

Myers Park
United Methodist Church



Advent Wreath, Betsy Brice, age 6

A Service of Christian Worship

December 3, 2023

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

First Sunday of Advent

WE GATHER

Opening Voluntary

For Unto Us a Child Is Born

arr. Line/McChesney

Welcome

Chiming of the Holy Trinity

† Advent Acclamation

For unto us a child is born,
and His name shall be called:

**Wonderful, Counselor, the Mighty God,
the everlasting Father, the Prince of Peace.
The everlasting Father, the Prince of Peace.**

† **Lighting of the Advent Candle**

The people who walked in darkness
have seen a great light;
those who dwelt in a land of deep darkness,
on them has light shined.

We light this candle in hope.

† **Processional Hymn No. 211 (verses 1, 2, 6, 7)**

O Come, O Come, Emmanuel

**O come, O come, Emmanuel,
and ransom captive Israel,
that mourns in lonely exile here
until the Son of God appear.**

Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel.

**O come, thou Wisdom from on high,
and order all things far and nigh;
to us the path of knowledge show
and cause us in her ways to go.**

Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel.

**O come, thou Dayspring, come and cheer
our spirits by thy justice here;
disperse the gloomy clouds of night,
and death's dark shadows put to flight.**

Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel.

**O come, Desire of nations bind
all peoples in one heart and mind.
From dust thou brought us forth to life;
deliver us from earthly strife.**

Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel.

VENI EMMANUEL

† **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 No. 238 (refrain)**

GLORIA

Gloria in excelsis Deo! Gloria in excelsis Deo!

Sacrament of Holy Baptism (11:00)

Congregational Response (11:00)

Child of Blessing, Child of Promise

STUTTGART

**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.**

Welcoming of New Members (11:00)

Prayer of Confession

Wonderful counselor,

we lay our foolishness and brokenness at your feet.

Guide us into your wisdom.

Mighty God,

our pride and quest for power cause more harm than good.

Open our hearts to your strength in weakness.

Everlasting Father,

forgive us for straying far from home with you.

Restore our kinship with you O God.

Prince of Peace,

conflict, fear, and rancor plague us.

Let us believe your promises and gifts of peace.

O come, O come, Emmanuel, God with us.

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

Hymn of Preparation No. 216

Lo, How a Rose E'er Blooming (verse 1)

ES IST EIN ROS

Lo, how a Rose e'er blooming from tender stem hath sprung!
Of Jesse's lineage coming, as those of old have sung.
It came, a floweret bright,
amid the cold of winter, when half spent was the night.

Old Testament Reading

Isaiah 11:1-6

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

Sermon

Prayers of the People

After each petition, we enter into the prayer together with these words:

Pastor: Lord, in your mercy,
People: Hear our prayer.

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

O Come, O Come, Emmanuel

arr. Brian Childers

† **Doxology**

VENI EMMANUEL

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

† **Prayer of Dedication**

† **Blessing of the Gifts**

WE GO OUT TO SERVE

† **Closing Hymn No. 206**

I Want to Walk as a Child of the Light
I want to walk as a child of the light.
I want to follow Jesus.
God set the stars to give light to the world.
The star of my life is Jesus.

HOUSTON

Refrain

In him there is no darkness at all.
The night and the day are both alike.
The Lamb is the light of the city of God.
Shine in my heart, Lord Jesus.

I want to see the brightness of God.
I want to look at Jesus.
Clear Sun of Righteousness, shine on my path,
and show me the way to the Father. *Refrain*

I'm looking for the coming of Christ.
I want to be with Jesus.
When we have run with patience the race,
we shall know the joy of Jesus. *Refrain*

† **Benediction**

† **Benediction Response No. 230**

O Little Town of Bethlehem (verse 4)
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!

ST. LOUIS

† **Closing Voluntary**

Fantasy on "God Rest Ye Merry Gentlemen"

Jason D. Payne

† 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

Hilary Coman (8:30)

Scott Willis (9:45)

John Snyder (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

Bellissimo

Sue Bayne, piano

Chancel Choir



AMERICAN SIGN LANGUAGE INTERPRETER

Larnetta Way (9:45)



ADVENT CANDLE LIGHTERS

John, Erin, Charlie, Teddy, Caroline, and Henry Stubbs (8:30)

Evon, Natalie, Everett, Eva James, Edward, and Edgar Zoog (9:45)

Jesse, Elizabeth, Logan, and Will Wasson (11:00)



BLESSING OF THE GIFTS

Baker Tomascak and Blake Bostic (8:30)

Wesley Foose and Bronley Phillips (9:45)

Parks Marsh and Simms Curtis (11:00)



CRUCIFERS

Shelby Eliasek (8:30), Mary Blake Gillis (9:45), Harrison Gaddy (11:00)



ACOLYTES

Davis Eliasek and Jackson Cubbage (8:30)

Hampton Surles and Lawson Surles (9:45)

Walt Gaddy and Taylor Peterson (11:00)



BIBLE CARRIERS

Jude Martin (8:30), Nina Anderson (9:45), Ashton Peterson (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!

Receiving the sacrament of Holy Baptism at the 11:00 a.m. service is *Clement James Begley*, son of *Ann-Catherine and Asher Begley*.

Welcome, New Members! This morning we welcome new members to the life of our church: *Haley and James Bishop, Kathy and Brad Combs, Charlie Combs, Wilson Croft, Kiersten and Paul Devine, Finn Devine, Liza Devine, Ellis Dixon, Richard Green, Amy and Rick Hardison, Scott Levy, Michelle Huttenhoff, Sarah and Adam Knepp, Jackie and Lynn McCaleb, Angel and Tyler Moses, Ashley Oliver, Sue Rawls, Jill and Pete Richardson, Julianna and Evan Walker, and Noelle Williams*.

Blessing of the Gifts: Today we highlight our school partnerships. Our fourth graders, led each week by their Sunday School teachers, *Lucy DesPortes, Katherine Hunter, Megan and Phil Linebarrier, Leigh and Dave Milbourn, and Amy and Jason Peterson*, will offer a prayer during each worship service.

Drop in to Learn CPR and AED Basics: According to the American Heart Association, 350,000 people in the United States die every year from cardiac arrest. Did you know immediate CPR can double or triple a person's 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 automated external defibrillator (AED).

Goodness Gracious 20th Anniversary Celebration: Today we celebrate your patronage of our gift shop, which has allowed us to contribute more than \$500,000 to various community organizations over the last two decades. We invite you to drop by the store between 9 a.m. and 12:30 p.m. to enjoy coffee, to shop (all sales support outreach), and to enter for a chance to win one of two \$50 Goodness Gracious gift certificates.

Christmas Concert Today, 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. Drive to and park at First UMC or ride the shuttle, which will run between Myers Park UMC and First UMC beginning at 3 p.m.

Today is the Last Day to Purchase Advent Wreath Kits, which 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.

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 also on our website.

New - Shop the Alternative Gift Market: Honor friends and families with gifts that support our community partners and neighbors around the world. Shop online to make donations directly to partner agencies. If you need assistance, come by the Missions office Monday-Friday and we will help facilitate your giving!

New - Hidden Valley Elementary Christmas Wishlist: The team at our partner school has identified 100 children who need a little love and support this holiday season. Please select a child or children from the tree in the Parish Life Building lobby or by using these links ([Female List](#) and [Male List](#)) and purchase at least two wishlist items per child. Please gift wrap (no gift bags, please) and deliver the wishlist items to the Missions office by December 17.

New - And His Name Shall Be Call-ed: In Dr. Howell's Advent series, we will explore and sing together in worship Isaiah's prophecy of the fabulous name of the one Israel longed for, the one whose coming we celebrate and still long for: God with us, Emmanuel, who'll be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace. If you aren't already signed up for Dr. Howell's biweekly emails, click [here](#) to sign up. And be part of our four worship services, one on each pair of these names, in person or [online](#)!

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.

Young Adults Meet, December 4, 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.

Last Chance to 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.

Family Movie Night, December 7, 5:30-6:45 p.m.: Your family is invited to join us for a screening of *A Charlie Brown Christmas*. The Ben & Jerry's hot chocolate cart will also be onsite. Learn more and RSVP on [our website](#). Email Leslie Lowery at llovery@mpumc.org with questions.

Sole Friends, December 9, 9 a.m., McAlpine Greenway: Join us to step out in nature and explore the beauty of God's creation together. All fitness levels are welcome! Click [here](#) for more information and to register. Email Parish Nurse Lauren Smith at lsmith@mpumc.org with any questions.

Festival of the Crèche, December 10, 8 a.m.-1 p.m. and 3-5 p.m.: Come stroll through the lobby of Jubilee Hall where church members' personal nativity sets will be on display for you to admire while enjoying a cup of coffee or hot cider.

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.

Service of Hope and Consolation, 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.

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

Advent Labyrinth, now-December 21, 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. Email Rev. Taylor Pryde Barefoot at tbarefoot@mpumc.org for more details.

Worship with Us on December 24: Join us for morning worship as we 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

Join us for one of our **Christmas Eve** services celebrating the joy of the season and the birth of our Lord! We will have multiple opportunities to worship.

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

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

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

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

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

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

Maybe I'm Amazed Podcast: In October, Dr. Howell and Dr. Mark Holland, co-founder and executive director of advocacy group Mainstream UMC, talked about where the United Methodist Church is right now, what is coming up at General Conference in May, when our future will be decided, what's at stake, and how we can be involved. Click [here](#) to listen and subscribe.

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](#).

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.

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

OUR PASTORS

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Rev. Bill Roth, Pastor of Congregational Care

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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

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