

*** THE APOSTLES' CREED**

I believe in God the Father Almighty, Maker of heaven and earth, and in Jesus Christ his only Son our Lord; who was conceived by the Holy Ghost, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, dead, and buried; he descended into hell; the third day he rose again from the dead; he ascended into heaven, and sitteth on the right hand of God the Father Almighty; from thence he shall come to judge the quick and the dead. I believe in the Holy Ghost; the holy catholic church; the communion of saints; the forgiveness of sins; the resurrection of the body; and the life everlasting. Amen.

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

Lo, How A Rose E'er Blooming arr. Cathy Moglebust
Handbell Choir (Jeff Peters, director)
Elisabeth Copeland, cello; Ellery Koelker-Wolfe, viola;
Alex Page, violin; Ellen Stockstill, violin

***THE DOXOLOGY AND PRAYER OF DEDICATION**

(Hymn 592)

***THE HYMN 5**

Let All Mortal Flesh Keep Silence

***THE CHARGE AND BENEDICTION**

***THE CHORAL RESPONSE** *Savior, Again To Thy Dear Name We Raise* Edward Hopkins

***POSTLUDE**

Magnificat Primi Toni Dietrich Buxtehude



FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT

December 21, 2014

11:00 a.m.

Baron Mullis, Senior Pastor

Drew Stockstill, Associate Pastor

Mason Copeland, Organist/Choirmaster

1411 North Morningside Drive, NE, Atlanta, GA 30306

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

THE GATHERING

Drew Stockstill

Leader: The Lord be with you.

People: And also with you.

THE PRELUDE*Prelude from Suite in G Major*

J.S. Bach

Elisabeth Copeland, Cello

THE LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT WREATH

Patrick Gilbert and Brent Drone

*** Unison Prayer:**

God of grace, ever faithful to your promises, the earth rejoices in the hope 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 7** *Lord Christ, When First You Came to Earth*

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

Eternal God, even as we seek you, we remember that we could not do so if you had not already sought us. All faith comes as a gift from you. We are grateful. But we confess sometimes following our calling seems difficult. Sometimes there are easier paths to follow. And sometimes we take the wrong route. We begin to think that our faith is our own doing and that our good works merit righteousness. Forgive us, we pray, when we forget our place as your beloved children responding to your gracious mercy. Forgive us, renew us, and send us once more to proclaim your saving grace. We ask this and all our prayers through Jesus Christ our Lord. 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: God so loved the world that he sent his only son, so that whoever believes in him may not perish but have eternal life.

People: **Indeed, God sent the son not into the world that the world might be condemned but so that the world through him might be saved.**

Leader: Believe the promise of the Gospel:

People: **In Jesus Christ, we are forgiven.** - John 3:16-17

*** THE CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE**

(Hymn 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**

(Children ages 2-10 are invited to leave after the Peace of Christ for special classes. Fours & fives in Room 011; K-1st grade in Room 001; 2nd-3rd grade in Room 003; 4th-5th grade in worship).

THE CONCERNS OF THE CHURCH

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

THE EPISTLE LESSON

Romans 16:25-27

(page 155 in the pew Bible, NT)

THE ANTHEM*Angelus ad virginem*

arr. David Willcocks

sung in Latin

The angel came to the virgin in her chamber, dispelling the fears of the virgin, and said: 'Hail! Hail, queen of virgins; the Lord of earth and heaven you will conceive and bear, chaste, the salvation of men; you have been made the gates of heaven, the cleanser of crimes.' 'How shall I conceive when I have known no man? And how shall I break what I have vowed with a firm mind?' 'The Holy Spirit by grace will accomplish all these things; do not be afraid, but rejoice, safe because your chastity shall remain untouched within you by the power of God.' To this the noble virgin replied and said to him: 'I am the humble handmaiden of almighty God. With you, the heavenly messenger, I agree, and with so great a mystery, And wish to see accomplished what I hear; I am ready to obey the will of God.' Accordingly, mother of the Lord, you who brought back peace to the angels and to man, when you bore Christ; beseech your son that he might show mercy upon us, and blot out our sins: and that he might help us to enjoy a blessed life after this time of exile.

THE GOSPEL LESSON

Luke 1:26-38

(page 53 in the pew Bible, NT)

THE SERMON*"An Auspicious Start"*

Baron Mullis

THE HYMN 9O Come, O Come, Emmanuel*

Children are always welcome in the Sanctuary during worship. Should you find that your child grows restless, there is child care available. Infants/toddlers are cared for in the Nursery in Room 105, two year olds in Room 012.

ELDER ON CALL: Will Barnette 404.881.9616

DEACON ON CALL: Sandy Jones 404.735.3831

USHERS: Peter and Carolyn Cobb, Kathy and Alan Bremer

COFFEE AND CONVERSATION HOSTS: Cindy and Bill Humphries

GREETERS: Betsy Holland, Ellen Landers, Cindy Humphries, Gail Kitchens

COUNTERS: Daisy Ottmann, Martin Dunlap

INFANT/TODDLER VOLUNTEER: Laura Fillyaw

TWOS/THREES VOLUNTEER: Eleanor Attwood

3s, 4s, & 5s VOLUNTEERS: Iby Bailey, Julie Loring

K-1st VOLUNTEER: Jill Davis

2nd-3rd GRADE VOLUNTEER: Brooke Williams

FELLOWSHIP: Deacons (Ann Bowers and Faye McKay-Clegg, coordinators)

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...

Grace Bittick (daughter of former members Charles and Mimi Bittick)

Todd Brawner and Peter Dickson

The Rev. Canon Domenic Ciannella (Rebecca Shipley's father)

Sandra Crawford

Mary Ann Embleton (Rob Payne and Stephen Smith's friend)

John Garner (father of Stephen Smith)

Karen Hancock and family (Shirley Adair's friend)

Dr. Stephen A. Hayner (President, Columbia Theological Seminary)

Ann Herndon (Will's mother)

Penny Hill

Finley Holaway

Friends and relatives of Linda Johnson: Kaitlin Andry, Melanie Donnelly, Ron and Ann Reggio, Peggy Johnson Smith, Warren Johnson, Sr.

Vicky Langford (James Beasley's mother)

Philip Marshall (Georgia Marshall's brother-in-law)

Jan McMahan

Marilyn Neforas (Hugh Bell's friend)

Jason Perryman (Anthony Owens' nephew)

The Picallo Family and Sonia Picallo (Nancy Anderson's family)

Anne and Nate Reid

Linda and Mike Robinson (Bill Smith's family)

Kent Smith (Hugh Bell's friend)

Jennifer and Jason Swafford (Sandy Jones' friends)

John Vytal (Katie Watts' father)

Ethel Young (John Young's mother)

WORSHIP THIS SUNDAY

Welcome to worship at Morningside Presbyterian Church. 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. Worship notebooks and books for children are located in the library. Nursery for infants and toddlers is in Room 105; 2-3 year olds are in Room 012. Children ages 2-10 are invited to leave after the **Peace of Christ** for special classes: Fours and fives in Room 011; K-1st grade in Room 001; 2nd-3rd grade in Room 003; 4th-5th grade in worship.

SERVICE MUSIC

The *Six suites for unaccompanied cello* by J. S. Bach are studied by virtually every modern cellist and remain some of the most recognizable solo compositions for cello. The exact chronology of the suites is not certain, but they were most likely written between 1717 and 1723, before Bach's famous violin sonatas. It was originally suggested that the suites were written as étude studies, and not meant to be performed. It is assumed that Bach did not write in bowings or dynamics for this very reason; each individual cellist and teacher could tailor the suites to fit their unique studies. The suites were not widely known before the 1900s but rose to prominence when Catalan cellist Pablo Casals discovered Grützmacher's edition in a thrift shop in Barcelona, Spain and began to study, and eventually, record them. The Prelude to Bach's Suite No. 1 in G major, BWV1007 is without a doubt the most well known movement of any in the six suites and is frequently heard in films and on television.

GIFTS OF SECURITIES

Some Morningsiders choose to fulfill their annual pledge or make special gifts to Morningside through the gift of stock or other securities. We are always happy to accept such gifts; we ask only that you notify MPC Treasurer Randy Parrish when you initiate a transfer of securities so that we can make sure you receive proper credit for your gift. Should you have questions or wish to make a gift of securities, contact him at randyparrish@bellsouth.net, 770.690.4745.



Advent at Morningside

December 21

Service of Healing / Wholeness, 7:30 p.m.
(child care provided)

Praying for others is a foundation of our Christian faith that we draw from our roots in Judaism. Praying with and for one another is what Jesus calls us to do. Some seasons of our lives are harder than others. MPC will have a healing and wholeness service tonight at 7:30 p.m. Come and let your church family surround you with love and prayer.

December 24

Christmas Eve Services

4 p.m. *Worship for Families*

Children and grown-ups of all ages are welcome to attend! *(A nursery is provided for any little ones.)*

8 p.m. *Candlelight Service of Lessons / Carols* *(child care provided; doors open 7:15 p.m.)*

Experience one of Atlanta's great Christmas Eve traditions as our Chancel Choir, choir alumni and guest instrumentalists combine in offering an evening rich with variety, drama, and the beauty of our candlelit sanctuary.

Season of Service

SERVING IN THE NEW YEAR

Our annual Season of Service will be during Martin Luther King Jr. weekend in January. We invite you to **pick a date/activity now** to participate in during the long weekend (see the Mission Bulletin Boards). Besides learning more about our outreach partners, there will be hands-on opportunities that weekend and during Lent. We challenge you to try one new outreach during this time - if you've cooked and served at Journey, you could try Clifton instead - or vice versa; if you've built at Habitat, but never been an evening volunteer at Shearith Israel Shelter for Women, mix it up! Learn about a different outreach at MPC by giving it a try. Regardless of where and how you give of your time, we challenge you to join us in our goal of 100% participation.

DO YOU WANT TO SERVE WITH A SMALL GROUP?

- Theology on Tap will serve at Journey in January and Lydia's Circle will serve in February
- Young Adults will serve at Clifton in January and have three Saturday options for building with Habitat
- Youth will serve breakfast at Intown Collaborative Ministries

DO YOU WANT TO SERVE AS A FAMILY WITH YOUNG CHILDREN, ELEMENTARY AGE, OR YOUTH?

- Sunday morning assembly of Bread for Journey and Cure Childhood Cancer
- Lead Bingo at Calvin Court for Seniors
- Serve dinner at Genesis Shelter (a new partner with Our House)

ARE YOU INTERESTED IN MAKING A LENTEN COMMITMENT?

- Sign up to build one Saturday with Habitat
- Travel to New Orleans to work with RHINO on adult mission trip
- Sign up for two hours at Shearith Israel Shelter for Women one evening in February

ADDITIONAL HIGHLIGHTS INCLUDE:

On Sunday, January 18 *Presbyterians for a Better Georgia* advocate Elizabeth Appley will speak at the 9:45 a.m. Adult Faith Development Class, and guests from some of our outreaches will join us on MLK Jr. weekend. We will wear our *MPC Serving Others* t-shirts to a very special worship service on January 18.

INTEREST IN A DIVORCE SUPPORT GROUP?

Baron was approached recently by clergy colleagues about the possibility of partnering with local Presbyterian congregations to offer a divorce support group staffed by trained therapists and counselors. Each congregation is presently gauging support and interest in such a group - if a critical

mass exists between the congregations, the pastors have agreed to work together to create this group at little or no cost to participants. If you are interested in participating in a group designed to support people experiencing divorce, e-mail Baron baron.mullis@morningsidepc.org.

Faith Development at Morningside

CHURCH-WIDE ADVENT FAITH DEVELOPMENT

Tell Me the Stories of Jesus: Sharing our Faith with Children and Others

This Sunday, the Adult Faith Development Class that meets in Room 201 will conclude their Advent Series. There will be no Adult Faith Development Class December 28.

CHILDREN'S CLASSES

This Sunday, all children will review what they've learned about Jesus' birth and celebrate his coming.

THIS WEEK AT MORNINGSIDE

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 21

9:30 a.m. Coffee and Conversation

9:45 a.m. Church School

11 a.m. Worship

12 noon Fellowship

12:15 p.m. Chancel Choir Rehearsal

7:30 p.m. Service of Healing and Wholeness

(child care provided)

MONDAY, DECEMBER 22

MPP Christmas Break

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 23

MPP Christmas Break

3 p.m. Family Friendly Christmas Eve Rehearsal

6:30 p.m. Weight Watchers

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 24

MPP and Church Office Closed in Observance of Christmas

4 p.m. Family Friendly Service

8 p.m. Candlelight Service of Lessons and Carols

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 25

MPP and Church Office Closed in Observance of Christmas

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 26

MPP Christmas Break

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 27

9 a.m. Women's AA Meeting

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 28

9:45 a.m. No Adult Faith Development Class

(Feel free to come at 10:30 a.m. and enjoy coffee and conversation and sharing of Christmas memories)

10:30 a.m. Coffee and Conversation

11 a.m. Worship

12 noon Fellowship

CONGRATULATIONS TO

David Yntema and Esther Patrick on the birth of their son, Calvin John David Yntema, on December 11. Big brother is Zane.

PARENTING COURSE

Are you interested in learning more about how to put an end to back-talk, nagging, and power struggles? MPC will offer a six week course called *Parenting the Love and Logic Way*, Thursdays 7-9 p.m., January 22- February 26 taught by Ellen Carrington. Cost is \$100 for an individual and \$150 for couples. For more information or to register, contact Children's Education Chair Liz Sommerfeld elizabethsommerfeld@gmail.com (registration deadline is January 7).

Attendance and Giving Update

WORSHIP COUNT 12/14/14 — 234

NEEDED WEEKLY—\$15,726

RECEIVED —\$34,315

In case of an emergency or urgent pastoral need, please call **BARON MULLIS** 404.876.7396 x11, 404.398.3118 or **DREW STOCKSTILL** 404.876.7396 x 14, 229.224.5557. You may also contact the elder or deacon on call listed on the back of this section.