

Myers Park
United Methodist Church



Mary and Baby Jesus, Kennedy Clutter, age 9

A Service of Christian Worship

December 23, 2018

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

Fourth Sunday of Advent

WE GATHER

Welcome

Please pass the hospitality pads at this time.

Passing of the Peace

Chiming of the Holy Trinity

Opening Voluntary

Bring a Torch, Jeannette, Isabella

arr. Howard Helvey

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?
We have heard God's promises. We have seen God's love.
Children of God, what will you do?
We will walk in the light. We will look for God.
God is here, between and within us.
As we light this candle, God is with us in the waiting.**

† Processional Hymn No. 196

Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus

HYFRYDOL

† The Creed No. 881

The Apostles' Creed

† Gloria Patri No. 238 (refrain)

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

GLORIA

Prayer of Confession

**Emmanuel, God-with-us,
How many times have you come to us unwelcomed?
How often have you visited,
yet we have been too busy to notice;
spoken, yet we have been too full of ourselves?
Change all our insensitive habits
and shape our hearts and lives to receive you.
Make us so sensitive to your presence
in the ups and downs of each ordinary day,
that we rejoice in you in each new moment.
For your love's sake, 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 (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.**

WE HEAR AND RESPOND TO THE WORD

The Old Testament Reading

Micah 5:2-5

† Gospel Reading

Matthew 1:18-25

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

Keep Your Lamps (9:45, 11:00)

André Thomas

Keep your lamps trimmed and burning, the time is drawing nigh.

Children don't get weary 'til your work is done.

Christian journey soon be over, the time is drawing nigh.

† **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. 220**

Angels from the Realms of Glory

REGENT SQUARE

† **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**

Grand jeu, et en duo from Noëls pour orgue

Louis-Claude D'Aquin

† Stand as you are able

WORSHIP LEADERS



PREACHER

Dr. James C. Howell, Senior Pastor



LITURGISTS

Rev. Uiyeon Kim, Pastor of Discipleship
Rev. Barbara Barden, Pastor of Lay Involvement



LAY READER

Doug Caldwell (8:30), Aimee Williams (9:45), Lindsay Jones (11:00)



MUSICIANS

James R. Jones, Director of Music and Organist
Evan Wesley Currie, Music Associate and Organist
Small Ensemble (8:30)
Chancel Choir (9:45, 11:00)



ADVENT WREATH CANDLELIGHTERS

Sarah Miller and Pedro Salazar (8:30)
Nick, Jamie, Penelope, Sybil, and Brett Ashley Allmon (9:45)
Hillary, Lily, Charley, and Briggs Fulghum (11:00)



GIFT BLESSING

Caroline King, Luke Yett (8:30)
Wyatt McCoy, Mae Louise Wiley (9:45)
Julia Greene, Ashton Peterson (11:00)



CRUCIFERS

Matthew Buie (8:30), Gracie Deel (9:45), McLean Gaston (11:00)



ACOLYTES

Charlie McLaurin and Miloree McLaurin (8:30)
Eva Stuart Deel and Andrew Callahan (9:45)
Myers Gaston and Larson Shull (11:00)



BIBLE CARRIERS

David Rankin (8:30), Lucy Reynolds (9:45), Ben Long (11:00)

TODAY AT MYERS PARK
UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

WELCOME! 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. 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 next 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 us.

ADVENT PRAYER ROOM Before the season ends, find a few minutes to spend in the Advent Prayer Room, located in the parlor in the Parish Life lobby. It is a quiet, creative space that has been prepared for you. You will find invitations to prayer for all ages, from visual meditation to watercolor painting. Come and rest, pray, create, encounter. It is open whenever the church is open through Sunday, December 30.

BLESSING OF THE GIFTS Today, we thank Sunday School teachers, *Christy and Braden Barlow, Ashley Gilbert, Alan and Pamela Jenkins, Jeannette McCoy and Laura Walger*. who wrote the prayer we use to bless the gifts for the Angel Tree ministry, for local children whose parents are incarcerated.

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 11:00 a.m. service are *Finley Marie Brookes*, daughter of *Rachel and Craig Brookes*; and *Brooks William Gay*, son of *Liz and Kenan Gay*.

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. The shuttle will not run on Christmas Eve (a Monday).

WE ARE THE BODY OF CHRIST...

CHURCH CLOSED TUESDAY, WEDNESDAY The church will be closed December 25-26. Those needing help can call 704-376-8584 and follow the prompts to the pastor on call.

DECEMBER 30 WORSHIP SCHEDULE On Sunday, December 30, we will have blended services in the Sanctuary at 8:45, 9:45 and 11:00 a.m. only. No Sunday School for children. Worship care is available for children eight weeks old through those not yet in kindergarten.

PRESCHOOL OPEN HOUSE The Children's Circle church preschool will host open houses for prospective families at 10:00 a.m. Tuesday, January 8, and Thursday, January 10, in Room 108 of the Parish Life Building. A school tour is included. TCC will also offer a Transitional Kindergarten Information Session at 11:00 a.m. Thursday, January 10, in Room 107. Enrollment deadline is February 1 for all families, returning and new. Children must be 12 months by August 31 to enroll in the youngest class. The half-day preschool is for ages one to five. Details: Patty Matthews at 704-376-5208 or pmatthews@mpumc.org.

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.

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.

CHRISTMAS EVE SCHEDULE

Jubilee Hall, Noon. A service of music and carols with a Jazz twist.
Sanctuary, 2:00 p.m. Carols, candlelight and a children's Nativity tableau.
Jubilee Hall, 4:00 p.m. Casual, contemporary, acoustic, with Holy Communion.
Sanctuary, 6:00 p.m. Carols, candlelight and children's Nativity tableau.
Sanctuary, 8:00 p.m. Choir, carols, candlelight, with Holy Communion.
Sanctuary, 11:00 p.m. Choir, carols, candlelight, with Holy Communion.

MORE ABOUT CHRISTMAS EVE

There is no child care on Christmas Eve. The 6:00, 8:00 and 11:00 p.m. services will be livestreamed at www.myersparkumc.org. The Christmas Eve offering will go to our local school partners, and mission partner ZOE, which empowers vulnerable children in Kenya. Write a check to the church with *Christmas Eve offering* in the memo line. Turn to www.myersparkumc.org or *the Cornerstone* newsletter for details. Or call 704-376-8584.

HOW TO COME TO CHURCH ON CHRISTMAS EVE

When you come to worship tomorrow, do so in a prayerful, hospitable manner. Show respect for others. Notice folks who look lost or are struggling. Care for a stranger who appears confused, or hurting. Yield a seat to another person. Be gracious in the parking lot. Park in legal spaces, not someone's driveway. Be friendly to a stranger. How we come to adore the Christ child matters, as we want to do so in a way that will please Christ, and be helpful and honoring of others.

SUPPORT THE LABYRINTH Once Francis Chapel has reopened, you'll 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. Order forms are 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.

H.O.T. WEDNESDAY Our weekly meal and fellowship returns to Jubilee Hall on Wednesday, January 9.

DRIVE THE ALDERSGATE VAN The church needs van drivers to pick up and return folks to the Aldersgate retirement community on Sunday mornings. You'll pick up residents in time for 9:45 a.m. Sunday School and return after the 11:00 a.m. service. Reach Rev. Bill Roth at 704-295-4835 or broth@mpumc.org.

SERVING OTHERS...

ALTERNATIVE GIFT MARKET Give a gift that embodies the meaning of Christmas by supporting our Local and World Outreach partners. Shop online at www.myersparkumc.org/alternative-gift-market or in person at the table in the Parish Life lobby from **8:20 a.m. to 12:10 p.m. today**. Details: McCay Manwaring at mccay.manwaring@gmail.com.

HURRICANE FLORENCE RECOVERY On January 16-19, our church will send an Early Response Team (ERT) to do disaster recovery work in Rowland in eastern North Carolina. We will depart early in the morning on Wednesday, January 16, and return the evening of Saturday, January 19. We can accommodate any amount of time that you are available. Reach Rick Gaskins at gaskinsrichard@gmail.com as soon as possible to join us for all or some of the trip. For more, visit www.myersparkumc.org/disaster-recovery-2019.

DECEMBER COLLECTION: COATS FOR CRISIS ASSISTANCE Drop off new or gently used coats in the marked bin in the Parish Life lobby in December. Details: Roland Elliot at 704-551-7064.

ROOM IN THE INN Each Thursday and Friday night through March 31, we open our church doors to provide warm meals, beds and fellowship for homeless 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 704-609-4036 or greg@willisengineers.com.

COLLEGE MEXICO MISSION Need a life-changing gift for your mission-loving college student? Give them the gift of traveling with our team of college students to Reynosa, Mexico, May 26 to June 1 to work alongside Faith Ministries to build friendships while constructing a home with a family, plus more. Cost is \$750 including airfare. Register at www.myersparkumc.org/college-mexico.

COSTA RICA MISSION Sign up today! Join our mission team traveling over Spring Break, April 13-20, 2019. Cost is \$1,300 per person. The trip is great for families (children ages eight and up). 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.

GROWING IN FAITH...

LEARN ABOUT 'A WAY FORWARD'

We will host an opportunity for our congregation to receive information, ask questions and share our hopes regarding our denomination's February 2019 General Conference, which has been called to consider recommendations related to human sexuality and LGBTQ inclusion. At 6:30 p.m. Thursday, January 10, in Jubilee Hall, Dr. Howell, Will Barr and Kate Maynard will review the history of these issues, alternatives to be considered at General Conference, actions undertaken here thus far and questions from the congregation. An email – questions@mpumc.org – has been set up to receive your questions. You can use this at any time, including during the meeting. The session will be livestreamed. A recording will be posted at www.myersparkumc.org.

WEDNESDAY BIBLE STUDY ON BREAK Dr. Howell's weekly Bible study on *Familiar Bible Passages: A Closer Look* – held Wednesdays at 11:00 a.m. and 7:00 p.m. in Room 108– returns **January 9** as we look at *Moments In The Life Of Jesus, In The Gospel Of Luke*. Details: james@mpumc.org.

GOD AND SPORTS Dr. Howell will present a multimedia program on *God And Sports* at 6:45 p.m. Monday, January 7, in Jubilee Hall. The program will go for an hour, so everyone can make it home for the 8:00 p.m. start of the NCAA football championship. How do we think spiritually about competition and rivalries? What can sports teach us about church and God? Should NFL players take a knee during the National Anthem? Our Senior Pastor will explore those questions and talk about Jackie Robinson, Jesse Owens, and others.

STUDY NEW TESTAMENT LETTERS Plan to begin the new year with a fresh look at the 13 New Testament letters attributed to Paul. The study will meet from 9:30 to 11:00 a.m. Thursdays from January 10 to March 28 in Room 025 in the Snyder Building, led by church member Debby Wagner. Learn more and register through Realm or visit www.myersparkumc.org/small-groups.

FAITH GIRLS, GOD’S GUYS *Faith Girls* and *God’s Guys* return January 13 – weekly Bible studies for fifth-grade girls and boys meeting Sundays from 4:00 to 5:30 p.m. through March. *Faith Girls* meets in Room 240 in the Snyder Building, offering “tween girls” an opportunity to study, learn and make new friends. Reach Director of Children’s Ministries Amy Harriman at 704-295-4814 or aharriman@mpumc.org for more. *God’s Guys* meets in Room 239 in the Snyder Building. Church member Kenan Gay will help “tween boys” understand why God is important in everything they do. Reach Kenan at gay.kenan@gmail.com.

‘I’M STILL HERE’ At 7:00 p.m. Monday, January 14, in Jubilee Hall, Austin Channing Brown will explore how to be the church, and how we learn about ourselves and grow as we learn about and care for our community. She is the author of *I’m Still Here*. For more about her, visit www.austinchanning.com.

BEN WITHERINGTON TO SPEAK Bible scholar Dr. Ben Witherington, long a friend to our church, will speak on *A Singular Jesus In A Pluralistic Culture* at 7:00 p.m. Friday, January 25, in Jubilee Hall. All are invited to this free discussion and dessert reception, sponsored by Search Charlotte. RSVP and details: Davis Kuykendall at 704-591-9834 or charlotte@searchnational.org.

WOMEN’S RETREAT The 13th annual Women’s Retreat will be February 8-10, 2019, at Caraway Conference Center near Asheboro, N.C. Megan Argabrite, our Director of Worship and the Arts, invites us to *Encounter – The Everyday Art Of Worship*. Cost, other information and online registration is at www.myersparkumc.org/women. Scholarships are available. Reach Rev. Barbara Barden at 704-295-4813 or bbarden@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.