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
“Songs Without Words: Faith”
Felix Mendelssohn (1809-1847)

Call to Worship
Rev. Dr. W. Benjamin 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.

Opening Hymn
“Come Thou Fount of Every Blessing”
NETTLETON
Candice Williamson, alto; Chris Steude, tenor and guitar

Greg Mayer

Now when they heard this, they were cut to the heart and said to Peter and to the other apostles, “Brothers, what should we do?” Peter said to them, “Repent, and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ so that your sins may be forgiven; and you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit. For the promise is for you, for your children, and for all who are far away, everyone whom the Lord our God calls to him.” And he testified with many other arguments and exhorted them, saying, “Save yourselves from this corrupt generation.”

So those who welcomed his message were baptized, and that day about three thousand persons were added. They devoted themselves to the apostles’ teaching and fellowship, to the breaking of bread and the prayers. Awe came upon everyone, because many wonders and signs were being done by the apostles. All who believed were together and had all things in common; they would sell their possessions and goods and distribute the proceeds to all, as any had need. Day by day, as they spent much time together in the temple, they broke bread at home and ate their food with glad and generous hearts, praising God and having the goodwill of all the people. And day by day the Lord added to their number those who were being saved.

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.

Sermon
“Back to the Future Community”
Rev. Dr. W. Benjamin Boswell
Anthem
“Crowded Table”  
Brandi Carlisle, Lori McKenna, Natalie Hemby

You can hold my hand  
when you need to let go;  
I can be your mountain  
when you're feeling valley-low;  
I can be your streetlight,  
showing you the way home.  
You can hold my hand  
when you need to let go.

Refrain:
I want a house with a crowded table  
and a place by the fire for everyone.  
Let us take on the world while we're young and able  
and bring us back together when the day is done.

If we want a garden,  
we're gonna have to sow the seeds;  
plant a little happiness,  
let the roots run deep.  
If it's love that we give,  
then it's love that we reap.  
If we want a garden,  
we're gonna have to sow the seed. Refrain.

The door is always open;  
your picture's on my wall.  
Everyone's a little broken  
and everyone belongs;  
yeah everyone belongs. Refrain.

Candice Williamson, alto; Chris Steude, tenor and guitar

Benediction
Rev. Dr. W. Benjamin Boswell

Postlude
“Toccata Giacosa”  
Gordon Young(1919-1998)

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

Leading worship through music are  
Charlotte C. Judge, Associate Director of Music,  
and John Richardson, Organist.
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 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. W. Benjamin Boswell
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Dr. Matt Caine
Minister of Music and Worship | mcaine@myersparkbaptist.org

Rev. Joseph D. Aldrich
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Rev. Mia M. McClain
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MYERS PARK
BAPTIST
CHURCH

Inclusivity | Spirituality | Community | Justice

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