A Service of Christian Worship

December 12, 2021 8:30, 9:45 and 11:00 a.m.

Third Sunday of Advent

WE GATHER

Opening Voluntary
What Child Is This?  
arr. John Behnke

Welcome

Chiming of the Trinity

Advent Chorus

A Candle is Burning
AWAY IN A MANGER

A candle for joy burning bright with love’s light,
a beautiful mother reflects on God’s might.
As with her we ponder the blessings he’ll bring,
and filled with his praises, together we sing.
Lighting of the Advent Candle
   God calls God’s servant Mary
   **We rejoice in her yes!**
   The ordinary is made extraordinary in God!
   **Great is her faithfulness!**
   May we say yes to God.
   **For our God is good and dwells among us, lives inside us, and brings us great joy.**

†  Processional Hymn No. 230
   O Little Town of Bethlehem
   **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.

   For Christ is born of Mary, and gathered all above,
      while mortals sleep, the angels keep their watch of wond’ring love.
   **O morning stars, together proclaim the holy birth!**
   And praises sing to God the king and peace to all on earth!

   How silently, how silently, the wondrous gift is giv’n!
   So God imparts to human hearts the blessings of the heav’ns.
   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.**
† The Creed No. 881
Apostles’ Creed

I believe in God the Father Almighty,
maker of heaven and earth;
and in Jesus Christ his only Son our Lord:
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,
born of the Virgin Mary,
suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, dead, and buried.
The third day He rose from the dead;
He ascended into heaven,
and sitteth at the right hand of God the Father Almighty;
from thence He shall come to judge the quick and the dead.
I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the holy catholic church,
the communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body,
and the life everlasting. Amen.

† Gloria No. 238 (Refrain)
GLORIA

For the 11:00 service only, children in grades K-2 are invited at this time to come to the chapel to watch the rest of the service together.
Gloria, in excelsis Deo!
Gloria, in excelsis Deo!

The Sacrament of Holy Baptism (11:00)

Congregational Response (11:00)
STUTTGART

Child of Blessing, Child of Promise
Child of blessing, child of promise,
baptized with the Spirit’s sign;
with this water God has sealed you
unto love and grace Divine.

Child of God your loving parent,
learn to know whose child you are.
Grow to laugh and sing and worship,
trust and love God more than all.
Anthem
One Thing Have I Desired (8:30)                                    David von Kampen

One thing have I desired,
    For that will I seek:
That I may dwell in the house of the Lord forever.

    For He will hide me in the day of trouble,
    He will conceal me under his tent.
    And He will lift me high,
    High upon a rock.

Sing We Now of Christmas (9:45, 11:00)                              arr. Brian Childers

WE HEAR AND RESPOND TO THE WORD

    Reader: This is the Word of God for the people of God.
    People: Thanks be to God.

Sermon

Choral Call to Prayer No. 216 (verses 2 & 3)                         ES IST EIN ROS
    Lo, How a Rose E’er Blooming
        Isaiah ‘twas foretold it, the Rose I have in mind;
            with Mary we behold it, the Virgin Mother kind.
        To show God’s love aright,
            she bore to us a Savior, when half spent was the night.

        O Flower, whose fragrance tender with sweetness fills the air,
            dispel in glorious splendor the darkness everywhere.
        True man yet very God,
            from sin and death now save us, and share our every load.

Prayers of the People

The Lord’s Prayer No. 895
Offertory

Lovely Appear (8:30)  
David von Kampen

Lovely appear over the mountains  
The feet of them that preach  
And bring good news of peace.

Ye mountains, ye perpetual hills,  
Bow ye down;  
Over the barren wastes  
Shall flowers have possession.  
Dark shades of ancient days,  
Full of hate and oppression,  
In the brightness of joy  
fade away and are gone.

Song of Mary (9:45, 11:00)  
Faye López

My soul exalts the Lord, my God,  
And my spirit rejoices in praise to God my savior.  
For He has chosen me, the handmaid of the Lord.

Age to age generations will call me blessed,  
For the favor the mighty one has shown to his servant,  
For He has honored me, the bondslave of the Lord.

In His goodness, His kind compassion,  
He sends the promised one the vow to pay.  
In remembrance of His great mercy,  
the holy one has done great things for me.

O magnify His holy name.

My soul magnifies the Lord, my God,  
And my heart rejoices in praise to God, my savior.  
For He has chosen me, the bondslave of the Lord. Amen.

† Doxology  
VENI EMMANUEL

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;  
Praise Him, all creatures here below;  
Praise Him above, ye heavenly host;  
Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost.  
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel.

† Prayer of Dedication

† Gift Blessing
WE GO OUT TO SERVE

† Closing Hymn No. 219

What Child Is This? 
What child is this
Who lay to rest
On Mary's lap is sleeping
Whom angels greet with anthems sweet
While shepherds watch are keeping

Refrain:
This, this is Christ the King
Whom shepherds guard and angels sing
Haste, haste to bring him laud
The Babe, the Son of Mary

Why lies He in such mean estate,
Where ox and ass are feeding?
Good Christian, fear: for sinners here
The silent Word is pleading

Refrain

So bring Him incense, gold, and myrrh,
Come, peasant, king to own Him.
The King of kings salvation brings;
Let loving hearts enthrone Him.

Refrain

† Benediction

† Benediction Response

Lift High the Cross
Lift high the cross, the love of Christ proclaim
till all the world adore His sacred name.
Come, Christians, follow this triumphant sign.
The hosts of God in unity combine.
Lift high the cross, the love of Christ proclaim
till all the world adore His sacred name.

† Closing Voluntary

Creator of the Stars of Nighr 

David Cherwin

† Stand as you are able
WORSHIP LEADERS

* PREACHER
Dr. James C. Howell, Senior Pastor

* LITURGISTS
Rev. Nathan Arledge, Pastor of Missions & Community Engagement
Rev. Taylor Pryde Barefoot, Pastor for Emerging Ministries

* LAY READERS
Bert Lampley (8:30)
Somer Hammack (9:45)
Mary Vásquez (11:00)

* ADVENT CANDLE LIGHTERS
Shelley and Michael Abel, Lila and Russell (8:30)
Amy and Thom Goeken, Charlotte and Thomas (9:45)
Brooks and Chris Miller, Henry and William (11:00)

* GIFT BLESSING
Lulu Mitchell and Claire Mitchell (8:30)
Wesley Foose and Bronley Phillips (9:45)
EmmaGrace Linebarrier and Georgie Porter (11:00)

* MUSICIANS
Evan Wesley Currie, Associate Director of Music and Organist
Brian Childers, Director of Music for Children, Youth, and Handbells
Myers Park Bells
Women’s Choir (8:30)
Chancel Choir (9:45, 11:00)
Peg Broughton, soprano (9:45, 11:00)
Sue Bayne, piano
Corine Brouwer, violin
Julia Winegardner, violin
Ben Geller, viola
Denielle Wilson, cello
Brian Peede, percussion

* AMERICAN SIGN LANGUAGE INTERPRETER
Access Interpreting Services (9:45)

* CRUCIFERS
Emerson Smith (8:30)
Elizabeth Willis (9:45)
Hayden Plyler (11:00)
Welcome to 
Myers Park United Methodist Church

Welcome! We are thankful you are here worshipping with us. We invite you to register your attendance with us today: https://form.jotform.com/201695904497164

Shop the Alternative Gift Market, 9:00 a.m.-12:00 p.m.: The Alternative Gift Market is back with a hybrid format! You can shop online to make donations directly to partner agencies, but if you need shopping assistance, come see us in the lobby of the Parish Life Building and we will help facilitate your giving! Come honor friends and families with gifts that support our community partners and neighbors around the world. Click here to shop online!

Kneeling at the Manger, 4:00 p.m., Hopedale Parking Lot: Join us for this annual service of story and song. Children may dress as their favorite nativity character. Please bring chairs for your family to sit in. Click here to learn everything you need to know before you come.

Monday, December 13 is the Last Day to Purchase Poinsettias and Wreaths: Purchase a poinsettia or wreath to decorate the church in honor or memory of a loved one. Poinsettias are $14 each, and wreaths are $30 each. Click here to order online, or send a check to the church along with the name of the person you are honoring/remembering.

Wednesday Bible Study, December 15, Live at 11:00 a.m. and viewable later: Join us for Dr. Howell's weekly Bible study. Watch live on our website, Facebook, or YouTube.

Sign Up to Help with Room In The Inn, we will next host guests December 15: This year we are partnering with our across-the-alley neighbor Myers Park Presbyterian to host Wednesday nights now through March 30. We will host 12 guests in their Outreach Center and provide a meal, a safe place to gather and sleep, showers, and fellowship. There are several different ways to get involved in this ministry. Click here to learn more and sign up! Please note that we especially need drivers and overnight hosts!
The Merry Market Seeks Donations and Volunteers: Missions is partnering with OurBridge for Kids to provide an empowering, joy-filled holiday shopping experience for more than 150 families on December 18. Your donation of gift items and the gift of your time are both critical to the success of the store. Click here to shop for gifts for the market and click here to volunteer to help. There are many ways to be involved December 6-18. Thank you for supporting this favorite holiday tradition! If you have questions, email missions@mpumc.org

A Service of Lessons and Carols, December 19, 8:30, 9:45, and 11:00 a.m., Sanctuary: Join us for the story of the coming of Christ featuring our Chancel Choir, Chamber Singers, and da Capo Brass.

Christmas in Word and Song, December 19, 8:45 a.m., Jubilee Hall: Join us for a contemporary telling of the coming of Christ featuring our Church in the Round Worship Team.

Love Feast, December 19, 6:00 p.m. Sanctuary: We are excited to gather in person this year for this completely youth-led worship service. This year we will go outside after the service to have spice tea and Moravian buns.

Worship With Us on Christmas Eve: We will have multiple opportunities to worship in person and virtually on Christmas Eve: 12:00 p.m. in Jubilee Hall and 2:00 p.m., 6:00 p.m., 8:00 p.m., and 11:00 p.m. in the sanctuary. Click here for details about these services. Also this year, we will offer A Merry Little Christmas Service, a sacred alternative to our regular services, in the sanctuary. Registration is requested for this service only. Click here to learn more about it and to sign up to attend. This year’s Christmas Eve Offering will support our School Partnerships and Zoe Empowers.

Mindful Mondays In-Person and on Zoom, December 20, 10:30 a.m., room 105: Offered by Rev. Bill Roth and Parish Nurse Lauren Smith. Learn to embody the present moment with compassionate awareness and discover the emotional, physical, and spiritual benefits of meditative practices. Open to first-timers or those who wish to renew their mindful practice. Register in Realm or with Carmen Rivera at crivera@mpumc.org. If you are unable to join in person, please join us via Zoom. Click here to join the Zoom meeting.

Coffee, Conversation, and Connection, December 21, 1:00 p.m., Zoom: Join Rev. Bill Roth and Parish Nurse Lauren Smith for emotional support and care. We will share, connect, and explore how we can increase our well-being and resilience. Register with Carmen Rivera at crivera@mpumc.org. You may also directly join the Zoom meeting at your convenience.

Advent Labyrinth, now-December 22, Francis Chapel: During this season of waiting, come to the labyrinth for a uniquely prayerful experience. A special setting and printed materials will be provided to guide you in a walk of preparation for Christmas. Please call 704-376-8584 before coming to the church to ensure Francis Chapel is available for your walk.
**Advent Small Groups, now-December 23, varying times:** Prepare for the true spirit of Christmas by joining one of our clergy-led small group studies. Consider John Wesley’s means of grace or learn how Christmas saved the Grinch! In-person and virtual options available. No registration required. [Click here for details.](#)

**Epiphany Party for Kindergarteners and First Graders, January 9, 4:00 p.m.-5:00 p.m., room 240:** Children will participate in games, crafts, and a retelling of the wisemen’s journey. We will collect donations to benefit Baby Bundles. [Click here for more information and to sign up to let us know you are coming.](#) Questions? Email Leslie Lowery at llowery@mpumc.org.

**High School Winter Retreat, January 21-23:** High School Winter Retreat returns to Chestnut Ridge Camp near Chapel Hill. This camp has some of the best food ever! Cameron Moore is back as our worship leader, and we will have another amazing senior send-off. Whether you have done many retreats or this is your first, we want you there! [Click here to sign up.](#)

**Fifth Graders: Sign Up Now for Faith Girls and God’s Guys:** Fifth grade boys and girls are invited to participate in five-week Bible-based studies meeting Sundays from 4:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m. beginning January 30. Facilitated by Kenan Gay, God’s Guys offers tween boys a chance to learn how to make the best decisions about school, friends, parents, and everything else. Facilitated by Rev. Taylor Pryde Barefoot, Faith Girls offers tween girls a chance to read stories in Scripture and learn more about God together. [Click here to learn more and to register.](#)

**Christmas at Goodness Gracious, Now Open Friday:** Tis the season to be shopping, and Goodness Gracious has wonderful Christmas gift items. Not sure what to buy for someone this holiday season? We offer gift cards! Goodness Gracious is now open Sunday-Friday 9:00 a.m.-12:30 p.m.

**Missions’ Winter Clothing Drive:** As the weather turns colder, we are collecting new and gently used winter clothing. We need both women’s and men’s jackets, coats, pants, sweaters, and sweatshirts in any size or color. Please drop off the items in the Parish Life Building lobby in the bin labeled Winter Clothing Drive.

**Support Children Through Angel Tree:** The Prison Fellowship Ministry Angel Tree™ program returns this year in a virtual format. This year children of incarcerated parents or caregivers will receive gift cards. To support a child or children, [click here](#) and enter the access code Q4E18. Virtual tags with the names of children to support will appear. Browse through the tags, select the child(ren) you want to sponsor, and click Checkout. Please note that when you select a child, you might be asked to consider making an additional donation to provide a gift card for a sibling or caregiver. This is optional. Thank you for continuing to support this vital ministry!
Christmas Concert YouTube Watch Party, December 14, 7:00 p.m.: If you missed the Music Ministry's Christmas Concert, click here to tune in for our YouTube Watch Party. Following the party, the concert will be available for viewing through the end of December. Enjoy!

Maybe I’m Amazed - A Podcast with Dr. James Howell: Throughout his career, Dr. Howell has developed meaningful relationships with a wide spectrum of people, and he’s taken time to learn each of their stories. Maybe I’m Amazed is a collection of amazing conversations James has with amazing people experiencing everyday miracles. Click here to access these and all previous episodes.

Your ongoing generosity to our church Operating Fund and our Mission and Outreach Fund makes it possible for our church family to remain connected in worship and fellowship this Advent season and support our most vulnerable neighbors near and far. Make your offering today at www.myersparkumc.org/give or by mail to 1501 Queens Road, Charlotte, NC 28207. Questions about giving opportunities? Contact Jamie Yearwood, Director of Development, at jyearwood@mpumc.org or 704-295-4808.

End-of-Year Giving Reminder: Financial contributions to our church received or postmarked by December 31, 2021 will receive 2021 tax credit. Mail checks to 1501 Queens Road, Charlotte, NC 28207, or make your offering online at www.myersparkumc.org/give. To make a stock or charitable fund contribution or if you have questions about your gift or pledge contribution, contact Linda Edwardsen at lindae@mpumc.org or 704-295-4842.

We Love Our Church; 2022 Stewardship Campaign: Check out information about our 2022 Stewardship Campaign, and click here for a commitment card. We invite you to prayerfully consider your commitment to our church Operating Fund and Mission and Outreach Fund for the upcoming year. Commitment cards can be returned via mail to 1501 Queens Road, Charlotte NC 28207 or submitted online.

Hope is Here Capital Campaign: We’ll have an announcement on exciting progress soon! There is still time to prayerfully make a five-year commitment – either online or by mail to 1501 Queens Road, Charlotte, NC 28207. We’re in a movement to do something significant for God, our people, city and world and hope you will join others who have already committed and be part of a lasting legacy for our church! Questions? Contact Jamie Yearwood at jyearwood@mpumc.org or 704-295-4808.

To stay connected, check out http://www.myersparkumc.org for a complete list of events and opportunities.
Stephen Ministry congregations equip and empower lay caregivers to provide confidential, Christ-centered care to people who are hurting. To learn more about this powerful ministry, contact Rev. Bill Roth at 704-295-4835 or broth@mpumc.org.

Dr. James C. Howell, Senior Pastor  
{james@mpumc.org 704-376-8584}

Rev. Nathan Arledge, Pastor of Missions & Community Engagement  
nathan@mpumc.org 704-295-4816

Rev. Taylor Pryde Barefoot, Pastor for Emerging Ministries  
tbarefoot@mpumc.org 704-295-4803

Rev. Jessica Dayson, Pastor for Young Adults & Lay Involvement  
jdayson@mpumc.org 704-295-4813

Dr. Uiyeon Kim, Pastor of Discipleship  
ukim@mpumc.org 704-295-4840

Rev. Bill Roth, Pastor of Congregational Care  
broth@mpumc.org 704-295-4835

Rev. Nancy Watson, Executive Pastor  
nwatson@mpumc.org 704-295-4823

TALK WITH A PASTOR
A pastor on staff stands ready to respond to your question or concern. Those needing immediate pastoral help should call 704-376-8584 and follow the prompts to the pastor on call.

Myers Park United Methodist Church Mission Statement:  
We are the body of Christ, growing in faith and serving others.