



*A church dedicated to the glory of God
in the service of humanity through worship,
congregational care, Christian education
and the stewardship of life.*

**THE WORSHIP OF GOD
THE FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT; JOHN RUTTER'S "GLORIA"
21 December 2014 at Eleven o'clock in the morning**

THE COMMUNITY GATHERS BEFORE GOD

The Music in Preparation for Worship is intended to draw the people from the outside world into the presence of God. You are invited to remain silent during this time.

Please silence your cell phone.

THE SILENT MEDITATION

And Mary said, "My soul proclaims your greatness, O God, and my spirit rejoices in you, my Savior. For you have looked with favor upon your lowly servant, and from this day forward all generations will call me blessed. For you, the Almighty, have done great things for me, and holy is your Name. Your mercy reaches from age to age for those who fear you.

You have shown strength with your arm; you have scattered the proud in their conceit; you have deposed the mighty from their thrones and raised the lowly to high places. You have filled the hungry with good things, while you have sent the rich away empty. You have come to the aid of Israel your servant, mindful of your mercy – the promise you made to our ancestors – to Sarah and Abraham and their descendants forever."

"The Magnificat" (Luke 1:46-55 - Inclusive Bible)

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 noontday prayer calling the whole community to prayers for peace.

THE OPENING VOLUNTARY

"O Come, O Come Emmanuel"

*arr. Tim Hudson
(b. 1965)*

The Carolina Brass

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 are interested in learning more about our church, we invite you to note this on the register. We offer childcare during worship for children ages birth - age four. Please see an usher who will assist your family. Everyone is invited to coffee fellowship in Heaton Hall Foyer immediately following worship. We invite our guests to the Welcome Table in Heaton Hall Foyer for a more personal welcome and to answer any questions you may have about our church.

THE MOMENT FOR STEWARDSHIP

Chris William

***THE OPENING SENTENCES**

(Adapted from Psalm 80:1 and 3)

Leader: Give ear and hear us, O Shepherd of Israel!

People: **You who are enthroned upon the cherubim, shine forth.**

Leader: Restore us, O God.

People: **Let your face shine, that we may be saved.**

*THE PROCESSION AND OPENING OF THE BIBLE
“God rest you merry, Christians all”

Number 104
God rest you merry

*THE LIGHTING OF THE CANDLE OF LOVE

Van, Jennifer, Hadley and Anna Parker

Leader: We light the fourth candle of Advent as the candle of Love,
in wonder and praise for the love of God conceived as
Mary’s child and given to the world in Jesus of Nazareth.

(Lighting the Candle of Love.)

People: (singing)
Lo, how a rose e’er blooming
From tender stem hath sprung,
Of Jesse’s lineage coming,
By faithful prophets sung.
It came a floweret bright,
Amid the cold of winter,
When half spent was the night.

Es Ist Ein’ Ros’

+ *During the interlude, the 3 and 4 year olds and TK/Kindergarten children will leave
with their teachers and may be picked up in their classrooms after worship.*

THE CALL TO CONFESSION

THE SILENT CONFESSION

THE PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Loving God, we come to you exhausted and stretched thin.
We have neglected what really matters
and failed to be agents of incarnation in our world.

Instead of hope, we embrace realism.
Instead of peace, we experience conflict.
Instead of joy, we bring complaints.

Forgive us when our priorities are misplaced.
Remind us of your unconditional love for us
and embolden us to bring your hope, peace, joy, and love into our world.
Amen.

THE ASSURANCE OF PARDON

*THE GLORIA IN EXCELSIS DEO

Gloria

Gloria in excelsis Deo,
Gloria in excelsis Deo!

THE WORD OF GOD IS PROCLAIMED AND HEARD

THE GOSPEL LESSON

Luke 1:28-33
(See page 5 in the Order of Worship.)

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

People: Thanks be to God.

+ *As the interlude begins, children in grades 1-4 are invited to go through the door beside the Lectern to join adult teachers. Parents may pick up their children in the gym at the conclusion of worship.*

THE HOMILY
“Sitting at the Right Hand of God”

The Reverend Dr. Everett C. Goodwin

THE CHURCH AT PRAYER

THE LORD’S PRAYER

Gloria

The Chancel Choir
John Rutter
(b. 1945)

[1] *Gloria in excelsis Deo.*
Et in terra pax hominibus bonae voluntatis.
Laudamus te. Benedicimus te.
Adoramus te. Glorificamus te.
Gratias agimus tibi propter magnam gloriam tuam.
(*Gloria in excelsis Deo.*)

Glory be to God on high,
and on earth peace, good will towards all people.
We praise thee. We bless thee.
We worship thee. We glorify thee.
We give thanks to thee for thy great glory.
(Glory be to God on high.)

[2] *Domine Deus, Rex caelestis,*
Deus Pater omnipotens.
Domine Fili unigenite Jesu Christe.
Domine Deus, Agnus Dei, Filius Patris.
Qui tollis peccata mundi,
miserere nobis.
Qui tollis peccata mundi,
suscipe deprecationem nostram.
Qui sedes ad dexteram Patris,
miserere nobis.

O Lord God, heavenly King,
God the Father Almighty.
O Lord, the only-begotten Son Jesus Christ;
O Lord God, Lamb of God, Son of the Father,
that takest away the sins of the world,
have mercy upon us.
Thou that takest away the sins of the world,
receive our prayer.
Thou that sittest at the right hand
of God the Father, have mercy upon us.

[3] *Quoniam tu solus sanctus.*
Tu solus Dominus.
Tu solus altissimus, Jesu Christe.
Cum Sancto Spiritu,
in gloria Dei Patris. Amen.
(*Gloria in excelsis Deo. Amen.*)

For thou only art holy;
thou only art the Lord;
thou only, O Christ,
with the Holy Ghost, art most high in the
glory of God the Father. Amen.
(Glory be to God on high. Amen.)

Deborah Moore Clark, Scottie Stamper, Deb Steiner, soloists,
with the Carolina Brass, percussion and organ

THE SILENT REFLECTION

THE CONGREGATION RESPONDS TO GOD’S WORD

THE OFFERING

The Loose Plate Missions Offering for December supports the work of NC Med Assist.
(NC Med Assist operates a community pharmacy that provides medications, healthcare advocacy and educational support to low-income and uninsured North Carolina residents.)

THE ORGAN MEDITATION

“Christmas Prelude on *Divinum Mysterium*”

John Watkinson
(1941-2004)

*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 th

**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 PROCESSION INTO THE WORLD AND CLOSING OF THE BIBLE

Number 96

“Angels we have heard on high”

Gloria

THE BLESSING AND BENEDICTION

THE CLOSING VOLUNTARY

“God Rest you Merry”

*arr. Rob Roy McGregor
(Contemporary)*

* Those who wish may stand.

+ The ushers will seat those who are waiting.

*Following worship, you are invited to coffee fellowship in Heaton Hall Foyer.
We invite our guests to the Welcome Table in Heaton Hall Foyer for a more personal welcome
and to answer any questions you may have about our church.*

Leading worship today with The Reverend Dr. Everett C. Goodwin,
are The Reverend Ms. Chrissy Tatum Williamson, Minister of Faith Formation,
and Jeff Trenning, Member of the Congregation.

The Chancel Choir leads worship through music with
The Reverend Dr. Jonathan E. Crutchfield, Minister of Music,
and Dr. Matthew Manwarren, Organist.

The Carolina Brass and Percussion:
Trumpet: Tim Hudson, Mark Clodfelter, Frederick Beck, Ty Sheets
Horn: Bob Campbell
Trombone: David Wulfeck, Tom Burge
Tuba: Aubrey Foard
Timpani: Mark Cole
Percussion: Wiley Sykes

The acolytes are Rebecca Long, Hannah Long and Kathryn Haenni.

The sound technician is Eric Roberts. The webcast technician is Van Wilson.

The Deacon of the Week for December 21-27 is
Charley Faulkenberry, LCF120@comporium.net, 803.493.2821.

The multi-colored frontals and stoles were designed, created, and given
to this Church by Beth Resler Walters. We thank her for these beautiful gifts.

THE READING FOR SUNDAY, DECEMBER 21, 2014

Luke 1:28-33 (The Inclusive Bible)

Upon arriving, the angel said to Mary, “Rejoice, highly favored one! God is with you! Blessed are you among women!” Mary was deeply troubled by these words and wondered what the angel’s greeting meant. The angel went on to say to her, “Don’t be afraid, Mary. You have found favor with God. You’ll conceive and bear a son, and give him the name Jesus – ‘Deliverance.’ His dignity will be great, and he will be called the Only Begotten of God. God will give Jesus the judgment seat of David, his ancestor, to rule over the house of Jacob forever, and his reign will never end.”

Advent Schedule 2014

Sunday, December 21 – Advent IV

Worship, 11:00 am in the Sanctuary

John Rutter’s “Gloria” performed by the Chancel Choir, brass, percussion and organ

Taizé Prayer Service, 6:45pm in the Chapel

Wednesday, December 24 – Christmas Eve

• **Family-Friendly Worship**

4:00 pm in the Sanctuary

• **The Music of Christmas by Flute, Violin and Organ**

5:30 pm in the Sanctuary

• **Candlelight Worship with Communion**

6:00 pm in the Sanctuary

• **Nativity Tableau Service with Communion**

7:15 - 8:00 pm in the Sanctuary

THE CHURCH IN WITNESS AND MISSION

TODAY

DECEMBER 21: THE FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT; JOHN RUTTER’S *GLORIA*; THE REVEREND DR. EVERETT GOODWIN PREACHING

8:30 Charlotte Community of Mindfulness Meditation Group (also 10:15-11:00am), Room 27

9:30 God’s Garden, Elementary Wing

9:10 Chancel Choir Rehearsal, Berry Hall

9:45 Youth Sunday School, Youth Sunday School Rooms

9:45 Adult Sunday School, Education Building

10:00 Preschool Birthday Party for Jesus, Shalom Hall

11:00 Worship in the Sanctuary; John Rutter’s *Gloria* performed by the Chancel Choir, brass, percussion and organ

12:00 Coffee Fellowship, Heaton Hall Foyer

12:00 Guest Welcome, Welcome Table in Heaton Hall Foyer

5:00 No Youth Choir

6:00 No Youth Supper or Fellowship

6:45 Taizé Prayer Service, Chapel

IF YOU ARE OUR GUEST TODAY, we offer a special welcome. Following worship, we invite you to stop by the Welcome Table in Heaton Hall Foyer for a more personal welcome and to answer any questions you may have about our Church.

TAIZÉ PRAYER SERVICE - Everyone is invited to join us this evening from 6:45-7:30pm in the Chapel as we sing through the various song forms that comprise the chants of the Taizé community in France. We are open to all and closed to none.

COMMUNITY LIFE

HOLIDAY CLOSINGS - The Church office will close at noon on Wednesday, December 24 and will be closed December 25 and 26 for the Christmas holiday. We will close at noon on Wednesday, December 31 (the financial office will remain open until 5:00pm). We will be closed on Thursday, January 1 for the New Year's.

FAITH FORMATION

ADVENT MEDITATIONS – written by MPBC members and staff, along with art by Jan Richardson (www.janrichardsonimages.com), will lead us deeper into our own spiritual journeys this season. Printed booklets are available at the Welcome Table in Heaton Hall Foyer, the Narthex of the Sanctuary, and the reception area of the Church offices. Meditations are also posted online at www.mpbconline.org in the form of a blog. There you can post comments and share the meditations with your own social media accounts (be sure to tag us on Twitter @MPBaptist, #Advent and Facebook “Myers Park Baptist Church”)!

COVENANT GROUP – A new Covenant Group is forming on January 11, led by Chrissy Williamson. This group will meet from 5-6:30pm on Sundays at the Church. If you are interested in joining or if you have questions about Covenant Groups, please contact Chrissy at cwilliamson@mpbconline.org.

ANTICIPATING CONNECTIONS - Winter/Spring Connections will go live online and in print by Monday, January 12. Gatherings include potlucks, garden adventures, decorating tips, downsizing advice, uptown tours, and book discussions; we'll consider finding God in our everyday lives, and being part of earth care. Join us to create a connection for yourself at MPBC!

MPBC WOMEN: THE WOMEN'S RETREAT has been rescheduled for January 16-18, 2015. We will be staying in beach houses at Isle of Palms, SC and exploring the theme of Journey of Faith, using the biblical story of Ruth as our guide. Cost is \$250, which covers lodging and meals throughout the retreat. For more information email Chrissy at cwilliamson@mpbconline.org.

FINANCIAL RESOURCES

LET'S BE “ALL IN” FOR 2015 STEWARDSHIP - PLEASE PLEDGE TODAY! As we went to press, we had 454 pledges for 2015, totaling \$1,729,689; 153 members or families who pledged last year, representing \$242,526, had not yet pledged for 2015, and about 200 active members regularly decline to participate in the stewardship of our Church. If you are one of these members, please reach out now to let us know if you will join with us in what is not only an act of financial support for MPBC, but also an important act of Christian discipleship. We are excited about the future of our Church. Our concern is that, with current projections, our ability to maintain our current staff and programs is in jeopardy.

So many of you have stepped up to provide support beyond what was expected and, in many cases, have already increased your pledge. Thank you! To those who have not yet pledged, please know that your pledge will make a critical difference! Please consider taking action today by:

- Pledging online at: <https://mpbconline.org/make-a-pledge/>.
- Calling our Church Administrator, Barry Metzger, at 704.334.7232 x16.
- Emailing Barry at bmetzger@mpbconline.org. Please include your name and total 2015 pledge amount.
- Completing your pledge card and drop it off in the Church office anytime.

OUTREACH

ROOM IN THE INN (RITI) began last week and continues every Saturday through the end of March. We open our doors 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. WE ARE IN NEED OF HOSTS! Please consider sharing an evening with our neighbors.

8TH ANNUAL OATMEAL AND CANNED GOODS DRIVE is going on now through January 15, 2015. We are collecting all types of canned goods and non-perishables, as well as 5-lbs or larger of: oatmeal, flour, grits, and sugar (white or brown). Drop off locations are The Cornwell Center and Heaton Hall Foyer. Monetary donations can be made payable to MPBC (please note "Oatmeal Drive 2014/15" on the memo line) and send to Barry Metzger at Myers Park Baptist Church, 1900 Queens Road, Charlotte, 28207. Contributions are tax deductible. For more information, contact Bob Bishop, 980.613.2573 or bobbishopuk@gmail.com. Our goal this year is 100,000 lbs.; so far, we've collected over 50,000 lbs.

WORSHIP AND MUSIC

CHILDREN'S CHOIRS will not meet on Wednesday, December 24 or December 31 in observance of the Christmas and New Year holidays. We will resume on Wednesday, January 7.

ON SUNDAY, DECEMBER 28 we will gather as a congregation for an informal, family-friendly service at 11:00am, celebrating the first Sunday in Christmastide. Familiar carols, a children's sermon, the reading of scripture and prayers will engage both young and old. There will be no Sunday School for children, youth or adults, and we will not provide childcare. We invite everyone to the worship service.

THE CORNWELL CENTER

12 DAYS OF CHRISTMAS ART EXHIBIT, SALE AND SANTA'S WORKSHOP - Come by through January 3 to enjoy this community exhibition and art sale located in the Cornwell Center Gallery. And, stop in Santa's Workshop in the Art Studio, there is still time to create that handmade gift! Art classes for adults and children are underway Monday, Wednesday and Friday mornings with Greg Scott. Check the Art Studio page at www.cornwellcenter.org for details.

SNOW VILLAGE IN THE CORNWELL CENTER LOUNGE - A big thanks to Angie and John Byers for allowing us to enjoy this beautiful Christmas display. It is truly an opportunity not to be missed. Please drop by today to see the beautifully decorated buildings, twinkling lights, swimming swans, and see what else you can find! Each time you come by to enjoy this festive display you'll find something new.

HOLIDAY CLOSING: The Cornwell Center will close at 6:00pm on Tuesday, December 23 and will be closed December 24-26. It will reopen at 7:30am on Saturday, December 27. For the New Year holiday it will close at 6:00pm on Wednesday, December 31 and will be closed on January 1.

HOLIDAY SPORTS CAMP - Monday-Wednesday, December 29-31 from 8:30-11:30am. This co-ed camp is for ages 3-5. Registration is required, www.cornwellcenter.org or 704.927.0774.

LOOKING AHEAD

DECEMBER 28: THE FIRST SUNDAY OF CHRISTMASTIDE; THE REVEREND MS. CARRIE VEAL PREACHING

8:30 Charlotte Community of Mindfulness Meditation Group, Room 27

9:30 No Preschool or God's Garden Sunday School

9:45 No Youth Sunday School

9:45 No Adult Sunday School

11:00 Family-Friendly Worship in the Sanctuary (no childcare available)

12:00 Coffee Fellowship, Heaton Hall Foyer

12:00 Guest Welcome, Welcome Table in Heaton Hall Foyer

5:00 No Youth Choir

6:00 No Youth Supper or Fellowship

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 2014-2015 BOARD OF DEACONS

BARBARA LINNEY, *Chair* • **TODD RUBENSON**, *Chair-Elect* • **LYNN TRENNING**, *Secretary*

CLASS OF 2015	CLASS OF 2016	CLASS OF 2017	ACTIVE LIFE DEACONS
Rick Bahnson	Dale Allison	Kathy Bahnson	Bonnie Banks
Angie Byers	Britt Canady	Nancy Culp	Gloria Gibson
Mack Clark	George Currin	Scott Haenni	Skip Gribble
Steve Cornwell	Gene Doar	Richard Harris	Ed Hinson
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Charley Faulkenberry	Vikki Hunley	Patsy Kinsey	Jane Lucas
Ophelia Garmon-Brown	Barbara Linney	Debby Love	Ted Lucas
Charles Melvin	Lisa Rubenson	Regan Miller	Barbara Mishoe
Janet Miller	Jeanne Steele	Cathryn Rivers	Richard Pearsall
Tommy Odom	Marji Tate	Chris Skardon	Bob Thomason
Jinny Sullivan	Lynn Trenning	Tobie Steele	Tillie Tice
Jeff Trenning	Ed Williams	Steve Woodard	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 DR. EVERETT C. GOODWIN, *Interim Senior Minister*

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

SHARON BREMER, *Director of Stewardship*

THE REVEREND MS. ROBIN PATERSON COIRA, *Executive Minister*

THE REVEREND DR. JONATHAN E. CRUTCHFIELD, *Minister of Music*

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

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

THE REVEREND MR. CHRIS HUGHES, *Minister of Youth*

CHERI LINDBLOM, *Director of Outreach*

DR. MATTHEW MANWARREN, *Organist*

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

FRANCES L. MORRISON, *Associate Minister of Music*

DEBORAH A. STEINER, *Music Associate for Children*

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

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

JENNY YOPP, *Director of The Cornwell Center*