

Mothers Around the Manger



THE WORSHIP OF GOD

The First Sunday of Advent

November 30, 2025 | 10 AM

MYERS PARK
BAPTIST
CHURCH

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.

Childcare is available for birth – kindergarten in the childcare room located in the Cornwell Center (on main level). Please see a greeter for more information.
Worship activities for children are available in the Narthex.

We invite you to prepare for worship in silence while listening to the prelude.

Prelude

“Sleepers, Wake!”

Dr. Matthew Manwarren, Organist
J.S. Bach

Call to Worship and Invocation

J. Kevin Gray

*Opening Hymn

“O Come, O Come Emmanuel”

Number 79
VENI EMMANUEL

*Lighting the Candle of Hope

Scott Crowder and John Locklear

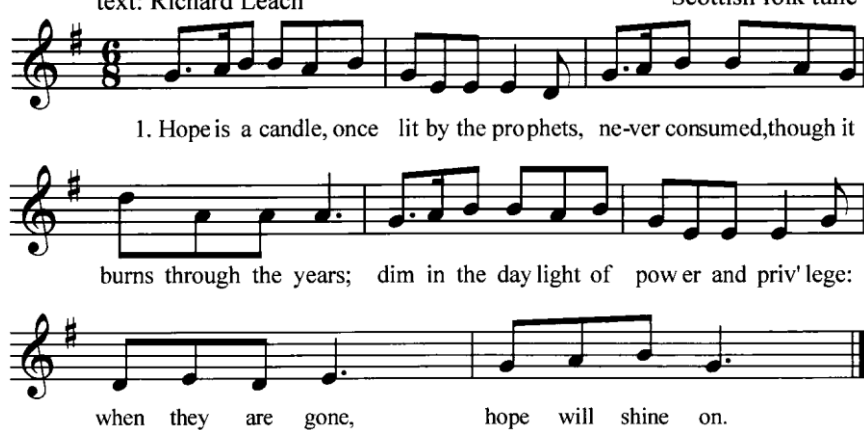
Leader: Christ shall come, God’s gift to the world: that the desperate should find hope—
that the persecuted should find peace—that the dejected should find joy—
that the lonely should find love.

All: O Christ of the world, your time is now!
We wait, we watch, we wonder! Come!

(Lighting the Candle of Hope.)

*Singing:

text: Richard Leach Scottish folk tune



1. Hope is a candle, once lit by the prophets, ne-ver consumed, though it
burns through the years; dim in the day light of power and priv' lege:
when they are gone, hope will shine on.

Welcome

Rev. Dr. Layne Smith

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.

It happened at that time that Judah went down from his brothers and settled near a certain Adullamite whose name was Hirah. There Judah saw the daughter of a certain Canaanite whose name was Shua; he married her and went in to her. She conceived and bore a son, and he named him Er. Again, she conceived and bore a son whom she named Onan. Yet again she bore a son, and she named him Shelah. She was in Chezib when she bore him. Judah took a wife for Er his firstborn; her name was Tamar. But Er, Judah's firstborn, was wicked in the sight of the Lord, and the Lord put him to death. Then Judah said to Onan, "Go in to your brother's wife and perform the duty of a brother-in-law to her; raise up offspring for your brother." But since Onan knew that the offspring would not be his, he spilled his semen on the ground whenever he went in to his brother's wife, so that he would not give offspring to his brother. What he did was displeasing in the sight of the Lord, and he put him to death also. Then Judah said to his daughter-in-law Tamar, "Remain a widow in your father's house until my son Shelah grows up," for he feared that he too would die, like his brothers. So, Tamar went to live in her father's house.

In course of time the wife of Judah, Shua's daughter, died; when Judah's time of mourning was over, he went up to Timnah to his sheepshearers, he and his friend Hirah the Adullamite. When Tamar was told, "Your father-in-law is going up to Timnah to shear his sheep," she put off her widow's garments, put on a veil, wrapped herself up, and sat down at the entrance to Enaim, which is on the road to Timnah. She saw that Shelah was grown up, yet she had not been given to him in marriage. When Judah saw her, he thought her to be a prostitute, for she had covered her face. He went over to her at the roadside and said, "Come, let me come in to you," for he did not know that she was his daughter-in-law. She said, "What will you give me, that you may come in to me?" He answered, "I will send you a kid from the flock." And she said, "Only if you give me a pledge until you send it." He said, "What pledge shall I give you?" She replied, "Your signet and your cord and the staff that is in your hand." So, he gave them to her and went in to her, and she conceived by him. Then she got up and went away, and taking off her veil she put on the garments of her widowhood.

When Judah sent the kid by his friend the Adullamite to recover the pledge from the woman, he could not find her. He asked the townspeople, "Where is the prostitute who was at Enaim by the wayside?" But they said, "No prostitute has been here." So, he returned to Judah and said, "I have not found her; moreover, the townspeople said, 'No prostitute has been here.'" Judah replied, "Let her keep the things as her own, otherwise we will be laughed at; you see, I sent this kid, and you could not find her." About three months later Judah was told, "Your daughter-in-law Tamar has prostituted herself; moreover, she is pregnant as a result of prostitution." And Judah said, "Bring her out, and let her be burned." As she was being brought out, she sent word to her father-in-law, "It was the owner of these who made me pregnant." And she said, "Take note, please, whose these are, the signet and the cord and the staff." Then Judah acknowledged them and said, "She is more in the right than I, since I did not give her to my son Shelah." And he did not lie with her again.

When the time of her delivery came, there were twins in her womb.

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.

***Sermon Hymn**

"In Matthew's Gospel There are Five"

Poor Tamar, wife unwanted and a widow once again,
determined she would not depend on whims of faithless men,

so wily woman that she was, she did more than complain,
and taking matters in her hands, soon turned her loss to gain.

If God could find a use for her, her faithfulness ignite,
then surely God can use us too, as bearers of the light.

LAND OF REST

Mary Nelson Keithahn

Sermon

“Mothers Around the Manger: Tamar”

Rev. Dr. Layne Smith

A Moment to Reflect

Church at Prayer

Rev. Marina Luckhoo

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

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

Nancy Culp, Deacon



Offertory Anthem

“Let All Mortal Flesh Keep Silence”

Let all mortal flesh keep silence, and with fear and trembling stand;
ponder nothing earthly minded, for, with blessing in his hand,
Christ our God to earth descending, our full homage to demand.

Alleluia, King of kings, yet born of Mary, as of old on earth he stood,
Lord of lords, in human vesture, in the body and the blood.
He will give to all the faithful his own self for heav'nly food.

Rank on rank the host of heaven spread its vanguard on the way,
as the Light of light descendeth from the realms of endless day,
that the pow'rs of hell may vanish, as the shadows clear away. Alleluia

At his feet the six-winged seraph, cherubim with sleepless eye,
veil their faces to the presence, as with ceaseless voice they cry,
“Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia, Lord Most High!”

Let all mortal flesh keep silence.

Chancel Choir
arr. Michael A. Miller

*Presentation of Gifts and the Doxology

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

LASST UNS ERFREUEN

***Prayer of Dedication**

Nancy Culp, Deacon

***Closing Hymn**

“Canticle of the Turning” stanzas 1, 2, and 3

See pages 6 and 7
STAR OF THE COUNTY DOWN

Responding to the Word

Rev. Dr. Layne Smith

Pastoral Blessing

Postlude

“Toccata on PICARDY”

Dr. Matthew Manwarren, organist
Albert Zabel

*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, and Eric Roberts.



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. Marina Luckhoo at mluckhoo@myersparkbaptist.org.



*To learn more about upcoming events, our church portal, social media pages,
and weekly newsletter, simply scan the QR code below.*

WE'RE GLAD YOU ARE HERE

CONNECT WITH US IN ONE EASY STOP

- EVENTS
- GUESTS
- GIVE
- PRAY
- WEBSITE
- MEMBER PORTAL



Learn more about us and how to get involved.
Just point the camera on your mobile phone at
the QR Code to access the items listed above.

stanzas 1, 2, and 3

Canticle of the Turning



1. My soul cries out with a joy - ful shout that the
2. Though I am small, my God, my all, you
3. From the halls of power to the for - tress tower, not a
4. Though the na - tions rage from age to age, we re -



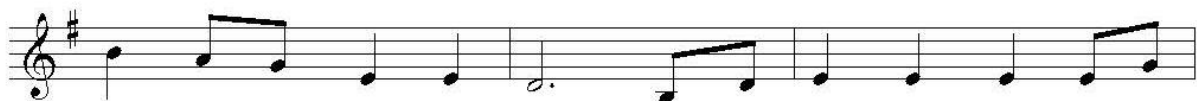
God of my heart is great, And my spir - it sings of the
work great things in me, And your mer - cy will last from the
stone will be left on stone. Let the king be - ware for your
mem - ber who holds us fast: God's mer - cy must de -



won - drous things that you bring to the ones who wait. You
depths of the past to the end of the age to be. Your
jus - tice tears ev - 'ry ty - rant from his throne. The
liv - er us from the con - quer - or's crush - ing grasp. This



fixed your sight on your ser - vant's plight, and my
ver - y name puts the proud to shame, and to
hun - gry poor shall weep no more, for the
sav - ing word that our fore - bears heard is the



weak - ness you did not spurn, So from east to west shall my
those who would for you yearn, You will show your might, put the
food they can nev - er earn; There are ta - bles spread, ev - 'ry
prom - ise which holds us bound, 'Til the spear and rod can be

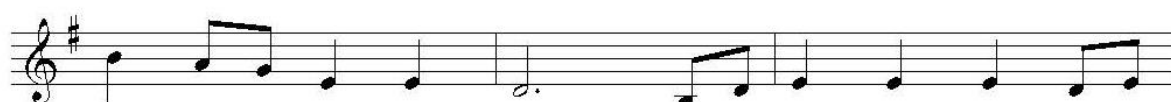


name be blest. Could the world be a - bout to turn?
 strong to flight, for the world is a - bout to turn.
 mouth be fed, for the world is a - bout to turn.
 crushed by God, who is turn - ing the world a - round.

Refrain



My heart shall sing of the day you bring. Let the



fires of your jus - tice burn. Wipe a - way all tears, for the



dawn draws near, And the world is a - bout to turn!

Text: Luke 1:46-58; Rory Cooney, b.1952

Tune: STAR OF THE COUNTY DOWN, Irregular with refrain; Irish melody, arr. by Rory Cooney, b.1952

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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

J. Kevin Gray

Minister of Music & Worship
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Rev. Dane Jordan

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Rev. Marina Luckhoo

Associate Minister
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Rev. Dr. Layne Smith

Interim Senior Minister
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We are affiliated with
allianceofbaptists.org



UPCOMING EVENTS

Sunday, November 30

10:00am-11:00am Worship – Sanctuary
11:15am-12:15pm Spiritual Growth Classes for Adults and Children – Multiple Locations

Tuesday, December 2

10:00am-11:30am | Creative Friends - Room 32

Wednesday, December 3

12:00pm-2:30pm | Sage-ing Lunch - Southminster

Sunday, December 7

10:00am-11:00am Worship Service and Deacon Ordination – Sanctuary
11:15am-12:15pm Spiritual Growth Classes for all ages – Multiple Locations
4:00pm-6:00pm The Youth Journey Fellowship – Youth Hall

Monday, December 8

9:45am-12:00pm Roundtable Meeting - Parlor

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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