

# Myers Park United Methodist Church



*The Path to Jesus, Lily Fulghum, age 8*

## **A Service of Christian Worship**

December 24, 2020

8:00 and 11:00 p.m.

## **Christmas Eve**

### **Gathering Music**

### **Lighting of the Christ Candle**

*Please join in our responsive reading as we light the Christ Candle.*

The grace of God has appeared among us!

**We see anew the light of God's love!**

Sing to our God a joyous new song.

**Sing to God, all the nations on earth.**

Let the heavens be glad, and the earth rejoice!

**Glory to God in the highest, and peace on earth to his people!**

### **Welcome**

† Carol No. 234 (stanzas 1, 2, 3, 6)

**O Come, All Ye Faithful**

ADESTE FIDELES

**O come all ye faithful, joyful and triumphant,  
O come ye, O come ye, to Bethlehem.  
Come and behold him, born the King of angels;**

***Refrain:* O come let us adore him,  
O come let us adore him,  
O come let us adore him, Christ the Lord.**

**True God of true God, Light from Light Eternal,  
Lo, he shuns not the Virgin's womb;  
Son of the Father, begotten, not created; (*Refrain*)**

**Sing, choirs of angels, sing in exultation;  
O sing, all ye citizens of heaven above!  
Glory to God, all glory in the highest; (*Refrain*)**

**Yea, Lord, we greet thee, born this happy morning,  
Jesus, to thee be all glory given.  
Word of the Father, now in flesh appearing: (*Refrain*)**

### Opening Prayer

**O God our Father, you have brought us again to the glad season  
when we celebrate the birth of your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.  
Grant that his Spirit may be born anew in our hearts this night,  
and that we may joyfully welcome him to reign over us.  
Open our ears that we may hear again the angelic chorus of old.  
Open our lips that we, too, may sing with uplifted hearts:  
Glory to God in the highest, and on earth, peace, goodwill toward all!  
Through Jesus Christ our Lord, Amen.**

### Old Testament Reading

Isaiah 9:2-7

### Anthem

Lully, Lulla, Lullay

Philip Stopford

Lully, lulla, lullay, by, by thou little tiny Child,  
O sisters too how may we do  
For to preserve this day?  
This poor youngling for whom we sing  
By, by, lully, lullay.

Herod, the king, in his raging,  
Charged he hath this day.  
His men of might in his own sight  
All young children to slay.

That woe is me, poor Child for Thee,  
And ever morn and day.  
For Thy parting neither say nor sing,  
By, by lully, lullay.

† **Gospel Reading**

Luke 2:1-20

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

People: **Thanks be to God.**

**Homily**

† **The Great Thanksgiving**

**The Sacrament of Holy Communion**

**Communion Music**

O Holy Night

Adolphe Adam

**Prayer After Communion**

**O God of love, you have brought us together  
and blessed us with the gift of your Son.  
Open our eyes to the light of Christ,  
which glows in the darkness of a world engulfed in apathy, pain and loss.  
In your presence, the shadows are erased,  
our tears are dried, and our brokenness is healed by your love.  
Speak to us now that we may hear the good news of your salvation.  
Grant peace to your children all over the world this night,  
and let us sing now with the angels, “Christ the Savior is born!”  
Amen.**

† **Carol No. 239**

Silent Night, Holy Night

STILLE NACHT

**Silent night, holy night, all is calm, all is bright  
round yon virgin mother and child.  
Holy infant, so tender and mild,  
sleep in heavenly peace, sleep in heavenly peace.**

**Silent night, holy night, shepherds quake at the sight;  
glories stream from heaven afar,  
heavenly hosts sing alleluia!**

**Christ the Savior is born, Christ the Savior is born.**

**Silent night, holy night, Son of God, love's pure light;  
radiant beams from thy holy face  
with the dawn of redeeming grace,  
Jesus, Lord, at thy birth, Jesus, Lord, at thy birth.**

**Silent night, holy night, wondrous star, lend thy light;  
with the angels let us sing, Alleluia to our King;  
Christ the Savior is born, Christ the Savior is born!**

† **Benediction**

† **Carol No. 246 (stanzas 1 and 4)**

Joy to the World

ANTIOCH

**Joy to the world, the Lord is come!  
Let earth receive her King;  
let every heart prepare him room,  
and heaven and nature sing, and heaven and nature sing,  
and heaven, and heaven, and nature sing.**

**He rules the world with truth and grace,  
and makes the nations prove  
the glories of his righteousness, and wonders of his love,  
and wonders of his love, and wonders, wonders of his love.**

† **Closing Voluntary**

*Carillon Sortie*

Henri Mulet

# WORSHIP LEADERS



## PREACHER AND CELEBRANT

Dr. James C. Howell, Senior Pastor



## LITURGIST

Rev. Jessica Dayson, Pastor for Young Adults and Lay Involvement



## MUSICIANS

Evan Wesley Currie, Music Associate and Organist  
Brian Childers, Director of Music for Children, Youth, and Handbells  
Dr. Jennifer Hough, Church in the Round Music Director  
Zachary Tarlton, Church in the Round Music Associate  
Church in the Round Worship Leaders  
Small ensemble



## CHRIST CANDLE LIGHTERS

Rob, Jennifer, Carson, Robert, and Hank Ford

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## *Welcome to*

## *Myers Park United Methodist Church*

**Welcome!** We are thankful you are here worshiping with us on this special day. We invite you to register your attendance with us today:

<https://form.jotform.com/201695904497164>

This year's **Christmas Eve Offering** is for our ministry partners at **Marie G. Davis** and **Zoe Empowers**. Your faithful offering will support generational transformation for our neighbors locally and globally. To make your gift, visit [www.myersparkumc.org/give](http://www.myersparkumc.org/give) and select **Holy Days Offering** from the Fund drop-down menu or mail a check with **Holy Days Offering** in the memo line to our business office at 1501 Queens Road, Charlotte, NC 28207.

**Church Closed for the Holidays:** The church offices will be closed on December 24, 25, 28, and January 1. Those needing help on these days can call 704-376-8584 and follow the prompts to the pastor on call.

**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 for Young Adults & Lay Involvement**  
jdayson@mpumc.org 704-295-4813

**Rev. 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, Executive Pastor**  
nwatson@mpumc.org 704-295-4823

### **TALK WITH A PASTOR**

A pastor on staff is 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.

***Myers Park United Methodist Church Mission Statement:***  
*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