

MYERS PARK
COVENANT
CHURCH

THE WORSHIP OF GOD

THE FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT

NOVEMBER 29, 2026

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

Sleepers, Awake! J.S. Bach

Dr. Matthew Manwarren, organ

Lighting the Candle of Hope Amy Blakeley, Jack and Michaela Donovan

Leader: In the wilderness prepare the way of the LORD; make straight in the desert a highway for our God.

People: Every valley shall be lifted up, and every mountain and hill be made low.

Leader: The uneven ground shall become level, and the rough places a plain.

People: Then the glory of the LORD shall be revealed, and all flesh shall see it together, for the mouth of the LORD has spoken.

[adapted from Isaiah 40]

(Lighting the Candle of Hope.)

Sing:

"O Come, O Come, Emmanuel" Veni Emmanuel

O come, O come, Emmanuel, Thomas Helmore
and ransom captive Israel
that mourns in lonely exile here
until the Son of God appear.

Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel
shall come to thee, O Israel.

Invocation Tim Moore

***Opening Hymn** TALLIS' CANON

"Lord, We Confess We Turn Away" Carolyn Winfrey Gillette

Lord, we confess we turn away
The very ones we need today.
God's prophets speak out loud and clear,
Yet prophets still aren't welcomed here.
You grieved for old Jerusalem
For you were like a mother hen

Who brought her brood beneath her wings —
While they were drawn to other things.

Lord, call us out and draw us in
when we would rather side with sin —
Let the prophetic things you say
still challenge how we live this day.

May we who listen to your voice,
Be still, be wise, then make a choice.
You call us to a life that's new;
Lord, may we now return to you.

Welcome Marina Luckhoo

If you are our guest today, please scan the QR code below.

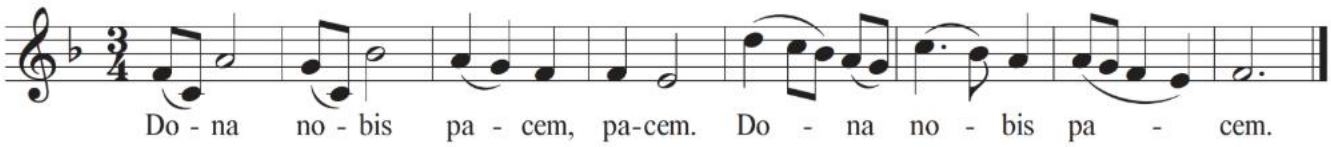
***Passing of the Peace**

Leader: The Peace of Christ be with you.

People: And also with you.

***Sing**

"Grant Us Peace"



A Moment of Centering

Take a few moments to breathe and still the mind.



Gospel Lesson – Luke 13:31-35 and 19:41-44 (NRSVUE) Sawyer Young

At that very hour some Pharisees came and said to [Jesus], "Get away from here, for Herod wants to kill you." He said to them, "Go and tell that fox for me, 'Listen, I am casting out demons and performing cures today and tomorrow, and on the third day I finish my work. Yet today, tomorrow, and the next day I must be on my way, because it is impossible for a prophet to be killed outside of Jerusalem.' Jerusalem, Jerusalem, the city that kills the prophets and stones those who are sent to it! How often have I desired to gather your children together as a hen gathers her brood under her wings, and you were not willing! See, your house is left to you. And I tell you, you will not see me until the time comes when you say, 'Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord.'"

As he came near and saw the city, he wept over it, saying, "If you, even you, had only recognized on this day the things that make for peace! But now they are hidden from your eyes. Indeed, the days will come upon you when your enemies will set up ramparts around you and surround you and hem you in on every side.

They will crush you to the ground, you and your children within you, and they will not leave within you one stone upon another, because you did not recognize the time of your visitation from God."

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 Music

"Jerusalem, thou that killest the Prophets" from *St. Paul* Text from Luke 13; Trans. Bartholomew
Music by Felix Mendelssohn

Jerusalem, Jerusalem, thou that killest the Prophets,
thou that stonest them which are sent unto thee,
how often would I have gather'd unto Me thy children,
and ye would not, and ye would not!
Jerusalem, Jerusalem, thou that killest the Prophets,
thou that stonest them which are sent unto thee!
Jerusalem, Jerusalem

Mary Miller, soprano; Dr. Matthew Manwarren, piano

Sermon

"Can Jesus Make Everything All Right?" Tim Moore

A Moment to Reflect

Church at Prayer 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.

Ministry Moment Bob Thomason, Senior Minister Search Committee

Invitation to Offering Tim Moore

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

Offertory of Hope

Veni Emmanuel 15th c. French; Arr Samuel Metzger

O come, O come, Emmanuel, and ransom captive Israel,
That mourns in lonely exile here Until the Son of God appear.

REFRAIN:
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to you, O Israel.

O come, Thou Dayspring, come and cheer Our spirits by Thine advent here;
Disperse the gloomy clouds of night, and death's dark shadow put to flight.
[Refrain]

O come, Thou Bright and Morning Star, and bring us comfort from afar!
Dispel the shadows of the night and turn our darkness into light.
[Refrain]

O come, Desire of nations, bind all peoples in one heart and mind.
Bid all our sad divisions cease and be yourself our King of Peace.
[Refrain]

Chancel Choir; Dr. Matthew Manwarren, organ

***Advent Doxology** OLD HUNDREDTH

O Glorious God, to you we bring Words by Paula Testerman
all that we are as offering.
Spirit of hope, within us dwell
Come, Jesus, our Emmanuel!

***Prayer of Dedication** Tim Moore

***Closing Hymn No. 78** LOBT GOTT IHR CHRISTEN

"Let All Together Praise Our God" Nicolaus Hermann, Trans. Russell

***Responding to the Word** Tim Moore

***Benediction**

Postlude

Savior of the Nations, Come J.S. Bach

Dr. Matthew Manwarren, organ

OUR MINISTERS

Rev. Dane Jordan, Interim Minister of Youth | djordan@mpcovenant.org

Rev. Dr. Marina Luckhoo, Associate Minister | mluckhoo@mpcovenant.org

Rev. Dr. Tim Moore, Interim Senior Minister | tmoore@mpcovenant.org

David Tang, Interim Minister of Music and Worship | dtang@mpcovenant.org

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Audio/Video Team: Wes Cobb, Joe Kuhlmann,
Hannah Combs, Eric Roberts, and Jesmark Garcia.

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At Myers Park Covenant 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 Myers Park Covenant Church holds God as non-gender-specific; God's essence encompasses all.

Myers Park Covenant Church is a faith community on a journey seeking a welcoming, loving, and just world.

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HOW TO JOIN MYERS PARK COVENANT CHURCH

Becoming a member of Myers Park Covenant Church begins by filling out a joining card. To receive a card or learn more, contact Rev. Marina Luckhoo.
mluckhoo@mpcovenant.org

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



We occasionally take photographs during our worship service. If you would prefer not to be included, please contact Laura Geer | Communications Director | lgeer@mpcovenant.org.

One License A-729324 | WorshipCast License CCS # WC-12779 | CVLI Video License #504 239 870

Our Covenant

We, the members of the Myers Park Covenant 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.

GET INVOLVED AT MPCOVENANT

NEXT WEEK

TUE, Dec 1	12pm | **Sage-ing Lunch Christmas Sing a Long with Erica McGee** | Heaton Hall
Wed, Dec 2	11:30am | **Just Breathe Meditation** | Online 5:30pm | **Holiday Hangout** | Suffolk Punch South Park
Thu, Dec 3	12pm | **Thursday Lunch Break: Practicing Midrash** | Shalom Hall 7pm | **Choir Rehearsal** | Berry Hall

COMING SOON

SUN, Dec 6	9am – 12pm | **Childcare** (8 weeks – 5 years) | Cornwell Center Childcare Room 9am | **Faith and Community** | Shalom Hall 10am | **Worship** | Sanctuary 11am | **Congregational Meeting** | Sanctuary 11:15am | **Spiritual Growth** for all ages **Adults: Unlikely Saints** - Room 250 | **Queeries** - Room 254 | **Youth** (Grades 6-12) Youth Hall **Children** (Grades K-5) Godly Play | Room 211 4:30 pm | **Youth Fellowship** | Youth Hall

SAVE THESE DATES

SUN, Dec 13	7pm | **A Community Christmas – Lessons and Carols** | Sanctuary
WED, Dec 16	12pm | **Taizè Prayer Service** | Chapel 5pm | **Wednesday Supper Connection** | Heaton Hall