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.

All musical selections taken from

*Messiah*

*George Frideric Handel (1685-1759)*

**Overture**
No. 1, “Sinfonia”

**Call to Worship**
Rev. Dr. W. Benjamin Boswell

**Lighting of the Candle of Hope**
Dani and Katherine Kellogg with Paxton and Westley

**Scene 1**
No. 2, Recit, “Comfort ye”
No. 3, Air, “Ev’ry valley”
No. 4, Chorus, “And the glory of the Lord”

**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.*

**Scene 2**
No. 5, Recit, “Thus saith the Lord”
No. 6, Air, “But who may abide the day of his coming?”

**Sharing Our Gifts**
Rich Holmes

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

**Scene 3**
No. 8, Recit, “Behold a virgin shall conceive”
No. 9, Air with Chorus, “O thou that tellest good tidings to Zion”

**Church at Prayer**

**Scene 4**
No. 10, Recit, “For behold, darkness shall cover the earth”
No. 11, Air, “The people that walked in darkness”

**Benediction**
Rev. Dr. W. Benjamin Boswell
Scene 5
No. 12, Chorus, “For Unto Us a Child is Born”

Leading worship today with Rev. Dr. W. Benjamin Boswell, Senior Minister, are Rev. Carrie Veal, Minister of Children and Community Life, and Rich Holmes, Chair of Ministry of Stewardship.

Leading worship through music are Dr. Matt Caine, Minister of Music and Worship, Vocalists from Opera Carolina: Kimberly Butler, soprano, Kelsey Harrison, mezzo-soprano, Jonathan White, tenor, and Robert Harrelson, bass.
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
Senior Minister | bbooswell@myersparkbaptist.org

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

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

Rev. Mia M. McClain
Associate Minister | mmcclain@myersparkbaptist.org

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

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

John Richardson
Organist | jrichardson@myersparkbaptist.org

Charlotte C. Judge
Associate Director of Music | cjjudge@myersparkbaptist.org

Allen Davis
Director of Youth Ministry | adavis@myersparkbaptist.org

Pamela Handon
Director of the Cornwell Center | phandon@cornwellcenter.org

Belinda Guess
Director of Through-The-Week School | bgeuss@myersparkbaptist.org