

Christmas Eve 2020 + Festival Service, 9pm & 11pm

Thank you for worshipping with us tonight! We want you and your family to engage fully in the story of Christ's birth. Here are a few items to gather at home before the service begins that will enhance your experience:

- + *Advent wreath (or a simple candle to light)*
- + *Christmas Eve glow sticks & candles for end of the service*

Gathering Music

beginning at 8:30pm or 10:30pm

SPARK Music Team

Opening Song

O Holy Night

Gaines Johnston, soloist

Welcome

Rev. Carissa Surber

Call to Worship

Ken Taylor, Gina Ingel, Martha Hollidge,
Gaines Johnston, & Heather Kraus

Opening Carol

O Come, All Ye Faithful

Lighting of the Christ Candle

The Parker Family

Response: *Hark! the Herald Angels Sing*

Christmas Prayer

Rev. Byron Brought

Musical Selection

"I Wonder as I Wander"

Elissa Edwards

Scripture Readings

Luke 2:1-20

Rev. Lee Ferrell

John 1:1-5, 10-14,16

Rev. Carissa Surber

Offering & Announcements

Give online at severnaparkumc.org/give

Musical Selection

"Light of the World"

Meg Moore

Christmas Message

A Delivery of Hope

Rev. Ron Foster

Candle Lighting & Carol Singing

Silent Night

Blessing & Sending Forth

Joy to the World

Postlude

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Music Director

Chris Dillard

Organist & Associate Music Director

Nicola Patterson

Many thanks to all who had a hand in making the Advent & Christmas season so special here at Severna Park UMC!

- ★ Our talented Tech Team: Rob Smith, Clint Murray, Seamus McSorley, Matt Barger, Greg Parcher, Don Slack, Lauren Crandall & Paul Ford
- ★ Becky Clapp, Sharon Acosta, Ken Maley, Francie Seaman, Bette MacWilliams, Carolyn Heim, Chip & Hope Linehan, Jennifer Pilholski, Laura Fosler, the Missions Committee and everyone who responded to the needs on the Angel Tree, spread joy through our Intentional Acts of Kindness Project & filled tote bags for SPAN as part of our Reverse Advent Calendar outreach
- ★ Our Advent Elves who assembled and delivered Advent Kits to the congregation
- ★ Décor for Advent & Christmas: Nancy Densmore & Carol Rice (Advent Banners), Martha Hollidge & Karleen Leasure (sanctuary and porch); Dave Robinson, Ken Taylor, Tommy Parker & Fred Wentz (outdoor nativity)
- ★ Brian Hisson and the children & families who created such a memorable Christmas Pageant for us this year
- ★ All of our families who participated in the Advent Candle lighting
- ★ All guest musicians and members of the SPARK Music team who have contributed to the amazing array of music throughout the season
- ★ Our incredibly hardworking staff: Erica Benjamin, Rev. Byron Brought, Lynne Chaput, Chris Dillard, Rev. Lee Ferrell, Beth Frank, Ryan Hennesy, Dave McKinney, Nicola Patterson, and Heidi Taflan & the Nursery School Team

And thanks to all of you for spending Christmas Eve with us. Merry Christmas!

Announcements

Welcome to Christmas Eve Worship! Whether you're new, a returning college student, or a faithful member or long-time friend of our church, we're so glad to have you here tonight and all year long. Join us this coming **Sunday at 10am** on *Facebook Live* or *YouTube* for our **Christmas Afterglow Service** with Rev. Lee preaching.

TGI2021 (Thank God It's 2021), our new worship series, will begin on **Epiphany Sunday, January 3rd**. We'll be celebrating the coming of the wisemen and Holy Communion. Join us for a fresh start to the new year.

New or Curious About Our Church? You are invited to attend a **Meet & Greet the Pastors** on **January 10 at 11am** via Zoom. Come find out a little bit more about our church and where you might fit in. RSVP: bfrank@severnaparkumc.org

Children's Ministry Plans for 2021: Thanks for all the feedback to the recent Children's Ministry survey. We will continue pre-recorded Sunday School prior to the online worship service (9:30am) in January, and we're adding a new Zoom interactive special event each month. Stay tuned for all the details! ebenjamin@severnaparkumc.org

Thanks to Everyone Helping Us with Christmas & Year-End Giving. We are grateful for your generous support all through 2020. There are multiple ways to make a **Christmas Eve Offering** including simply texting GIVE to 855-603-8993 and following the prompts, mailing in your donation, or dropping it off in the front porch lockbox. Help us close the gap (~60K as of 12/1) and end this challenging year on firm financial footing. severnaparkumc.org/giving-options

UMYF resumes January 3, 6pm. On our website, check **Events**, then **Sunday**, then **UMYF** to get the link.

Announcements Continued

A Special Shout Out to our Heaven's Kitchen Team that helped make Christmas special for our friends in Brooklyn Park on December 18, serving a hot meal, passing out gift cards, hats, and gloves.

His Truth Is Marching On by Jon Meacham on the life of John Lewis is our Faith & Race book of the month for January. Might make a good last minute gift for someone! Join us for the Faith & Race Group discussion on January 26, 7pm.
ron@severnaparkumc.org

Our Regathering Task Force has been meeting for the last 9 months helping to monitor Covid-conditions and developing safety protocols for in-person gatherings and use of our building. **We need a few new folks to serve** on this team in 2021 as several members are cycling off. Interested? Contact new Chair, Gaines Johnston. *gainesjohnston@gmail.com*

Start 2021 by Focusing on What Matters with Rev. Carissa's 4-week study of The Wesley Challenge by Chris Folmsbee. We'll work through 21 key questions about our faith that engage with our physical, spiritual, and emotional lives, and our relationship with God and with others. We will meet for 4 Tuesdays at 8pm, starting January 12; Zoom meeting information available on the Events webpage. Order your book online and email Rev. Carissa if you're interested. *csurber@severnaparkumc.org*

Join Moms Connect for their Winter Session. You may or may not realize it, but you talk to yourself all the time. And what you say to yourself matters a great deal. This winter during Moms Connect, you'll discover strength and freedom for each day as you create new habits of self-talk based on biblical truth. We will meet January 7 & 21, February 4 & 18, March 4 & 18 at 8:30pm on Zoom. [LINK](#)