



MYERS PARK BAPTIST CHURCH

OPEN TO ALL

THE WORSHIP OF GOD
THE FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT
18 December 2016 at Eleven o'clock in the morning

THE COMMUNITY GATHERS BEFORE GOD

Inspired by the radical hospitality of Jesus, we welcome and affirm all of God's people into the life of the Church regardless of gender, age, race, ethnicity, sexual orientation, physical limitation, educational background, or economic situation.

THE SILENT MEDITATION

The best of all is, God is with us. The best of all is, God is with us.

The last words of John Wesley,
18th Century evangelist and founder of the Wesleyan tradition

THE RINGING OF THE ANGELUS BELL

The ringing of The Angelus Bell, a three-fold ringing of three, signifies the presence of the triune God: Creator, Christ and Holy Spirit. In ancient practice it was rung as a noonday prayer calling the whole community to prayers for peace. The Music in Preparation for Worship is intended to draw the people from the outside world into the presence of God.

THE PRELUDE

Carols of the Season

Brass Charlotte

THE CALL TO WORSHIP

Leader: The Lord be with you.

People: And also with you.

At this time, everyone is invited to sign the friendship register found at the end of each pew. If you are our guest today, we welcome you especially and ask that you include your address, phone number, and email. If you have not yet done so, please silence your cell phone. Following the worship service, all are invited to coffee fellowship in Heaton Hall Foyer.

THE MOMENT FOR STEWARDSHIP

Richard Harris

*THE PROCESSION AND OPENING OF THE BIBLE

“O come, O come, Emmanuel”

Veni Emmanuel

**O come, O come, Emmanuel, and ransom captive Israel,
that mourns in lonely exile here until the Son of God appear.
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel.**

**O come, thou Wisdom from on high, who orderest all things mightily:
to use the path of knowledge show; and teach us in her ways to go.
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel.**

+ Ushers will seat anyone waiting.

* Please stand if you are able.

*THE GLORIA IN EXCELSIS DEO

Gloria

**Gloria in excelsis Deo,
Gloria in excelsis Deo!**

*THE PASSING OF THE PEACE

Ancient words of greeting and forgiveness may be used when Passing the Peace to those around you, saying either: "The peace of God be with you" or "The peace of Christ be with you." The response may be: "And also with you."

THE WORD OF GOD IS PROCLAIMED AND HEARD

THE GOSPEL LESSON

Matthew 1:18-25

Leader: For the Word of God in scripture,
for the Word of God among us,
for the Word of God within us.

See page 6.

People: Thanks be to God.

*THE SERMON HYMN

Number 111

"Lo, how a rose e'er blooming"

Es Ist Ein' Ros'

+ *As the interlude begins, children in grades TK-5 are invited to go through the door beside the Lectern to join adult teachers. Parents may pick up their children in the Cornwell Gym.*

THE SERMON

The Reverend W. Benjamin Boswell

"If God is With Us (We're Going to be Alright)"

THE TIME FOR SILENT REFLECTION

THE CONGREGATION RESPONDS TO GOD'S WORD

THE CHURCH AT PRAYER

THE LORD'S PRAYER

Our Father/Mother, 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.

THE OFFERING

Gifts of loose cash in December support the work of Med Assist, a nonprofit pharmacy program providing access to life-saving prescription medications, patient support, advocacy and related services to poor, vulnerable, and uninsured North Carolina residents.

THE ANTHEM

The Chancel Choir

"Magnificat"

*Kevin J. Sadowski
(1955-2003)*

I. CHORUS

My soul proclaims the greatness of the Lord;
my spirit rejoices in God my Savior,
for God has looked with favor on the lowly servant.
From this day all generations will call me blessed.

II. SOLO

The Almighty has done great things for me, and holy is God's name.
God has mercy on those who fear God in every generation.

Amy Morris, alto

III. CHORUS

God has shown the strength of God's arm;
God has scattered the proud in their conceit.
God has cast down the mighty from their thrones,
and has lifted up the lowly.
God has filled the hungry with good things,
and the rich have been sent away empty.

IV. DUET

God has come to the help of God's servant Israel,
for God has remembered the promise of mercy,
God has remembered the promise of mercy,
the promise God made to our forebears,
to Abraham and his children forever.

Deborah Moore Clark, soprano; Deborah Steiner, alto

V. CHORUS

Glory to the Maker and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit;
As it was in the beginning, is now, and will be forever, Amen.

*THE PRESENTATION OF GIFTS

*As the deacons move down the center aisle, the congregation is asked to stand at the moment the deacons pass their pew.
This presentation to God enacts our self-offering and gratitude to God.*

*THE DOXOLOGY

Old Hundred

**O Glorious God, to you we bring
All that we are as offering;
Spirit of love, among us dwell;
Come, Jesus, our Emmanuel. Amen.**

(Text: Paula Meador Testerman)

*THE PRAYER OF DEDICATION

THE COMMUNITY DEPARTS FOR MINISTRY

*THE PROCESSION INTO THE WORLD AND CLOSING OF THE BIBLE

Number 116

“O little town of Bethlehem”

St. Louis

THE BENEDICTION

THE POSTLUDE

Voluntary on “Gloria”

*Michael Bedford
(b. 1949)*

*Following worship, all are invited to Coffee Fellowship in Heaton Hall Foyer.
We especially invite our guests for a more personal welcome.*

Leading worship today with The Reverend W. Benjamin Boswell, Senior Minister,
are The Reverend Barry Zane Metzger, Church Administrator,
The Reverend Chrissy Tatum Williamson, Minister of Faith Formation,
and Ted Phillips, member of the congregation.

The Chancel Choir leads worship through music with
Frances L. Morrison, Minister of Music,
Dr. Matthew Manwarren, Organist, and
Brass Charlotte:
Brent Ballard, trombone,
Keith Johnson, bass trombone,
Stacey Mills, trumpet,
and Russell Smith, trumpet.

The acolytes are members of the Myers Park Baptist Church Youth Ministry.

The sound technician is Eric Roberts.
The webcast technician is Seph Rackley.

THE READING FOR SUNDAY, DECEMBER 18, 2016

Matthew 1:18-25 (NRSV)

Now the birth of Jesus the Messiah took place in this way. When his mother Mary had been engaged to Joseph, but before they lived together, she was found to be with child from the Holy Spirit. Her husband Joseph, being a righteous man and unwilling to expose her to public disgrace, planned to dismiss her quietly.

But just when he had resolved to do this, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream and said, “Joseph, son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary as your wife, for the child conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit. She will bear a son, and you are to name him Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins.” All this took place to fulfill what had been spoken by the Lord through the prophet: “Look, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and they shall name him Emmanuel,” which means, “God is with us.” When Joseph awoke from sleep, he did as the angel of the Lord commanded him; he took her as his wife, but had no marital relations with her until she had borne a son; and he named him Jesus.

Advent Schedule 2016

Sunday, December 18 - Advent IV

Worship, featuring Sadowski's Magnificat with Soloists and Brass

11:00am in the Sanctuary

Taizé Service to Mark the Changing of the Seasons

5:00-6:00pm in the Chapel

Wednesday, December 21

Service of Lament and Loss with Communion

6:30pm in the Sanctuary

Saturday, December 24 - Christmas Eve

Family Worship with Communion

4:00pm in the Sanctuary

The Music of Christmas with Harp and Organ

5:30pm in the Sanctuary

Candlelight Worship with Communion

6:00pm in the Sanctuary

Nativity Tableau with Communion

7:15-8:00pm "drop in" in the Sanctuary

Sunday, December 25

Christmas Day Worship in the Round - *Service of Hope*

10:00-10:45am in Heaton Hall

Sunday, January 1, 2017

New Year's Day Worship in the Round - *Service of Beginnings*

10:00-10:45am in Heaton Hall

THE CHURCH IN WITNESS AND MISSION

TODAY

DECEMBER 18: THE FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT; THE REVEREND W. BENJAMIN BOSWELL
PREACHING

- 8:30 Charlotte Community of Mindfulness Meditation Group, Room 27
- 9:15 Coffee Fellowship, Heaton Hall Foyer
- 9:45 Children's Ministry Family Christmas Breakfast, Shalom Hall
- 9:45 Youth Faith Formation, Youth Hall Wing
- 9:45 Adult Faith Formation, Education Building
- 9:45 Sunday Morning Yoga, Cornwell Group Exercise Studio
- 9:45 Chancel Choir Warm-Up, Sanctuary
- 11:00 Worship in the Sanctuary
- 12:00 Coffee Fellowship and Guest Welcome, Heaton Hall Foyer
- 5:00 Taizé Prayer Service to Mark the Changing of the Season, Chapel

VOLUNTEER FOR ROOM IN THE INN TODAY - You may sign up in Heaton Hall Foyer immediately after worship.

TAIZÉ PRAYER SERVICE TO MARK THE CHANGING OF THE SEASON - this evening from 5:00-6:00pm in the Chapel. You are invited to join us for the coming of winter. Our worship includes prayer, poetry, singing, silence, and Communion. You are also invited to walk the Labyrinth either before or following the service.

COMMUNITY LIFE

HOLIDAY CLOSINGS - The Church office will close for the Christmas holiday at noon on Friday, December 23 and reopen at 9:00am on Wednesday, December 28. For New Year's, the office will close at noon on Friday, December 30 and reopen on Tuesday, January 3.

SENIOR ADULT FELLOWSHIP - Wednesday, January 4, 10:30-11:30am, Cornwell Conference Center. We will have a dynamic speaker lead us in a time of understanding black/white relationships, particularly between predominantly black and white churches. Maarifa Ukweli teaches a course in African history designed to educate communities on African past history, culture, and origins. He possesses a wealth of information. Start the New Year with us at this powerful presentation.

FAITH FORMATION

CONNECTIONS PROPOSALS FOR WINTER/SPRING 2017 - Do you have a great idea for a small group? Are you willing to host a potluck meal? Let us know about your idea or your willingness to host (any kind of small group) by completing the Proposal Form available at www.mpbconline.org before December 31. Groups will meet February through mid-May. Questions? Please contact Anne Clarke at aclarke@mpbconline.org or 704.334.7232 x115.

COVENANT GROUPS AT MPBC - A new weeknight *Awakening* Covenant Group is forming. This small group (6-10) adults will expand upon the concepts presented and discussed as part of the *Awakening to Racial Injustice* Series, providing a safe space to share personal stories, frustrations, and areas of growth related to the series. Questions? Contact Anne Clarke at aclarke@mpbconline.org or 704.334.7232 x115.

DISCIPLESHIP CLASS begins Sunday, January 8, at 9:45am in the Youth Hall. All students who have completed the 7th grade are invited to join this intentional journey of faith leading toward decisions about baptism and Church membership. Please contact Chrissy Williamson at cwilliamson@mpbconline.org or 704.334.7232 x123 with any questions you may have.

ALL-YOUTH RETREAT (grades 6-12) - January 13-15 at Kanuga Conference Center, in the North Carolina mountains. Join us for this wonderful weekend as we share and learn together while having fun. All youth are encouraged to attend and a special prize may be given out if you bring someone new. Registration is available at www.mpbconline.org and *my*MPBC.

AWAKENING TO RACIAL INJUSTICE SERIES - Wednesday, January 18, 6:30-8:00pm in Shalom Hall. The series continues with "Implicit Bias," a discussion about explicit versus implicit biases. Booklets on the series are available on the Welcome Desk in Heaton Hall Foyer and the Church reception area. Information is also available online at www.mpbconline.org. Questions? Contact Chrissy Williamson at cwilliamson@mpbconline.org.

FAMILY DEDICATION SUNDAY, JANUARY 29 - If your family would like to participate in this special worship service, please contact Carrie Veal at cveal@mpbconline.org or 704.334.7232 x118 by Tuesday, January 17.

SAVE THE DATE: Friday, February 3 - Saturday, February 4 for the 5th Grade Faith and Sexuality Retreat, led by Jenny Beaumont. More details to come.

OUTREACH

OATMEAL DRIVE: HELP US REACH OUR GOAL - As of December 11, we have collected 24,785 pounds toward this year's goal of 140,000 pounds. We have 115,215 pounds to go. The Oatmeal Drive runs through January 15 and we need your help to reach our ten-year historic one million pounds goal. Drop-off sites are located in Heaton Hall Foyer and at The Cornwell Center. Monetary donations can be made through *my*MPBC and through www.mpbconline.org. For more information, please contact Bob Bishop at bobbishopuk@gmail.com.

ROOM IN THE INN (RITI) continues through the end of March. We open our doors on Saturday evenings and provide shelter for our neighbors who are homeless. We need your help. Please volunteer to be an overnight host, provide a meal, or drive the Church van. You may sign up on our website, www.mpbconline.org, or on the bulletin board in Heaton Hall Foyer. Would you like to be more involved in RITI? Consider being a RITI Captain by helping coordinate one (or more) weekends for our RITI ministry. Contact Cher Lindblom at clindblom@mpbconline.org for details.

ST. PETER'S SOUP KITCHEN - Mark your calendars for St. Peter's Soup Kitchen on January 14. On the second Saturday of each month, MPBC prepares and serves lunch to over 300 of our neighbors at the Urban Ministry Center. Individuals and families of all ages are invited to serve. Contact Holly Hobson Wood, hollyboowood@gmail.com, or Cher Lindblom, clindblom@mpbconline.org.

STEWARDSHIP

WE ARE STILL DREAMING ON! In this season of giving, we are not asking you to invest in protecting or safeguarding the dream of this Church. We are inviting you to remember those who came before us, to take responsibility of what they entrusted to us, and to be as bold and as fearless as they were in sharing this dream with the world. A pledge, of any amount, makes a difference. You can pledge online at <https://mpbconline.org/make-a-pledge/>, fill out a pledge card, or contact Barry Metzger at bmetzger@mpbconline.org or 704.334.7232 x116.

WORSHIP AND MUSIC

MUSIC TOGETHER® WINTER SESSION - Early registration is still available. MPBC members can register during the early registration period using this code: PREW17. The discount code "MPBC" gives you a tuition rate of \$100 - only at the MPBC location. The 4:30pm Wednesday class has two spots left; we are adding a 5:30pm Wednesday class. There are also classes Saturdays at 10:00am and 11:00am. The Winter Session runs January 9 - March 11.

SERVICE OF LAMENT AND LOSS - Wednesday, December 21, 6:30pm in the Sanctuary. We offer this Advent service for all to come together as a family of faith. It is a combination of two liturgical traditions, “Longest Night” services that take place on the longest night of the year and “Christmas Service for Those Who Grieve.” We gather during the Christmas season as a reminder that joy can be born among us despite our sadness, hope can emerge out of despair, that nothing can separate us from the love of God, and that light shines in the midst of our darkness.

CHRISTMAS EVE, SATURDAY, DECEMBER 24:

- FAMILY WORSHIP AT 4:00PM: The Family service will give children the experience of Christmas with a manger scene, familiar carols, and Communion. The service will end with candle lighting and the singing of *Silent Night*.
- CANDLELIGHT WORSHIP AT 6:00PM: The service will begin with a 5:30pm instrumental prelude of harp and organ. Worship will continue with joyful Christmas hymns, soloists Todd Geer and Charlotte Judge, the Chancel Choir, a homily by Rev. Boswell, and Communion. The service will conclude with candle lighting throughout the congregation while singing *Silent Night*.
- NATIVITY TABLEAU AT 7:15PM: The well loved Nativity Tableau will end our evening together as a Church family and our youth represent the biblical characters found at the manger. Communion will be served. The Tableau will conclude at 8:00pm.

CHRISTMAS DAY WORSHIP IN THE ROUND - A SERVICE OF HOPE - Sunday, December 25 at 10:00am, Heaton Hall, Reverend W. Benjamin Boswell preaching; music with Erica McGee.

NEW YEAR’S DAY WORSHIP IN THE ROUND - A SERVICE OF BEGINNINGS - Sunday, January 1 at 10:00am, Heaton Hall, Reverend Chrissy Williamson preaching; music with Todd Geer.

CORNWELL CENTER

YOUTH SERVICES – Register now for Tiny Tots Basketball Clinics and Holiday Sports Camp for children ages 3-5 years. Clinics run Mondays and Wednesdays through February 8. Holiday Camp will be held Monday - Friday, December 19-23. Space is limited. Register at the Cornwell Center Welcome Desk or call 704.927.0774.

COMPASSIONATE LEADERSHIP SERIES – Tuesday, December 20, 7:00-9:00pm. Join the Authentic Conversation Panel Series: *What is Compassionate Leadership?* hosted by Enneagram Charlotte. To register, call 704.927.0774 or visit the Welcome Desk.

HOLIDAY CLOSINGS - The Cornwell Center will close at 6:00pm on Friday, December 23 and will reopen at 5:30am on Tuesday, December 27. The Center will close at 6:00pm on Saturday, December 31 and will reopen at 5:00am on Tuesday, January 2.

“BEAT THE INCREASE” MEMBERSHIP SPECIAL - There’s no better time to join. Now through December 31, sign up for an annual membership and receive discounted MPBC member rates plus two additional months free. Pay for your membership now, lock in 2016 rates and you do not have to renew again until March 2018. Rather make a shorter commitment? No problem. Purchase a special 6-month membership and receive one month free. Make sure to pay in full by December 31 to beat the 5% increase in 2017. More information is available at the Welcome Desk and at www.cornwellcenter.org.

LOOKING AHEAD

DECEMBER 25: CHRISTMAS DAY ; THE REVEREND W. BENJAMIN BOSWELL PREACHING
10:00 Christmas Day Worship in the Round - Service of Hope, Heaton Hall

DRAW NEAR TO GOD

THE MYERS PARK BAPTIST CHURCH COVENANT

We, the members of the Myers Park Baptist Church, are a people on a journey of faith. By God's grace we are experiencing God's love through Jesus Christ and in the community of the faithful. We are discovering in this experience our freedom to become new creatures and our responsibility to be faithful stewards of our lives and of this world.

We will be open to all new light, strengthened by God and each other in our faith. We will sustain a critical examination of Scripture, belief and ritual as interpreters of God's active presence in the world. We will accept controversy as a reality of life together and an opportunity for growth toward maturity. We covenant to be a community of God's new creation and affirm that we are open to all and closed to none.

We covenant to nurture this church as a community of faith and as an instrument for reconciliation in this world: by worship, by Christian education, by the dedication of our personal and material resources and by all the other ways we express the significance of our lives with God and one another.

We covenant together to be priests celebrating God's presence in community and in the world, believing we are participants in God's kingdom on earth.

THE 2016-2017 BOARD OF DEACONS

JANET MILLER, *Chair* • JAY RIVERS, *Chair-Elect* • BOB THOMASON, *Secretary*

CLASS OF 2017	CLASS OF 2018	CLASS OF 2019	ACTIVE LIFE DEACONS
Kathy Bahnson	Judy Bratton	Robert Barfield	Bonnie Banks
Nancy Culp	Leslie Clark	Bob Bishop	Dick Cornwell
Scott Haenni	Koren Cranford	Cindy Clemens	Gloria Gibson
Richard Harris	Lalla Dabbs	Tara Harris	Ed Hinson
Patsy Kinsey	Dave Dougherty	Ann Hester	Barbara Linney
Debby Love	Doug Driggers	Jane Huddle	Jane Lucas
Regan Miller	Charlie Elbersen	Elaine Johnson	Ted Lucas
Cathryn Rivers	Susan Salvin	Jill Kinney	Barbara Mishoe
Chris Skardon	Cherrie Shoemaker	MaryAnn Largen	Carol Pearsall
Tobie Steele	Cam Wester	Ted Phillips	Richard Pearsall
Steve Woodard	Chris William	Jay Rivers	Todd Rubenson
		Becky Rizzo	Bob Thomason
			Tillie Tice
			Dan White

THE MYERS PARK BAPTIST CHURCH

1900 *Queens Road* • *Charlotte, North Carolina 28207-2582*

Office: 704.334.7232 • Website: www.mpbconline.org • CCLI License #1864926

MINISTERS

As priests to one another, all members of the congregation are ministers. Some are called out for particular places of service:

THE REVEREND MR. W. BENJAMIN BOSWELL, *Senior Minister*

THE REVEREND MR. JOSEPH D. ALDRICH, *Associate Minister*

SHARON BREMER, *Director of Stewardship*

MARIAH B. CURRIN, *Director of New Member Ministry*

ALLEN DAVIS, *Interim Director of Youth Ministry*

BELINDA GEUSS, *Director of Through-The-Week School*

CHARLOTTE JUDGE, *Associate Director of Music*

CHER LINDBLOM, *Director of Outreach*

DR. MATTHEW MANWARREN, *Organist*

THE REVEREND MR. BARRY ZANE METZGER, *Church Administrator*

FRANCES L. MORRISON, *Minister of Music*

THE REVEREND MS. CARRIE VEAL, *Minister of Children*

THE REVEREND MS. CHRISSEY TATUM WILLIAMSON, *Minister of Faith Formation*

JENNY YOPP, *Director of The Cornwell Center*