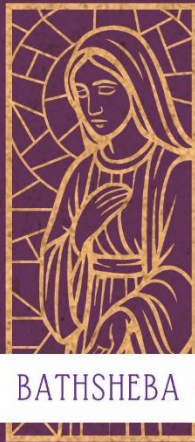


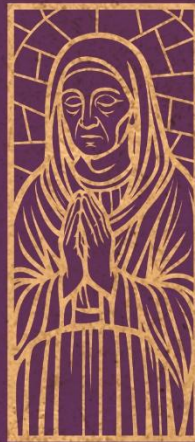
Mothers Around the Manger



TAMAR



BATHSHEBA



THE WORSHIP OF GOD

The Second Sunday of Advent

December 7, 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

“A Night Piece”

Liselyn Adams, Flutist; Janice Bradner, Pianist
Arthur Foote

Call to Worship and Invocation

Rev. Dane Jordan

*Opening Hymn

“There’s a Star in the East”

See page 6
FOLLOW

*Lighting the Candle of Peace

Amy Blakely and Family

Leader: “Lord, give us faith and strength the road to build,
to see the promise of the day fulfilled,
when war shall be no more, and strife shall cease
upon the highway of the Prince of Peace.”

All: Then faith and hope will shake hands, and love and justice will embrace.

(Lighting the Candle of Peace)

*Singing:

text: Richard Leach Scottish folk tune



2. Peace is a can - dle to show us a path - way, threat - ened by
gusts from our rage and our greed. Friend, feel no en - vy for
those in the sha - dows: vio - lence and force their dead-end course.

Welcome of Our Guests

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

Hebrew Scripture II Samuel 11:1-4 (NRSV)

Kate Green, Congregant

In the spring of the year, the time when kings go out to battle, David sent Joab with his officers and all Israel with him; they ravaged the Ammonites and besieged Rabbah. But David remained at Jerusalem.

It happened, late one afternoon when David rose from his couch and was walking about on the roof of the king's house, that he saw from the roof a woman bathing; the woman was very beautiful. David sent someone to inquire about the woman. It was reported, "This is Bathsheba, daughter of Eliam, the wife of Uriah, the Hittite." So, David sent messengers to get her, and she came to him, and he lay with her. Then she returned to her house.

I Kings 1:15-21 (NRSV)

So, Bathsheba went to the king in his room. The king was very old; Abishag the Shunammite was attending the king. Bathsheba bowed and did obeisance to the king, and the king said, "What do you wish?" She said to him, "My lord, you swore to your servant by the Lord your God, saying, 'Your son Solomon shall succeed me as king, and he shall sit on my throne.' But now suddenly Adonijah has become king, though you, my lord the king, do not know it. He has sacrificed oxen, fatted cattle, and sheep in abundance and has invited all the children of the king, the priest Abiathar, and Joab the commander of the army, but your servant Solomon he has not invited. But you, my lord the king, the eyes of all Israel are on you to tell them who shall sit on the throne of my lord the king after him. Otherwise, it will come to pass, when my lord the king sleeps with his ancestors, that my son Solomon and I will be counted offenders."

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

"What Child is This?"

Number 122

GREENSLEEVES

Sermon

"Mothers Around the Manger: Bathsheba"

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

Fran Morrison, Deacon

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



Offertory Anthem

“Advent Candle”

Chancel Choir

Bob Chilcott

Tonight we are lighting a candle, a candle to burn until
you come to bring light to darkness, and warm us with good will.
Tonight in the sky there's a star we've never seen before,
a star to lighten our darkness and bring us to your door.
Tonight there's a window inside us, a window you'll open wide.
We are lighting a candle to guide us, soon we'll be by your side.

*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

Fran Morrison, Deacon

Litany of Ordination

Rev. Dr. Layne Smith

Leader: To our newly elected Deacon, Martha — 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?

Deacon: I do, trusting in the grace of God.

Leader: Will you pledge to uphold our Congregational 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 a priest to all, helping to guide our members and our neighbors in our lives as a participant in God's kingdom on earth?

Deacon: I will, trusting in the grace of God.

Leader: To the congregation — will you pledge to join with and support this new leader as she helps us embrace the possibilities and opportunities of innovation and change, encouraging patience, conversation and grace for all; will you work with her 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 this new Deacon as she seeks to help lead this community of the faithful.

All: Amen.

Invitation to the Laying on of Hands

Rev. Dr. Layne Smith

Life Deacon Class of 2026
Dick Cornwell
Jill Kinney
Carol Pearsall

Deacon Class of 2028
Martha Abernethy
Rick Bahnson
Janice Bradner
Deborah Moore Clark
Cathryn Rivers

Prayer of Ordination and Installation

Nancy Hudson

***Closing Hymn**

“Let There Be Peace on Earth”

See page 7
WORLD PEACE

Responding to the Word

Rev. Dr. Layne Smith

Pastoral Blessing

Postlude

“Proclamation on WACHET AUF”

Dr. Matthew Manwarren, Organist
Aaron David Miller

*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.*



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.

LET THERE BE PEACE ON EARTH

Slowly C Am Dm7 G7 C F C Dm

1. Let there be peace on earth and let it be - gin with me. _____
 2. Let peace be - gin with me, let this be the mo - ment now. _____

G7 C B7 Em B7

1. _____ Let there be peace on earth, the peace that was meant to
 2. _____ With ev - 'ry step I take, let this be my sol - emn

G9 Am Em C7 F G7

1. be. _____ With God as our Fa - ther, _____ broth - ers all are
 2. vow: _____ To _____ (optional text) we are fam - i -

C Am7 D7 G Am7

1. we; _____ Let me walk with my broth - er _____ in per - fect
 ly. _____ Let us walk with each oth - er _____

D7 G7 D.C. C C+

1. har - mo - ny. _____ 2. take each mo - ment and live each mo - ment in

F B° Am D7 Fm6 C E7 F C C7

2. peace e - ter - nal - ly. _____ Let there be peace on earth and

1 F Dm7 G7 C G7 D.C. Final F E7 Am Dm7 G7 Dm7 Csus4 poco rit. C

2. let it be - gin with me. _____ let it be - gin _____ with me. _____

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
kgray@myersparkbaptist.org

Rev. Dane Jordan

Interim Minister of Youth
djordan@myersparkbaptist.org

Rev. Marina Luckhoo

Associate Minister
mluckhoo@myersparkbaptist.org

Rev. Dr. Layne Smith

Interim Senior Minister
lsmith@myersparkbaptist.org

704.334.7232

mpbc@myersparkbaptist.org

We are affiliated with
allianceofbaptists.org



UPCOMING EVENTS

Sunday, December 7

10:00am-11:00am | Worship – Sanctuary
11:15am-1:00pm | 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
5:30pm-6:30pm | Deacon Board Social – Parlor
6:30pm | Board of Deacons Meeting

Sunday, December 14

10:00am-11:00am | Worship Lessons and Carols – Sanctuary
11:15am-1:00pm | Spiritual Growth Classes for all ages – Multiple Locations
4:00pm-6:00pm | The Youth Journey Fellowship – Youth Hall

Tuesday, December 16

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

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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