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
“Festive Trumpet Tune”
David German (b. 1954)
John Richardson, organ; Whit Blount, trumpet

Call to Worship and Invocation
Rev. W. Benjamin Boswell

Procession of Palms
“Hosanna, Loud Hosanna”
ELLACOMBE

Welcome of Our Guests and Children’s Moment
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.

Hymn
“All Glory, Laud and Honor”
ST. THEODULPH

Sharing Our Gifts
Rev. Mia M. McClain

Offertory Anthem
“Ride on King Jesus”
arr. Hall Johnson (1888-1979)
Lillie Judge, soprano

Prayer of Dedication
Rev. Mia M. McClain

Hebrew Scripture - Isaiah 9:14-16 (NRSV)
Rev. Carrie Veal

So the Lord cut off from Israel head and tail, palm branch and reed in one day — elders and dignitaries are the head, and prophets who teach lies are the tail; for those who led this people led them astray, and those who were led by them were left in confusion.

Gospel Reading - John12:12-15 (NRSV)

The next day the great crowd that had come to the festival heard that Jesus was coming to Jerusalem. So they took branches of palm trees and went out to meet him, shouting, “Hosanna! Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord— the King of Israel!” Jesus found a young donkey and sat on it; as it is written: “Do not be afraid, daughter of Zion. Look, your king is coming, sitting on a donkey’s colt!”

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 Reflection**
“Down By the Riverside”  
*Louis Armstrong (1901-1971)*

**Sermon**
“Cancel the Palms”  
*Rev. W. Benjamin Boswell*

**Procession of the Cross**
“Adagio in g minor”  
*Tomaso Giovanni Albinoni (1671-1751)*

Kathy Jarrell, violin

Leading worship today with Rev. W. Benjamin Boswell, Senior Minister,  
are Rev. Mia M. McClain, Associate Minister,  
and Rev. Carrie Veal, Minister of Children and Community Life.

Leading worship through music with  
Charlotte C. Judge, Associate Director of Music,  
are Lillie Judge, Soprano,  
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.

OUR MINISTERS

Rev. W. Benjamin Boswell
Senior Minister | bbowell@myersparkbaptist.org

Dr. Matt Caine
Minister of Music and Worship | mcaine@myersparkbaptist.org

Rev. Joseph D. Aldrich
Associate Minister | jaldrich@myersparkbaptist.org

Rev. Mia M. McClain
Associate Minister | mmclain@myersparkbaptist.org

Rev. Leigh Anne Hagerman
Church Administrator | lhagerman@myersparkbaptist.org

Rev. Carrie Veal
Minister of Children and Community Life | cveal@myersparkbaptist.org

John Richardson
Organist | jrichardson@myersparkbaptist.org

Charlotte C. Judge
Associate Director of Music | cjudge@myersparkbaptist.org

Allen Davis
Director of Youth Ministry | adavis@myersparkbaptist.org

Pamela Handon
Director of the Cornwell Center | phandon@cornwellcenter.org

Belinda Geuss
Director of Through-The-Week School | bgeuss@myersparkbaptist.org

MYERS PARK BAPTIST CHURCH

Inclusivity | Spirituality | Community | Justice

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