



The Worship of God

The 2nd Sunday of Advent

December 3, 2023 | 10:00a

Inspired by the bold and boundless hospitality of Jesus, we are “open to all,” which means we welcome and accept all people into the life of our Church without regard to race, gender, sexual orientation, age, economic status, political affiliation, physical or mental capacity, or religious belief. We believe that God’s call is given to all people, and we embrace the Spirit that continues to cross boundaries in order to unite the world.

Masks are encouraged but not required for anyone. We encourage you to make the best decision for yourself and your family.

Childcare is available for children ages birth – kindergarten. Please see a greeter for more information. Worship activities for children are available in the Narthex.

Prelude

“Lo, How a Rose E're Blooming”

Lee Northcutt, organ
Johannes Brahms

Call to Worship and Invocation

Rev. John Blackshire, Ph.D.

*Opening Hymn

“Come Thou Long Expected Jesus”

HYFRYDOL

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.

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.

*Lighting the Candle of Peace

Anna-Catherine Fowler and Keith, Connor, Sawyer, & Foster Young

Leader: “Lord, give us faith and strength the road to build,
to see the promise of the day fulfilled,
when war shall be no more, and strife shall cease
upon the highway of the Prince of Peace.”

All: **Then faith and hope will shake hands, and love and justice will embrace.**

(Lighting the Candle of Peace.)

*Singing:

text: Richard Leach Scottish folk tune

2. Peace is a can-dle to show us a path - way, threat - ened by
gusts from our rage and our greed. Friend, feel no en - vy for
those in the sha - dows: vio - lence and force their dead-end course.

The musical notation consists of three staves of music in G major (one sharp) and 6/8 time. The first staff begins with a treble clef and a key signature of one sharp (F#). The melody is written in a simple, folk-like style. The lyrics are placed below the notes, with some words hyphenated across lines. The piece ends with a double bar line and repeat dots.

*Please rise in body or in spirit.

*If you are our guest today, please text "guest" to 980.340.8900
so we may offer you our gratitude for joining us today.*

***Passing of the Peace**

Gospel Reading – Luke 1:57-79 NRSV

Beth Resler Walters

Now the time came for Elizabeth to give birth, and she bore a son. Her neighbors and relatives heard that the Lord had shown his great mercy to her, and they rejoiced with her. On the eighth day they came to circumcise the child, and they were going to name him Zechariah after his father. But his mother said, "No; he is to be called John." They said to her, "None of your relatives has this name." Then they began motioning to his father to find out what name he wanted to give him. He asked for a writing tablet and wrote, "His name is John." And all of them were amazed. Immediately his mouth was opened and his tongue freed, and he began to speak, praising God. Fear came over all their neighbors, and all these things were talked about throughout the entire hill country of Judea. All who heard them pondered them and said, "What then will this child become?" For, indeed, the hand of the Lord was with him.

Then his father Zechariah was filled with the Holy Spirit and spoke this prophecy: "Blessed be the Lord God of Israel, for he has looked favorably on his people and redeemed them. He has raised up a mighty savior for us in the house of his servant David, as he spoke through the mouth of his holy prophets from of old, that we would be saved from our enemies and from the hand of all who hate us. Thus he has shown the mercy promised to our ancestors, and has remembered his holy covenant, the oath that he swore to our ancestor Abraham, to grant us that we, being rescued from the hands of our enemies, might serve him without fear, in holiness and righteousness before him all our days. And you, child, will be called the prophet of the Most High; for you will go before the Lord to prepare his ways, to give knowledge of salvation to his people by the forgiveness of their sins. By the tender mercy of our God, the dawn from on high will break upon us, to give light to those who sit in darkness and in the shadow of death, to guide our feet into the way of peace."

Leader: For the Word of God in scripture,
for the Word of God among us,
for the Word of God within us.

People: Thanks be to God.

***As the hymn begins, 1st – 5th graders are invited to leave for Children's Worship.
They will exit at the front of the Sanctuary with Children's Worship leaders.
Parents can pick up children from room 108 in the education building between 11 -11:15.***

***Sermon Hymn**

"It Came Upon the Midnight Clear"
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.

CAROL CMD

Still through the cloven skies they come
with peaceful wings unfurled,
and still their heavenly music floats
o'er all the weary world;

above its sad and lowly plains,
they bend on hovering wing,
and ever o'er its Babel sounds
the blessed angels sing.

For lo! the days are hastening on,
by prophet seen of old,
when with the ever-circling years
shall come the time foretold
when peace shall over all the earth
its ancient splendors fling,
and the whole world send back the song
which now the angels sing.

Sermon

“The Gospel is Peace”

Rev. Dr. Ben Boswell

Musical Reflection

“Creation Will be at Peace”

Chancel Choir
Anna Laura Page

In the holy mountain of the Lord all war and strife will cease;
in the holy mountain of the Lord creation will be at peace.
In the holy mountain of the Lord all war and strife will cease;
in the holy mountain of the Lord creation will be at peace.
The wolf will lie down with the lamb, the cow and the bear will feed,
their young will play together; a little child will lead, a little child will lead.

In the holy mountain of the Lord all war and strife will cease;
in the holy mountain of the Lord creation will be at peace.
The leopard and goat will graze, the lion will feed on straw.
They will war no more, they will war no more;
a child will lead them all, will lead them all.

In the holy mountain of Lord all war and strife will cease;
in the holy mountain of the Lord creation will be at peace,
creation will be at peace.

Church at Prayer

Rev. Tara Gibbs

The Lord's Prayer

Our God who is in heaven, hallowed be your name. Your kingdom come, your will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread, and forgive us our trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For yours is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever. Amen.

Invitation to Offering

Rev. Tara Gibbs

*There are several ways to give:
scan the QR code below or drop your offering in the plate.*



Offertory

“Gesú Bambino”

Dawn Blackwell
Pietro Yon

***Presentation of Gifts and the Doxology**

O Glorious God, to you we bring
All that we are as offering;
Spirit of peace, among us dwell;
Come, Jesus, our Emmanuel. Amen.

OLD HUNDREDTH

Paula Testerman

***Prayer of Dedication**

Rev. Dr. JJ Flag

Presentation of Newly Elected Deacons

Marcy McClanahan, *Board of Deacons Chair-Elect*

Life Deacon Class of 2024

Marcy McClanahan
Janet Bynum Miller
Ray Owens

Deacon Class of 2026

Jason Blackwell
Allen Davis
Tim Emry
Anna-Catherine Fowler
Nancy W. Hudson
Elaine Price-Hudson

Litany of Ordination

Leader: To our newly elected Deacons — do you solemnly pledge to uphold the Deacon Covenant in all you do, by promoting and protecting the freedom of the pulpit; by protecting and supporting the spiritual, emotional, mental, and physical well-being of our ministers; and by making decisions that are congruent with the goals of our Church, our consciences and our Christian faith?

Deacons: We do, trusting in the grace of God.

Leader: Will you pledge to uphold our Church Covenant, by helping our congregation fulfill our responsibilities to be faithful stewards of our lives and of this world; by nurturing the Church as a community of God’s new creation that is open to all and closed to none; and by embracing your role as priests to all, helping to guide our members and our neighbors in our lives as participants in God’s kingdom on earth?

Deacons: We will, trusting in the grace of God.

Leader: To the congregation — will you pledge to join with and support these new leaders as they help us embrace the possibilities and opportunities of innovation and change, encouraging patience, conversation and grace for all; will you work with them in a spirit of cooperation and community to lead this Church boldly toward the new light and life to which God is calling us?

Congregation: We will, trusting in the grace of God.

Leader: Then let us, with joy and thankfulness in our hearts, embrace and celebrate the ordination of these new Deacons as they seek to help lead this community of the faithful.

All: Amen.

Invitation to the Laying on of Hands

Rev. Dr. Ben Boswell

Prayer of Ordination and Installation

***Closing Hymn**

“Let There be Peace on Earth”

See page 7.
WORLD PEACE

Benediction

Rev. Dr. Ben Boswell

Postlude

“Wake, Awake, for Night is Flying”

Lee Northcutt, organ
Johann G. Walther

If you are our guest today, please connect with a minister after worship and receive a Welcome bag.

Childcare for children ages birth to kindergarten will be provided until noon.



Audio/Video Team Members are Wes Cobb, Joe Kuhlmann, Hannah Combs, Alicia Dunn, Eric Roberts, and volunteers.

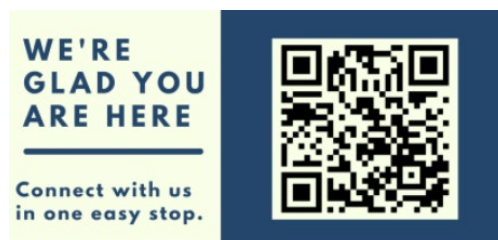


We are affiliated with allianceofbaptists.org  Alliance of Baptists



HOW TO JOIN MYERS PARK BAPTIST CHURCH

Becoming a member of Myers Park Baptist is as simple as filling out a Joining Card. To receive a card or learn more, contact Rev. Carrie Veal at cveal@myersparkbaptist.org.




Let There Be Peace on Earth

WORLD PEACE



Let there be peace on earth, and let it be - gin with me._____ Let

10



there be peace on earth, the peace that was meant to be._____ With God our cre-

19



a- tor,_____ chil- dren all are we._____ Let us walk with each o-ther

28



in per - fect har - mo - ny._____ Let peace be - gin with me let

37



this be the mo - ment now._____ With ev - ery step I take let this be my

46



sol - emn vow;_____ to take each mo-ment and live each mo-ment in peace e -

54



ter - nal - ly._____ Let there be

59



peace on earth, and let it be - gin with me.

Our Covenant

We, the members of the Myers Park Baptist Church, are a people on a journey of faith. By God's grace we are experiencing love through Jesus Christ and in the community of the faithful. We are discovering in this experience our freedom to become new creatures and our responsibility to be faithful stewards of our lives and of this world.

We will be open to all new light, strengthened by God and each other in our faith. We will sustain a critical examination of Scripture, belief and ritual as interpreters of God's active presence in the world. We will accept controversy as a reality of life together and an opportunity for growth toward maturity. We covenant to be a community of God's New Creation and affirm that we are open to all and closed to none.

We covenant together to nurture this church as a community of faith and as an instrument for reconciliation in the world: by worship, by Christian education, by the dedication of our personal and material resources and by all the other ways we express the significance of our lives with God and one another.

We covenant together to be priests celebrating God's presence in community and in the world, believing we are participants in God's kingdom on Earth.

OUR MINISTERS

Rev. Dr. Benjamin Boswell

Senior Minister

Rev. Carrie Veal

Executive Minister

Rev. Tara Gibbs

Associate Minister of Spiritual Growth

Rev. Dr. JJ Flag

Associate Minister of Pastoral Care & Justice

J. Kevin Gray

Minister of Music & Worship



**MYERS PARK
BAPTIST
CHURCH**

Inclusivity | Spirituality | Community | Justice

We occasionally take photographs during our worship service. If you would prefer not to be included, please contact Laura Geer | Communications Director | lgeer@myersparkbaptist.org.

One License A-729324 | WorshipCast License CCS # WC-12779 | CVLI Video License #504 239 870