



The Nativity of Our Lord Christmas Eve 2016

Myers Park Baptist Church
Charlotte, North Carolina

The Worship of God The Nativity of our Lord - Christmas Eve 24 December 2016 Four o'clock in the afternoon

Inspired by the radical hospitality of Jesus Christ, MPBC welcomes 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.

Gluten-free communion wafers are available in the Narthex.

The Music of Christmas (3:50pm)

"Christmas Carols for Piano"

Dr. Matthew Manwarren, piano

"Away in a Manger"

Traditional
William J. Kirkpatrick
arr. A. Fowler

"God Rest Ye Merry Gentlemen"

19th Century English Carol
arr. Turner and White/A. Fowler

"Greensleeves"

16th Century English Melody
arr. Turner and White/A. Fowler

Sandy Skardon with Anna-Catherine Fowler, guitar

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 this afternoon, we welcome you especially and ask that you include your address, phone number, and email. 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 Lighting of the Christ Candle

Alex and Allison Gnilk
with Rosa, Danielle and Annabella

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.

(Lighting the Christ Candle)

*The Carol

"O come little children"

Ihr Kinderlein Kommet

Children are invited to follow the holy family and place their
figurines in the Crèche, then go to the chancel area during the
singing of the carol. Parents may accompany their children.

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 Christmas Story

The Reverend Carrie Veal
Luke 2:1-20

The Children's Anthems

"Knock! Knock! Knock!"

"Mary Had a Baby"

William Grime
African-American spiritual

John Bambach, guitar

*The Singing of Carols

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

"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.

"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.

"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 Christmas Offering

The offering will benefit the Sunshine Fund (Church Benevolence
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 Father/Mother, 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 adapted)

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 . . . 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 zeal of the Lord of hosts will do this.

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 afternoon with
The Reverend W. Benjamin Boswell, Senior Minister, is
The Reverend Carrie Veal, Minister of Children.

Leading worship through music with
Frances L. Morrison, Minister of Music,
and Charlotte C. Judge, Associate Director of Music,
is Dr. Matthew Manwarren, Pianist.

The acolytes are members of the Myers Park Baptist Youth Ministry.

The sound and video technician is Van Wilson.

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.

The Holy Family is portrayed by Randall and Katherine Hoose with Margaret and Cece.

Advent Calendar 2016

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

Saturday, December 24 – Christmas Eve

The Music of Christmas with Harp and Organ
5:30pm in the Sanctuary
Candlelight Worship with Communion
6:00pm in the Sanctuary
Nativity Tableau with Communion
7:15-8:00pm "drop in" in the Sanctuary

Sunday, December 25

Christmas Day Worship in the Round -
Service of Hope
10:00-10:45am in Heaton Hall

Sunday, January 1, 2017

New Year's Day Worship in the Round –
Service of Beginnings
10:00-10:45am in Heaton Hall

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 Myers Park Baptist Church
1900 Queens Road • Charlotte, North Carolina 28207-2582
704.334.7232 • www.mpbconline.org • CCL 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. W. Benjamin Boswell, Senior Minister
The Reverend Mr. Joseph D. Aldrich, Associate Minister
Sharon Bremer, Director of Stewardship
Mariah B. Currin, Director of New Member Ministry
Allen Davis, Interim Director of Youth Ministry
Belinda Geuss, Director of Through-The-Week School
Charlotte Judge, Associate Director of Music
Cher Lindblom, Director of Outreach
Dr. Matthew Manwarren, Organist
The Reverend Mr. Barry Zane Metzger, Church Administrator
Frances L. Morrison, Minister of Music
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