

GLORY TO GOD
IN THE
HIGHEST
HEAVEN,

AND ON EARTH
PEACE AMONG
THOSE WHOM
HE FAVORS!

*To give light
to those
who sit in darkness
and in
the shadow
of death*

BY THE TENDER MERCY OF
OUR GOD, THE DAWN FROM ON
HIGH WILL BREAK UPON US

The Worship of God
Christmas Eve

December 24, 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.

Prelude

“Medley from Peanuts”

J. Kevin Gray, piano
Vince Guaraldi

Call to Worship and Invocation

Rev. Carrie Veal

*Lighting the Christ Candle

Candace Williamson with Chris, Evie, and Piper Steude

Leader: A trumpet blares through the silent night!
A new song heralds the coming light!

**People: Let us sing the new song,
let us turn to the light,
let us build a new earth,
let us celebrate new life!**

Leader: Let the sea’s deep rumble make the sky tremble!
Let the field’s high chanting make the clouds dance!

**All: Let us sing the new song,
let us turn to the light,
let us build a new earth,
let us celebrate new life!**

(Lighting the Christ Candle)

***People:** *(singing)*

GLORIA

**Come to Bethlehem and see
him whose birth the angels sing;
Come, adore on bended knee
Christ the Lord, the newborn King.
Gloria in excelsis Deo! Gloria in excelsis Deo!**

Welcome of Our Guests

Rev. Dr. JJ Flag

*If you are our guest today, please fill out the pew card or scan the QR code
so we may offer you our gratitude for joining us today.*

*Passing of the Peace

Children may come forward during the Passing of the Peace.

The Christmas Story

Rev. Carrie Veal

“The Friendly Beasts”

***Christmas Carol Medley**

“Hark! The Herald Angels Sing,” “The First Noel,” “Joy to the World”

**Hark! the herald angels sing,
“Glory to the newborn King:
peace on earth, and mercy mild,
God and sinners reconciled!”
Joyful, all ye nations, rise,
join the triumph of the skies;
with th'angelic hosts proclaim,
“Christ is born in Bethlehem!”
Hark! the herald angels sing,
“Glory to the newborn King”**

The first Noel the angel did say
was to certain poor shepherds in fields as they lay,
in fields where they lay keeping their sheep,
on a cold winter's night that was so deep.
Noel, Noel, Noel, Noel,
born is the King of Israel.

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.

Christmas Meditation

Rev. Dr. Ben Boswell

***Carol**

“O Little Town of Bethlehem”

ST. LOUIS

**O little town of Bethlehem, how still we see thee lie!
Above thy deep and dreamless sleep the silent stars go by;
yet in thy dark streets shineth the everlasting light.
The hopes and fears of all the years are met in thee tonight.**

How silently, how silently, the wondrous gift is given!
So God imparts to human hearts the blessings of his heaven.
No ear may hear his coming, but in this world of sin,
where meek souls will receive him, still the dear Christ enters in.

O holy Child of Bethlehem, descend to us, we pray,
cast out our sin and enter in, be born in us today.
We hear the Christmas angels the great glad tidings tell;
O come to us, abide with us, our Lord Emmanuel!

Church at Prayer

Rev. John Blackshire, Ph.D.

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

“Refugee King ”

Bruce Benedict

Away from the manger they ran for their lives.
The crying boy Jesus, a son they must hide.
A dream came to Joseph, they fled in the night
and they ran and they ran and they ran.

No stars in the sky but the Spirit of God,
led down into Egypt from Herod to hide.
No place for his parents no country or tribe
and they ran and they ran and they ran.

Stay near me Lord Jesus when danger is nigh,
and keep us from Herod’s and all of their lies.
I love the Lord Jesus, the Refugee King,
and we sing and we sing and we sing,
and we sing and we sing and we sing.
Hallelujah.

*Presentation of Gifts and the Doxology

GLORIA

See him in the manger laid,
whom the choirs of angels praise;
Mary, Joseph, lend your aid,
while our hearts in love we raise.
Gloria in excelsis Deo,
Gloria in excelsis Deo.

*Prayer of Dedication

Rev. Dr. JJ Flag

Communion

Rev. Dr. Ben Boswell and Rev. Tara Gibbs

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

All are invited to participate in Communion. You may come forward to one of the stations at the front of the Sanctuary to receive bread and juice or pre-packaged, gluten-free elements. If you prefer to be served at your seat, please raise your hand and a Deacon will assist you.

Music During Communion

Hebrew Scripture - Isaiah 9:2-7 (NRSV adapted)

Rev. Dr. Ben Boswell

The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light; those who lived in a land of deep darkness—on them light has shined. You have multiplied the nation, you have increased its joy; they rejoice before you as with joy at the harvest, as people exult when dividing plunder. For the yoke of their burden, and the bar across their shoulders, the rod of their oppressor, you have broken as on the day of Midian. For all the boots of the tramping warriors and all the garments rolled in blood shall be burned as fuel for the fire.

For a child has been born for us, a son given to us; authority rests upon his shoulders; and he is named Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Protector, Prince of Peace. His authority shall grow continually, and there shall be endless peace for the throne of David and his kingdom. He will establish and uphold it with justice and with righteousness from this time onward and forevermore.

Lighting of the Candles

*Carol with Candlelight

“Silent Night, Holy Night!”

STILLE NACHT

**Silent night, holy night!
All is calm, all is bright,
round yon Virgin mother and child,
holy infant so tender and mild,
sleep in heavenly peace,
sleep in heavenly peace.**

**Silent night, holy night!
Shepherds quake at the sight,
glories stream from heaven afar,
heavenly hosts sing: Alleluia.
Christ the Savior is born,
Christ the Savior is born.**

**Silent night, holy night!
Son of God, love's pure light
radiant beams from thy holy face,
with the dawn of redeeming grace,
Jesus, Lord, at thy birth,
Jesus, Lord, at thy birth.**

*Christmas Benediction

Rev. Dr. Ben Boswell

*The congregation extinguishes their candles.
The greeters will receive your candles as you leave.*

Postlude


J. Kevin Gray, piano

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



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**

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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