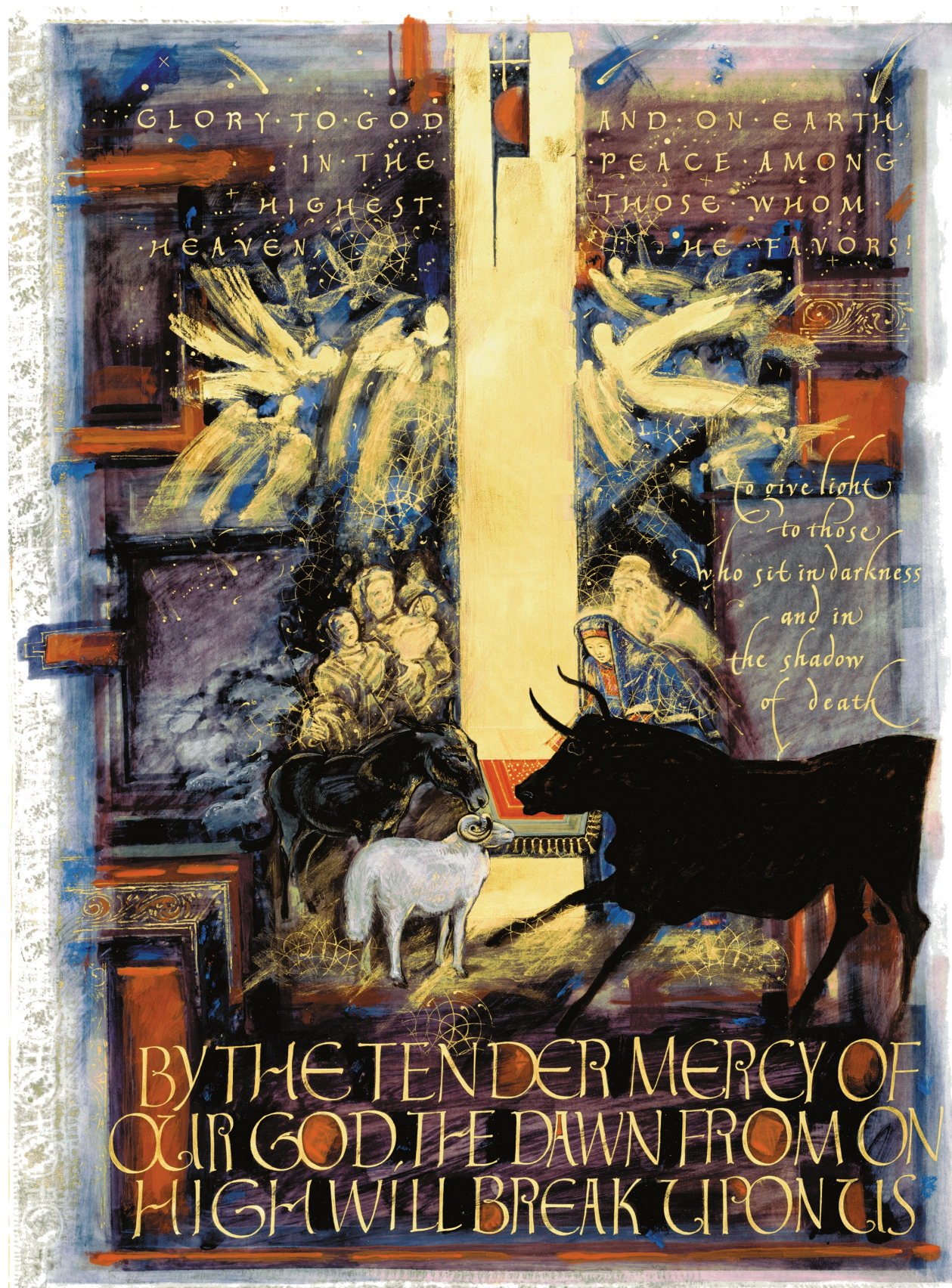




The Worship of God
Christmas Eve Morning Service
December 24, 2022 | 11:00a

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.

*Masks are available in the Narthex and are encouraged, but not required, for anyone.
We encourage you to make the best decision for yourself and your family.*

Prelude

“In Dulci Jubilo”
“Bring a Torch, Jeanette, Isabella”

John Richardson, organ
Johann Sebastian Bach (1685-1750)
Alfred Fedak (b. 1953)

Call to Worship and Invocation

Rev. Tara Gibbs

*Lighting of the Christ Candle

Tanya and Ryan Gaspar with Macy

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: *(singing)*
**Come to Bethlehem and see him whose birth the angels sing;
Come, adore on bended knee Christ the Lord, the newborn King.
Gloria in excelsis Deo! Gloria in excelsis Deo!**

GLORIA

Welcome of Our Guests

Rev. Carrie Veal

*If you are our guest today, **please text** “guest” to 980.340.8900
so we may offer you our gratitude for joining us today.*

*Passing of the Peace

*Children are invited to come forward during the Passing of the Peace
to join Rev. Carrie on the rug or the steps.*

The Christmas Story - Luke 2:1-20

Rev. Carrie Veal

Singing of Carols

“Away in a Manger”
**Away in a manger, no crib for his bed,
the little Lord Jesus laid down his sweet head.
The stars in the bright sky looked down where he lay,
the little Lord Jesus, asleep on the hay.**

Led by Children from the Congregation
MUELLER

“The First Noel”

THE FIRST NOEL

The first Noel the angel did say was to certain poor shepherds in fields as they lay,
in fields where they lay keeping their sheep, on a cold winter's night that was so deep.
Noel, Noel, Noel, Noel, born is the King of Israel.

“Joy to the World”

ANTIOCH

Joy to the world! The Lord is come:
let earth receive her King; let every heart prepare him room,
and heaven and nature sing, and heaven and nature sing,
and heaven, and heaven and nature sing.

Children may return to their seats.

Christmas Meditation

Rev. Dr. Ben Boswell

*Carol

“O Little Town of Bethlehem”

ST. LOUIS

O little town of Bethlehem, how still we see thee lie!
Above thy deep and dreamless sleep the silent stars go by;
yet in thy dark streets shineth the everlasting light.
The hopes and fears of all the years are met in thee tonight.

How silently, how silently, the wondrous gift is given!
So God imparts to human hearts the blessings of his heaven.
No ear may hear his coming, but in this world of sin,
where meek souls will receive him, still the dear Christ enters in.

O holy Child of Bethlehem, descend to us, we pray,
cast out our sin and enter in, be born in us today.
We hear the Christmas angels the great glad tidings tell;
O come to us, abide with us, our Lord Emmanuel!

Church at Prayer

Rev. Dr. JJ Flag

Invitation to Christmas Offering

Rev. Leigh Anne Duncan

*There are several ways to give:
scan the QR code below, go to pushpay.com/g/myersparkbaptist,
contact Rev. Leigh Anne Duncan, or drop your offering in the plate.*



In keeping with a long-standing tradition, half of the 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. The other half will provide support to our budget.

Offertory

John Richardson, piano

***Presentation of Gifts and the Doxology**

GLORIA

See him in the manger laid,
whom the choirs of angels praise;
Mary, Joseph, lend your aid,
while our hearts in love we raise.
Gloria in excelsis Deo,
Gloria in excelsis Deo.

***Prayer of Dedication**

Rev. Leigh Anne Duncan

Communion

Rev. Dr. Ben Boswell and Rev. Carrie Veal

Invitation to the Table

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

Rev. Carrie Veal

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

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

Rev. Dr. Ben Boswell

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.

*Christmas Benediction

Rev. Dr. Ben Boswell

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

Postlude

"God Rest Ye Merry, Christians All"

John Richardson, organ
Alfred Fedak (b. 1953)

Leading worship with Rev. Dr. Ben Boswell, Senior Minister,
are Rev. Carrie Veal, Executive Minister,
Rev. Tara Gibbs, Associate Minister of Spiritual Growth,
Rev. Dr. JJ Flag, Associate Minister of Pastoral Care and Justice,
and Rev. Leigh Anne Duncan, Campus Administrator.

Leading worship through music with Children from the Congregation are
Candace Williamson, Interim Children and Youth Music Coordinator,
and John Richardson, Pianist.



The poinsettias on the altar are given to the glory of God
by the W. Frank Dowd III family and the Roddey Dowd, Sr. family in loving memory of
Mr. and Mrs. W. Frank Dowd, Sally Carson Dowd, W. Frank Dowd Jr. (III) and Roddey Dowd, Sr.



Audio/Video Team Members are Wes Cobb, Joe Kuhlmann,
Hannah Combs and volunteers.



Cover artwork: *Birth of Christ* by Donald Jackson, from *The St. John's Bible*.

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 Carrie Veal at cveal@myersparkbaptist.org.

The Season of Advent and Christmas 2022

Saturday, Dec 24 – Christmas Eve

The Music of Christmas with Harp and Flute | 5:30p in the Sanctuary

Candlelight Worship with Communion | 6:00p in the Sanctuary

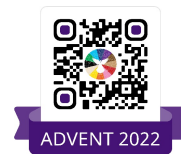
Sunday, Dec 25 - Christmas Day

VIRTUAL Christmas Worship | 10:00a by Live Stream **ONLY**

Sunday, Jan 1, 2023

Worship | 10:00a in the Sanctuary

For the full schedule and other Advent opportunities including a book study, blog posts, and children's devotional, scan this code to visit our website:



WE'RE GLAD YOU ARE HERE

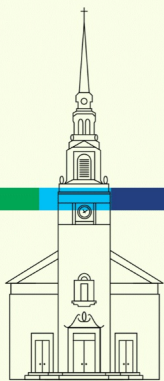
**Connect with us
in one easy step.**

**Learn more about us
and how to get
involved.**

**Just point the camera
on your phone at the
QR Code to access
the items listed here.**



- **EVENTS**
- **GUESTS**
- **GIVE**
- **PRAY**
- **WEBSITE**



**MYERS PARK
BAPTIST
CHURCH**

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

Rev. Dr. Benjamin Boswell
Senior Minister

Rev. Carrie Veal
Executive Minister

Rev. Tara Gibbs
Associate Minister of Spiritual Growth

Rev. Dr. JJ Flag
Associate Minister of Pastoral Care & Justice

Rev. Leigh Anne Duncan
Campus Administrator

Frances L. Morrison
Interim Minister of Music & Worship

John Richardson
Organist

Dr. Caleb Hopkins
Artist-In-Residence



**MYERS PARK
BAPTIST
CHURCH**

Inclusivity | Spirituality | Community | Justice

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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