

REFLECTIONS

Trend setters are calling it the *2020 Christmas Star*. It is a celestial event set for December 21, the long night of the winter solstice. But it is not even a star. It is the night that the planets Saturn and Jupiter *kiss*. Even though they are hundreds of millions of miles away from each other, from our perspective, they have been getting closer and closer all fall. They are said to *kiss* when they are at their closest before their orbits begin to separate them again. Their last kiss like this one was in 1226, nearly 800 years ago. In 1226, Genghis Khan was busy conquering parts of western Asia. Any evening now, if you look outside and it is not too cloudy, you will see the two largest planets in our solar system so close they appear as one bright star. Look above the southwestern horizon just after sunset, a little below and to the right of the soon-emerging moon. They will only be visible for about an hour or so before they drop below the horizon here in Oklahoma.

The Original Christmas Star has never been seen again. There has been much speculation from astronomers concerning the kind of heavenly light that could lead the wise men from Persia to Jerusalem to Bethlehem to meet Jesus. There was enough Hebrew scripture remaining in the old Babylonian empire from the time of Daniel until Esther and Nehemiah, for these scholars to discern that biblical prophecy might be unfolding in their own day. They were so curious and expectant, they packed up their supplies and rich gifts to set out on the journey. They completed their mission and returned to their land to tell of their incredible experiences.

In typical 2020 fashion, the so-called “Christmas Star” is a couple of kissing planets that most people will never even see. The biblical story is unfolding around us. The Good News of Christ is being fulfilled every day. Can we see the hand of God at work today? Do we have the courage, and yes, even faith like those wise men of old, to share the wonders of the true Christmas story?

Keep healthy. Pray mightily. Enjoy your life today. Look to the stars. And let's experience the love and power of God together while we are apart.

Bro. Darryl

THE EVANGEL (USPS 180-140) is published weekly except 1st week of July and 4th week of December by the
BRADEN PARK BAPTIST CHURCH • 4739 East 5th • Tulsa, OK 74112-2716
Periodicals postage paid at Tulsa, OK.
POSTMASTER: send address changes to • THE EVANGEL • 4739 East 5th • Tulsa, OK 74112-2716

PERIODICALS
POSTAGE
PAID
Tulsa, OK
USPS #180-140

The Evangel

Braden Park Baptist Church
4739 East Fifth Street (5th & Yale)
Tulsa, OK 74112-2716

SCHEDULE OF SERVICES

Sunday Morning	9:20 a.m.
Continental Breakfast	10:00 a.m.
Worship	11:15 a.m.
Sunday School	
Sunday Evening	5:30 p.m.
Sanctuary Choir	6:30 p.m.
Worship	
Wednesday Evening	6:45 p.m.
Prayer Service	

Dr. Darryl DeBorde, Minister
Bill Ess, Music Minister

Telephone (918) 834-3378
Fax (918) 834-3440
office@BradenPark.org

Printing provided by
Imperial Printing

The Evangel



Proclaiming the Good News!
Braden Park Baptist Church
Tulsa, Oklahoma

VOL L

December 11, 2020

No 48

HOPE • LOVE
PEACE • JOY

Our Church Family

ARMED SERVICES HONOR ROLL OF PRAYER

Chad and Holly Burke, Air Force
Steve DeCoster, Army
Lesley Garnai, Navy

Linda Jantzen, Army
Jeremi Johnson, Air Force
Bill Kaiser, Air Force

OUR MISSIONARIES

Dayna and Kevin Avery
Blog: www.servepraylove.blogspot.com

Their address is 2004 W Louisville Street
Broken Arrow, OK 74012-4816

LIVING CENTERS

Emerald Care Nursing Center #26 Gina Reynolds
Emerald Care Nursing Center #C36 Carolyn Brese
Pawhuska Nursing Center Violet Crain
Zarrow Pointe Kaiser Health Center #214 Dorothy Lee

AT HOME

Alice and Bill Barrett
Cricket Bolton
Elizabeth Burke
Berta Caldwell
Russell Ford
Gene Lessel

Bonnie Nutting
Waneta Reynolds
Ben and P J Shepard
Delores Troxel
Homer Wager
Leslie White



Looking Ahead

The church is not having in-person worship services until it is safer for us to worship together.

We are able to worship online through Facebook at *Braden Park Church Tulsa* Sunday by 10:00 a.m.

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 13
3rd Sunday in Advent

(on Facebook)

The Joy of Glory
Luke 1:46-56

This week we light the Candle of Joy. Luke 1 recounts the decision of Mary's consent to bear, as the angel reveals, *the Son of God*. Mary went to stay with her cousin Elizabeth for a time. It was with Elizabeth that Mary realized the full joy of God's glor. Join with us this week as we draw closer to the Joy of All Mankind.

Wednesday Evening

5:00 — 6:30 p.m.

People's Pantry Ministry
Outside in the North Parking lot

CONNECT WITH THE CHURCH

You can join with us on Sundays for worship and prayer through the church Facebook page. Search Facebook for **Braden Park Church Tulsa**, and then select "Add friend" to friend us. Confirmation of your request will automatically include you each time we post a new message. You can also find the **EVANGEL**, sermons, and other features at our church website.

www.bradenpark.org

Behind the Scenes

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 13th SERVICE can be found on FaceBook and at www.BradenPark.org, under the *Sermons* tab

CHRISTMAS OFFERING FOR MISSIONS

Consider a prayerful end-of-year offering for the church and a gift for its world-wide mission. Support the 2020 Lottie Moon and Global Missions Offering.

END-OF-YEAR CONTRIBUTIONS

The following information is from IRS publication 526, Charitable Contributions: "You can deduct your contributions only in the year you actually make them in cash or other property...A check that you mail to a charity is considered delivered on the date you mail it." Therefore contributions should be received by the church postmarked by **December 31, 2020**, which is on a Thursday.

This year there have been changes to the IRS Tax Code for 2020 charitable deductions due to the coronavirus pandemic. Talk with a qualified tax consultant about your particular circumstances.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY!

December	
16	Lydia Ford
17	Gene Lessel

FOR THE CHURCH RECORD

Weekly Budget Need	\$ 1,934.00
General Receipts December 6	\$ 1,011.32
Special Offerings December 6	\$ 00.00

Thank You to all who are sending sustaining offerings. On-line giving at <https://www.bfok.org/give-bradenpark>