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
"I Call to Thee, Lord Jesus Christ"
John Richardson, organ
Johann Sebastian Bach (1685-1750)

Call to Worship
Rev. Dr. Ben Boswell

Opening Hymn
“Precious Lord, Take My Hand”
PRECIOUS LORD
Ryan Harrison, bass; Emily Urbanek, pianist

This hymn's text is by a Black minister, and its music is an adaptation by the same minister Thomas A. Dorsey, of a previously composed tune by a white composer.

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.

Hebrew Scripture Reading – Genesis 2:4-7 (Inclusive Bible adapted)
Rev. Mia McClain

These are the generations of the heavens and the earth when they were created. At the time when God made the heavens and the earth, there was still no wild bush on the earth nor had any wild plant sprung up, for God had not yet sent rain to the earth, and there was no human being to till the soil. Instead, a flow of water would well up from the ground and irrigate the soil. So God fashioned the earth creature out of the clay of the earth, and blew into its nostrils the breath of life. And the earth creature became a living being.

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
“A Breathing Place”
Chancel Ensemble
Heather Sorenson (contemporary)

Sermon
“Can This Dirt Breathe?”
Rev. Tara Gibbs
Closing Hymn
“I’m Gonna Live So God Can Use Me”

Ryan Harrison, bass; Emily Urbanek, pianist

This hymn is an African-American Spiritual text and tune, the tune of which in the form we will use, was arranged by famed Black composer, conductor, organist, Morehouse College professor Wendell P. Whalum.

Sharing Our Gifts
Rev. Leigh Anne Hagerman

Gifts to “Loose Plate Offering” will benefit the Ministry of Outreach partners.

Church at Prayer
Rev. Mia McClain

Postlude
"Toccata"
John Richardson, organ
David Hegarty (b.1945)

Benediction
Rev. Tara Gibbs

Leading worship today with Rev. Tara Gibbs, Minister of Youth and College,
are Rev. Dr. W. Benjamin Boswell, Senior Minister,
Rev. Mia McClain, Associate Minister,
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,
are Charlotte Judge, Associate Director of Music,
John Richardson, Organist,
Emily Urbanek, Pianist,
Ryan Harrison, Bass,
and the Chancel Ensemble.

We give God thanks for the work and ministry of Rev. Joseph D. Aldrich,
Associate Minister, who joined our staff on March 1, 1986.

We give God thanks for the work and ministry of David Willingham,
Head Custodian, who joined our staff on March 6, 1973.
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@myesparkbaptist.org

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

Rev. Mia McClain
Associate Minister | mmcalisan@myesparkbaptist.org

Rev. Carrie Veal
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Rev. Tara Gibbs
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Rev. Leigh Anne Hagerman
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John Richardson
Organist | jrichardson@myesparkbaptist.org