



The Worship of God
Christmas Day
December 25, 2022 | 10:00a

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.

We are worshiping virtually today.

Prelude

“In Dulci Jubilo”

John Richardson, organ
Johann Sebastian Bach (1685-1750)

“Gesu Bambino”

David Young, tenor
Pietro A. Yon (1886-1943)

When blossoms flowered amid the snows upon a winter night
was born the child, the Christmas Rose, the King of Love and Light.
The angels sang, the shepherds sang, the grateful earth rejoiced,
and at His blessed birth the stars their exultation voiced.
O come let us adore Him Christ the Lord.

Again the heart with rapture glows to greet the holy night
that gave the world its Christmas Rose, its King of Love and Light.
Let every voice acclaim His name, the grateful chorus swell
from paradise to earth He came that we with Him might dwell.
O come let us adore Him Christ the Lord.

Call to Worship and Invocation

Rev. Dr. Ben Boswell

Lighting of the Christ Candle

Tom and Amy Jones

Leader: A trumpet blares through the 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)

Opening Carol

“Angels, From the Realms of Glory”

REGENT SQUARE

**Angels from the realms of glory,
wing your flight o’er all the earth;
ye who sang creation’s story
now proclaim Messiah’s birth.**

Refrain: **Come and worship, come and worship,
worship Christ, the newborn king.**

**Shepherds, in the field abiding,
watching o’er your flocks by night,**

**God with us is now residing;
yonder shines the infant light. (Refrain)**

**Sages, leave your contemplations,
brighter visions beam afar;
seek the great Desire of nations;
ye have seen his natal star. (Refrain)**

Gospel Reading - Luke 2:8-20 (NRSV)

Rev. Dr. JJ Flag

In that region there were shepherds living in the fields, keeping watch over their flock by night. Then an angel of the Lord stood before them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. But the angel said to them, "Do not be afraid; for see—I am bringing you good news of great joy for all the people: to you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is the Messiah, the Lord. This will be a sign for you: you will find a child wrapped in bands of cloth and lying in a manger." And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host, praising God and saying, "Glory to God in the highest heaven, and on earth peace among those whom he favors!" When the angels had left them and gone into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, "Let us go now to Bethlehem and see this thing that has taken place, which the Lord has made known to us." So they went with haste and found Mary and Joseph, and the child lying in the manger. When they saw this, they made known what had been told them about this child; and all who heard it were amazed at what the shepherds told them. But Mary treasured all these words and pondered them in her heart. The shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen, as it had been told them.

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.**

The Solo

"Sweet Little Baby Jesus"

Robert MacGimsey (1898-1979)

Sweet little Jesus Boy, they made you be born in a manger.
Sweet little Holy Child didn't know who you was.
Didn't know you'd come to save us Lord; to take our sins away.
Our eyes was blind we couldn't see, we didn't know who you was.

Long time ago you was born, born in a manger low, sweet little Jesus Boy.
The world treat you mean Lord, treat me mean too,
But that how things is down here, we don't know who you is.

You done told us how, we is a trying.
Master you done show'd us how even when you was dying.
Just seem like we can't do right, look how we treated you.
But please sir forgive us Lord, we didn't know it was you.

Sweet little Jesus Boy born long time ago,
Sweet little Holy Child, and we didn't know who you was.

Bethany Wherry, soprano

Sermon

Rev. Tara Gibbs

"I've Got Good News!"

Sermon Carol

“Go, Tell It On the Mountain”

GO TELL IT ON THE MOUNTAIN

*Refrain: Go, tell it on the mountain, over the hills and everywhere;
go, tell it on the mountain that Jesus Christ is born.*

While shepherds kept the watching o’er silent flock by night,
behold throughout the heavens there shone a holy light. *(Refrain)*

The shepherds feared and trembled when lo! above the earth
rang out the angel chorus that hailed our Savior’s birth. *(Refrain)*

Down in a lowly manger the humble Christ was born,
and God sent us salvation that blessed Christmas morn. *(Refrain)*

Invitation to Silent Reflection/Confession

Rev. Dr. Ben Boswell

Church at Prayer

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

Rev. Leigh Anne Duncan

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



Offertory Solo

“Mary’s Boy Child”

Jester Hairston (1901-2000)

Long time ago in Bethlehem, so the Holy Bible said,
Mary’s boy child, Jesus Christ, was born on Christmas Day.
Hark, now hear the angels sing, a king was born today.
And man will live for evermore, because of Christmas Day.

While shepherds watch their flocks by night, they see a bright new shining star,
They hear a choir sing a song, the music seemed to come from afar.
Hark, now hear the angels sing, a king was born today.
And man will live for evermore, because of Christmas Day.

And then they found a little nook in a stable all forlorn,
And in a manger cold and dark, Mary’s little boy was born.
Hark, now hear the angels sing, a king was born today.
And man will live for evermore, because of Christmas Day.

Bethany Wherry, soprano

Prayer of Dedication

Rev. Carrie Veal

Closing Carol

“Good Christian Friends Rejoice”

IN DULCI JUBILO

Good Christian friends, rejoice with heart and soul and voice;

Give ye heed to what we say: Jesus Christ is born today;
ox and ass before him bow, and he is in the manger now.
Christ is born today! Christ is born today!

Good Christian friends, rejoice with heart and soul and voice;
Now ye hear of endless bliss: Jesus Christ was born for this!
He has opened heaven's door, and we are blest forevermore.
Christ was born for this! Christ was born for this!

Good Christian friends, rejoice with heart and soul and voice;
Now ye need not fear the grave: Jesus Christ was born to save!
Calls you one and calls you all to gain the everlasting hall.
Christ was born to save! Christ was born to save

Benediction

Rev. Tara Gibbs

Postlude

"God Rest Ye Merry, Christians All"

John Richardson, organ
Alfred Fedak (b. 1953)

*Spiritual Growth groups, including children and youth, are not meeting today.
In addition, there will no Youth Block this evening.*

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

Leading worship through music are
Frances L. Morrison, Interim Minister of Music and Worship,
David Young, tenor and Bethany Wherry, soprano,
and John Richardson, Organist.



The cover artwork is *Birth of Christ* by Iris Hahs-Hoffstetter (1908-1986).



We are affiliated with
allianceofbaptists.org



Alliance
of Baptists



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.



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.

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