Inspired by the bold and boundless hospitality of Jesus, we are “open to all,” which means we welcome and accept all people into the life of our Church without regard to race, gender, sexual orientation, age, economic status, political affiliation, physical or mental capacity, or religious belief. We believe that God’s call is given to all people, and we embrace the Spirit that continues to cross boundaries in order to unite the world.

Music of Easter
“Fugue on the Name ALAIN, Op. 7”  
Maurice Duruflé (1902-1986)
“Psalm 19”  
Benedetto Marcello (1686-1739)

John Richardson, organ; Whit Blount, trumpet

Call to Worship and Invocation  
Rev. W. Benjamin Boswell

Opening Hymn
“Christ the Lord is Risen Today!”  
MPBC 2018 Recording
LLANFAIR

Welcome of Our Guests  
Rev. Carrie Veal

If you are our guest today, please text “guest” to 474747 so we may offer you our gratitude for joining us today.

Gospel Reading - John 20:1-18 (NRSV)

Early on the first day of the week, while it was still dark, Mary Magdalene came to the tomb and saw that the stone had been removed from the tomb. So she ran and went to Simon Peter and the other disciple, the one whom Jesus loved, and said to them, “They have taken the Lord out of the tomb, and we do not know where they have laid him.” Then Peter and the other disciple set out and went toward the tomb. The two were running together, but the other disciple outran Peter and reached the tomb first. He bent down to look in and saw the linen wrappings lying there, but he did not go in. Then Simon Peter came, following him, and went into the tomb. He saw the linen wrappings lying there, and the cloth that had been on Jesus’ head, not lying with the linen wrappings but rolled up in a place by itself. Then the other disciple, who reached the tomb first, also went in, and he saw and believed; for as yet they did not understand the scripture, that he must rise from the dead. Then the disciples returned to their homes.

But Mary stood weeping outside the tomb. As she wept, she bent over to look into the tomb; and she saw two angels in white, sitting where the body of Jesus had been lying, one at the head and the other at the feet. They said to her, “Woman, why are you weeping?” She said to them, “They have taken away my Lord, and I do not know where they have laid him.” When she had said this, she turned around and saw Jesus standing there, but she did not know that it was Jesus. Jesus said to her, “Woman, why are you weeping? Whom are you looking for?” Supposing him to be the gardener, she said to him, “Sir, if you have carried him away, tell me where you have laid him, and I will take him away.” Jesus said to her, “Mary!” She turned and said to him in Hebrew, “Rabbouni!” (which means Teacher). Jesus said to her, “Do not hold on to me, because I have not yet ascended to the Father. But go to my brothers and say to them, ‘I am ascending to my Father and your Father, to my God and your God.’” Mary Magdalene went and announced to the disciples, “I have seen the Lord”; and she told them that he had said these things to her.
Leader: For the Word of God in scripture, for the Word of God among us, for the Word of God within us.

People: Thanks be to God.

Musical Response
“No Love Dying Here”
Gregory Porter (b. 1971)
The Jazz Ensemble

Sermon
“Nothing Can Separate Us From Love”
Rev. W. Benjamin Boswell

Church at Prayer
Rev. Joseph D. Aldrich

Sharing Our Gifts
Rev. Leigh Anne Hagerman

Offertory Anthem
“Easter Hymn” from Cavelleria Rusticana
Pietro Mascagni (1863-1945)
Christina Pier, soprano; Kenny Potter, conductor;
Members of the Charlotte Symphony and Charlotte Symphony Chorale

Prayer of Dedication
Rev. Mia M. McClain

Musical Reflection
“The Strife is O’re”
VICTORY
Jarvis A. Miller, bass

Benediction
Rev. W. Benjamin Boswell

Musical Response
“Hallelujah Chorus” from Messiah
George Frederick Handel (1685-1759)

Postlude
“Symphonie V: Toccata”
Charles Marie-Widor (1844-1937)

Leading worship today with Rev. W. Benjamin Boswell, Senior Minister,
are Rev. Mia M. McClain, Associate Minister,
Rev. Joseph D. Aldrich, Associate Minister,
Rev. Carrie Veal, Minister of Children and Community Life,
and Rev. Leigh Anne Hagerman, Church Administrator.

Leading worship through music with
Charlotte C. Judge, Associate Director of Music,
are Jarvis A. Miller, Bass,
Whit Blount, Trumpet,
and John Richardson, Organist.

The Jazz Ensemble:
Sean Higgins, piano
Greg Jarrell, saxophone
Mike Gudbaur, bass
Ocie Davis, drums
Dawn Anthony, vocals
THEOLOGY OF WORSHIP

Why do we worship?
Worship at Myers Park Baptist is the gathering of a diverse, intergenerational, ecumenical community of faith, celebrating God’s active and timeless presence in the world. In worship, God re-forms our hearts, minds and bodies, and ignites our imaginations with sacred stories—stories that invite us to question, explore mystery, express joy and grief, and deepen our faith. We worship to learn how to develop caring, empowering relationships with each other, and to stay centered in God as the world swirls around us. We worship to be inspired and prepared to exemplify the compassion and justice of Jesus in our church family and in the world. Through worship, God frees and transforms us in heart, mind and body, so we can make a difference within ourselves, in our relationships and in our community.

How do we worship?
Focusing on God, worship at Myers Park Baptist unfolds consistently with the Isaiah 6 scriptural model: praise, confession, pardon, calling to respond, commitment and sending out. All our worship services are built on this ancient structural form, regardless of worship style, venue or theme. Communal practices within worship — radical hospitality, confession and assurance of pardon, passing the peace, silence and listening, spirited hymn singing, presentations of gifts, and active participation in Communion—transform worshipers into newness with God and one another. Themes for services, based on lectionary scriptures, annually portray the narrative arc of God’s redeeming love for humankind.

HOW TO JOIN MYERS PARK BAPTIST CHURCH

Becoming a member of Myers Park Baptist is as easy as filling out a Joining Card. To receive a card or learn more, stop by the Welcome Table in Heaton Hall Foyer.

MOBILE GIVING

You can now text your contributions and offerings to MPBC! It is secure, simple, and efficient:
• Start a new text message to phone number 73256.
• In the message of the text, enter 1900Q, a space, and the amount you want to give (i.e., 1900Q 100).
• The system will return a message to you; click on the link provided and follow instructions.
• You will then receive a receipt to confirm your gift was received. It is that simple!
• Next time, since your setup is already done – just text “1900Q, a space, then amount you wish to give” to 73256.

Questions? Contact Rev. Leigh Anne Hagerman, Church Administrator, at 704.334.7232 x116 or lhagerman@myersparkbaptist.org
OUR 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.

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OUR MINISTERS

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