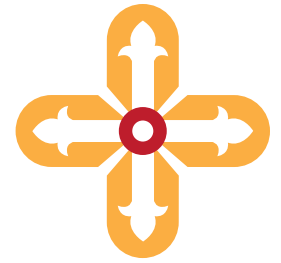


GLENN MEMORIAL

UNITED METHODIST CHURCH



■ The Worship of God

DECEMBER 24, 2023 | 11:00 P.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.

A Comfort Room & 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.*

OPENING VOLUNTARY

Seven Versets on *Divinum Mysterium*

Gary Davison (b. 1961)

WORDS OF WELCOME

The Rev. Mark Westmoreland

*CALL TO WORSHIP

One: The Lord be with you.

ALL: And also with you.

One: Let us pray. Almighty God, Creator of all life, you made us in your image and sent your Son to be our flesh. Grant us now in this glad time of his birth, that we, who have been born again through his grace, may daily find all things made new in him. For he lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit.

ALL: Amen.

*OPENING HYMN UMH #234 vv. 1-3, 5-6

O Come All Ye Faithful

ADESTE FIDELES

LIGHTING THE CHRIST CANDLE

The Walker Family

In the season of Advent we have worshipped and waited, remembering God's promise to be with us. On this Christmas Eve, we will light the final candle in this living wreath—the Christ candle—as a symbol of the light that God's presence brings into the world. As the flame burns bright, we recall the words of the prophet Isaiah, who proclaimed:

“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 ... 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” (Isaiah 9:6-7).

As we light the final candle, we celebrate the coming of Christ!

CAROL

Still, Still, Still

Norman Luboff (1917-1987)

Still, still, still one can hear the falling snow. For all is hushed, the world is sleeping, Holy Star its vigil keeping. Still, still, still, one can hear the falling snow. Sleep, sleep, sleep, 'tis the eve of our Savior's birth. The night is peaceful all around you, close your eyes, let sleep surround you. Sleep, sleep, sleep 'tis the eve of our Savior's birth. Dream, dream, dream, of the joyous day to come. While guardian angels without number watch you as you sweetly slumber. Dream, dream, dream, of the joyous day to come.

-Traditional Austrian Christmas Lullaby

PASTORAL PRAYER

The Rev. Brent Huckaby

OFFERTORY CAROL

Sussex Carol

arr. David Willcocks (1919-2015)

On Christmas night all Christians sing, To hear the news the angels bring: News of great joy, news of great mirth, News of our merciful King's birth. Then why should men on earth be so sad, Since our Redeemer made us glad? When from our sin he set us free, All for to gain our liberty? When sin deperts before his grace, Then life and health come in its place; Angels and men with joy may sing, All for to see the newborn King. All out of darkness we have light, Which made the angels sing this night: 'Glory to God and peace to men, Now and for evermore. Amen.'

-English Traditional Carol

■ A Service of Word

A PRAYER OF ILLUMINATION

ALL: Lord, open our minds and hearts by the power of your Holy Spirit, that we may hear and rejoice in the gospel of our Savior's birth, told in story and song this night. Amen.

THE WORD OF PROMISE

Luke 2:1-7

The Rev. Susan Pinson

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.

THE WORD OF ANNOUNCEMENT

Luke 2:8-14

Rev. Huckaby

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!”

CAROL

Nativity Carol

Words and music by John Rutter (b. 1945)

Born in a stable so bare, born so long ago.
Born ‘neath light of star, He who loved us so.

Refrain: Far away silent he lay, born today, your homage pay.
For Christ is born for aye, born on Christmas Day.

Cradled by mother so fair, tender her lullaby;
over her son so dear, angel hosts fill the sky. *[Refrain]*

Wise men from distant far land, shepherds from starry hills,
worship this babe so rare, hearts with his warmth he fills. *[Refrain]*

Love in that stable was born, into our hearts to flow;
innocent dreaming babe, make me thy love to know. *[Refrain]*

THE WORD OF ADORATION

Luke 2:15-20

The Rev. Jennifer Hansen

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. When they saw this, they made known what had been told them about this child; and all who heard it were amazed at what the shepherds told them. But Mary treasured all these words and pondered them in her heart. The shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen, as it had been told them.

*HYMN UMH #240

Hark! the Herald Angels Sing

MENDELSSOHN

THE CHRISTMAS MESSAGE

Rev. Westmoreland

MUSICAL REFLECTION

O Holy Night

Adolphe Adam (1803-1856)

Carrie Anne Wilson, soloist

■ A Service of Holy Communion

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

Rev. Westmoreland & **ALL**

One: The Lord be with you.

ALL: And also with you.

One: Lift up your hearts.

ALL: We lift them up to the Lord.

One: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

ALL: It is right to give our thanks and praise.

One: And so, with your people on earth and all the company of heaven we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

ALL: Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might, heaven and earth are full of your glory. Hosanna in the highest. Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Hosanna in the highest.

One: And so, as we proclaim the mystery of faith:

ALL: Christ has died; Christ is risen; Christ will come again.

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.

HOLY COMMUNION

COMMUNION ANTHEM

In the Bleak Midwinter

Harold Darke (1888-1976)

The text can be found at UMH #221.

■ A Service of Light

SHARING THE LIGHT OF CHRISTMAS

As you receive the light, turn the unlit candle towards the flame.

*HYMN UMH #239
Silent Night, Holy Night

STILLE NACHT

THE CHRISTMAS BLESSING

Rev. Westmoreland & **ALL**

May Almighty God, who sent his Son to take our nature upon him, bless you in this holy season, scatter the darkness of sin, and brighten your heart with the light of God's holiness. **Amen.**

May God, who sent his angels to proclaim the glad news of the Savior's birth, fill you with joy, and make you heralds of the Gospel. **Amen.**

May God, who in the Word made flesh joined heaven to earth and earth to heaven, give you God's peace and favor. **Amen.**

And the blessing of God Almighty, the Creator, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, be upon you and remain with you forever. **Amen.**

*CLOSING HYMN UMH #246
Joy to the World!

ANTIOCH

CLOSING VOLUNTARY
Postlude on Mendelssohn

David Willcocks

As you exit the sanctuary, recycling bins are available for your candles and bulletins.



■ Announcements & Special Events

NEW YEARS' EVE WORSHIP

Sunday, December 31, 11am

Please join us at 11am for traditional worship (childcare will be available).

The 8:30am Worship Service in the Little Chapel & The Gathering (our contemporary worship service) at 5pm in Ward Fellowship Hall will resume January 7th.

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. While our standard pledges and offerings in worship fund the crucial work of the church as the body of Christ throughout the year, this catalog offers some alternative options to the standard ways we can give. We are excited to be able to support their mission and projects financially. 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

Glenn's Justice Team is excited to be joining the West Atlanta Watershed Alliance (WAWA) for their annual MLK Day Watershed Cleanup on Jan.15, 2024. The West Atlanta Watershed Alliance (WAWA) is a community-based non-profit organization whose mission is to improve the quality of life within the West Atlanta Watershed by protecting, preserving, and restoring the community's natural resources. Sign up at: 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.