



MYERS PARK
BAPTIST CHURCH
OPEN TO ALL

The Worship of God
Christmas Day
25 December 2016 at Ten o'clock in the morning
Heaton Hall in The Round

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

The Community Gathers Before God

The Silent Meditation

Darkness cannot drive out darkness; only light can do that.
Hate cannot drive out hate; only love can do that.

Martin Luther King, Jr.

The Opening Songs

“Angels We Have Heard on High”

Vocal Ensemble and Congregation

The Welcome

***The Songs of Praise**

“Silent Night”

“O Come All Ye Faithful”

Vocal Ensemble and Congregation

***The Prayer of Invocation**

The Invitation to Silent Confession

The Prayer of Confession

O God,
we often doubt your words and
are tempted to handle life's problems in our own way.
Forgive us when we fail to see your true light.
Forgive us when we have not loved you, our neighbors, or ourselves.
Lead us with your honesty,
so that we may more clearly see your will and respond to your call.
Help us in our trust. Help us in our faith. Amen.

The Assurance of Pardon

Leader: Friends, hear this good news. Truly, God can do what we cannot.
People: In Jesus Christ we are forgiven and set free.

***The Passing of the Peace**

Leader: The peace of Christ be with you all.
People: And also with you.

All are invited to stand and share the peace of Christ with one another.

The Scripture: John 1:1-14 (NRSV adapted)

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. The Word was in the beginning with God. All things came into being through the Word, and without the Word not one thing came into being. What has come into being in the Word was life, and the life was the light of all people. The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overcome it. There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. He came as a witness to testify to the light, so that all might believe through him. He himself was not the light, but he came to testify to the light. The true light, which enlightens everyone, was coming into the world. The Word was in the world, and the world came into being through it; yet the world did not know it. The Word came to what was its own, and its own people did not accept it. But to all who received the Word, who believed in it were given power to become children of God, and were born, not of blood or of the will of the flesh or of the will of man, but of God. And the Word became flesh and lived among us, and we have seen its glory, the glory of God's only son, full of grace and truth.

The Meditation

“Only Light Can Do That”

The Reverend W. Benjamin Boswell

The Musical Reflection

“So This Is Christmas”

Vocal Ensemble

John Lennon

The Church at Prayer

The Lord's Prayer

Our Father/Mother in heaven, hallowed be your name, your kingdom come, your will be done on earth, as in heaven. Give us today our daily bread. Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us. Save us from the time of trial and deliver us from evil. For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours now and forever. Amen.

The Music at the Offering

“The Perfect Gift”

Erica McGee, solo

***The Doxology**

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

Old Hundredth

(Text: Paula Meador Testerman)

***The Prayer of Dedication**

***The Closing Song**

“Joy to the World”

The Christmas Benediction

Leading Worship today with The Reverend W. Benjamin Boswell, Senior Minister,
are The Reverend Carrie Veal, Minister of Children,
and Frances L. Morrison, Minister of Music.

The Vocal Ensemble is led by Erica McGee, along with
Nash and Rebecca Long, Kim and Maddie Lanphear, and Tara McGee.

The webcast technician is John Bambach.