

LIGHT
TO THOSE IN
DARKNESS
COMES

Advent 2024 at MPBC

The Worship of God
The Second Sunday of Advent

December 8, 2024 | 10:00a

*Passing of the Peace

Gospel Reading Matthew 20:1-16 (NRSV)

Victoria Yeghoyan

“For the kingdom of heaven is like a landowner who went out early in the morning to hire laborers for his vineyard. After agreeing with the laborers for a denarius for the day, he sent them into his vineyard. When he went out about nine o’clock, he saw others standing idle in the marketplace, and he said to them, ‘You also go into the vineyard, and I will pay you whatever is right.’ So they went. When he went out again about noon and about three o’clock, he did the same. And about five o’clock he went out and found others standing around, and he said to them, ‘Why are you standing here idle all day?’ They said to him, ‘Because no one has hired us.’ He said to them, ‘You also go into the vineyard.’

When evening came, the owner of the vineyard said to his manager, ‘Call the laborers and give them their pay, beginning with the last and then going to the first.’ When those hired about five o’clock came, each of them received a denarius. Now when the first came, they thought they would receive more; but each of them also received a denarius. And when they received it, they grumbled against the landowner, saying, ‘These last worked only one hour, and you have made them equal to us who have borne the burden of the day and the scorching heat.’ But he replied to one of them, ‘Friend, I am doing you no wrong; did you not agree with me for a denarius? Take what belongs to you and go; I choose to give to this last the same as I give to you.

Am I not allowed to do what I choose with what belongs to me? Or are you envious because I am generous?’ So the last will be first, and the first will be last.”

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, 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 210 in the education building between 11-11:15.*

*Sermon Hymn

“What Child is This?”

See page 9.
GREENSLEEVES

Sermon

“Hope Song of a Disjointed Kingdom”

Rev. Dr. Derek Hicks

Church at Prayer

Rev. Carrie Veal

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

Anna-Catherine Fowler

You are invited to give by scanning the QR code below or dropping your offering in the plate.



Offertory

Madeline Beitel, vocalist, Claudio Olivera, pianist
Rogers & Hammerstein

“Climb Every Mountain”

Climb every mountain,
search high and low,
follow every byway,
every path you know.

Climb every mountain,
ford every stream,
follow every rainbow
till you find your dream.

A dream that will need
all the love you can give,
every day of your life
for as long as you live.

Climb every mountain,
ford every stream,
follow every rainbow
till you find your dream.

***Presentation of Gifts and the Doxology**

OLD HUNDREDTH

**Praise God from whom all blessings flow.
Praise God, all creatures, here below.
Praise God above, ye heavenly hosts.
Creator, Christ and Holy Ghost. Amen.**

***Prayer of Dedication**

Elaine Price-Hudson

Presentation of Newly Elected Deacons

Scott Crowder, *Board of Deacons Chair-Elect*

Life Deacon Class of 2025
Bob Thomason
Suzette Buchan
Ryan LaPrade

Deacon Class of 2027
Nancy Culp
Holly Henderson
Craig Hopewell
Jenny Martella
Carol Reid-Fricke

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. Carrie Veal

Prayer of Ordination and Installation

*Closing Hymn

“He Came Down”

See page 11.
arr. John L. Bell

Benediction

Rev. Dr. Derek Hicks

Postlude

“Malagueña”


Claudio Olivera, pianist
Ernesto Lecuona

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, Eric Roberts, and volunteers.



We are affiliated with allianceofbaptists.org  Alliance
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**MYERS PARK
BAPTIST
CHURCH**

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

CHRISTMAS EVE

10:00 am
Morning Service
with Communion

5:30 pm
Music of Christmas

6:00 pm
Traditional Candlelight
Service with Communion



There's a Star in the East

Rise Up, Shepherd, and Follow

1 There's a star in the east on Christ-mas morn. Rise up, shep-herd, and
2 If you take good heed to the an - gel's words, rise up, shep-herd, and

fol - low. It will lead to the place where the Christ was born.
fol - low. You'll for - get your flocks; you'll for - get your herds.

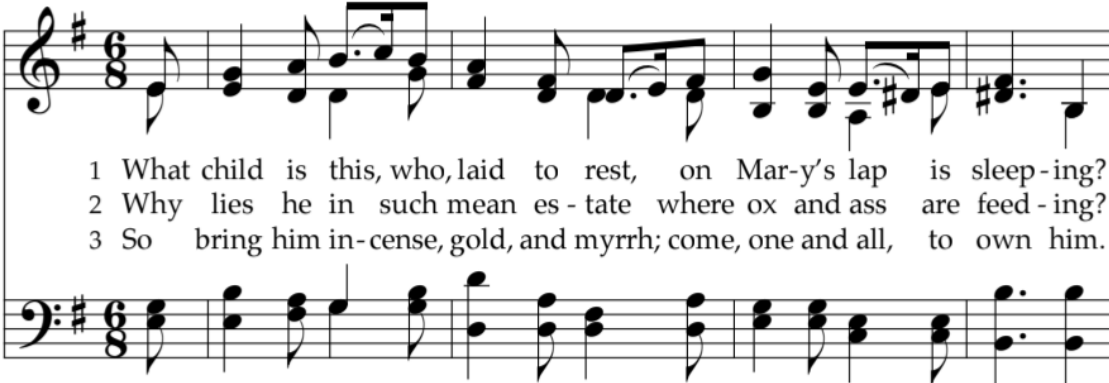
Refrain
Rise up, shep-herd, and fol - low. Fol - low, fol - low;

rise up, shep-herd, and fol - low. Fol - low the star of

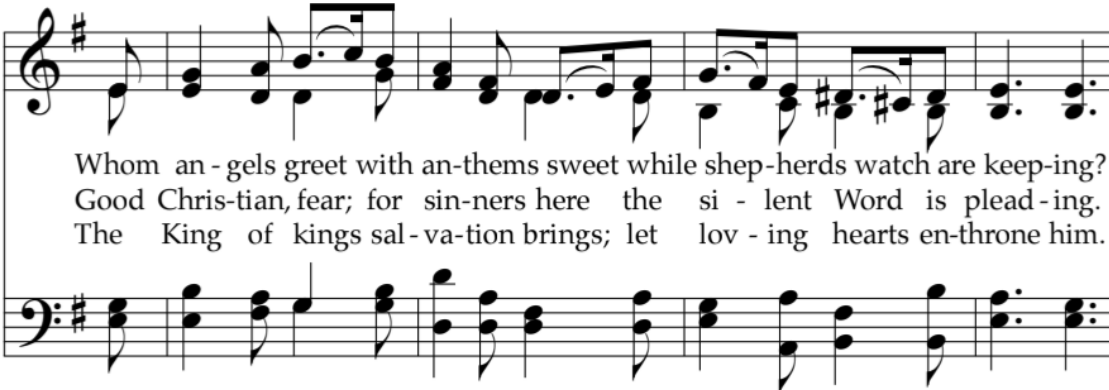
Beth - le - hem. Rise up, shep-herd, and fol - low.

This African American spiritual, cast in a characteristic call-and-response style, provides a reminder that the good news of the Incarnation should lead Christians not only to awe and adoration but also to living and acting in ways that make God's purposes known to others.

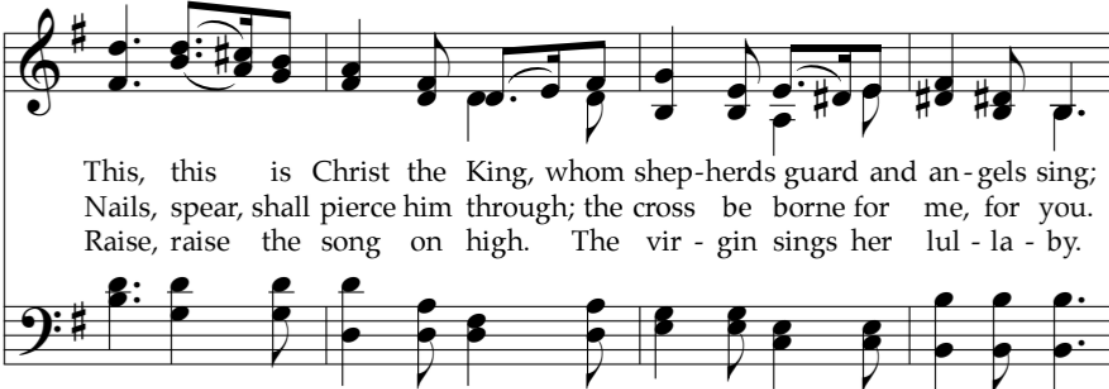
What Child Is This



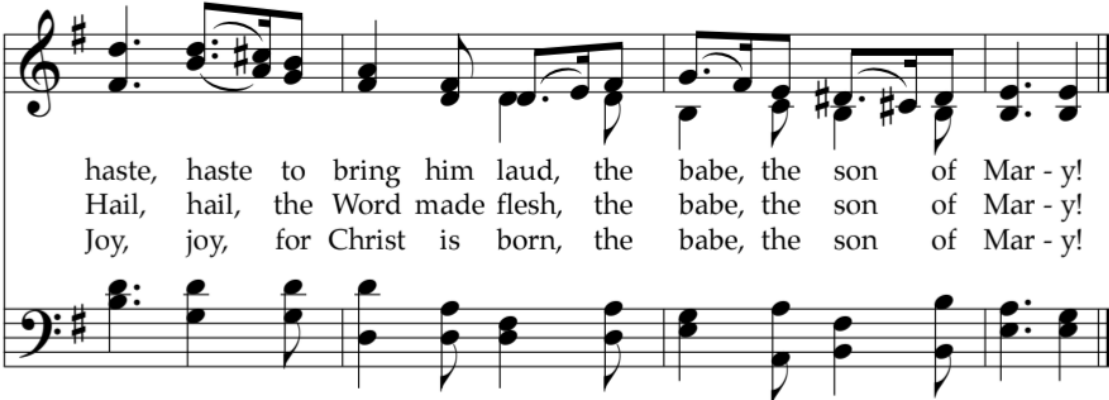
1 What child is this, who, laid to rest, on Mar-y's lap is sleep-ing?
 2 Why lies he in such mean es - tate where ox and ass are feed - ing?
 3 So bring him in - cense, gold, and myrrh; come, one and all, to own him.



Whom an - gels greet with an - thems sweet while shep - herds watch are keep - ing?
 Good Chris - tian, fear; for sin - ners here the si - lent Word is plead - ing.
 The King of kings sal - va - tion brings; let lov - ing hearts en - throne him.



This, this is Christ the King, whom shep - herds guard and an - gels sing;
 Nails, spear, shall pierce him through; the cross be borne for me, for you.
 Raise, raise the song on high. The vir - gin sings her lul - la - by.



haste, haste to bring him laud, the babe, the son of Mar - y!
 Hail, hail, the Word made flesh, the babe, the son of Mar - y!
 Joy, joy, for Christ is born, the babe, the son of Mar - y!

This Victorian text gains scope and power by having the original second halves of stanzas two and three restored. They give a stark forward glimpse of what lies ahead for this "babe, the son of Mary!" The tune is much older, dating from Tudor England.

He Came Down

He came down that we may have love; he

The first system of music is in 4/4 time with a key signature of one sharp (F#). The melody is written on a treble clef staff, and the bass line is on a bass clef staff. The lyrics are: "He came down that we may have love; he". There are triplets in both staves: a triplet of eighth notes in the melody and a triplet of eighth notes in the bass line.

came down that we may have love; he came down that we may

The second system of music continues the melody and bass line. The lyrics are: "came down that we may have love; he came down that we may". There are triplets in both staves: a triplet of eighth notes in the melody and a triplet of eighth notes in the bass line.

Leader: Why did he come?
have love; hal-le - lu - jah for - ev - er - more.

The third system of music includes a leader's part. The lyrics are: "Leader: Why did he come? have love; hal-le - lu - jah for - ev - er - more.". There are triplets in both staves: a triplet of eighth notes in the melody and a triplet of eighth notes in the bass line.

Additional stanzas:

... that we may have light
... that we may have peace
... that we may have joy

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. Carrie Veal

Associate Minister

Rev. Tara Gibbs

Associate Minister of Spiritual Growth

J. Kevin Gray

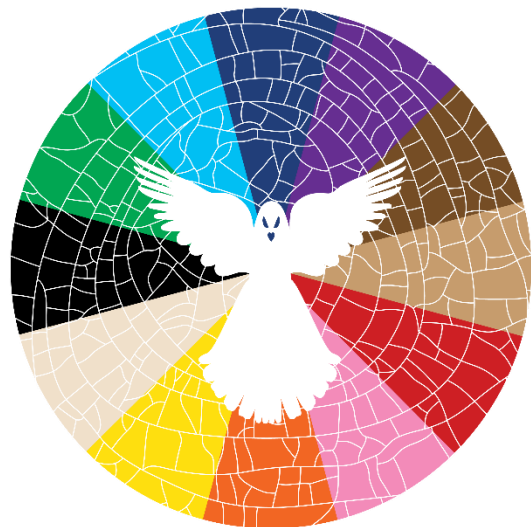
Minister of Music & Worship

Eva Bender

Chief Operating Officer

Rev. Marina Luckhoo

Interim Associate Minister



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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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