

# GLENN MEMORIAL

UNITED METHODIST CHURCH



## ■ The Worship of God

DECEMBER 17, 2023 | 11:00 A.M.

THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT

The photo is our Advent Wreath in the Little Chapel, taken by our communications director.



### LET US KNOW YOU'RE HERE

Register your attendance online, using the QR code, or in the attendance pad at the end of the pew.

Hearing devices, pew cushions, and Children's Worship Kits are available from an usher.

**A new sound system for the Sanctuary is currently in the works!** In the meantime, for optimal sound, sit a few rows back (rather than the first rows of pews) and not under the balcony.

### CHILDCARE

Childcare is available throughout the service in the Nursery (room 200, Church School Building), Two's & Three's Room (room 206), and on the Playground (entrance next to room 206), or Pre-K/Kinder Room (room 304).

Parents/guardians, please escort your children & sign in with our Childcare Staff.

A Comfort Room & restroom is available downstairs at the back of the Sanctuary.

Additional restrooms available downstairs at the front of the Sanctuary.

### GLENN CHURCH WELCOMES YOU

Glenn Memorial United Methodist Church is committed to loving God and loving neighbor with our whole selves – heart, mind, soul, and strength. As Jesus loved those around him, we believe that all persons are of sacred worth and dignity as part of God's creation. We welcome all persons into the full life and ministry of our congregation, regardless of race, culture, ethnicity, age, sexual orientation, gender identity, family or socioeconomic status, education, politics, physical or mental ability, or faith history.



### GLENN CHURCH & RECONCILING MINISTRIES

Glenn Memorial UMC has been a proud affiliate of Reconciling Ministries Network since 2014, and welcomes and affirms all LGBTQ+ persons.



### YOUR GIFTS SUPPORT GLENN

**Your gifts directly support the ministries of Glenn.** Scan the QR code or visit [www.glennumc.org/give](http://www.glennumc.org/give) to donate securely online.



## ■ Welcoming All

*\*You are invited to rise in either body or spirit.*

WORDS OF WELCOME

The Rev. Mark Westmoreland

OPENING VOLUNTARY

**Rorate Caeli**

Melissa Dunphy (b. 1980)

Dr. Melissa Dunphy is an Australian-American composer based in Philadelphia. While she is known for larger scale works, such as opera and chamber music, Dunphy has written a simple, gentle setting of the chant known as the Advent Prose (“Drop down ye heavens from above, And let the skies pour down righteousness...”) for the quieter sounds of the organ. You will hear the chant tune shared and imitated between two voices in the hands, while the pedal provides a soft accompaniment.

\*OPENING PRAYER

**ALL: Lord of Love and Light, shine through our darkness, bringing us hope. Open our hearts for the journey, our eyes for the light, our spirits for the peace which you bring. Fill our mouths with laughter and speech with shouts of joy that we shall reveal the love with which you surround us. We offer this prayer in the name of the One who is coming into the world bringing your hope, love, peace, and joy, Jesus Christ. Amen.**

\*PROCESSIONAL HYMN UMH #202

**People Look East**

BESANÇON

*All children are invited to come up to the chancel area during the last verse.*

CHILDREN’S TIME

The Rev. Susan Pinson

## ADVENT CANDLE LIGHTING

Jay Horton, Diane Bryant, and Jimmy Moor,  
Members of the Racial Justice Caucus  
and Draw the Circle Wide Committee

One: When God's people were surrounded by hardship, suffering, and grief, Isaiah proclaimed, "The spirit of the Lord God is upon me, because the Lord has anointed me; he has sent me to bring good news to the oppressed, to bind up the brokenhearted, to proclaim liberty to the captives, and release to the prisoners; to proclaim the year of the Lord's favor, and the day of vengeance of our God; to comfort all who mourn; to provide for those who mourn in Zion—to give them a garland instead of ashes, the oil of gladness instead of mourning, the mantle of praise instead of a faint spirit." We come today as people who are also surrounded by suffering and grief. And yet, the Spirit hovers among us, tending and anointing, inspiring freedom where there is captivity, declaring blessing in places the world has cursed, and igniting fierce joy where mourning and heartache prevail.

**ALL: We wait as people who experience hardship and pain, yet we are called to witness to the persistent joy that sustains our life as God's people.**

One: We light these candles as signs of our shocking hope, just peace, and fierce joy. May our lives shine with the fierce, tenacious joy of the Light who lives in our hearts as we wait and work for the coming of God's kingdom on earth as it is in heaven. Amen.



I've got the joy of God in me, I've got the joy of God in me, I've got the  
Spi-rit of the Son of God, I've got the joy of God in me.

\*THE PASSING OF THE PEACE

## ■ We Hear God's Word

\*THE GOSPEL LESSON

**Luke 1:46b-55**

Ann Rushing

"My soul magnifies the Lord, <sup>47</sup> and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior, <sup>48</sup> for he has looked with favor on the lowliness of his servant. Surely, from now on all generations will call me blessed; <sup>49</sup> for the Mighty One has done great things for me, and holy is his name. <sup>50</sup> His mercy is for those who fear him from generation to generation. <sup>51</sup> He has shown strength with his arm; he has scattered the proud in the thoughts of their hearts. <sup>52</sup> He has brought down the powerful from their thrones, and lifted up the lowly; <sup>53</sup> he has filled the hungry with good things, and sent the rich away empty. <sup>54</sup> He has helped his servant Israel, in remembrance of his mercy, <sup>55</sup> according to the promise he made to our ancestors, to Abraham and to his descendants forever."

One: May God bless the reading of the Word.

**ALL: Thanks be to God.**

## GRADUAL

### A Hymn to the Virgin

Benjamin Britten (1913-76)  
Sylvia Ware, Sara McKlin, Ameya Gangal,  
and Michael Dauterman, solo quartet

Of one that is so fair and bright, *Velut maris stella* [as is the star of the sea],  
Brighter than the day is light, *Parens et puella* [mother and maiden]:  
I cry to thee, thou see to me, Lady, pray thy Son for me,  
*Tam pia* [so tender], That I may come to thee. *Maria!*  
All this world was forlorn, *Eva peccatrice* [Eve having been a sinner],  
Till our Lord was y-born, *De te genetrice* [of you, his mother].  
With *ave* [hail] it went away, Darkest night, and comes the day  
*Salutis* [of salvation]; The well springeth out of thee, *Virtutis* [of virtue].  
Lady, flower of everything, *Rosa sine spina* [thornless rose],  
Thou bare Jesu, Heaven's King, *Gratia divina* [by divine grace]:  
Of all thou bearest the prize, Lady, queen of paradise,  
*Electa* [chosen], Maid mild, mother *es Effecta, Effecta* [you are fulfilled].  
– Anonymous, 14th century

## SERMON

Rev. Westmoreland

### Advent's Heaven (and Earth) Quake

## ■ We Respond

\*HYMN UMH #200

Tell Out My Soul

WOODLANDS

\*AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

**ALL: We believe that God has come to us; that God brought us into being, that God gave us breath and purpose, that we have been blessed to be a blessing to others, that we have fallen short of this commandment but that God has loved us despite our brokenness.**

**We believe that God is coming to us; that God is not happy to leave us alone, that this God will come to us as a particular human being, that God will be made known to us in flesh and bone like ours, that Mary will soon give birth and Joseph will soon clap his hands in joy, that Jesus Christ will be born and our salvation made complete.**

**We believe that God will come to us; that God will have the final word and that Word will be good, that this God will give us the presence of the Spirit to continue our work, that we are called to be disciples to all the corners of the earth, that the day is coming when tears and pain will be no more, and all will gather at the Table to sing an endless and perfect "Alleluia!"**

–Written by Stephen M. Fearing

**ALL:** 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

**Magnificat in B-flat**

Howard Helvey (b. 1968)

*The text is the Song of Mary, as found in today's Gospel reading.*

## \*DOXOLOGY

**Praise God, From Whom All Blessings Flow**

VENI EMMANUEL

Praise God, from whom all bless - ings flow. Praise God, all crea-tures here— be- low. Praise  
 God, a-bove ye heav - n'ly hosts. Praise Fa-ther, Son, and Ho - ly Ghost. Re-  
 (Cre - a - tor, Christ, and Ho - ly Ghost.)  
 joice! Re-joice! E - man - u - el shall come to thee, O Is - ra - el!

## ■ We Go Forth

## \*CLOSING HYMN UMH #213

**Lift Up Your Heads, Ye Mighty Gates**

TRURO

## \*BENEDICTION

Rev. Westmoreland

## CLOSING VOLUNTARY

**Sicut locutus est, from *Magnificat***

J. S. Bach (1685-1750)

This is a transcription of a movement from Bach's oratorio, the Magnificat in D Major, BWV 243. The final portion of Mary's song is represented by this text: "According to the promise He made to our ancestors, to Abraham and to His descendants forever." In Bach's distinctive style, you will hear the original motif passed around from voice to voice, or in this version, from hands to feet and back.

# ■ Announcements & Special Events

## NATIVITY PETTING ZOO

**Today, December 17, 12noon-1:30pm**

After 11am worship, all ages are invited to visit with our favorite stable animals who bring the magic of the Christmas story to life! Tiff's Treats truck will be offering cookies, milk, & hot cocoa for purchase. The Justice Team will be offering complimentary coffee as we receive donations for the Alternative Giving Catalog.

## THE GATHERING: SPECIAL ADVENT EDITION - CHRISTMAS MUSIC & SING - TODAY!

**Today, December 17, 5pm, Little Chapel**

Join Wes Griffin and friends for a program of Advent and Christmas music during The Gathering service at 5pm in the Little Chapel. Including special musical offerings, hymns, and carols. Come and be uplifted by special music of the season! Then, 6th-12th graders are invited to join us at the Glenn Youth Christmas Party following this service!

## IN THE BLEAK MIDWINTER

**Wednesday, December 20, 6:00pm, The Little Chapel**

Is all the uncertainty of this season too much to bear? Many of us have struggles in our lives that make being jolly & merry the farthest things from our hearts and minds. Whether you are grieving, stressed, or lonely, join us on winter's longest night to find comfort and hope in the midst of this season. Childcare provided. Note: The monthly Caregivers Support Group meets at 4:30pm in the Youth & Activities Building prior to this service.

## CHRISTMAS EVE WORSHIP

**Sunday, December 24 | 11am, 4pm, 11pm | Sanctuary**

**11am** Traditional Worship with carols, readings, and the Christmas message. Childcare available.

**4pm** The Christmas Story Pageant and candlelight service. A beloved Glenn tradition! Join us for a beautiful and unique telling of the Christmas story come to life by children and adults, with song, dance, and wonderful costumes that recreate the most holy of nights. Childcare available.

**11pm** Traditional Worship. We'll see in Christmas morning with carols, the Christmas story, Holy Communion and candlelighting.

## ALTERNATIVE GIVING CATALOG

The 2023 Alternative Giving Catalog is created by the Glenn Justice Team to highlight organizations that work to feed the hungry, assist the unhoused, welcome the refugee, advocate for social justice, support global education, and be stewards of the environment. Visit [www.glennumc.org/alternative-giving-catalog](http://www.glennumc.org/alternative-giving-catalog)

## MLK DAY CLEANUP - THE JUSTICE TEAM JOINS WEST ATLANTA WATERSHED ALLIANCE

**Save the Date: January 15, 9:00am - 11:45am | Sign up here: [bit.ly/mlk-day-2024](https://bit.ly/mlk-day-2024)**



**To register for upcoming events or to learn how you can become more involved at Glenn, please visit [glennumc.org/upcoming-events](http://glennumc.org/upcoming-events) or contact any of our staff.**

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## ■ Giving

### Generosity Pledge Campaign Update

We are so grateful for all those who have submitted their pledge for 2024. We still have a way to go to be able to fund the ministries Glenn offers. If you have yet to make your pledge, please prayerfully consider your contribution and pledge online at **www.glennumc.org/pledge** or reach out to the church office for a pledge card.

### Financial Report as of November 30, 2023:

2023 Budget: \$1,814,532

Total Income through Nov 30: \$1,653,145

Needed: \$161,387

Needed % : 8%

**To give a gift, visit [www.glennumc.org/give](http://www.glennumc.org/give) or scan the QR code below.**



## ■ Next Sunday

### Sunday 12.24 | Christmas Eve

11am	Traditional Worship - Sanctuary
4pm	The Christmas Story Pageant - Sanctuary
11pm	Candlelight Communion Worship - Sanctuary

## ■ Stay Updated

### Want to stay updated on the Glenn Community?

Visit **www.glennumc.org** and subscribe to the newsletter on the homepage. We send one newsletter every Friday, and occasional updates.