

THE AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

(excerpted from The Confession of 1967, inclusive language version)

God's reconciling act in Jesus Christ is a mystery which the Scriptures describe in various ways. It is called the sacrifice of a lamb, a shepherd's life given for his sheep, atonement by a priest; again it is ransom of a slave, payment of debt, vicarious satisfaction of a legal penalty, and victory over the powers of evil. These are expressions of a truth which remains beyond the reach of all theory in the depths of God's love for humankind. They reveal the gravity, cost, and sure achievement of God's reconciling work.

THE PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE AND THE LORD'S PRAYER

Our Father, 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 debts, as we forgive our debtors; 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 OFFERTORY

Away In a Manger

arr. Joel Raney

The Handbell Choir; Jeff Peters, director

Anthony Cochran, flute; Elisabeth Copeland, cello; Jonathan Crutchfield, organ; Derek Matthews, piano; Alex Page, violin

***THE DOXOLOGY AND PRAYER OF DEDICATION**

VENI EMMANUEL

Praise God from whom all blessings flow; praise him, all creatures here below; praise him, above, ye heavenly host; praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel!

***THE HYMN 36**

In the Bleak Midwinter

CRANHAM

Verses 1,2, and 3

***THE CHARGE AND BENEDICTION**

***THE CHORAL RESPONSE**

What Can I Give Him

CRANHAM

***THE POSTLUDE**

From Heaven Above: Var. 4

Walter Pelz



December 18, 2016
11 a.m. Worship

1411 North Morningside Drive, NE, Atlanta, GA 30306
TEL 404.876.7396; Preschool 404.685.8758
EMAIL office@morningsidepc.org; WEB morningsidepc.org

Thank you for making sure your cell phone is off during the worship hour.

THE GATHERING

Beth Waltemath

Leader: The Lord be with you.

People: **And also with you.**

THE PRELUDE*From Heaven Above: Var. 7*

Walter Pelz

THE LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT WREATH

Daisy Ottmann, Clerk of Session and
Cindy Humphries, Moderator of the Diaconate

***UNISON PRAYER:**

People: **God of grace, ever faithful to your promises, the earth rejoices in the PEACE of our Savior's coming and looks forward with longing to his return. Prepare our hearts to receive him when he comes, for he is Lord of all time and space, Amen.**

***THE PROCESSIONAL HYMN 17** *Sleepers, Wake! A Voice Astounds Us* WACHET AUF

THE CALL TO CONFESSION**THE PRAYER OF CONFESSION**

Almighty God, we have confused morality with righteousness. Where you have called us to greater good than merely adhering to social convention, we have settled for the easy way. But we know that you demand of us a thinking, living faith. We know that you sent not an idol for us, but a Savior. We know that he gave not rules, but a challenge to follow him. Still, idolatry and legalism are easier. So forgive us we pray, and lead us in right paths for his name's sake, for it is in the strong and merciful name of Jesus that we pray. Amen.

A MOMENT OF SILENCE *(for examination of conscience and personal prayers of confession)*

**(The asterisk indicates parts of the worship when the congregation is invited to stand as they are able.)*

THE ASSURANCE OF PARDON

Leader: This is the covenant that I will make with them after those days, says the Lord;

People: **"I will put my laws in their hearts, and I will write them on their minds."**

Leader: He also adds,

People: **"I will remember their sins and their lawless deeds no more."**

Leader: Where there is forgiveness of these, there is no longer any offering for sin.

People: **Believe the promise of the Gospel:**

Leader: In Jesus Christ, we are forgiven.

People: **All thanks and praise to God, our creator, redeemer and sustainer.**

- Hebrews 10:16 –18

THE CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE

(Number 12)

Stars, keep the watch. When night is dim one more light the bowl shall brim, shining beyond the frosty weather, bright as sun and moon together. People, look east and sing today: Love the star is on the way.

***THE PEACE OF CHRIST**

Leader: The peace of the Lord Jesus Christ be with you all!

People: **And also with you.**

THE CONCERNS OF THE CHURCH

(Visitors and members are invited to sign the blue friendship register pad and pass it down the pew.)

THE MINUTE MESSAGE

Marshall Hunter

THE EPISTLE LESSON

Romans 1:1-7

(page 142 in the pew Bible, NT)

THE ANTHEM*Love Came Down at Christmas*

Leo Sowerby

Love came down at Christmas, Love all lovely, Love divine; Love was born at Christmas, stars and angels gave the sign. Worship we the Godhead, Love incarnate, Love divine; worship we our Jesus: but wherewith for sacred sign. Love shall be our token, Love be yours and Love be mine; Love to God and to all, Love for plea and gift and sign.

(Christina Rossetti)

THE GOSPEL LESSON

Matthew 1:18-25

(page 1 in the pew Bible, NT)

THE SERMON*"A Righteous Man"*

Baron Mullis

THE HYMN 48Lo, How a Rose E'er Blooming*

ES IS EIN' ROS'

ELDER ON CALL: Peter Tuuk

DEACON ON CALL: Leslie Prince and Cindy Humphries

USHERS: Adrienne and David Mogge, Carolyn and Peter Cobb

GREETERS: Ellen Landers, Nancy Hamilton, Cindy Humphries, Ericson Harris

COUNTERS: Lynsley Tyler and Sandra Ward

COFFEE AND CONVERSATION HOST: Emilie Paille and Jeanne McCarthy

INFANT/TODDLER VOLUNTEER: Allie Roach

TWOS/THREES VOLUNTEER: Stephanie Libby

PREK AND KINDERGARTEN: Ibbey Bailey, Ali Bradway and Sarah Beth Gehl

1ST-3RD GRADE: Sue Ballay and Julie Schoen

FELLOWSHIP: Deacons—Sarah Brownlee

Have no anxiety about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. And the peace of God, which surpasses understanding, will guard your hearts and minds in Christ Jesus.
- Philippians 4:6-7

Keep in your prayers...

Sue Blouin

Patricia Boyko

Friends and relatives of Hugh Bell: Connie Crowley, Sandra Fortson, Timothy Johnson, Marilyn Neforas, Kent Smith, and Robin and Charles Wilkins

Keri Catlett

Ann Coffey (Sarah Beth Gehl's mother)

Walter Gilbert (Patrick Gilbert's father)

Kat Harris (Eric Harris' mother)

Ann Herndon (Will's mother)

Charlotte Hudson (Jeff Adams' mother)

Friends and relatives of Linda Johnson

Jan & Ted McMahan

Tom Oder

Lin Parker (friend of Nancy Coomes)

Marilyn Pentelovich (friend of Shari Tant)

Karen Peterson and family (friend of Daisy Ottmann)

Bev Reed

Regnault family

Carlene Sauer (Kasey and Stephanie Libby's family)

Beth Klotz Von Seggern (Jack Klotz's sister)

Jane Stack and family

Robert Stack (Jane Stack's family)

Shannon Miller and Doug Strain (family of Bill Smith)

Wells family

Marty Wender (Phil Regnault's friend)

Dr. Nathaniel West (Dr. West's father)

Evelyn Wimberly (Nancy Frampton's ex-mother-in-law)

Baby Oliver Whiddon (friend of Jill Klotz)

Rick and Lorelee Wolters (Greg Wolters' parents)

John Young

WORSHIP THIS SUNDAY

Welcome to worship at Morningside Presbyterian Church.

Baron Mullis, Senior Pastor is our preacher, **Beth Waltemath, Associate for Mission and Faith Development** is our liturgist.

- Large print hymnals and Bibles as well as hearing aids are available; ushers will gladly assist.
- Please complete the information in the Friendship Pad at the end of the pews and pass the pads down and back again during the **Concerns** portion of worship.
- Children are welcomed and encouraged in worship every Sunday. Those who wish to attend Sunday School may do so **after the Peace of Christ**.
- PreK and Kindergarten are in Room 001 and remain until after worship.
- 1st - 3rd Grade are in Room 003 and Room 005 and return at the offertory.
- 4th and 5th Grade remain in worship.

PLEDGE NOTIFICATION

Home is where the heart is, the saying goes. Morningside Presbyterian Church is home to some 500 members, and throughout Commitment Season so many of our members have let us know their plans to contribute financially to the life of the church in 2017. We are pleased to report that current pledges amount to over \$660,000. But we still need over \$120,000 to reach our important 2017 goals, including an increased Mission budget allocation, continued program development through MPC, and ongoing maintenance of our treasured building. Thank you to those who have already pledged, and those who will make their pledge prior to year-end. We are so glad you have chosen MPC as a home for your heart.

CHRISTMAS PAGEANT TONIGHT

Tonight is the night of Morningside's Christmas Pageant! Come out and support our littlest ones at **6 p.m.** in the sanctuary.



Following the Christmas Pageant is our annual Chili Cook-Off. We have some very competitive candidates so this should be a night to remember! Who's going to win the Chili Cook-Off? Only you can determine that tonight at **6:30 p.m.**

OUR DEEPEST SYMPATHY

We extend our sympathy to Jane Stack and her family on the death of her husband Dick. Richard Allen Stack passed away on **Tuesday, December 13**. We keep Jane and her family surrounded by our prayers during this time.

Advent at Morningside

DECEMBER 18

◇ *Christmas Pageant*

DECEMBER 24

◇ *Christmas Eve Services*
4 p.m. Worship Service for Christmas Eve

8 p.m. Candlelight Service of Lessons and Carols (doors open at 7:15 p.m.)

DECEMBER 25

◇ *Christmas Service begins at 10 a.m.*



SHOW OFF YOUR TALENT



We're getting ready to publicize our *February* arts weekend so we're calling artists and graphic designers to compete in a

logo/cover design contest with a deadline of *Monday, December 19*. The logo should read Morningside Arts Showcase and it should also be incorporated into a cover design for an arts café that will feature church talent and refreshments. See page 10 of the *December Morningside Messenger* for details or contact Daisy Ottmann dazette@bellsouth.net. Stay tuned for more about the showcase and how to participate!

CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICES

As you know we're having two Christmas Eve services. During our *4 p.m.* service the Handbell Choir will play a special piece to include the flute, organ, cello, violin and piano. Our *8 p.m.* service will be led by the Chancel Choir, soloists, instrumentalists, liturgists, and MPC clergy. If you are able to attend our *8 p.m.* service, please arrive by *7:30 p.m.* to hear Christmas music performed by members of our congregation.

THEOLOGY ON TAP

Theology on Tap will be at Ken Sharpe's home (1700 Timberland Road, Atlanta, 30345) on *Tuesday, January 3* at *7 p.m.* Please RSVP to the office office@morningsidepc.org.

VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITY

The women's shelter at Shearith Israel's (SI) Rebecca's Tent has been an important part of Morningside's Mission Program in years past. Volunteers arrive at the shelter (1180 University Drive, 30306) at *6 p.m.* to warm and serve the meal to residents as they arrive from work.

Leftovers are prepared for lunches the next day and put in a refrigerator, and the area is cleaned up. We leave by 8 p.m. after visiting with the residents. We have scheduled our volunteer dates for *Wednesday - Sunday (January 8 - 12 and February 5 - 9)*. Please contact Phyllis Grimes grimes2230@bellsouth.net only if you have questions. To sign up please see the signup sheet on the bulletin board.

CONFIRMATION

Morningside's middle schoolers will be undergoing confirmation starting *January 8* to become church members. Each child will need a mentor from the congregation. Responsibilities include attending 12 Sunday school sessions with your youth, and two outside church events! If you are interested in helping with this, please contact Sarah aresarahr@mail.ctsnet.edu.

ACCEPTING APPLICATIONS

Morningside is seeking a Director of Children's Ministries and it could be you! This is a very important position that we would like to fill soon. The preferred candidate will have a degree in Christian education or other educational area. Hands-on experience in creating and directing children's ministry programs is a plus. To apply go to directorsearch@morningsidepc.org.

LOST - N - FOUND

If you have lost anything at the church, jewelry to be specific, please contact the office office@morningsidepc.org with a description so that it may be returned.



Faith Development at Morningside

ADULT CLASS

Next Sunday there will be no class.

CHILDREN

Jesus' Story: The contrast between the greatness of Jesus' future life and the humbleness and starkness of his birth could not be greater. Yet, it was in these circumstances that God chose to deliver Jesus. Once again, we are reminded that God chooses the most unexpected people, places, and times to deliver God's promise. God loves all people regardless of where they live or their social status. Luke 2:1-7

THIS WEEK AT MORNINGSIDE

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 18

9:30 a.m. Coffee and Conversation
9:45 a.m. Faith Development
11 a.m. Worship/Children's Sunday School (PreK-3rd)
12 noon Fellowship
12:30 p.m. Young Adult Luncheon/ RHO Readers
6 p.m. Christmas Pageant
6:30 p.m. Chili Cook-Off

MONDAY, DECEMBER 19

12 p.m. Arts & Crafts Guild
7 p.m. Mandolin Society/Session-Joint Dinner Meeting

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 20

11 a.m. Yoga
2:15 p.m. Parkinson Tai Chi
6:30 p.m. Weight Watchers

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 21

7:30 p.m. Chancel Choir/ DCM Search Committee

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 22

11 a.m. Fun with Weights
7:30 p.m. Handbell Choir

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 23

7:30 p.m. Chancel Choir Rehearsal

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 24

4 p.m. Worship Service for Christmas Eve
8 p.m. Candlelight Service of Lessons and Carols

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 25

9:30 a.m. Coffee and Conversation
10 a.m. Worship/ Communion

Giving Update—12/11/16

NEEDED WEEKLY—\$15,650
RECEIVED—\$ 16,302
NEEDED YEAR TO DATE—\$ 782,500
RECEIVED YEAR TO DATE—\$ 723,572
Attendance Update
WORSHIP COUNT —250