



It is our desire to equip each generation to:  
Celebrate the King, Become like Christ, and Connect the Lost

# CHINESE BAPTIST CHURCH

900 BROGDEN RD. HOUSTON, TX 77024

[CBCHOUSTON.ORG](http://CBCHOUSTON.ORG)

713.461.0963

**Dec 8, 2024**



**Do Not Be Afraid**

**Luke 1:11-14, 28-33, 2:8-11**

Dec 8, 2024

# Welcome to CBC

We are excited for you to join us in worship today. Our prayer is that through the singing of gospel truths, hearing the scriptures proclaimed, and being around the saints, you will leave edified and equipped to live on mission with God for His glory.

Preparation	1 John 4:9-10 (NIV)
Welcome	Ray Yu
Adoration	Hark The Herald Angels Sing Sing We The Song Of Emmanuel Crown Him (Christmas)
Prayer	Candy Chin
Advent	Bob, Nancy and Grace Ngao
Scripture Reading	Luke 1:11-14, 28-33, 2:8-11 (ESV) Lawrence Fan
Proclamation	Do Not Be Afraid Rev. Andrew Chao
Response	Silent Night
Offertory Prayer	Lawrence Fan
Baptism	Jiemiao Hu
Announcements	Rochelle Dy
Benediction	Pastor Oleg Xu

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## Luke 1:11-14, 28-33 (ESV)

**11** And there appeared to him an angel of the Lord standing on the right side of the altar of incense. **12** And Zechariah was troubled when he saw him, and fear fell upon him. **13** But the angel said to him, “**Do not be afraid**, Zechariah, for your prayer has been heard, and your wife Elizabeth will bear you a son, and you shall call his name John. **14** And you will have joy and gladness, and many will rejoice at his birth,

**28** And he came to her and said, “Greetings, O favored one, the Lord is with you!” **29** But she was greatly troubled at the saying, and tried to discern what sort of greeting this might be. **30** And the angel said to her, “**Do not be afraid**, Mary, for you have found favor with God. **31** And behold, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you shall call his name Jesus. **32** He will be great and will be called the Son of the Most High. And the Lord God will give to him the throne of his father David, **33** and he will reign over the house of Jacob forever, and of his kingdom there will be no end.”

## Luke 2:8-11

**8** And in the same region there were shepherds out in the field, keeping watch over their flock by night. **9** And an angel of the Lord appeared to them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were filled with great fear. **10** And the angel said to them, “**Fear not**, for behold, I bring you good news of great joy that will be for all the people. **11** For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is Christ the Lord.

## Notes:

Introduction: An angel appeared

- do not be afraid; prayer heard...
- do not be afraid; find favor with God...
- fear not; good news of great joy brought for all...

Conclusion: Then what?

- live a purposeful life...



# Pastor's Word by Pastor Donald Gardner

## “Do Clouds Block Your Sun (Son)?”

While in British Columbia, I attended a Christian event called "Send North America" (SNA). David Platt, the previous International Mission Board (IMB) President, was the keynote speaker and the music was led by a group called "Shane and Shane" from Texas. The event was designed to stir up the church from apathy and the dangers of being too comfortable within our church environments. Attendees included young and old but there was a defined focus on the younger set. There was a challenge for them to consider a missionary lifestyle, regardless of whether they remained in Vancouver or moved elsewhere in our world. Obviously, this challenge goes well beyond age and is for us all.

Afterwards, I heard comments about the attire of Platt and the volume of the music. With the Jesus Movement in the late 1960's and 70's as my background, the music style of the night was not offensive to me. Indeed, I had helped organize several Christian Music Festivals "back in the day," when groups like Maranatha, The Liberated Wailing Wall, Love Song, and others you've never heard of were popular! As for the clothing of the speaker, I've often reflected on what John (camel's hair in the wilderness), Peter (fisherman's smelly clothes), and even Jesus (carpenter) must have worn. I realized that they weren't as concerned with the "outside package of style" as they were with the content inside the heart of a person. In a day when the needs of the lost are internal spiritual enlightenment, how can the church continue to defend our interests in structure and form? When will the urgency of the lost society around us shake us to seek relevancy as our primary task? When will the gospel be more than mere words and be viewed as providing the only REAL hope of mankind, our relatives, and our friends? Without Christ's atoning blood on the cross, there is no hope. True?

Age, culture, family background, interests, religious foundations, and many other things make up our identity and worldviews. None of us are fully alike in our thinking or in what it requires to "push our buttons." Distractions are tools that Satan has long used to keep the church from focusing on major ministries. Pray that our church will focus on the right things and take action to help it happen. We are the church and this choice is important to us and the lost.

### Announcements

- **Reminder Annual Business Meeting Sunday, Dec 8, 2024** at 1 pm in the Sanctuary. A simple lunch will be provided.
- **Looking for volunteers** who can help assemble the choir risers after the Business Meeting on **Sun, Dec 8**. If you can volunteer, please stay afterwards in the Sanctuary. The set-up is for the CBC choir at the combined Christmas Worship Service on December 22nd.
- **Senior Rainbow Fellowship** will be on **Thursday, Dec 12, 2024** from 10 am to noon in the FLC. The speaker will be Rev. Danny Lee. Please bring a gift for the "Swap-a-thon" (value up to \$5.00). Also, please bring snacks to fill the gift baskets for foreign students. We are celebrating December Birthdays, too! Cost is \$5.00 for lunch. Please RSVP to Josephine at 713-774-4321 or Dorothy at 281-222-9180.
- **Christmas Family Fun Night** will be held in the Family Life Center on **Friday, December 13th at 7:30 pm**. Doors will open at 7 pm for a photo opportunity and table activities. Please invite friends and neighbors with kindergarten through grade school aged children to join in the fun.
- **Combined Christmas Worship Service** will be on **Sunday, Dec 22, 2024** at 10 am. No lunch fellowship.
- **Combined Candlelight Eve Worship Service** will be on **Tuesday, Dec 24, 2024** from 6 pm to 7 pm in the Sanctuary.
- **Youth Winter Retreat** will be from **Friday, Dec 27, to Monday, Dec 30, 2024**. Space is limited! Sign up by Dec 15 at [bit.ly/CBCYouthRetreat2024](https://bit.ly/CBCYouthRetreat2024).
- **Save the date for our Blood Drive that will be on Jan 5, 2024 from 9 am to 1 pm in the FLC.** Please sign up in the link below if you interested in donating blood, [https://www.commitforlife.org/donor/schedules/drive\\_schedule/395089](https://www.commitforlife.org/donor/schedules/drive_schedule/395089).

Donald Gardner Senior Pastor pastordon@cbchouston.org	Jian Yang (John) Mandarin Pastor pastorjohn@cbchouston.org	Kai Yuen Choi Cantonese Pastor pastorkaiyuen@cbchouston.org
Oleg Xu Interim Eng Associate Pastor pastoroleg@cbchouston.org	Geraldine Lee KidMin Director geraldinel@cbchouston.org	