

**\* 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**                      *O Come, All Ye Faithful*                      arr. Garson

**\* THE DOXOLOGY AND PRAYER OF DEDICATION**                      (Hymn 592)

**\* THE HYMN 40**                      *Joy to the World*

**\* THE CHARGE AND BENEDICTION**

**\* THE RESPONSE**                      *O Come All Ye Faithful*                      arr. Foster



CHRISTMAS DAY  
December 25, 2011

Baron Mullis, Pastor  
Walter Huff, 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

Bill Humphries

Leader: The Lord be with you.  
People: And also with you.

THE PRELUDE

Walter Huff, organist

\* THE CALL TO WORSHIP

Leader: The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light, those who lived in a land of deep darkness – on them has light shined.

People: **For a child has been born for us, a son given to us. Authority rests on his shoulders; and he is named Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.**

Leader: His authority shall grow continually, and there shall be endless peace for the throne of David and his kingdom.

People: **He will establish justice and uphold it with righteousness from this time on and forevermore. The zeal of the Lord of Hosts will do this.**

Leader: Let us worship God, our creator, redeemer and sustainer! - Isaiah 9:2; 6-7

\* THE HYMN 28

Good Christian Friends, Rejoice

THE CALL TO CONFESSION

THE PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Gracious God, the angels brought tidings of good news of great joy to all people. A savior has been born to us. Born, lived, was crucified, dead and buried and raised again on the third day – good tidings of great joy. Yet our lives do not reflect the joy of our salvation. We fail to grasp that this great joy may transform us and transform our lives into ministries of reconciliation in the light of these good tidings. Forgive us, we pray for stifling the good news. Forgive us for living as though we have no joy to share. And forgiving us, transform us anew that we too may bear good news of great joy. Though Christ our Lord we pray it. 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: What has come into being in Christ was life, and the life was the light of all people.

People: **The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overcome it.**

Leader: Believe the promise of the Gospel:

People: **In Jesus Christ, we are forgiven.** - John 1:3b-5

\*THE CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE

(Hymn 23)

Gloria in excelsis Deo; Gloria in excelsis Deo.

\* THE PEACE OF CHRIST

*Families are invited to enjoy worship together for Christmas Day. The infant nursery is available if needed in Room 105. Our regular children’s programming will return next Sunday, January 1.*

THE CONCERNS OF THE CHURCH

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

THE FIRST LESSON

Luke 2:1-7

(page 54 in the pew Bible, NT)

THE ANTHEM

*The First Noel*  
Rob Cromwell, tenor  
Brandon Odom, baritone

arr. Richard Walters

THE SECOND LESSON

Luke 2:8-20

(page 54 in the pew Bible, NT)

THE HOMILY

“Good News of Great Joy”

Baron Mullis

\* THE HYMN 53

What Child Is This

## This Week at Morningside

### SUNDAY, DECEMBER 25

Christmas Day  
10:30 a.m. Coffee & Conversation  
11 a.m. Family Worship

### MONDAY, DECEMBER 26

Church office closed in observance of Christmas  
Holidays

### TUESDAY, DECEMBER 27

6:30 p.m. Weight Watchers

### WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 28

### THURSDAY, DECEMBER 29

6:30 p.m. Prayer Group

### FRIDAY, DECEMBER 30

### SATURDAY, DECEMBER 31

### SUNDAY, JANUARY 1

New Year's Day  
10:30 a.m. Coffee & Conversation  
11 a.m. Worship  
12 noon Fellowship

## Christian Education at Morningside

### Adult Sunday School Class

Next Sunday, January 1, we will not have Adult Sunday School Class; however, we will continue on January 8 with the curriculum "Feasting on the Word" at 9:45 a.m. in Room 201.

### Children's Classes

Families are invited to enjoy worship together for Christmas Day. Our regular children's programming will return next Sunday, January 1.

## Staff

**Baron Mullis, Pastor**  
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**Joanna Adams, Pastor Emerita**  
**Walter Huff, Organist/Choirmaster**  
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**Randy Young, Facilities Manager**  
404.876.7396 ext. 13, [randyyoung@morningsidepc.org](mailto:randyyoung@morningsidepc.org)  
**Gus Restrepo, Sexton**

## Volunteers

**Elder on call**  
Sue Ballay, 404.874.2132  
**Deacon on call**  
Brenda Fishpaw, 678.371.3581  
**Ushers**  
Guerry and Michelle Mashburn, Collier Maxwell  
Shari Tant  
**Greeters**  
Nan Cunningham, Jane Stack  
**Coffee and Conversation Host**  
Brenda Fishpaw  
**Counters**  
Richard Brownlee, Bill Humphries  
**Infant Volunteers**  
Cindy Humphries, Sarah Brownlee

### 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 on the kiosk outside the sanctuary. Families are invited to enjoy worship together for Christmas Day. The infant nursery is available if needed in Room 105. Our regular children's programming will return next Sunday, January 1.

### YOUTH GROUP NEWS

MPC Youth will not meet December 25 or January 1. Happy Holidays! See you in 2012.

### CHURCH OFFICE

The church office will be closed Monday, December 26 in observance of the Christmas holidays.

### PLEASE REMEMBER MORNINGSIDE IN YOUR YEAR END GIVING!

We are so blessed to be surrounded by such generosity here at Morningside, but in a bleak economy, our mission dollars and efforts are more needed than ever... year end gifts help to position the church to have a strong finish for 2011. A strong end to 2011 stands us in good stead for the upcoming year such that we may continue our vital ministries and avoid making cuts to our budget at critical times. Please consider a year end gift to Morningside if you have already completed your pledge. If your pledge is not up to date, please note that Morningside's books are closed for 2011 on Dec. 31<sup>st</sup>. Contributions must be received or postmarked by that date in order to be included in your giving statements for 2011. Thanks be to God for the extraordinary generosity of Morningside members!

### GIFTS OF SECURITIES

A number of Morningsiders choose to fulfill their

annual pledge or make special gifts to Morningside through the gift of stock or other securities rather than cash. 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, e-mail [Randall.parrish@inginvestments.com](mailto:Randall.parrish@inginvestments.com) or call 770.690.4745. We thank you for your continuing support of the work and ministry of Morningside.

### UNDECKING CREW OPPORTUNITY

Please help us un-decorate our sanctuary Monday, January 2 from 9-12 noon or Tuesday, January 3 from 9-12 noon. Un-decking is faster, requires less talent than decorating, and you can still serve in this important aspect of life at Morningside. Contact Georgia Marshall at 404.909.3477 or [gkmarshall@gmail.com](mailto:gkmarshall@gmail.com).

### BIBLE SERIES

Class will resume Sunday, January 8, 2012 with a study of the Pauline letters, starting with Paul's letter to the Romans which is one of the hallmarks of his writings. Class begins at 9:45 a.m. in Room 107. All are welcome.

### SHEARITH ISRAEL

This year, MPC will provide overnight volunteers to support the SIS women's shelter for 10 days in January (Jan. 7 through Jan. 16). Volunteers stay at the shelter 6 p.m. to 6:45 a.m. To reserve your favorite night or for more information, contact MPC Shepherd Becky Meadearis at [Becky.M.Medearis@Wellsfargo.com](mailto:Becky.M.Medearis@Wellsfargo.com) or sign up on the Mission bulletin board.

### FELLOWSHIP IN JANUARY

MPC pilgrims to Haiti will share about their October trip during Fellowship Hour on Jan. 8. Plan on staying to hear about their experiences.