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
“Windows”
Jazz Ensemble
Armando Chick Corea

Call to Worship
Rev. Dr. Ben Boswell

Opening Song
“Liquid Spirit”
Gregory Porter

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 – Mark 1:9-15 (NRSV)
Marina Luckhoo
In those days Jesus came from Nazareth of Galilee and was baptized by John in the Jordan. And just as he was coming up out of the water, he saw the heavens torn apart and the Spirit descending like a dove on him. And a voice came from heaven, “You are my Son, the Beloved; with you I am well pleased.” And the Spirit immediately drove him out into the wilderness. He was in the wilderness forty days, tempted by Satan; and he was with the wild beasts; and the angels waited on him. Now after John was arrested, Jesus came to Galilee, proclaiming the good news of God, and saying, “The time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God has come near; repent, and believe in the good news.”

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
“I Want Jesus to Walk With Me”
Jazz Ensemble

Sermon
“Can This Desert Flourish?”
Rev. Dr. Ben Boswell

Song
“Come, Ye Sinners, Poor and Needy”
Jazz Ensemble

Sharing Our Gifts
Rev. Leigh Anne Hagerman
Gifts to “Loose Plate Offering” will benefit the Ministry of Outreach partners.
Leading worship today with Rev. Dr. W. Benjamin Boswell, Senior Minister, are Marina Luckhoo, Pastoral Intern, Rev. Carrie Veal, Minister of Children and Community Life, and Rev. Leigh Anne Hagerman, Church Administrator.

Leading worship through music are Dr. Matt Caine, Minister of Worship and Music, is 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, contact Rev Carrie Veal at cveal@myersparkbaptist.org

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 77977.
- In the message of the text, enter giveMPBC (not case-sensitive).
- The system will return a message to you; click on the link provided and follow the instructions.
- You will then receive a receipt to confirm your gift was received. It is that simple!

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. Dr. Benjamin Boswell
Senior Minister | bboswell@myersparkbaptist.org

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

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

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

Rev. Tara Gibbs
Minister of Youth and College | tgibbs@myersparkbaptist.org

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

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

Charlotte Judge
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