



The Worship of God
Christmas Eve

December 24, 2025 | Music at 5:40pm | Worship at 6:00pm

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.

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

The Music of Christmas

“God Rest You Merry, Gentlemen”
“Trumpet Tune on SUSSEX CAROL”
“Partita on *in dulci jubilo*”
“Prelude on *ON THIS DAY*”
“Angels We Have Heard on High”

Dr. Matthew Manwarren, Organist
arr. Noel Goemanne
David Lasky
James Vivian
Robert Powell
David Cherwien

Prelude

“Christmas Prelude on *DIVINUM MYSTERIUM*”

John B. Watkinson

Call to Worship and Invocation

J. Kevin Gray

***Opening Carol**

“O Come, All Ye Faithful”
O come, all ye faithful, joyful and triumphant,
O come ye, O come ye to Bethlehem!
Come, and behold him, born the king of angels!

ADESTE FIDELES

Refrain:

O come, let us adore him.
O come, let us adore him.
O come, let us adore him, Christ, the Lord!

Yea, Lord, we greet thee, born this happy morning.
Jesus, to thee be all glory given!
Word of the Father, now in flesh appearing! [*Refrain*]

Sing, choirs of angels; sing in exultation.
Sing, all ye citizens of heaven above!
Glory to God, all glory in the highest! [*Refrain*]

***Lighting the Christ Candle**

The Olivera 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:** 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!"

MENDELSSOHN

Refrain:

Hark! the herald angels sing,
"Glory to the newborn king!"

Hail the heaven-born Prince of Peace!
Hail the Sun of Righteousness!
Light and life to all he brings,
risen with healing in his wings.
Mild he lays his glory by,
born that we no more may die,
born to raise us from the earth,
born to give us second birth. *[Refrain]*

Welcome

Rev. Dane Jordan

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



***Passing of the Peace**

A Christmas Story for Our Children

Children are invited to come forward for the telling of the Christmas story.

Rev. Marina Luckhoo

***Carol**

"Joy to the World"

Joy to the world, the Lord is come!
Let earth receive her king;
let ev'ry 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.

ANTIOCH

**Joy to the world! The Savior reigns:
let all the songs employ;
while fields and floods, rocks, hills, and plains
repeat the sounding joy,
repeat the sounding joy,
repeat, repeat, the sounding joy.**

Christmas Meditation

Rev. Dr. Layne Smith

“Mothers Around the Manger: Mary”

A Moment for Reflection

Solo

Claudio Olivera, Piano; Madeline Olivera, Soloist

“O Holy Night”

Adolphe Adam

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 divine! O 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!

Church at Prayer

Rev. Marina Luckhoo

Invitation to Offering

Bob Thomason, Life Deacon

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



In keeping with a long-standing tradition, our Christmas Eve Offering will go to support the Sunshine Fund, which was created to provide benevolence to members of our church and the greater community.

Offertory Anthem

“In the Bleak Midwinter”

In the bleak midwinter, frosty wind made moan,
earth stood hard as iron, water like a stone;
snow had fallen, snow on snow, snow on snow,
in the bleak midwinter, long ago.

Our God, heaven cannot hold him, nor earth sustain;
heaven and earth shall flee away, when he comes to reign.
In the bleak midwinter, a stable place sufficed,
the Lord God Almighty, Jesus Christ.

What can I give him, poor as I am?
If I were a shepherd, I would bring a lamb;
if I were a wise man, I would do my part;
yet what I can I give him; give my heart.

Chancel Choir
arr. Albin C. Whitworth

*Presentation of Gifts and the Doxology

“Angels We Have Heard on High”

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

Gloria in excelsis Deo! Gloria in excelsis Deo!

GLORIA

*Prayer of Dedication

Bob Thomason, Life Deacon

Musical Reflection

“Hallelujah”

A couple came to Bethlehem,
expecting child, they searched the inn,
to find a place, for the babe was coming soon.
There was no room for them to stay,
so in a manger filled with hay,
God’s only Son was born, oh Hallelujah.
Hallelujah.

The shepherds left their flocks by night,
to see this baby wrapped in light,
a host of angels led them all to him.
It was just as the angels said,
you’ll find him in a manger bed,
Emmanuel and Savior, Hallelujah.
Hallelujah.

I know he came to rescue me,
this baby boy would grow to be,
a man who gave his life for me and you.
He taught us what it was to love,
and how to be like God above,
and every breath he drew was Hallelujah.
Hallelujah.

J. Kevin Gray and David Young
music by Leonard Cohen, lyrics by Adam Reed

Communion

Invitation to the Table

Rev. Dr. Layne Smith

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

“Two Settings on VON HIMMEL HOCH” –
“Christmas Cradle Song”
“Berceuse on SILENT NIGHT”

Dr. Matthew Manwarrwen, Organist
Pachelbel/Walcha
Alfred Hollins
Charles Callahan

Hebrew Scripture - Isaiah 9:2-7 (NRSV adapted)

Holly Henderson, Deacon

The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light; those who lived in a land of deep darkness—on them light has shined. You have multiplied the nation, you have increased its joy; they rejoice before you as with joy at the harvest, as people exult when dividing plunder. For the yoke of their burden, and the bar across their shoulders, the rod of their oppressor, you have broken as on the day of Midian. For all the boots of the tramping warriors and all the garments rolled in blood shall be burned as fuel for the fire. For a child has been born for us, a son given to us; authority rests upon his shoulders; and he is named Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Protector, Prince of Peace. His authority shall grow continually, and there shall be endless peace for the throne of David and his kingdom. He will establish and uphold it with justice and with righteousness from this time onward and forevermore.

Lighting of the Candles

*Carol with Candlelight

“Silent Night, Holy Night!”

STILLE NACHT

**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.**

**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.**

**Silent night, holy night! Wondrous star, lend thy light!
With the angels let us sing Alleluia to our King!
Christ the Savior is born, Christ the Savior is born.**

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

Postlude

“Toccatà on ANTIOCH”

Dr. Matthew Manwarren, Organist
Craig Phillips

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.

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
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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

Thursday, December 25

Merry Christmas | Staff Office Closed

Sunday, December 28

10:00am-11:00am | Worship – Sanctuary
11:15am-1:00pm | Spiritual Growth Classes for all ages – Multiple Locations

Sunday, January 4

10:00am-11:00am | Worship – Sanctuary
11:15am-1:00pm | Spiritual Growth Classes for all ages – Multiple Locations

Tuesday, January 6

10:00am-11:30am | Creative Friends – Room 32
12:00pm-1:30pm | Sage-ing Lunch – Heaton Hall

Sunday, January 11

10:00am-11:00am | Worship – Sanctuary
11:15am-1:00pm | Congregational Lunch and Conversation with the Transition Team – Heaton Hall

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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