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
Jim Brock, Mary Little Big Eagle and Little Big Eagle
Indigenous Music

Call to Worship
Rev. Dr. Ben Boswell

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 – John 8:1-11 (NRSV adapted)
Rev. Leigh Anne Hagerman

Jesus went to the Mount of Olives. Early in the morning he came again to the temple. All the people came to him and he sat down and began to teach them. The scribes and the Pharisees brought a woman who had been caught in adultery; and making her stand before all of them, they said to Jesus, “Teacher, this woman was caught in the very act of committing adultery. Now in the law Moses commanded us to stone such women. Now what do you say?” They said this to test Jesus, so that they might have some charge to bring against him. Jesus bent down and wrote with his finger on the ground.

When they kept on questioning him, he straightened up and said to them, “Let anyone among you who is without sin be the first to throw a stone at her.” And once again he bent down and wrote on the ground. When they heard it, they went away, one by one, beginning with the elders; and Jesus was left alone with the woman standing before him. Jesus straightened up and said to her, “Woman, where are they? Has no one condemned you?” She said, “No one, sir.” And Jesus said, “Neither do I condemn you. Go your way, and from now on do not sin again.”

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
Jim Brock
Indigenous Music

Sermon
Rev. Dr. Ben Boswell

“Can This Ground Forgive?”

Song
Jim Brock, Mary Little Big Eagle and Little Big Eagle
Indigenous Music
Sharing Our Gifts

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

Church at Prayer

Postlude

Jim Brock, Mary Little Big Eagle and Little Big Eagle

Indigenous Music

Benediction

Leading worship today with Rev. Dr. W. Benjamin Boswell, Senior Minister, are 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, and Jim Brock, Mary Little Big Eagle and Little Big Eagle.
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 | mmclain@myesparkbaptist.org

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

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

Rev. Leigh Anne Hagerman
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Dr. Matt Caine
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Charlotte Judge
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