



The Worship of God

# The 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday of Advent

December 10, 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

Carolina Social Music Club  
Amy Grant & Chris Eaton

“Breath Of Heaven”

I have traveled many moonless nights, cold and weary with a babe inside.  
And I wonder what I've done. Holy father you have come,  
and chosen me now to carry your son.

I am waiting in a silent prayer. I am frightened by the load I bear.  
In a world as cold as stone, must I walk this path alone?  
Be with me now, be with me now.

*Refrain:*

Breath of heaven, hold me together,  
be forever near me, breath of heaven.  
Breath of heaven, lighten my darkness,  
pour over me your holiness, for you are holy.  
Breath of heaven.

Do you wonder as you watch my face, if a wiser one should have had my place?  
But I offer all I am, for the mercy of your plan.  
Help me be strong, help me be, help me. *[Refrain]*

## Call to Worship and Invocation

Rev. Tara Gibbs

## \*Opening Hymn

“O Come All Ye Faithful”

ADESTE FIDELES

O come, all ye faithful, joyful and triumphant,  
O come ye, O come ye to Bethlehem!  
Come, and behold Him, born the King of angels!

*Refrain:*

O come, let us adore Him;  
O come, let us adore Him;  
O come, let us adore Him, Christ, the Lord!

God of God, Light of Light,  
lo, God abhors not the virgin's womb;  
very God, begotten not created; *[Refrain]*

Sing, choirs of angels; sing in exultation;  
sing, all ye citizens of heav'n above!  
Glory to God, all glory in the highest! *[Refrain]*



mother of my Lord comes to me? For as soon as I heard the sound of your greeting, the child in my womb leaped for joy. And blessed is she who believed that there would be a fulfillment of what was spoken to her by the Lord.” And Mary said, “My soul magnifies the Lord, and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior, for he has looked with favor on the lowliness of his servant. Surely, from now on all generations will call me blessed; for the Mighty One has done great things for me, and holy is his name. His mercy is for those who fear him from generation to generation. He has shown strength with his arm; he has scattered the proud in the thoughts of their hearts. He has brought down the powerful from their thrones, and lifted up the lowly; he has filled the hungry with good things, and sent the rich away empty. He has helped his servant Israel, in remembrance of his mercy, according to the promise he made to our ancestors, to Abraham and to his descendants forever.” And Mary remained with her about three months and then returned to her home.

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.

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 song begins, 1<sup>st</sup> – 5<sup>th</sup> 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.*

### Musical Reflection

Chancel Choir with Dan Wielunski, violin

“Song of Mary”

Mary Lopez

My soul exalts the Lord, my God, and my spirit rejoices in praise to God my savior.  
For God has chosen me, the handmaid of the Lord.  
Age to age, generations will call me blessed,  
for the favor the Mighty One has shown this servant,  
for God has honored me, the chosen of the Lord.  
In God's goodness, their kind compassion, God sends the Promised One to show the way.  
In remembrance of God's great mercy, the Holy One has done great things for me, for me.  
O magnify God's holy name. My soul magnifies the Lord, my God,  
and my heart rejoices in praise to God, my savior.  
For God has chosen me, the servant of the Lord. Amen.

### Sermon

Rev. Dr. Ben Boswell

“Sweet Hymns of Joy”

### Musical Reflection

Carolina Social Music Club

“Trumpet Child”

Linford Detweiler

The trumpet child will blow his horn,  
will blast the sky till it’s reborn,  
with Gabriel’s power and Satchmo’s grace,  
he will surprise the human race.

The trumpet he will use to blow,  
is being fashioned out of fire.  
The mouthpiece is a glowing coal,  
the bell a burst of wild desire.

The trumpet child will riff on love,  
Thelonious notes from up above.  
He'll improvise a kingdom come,  
accompanied by a different drum.

The trumpet child will banquet here,  
until the lost are truly found.  
A thousand days, a thousand years,  
nobody knows for sure how long.

The rich forget about their gold.  
The meek and mild are strangely bold.  
A lion lies beside a lamb,  
and licks a murderer's outstretched hand.

The trumpet child will lift a glass,  
his bride now leaning in at last.  
His final aim to fill with joy,  
the earth that man all but destroyed.

### Church at Prayer

Rev. John Blackshire, Ph.D.

### 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. Carrie Veal

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



### Offertory Anthem

Carolina Social Music Club  
Stevie Wonder

“Some Day at Christmas”

Someday at Christmas men won't be boys,  
playing with bombs like kids play with toys.  
One warm December our hearts will see  
a world where men are free.

Someday at Christmas there'll be no wars,  
when we have learned what Christmas is for,  
when we have found what life's really worth  
there'll be peace on earth.

*Refrain:*

Someday all our dreams will come to be.  
Someday in a world where men are free.  
Maybe not in time for you and me,  
but someday at Christmastime.

Someday at Christmas we'll see a land  
with no hungry children, no empty hand.  
One happy morning people will share  
our world where people care.

Someday at Christmas there'll be no tears,  
when all folk are equal and no man has fears.  
One shining moment one prayer away  
from our world today. *[Refrain]*

Someday at Christmas man will not fail,  
hate will be gone and love will prevail.  
Someday a new world that we can start,  
with hope in every heart. *[Refrain]*

**\*Presentation of Gifts and the Doxology**

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

OLD ONE HUNDREDTH  
*Paula Testerman*

**\*Prayer of Dedication**

Rev. Carrie Veal

**\*Closing Hymn**

“Joy to the World”

Joy to the world, the Lord is come!  
Let earth receive her King!  
Let every heart prepare Him room,  
and heav'n and nature sing,  
and heav'n and nature sing,  
and heav'n, and heav'n and nature sing.

Joy to the earth, the Savior reigns!  
Let men their songs employ,  
while fields and floods, rocks, hills, and plains  
repeat the sounding joy,  
repeat the sounding joy,  
repeat, repeat the sounding joy.

No more let sins and sorrows grow,  
nor thorns infest the ground;  
He comes to make His blessings flow  
far as the curse is found,  
far as the curse is found,  
far as, far as the curse is found.

He rules the world with truth and grace,  
and makes the nations prove  
the glories of His righteousness  
and wonders of His love,  
and wonders of His love,  
and wonders, wonders of His love.

ANTIOCH

**Benediction**

Rev. Dr. Ben Boswell

**Postlude**

“Some Day at Christmas” Reprise

Carolina Social Music Club  
Stevie Wonder

***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.***



Carolina Social Music Club:  
Dawn Anthony, vocals  
Greg Jarrell, saxophone  
Hazel McKinley, piano  
Ron Brendle, bass  
Al Sergel, drums



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



We are affiliated with [allianceofbaptists.org](http://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](mailto:cveal@myersparkbaptist.org).



**WE'RE GLAD YOU ARE HERE**

Connect with us in one easy stop.



**CHRISTMAS EVE**

10:00 am  
Morning Service

5:30 pm  
Music of Christmas

6:00 pm  
Candlelight Service

## 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](mailto:lgeer@myersparkbaptist.org).*

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