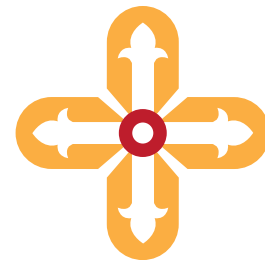


GLENN MEMORIAL

UNITED METHODIST CHURCH



■ The Worship of God

DECEMBER 24, 2023 | 11:00 A.M.

CHRISTMAS EVE

The artwork on the cover is *Nativity Triptych* by John August Swanson.



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 310).

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

A Comfort Room and restroom are available downstairs at the back of the Sanctuary.

Additional restrooms are 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 to donate securely online.



■ Welcoming All

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

PRELUDE

Music of the Season

Cameron Richardson & Teri Abler, Violin
Michael Gier, Viola
Alana Bennett-Garcia, Cello

WORDS OF WELCOME

The Rev. Mark Westmoreland

*OPENING PRAYER

ALL: O Lord, purify our hearts, that they may be worthy to become your dwelling place. Let us never fail to find room for you. Come and abide in us, that we also may abide in you, who are born into the world for us. With all honor and glory to you, who lives and reigns, King of kings and Lord of lords, now and for evermore. Amen.

*PROCESSIONAL HYMN

Once in Royal David's City

IRBY



(Sung by soloist) 1. Once in ro - yal Dav - id's_ ci - ty stood a low - ly cat - tle_ shed, where a
(Choir only) 2. He came down to earth from hea - ven who is God and Lord of_ all, and his
(All sing) 3. For he is our child - hood's pat - tern; day by day, like us_ he_ grew; he was
4. And our eyes at last_ shall see him, through his own re - deem - ing_ love; for that
5. Not in that poor low - ly_ sta - ble, with the ox - en stand - ing_ by, we shall



moth - er laid_ her_ ba - by in a man - ger for_ his_ bed; Ma - ry,
shel - ter was_ a_ sta - ble, and his cra - dle was_ a_ stall. With the
lit - tle, weak, and help - less, tears and smiles like us_ he_ knew; and he
child so dear_ and_ gen - tle is our Lord in heav'n a - bove; and he
see him; but_ in_ hea - ven, set at God's right hand on_ high; when like



was that moth - er mild, Je - sus Christ, her lit - tle_ child.
poor, and mean and low - ly, Lived on earth our Sa - vior_ ho - ly.
feel - eth for our sad - ness, and he shar - eth in_ our_ glad - ness.
leads his child - ren on_ to the place where he_ is_ gone.
stars his child - ren crowned all in white shall wait_ a - round.

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

The Mallard Family

One: When the angel Gabriel visited Mary, announcing God's plan for her to conceive and give birth to the Messiah, Mary said to the angel, "How can this be, since I am a virgin?" (Luke 1:34) And yet, only a few months later, Mary sings to Elizabeth, "My soul glorifies the Lord and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior, for he has been mindful of the humble state of his servant. From now on all generations will call me blessed, for the Mighty One has done great things for me—holy is his name" (Luke 1:46-49). We, like Mary, hear God's call to make God's dream for our salvation and flourishing a reality, and we question, "How can this be? I am only..." Yet, like Mary, the "onlys" that make us hesitate are gifts God can and will use as God's love transforms us into bearers of good news.

ALL: We wait as people who have encountered divine Love that disrupts the status quo and ushers us into an abundant life of mutual love and peace, that flows from the flourishing of all people.

One: We light these candles as signs of our shocking hope, our just peace, our fierce joy, and the love that transforms us. May Love grow within us, transforming us into bold witnesses of God's salvation with our voices and our lives. Amen.



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

*THE PASSING OF THE PEACE

■ We Hear God's Word

SCRIPTURE LESSON

Isaiah 9: 2-7

The Rev. Jennifer Hansen

The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light; those who lived in a land of deep darkness— on them light has shined. You have multiplied the nation, you have increased its joy; they rejoice before you as with joy at the harvest, as people exult when dividing plunder. For the yoke of their burden, and the bar across their shoulders, the rod of their oppressor, you have broken as on the day of Midian. For all the boots of the tramping warriors and all the garments rolled in blood shall be burned as fuel for the fire.

For a child has been born for us, a son given to us; authority rests upon his shoulders; and he is named Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace. His authority shall grow continually, and there shall be endless peace for the throne of David and his kingdom. He will establish and uphold it with justice and with righteousness from this time onward and forevermore. The zeal of the Lord of hosts will do this.

CAROL

Tomorrow Shall Be My Dancing Day

John Gardner (1917-2011)

The Rev. Brent Huckaby and Davis Cooke, Percussion

Tomorrow shall be my dancing day; I would my true love did so chance,
to see the legend of my play, to call my true love to my dance;

Refrain: Sing, oh! my love, oh! my love, my love, my love, this have I done for my true love.

Then was I born of a virgin pure, of her I took fleshly substance.
Thus was I knit to man's nature, to call my true love to my dance. *[Refrain]*

In a manger laid, and wrapped I was so very poor, this was my chance.
Betwixt an ox and a silly poor ass, to call my true love to my dance. *[Refrain]*

Then afterwards baptized I was; the Holy Ghost on me did glance.
My Father's voice heard from above, to call my true love to my dance. *[Refrain]*

SCRIPTURE LESSON

Psalm 96:1-9

Rev. Pinson



One: O sing to the Lord a new song; sing to the Lord, all the earth!

ALL: Sing to the Lord, bless God's name; proclaim God's salvation from day to day.

One: Declare the Lord's glory among the nations, the Lord's marvelous works among all the peoples!

ALL: For great is the Lord and greatly to be praised, to be feared above all gods.

One: For all the gods of the peoples are idols; but the Lord made the heavens.

ALL: Honor and majesty are before the Lord in whose sanctuary are strength and beauty.

Refrain

One: Ascribe to the Lord, O families of the peoples, ascribe to the Lord glory and strength!

ALL: Ascribe to the Lord the glory of God's name! Bring an offering, and come into the courts of the Lord!

One: Worship the Lord in holy splendor;

ALL: Tremble before the Lord, all the earth!

Refrain

*HYMN UMH #246

Joy to the World!

ANTIOCH

*GOSPEL LESSON

Luke 2:1-7

Rev. Hansen

In those days a decree went out from Emperor Augustus that all the world should be registered. This was the first registration and was taken while Quirinius was governor of Syria. All went to their own towns to be registered. Joseph also went from the town of Nazareth in Galilee to Judea, to the city of David called Bethlehem, because he was descended from the house and family of David. He went to be registered with Mary, to whom he was engaged and who was expecting a child. While they were there, the time came for her to deliver her child. And she gave birth to her firstborn son and wrapped him in bands of cloth, and laid him in a manger, because there was no place for them in the inn.

HYMN RESPONSE

Away in a Manger

CRADLE SONG

A-way in a man-ger, no crib for a bed, the lit-tle Lord Je-sus laid down his sweet head. The stars in the bright sky looked down where he lay, the lit-tle Lord Je-sus, a - sleep on the hay.

LIGHTING THE CHRIST CANDLE

One: We give thanks for the light of hope—unrelenting and inexplicable.

ALL: Our hope in Christ shines on.

One: We give thanks for the light of peace—strong and unafraid.

ALL: The peace of Christ lights our way.

One: We give thanks for the light of joy—persistent and unpredictable.

ALL: The joy of Christ brightens our lives.

One: We give thanks for the light of love—lavish and holy.

ALL: The love of Christ comforts and challenges.

One: Now let us light the Christ candle as we celebrate the birth of Jesus.

ALL: Thank you, God, for the light of Jesus Christ!

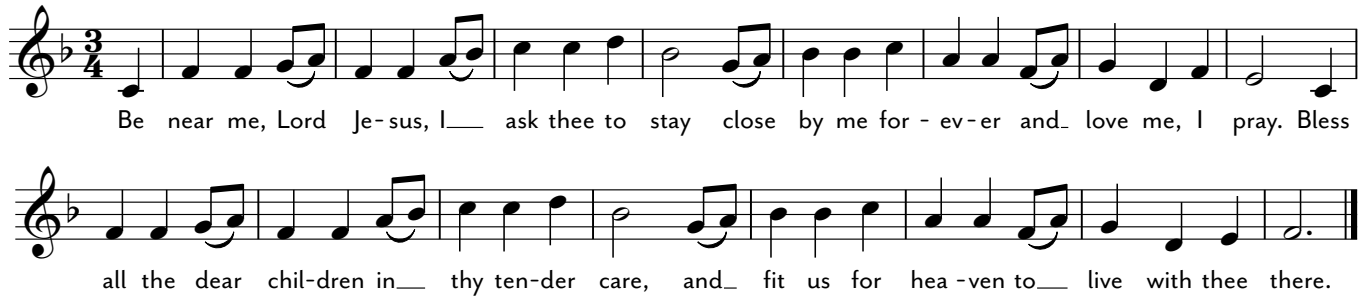
One: The light shines in the darkness.

ALL: And the darkness has not overcome it.

HYMN RESPONSE

Away in a Manger

CRADLE SONG



Be near me, Lord Je-sus, I ask thee to stay close by me for - ev - er and love me, I pray. Bless
all the dear chil-dren in thy ten-der care, and fit us for hea - ven to live with thee there.

THE CHRISTMAS MESSAGE

Rev. Westmoreland

■ We Respond

CAROL

See Amid the Winter's Snow

arr. Dan Forrest (b. 1978)

Alleluia. See, amid the winter's snow, born for us on earth below.
See the tender Lamb appears, promised from eternal years.

Refrain: Hail, thou ever-blessed morn, Hail redemption's happy dawn,
Sing through all Jerusalem: "Christ is born in Bethlehem."

Lo, within a manger lies He who built the lofty skies,
He, who, throned in light sublime, sits amid the cherubim. *[Refrain]*

Sacred infant, all divine, what a tender love was Thine,
Thus to come from highest bliss, down to such a world as this. *[Refrain]*

-Text by Edward Caswall (1858)

*GOSPEL LESSON

Luke 2:8-16

Rev. Pinson

In that region there were shepherds living in the fields, keeping watch over their flock by night. Then an angel of the Lord stood before them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified.

But the angel said to them, “Do not be afraid; for see—I am bringing you good news of great joy for all the people: to you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is the Messiah, the Lord. This will be a sign for you: you will find a child wrapped in bands of cloth and lying in a manger.” And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host, praising God and saying, “Glory to God in the highest heaven, and on earth peace among those whom he favors!” When the angels had left them and gone into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, “Let us go now to Bethlehem and see this thing that has taken place, which the Lord has made known to us.” So they went with haste and found Mary and Joseph, and the child lying in the manger.

*HYMN UMH #238

Angels We Have Heard on High

GLORIA

MORNING PRAYER & THE LORD’S PRAYER

Rev. Huckaby

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 CAROL

Hodie!

Alexander L'Estrange (b. 1974)

Today is Christ born; today the Savior has appeared; today the Angels sing, the Archangels rejoice; today the righteous rejoice, saying: Glory to God in the highest. Alleluia!

*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.) joyce! Re-joyce! E - man - u - el shall come to thee, O Is - ra - el!

■ We Go Forth

THE CHRISTMAS BLESSING

Rev. Westmoreland

*CLOSING HYMN UMH #240

Hark! the Herald Angels Sing

MENDELSSOHN

*BENEDICTION

Rev. Westmoreland

CLOSING VOLUNTARY

Postlude on *Vom Himmel Hoch*

Charles Callahan (b. 1951)

This piece is based on a chorale by Martin Luther, "From Heaven Above to Earth I Come," written in 1534. American composer and organist Charles Callahan's setting of the tune is very exciting and features the chorale tune in various voicings and timbres with frequent key changes and a general crescendo.



■ Announcements & Special Events

THE CHRISTMAS STORY PAGEANT & CANDLELIGHT SERVICE – *TODAY AT 4PM!*

4pm, Sanctuary

The Christmas Story Pageant is 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.

CANDLELIGHT CHRISTMAS EVE WORSHIP – *TONIGHT AT 11PM!*

11pm, Sanctuary

Join us for Traditional Worship at 11pm. 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

SUPPORT GROUPS & PASTORAL CARE

Glenn provides Congregational Care Ministry to those facing life's spiritual, emotional, and physical challenges. For more info about our Caregivers Support Group, Single Moms Support Group, Prayer Shawl Ministry, and pastoral care provided by our clergy and Lay Ministers, contact Rev. Susan Pinson.

CHILDREN'S MINISTRIES

Children's Choirs and Sunday School meet on Sundays mornings beginning at 9:30am. For more info, contact Rev. Susan Pinson. Subscribe to the Kids @ Glenn newsletter for weekly updates at: bit.ly/KidsAtGlenn

YOUTH & YOUNG ADULT MINISTRIES

Save the date: Youth Play, *The Little Mermaid*, March 1-3, 2024

For questions on Glenn Youth, contact Ben Ladner. For questions on Glenn Youth Choir, contact Michael Dauterman. Subscribe to the Youth @ Glenn newsletter for weekly updates at: bit.ly/YouthAtGlenn

For more info on Young Adult Fellowship, contact Rev. Brent Huckaby.

ADULT MINISTRIES

For more info, visit: www.glennumc.org/adults

Glenn has a variety of adult ministries to grow in your faith and connect with our community, including: Sunday School classes, Bible Studies, Men's & Women's small groups and retreats, and more. The Glenn Justice Team leads service-learning volunteer opportunities locally and globally. For more info, visit www.glennumc.org/justice-at-glenn

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

January 15, 9:00am - 11:45am | Sign up here: 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 or contact any of our staff.

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■ Giving

Your gifts allow us to continue sharing the love of Christ within our community and beyond. Thank you for your gifts, prayers, and everything you contribute to Glenn! **To give a gift, visit www.glennumc.org/give or scan the QR code.**



End of the Year Giving

For your gift to be credited to 2023 giving, online gifts must be made by 12/31 and checks must be received by 12/29, before the office closes at noon or postmarked 2023.

Financial Report as of November 30, 2023:

2023 Budget: \$1,814,532
Total income through Nov 30: \$1,643,884
Needed: \$170,648
Needed %: 9%

■ Next Sunday

Sunday 12.31 | New Year's Eve Worship

11am 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.