



The Worship of God

Service of Lament and Loss

December 3, 2023 | 4:00p

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.

This service of Lament and Loss is a time when we name those losses that have changed our lives and the people who are no longer with us. We gather together during the Christmas season as a reminder of the joy that is born among us despite our sadness and the light that shines in the midst of our darkness.

Prelude

“Air from Messiah (He Shall Feed His Flock)”

Jennifer Dior, flute & Claudio Olivera Piano

G. F. Handel

Welcome

Rev. Dr. Ben Boswell

*Opening Sentences

Rev. John Blackshire, Ph.D.

Leader: We will light the first candle of Advent,
People: **to signal our watch for the coming of Christ, who will expel the spirit of discontent and bring healing for the nations.**

Leader: We will light the second candle of Advent,
People: **to signal our hope for the renewal of creation, which will reveal the image of God and restore harmony with nature.**

Leader: We will light the third candle of Advent,
People: **to signal our faith in the triumph of justice, which will expose the folly of pride and magnify purity of heart.**

Leader: We will light the fourth candle of Advent,
People: **to signal our trust in the promise of God, who will establish the reign of love on earth and uphold it with righteousness for evermore.**

*Opening Hymn

“In the Bleak Midwinter”

See page 6.

CRANHAM

Meditation on Hope

Rev. Tara Gibbs

Wait for the Lord (Sing 2 times.)

The image shows a musical score for the hymn 'Wait for the Lord'. It consists of two systems of music. The first system has a vocal line and a bass line. The vocal line starts with a treble clef, a key signature of one sharp (F#), and a 2/2 time signature. The lyrics are 'Wait for the Lord, whose day is near.' The bass line starts with a bass clef, a key signature of one sharp, and a 2/2 time signature. The second system also has a vocal line and a bass line. The vocal line starts with a treble clef, a key signature of one sharp, and a 2/2 time signature. The lyrics are 'Wait for the Lord: keep watch, take heart!' The bass line starts with a bass clef, a key signature of one sharp, and a 2/2 time signature. The score ends with a double bar line.

WORDS: Ps. 130
MUSIC: Jacques Berthier
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(Lighting the Candle of Hope)

Meditation on Peace

J. Kevin Gray

Wait for the Lord (Sing 2 times.)

(Lighting the Candle of Peace)

Meditation on Joy

Rev. Dr. JJ Flag

Wait for the Lord (Sing 2 times.)

(Lighting the Candle of Joy)

Meditation on Love

Rev. Dr. Ben Boswell

Wait for the Lord (Sing 2 times.)

(Lighting the Candle of Love)

Communion

Rev. Dr. Ben Boswell and Rev. John Blackshire, Ph.D.

Invitation to the Table

Prayer of Thanksgiving and 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.

Words of Institution

You are invited to come forward to receive pre-packaged Communion elements to consume during or after the service.

Music During Communion

“Sinfonia from Cantata #156 Adagio”
“Air from overture in D”

Jennifer Dior, flute & Claudio Olivera, piano
J. S. Bach

Lighting of Candles of Lament and Loss

Rev. Dr. Ben Boswell and Rev. Dr. JJ Flag

Music During Candle lighting

“Meditation from Thais”

Jules Massenet

*You are invited to come forward to light a candle in remembrance
of the losses that have changed your life.*

***Closing Hymn**

“It Came Upon the Midnight Clear”

See page 7.
CAROL

Benediction

Postlude

“The Holly and the Ivy”

Jennifer Dior, flute & Claudio Olivera, piano
Traditional



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.



WE'RE GLAD YOU ARE HERE

Connect with us in one easy step.

Learn more about us and how to get involved.

Just point the camera on your phone at the QR Code to access the items listed here.

- EVENTS
- GUESTS
- GIVE
- PRAY
- WEBSITE

MYERS PARK BAPTIST CHURCH

The graphic features a light green background on the left and a dark blue background on the right. A QR code is positioned in the upper right. Below the QR code is a list of five items: EVENTS, GUESTS, GIVE, PRAY, and WEBSITE. At the bottom, a colorful horizontal bar (black, green, blue, purple, brown, red, pink, orange, yellow) spans the width, with a white line-art illustration of a church building centered below it. The text 'MYERS PARK BAPTIST CHURCH' is printed in white on the dark blue background at the bottom right.

In the Bleak Midwinter

1 In the bleak mid-winter, frost-y wind made moan;
 2 Our God, heaven can-not hold him, nor earth sus-tain;
 3 An-gels and arch-an-gels may have gath-ered there;
 4 What can I give him, poor as I am?

earth stood hard as i-ron, wa-ter like a stone;
 heaven and earth shall flee a-way when he comes to reign:
 cher-u-bim and ser-a-phim thronged the air;
 If I were a shep-herd, I would bring a lamb;

snow had fall-en, snow on snow, snow on snow,
 in the bleak mid-winter a sta-ble place suf-ficed
 but his moth-er on-ly, in her maid-en bliss,
 if I were a wise man, I would do my part;

‡ in the bleak mid-winter, long a-go.
 the Lord God in-car-nate, Je-sus Christ.
 ‡ wor-shipped the be-lov-ed with a kiss.
 yet what I can I give him: give my heart.

Though this text describes winter weather in England rather than in Palestine, the poet is using familiar surroundings as a means of making the Nativity more immediate and personal. The tune name honors a Gloucestershire village near the composer's birthplace in Cheltenham.

It Came Upon The Midnight Clear

CAROL CMD

Edmund Hamilton Sears, 1849; alt.

Richard Storrs Willis, 1850



1. It came up-on the mid- night clear, That glo - rious song of old,
2. Still through the clo - ven skies they come, With peace- ful wings un - furled,
3. And ye, be- neath life's crush- ing load, Whose forms are bend- ing low,
4. For lo, the days are has- tening on, By proph- et bards fore - told,



From an - gels bend - ing near the earth, To touch their harps of gold:
And still their heav- enly mu - sic floats O'er all the wea - ry world:
Who toil a - long the climb - ing way With pain - ful steps and slow,
When with the ev - er - cir - cling years Comes round the age of gold;



"Peace on the earth, good will to all, From heaven's all - gra - cious King":
A - bove its sad and low - ly plains They bend on hov - ering wing,
Look now! for glad and gold - en hours Come swift - ly on the wing:
When peace shall o - ver all the earth Its an - cient splen - dors fling,



The world in sol - emn still - ness lay, To hear the an - gels sing.
And ev - er o'er its Ba - bel sounds The bless - ed an - gels sing.
O rest be - side the wea - ry road, And hear the an - gels sing.
And the whole world give back the song Which now the an - gels sing.



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

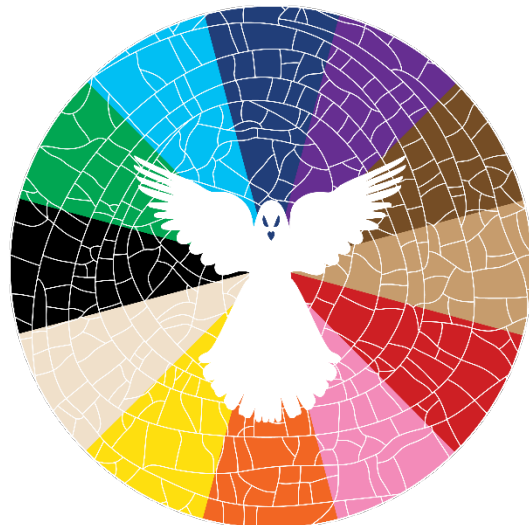
Associate Minister of Spiritual Growth

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.

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