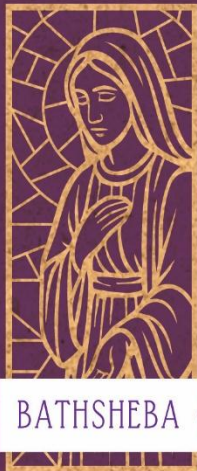


Mothers Around the Manger



TAMAR



BATHSHEBA



ELIZABETH



THE WORSHIP OF GOD

The Fourth Sunday of Advent

December 21, 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 will not be available during worship this week. We apologize for any inconvenience.
Worship activities for children are available in the Narthex.

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

Prelude

“In dulci jubilo”

Dr. Matthew Manwarren, organist
setting by Leo Sowerby

Call to Worship and Invocation

Rev. Marina Luckhoo

*Opening Hymn

“Come, Thou Long Expected Jesus,”

Number 68
HYFRYDOL

Lighting the Candle of Love

Julie Barfield 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!

All: 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 three staves of musical notation in G major (one sharp) and 6/8 time. The melody is a Scottish folk tune. The lyrics are written below the notes.

Welcome

Rev. Dane Jordan

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 1:5-15 and 57 (NRSV)

Eddie Bell, Congregant

In the days of King Herod of Judea, there was a priest named Zechariah, who belonged to the priestly order of Abijah. His wife was descended from the daughters of Aaron, and her name was Elizabeth. Both of them were righteous before God, living blamelessly according to all the commandments and regulations of the Lord. But they had no children because Elizabeth was barren, and both were getting on in years.

Once when he was serving as priest before God during his section's turn of duty, he was chosen by lot, according to the custom of the priesthood, to enter the sanctuary of the Lord to offer incense. Now at the time of the incense offering, the whole assembly of the people was praying outside. Then there appeared to him an angel of the Lord, standing at the right side of the altar of incense. When Zechariah saw him, he was terrified, and fear overwhelmed him. But the angel said to him, "Do not be afraid, Zechariah, for your prayer has been heard. Your wife Elizabeth will bear you a son, and you will name him John. You will have joy and gladness, and many will rejoice at his birth, for he will be great in the sight of the Lord. He must never drink wine or strong drink; even before his birth he will be filled with the Holy Spirit.

Now the time came for Elizabeth to give birth, and she bore a son.

Leader: This is the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ.

People: Thanks be to God.

***Sermon Hymn**

"Rejoice, Rejoice, Believers"

Number 83
LANCASHIRE

Sermon

"Mothers Around the Manger: Elizabeth"

Rev. Dr. Layne Smith

A Moment to Reflect

Musical Reflection

J. Kevin Gray

Church at Prayer

Rev. Dane Jordan

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, Deacon

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



Offertory

Chancel Choir

G.F. Handel

“Glory to God” from Messiah

Glory to God! Glory to God in the highest,
And peace on earth.
Glory to God! Glory to God!
Glory to God in the highest,
And peace on earth.
Good will toward men.
Glory to God!
Glory to God in the highest,
And peace on earth.
Good will toward men.
Good will.
Glory to God!
Glory to God in the Highest!

*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

Anna-Catherine Fowler, Deacon

*Closing Hymn

See page 6

“How Great Our Joy”

JUNGST

Responding to the Word

Rev. Dr. Layne Smith

Pastoral Blessing

Postlude

“In dulci jubilo”

Dr. Matthew Manwarren, organist
setting by J.S. Bach

***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.



At Myers Park Baptist Church, we strive for inclusive language. However, there are times due to the historical nature or context of the text that we choose to leave language unchanged as initially presented. Be assured that MPBC holds God as non-gender-specific; God's essence encompasses all.



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.

How Great Our Joy

JUNGST

1. While by the sheep we watched at night, Glad tid - ings
 2. There shall be born, so he did say, In Beth - le -
 3. There shall the Child lie in a stall, This Child who
 4. This gift of God we'll cher - ish well, That ev - er

6 brought an an - gel bright.
 hem a Child to - day. How great our joy! Great our
 shall re - deem us all.
 joy our hearts shall fill.

12 joy! Joy, joy, joy! Joy, joy, joy! Praise we the Lord in

19 heav'n on high! Praise we the Lord in heav'n on high!



Join us to celebrate

Christmas Eve

Bring your family and friends for an unforgettable evening of hope, peace, joy, and love!

5:00p Holiday Cookies and Cider Fellowship

Join us in Heaton Hall Foyer for a warm time of connection, light refreshments and holiday cheer.

5:40p Music of Christmas Prelude

Enjoy beautiful music of the season in the Sanctuary as you prepare your heart for worship.

6:00p Candlelight Service

Celebrate one of the season's most cherished traditions with festive carols, and Communion, amidst the glow of candlelight.

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
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Rev. Dr. Layne Smith

Interim Senior Minister
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We are affiliated with
allianceofbaptists.org



UPCOMING EVENTS

Sunday, December 21

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

Wednesday, December 24

5:00pm-5:40pm | Holiday Cookies and Cider – Heaton Hall Foyer
5:40pm-6:00pm | Music of Christmas Prelude - Sanctuary
6:00pm-7:00pm | Candlelight Service – Sanctuary

Thursday, December 25

Merry Christmas | Staff Office Closed

Sunday, December 28

10:00am-11:00am | Worship – Sanctuary

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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