

LIGHT
TO THOSE IN
DARKNESS
COMES



Advent 2024 at MPBC

The Worship of God

The Fourth Sunday of Advent | Festival of Lessons and Carols

December 22, 2024 | 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.

Worship activities for children are available in the Narthex.

Prelude

“Berceuse Paraphrase”

Dr. Matthew Manwarren, organ
George Baker

*Carol

“Once In Royal David’s City”

Evie Steude, soloist
IRBY

Solo: 1. Once in roy - al Da - vid's cit - y stood a
 Choir: 2. He came down to earth from heav - en who is
 All: 3. Je - sus is our child - hood's pat - tern, day by
 All: 4. And our eyes at last shall see him, through his

low - ly cat - tle shed, where a moth - er laid her
 God and Lord of all, and his shel - ter was a
 day like us he grew; he was lit - tle, weak and
 own re - deem - ing love, for that child so dear and

ba - by in a man - ger for his bed. Mar - y was that
 sta - ble, and his cra - dle was a stall; with the poor, op -
 help - less, tears and smiles like us he knew; and he feels for
 gen - tle is our Lord in heav'n a - bove; and he leads his

moth - er mild, Je - sus Christ her lit - tle child.
 pressed, and low - ly, lived on earth our Sav - ior ho - ly.
 all our sad - ness, and he shares in all our glad - ness.
 chil - dren on to the place where he is gone.

Lighting the Candle of Love

Julie, Robert, Langley and Preston Barfield, Deacon and family

Leader: This is the day the Lord has made, the time to hear the story of salvation, to listen for the rustle of angels' wings, and to run to the manger to see a newborn baby. Listen, those who have ears to hear. Look, those who have eyes to see. Behold the dawning of amazing grace!

People: O God, give us the humbleness of the shepherds who had ears to hear and eyes to see, in the cold December darkness, the coming of light and the Advent of Love!

(Lighting the Candle of Love.)

*Singing:

text: Richard Leach Scottish folk tune

4. Love is a can-dle whose light makes a cir-cle, where ev'ry
face is the face of a friend. Wi - den the cir - cle by
shar-ing and giv - ing: God's ho - ly dare: love ev' - ry where.

The image shows a musical score for a song. It consists of three staves of music in G major (one sharp) and 6/8 time. The lyrics are written below the notes. The first staff starts with a treble clef and a key signature of one sharp (F#). The lyrics are: "4. Love is a can-dle whose light makes a cir-cle, where ev'ry". The second staff continues the melody and lyrics: "face is the face of a friend. Wi - den the cir - cle by". The third staff concludes the phrase: "shar-ing and giv - ing: God's ho - ly dare: love ev' - ry where." The music is a simple, folk-like melody.

Welcome of Our Guests

Rev. Carrie Veal

If you are our guest today, please scan the QR code below so we may offer you our gratitude for joining us today.



*Passing of the Peace

First Lesson: Genesis 3:6, 8-13

Rev. Deborah Moore Clark, Choir Member

So when the woman saw that the tree was good for food, and that it was a delight to the eyes, and that the tree was to be desired to make one wise, she took of its fruit and ate; and she also gave some to her husband, who was with her, and he ate.

They heard the sound of the Lord God walking in the garden at the time of the evening breeze, and the man and his wife hid themselves from the presence of the Lord God among the trees of the garden. But the Lord God called to the man, and said to him, "Where are you?" He said, "I heard the sound of you in the garden, and I was afraid, because I was naked; and I hid myself." The Lord God said, "Who told you that you were naked? Have you eaten from the tree of which I commanded you not to eat?" The man said, "The woman whom you gave to be with me, she gave me fruit from the tree, and I ate." Then the Lord God said to the woman, "What is this that you have done?" The woman said, "The serpent tricked me, and I ate."

Leader: The story of God for the people of God,

People: Thanks be to God.

***Carol**

“One Person Changed Every Life”

**Not satisfied with what you gave,
your people sought to be like you.
Those early humans disobeyed —
Their story is our story, too.**

**Then, God, in love, you sent your Son,
for as in Adam we did fall,
so, through the faithfulness of One,
salvation was your gift to all.**

Second Lesson: Genesis 12:1-5

Preston Barfield

Now the Lord said to Abram, “Go from your country and your kindred and your father’s house to the land that I will show you. I will make of you a great nation, and I will bless you, and make your name great, so that you will be a blessing. I will bless those who bless you, and the one who curses you I will curse; and in you all the families of the earth shall be blessed.” So Abram went, as the Lord had told him; and Lot went with him. Abram was seventy-five years old when he departed from Haran. Abram took his wife Sarai and his brother’s son Lot, and all the possessions that they had gathered, and the persons whom they had acquired in Haran; and they set forth to go to the land of Canaan.

Leader: The story of God for the people of God,

People: Thanks be to God.

***Carol**

“Hail to the Lord’s Anointed”

TOURS

**Hail to the Lord's anointed;
great David's greater Son!
Hail, in the time appointed,
his reign on earth begun!
He comes to break oppression,
to set the captive free;
to take away transgression,
and rule in equity.**

**He shall come down like showers
upon the fruitful earth;
and love, joy, and hope, like flowers,
spring in his path to birth.
Before him, on the mountains,
shall peace, the herald, go,
and righteousness, in fountains,
from hill to valley flow.**

Third Lesson: Isaiah 40:1-5

Scott Crowder, Deacon

Comfort, O comfort my people, says your God. Speak tenderly to Jerusalem, and cry to her that she has served her term, that her penalty is paid, that she has received from the Lord's hand double for all her sins. A voice cries out: "In the wilderness prepare the way of the Lord, make straight in the desert a highway for our God. Every valley shall be lifted up, and every mountain and hill be made low; the uneven ground shall become level, and the rough places a plain. Then the glory of the Lord shall be revealed, and all people shall see it together, for the mouth of the Lord has spoken."

Leader: The story of God for the people of God,

People: Thanks be to God

Solo

David Young, soloist, Choir Member; Matthew Lavin, Cello

“Every Valley”

Victor C. Johnson

Every valley shall be exalted and every mountain and hill made low. The crooked made straight and the rough place is plain. Then the glory of the Lord shall be revealed and all flesh shall see it together. Then the wolf will dwell with the lamb; and the leopard will lie down with the goat. The calf and the lion will live together; and a little child will lead them, and this child will be peace. Every valley shall be exalted, the glory of the lord shall be revealed, and all flesh shall see it together.

Fourth Lesson: Isaiah 11:1-4, 6-9

Katherine Richards, Choir Member

A shoot shall come out from the stump of Jesse, and a branch shall grow out of its roots. The spirit of the Lord shall rest on him, the spirit of wisdom and understanding, the spirit of counsel and might, the spirit of knowledge and the fear of the Lord. His delight shall be in the fear of the Lord. He shall not judge by what his eyes see or decide by what his ears hear; but with righteousness he shall judge the poor and decide with equity for the meek of the earth; he shall strike the earth with the rod of his mouth, and with the breath of his lips he shall kill the wicked.

The wolf shall live with the lamb, the leopard shall lie down with the kid, the calf and the lion and the fatling together, and a little child shall lead them. The cow and the bear shall graze, their young shall lie down together; and the lion shall eat straw like the ox.

Leader: The story of God for the people of God,

People: Thanks be to God.

***Carol**

See Page 11.

“Lo How a Rose E'er Blooming”

ES IST EIN' ROS'

Fifth Lesson: Luke 1:26-35, 38

Marcy McClanahan, Deacon

In the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent by God to a town in Galilee called Nazareth, to a virgin engaged to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David. The virgin's name was Mary. And he came to her and said, “Greetings, favored one! The Lord is with you.” But she was much perplexed by his words and pondered what sort of greeting this might be. The angel said to her, “Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favor with God. And now, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you will name him Jesus. He will be great and will be called the Son of the Most High, and the Lord God will give to him the throne of his ancestor David. He will reign over the house of Jacob forever, and of his kingdom there will be no end.”

Mary said to the angel, “How can this be, since I am a virgin?” The angel said to her, “The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you; therefore the child to be born will be holy; he will be called Son of God.” Then Mary said, “Here am I, the servant of the Lord; let it be with me according to your word.” Then the angel departed from her.

Leader: The story of God for the people of God,

People: Thanks be to God.

Choral Anthem

Chancel Choir; Matthew Lavin, Cello

“O Come, O Come Emmanuel”

Elaine Hagenberg

O come, O come, Emmanuel and ransom captive Israel,
that mourns in lonely exile here until the Son of God appear.
O come, thou Dayspring, come and cheer,
our spirits by thine advent here,
and drive away the shades of night,
and pierce the clouds and bring us light!

Sixth Lesson: Luke 2:1-7

Craig Hopewell, Deacon

In those days a decree went out from Emperor Augustus that all the world should be registered. This was the first registration and was taken while Quirinius was governor of Syria. All went to their own towns to be registered. Joseph also went from the town of Nazareth in Galilee to Judea, to the city of David called Bethlehem, because he was descended from the house and family of David. He went to be registered with Mary, to whom he was engaged and who was expecting a child. While they were there, the time came for her to deliver her child. And she gave birth to her firstborn son and wrapped him in bands of cloth, and laid him in a manger, because there was no place for them in the inn.

Leader: The story of God for the people of God,

People: Thanks be to God.

Solo

McKenzie Coleman, Choir Member

Christopher 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.

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]*

Seventh Lesson: Luke 2:8-16

Sawyer Young

In that region there were shepherds living in the fields, keeping watch over their flock by night. Then an angel of the Lord stood before them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. But the angel said to them, “Do not be afraid; for see—I am bringing you good news of great joy for all the people: to you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is the Messiah, the Lord. This will be a sign for you: you will find a child wrapped in bands of cloth and lying in a manger.” And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host, praising God and saying, “Glory to God in the highest heaven, and on earth peace among those whom God favors!” When the angels had left them and gone into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, “Let us go now to Bethlehem and see this thing that has taken place, which the Lord has made known to us.” So they went with haste and found Mary and Joseph, and the child lying in the manger.

Leader: The story of God for the people of God,

People: Thanks be to God.

Solo

Emil Foster, Choir Member

Margaret Wells Allison

“Jesus, What a Wonderful Child”

Jesus, Jesus, oh, what a wonderful child. Jesus, Jesus, so lowly meek and mild.
New life, new hope, new joy he brings, won't you listen to the angels sing?
Glory, glory, glory, to the newborn King.
He was heralded by the angels, born in a lowly manger.
The Virgin Mary was his mother and Joseph was His earthly father.
The Wise Men appeared from afar
They were guided by a shining star, to see King Jesus, where He lay
in a manger filled with hay!

Eighth Lesson: Matthew 2:1-12

Bobbie Campbell, Choir Member

In the time of King Herod, after Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea, scholars from the East came to Jerusalem, asking, "Where is the child who has been born king of the Jews? For we observed his star at its rising, and have come to pay him homage." When King Herod heard this, he was frightened, and all Jerusalem with him; and calling together all the chief priests and scribes of the people, he inquired of them where the Messiah was to be born. They told him, "In Bethlehem of Judea; for so it has been written by the prophet: 'And you, Bethlehem, in the land of Judah, are by no means least among the rulers of Judah; for from you shall come a ruler who is to shepherd my people Israel.'"

Then Herod secretly called for the wise men and learned from them the exact time when the star had appeared. Then he sent them to Bethlehem, saying, "Go and search diligently for the child; and when you have found him, bring me word so that I may also go and pay him homage." When they had heard the king, they set out; and there, ahead of them, went the star that they had seen at its rising, until it stopped over the place where the child was. When they saw that the star had stopped, they were overwhelmed with joy. On entering the house, they saw the child with Mary his mother; and they knelt down and paid him homage. Then, opening their treasure chests, they offered him gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh. And having been warned in a dream not to return to Herod, they left for their own country by another road.

Leader: The story of God for the people of God,

People: Thanks be to God.

*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.**

**For Christ is born of Mary; and gathered all above,
while mortals sleep, the angels keep their watch of wond'ring love.
O morning stars, together proclaim the holy birth,
and praises sing to God the King, and peace to all the earth.**

Eighth Lesson, continued: Matthew 2:13-18

Sam Slack, Congregate

Now after they had left, an angel of the Lord appeared to Joseph in a dream and said, "Get up, take the child and his mother, and flee to Egypt, and remain there until I tell you; for Herod is about to search for the child, to destroy him." Then Joseph got up, took the child and his mother by night, and went to Egypt, and remained there until the death of Herod. This was to fulfill what had been spoken by the Lord through the prophet, "Out of Egypt I have called my son."

When Herod saw that he had been tricked by the scholars, he was infuriated, and he sent and killed all the children in and around Bethlehem who were two years old or under, according to the time that he had learned from the wise men. Then was fulfilled what had been spoken through the prophet Jeremiah: "A voice was heard in Ramah, wailing and loud lamentation, Rachel weeping for her children; she refused to be consoled, because they are no more."

Leader: The story of God for the people of God,

People: Thanks be to God.

Solo

David Young, Choir Member
15th CENTURY TUNE

“Coventry Carol”

Lully, lullay, thou little tiny child. By, by, lully, lullay.
Oh, sisters too, how may we do to persevere this day,
to this poor youngling for whom we do sing, By, by, lully, lullay?
Herod, the King, in his raging, charged he hath this day,
His soldiers of might, in his own sight, all children young to slay.
Then woe is me, poor child, for thee, and every morn and day,
for at thy parting nor say nor sing, by, by, lully, lullay.

Ninth Lesson: John 1:1-14

Mary Miller, Choir Member

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was in the beginning with God. All things came into being through him, and without him not one thing came into being. What has come into being in him was life, and the life was the light of all people.

The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overcome it. There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. He came as a witness to testify to the light, so that all might believe through him. He himself was not the light, but he came to testify to the light.

The true light, which enlightens everyone, was coming into the world. He was in the world, and the world came into being through him; yet the world did not know him. He came to what was his own, and his own people did not accept him. But to all who received him, who believed in his name, he gave power to become children of God, who were born, not of blood or of the will of the flesh or of the will of man, but of God. And the Word became flesh and lived among us, and we have seen his glory, the glory as of a parent's only son, full of grace and truth.

Leader: The story of God for the people of God,

People: Thanks be to God.

Invitation to Offering

Amy Johnson, Deacon

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



Offertory Anthem

Chancel Choir
Andre Thomas

“Children, Go Where I Send Thee”

Children, go where I send thee. How shall I send thee?
I'm gonna send thee one by one. One for the little bitty baby.
He was born, born, born in Bethlehem.
I'm gonna send thee one by one. One for the little bitty baby.
Two was for Paul and Silas. Three was the Hebrew children.
He was born, born, born in Bethlehem.
Four came knocking at the door; four came knocking at the door.
Somebody's knocking at the door. Somebody's knocking at the door.
Four was the four that came knocking at the door.
Oh sinner, why don't you answer? Somebody's knocking at your door.
I shall send thee five by five. Five for the gospel preachers.

I shall send thee six by six. Six was the six that couldn't get fixed.
Seven went up to heaven. Eight was the eight that stood at the gate.
Nine was the nine that got left behind! Ten by ten cause ten was the ten commandments.
Go where I send thee. How shall I send thee? Born, born, born in Bethlehem.

***Presentation of Gifts and the Doxology**

MENDELSSOHN

“Hark! The Herald Angels Sing”

**Christ, by highest heaven adored,
Christ, the everlasting Lord,
late in time behold him come,
offspring of the Virgin's womb:
veiled in flesh the Godhead see;
hail th'incarnate Deity,
pleased with us in flesh to dwell,
Jesus, our Immanuel.
Hark! the herald angels sing,
“Glory to the newborn King.”**

***Prayer of Dedication**

Mike Bowen, Deacon

***Closing Carol**

“Angels We Have Heard on High”

GLORIA

**Angels we have heard on high, sweetly singing o'er the plains,
and the mountains in reply echoing their joyous strains:**

Refrain:

**Gloria, in excelsis Deo!
Gloria, in excelsis Deo!**

**Shepherds, why this jubilee?
Why your joyous strains prolong?
What the gladsome tidings be
which inspire your heav'nly song? [Refrain]**

**Come to Bethlehem and see
him whose birth the angels sing;
come, adore on bended knee
Christ the Lord, the new-born King. [Refrain]**

Benediction

Rev. Carrie Veal

Postlude

“God Rest Ye Merry Gentlemen”

Dr. Matthew Manwarren
arr. Alfred Fedak

Audio/Video Team Members are Wes Cobb, Joe Kuhlmann,
Hannah Combs, 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, Rev. Carrie Veal at cveal@myersparkbaptist.org



Lo, How a Rose E'er Blooming

1 Lo, how a rose e'er bloom-ing from ten - der stem hath sprung,
 2 I - sa - iah 'twas fore - told it, the rose I have in mind;
 3 This flower, whose fra-grance ten - der with sweet-ness fills the air,

of Jes - se's lin - eage com - ing, by faith - ful proph - ets sung.
 with Mar - y we be - hold it, the vir - gin moth - er kind.
 dis - pels with glo - rious splen - dor the dark - ness ev - ery - where.

It came, a flower - et bright, a - mid the cold of
 To show God's love a - right she bore for us a
 En - fleshed, yet ver - y God, from sin and death he

win - ter, when half spent was the night.
 Sav - ior, when half spent was the night.
 saves us and light - ens ev - ery load.

Although the early copies of this 15th-century German text include many more stanzas than are printed here, this simpler, shorter form has much to commend it. This early 17th-century harmonization of the traditional chorale melody invites and rewards singing in parts.

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



**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