with bitter food  
and give them poisoned water to drink,  
for from the prophets of Jerusalem  
ungodliness has gone out into all the land.”
- <sup>16</sup> Thus says the LORD of hosts: “Do not listen to the words of the prophets who prophesy to you, filling you with vain hopes. They speak visions of their own minds, not from the mouth of the LORD. <sup>17</sup> They say continually to those who despise the word of the LORD, ‘It shall be well with you’; and to everyone who stubbornly follows his own heart, they say, ‘No disaster shall come upon you.’”
- <sup>18</sup> For who among them has stood in the council of the LORD to see and to hear his word,

or who has paid attention to his word and listened?

19

**Behold, the storm of the LORD!**

**Wrath has gone forth, a whirling tempest;**

**it will burst upon the head of the wicked.**

20

**The anger of the LORD will not turn back**

**until he has executed and accomplished**

**the intents of his heart.**

**In the latter days you will understand it clearly.**

21

**“I did not send the prophets,**

**yet they ran;**

**I did not speak to them,**

**yet they prophesied.**

22

**But if they had stood in my council,**

**then they would have proclaimed**

**my words to my people,**

**and they would have turned them from their evil way,**

**and from the evil of their deeds.**

## **John 3:16-21**

<sup>16</sup> “For God so loved the world, that he gave his only Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life. <sup>17</sup> For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but in order that the world might be saved through him. <sup>18</sup> Whoever believes in him is not condemned, but whoever does not believe is condemned already, because he has not believed in the name of the only Son of God. <sup>19</sup> And this is the judgment: the light has come into the world, and people loved the darkness rather than the light because their works were evil. <sup>20</sup> For everyone who does wicked things hates the light and does not come to the light, lest his works should be exposed. <sup>21</sup> But whoever does what is true comes to the light, so that it may be clearly seen that his works have been carried out in God.”

## **1 John 4:7-12**

**<sup>7</sup> Beloved, let us love one another, for love is from God, and whoever loves has been born of God and knows God. <sup>8</sup> Anyone who does not love does not know God, because God is love. <sup>9</sup> In this the love of God was made manifest among us, that God sent his only Son into the world, so that we might live through him. <sup>10</sup> In this is love, not that we have loved God but that he loved us and sent his Son to be the propitiation\* for our sins. <sup>11</sup> Beloved, if God so loved us, we also ought to love one another. <sup>12</sup> No one has ever seen God; if we love one another, God abides in us and his love is perfected in us.**

## **1 John 3:16-18**

**<sup>16</sup> By this we know love, that he laid down his life for us, and we ought to lay down our lives for the brothers. <sup>17</sup> But if anyone has the world's goods and sees his brother in need, yet closes his heart against him, how does God's love abide in him? <sup>18</sup> Little children, let us not love in word or talk but in deed and in truth.**

## **1 John 5:3-5**

**<sup>3</sup> For this is the love of God, that we keep his commandments. And his commandments are not burdensome. <sup>4</sup> For everyone who has been born of God overcomes the world. And this is the victory that has overcome the world – our faith. <sup>5</sup> Who is it that overcomes the world except the one who believes that Jesus is the Son of God?**

\*The word "propitiation" means "a removal of wrath by the offering of a gift" or "a forgiveness that involves the putting away of wrath." Many translators are uncomfortable attributing character qualities to God such as "wrath" or "personal anger," preferring a more impersonal word such as "expiation" to describe God being "appeased by means of a gift." However, "expiation" is an impersonal word (you expiate a thing, a crime or a sin) and renders forgiveness for sins as an impersonal process of cause & effect, rather than "God's personal and vigorous opposition to evil in human beings" which is "put away" by the (very personal) act of Christ accomplished for God's glory on behalf of humanity. There are four important NT passages to consider: Romans 3:25, tells of Christ Jesus "whom God put forward as a propitiation by his blood, to be received by faith. This was to show God's righteousness, because in his divine forbearance he had passed over former sins." According to Hebrews 2:17, [Christ] "had to be made like his brothers in every respect, so that he might become a merciful and faithful high priest in the service of God, to make propitiation for the sins of the people." In 1 John 2:2; 4:10, Christ is called "the propitiation for our sins." Each of these passages puts forward the thought that God's opposition to sin is more than token, it is more than impersonal. His wrath is exercised toward those who sin. But in that situation Christ is the answer; He provides the means of averting the divine wrath. It is this that the NT writers have in mind when they speak of propitiation. If God's wrath is not put away from us personally, then our salvation is nothing more than a ticket into God's dwelling place, and lacks God's personal love and mercy for those who are His own "adopted children" (Romans 8:15-17). We must conclude that Christ's "propitiation for our sins" is an intimate and personal element in Christianity we dare not surrender! (Collected from various resources with significant indebtedness to the contributions of Leon Morris, Ph.D., "Propitiate; Propitiation." The International Standard Bible Encyclopedia, Volume 3: K-P, Pages 1004-1005).

# **AIMEE'S PANTRY: A HOMELESS NEEDS DRIVE**

With the dual struggle of winter & the increasing COVID-19 cases, the plight of the homeless on Long Beach streets is dire, as most are afraid to go to the shelters. The most recent count found a 7% increase in the homeless population over 2019.

Inspired by, and now in memory of, her daughter, Aimee, Suzanne Harvey has been engaging the homeless to discover their needs. In response to what she's learned, she is hoping to put together some gift bags for the holidays.

## **Can you help with any of the following?**

- **Blankets (new or used)**
- **Coats for adults (new or used)**
- **Sweatshirts and pants (new or used)**
- **Warm Hats**
- **Gloves**
- **Socks**
- **Travel Size Toiletries**
  - Toothpaste/toothbrush**
  - Deoderant**
  - Shampoo/Conditioner**
  - Soap**
  - Body Lotion**
  - Sunblock**
  - Lip Balm**
  - Wipes**
- **Coffee Bean or Starbucks \$5 gift cards**

**You can drop off the items at Church  
Sundays, December 6 (today) & 13 or  
Tuesdays and Thursdays 10AM-5PM, through December 17**

**Can't make it to church?  
Kelly Harvey will gladly pick up your items**

**Questions? Contact Suzanne at 562.253.2190**



## **Service Projects To Do with Your Family/Neighborhood**

- Park Clean-up
- Neighborhood Clean-up
- Beach Clean-up
- Rake leaves off neighbors' yards
- Thank healthcare workers- Give them gift cards/meals/desserts/cards
- Thank Police Officers- Give them gift cards/meals/desserts/cards
- Thank Fire Fighters/1<sup>st</sup> Responders- Give gift cards/meals/desserts/cards
- Thank our soldiers and their families
- Adopt "grandfriends"- Give them letters, cards, goodies
- "Shop Squad"- Pick up groceries and medicine for elderly neighbors
- Bless senior citizens & homebound with notes, goodies, maintenance
- Collect supplies and make "I Care" kits for homeless & hand out
- Food Drives for shelters
- School Supply Drive for students
- Holiday meals for families in need
- Toy Drive for kids @ Christmas
- Volunteer @ the Salvation Army
- Donate Blood, Plasma, Platelets
- Sewing needs- Make masks & blankets for homeless





# LBAC's Family Calendar & Events

## Sunday, December 6

- 9:30AM Gospel Project Kids' Class
- 10:30AM Parking Lot & **Livestream**  
Worship & Celebration!
- 12:00PM Youth Student Leader Outdoor Mtg
- 4:00PM Engaging the Adventure Class  
Why Are You a Christian Class

## Monday, December 7

- 7:00PM Pure Desire In-Person & **Zoom** Mtg
- 7:00PM SIA In-Person & **Zoom** Mtg

## Tuesday, December 8

- 2:00PM Staff Team Meeting
- 7:00PM Governing Board Meeting
- 7:00PM Youth Group **In-Person (HS)**

## Thursday, December 10

- 7:00PM Youth Group **In-Person (JH)**

## Friday, December 11

- 8:00PM NA In-Person & **Zoom** Mtg.

## Saturday, December 12

- 9:00AM Deaconess Meeting

## Sunday, December 13

- 9:30AM Gospel Project Kids' Class
- 10:30AM Parking Lot & **Livestream**  
Worship & Celebration!
- 4:00PM Engaging the Adventure Class

## MISSIONS

[Link to LBAC Missions!](#)

## GROWTH GROUPS

[Link to LBAC Growth Groups!](#)

Mid-week Adult Bible Studies

## CHILDREN'S MINISTRIES

[Link to LBAC Children's Ministries!](#)

Sunday Mornings:

Gospel Project @ 9:30AM

Fun-N-Funky @ 11:15AM (on hold)

## AWANA

[Link to LBAC AWANA](#)

Wednesday Nights September-May (on hold)

## YOUTH MINISTRIES

[Link to LBAC Youth Ministries!](#)

[Click Here For Youth Group Live Stream Events](#)

Every Tuesday & Thursday Night @ 7:00PM

## WOMEN'S MINISTRIES

[Link to LBAC Women's Ministry!](#)

Women's Ministry Event Information

Contact: [deya@charter.net](mailto:deya@charter.net)

Lydia House Meals Ministry

Contact: [mcoliver789@msn.com](mailto:mcoliver789@msn.com)

[Women Connecting with Missions](#)

3<sup>rd</sup> Tuesday each month @ 7:00PM (on hold)

[Crafty Women](#)

2<sup>nd</sup> Saturday each month @ 10:00AM (on hold)

## MEN'S MINISTRIES

[Link to LBAC Men's Ministry!](#)

Contact: [mensministry@lbac.org](mailto:mensministry@lbac.org)

## long beach alliance church offices

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## church staff team

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