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
   “Blessed Assurance”    Phoebe P. Knappe (1839-1908)

Call to Worship    Rev. Mia M. McClain

Opening Song
   “I Wish That I Knew How It Would Feel to Be Free”    Billy Davis / Dick Dallas

Welcome of Our Guests
   If you are our guest today, please text “guest” to 474747 so we may offer you our gratitude for joining us today.


The Lord said to Moses and Aaron in the land of Egypt: This month shall mark for you the beginning of months; it shall be the first month of the year for you. Tell the whole congregation of Israel that on the tenth of this month they are to take a lamb for each family, a lamb for each household. If a household is too small for a whole lamb, it shall join its closest neighbor in obtaining one; the lamb shall be divided in proportion to the number of people who eat of it. Your lamb shall be without blemish, a year-old male; you may take it from the sheep or from the goats. You shall keep it until the fourteenth day of this month; then the whole assembled congregation of Israel shall slaughter it at twilight. They shall take some of the blood and put it on the two doorposts and the lintel of the houses in which they eat it.

They shall eat the lamb that same night; they shall eat it roasted over the fire with unleavened bread and bitter herbs. Do not eat any of it raw or boiled in water, but roasted over the fire, with its head, legs, and inner organs. You shall let none of it remain until the morning; anything that remains until the morning you shall burn. This is how you shall eat it: your loins girded, your sandals on your feet, and your staff in your hand; and you shall eat it hurriedly. It is the passover of the Lord. For I will pass through the land of Egypt that night, and I will strike down every firstborn in the land of Egypt, both human beings and animals; on all the gods of Egypt I will execute judgments: I am the Lord. The blood shall be a sign for you on the houses where you live: when I see the blood, I will pass over you, and no plague shall destroy you when I strike the land of Egypt.

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
“Covered By the Blood?”  
Rev. Mia M. McClain

Anthem
“The Trumpet Child”  
Linford Detweiler (contemporary)

Sharing Our Gifts
Rev. Leigh Anne Hagerman

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

Moment for Outreach
Rev. Mia M. McClain

Church at Prayer
Rev. Joseph D. Aldrich

Closing Song
“Tryin’ Times”  
Donny Hathaway / Leroy Hutson

Benediction
Rev. Mia M. McClain

Postlude
“Just As I Am”  
William Batchelder Bradbury (1816-1868)

Leading worship today with Rev. Mia M. McClain, Associate Minister,  
are Rev. Joseph D. Aldrich, Associate Minister,  
and Rev. Leigh Anne Hagerman, Church Administrator.  

Leading worship through music are  
Dr. Matt Caine, Minister of Music and Worship,  
and the Jazz Ensemble:  
Sean Higgins, piano  
Greg Jarrell, saxophone  
Mike Gudbaur, bass  
Ocie Davis, drums  
Dawn Anthony, vocals

We give God thanks for the work and ministry of Caroline Manning,  
Program Assistant, who joined our staff on September 11, 2017.
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 l mcaine@myersparkbaptist.org

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

Rev. Mia M. McClain
Associate Minister l mmclain@myersparkbaptist.org

Rev. Leigh Anne Hagerman
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