Myers Park Baptist Church

artwork by Jessie Wilson

The Nativity of Our Lord
Christmas Eve 2015

THE WORSHIP OF GOD
THE NATIVITY OF OUR LORD - CHRISTMAS EVE
24 DECEMBER 2015
FOUR O’CLOCK IN THE AFTERNOON

Please silence your cell phone.

THE MUSIC OF CHRISTMAS (3:50pm)  Dr. Matthew Manwarren, organ

THE CALL TO WORSHIP
Leader:  The Lord be with you.
People:  And also with you.

*THE CAROL
“O come little children”  Ich 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
Robert and Julie Barfield with Langley and Preston

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.
With the angels, may every tongue sing:

People:  “Glory to God in the highest.”
Leader:  Let us light the Christ Candle.
"O little town of Bethlehem"
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
Matthew 1:18-23

*THE CAROL

"Away in a manger"
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 Reverend Carrie Veal
"The Christmas Donkey"
Gillian McClure, author

THE CHILDREN'S ANTHEMS
Frances L. Morrison
"Little Grey Donkey" 
Natalie Sleeth (adapted) 
"Great Big Star" 
arr. & adapted by Ken Guilmartin 
"Go, Tell it on the Mountain" 
African-American spiritual 
John Bambach, guitar

Children and parents may return to their seats.

THE CAROL

"Joy to the world"
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!"
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.

Taylor Riley, soloist

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

THE POSTLUDE

* Those who wish may stand. 
+ The ushers will seat those who are waiting.
Leading worship this afternoon with
The Reverend Ms. Carrie Veal, Minister of Children,
is The Reverend Ms. Robin Paterson Coira, Executive Minister.

Leading worship through music with
Frances L. Morrison, Associate Minister of Music,
is Dr. Matthew Manwarren, Organist.
The sound and video technician is Van Wilson.

The artwork on the front cover is by Jessie Wilson, a third grader.
The poinsettias 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 20-26 is
Gary Morrison, gmorrison7483@gmail.com, 704.517.5918.

The Holy Family is portrayed by
Alex, Allison and Danielle with Rosa Gnilka.

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

- The Music of Christmas by Harp and Organ
  5:30 pm in the Sanctuary
- Candlelight Worship with Communion
  6:00 pm in the Sanctuary
- Nativity Tableau 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 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 2015-2016 BOARD OF DEACONS
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THE MYERS PARK BAPTIST CHURCH
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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. JOSEPH D. ALDRICH, Associate Minister
SHARON BREMER, Director of Stewardship

THE REVEREND MS. ROBIN PATERSON COIRA, Executive Minister
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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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