

LIGHT TO THOSE IN DARKNESS COMES



Advent 2024 at MPBC

The Worship of God

Christmas Eve

December 24, 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

“Silent Night”

Claudio Olivera, piano
arr. Ola Gjeilo

Call to Worship and Invocation

J. Kevin Gray

***Lighting the Christ Candle**

Anna-Catherine Fowler and Keith,
Conner, Sawyer and Foster Young, Deacon and Family

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. Marina Luckhoo

*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**

**Please rise in body or in spirit.*

Gospel Reading – Luke 2:1-20 NRSV

Ryan LaPrade, Deacon

In those days a decree went out from Caesar 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 in the guest room.

Now in that same 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 he 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. When they saw this, they made known what had been told them about this child, and all who heard it were amazed at what the shepherds told them, and Mary treasured all these words and pondered them in her heart. The shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen, just as it had been told them.

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

People: Thanks be to God.

*Christmas Carol Medley

“Hark! The Herald Angels Sing,” “The First Noel” and “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. Carrie Veal

“The Wisdom of the Shepherds”

*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. Marina Luckhoo

Invitation to Offering

Nancy Hudson, Deacon

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



Offertory

Madeline Olivera, Choir Member
Adolphe Adam

“O Holy Night”

O holy night! The stars are brightly shining;
it is the night of the dear Savior’s birth.
Long lay the world in sin and error pining,
till he appeared and the soul felt its worth.
A thrill of hope – the weary world rejoices,
for yonder breaks a new and glorious morn!
Fall on your knees! O hear the angel voices!
O night divine, O night when Christ was born!
O night, O holy night, O night divine!
Truly he taught us to love one another.
His law is love and his gospel is peace.
Chains shall he break, for each man is our brother,
and in his name all oppression shall cease.
Sweet hymns of joy in grateful chorus raise we;
let all within us praise his holy name.
Christ is the Lord! O praise his name forever!
His pow’r and glory evermore proclaim!
His pow’r and glory evermore proclaim!

***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. Gary Hudson, Church Member

Communion

Rev. Carrie Veal

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

Claudio Olivera, piano

Lighting of the Candles

***Carol with Candlelight**

“Silent Night, Holy Night!”
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.

STILLE NACHT

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. Carrie Veal

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

Postlude

Claudio Olivera, piano

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



We are affiliated with allianceofbaptists.org  Alliance
of Baptists

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ARE HERE**

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in one easy step.

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and how to get
involved.

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the items listed here.



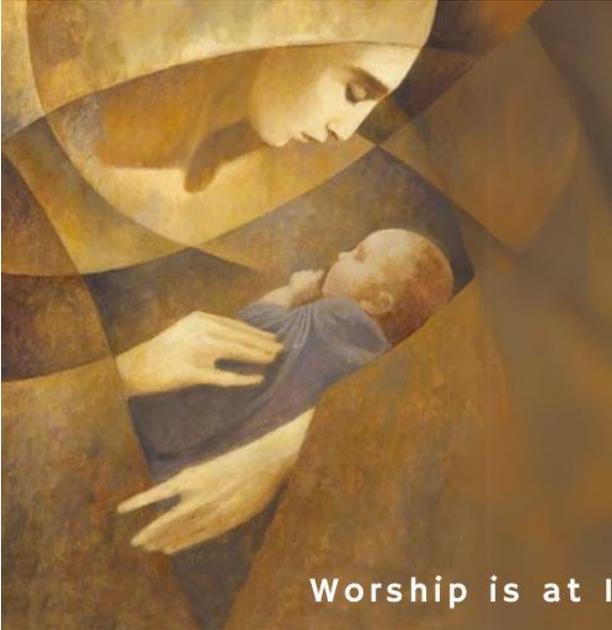
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**MYERS PARK
BAPTIST
CHURCH**

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.




**MYERS PARK
BAPTIST
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Inclusivity | Spirituality | Community | Justice

**THE FIRST
SUNDAY OF
CHRISTMAS**

December 29

Worship is at 10a ONLINE ONLY

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

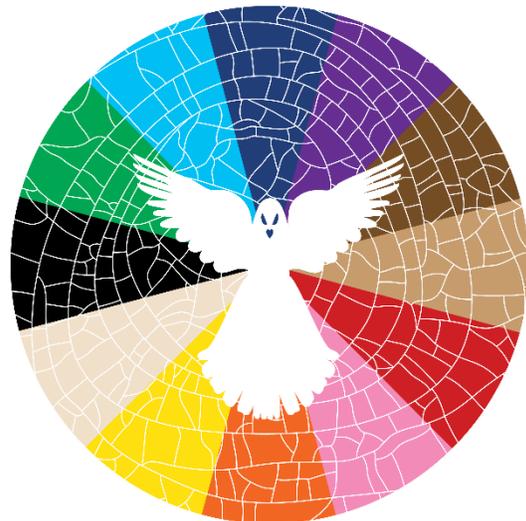
Minister of Music & Worship

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.

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