

Myers Park United Methodist Church



Parable of the Talents, Willem de Poorter

A Service of Christian Worship

November 19, 2023

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

Twenty-fifth Sunday after Pentecost

WE GATHER

Opening Voluntary

Amazing Grace (8:30)

AMAZING GRACE

**Amazing grace! How sweet the sound that saved a wretch like me!
I once was lost, but now am found; was blind but now I see.**

**'Twas grace that taught my heart to fear, and grace my fears relieved;
how precious did that grace appear the hour I first believed.**

All Creatures of Our God and King (9:45, 11:00)

arr. Linda Lamb

Welcome

Chiming of the Holy Trinity

† Call to Worship

How Lovely Is Your Dwelling Place

Paul Tate

**How lovely is your dwelling place, O Lord, my God!
How lovely is your dwelling place, O God!**

† **Processional Hymn No. 694**

ST. GEORGE'S WINDSOR

Come, Ye Thankful People, Come

Come, ye thankful people, come, raise the song of harvest home;
all is safely gathered in, ere the winter storms begin.

God our Maker doth provide for our wants to be supplied;
come to God's own temple, come, raise the song of harvest home.

All the world is God's own field, fruit as praise to God we yield;
wheat and tares together sown are to joy or sorrow grown;
first the blade and then the ear, then the full corn shall appear;
Lord of harvest, grant that we wholesome grain and pure may be.

For the Lord our God shall come, and shall take the harvest home;
from the field shall in that day all offenses purge away,
giving angels charge at last in the fire the tares to cast;
but the fruitful ears to store in the garner evermore.

Even so, Lord, quickly come, bring thy final harvest home;
gather thou thy people in, free from sorrow, free from sin,
there, forever purified, in thy presence to abide;
come, with all thine angels, come, raise the glorious harvest home.

† **The Apostles' Creed No. 881**

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 Patri, No. 71**

GREATOREX

Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Ghost;
as it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be,
world without end. Amen. Amen.

Sacrament of Holy Baptism (11:00)

Congregational Response (11:00)

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.

STUTTGART

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.

Prayer of Confession

Gracious God,
We carry anger in our hearts we cannot release.
Our past regrets continue to shame us with pain.
Scarcity binds our hearts from generosity and growth.
Give us courage to choose you in the face of temptations.
Set us free for joyful obedience and faithful witness.
Open us to a future of peace, hope, and love with you. Amen.

Words of Assurance

...In the name of Jesus Christ, you are forgiven!
In the name of Jesus Christ, you are forgiven!
Glory to God. Amen.

WE HEAR AND RESPOND TO THE WORD

Anthem (9:45, 11:00)

My Soul's Been Anchored in the Lord

Florence Price

In the Lord, in the Lord, my soul's been anchored in the Lord.

Before I'd stay in hell one day, my soul's been anchored in the Lord.

I'd sing and pray myself away, my soul's been anchored in the Lord.

I'm going to pray and never stop, my soul's been anchored in the Lord.

Until I've reached the mountain top, my soul's been anchored in the Lord

In the Lord, in the Lord, my soul's been anchored in the Lord.

God knows my soul's been anchored in the Lord!

† Gospel Reading

Matthew 25:14-30

Reader: This is the Word of God for the people of God.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

Sermon

Choral Call to Prayer No. 473

Lead Me, Lord

LEAD ME, LORD

**Lead me, Lord, lead me in thy righteousness;
make thy way plain before my face.
For it is thou, Lord, thou, Lord only,
that makest me dwell in safety.**

Prayers of the People

The Lord's Prayer No. 895

Our Father,

**who art in heaven,
hallowed be thy name.**

**Thy kingdom come,
thy 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 thine is the kingdom, and the power,
and the glory, forever. Amen**

Offertory

My Soul's Been Anchored in the Lord (8:30)

Florence Price

City Called Heaven (9:45, 11:00)

arr. Josephine Poelinitz

I am a pilgrim, a pilgrim of sorrow. I'm left in this old wide world alone!
Ain't got no hope for tomorrow trying to make it, make heaven my home.

Sometimes I'm tossed and I'm driven, Lord. Sometimes I just don't know which way to turn.
Oh I heard of a city called heaven I'm trying to make it, make heaven my home.

† Doxology

LASST UNS ERFREUEN

**Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;
Praise God, all creatures here below; Alleluia! Alleluia!
Praise God above, ye heavenly host;
Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost.
Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!**

† Prayer of Dedication

WE GO OUT TO SERVE

† Closing Hymn No. 580

Lead On, O King Eternal

LANCASHIRE

Lead on, O King eternal, the day of march has come;
henceforth in fields of conquest thy tents shall be our home.
Through days of preparation thy grace has made us strong;
and now, O King eternal, we lift our battle song.

Lead on, O King eternal, till sin's fierce war shall cease,
and holiness shall whisper the sweet amen of peace.
For not with swords loud clashing, nor roll of stirring drums;
with deeds of love and mercy the heavenly kingdom comes.

Lead on, O King eternal, we follow, not with fears,
for gladness breaks like morning where'er thy face appears.
Thy cross is lifted o'er us, we journey in its light;
the crown awaits the conquest; lead on, O God of might.

† Benediction

† Benediction Response

Lift High the Cross

CRUCIFER

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

Sinfonia from *Cantata 29*,
We Thank Thee God, We Thank Thee"

J. S. Bach

† Stand as you are able

WORSHIP LEADERS

✠

PREACHER

Dr. James C. Howell, Senior Pastor

✠

LITURGISTS

Rev. Bill Roth, Pastor of Congregational Care
Rev. Taylor Pryde Barefoot, Pastor for Emerging Ministries

✠

LAY READERS

Barry Guy (8:30)
Cameron Caudle (9:45)
Scott Haenni (11:00)



MUSICIANS

Dr. Hugh Ferguson Floyd, Director of Music
Evan Wesley Currie, Associate Director of Music and Organist
Brian Childers, Director of Music for Children, Youth, and Handbells
Tinkerbells (8:30)
Junior Bells (9:45, 11:00)
Jen Wiggins, mezzo soprano
Chancel Choir



AMERICAN SIGN LANGUAGE INTERPRETER

Larnetta Way (9:45)



CRUCIFERS

Frank Turner (8:30), Ryland Weintraub (9:45), Gavin Porter (11:00)



ACOLYTES

Luke Yett and Scarlett MacIsaac (8:30)
Lucas Tartak and Luke Hickman (9:45)
Macie Porter and Oliver Porter (11:00)



BIBLE CARRIERS

Lauren Williams (8:30), Lexton Wirsing (9:45), Cole Gregory (11:00)

*Welcome to
Myers Park United Methodist Church*

Welcome! If you are visiting or fairly new, we are so honored you've come, and we look forward to getting to know you. Help us connect with you by signing the [virtual hospitality pad](#). May you encounter God's loving presence as you worship with us today. Be blessed!

The Flowers on the Altar are given to the glory of God and in loving memory of *Martha Jean and Tommy Miller* by their family.

The Flowers in the Chapel Narthex are given to the glory of God and in honor of the marriage of *Tyler Harris and Dan Oliva*, which took place yesterday.

Receiving the sacrament of Holy Baptism at the 11 a.m. service is *Gray Michael Chesson*, son of *Kelli and Ben Chesson*.

Due to a construction-related power outage and our observance of Thanksgiving, the church offices will be closed November 20-24. Our ability to send and receive emails may be affected during this time. The building will reopen on November 26 for worship, and our offices will reopen at 9 a.m. on November 27. If you need assistance during this time, please call 704-376-8584 and follow the prompts to reach the pastor on call.

Young Adults Meet, November 20, 7 p.m., Dilworth UMC: If you're in your 20s and 30s, join us for a time of fellowship, growth, and connection. We meet every other Monday and always welcome newcomers! Email Rev. Taylor Pryde Barefoot at tbarefoot@mpumc.org to be added to the group chat.

Thanksgiving Table Tithe: We're collecting \$50 Harris Teeter gift cards for our neighbors at our partner schools and communities in Hidden Valley, The Learning Collaborative, and Sedgefield Middle School. Our goal is to collect 125 gift cards. Drop off donations in the Missions office.

MeckMIN's Community-Wide Interfaith Thanksgiving Service, November 21, 7-9 p.m., Trinity Presbyterian Church: All are welcome to this annual service as we seek to practice "Radical Hospitality; Radical Inclusion." Click [here](#) to learn more and to RSVP.

Family Worship Day, November 26: Children's Sunday School and Youth Starting Point will not meet. Child care is available for children who are not yet in kindergarten.

Drop in to Learn CPR and AED Basics, December 3: According to the American Heart Association, 350,000 people in the United States die every year from cardiac arrest. Immediate CPR can double or triple chances of survival after cardiac arrest. Stop by Francis Chapel anytime between 8 a.m. and 12:30 p.m. to learn the basic steps of CPR and how to use an AED (automated external defibrillator). Email Parish Nurse Lauren Smith at lsmith@mpumc.org with any questions.

Room in the Inn: If you are looking for a service opportunity that provides engagement and connection, consider being an overnight host or van driver for Room in the Inn. Those positions are our hardest to fill, but provide the best opportunity to get to know our neighbors, to hear their stories, and to learn their names. Click [here](#) to sign up.

Save the Date: An Evening with Kate Bowler, January 29, 7 p.m.: Join us as Dr. Howell hosts the *New York Times* bestselling author, host of the *Everything Happens* podcast, and Duke University professor. Kate will share her journey and insights into finding resilience amidst life's challenges.

Join Dr. Howell's email and video series, *How to Become Spiritual*, to receive two short emails weekly helping us think about how to cultivate a personal spirituality. [Sign up here](#) to receive these emails (although if you already get his biweekly emails, you're already signed up) and invite your friends and family to [sign up here](#), too! He also releases a weekly video covering similar but not identical ideas – so watch for those on our website or on social media!

Beyond Enough: Check out information about our [2024 Stewardship Campaign](#), and prayerfully consider your commitment to our church Operating Fund and Mission & Outreach Fund for the upcoming year. Commitment cards can be returned via mail to 1501 Queens Road, Charlotte NC 28207 or [submitted online](#).

During this week of Thanksgiving, we are especially grateful to you, our church family, for your faithful offerings to our church [Operating Fund](#) and our [Mission & Outreach Fund](#) throughout the year. Your generosity enables us to thrive daily and benefits neighbors in need locally and globally.

THANK YOU FOR YOUR CONTINUED GENEROSITY

Make your offering today at www.myersparkumc.org/give
or by mail to 1501 Queens Road, Charlotte, NC 28207.

Events & Opportunities During Advent

“Christmas Gifts to Go” in Goodness Gracious: Making your list? Checking it twice? Let Goodness Gracious take the stress out of gift-giving this year! Stop by our table in the lobby of the Parish Life Building this morning and shop from our selection of wrapped and ready-to-give seasonal gifts, perfect for hostesses, teachers, neighbors, and anyone else on your list. Gifts range in price from \$10 to \$30, and all sales support outreach!

Mark your calendar for the Goodness Gracious 20th anniversary celebration in the shop on December 3!

Peace on Earth, Children’s Ministries’ 12th annual Advent and Christmas devotional booklet featuring children's artwork and devotions from clergy, staff, and ministry friends, is available around the church. One per family, please. A [digital edition](#) is on our website.

Advent with Kids: Author Book Signing, November 26: Church member and author Wendy Wallace-Wright will sign copies of her book *Advent with Kids* in the lobby of the Parish Life Building after the 9:45 and 11 a.m. worship services. Books are available for purchase in Goodness Gracious.

Advent Labyrinth Opens, November 28, *Francis Chapel:* During this season of waiting, come to the labyrinth for a uniquely prayerful experience. A special setting and printed materials will be available 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. Email Rev. Taylor Pryde Barefoot at tbarefoot@mpumc.org for more details.

Youth Christmas Tree Sale: Pre-order your North Carolina-grown Christmas tree, wreath, or garland from our youth and help support their summer mission trips. Trees will be delivered on November 30, and orders will be available for pickup through December 2. We got a full order of trees this year, so please help us spread the word by sharing with friends. Click [here](#) to order.

Advent Study Group, beginning December 4: Join us for our Advent series as we discuss how Christmas transformed our world. There is no book to purchase. We will focus and reflect on specific Gospel lessons. This three-week series will meet in person and online. Click [here](#) for details. Email Dr. Uiyeon Kim at ukim@mpumc.org with any questions.

Purchase a poinsettia or wreath to decorate the church in honor or memory of a loved one. Poinsettias are \$20 each, and wreaths are \$30-\$50 each. Click [here](#) to order online or send a check to the church along with the name of the person you are honoring/remembering. Order by December 6. Dedications will be shared in the December 17 worship bulletin.

Music Ministry Christmas Concert, December 3, 4 p.m. and 6 p.m., *First United Methodist Church, 501 N. Tryon Street:* Join us for our annual Christmas Concert, featuring our adult, youth, and children’s ensembles and a full orchestra. No reservations or tickets are required. Child care is provided by First United Methodist and is available by reservation only. Email Lisa Ross-Smit at lrsmit@mpumc.org by November 29. Learn more about the concert on our website.

The Merry Market: There is no better way to amplify the joy of Christmas than abundant displays of generosity. We have a long way to go to serve more than 300 children at The Merry Market on December 9, and we cannot do it without your generous donations! Shop from [our wishlist](#) to have gifts delivered to the Missions office by December 3.

Advent Wreath Kits Available for Purchase, now-December 3: Kits are \$15 and include candles, candle cups, greenery pins, foam, and a tray. Please note that greenery is not provided. Kits will be available for pickup in the Parish Life Building lobby. Supplies are limited. Click [here](#) to order. Email Betsy Scott at bscott@mpumc.org with questions.

Special Services During Advent

Kneeling at the Manger, December 10, 4 p.m., Jubilee Hall: Join us for this annual service of story and song. Children may dress as their favorite nativity character.

Hope and Consolation Service, December 11, 6:30 p.m., Sanctuary: For those who have suffered loss, the holidays can be especially challenging. Join us for this service of remembrance and healing.

Third Sunday in Advent, December 17: A Service of Lessons and Carols at 8:30, 9:45, and 11 a.m. in the sanctuary and Christmas in Word and Song at Church in the Round at 8:45 a.m. in Jubilee Hall.

Love Feast, December 17, 7-8 p.m.: Everyone is invited to this youth-led worship service featuring spiced tea and Moravian buns.

Fourth Sunday in Advent and Christmas Eve Services

Join us for morning worship to mark the **Fourth Sunday in Advent:**

8:45 a.m., Church in the Round, Jubilee Hall

9:45 a.m., Sanctuary

11 a.m., Sanctuary.

Then join us in the afternoon for one of our **Christmas Eve** services celebrating the joy of the season and the birth of our Lord!

12:30 p.m., Jubilee Hall: Music and carols with a Jazz twist

2 p.m., Sanctuary: Carols, candlelight, children's Nativity tableau

4 p.m., Jubilee Hall: Casual, contemporary, acoustic

6 p.m., Sanctuary: Carols, candlelight, children's Nativity tableau

8 p.m., Sanctuary: Choir, carols, candlelight, with Holy Communion

11 p.m., Sanctuary: Choir, carols, candlelight, with Holy Communion

Check out [This Week at Myers Park](#) for a complete list of events and opportunities.

OUR PASTORS

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 of 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, Pastor of Senior Engagement

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.

OUR MISSION

We are the body of Christ, growing in faith and serving others.



MYERS PARK

UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

1501 QUEENS RD. | CHARLOTTE, NC 28207

704-376-8584 | WWW.MYERSPARKUMC.ORG