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
   “There is a Happy Land”
   John Richardson, organist
   George Shearing (1919-2011)

Call to Worship
   Rev. Mia McClain

Opening Hymn
   “O Christ, the Healer”
   ERHALT UNS, HERR

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 – Psalm 30:8-12 (NRSV)
   Marina Luckhoo
   To you, O Lord, I cried, and to the Lord I made supplication: “What profit is there in my death, if I go down to the Pit? Will the dust praise you? Will it tell of your faithfulness? Hear, O Lord, and be gracious to me! O Lord, be my helper!” You have turned my mourning into dancing; you have taken off my sackcloth and clothed me with joy, so that my soul may praise you and not be silent. O Lord my God, I will give thanks to you forever.

   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
   “Still I Rise” from Like Dust I Rise
   Chancel Ensemble
   Text: Maya Angelou; Music: Mark Hayes

Sermon
   “Can This Dust Testify”
   Rev. Mia McClain

Closing Hymn
   “Come Sing to God”
   ELLACOMBE

Sharing Our Gifts
   Rev. Leigh Anne Hagerman
   Gifts to “Loose Plate Offering” will benefit the Ministry of Outreach partners.

Church at Prayer
   Marina Luckhoo

Postlude
   John Richardson, organ
“Once More, My Soul”

George Shearing

Benediction

Rev. Mia McClain

Leading worship today with Rev. Mia McClain, Associate Minister, are Rev. Dr. W. Benjamin Boswell, Senior Minister, Rev. Carrie Veal, Minister of Children and Community Life, Rev. Leigh Anne Hagerman, Church Administrator, and Marina Luckhoo, Pastoral Intern.

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

†
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 worshippers 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 | mmccain@myesparkbaptist.org

Rev. Carrie Veal
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Rev. Tara Gibbs
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Rev. Leigh Anne Hagerman
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