

The Worship of God

The 2nd Sunday of Christmastide | New Year's Day

January 1, 2023 | 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.

*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
"Aria"

John Richardson, organ
Giovanni Battista Martini (1706-1784)

Call to Worship and Invocation

Rev. Carrie Veal

***Opening Hymn**
"Jesus, Light of Joy"

See page 6.
LAUDA ANIMA

Welcome of Our Guests

Rev. Dr. JJ Flag

*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**

Hebrew Scripture Reading - Genesis 1:1-5 (NRSV adapted)

Mac Sasser

In the beginning when God created the heavens and the earth, the earth was a formless void and darkness covered the face of the deep, while a wind from God swept over the face of the waters. Then God said, “Let there be light”; and there was light. And God saw that the light was good; and God separated the light from the darkness. God called the light Day, and the darkness Night. And there was evening and there was morning, the first day.

Gospel Reading - John 1:1-18 (Inclusive Bible)

Rev. Carrie Veal

In the beginning there was the Word; the Word was in God's presence, and the Word was God. The Word was present to God from the beginning. Through the Word all things came into being, and apart from the Word nothing came into being that has come into being. In the Word was life, and that life was humanity's light--a Light that shines in the darkness, a Light that the darkness has never overtaken.

Then came one named John, sent as an envoy from God, who came as a witness to testify about the Light, so that through his testimony everyone might believe. He himself wasn't the Light; he only came to testify about the Light--the true Light that illumines all humankind. The Word was coming into the world--was in the world--and though the world was made through the Word, the world didn't recognize it. Though the Word came to its own realm, the Word's own people didn't accept it. Yet any who did accept the Word, who believed in that Name, were empowered to become children of God--children born not of natural descent, nor urge of flesh nor human will--but born of God. And the Word became flesh and stayed for a little while among us; we saw the Word's glory--the favor and position a parent gives an only child--filled with grace, filled with truth.

John testified by proclaiming, "This is the one I was talking about when I said, 'The one who comes after me ranks ahead of me, for this One existed before I did.'" Of this One's fullness we've all had a share--gift on top of gift. For while the Law was given through Moses, the Gift--and the Truth--came through Jesus Christ. No one has ever seen God; it is the Only Begotten, ever at Abba's side, who has revealed God to us.

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 Hymn**

“What Child is This?”

See page 7.
GREENSLEEVES

Sermon

“Beginning Again”

Rev. Dr. Ben Boswell

Invitation to Silent Reflection/Confession

Rev. Dr. JJ Flag

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. Carrie Veal

*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.*



Offertory

“New Beginnings”

Chancel Choir
Rendez A Dieu

This is a day of new beginnings, time to remember and move on,
time to believe what love is bringing, laying to rest the pain that’s gone.
can make for us a world of difference, as faith and hope are born again.
For by the life and death of Jesus, God’s mighty Spirit, now as then,

Attr. Louis Bourgeois, c. 1510-1561
Setting, Wayne L. Wold

A woman of Samaria draws water from the well.
A stranger’s word strikes deep within; she cannot wait to tell,
“He spoke of worship, spirit, truth; he surely is the One.
This One who is Messiah knows all I have ever done.
Then let us, with the spirit’s daring, step from the past and leave behind
our disappointment, guilt, and grieving, seeking new paths, and sure to find.

Christ is alive, and goes before us to show and share what love can do.
This is a day of new beginnings; our God is making all things new.
A son takes his inheritance and sets out far to roam;
as worldly pleasures flash and fade, he longs for food and home.
A waiting father runs for joy and puts the past away;
“The lost is found! The dead alive! Now let us feast today!”

This is a day of new beginnings, time to remember and move on,
time to believe what love is bringing, laying to rest the pain that’s gone.
In faith we’ll gather round the table to taste and share what love can do.
This is a day of new beginnings; our God is making all things new.

(text Brian Wren, 1983)

***Presentation of Gifts and the Doxology**

LASST UNS ERFREUEN

Praise God from whom all blessings flow.
Praise God, all creatures, here below. Alleluia. Alleluia!
Praise God above, ye heavenly hosts.
Creator, Christ and Holy Ghost.
Alleluia. Alleluia. Alleluia.
Alleluia. Alleluia.

Prayer of Dedication

Rev. Carrie Veal

***Closing Hymn**

“Incarnation”

BEACH SPRING

Who is this whose silent advent summons mortals now to see?
Word of God made flesh in secret, wisdom of eternity.
Stand amazed as you behold him: paradox of God’s design.
Lord transcendent, yet incarnate: fully human and divine!

Reason cracks; it cannot hold him. God and man enfleshed as one!
Faith alone, mind’s transformation, leads us to embrace the Son.
God’s abode enclosed no longer, by the cult to temple tied.
Holiness is loosed among us, all creation sanctified!

Harbinger of final triumph, infant born in Bethlehem;
come in fullness now to save us, break into our lives again!
Stand amazed as you behold him: paradox of God’s design.
Lord transcendent, yet incarnate: fully human and divine!

Lynn M. Labs, 2004

Benediction

Rev. Dr. Ben Boswell

Postlude

"God Rest Ye Merry"

John Richardson, organ
Alfred Fedak (b. 1953)


*If you are our guest today, please connect with a
minister after worship and receive a Welcome bag.*

Leading worship today with Rev. Dr. Ben Boswell, Senior Minister,
are Rev. Carrie Veal, Executive Minister,
Rev. Dr. JJ Flag, Associate Minister of Pastoral Care and Justice,
and Mac Sasser, Member of the Congregation.

Leading worship through music are
Dr. Caleb Hopkins, Artist and Conductor in Residence,
John Richardson, Organist,
and The Chancel Choir.

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



We are affiliated with
allianceofbaptists.org  Alliance
of Baptists

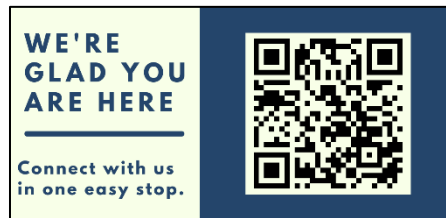


The cover artwork is *Word Became Flesh* by Donald Jackson,
from *The Illuminated St. John's Bible*.



HOW TO JOIN MYERS PARK BAPTIST CHURCH

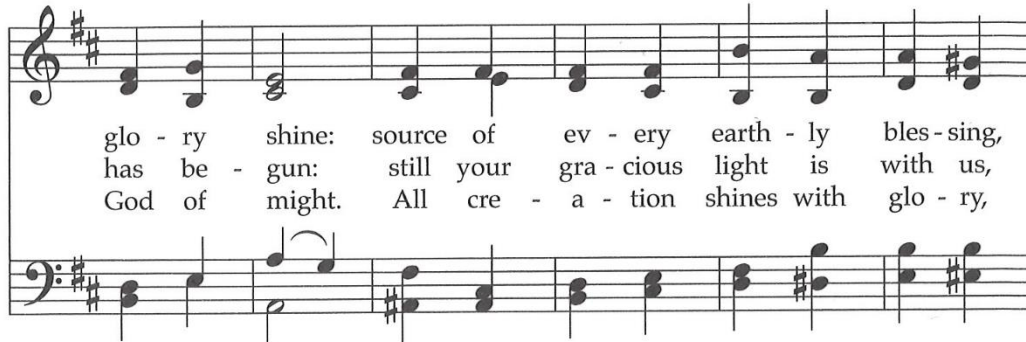
Becoming a member of Myers Park Baptist is as simple as filling out a Joining Card.
To receive a card or learn more, contact Rev. Carrie Veal at cveal@myersparkbaptist.org.



Jesus, Light of Joy



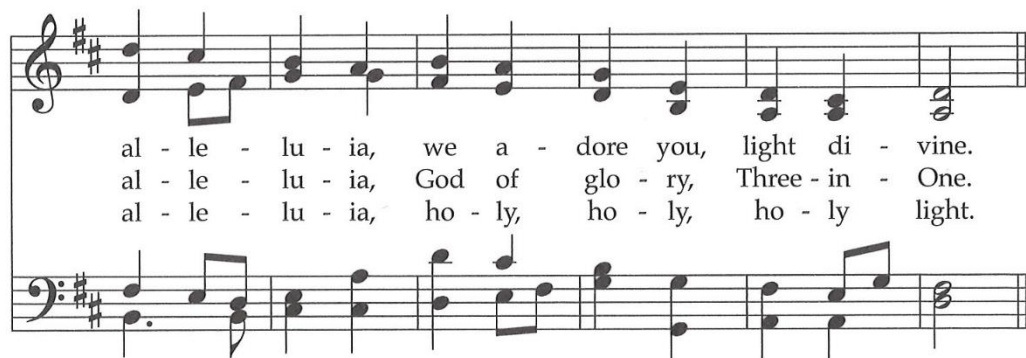
1 Je - sus, light of joy, sur - round us; let your splen - did
 2 Now the shad - ows fall a - round us; now the eve - ning
 3 With the saints we lift our voic - es, God of pow - er,



glo - ry shine: source of ev - ery earth - ly bles - sing,
 has be - gun: still your gra - cious light is with us,
 God of might. All cre - a - tion shines with glo - ry,



heav - en's ev - er - last - ing sign. Al - le - lu - ia,
 bright - er than the morn - ing sun. Al - le - lu - ia,
 sing - ing prais - es day and night: al - le - lu - ia,



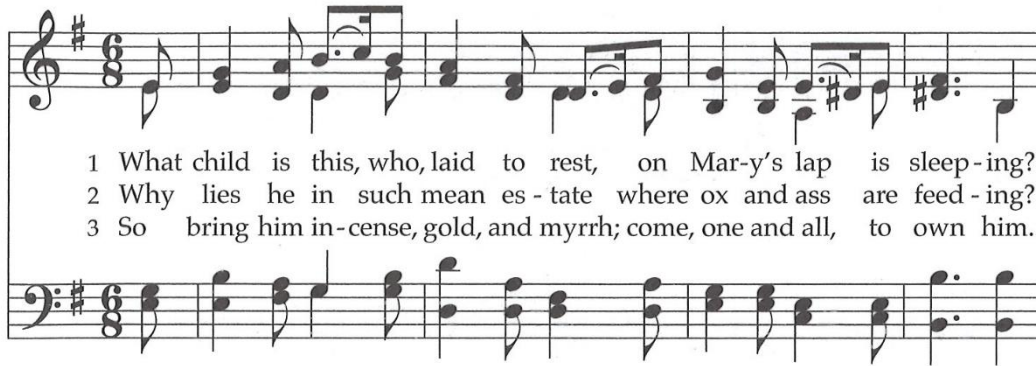
al - le - lu - ia, we a - dore you, light di - vine.
 al - le - lu - ia, God of glo - ry, Three - in - One.
 al - le - lu - ia, ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly light.

The images of light in this text are drawn from the ancient Christian vesper hymn *Phos hilaron*, which dates from at least the 3rd century. (For other versions, see nos. 671 and 672.) That rather brief original hymn is augmented here in the third stanza by language based on the *Sanctus*.

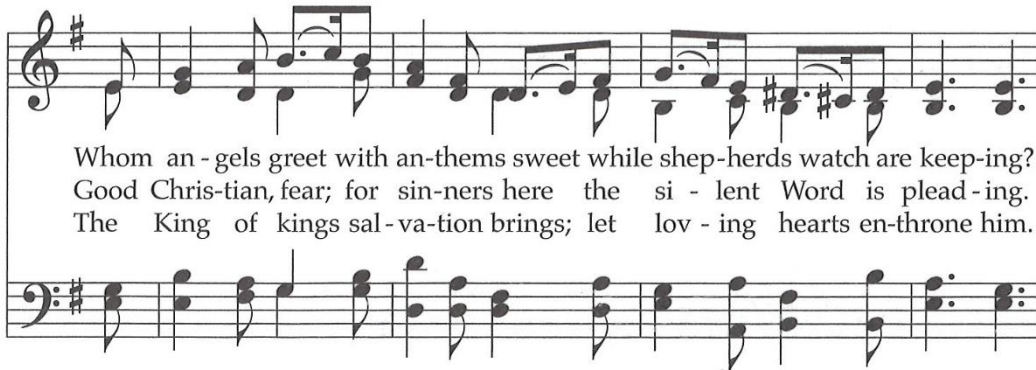
TEXT: David Gambrell, 2009
 MUSIC: John Goss, 1869
 Text © 2011 David Gambrell (admin. Presbyterian Publishing Corp.)

LAUDA ANIMA
 8.7.8.7.8.7

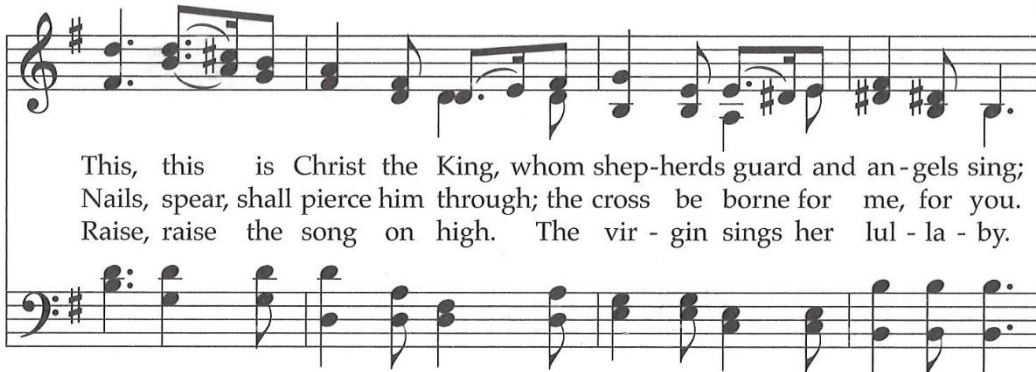
What Child Is This



1 What child is this, who, laid to rest, on Mar-y's lap is sleep-ing?
 2 Why lies he in such mean es - tate where ox and ass are feed - ing?
 3 So bring him in-cense, gold, and myrrh; come, one and all, to own him.



Whom an - gels greet with an-thems sweet while shep-herds watch are keep-ing?
 Good Chris-tian, fear; for sin-ners here the si - lent Word is plead-ing.
 The King of kings sal - va-tion brings; let lov - ing hearts en-throne him.



This, this is Christ the King, whom shep-herds guard and an-gels sing;
 Nails, spear, shall pierce him through; the cross be borne for me, for you.
 Raise, raise the song on high. The vir - gin sings her lul - la - by.



haste, haste to bring him laud, the babe, the son of Mar - y!
 Hail, hail, the Word made flesh, the babe, the son of Mar - y!
 Joy, joy, for Christ is born, the babe, the son of Mar - y!

This Victorian text gains scope and power by having the original second halves of stanzas two and three restored. They give a stark forward glimpse of what lies ahead for this "babe, the son of Mary!" The tune is much older, dating from Tudor England.

TEXT: William Chatterton Dix, 1871
 MUSIC: English ballad, 16th cent.; arr. *Christmas Carols New and Old*, 1871

GREENSLEEVES
 8.7.8.7.6.8.6.7

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