The Worship of God
The Nativity of Our Lord - Christmas Eve
24 December 2014
Four o’clock in the afternoon

Please silence your cell phone.

The Music of Christmas (3:50pm)
“O Come, O Come Emmanuel” Plainsong, 13th century
“What Child is This?” 16th century English Melody
Jake Skardon, cello

“Carol of the Bells” arr. Saber and Saber
Megan Merritt, piano

“O Holy Night” Adolphe Adam
Rebecca Long, flute

“The First Noel” English Carol
Annie Odom, piano

The Call to Worship
Leader: The Lord be with you.
People: And also with you.

*The Carol
“O come little children” Ihr Kinderlein kommet

Children are invited to come forward and place their figurines in the Crèche during the singing of the carol.

O come, little children, O come, one and all.
O come to the cradle in Bethlehem’s stall.
Come, look in the manger! There sleeps on the hay an infant so lovely in light bright as day!

O, there lies the Christ Child, on hay and on straw;
The shepherds are kneeling before him with awe.
And Mary and Joseph smile on him with love,
While angels are singing sweet songs from above.
THE LIGHTING OF THE CHRIST CANDLE

Brian, Christina, Alexandra, and Nikolas Williams

Leader: We have celebrated God’s gifts of hope, peace, joy and love, looking to Christ who comes to us as God’s greatest gift.

People: We celebrate that God comes to us in human form, bringing light to all the world.

Leader: May every knee bow before the newborn Savior.

People: “Glory to God in the highest.”

Leader: Let us light the Christ Candle.

*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.

THE CHRISTMAS GOSPEL FROM MATTHEW

Matthew 1:18-23

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.

*THE CAROL

“Away in a manger”

Mueller

Away in a manger, no crib for His bed, The little Lord Jesus laid down His sweet head. The stars in the bright sky looked down where He lay The little Lord Jesus asleep on the hay.

The cattle are lowing, the poor Baby wakes, But little Lord Jesus no crying He makes. I love Thee, Lord Jesus, look down from the sky, And stay by my cradle ‘till morning is nigh.

All children are invited to come to the chancel area during the singing of the carol. Parents may accompany their children.

A CHRISTMAS STORY

The Last Straw

The Reverend Dr. Everett C. Goodwin

Fredrick H. Thury, author

THE CHILDREN’S ANTHEMS

“Mary had a baby”

African-American spiritual

“Great Big Star”

arr. & adapted by Ken Guilmartin

“African-American spiritual”

John Bambach, guitar

*THE CAROL

“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.

He rules the world with truth and grace,
And makes the nations prove
The glories of His righteousness,
And wonders of His love,
And wonders of His love,
And wonders, wonders of His love.

THE CHURCH AT PRAYER

THE OFFERING

The offering will benefit the Sunshine Fund (Church Benevolence Fund).

THE CHRISTMAS GOSPEL

Luke 2:1-20

THE LIGHTING OF THE CANDLES

THE CAROL WITH LIGHTS (seated)

“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.

Children and parents may return to their seats.
THE BENEDICTION AND BLESSING
  Extinguished candles can be left in baskets at the exits as you leave.
  You are invited to return for the Nativity Tableau from 7:15-8:00 this evening.

THE POSTLUDE

* Those who wish may stand.
+ The ushers will seat those who are waiting.

Leading worship today with
The Reverend Dr. Everett C. Goodwin, Interim Senior Minister,
is The Reverend Ms. Carrie Veal, Minister of Children.

Leading worship through music with
The Reverend Dr. Jonathan E. Crutchfield, Minister of Music,
is Frances L. Morrison, Associate Minister of Music.

The sound and video technician is Van Wilson.

The artwork on the front cover is by Jessie Wilson, a second grader.

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

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

The Holy Family is portrayed by Christian, Mary Ann,
Lee and Evelyn Ann Ciciarelli.

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

- **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
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 together to be priests celebrating God’s presence in community and in the world, believing we are participants in God’s kingdom on earth.

CLASS OF 2015
Rick Bahnsen
Angie Byers
Mack Clark
Steve Cornwall
Dave Dougherty
Charley Faulkenberry
Ophelia Garmon-
Brown
Charles Melvin
Janet Miller
Tommy Odom
Jinny Sullivan
Jeff Trenning

CLASS OF 2016
Dale Allison
Britt Canady
George Currin
Gene Doar
Paul Hanneman
Vikki Hunley
Barbara Linney
Lisa Rubenson
Jeanne Steele
Mari Tate
Lynn Trenning
Ed Williams

CLASS OF 2017
Kathy Bahnsen
Nancy Culp
Scott Haenni
Richard Harris
Tom Jones
Patsy Kinsey
Debby Love
Regan Miller
Cathryn Rivers
Chris Skardon
Tobie Steele
Steve Woodard

ACTIVE LIFE
DEACONS
Bonnie Banks
Gloria Gibson
Skip Gribble
Ed Hinson
Tom Holmes
Jane Lucas
Ted Lucas
Barbara Mishoe
Richard Pearsall
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 DR. EVERETT C. GOODWIN, Interim Senior Minister
THE REVEREND MR. JOSEPH D. ALDRICH, Associate Minister
SHARON BREMER, Director of Stewardship
THE REVEREND MS. ROBIN PATERSO NOIRI, 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

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