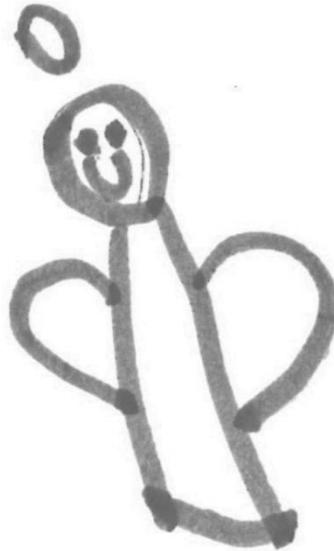


Myers Park
United Methodist Church



Gabriel Gave Mary a Message by Lily Sheehy, age 4

A Service of Christian Worship

December 9, 2018

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

First Sunday Of Advent

WE GATHER

Gathering Music

Trepak

arr. Cathy Moglebust

Welcome

Please pass the hospitality pads at this time.

Passing of the Peace

Chiming of the Holy Trinity

Introit

This is Christ the King

arr. Brian Childers

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 is coming to find us.

Open your eyes, what do you see?

We see God in our midst, bringing joy and justice.

Dream with God, and rest in his promise.

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

† Processional Hymn No. 196

Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus

HYFRYDOL

† The Creed No. 881

The Apostles' Creed

† Gloria Patri No. 238 (refrain)

GLORIA

Gloria, in excelsis Deo!

Gloria, in excelsis Deo!

Prayer of Confession

Almighty God,

Forgive us for the ways we have closed our eyes.

Forgive us,

for choosing not to see your image in those around us;

for being too busy to recognize your presence;

for accepting the brokenness of the world

because "that's just the way things are."

Shine your light, Lord.

Open our eyes and give us holy vision

to see the world and our neighbor as you do,

so that we may live into that vision.

In the name of Christ who changed our world, 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

Hymn of Preparation No. 451

Be Thou My Vision

SLANE

The Old Testament Reading

Zephaniah 3:14-20

† Gospel Reading

Luke 1:5-25, 57-80

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

Angels' Carol (8:30)

John Rutter

Have you heard the sound of the angel voices
ringing out so sweetly, ringing out so clear?
Have you seen the star shining out so brightly
as a sign from God that Christ the Lord is here?
Have you heard the news that they bring from heaven
to the humble shepherds who have waited long?

Gloria in excelsis Deo!

Hear the angels sing their joyful song.

He is come in peace in the winter's stillness,
like a gentle snowfall in the gentle night;
He is come in joy like the sun at morning
filling all the world with radiance and with light.
He is come in love as the child of Mary;
In a simple stable we have seen his birth:

Gloria in excelsis Deo!

Hear the angels singing 'Peace on earth'.

He will bring new light to a world in darkness,
like a bright star shining in the skies above;
He will bring new hope to the waiting nations
when he comes to reign in purity and love.
Let the earth rejoice at the Saviour's coming;
Let the heavens answer with the joyful morn:

Gloria in excelsis Deo!

Hear the angels singing 'Christ is born.'

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. 209**

Blessed Be the God of Israel

MERLE'S TUNE

† **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. Nancy Watson, Executive Pastor
Rev. Uiyeon Kim, Pastor of Discipleship



LAY READER

Jerry Mitchell (8:30), Alina MacNichol (9:45), Reid Weikel (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
Myers Park Bells
Kevin Proffit, tenor (8:30)
Chancel Choir (9:45, 11:00)



ADVENT WREATH CANDLELIGHTERS

Lynn and Jack Hankins (8:30)
Stephen Ministers from the Class of 2018 (9:45)
Nate, Melissa, Violet and Jack Jesse (11:00)



GIFT BLESSING

Emily Monk and Lilibet Toms (8:30)
Granger Albergotti and Kinsley Allen (9:45)
Will Coley and Jack Jesse (11:00)



CRUCIFERS

Jack Griffith (8:30), Alexandra Eliasek (9:45), Porter Kennedy (11:00)



ACOLYTES

Emerson Smith and Mack Sommerkamp (8:30)
Shelby Eliasek and Sadie Scott (9:45)
Jake Bell and Elizabeth Bell (11:00)



BIBLE CARRIERS

Nicholas Smith (8:30), Sallie Scott (9:45), Aubrey Weikel (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 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 vision.

BLESSING OF THE GIFTS Today, we bless the gifts provided for the Jubilee Store, helping Charlotte Family Housing provide parents with a joyful Christmas for their families. *The first-grade Sunday School classes, led by their teachers – Mollie Allen, Emma Evitts, Kristen Giordano, Caroline Griffin, Melissa Jesse, Kristy Monk, and Jenna and Brian Peede – have written the prayer that they will offer during our worship services.*

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 *Poppy Anne Mogensen*, daughter of *Laurel and Dan Mogensen*; and *Graham McGraw Sutton*, son of *Hailey and John Sutton*.

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

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.

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

WE ARE THE BODY OF CHRIST...

SERVICE OF HOPE AND CONSOLATION MONDAY 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.

MAKE A DIFFERENCE *Make A Difference* is the theme of our 2019 campaign to support the work of the church. 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* for more, including what making a difference means to church member Barbara Cribbs.

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

GOODNESS GRACIOUS!: The gift shop in the Parish Life lobby is open 10:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. Saturday, December 15 and 22, for your holiday shopping needs. Sales support outreach.

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.

SUPPORT THE LABYRINTH Francis Chapel is reopening soon. Once construction is complete, 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.

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 year-round 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 and December 16 and 23. Details: McCay Manwaring at mccay.manwaring@gmail.com.

DECEMBER COLLECTION: COATS FOR CRISIS ASSISTANCE Drop off new or very gently used coats in the marked bin in the Parish Life Building lobby throughout 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 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. Cost is \$750 including airfare. Register 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. 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.

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 second-mile outreach fund help support partners like **Faith Ministry**, which works in Reynosa Mexico to meet the needs of neighbors through spiritual growth, housing, community wellness, education and empowerment. 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.

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. No need to sign up, join us and bring a friend. 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 12, in Room 108 of the Parish Life Building. Details: james@mpumc.org.

GOD AND SPORTS Dr. Howell will present a multimedia program on *God And Sports* at 7:00 p.m. Monday, January 7, in Jubilee Hall. 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, Babe Ruth and other sports figures.

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.

YOUTH SUMMER MISSION TRIPS You can register now for youth summer mission trips to Mountain T.O.P. in Tennessee, Chicago, Mexico and Kenya. Visit www.mpumcyouth.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.