

The Worship of God
The Nativity of our Lord - Christmas Eve
24 December 2017
Eleven o'clock in the morning

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.

Gluten-free communion wafers are available in the Narthex.

The Music of Christmas

"Christmas Carols for Piano"

John Richardson, piano

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. We especially welcome our guests today and ask that you include your contact information. If you have not yet done so, please silence your cell phone.

***The Procession and Opening of the Bible**

"Hark! The herald angels sing"

Mendelssohn

Hark! The herald angels sing, "Glory to the newborn King.
Peace on earth, and mercy mild, God and sinners reconciled!"
Joyful all ye nations, rise, join the triumph of the skies;
with the angelic host proclaim, "Christ is born in Bethlehem!"
Hark! The herald angels sing, "Glory to the newborn King!"

Christ, by highest heaven adored, Christ the everlasting Lord!
Late in time behold Him come, offspring of the virgin's womb.
Veiled in flesh the God-head see; hail the Incarnate Deity,
Pleased in flesh with us to dwell, Jesus, our Emmanuel.
Hark! The herald angels sing, "Glory to the newborn King!"

***The Prayer of Invocation**

The Nativity of Our Lord
Christmas Eve 2017

Myers Park Baptist Church
Charlotte, North Carolina

***The Lighting of the Christ Candle** Ashley, Daniel and Kathryn Norton

Leader: A trumpet blares through the silent night!
A new song heralds the coming light!

People: Let us sing the new song,
let us turn to the light,
let us build a new earth,
let us celebrate new life!

Leader: Let the sea's deep rumble make the sky tremble!
Let the field's high chanting make the clouds dance!

All: Let us sing the new song,
let us turn to the light,
let us build a new earth,
let us celebrate new life!

(Lighting the Christ Candle)

People:(singing)

Regent Square

Angels, from the realms of glory,
wing your flight o'er all the earth;
ye who sang creation's story,
now proclaim Messiah's birth:
come and worship, come and worship,
worship Christ, the newborn King!

***The Carol**

"O little town of Bethlehem"

St. Louis

O little town of Bethlehem, how still we see thee lie!
Above thy deep and dreamless sleep the silent stars go by.
Yet in thy dark streets shineth the everlasting light;
the hopes and fears of all the years are met in thee tonight.

O holy Child of Bethlehem, descend to us, we pray;
cast out our sin and enter in, be born in us today.
We hear the Christmas angels the great glad tidings tell;
O come to us, abide with us, Our Lord Emmanuel!

Children are invited to come forward and place their figurines in the Crèche, then go to the chancel steps during the singing of the carol. Parents may accompany their children.

The Children's Anthems

"Mary Had a Baby"
"Away in a Manger"

African-American spiritual
Mueller

The Christmas Story

The Reverend Carrie Veal

***The Singing of Carols**

Children and parents may return to their seats during the singing of the carols.

"Angels we have heard on high" Gloria
Angels we have heard on high sweetly singing o'er the plains,
and the mountains in reply echoing their joyous strains.
Gloria in excelsis Deo, gloria in excelsis Deo.

"O come all ye faithful" Adeste Fideles
O come, all ye faithful, joyful and triumphant
O come ye, O come ye to Bethlehem!
Come, and behold Him, born the King of angels!
O come, let us adore Him, O come let us adore Him,
O come let us adore Him, Christ, the Lord!

"Joy to the world" Antioch
Joy to the world! The Lord is come:
let earth receive her King; let every heart prepare him room,
and heaven and nature sing, and heaven and nature sing,
and heaven, and heaven and nature sing.

The Meditation

The Reverend W. Benjamin Boswell

The Christmas Offering

The offering will benefit the MPBC Operating Fund.

The Service of Communion

All are welcome at this Table. It is open to all who seek to follow Jesus.
There are no requirements of creed, denominational affiliation or age.
Come, bring all the faith you have to this table of grace. Gluten-free communion wafers are available in the Narthex.

The Invitation to the Table

The Prayer of Thanksgiving

The Lord's Prayer

Our God, 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 Words of Institution

The Sharing of the Bread and Cup

The Music at Communion

The Prayer After Communion (unison)

We thank you, O God, for the table of grace which brings all people of earth before your presence with joy. May we who have been guests at this table grow in love for one another, that through us your light may shine in all the world. Amen.

The Hebrew Scripture

Isaiah 9:2-7 (NRSV)

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 Lighting of the Candles

*The Carol With Lights

"Silent night, holy night!"

Stille Nacht

Silent night, holy night! All is calm, all is bright,
round yon virgin mother and child!
Holy infant so tender and mild.
sleep in heavenly peace, sleep in heavenly peace.

Silent night, holy night! Son of God, love's pure light
radiant beams from thy holy face,
with the dawn of redeeming grace,
Jesus, Lord, at thy birth, Jesus, Lord, at thy birth.

Silent night, holy night! Wondrous star, lend thy light;
with the angels let us sing.
Alleluia to our King;
Christ the Savior is born, Christ the Savior is born.

The Christmas Benediction

Extinguished candles can be left in baskets at the exits as you leave.

The Postlude

Leading worship this morning with
The Reverend W. Benjamin Boswell, Senior Minister, is
The Reverend Carrie Veal, Minister of Children and Community Life,
and Katie Hambrick, Children's Ministry Intern.

Leading worship through music with
Charlotte C. Judge, Associate Director of Music,
is John Richardson, Pianist.

The sound and video technician is Van Wilson.

Our Covenant

The poinsettias on the altar are given to the glory of God and in loving memory of Mr. and Mrs. W. Frank Dowd and Mr. Roddey Dowd, Sr., by the Frank Dowd, Jr. family and Mrs. Roddey Dowd, Sr. and family; also in loving memory of Sally Carson Dowd by Frank Dowd, Jr. and family.

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 Myers Park Baptist Church

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

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

- The Reverend W. Benjamin Boswell, Senior Minister
- Frances L. Morrison, Minister of Music
- The Reverend Joseph D. Aldrich, Associate Minister
- The Reverend Chrissy Tatum Williamson, Associate Minister
- The Reverend Leigh Anne Hagerman, Church Administrator
- The Reverend Carrie Veal, Minister of Children and Community Life
- John Richardson, Organist
- Charlotte Judge, Associate Director of Music
- Allen Davis, Director of Youth Ministry
- Jenny Yopp, Director of the Cornwell Center
- Belinda Geuss, Director of Through-The-Week School

Advent 2017

You are invited to return this Christmas for our other worship offerings:

Sunday, December 24 – Christmas Eve

- The Music of Christmas with Flute, Violin, and Organ
- 5:30p in the Sanctuary
- Candlelight Worship with Communion
- 6:00p in the Sanctuary
- Nativity Tableau with Communion
- 7:30-8:30p “drop in” in the Sanctuary

Sunday, December 31

- Jazz Worship in the Round
- 11:00a in Heaton Hall

Sunday, January 7, 2018

- Epiphany Sunday Worship with Communion
- 11:00a in the Sanctuary

