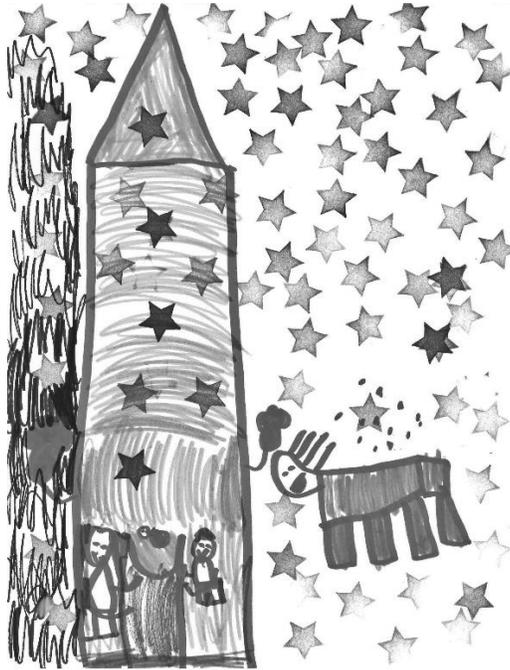


Myers Park
United Methodist Church



The Star Shooter, Howell Wiley, Age 6

A Service of Christian Worship

December 2, 2018

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

First Sunday Of Advent

WE GATHER

Gathering Music

Greensleeves

arr. Cathy Moglebust

Welcome

Please pass the hospitality pads at this time.

Passing of the Peace

Chiming of the Holy Trinity

Opening Voluntary

Angels We Have Heard On High

arr. Linda Lamb

Advent Chorus

A Candle Is Burning

AWAY IN A MANGER

**A candle is burning, a candle of Peace;
A candle to signal that conflict must cease.
For Jesus is coming to show us the way;
A message of Peace humbly laid in the hay.**

Lighting of the Advent Candle

Children of God, have you heard? Do you see?

Our ears are listening. Our eyes are open.

Children of God, whom do you seek?

We seek the One who is our hope.

Our redemption! Our Savior! God-with-us!

With hope, we light this candle. With hope, we await our God.

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

O Come, O Come, Emmanuel

VENI 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 you, O Israel.

**O come, O 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 you, 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 you, 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 you, O Israel.

† **The Creed No. 881**

The Apostles' Creed

† **Gloria Patri No. 238 (refrain)**

GLORIA

**Gloria, in excelsis Deo!
Gloria, in excelsis Deo!**

Prayer of Confession

O promised Christ:

**We are a world at war;
our peace depends on your coming.**

**We are a sinful people;
our pardon depends on your coming.**

**We are full of good intentions
but weak at keeping promises;
our only hope of doing God's will
is that you should come and help us do it.**

**Lord Christ, Word made flesh,
our world waits for your peace,
for your pardon, and for your grace.**

Even so: Come, Lord Jesus. 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.**

The Sacrament of Holy Baptism (9:45)

Congregational Response (9:45)

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.**

WE HEAR AND RESPOND TO THE WORD

Hymn of Preparation No. 117 (Stanza 1 and 6)

O God, Our Help in Ages Past

ST. ANNE

**O God, our help in ages past,
our hope for years to come,
our shelter from the stormy blast,
and our eternal home!**

**O God, our help in ages past,
our hope for years to come,
be thou our guide while life shall last,
and our eternal home.**

The Old Testament Reading

Malachi 3:1-4

† Gospel Reading

Luke 21:25-28

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

Offertory

Come, Thou Long Expected Jesus

Taylor Davis

Come, thou long expected Jesus, born to set thy people free;
from our fears and sins release us; let us find our rest in thee.
Israel's strength and consolation, hope of all the earth thou art,
dear desire of every nation, joy of every longing heart.

Born thy people to deliver, born a child, and yet a king;
born to reign in us forever, now thy gracious kingdom bring.
By thine own eternal Spirit rule in all our hearts alone;
by thine all sufficient merit, raise us to thy glorious throne.

† **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. 368**

My Hope Is Built

THE SOLID ROCK

† **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**

Prelude on FRENCH CAROL

Gordon Young

† Stand as you are able

WORSHIP LEADERS



PREACHER

Dr. James C. Howell, Senior Pastor



LITURGISTS

Rev. Uiyeon Kim, Pastor of Discipleship

Rev. Nathan Arledge, Pastor of Missions and Community Engagement



LAY READER

Mary Katherine Vass (8:30), John Snyder (9:45), Kevan Smith (11:00)



MUSICIANS

James R. Jones, Director of Music and Organist

Evan Wesley Currie, Music Associate and Organist

Brian Childers, Director of Music for Children and Youth

Bellissimo

Youth Handbell Ensemble

Small Ensemble (8:30)

Chancel Choir (9:45, 11:00)



ADVENT WREATH CANDLELIGHTERS

David, Claire, Caroline & William Kuck (8:30)

Chris, Katie, Anna & Reynolds Lundin (9:45)

John, Jennifer, John, Chappell & Tom Harmeling (11:00)



GIFT BLESSING

Abby Rucker, Cameron Vigor (8:30)

Madison Flouhouse, Mary Blake Gillis (9:45)

Virginia Gaston, Dylan Reikowski (11:00)



CRUCIFERS

Rachel Bellamy (8:30), Jackson Willis (9:45), Andrew Wilks (11:00)



ACOLYTES

Jack Bellamy and Jack Cole (8:30)

Elizabeth Willis and Tucker Millinix (9:45)

Quin Sauls and Lucy Sauls (11:00)



BIBLE CARRIERS

Harrison Burge (8:30), Will Ricketts (9:45), William Reynolds (11:00)

TODAY AT MYERS PARK UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

WELCOME! We are thankful you are here worshiping with us. Check out the *Guest Information* bookcases in the narthex gathering space outside the Sanctuary or drop by the Welcome Center in the lobby of the Parish Life Building for resources so you can get to know us better. New guests are invited to pick up a complimentary drink tumbler in the Sanctuary narthex. Our *Discover Myers Park* class is designed to welcome you and help get you connected as we share a snapshot of our history and ministries. The informal gathering meets at 10:45 a.m. Sunday, January 20, in Francis Chapel. Details: Rev. Uiyeon Kim at 704-295-4840 or UKim@mpumc.org.

2018 ADVENT WORSHIP THEME: God WITH us The heart of the Gospel is that God is with us. It's Jesus' nickname, Emmanuel. We are never alone. We are never isolated from God or God's mercy. We can rest in that reality and embrace our own humanity because God did that very thing. Together this Advent season, we are exploring the truth that God is WITH us, we are WITH God, and so we are to be WITH our neighbors. This week's focus: WITH hope.

BLESSING OF THE GIFTS Today, on the first Sunday in Advent, we bless the backpacks and school supplies that church members filled for the Salvation Army Christmas Bureau. The *fourth-grade Sunday School class*, led by their teachers – *Kirstin Ashford, Trina Cone, Collin Haglund, Susan Hoover, Beverley Shull, and Alison Surlles* – have written the prayer that they will offer during our worship services.

OUR YOUTH SAY THANKS! Youth Ministries says "Thanks!" to all who purchased Christmas trees, wreaths and garlands during their annual sale. Proceeds support local and world missions.

HOLY COMMUNION THIS MORNING Holy Communion is celebrated each Sunday at 9:30 a.m. in the memorial chapel behind the Sanctuary except when it is given in worship services.

THE SACRAMENT OF HOLY BAPTISM Receiving the sacrament of Baptism at the 9:45 a.m. service are *Knox and Jackson McGarrell*, sons of *Ashley and Scott McGarrell*.

CHRISTMAS CONCERTS TODAY!

The Music Ministries Christmas concerts are at 4:00 and 6:00 p.m. today at First United Methodist Church, 501 N. Tryon St. The celebration features the Chancel Choir, Women's Choir, Youth Choir, Junior Choir, Alleluia Choir, Myers Park Bells and Myers Park Strings. It's free. No ticket is needed. Shuttles run from the Parish Life portico entrance to the uptown church from 3:00 to 7:30 p.m. Free parking is also beside the uptown church.

KINDERMOURN SERVICE KinderMourn's annual Holiday Memorial Service at 2:00 p.m. today in the Sanctuary offers all who lost a child or other loved one a chance to light a candle and say their loved one's name out loud. Child care is provided. All are welcome.

DONATE FROM YOUR SMARTPHONE Myers Park United Methodist Church offers a mobile version of our online giving page at www.myersparkumc.org, making it easy for you to give anytime from your smartphone. Scan the image you see here each week in the Sunday bulletin using your phone's Quick Response (QR) code reader.

RIDE THE SUNDAY SHUTTLE The convenient Sunday shuttle bus service runs continually from 8:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. between the church and Myers Park Traditional at 2132 Radcliffe Avenue off Selwyn Avenue, so you don't have to hunt for a parking space.

SUPPORT FRANCIS CHAPEL LABYRINTH Francis Chapel is due to reopen by December 19. Installation of the gently used pipe organ is due to finished in early 2019. Once construction is complete, you will be able to walk the permanent labyrinth installed in the floor of Francis Chapel. You are invited to donate \$150 for a tile for the labyrinth. Donors' names will be recognized on a plaque in Francis Chapel. Brochure with order forms are on a display table outside Francis Chapel in the Parish Life lobby. Complete the form and return it with your check to Myers Park United Methodist Church (attention Saribeth Dozier) at 1501 Queens Road, Charlotte NC 28207. Checks should be made out to the church with *Labyrinth* in the memo line.

SERVING OTHERS...

JUBILEE STORE Help parents in Charlotte Family Housing create a special Christmas for their children. This year's store will be at St. John's Baptist Church on Hawthorne Lane, more convenient for families. Don't forget to return your gift – they're due back **today** in the Parish Life lobby. Better yet, sign up to serve with families as a shopping assistant, gift wrapper, greeter or child care worker **next weekend**, Saturday and Sunday, December 8-9. Learn more and sign up at www.myersparkumc.org/jubilee-store.

HOME FOR CHRISTMAS BOOK STUDY Join Revs. Nathan Arledge and Uiyeon Kim on the first three Mondays of December to discuss *Home For Christmas: Tales of Hope and Second Chances*. Contact Nancy Holmes at nholmes@mpumc.org to reserve a book. Classes will be from 11:00 a.m. to noon December 3, 10 and 17, in Room 106 of the Parish Life Building. To reserve child care, contact Lisa Ross-Smit at LRSmit@mpumc.org.

COFFEE WITH SEDGEFIELD FAMILIES Join current parents and church members involved with Sedgefield Middle School to talk about their experiences with the school and ongoing plans supporting the school reassignment transition at **9:45 a.m. today in Jubilee Hall**. Details: Laura Murdock at laurakmurdock@gmail.com.

COLOR OF LAW: COMMUNITY BOOK DISCUSSION Three panelists will lead a community discussion on *The Color of Law* by Richard Rothstein at 7:00 p.m. Monday December 3, in Jubilee Hall, focusing on how federal and state policies, federal agencies and government officials impact affordable housing. Two community members will discuss how they've been impacted. Learn more at www.coloroflawclt.com.

LUMBERTON DISASTER RECOVERY Join a team going to Lumberton in eastern North Carolina December 7-9 to help those affected by recent hurricanes. Come for all or part of the time. To learn more, reach Rick Gaskins at gaskinsrichard@gmail.com or visit www.myersparkumc.org/disaster-recovery-december-2019.

ROOM IN THE INN Each Thursday and Friday night from December 1 to March 31, we open our church doors to provide warm meals, beds and fellowship for homeless neighbors. We will host more than 400 neighbors. There are many opportunities for individuals, families and groups to participate, such as driving the van, preparing and serving a meal, and staying overnight. To serve, reach Greg Wells at 704-338-4662 or greg@willisengineers.com.

COLLEGE MEXICO MISSION Travel with our team of college students to Reynosa, Mexico, May 26 to June 1 to work alongside Faith Ministries to build lifelong friendships while constructing a home with a family plus other activities. Registration at www.myersparkumc.org/college-mexico.

COSTA RICA MISSION Register to join our mission team traveling over Spring Break, April 13-20, 2019. Cost is \$1,300 per person. Families (children ages eight and up) are especially welcome. Our mission will be to build relationships in Costa Rica while working alongside friends at the Costa Rica Mission Project. Visit www.myersparkumc.org/costarica.

ZOE KENYA MISSION Sign up for one of our two 2019 ZOE Kenya mission trips! Join a mission team traveling February 19-29 (**deadline to register is December 19**) and July 16-25, 2019, to Maua, Kenya. Cost will be \$2,350 depending on airfare at time of registration. Check www.myersparkumc.org/zoe for how to register.

WHY GIVE TO JUBILEE PLUS!? Funds collected through our outreach fund help support partners like **Beds for Kids**, which provides furniture and bedding so children can have a good night's rest. Give to *Jubilee Plus!* year-round at www.myersparkumc.org/jubileeplus or write a check to the church with *Jubilee Plus!* in the memo line, put it in the offering plate or mail it to the church.

WE ARE THE BODY OF CHRIST...

WIRED 4 MINISTRY Learn how God has wired you to make a difference through your spiritual gifts, heart, abilities, personality and experiences. Take a *Wired 4 Ministry* class from 6:30 to 9:00 p.m. Tuesday, December 4. Registration and preclass exercises are required. Reach Carol Tate at 704-295-4822 or ctate@mpumc.org.

RESERVE A POINSETTIA Want to decorate the church in memory or honor of a loved one? Reserve a poinsettia for \$14 at www.myersparkumc.org. Deadline is Thursday, December 6, to be listed in worship bulletins for the *Lessons And Carols* services on Sunday, December 16. Questions? Reach Peg Broughton at peg@mpumc.org.

RESERVE A WREATH Another way to decorate the church in memory or honor of a loved one: Reserve a wreath for an exterior door for \$30 or inside the Sanctuary for \$50. Order at www.myersparkumc.org. Deadline is Thursday, December 6, for listing in *Lessons And Carols*.

MAKE A DIFFERENCE *Make A Difference* is the theme of our 2019 campaign to support the work of the church in the world. Please return as soon as you are able your Estimate of Giving card to support the 2019 operating budget and *Jubilee Plus!* fund for outreach. You can also make an estimate of giving, or gift, at www.myersparkumc.org. Look online and to *the Cornerstone* church newsletter for stories of how the church makes a difference in the lives of members and builds relationships with people and communities around the world.

ADVENT DEVOTIONAL The children's Advent devotional book, *Emmanuel, God With Us*, is available throughout the church. One per family, please.

UMAR ARTS HOLIDAY SALE The popular holiday arts sale hosted by the agency that serves the intellectually and developmentally disabled is 10:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. Friday, December 7, outside Jubilee Hall. Shop canvases, pottery, plants, quilts, jewelry, scarves and more, all handmade by UMAR artists.

KNEELING AT THE MANGER Join us in Jubilee Hall at 4:00 p.m. Sunday, December 9, for Kneeling At The Manger as the narrator reads the story of Christ's births. Kids, come dressed as your favorite Nativity character.

SERVICE OF HOPE AND CONSOLATION Our annual Service of Hope and Consolation for those suffering a loss or challenge at the holidays is at 6:30 p.m. Monday, December 10, in the Sanctuary.

MORAVIAN LOVE FEAST Hosted by our church youth, the Moravian Love Feast at 6:00 p.m. Sunday, December 16, in the Sanctuary will feature buns, spiced tea, beeswax candles and music.

THE ADVENT CALENDAR Look to *the Cornerstone* and www.myersparkumc.org for the complete calendar of Advent activities and services, including details on our slightly revised **Christmas Eve schedule of services: Noon, 2:00, 4:00, 6:00, 8:00 and 11:00 p.m.**

END OF YEAR GIVING Your financial contribution to the church must be received by the church or postmarked by December 31, 2018. Checks can be placed in the Sunday offering plate, mailed to 1501 Queens Road, Charlotte, NC 28207 or dropped off at the church. The church will close at 1:00 p.m. Monday, December 31. You can also make a gift at www.myersparkumc.org/give.

GROWING IN FAITH...

WEDNESDAY BIBLE STUDY: CHRISTMAS STORIES

Dr. Howell leads the weekly Bible study on *Familiar Bible Passages: A Closer Look* Wednesdays at 11:00 a.m. and 7:00 p.m. in Room 108 of the Parish Life Building. Dr. Howell will lead us in a closer look at *Christmas Stories In The Bible* at 11:00 a.m. and 7:00 p.m. Wednesday, December 5 and 12, in Room 108 of the Parish Life Building. Details: james@mpumc.org.

Myers Park United Methodist Church
1501 Queens Road Charlotte, NC 28207
James C. Howell, Senior Minister
704-376-8584 www.mpumc.org

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