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.

Prelude with Announcements
“Andante” from Sonata no. 6
Felix Mendelssohn (1809-1847)

Call to Worship
Rev. Dr. W. Benjamin Boswell

Opening Hymn
“Come and Find the Quiet Center”
BEACH SPRING
Linda Shearhouse, mezzo-soprano; Bill Miller, baritone

Prayer of Confession
Rev. Carrie Veal

Assurance of Pardon
Rev. Carrie Veal

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.

Recognition of Our Rising 6th graders
Rev. Carrie Veal; Allen Davis

Hebrew Scripture Reading – 1 Kings 19:9-18 (NRSV adapted)
Rev. Carrie Veal

At that place he came to a cave, and spent the night there. Then the word of the Lord came to him, saying, “What are you doing here, Elijah?” He answered, “I have been very zealous for the Lord, the God of hosts; for the Israelites have forsaken your covenant, thrown down your altars, and killed your prophets with the sword. I alone am left, and they are seeking my life, to take it away.” He said, “Go out and stand on the mountain before the Lord, for the Lord is about to pass by.” Now there was a great wind, so strong that it was splitting mountains and breaking rocks in pieces before the Lord, but the Lord was not in the wind; and after the wind an earthquake, but the Lord was not in the earthquake; and after the earthquake a fire, but the Lord was not in the fire; and after the fire a sound of sheer silence. When Elijah heard it, he wrapped his face in his mantle and went out and stood at the entrance of the cave.

Then there came a voice to him that said, “What are you doing here, Elijah?” He answered, “I have been very zealous for the Lord, the God of hosts; for the Israelites have forsaken your covenant, thrown down your altars, and killed your prophets with the sword. I alone am left, and they are seeking my life, to take it away.” Then the Lord said to him, “Go, return on your way to the wilderness of Damascus; when you arrive, you shall anoint Hazael as king over Aram. Also you shall anoint Jehu son of Nimshi as king over Israel; and you shall anoint Elisha son of Shaphat of Abel-meholah as prophet in your place. Whoever escapes from the sword of Hazael, Jehu shall kill; and whoever escapes from the sword of Jehu, Elisha shall kill. Yet I will leave seven thousand in Israel, all the knees that have not bowed to Baal, and every mouth that has not kissed him."
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.

Anthem
“It is Enough” from Elijah Mendelssohn
Dr. Matt Caine, Baritone; Emily Urbanek, Piano

Sermon
“Unseen Resources for Resilience” Rev. Dr. Benjamin Boswell

Anthem
“Lift Thine Eyes” from Elijah Mendelssohn
Elizabeth Ignasher, soprano; Emily Urbanek, soprano; Linda Shearhouse, alto

Sharing Our Gifts Rev. Carrie Veal
Gifts to “Loose Plate Offering” will benefit hunger relief.

Church at Prayer Rev. Carrie Veal

Closing Hymn
“For the Time is Coming” REST Linda Shearhouse, mezzo-soprano; Bill Miller, baritone

Benediction Rev. Dr. W. Benjamin Boswell

Postlude
“Allegro Maestoso e Vivace” from Sonata No. 2 Mendelssohn

Leading worship today with Rev. Dr. W. Benjamin Boswell is Rev. Carrie Veal, Minister of Children and Community Life, and Allen Davis, Director of Youth Ministry.

Leading worship through music are Dr. Matt Caine, Minister of Music and Worship, and John Richardson, Organist.

We give God thanks for the work and ministry of Charlotte C. Judge, Associate Director of Music, who joined our staff on August 8, 2016.

We give God thanks for the work and ministry of Allen Davis, Director of Youth Ministry, who joined our staff on August 9, 2016.

We give God thanks for the ministry of Belinda Geuss, Director of Through-the-Week School, who joined our staff on August 12, 2001.
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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