

# OPEN TO ALL



**MYERS PARK  
BAPTIST  
CHURCH**

Inclusivity | Spirituality | Community | Justice

The Worship of God  
**Ash Wednesday**  
February 22, 2023 | 6:30p

*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.*

*Masks are encouraged but not required for anyone. We encourage you to make the best decision for yourself and your family.*

### **Prelude**

“Have Mercy on Me, Lord”

Jane Cain, organist  
(J. S. Bach, 1685-1750)

### **Call to Worship and Invocation**

Rev. Dr. Ben Boswell

### **Musical Reflection**

“Fix Me” and “Give Me a Clean Heart” Medley

Fix me, Jesus, fix me.

Oh, fix me.

Fix me, Jesus, fix me.

Dr. Tony McNeill, pianist  
Mervyn Warren (“Fix Me”)  
Margaret Pleasant Douroux (“Give Me a Clean Heart”)

Fix me for my home on high,

Fix me, Jesus, fix me.

Fix me for the by and by,

Fix me, Jesus fix me.

Fix me for my starry crown.

Fix me, Jesus, fix me.

Fix me for the higher ground.

Fix me, Jesus, fix me.

Oh, fix me.

Fix me, Jesus, fix me.

Give me a clean heart

So I may serve Thee.

Lord, fix my heart

So that I may be used by Thee.

For I’m not worthy of all these blessings.

Give me a clean heart, and I’ll follow Thee.

Bethany Wherry, soprano

### **Baptismal Remembrance**

Rev. Dr. Ben Boswell

### **\*Hymn**

“God Your Love is Everlasting”

NETTLETON

God, your love is everlasting and your grace is ever-near,

Yet our worship and our fasting aren't enough to please you here.

We love songs and prayers and preaching, yet, O Lord, we must confess

That our actions aren't in keeping with our talk of righteousness.

Some are cheated as they labor to produce the things we buy;  
We don't see our hurting neighbor, just what labor can supply.  
We don't see the cost of violence; we don't challenge and resist.  
Lord, forgive us when our silence towers like a wicked fist.

God of mercy, how you love us! May we seek to live your way.  
May we welcome in the homeless; may we share our bread this day.  
May our worship lead to justice in the land and on the street;  
This is fasting at its finest, where our words and actions meet.

### Invitation to the Table

Rev. Carrie Veal and Rev. Tara Gibbs

### Prayer of Thanksgiving and the Lord's Prayer

**Our God who is in heaven, hallowed be your name. Your kingdom come, your will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread, and forgive us our trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For yours is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever. Amen.**

### Words of Institution

*(All are invited to participate in Communion. You may come forward to the front of the Sanctuary to receive bread and juice or pre-packaged, gluten-free elements.  
If you prefer to be served at your seat, please raise your hand and a Minister will assist you.)*

### Music During Communion

"Communion Music"

Jane Cain, organist  
(Charles Callahan, b. 1951)

### Hebrew Scripture Reading – Isaiah 58:1-12 (NRSV)

Rev. Carrie Veal

Shout out; do not hold back!  
Lift up your voice like a trumpet!  
Announce to my people their rebellion,  
to the house of Jacob their sins.  
Yet day after day they seek me  
and delight to know my ways,  
as if they were a nation that practiced righteousness  
and did not forsake the ordinance of their God;  
they ask of me righteous judgments;  
they want God on their side.  
"Why do we fast, but you do not see?  
Why humble ourselves, but you do not notice?"

Look, you serve your own interest on your fast day  
and oppress all your workers.  
You fast only to quarrel and to fight  
and to strike with a wicked fist.  
Such fasting as you do today  
will not make your voice heard on high.  
Is such the fast that I choose,  
a day to humble oneself?  
Is it to bow down the head like a bulrush  
and to lie in sackcloth and ashes?  
Will you call this a fast,

a day acceptable to the Lord?  
Is not this the fast that I choose:  
to loose the bonds of injustice,  
to undo the straps of the yoke,  
to let the oppressed go free,  
and to break every yoke?  
Is it not to share your bread with the hungry  
and bring the homeless poor into your house;  
when you see the naked, to cover them  
and not to hide yourself from your own kin?  
Then your light shall break forth like the dawn,  
and your healing shall spring up quickly;  
your vindicator shall go before you;  
the glory of the Lord shall be your rear guard.  
Then you shall call, and the Lord will answer;  
you shall cry for help, and he will say, "Here I am."

If you remove the yoke from among you,  
the pointing of the finger, the speaking of evil,  
if you offer your food to the hungry  
and satisfy the needs of the afflicted,  
then your light shall rise in the darkness  
and your gloom be like the noonday.  
The Lord will guide you continually  
and satisfy your needs in parched places  
and make your bones strong,  
and you shall be like a watered garden,  
like a spring of water  
whose waters never fail.  
Your ancient ruins shall be rebuilt;  
you shall raise up the foundations of many generations;  
you shall be called the repairer of the breach,  
the restorer of streets to live in.

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 Hymn**

"O God of Love the Fast You Choose"  
O God of love, the fast you choose  
Is not some great display.  
It's everything we gladly do  
To serve you day by day.  
It's not a moment set apart  
When we will mourn our sin;  
For you require a change of heart —  
A change from what has been.

Lord, we confess we often sing  
That you are our delight,  
Then we go shouting words that sting;

KINGSFORD

We bicker and we fight.  
Oppressing others for our gain,  
We put our interests first.  
We overlook our neighbors' pain  
While praying here in church.

You teach us what it means to be  
A church that worships you:  
In setting captive people free,  
We praise you as you choose.  
In sharing bread with hungry folk,  
Bringing the homeless in,  
And breaking every bitter yoke  
We worship you again.

### **Meditation**

Rev. Dr. Ben Boswell

“Which Fast Do You Choose?”

### **Sermon Response**

“Return to God”

Marty Haugen (b. 1950)

Return to God with all your heart, the Source of grace and mercy;  
come seek the tender faithfulness of God.  
Now the time of grace has come, the day of salvation;  
come and learn now the way of our God. *Refrain.*  
I will take your heart of stone and place a heart within you,  
a heart of compassion and love. *Refrain.*  
If you break the chains of oppression,  
if you set the pris’ner free;  
if you share your bread with the hungry,  
give protection to the lost;  
give a shelter to the homeless,  
clothe the naked in your midst,  
then your light shall break forth like the dawn. *Refrain.*

David Young, tenor and Bethany Wherry, soprano

### **Invitation to Silent Confession**

Rev. Leigh Anne Duncan

### **Writing of the Prayers of Confession**

*(Congregants may take their written confessions  
to the front door of the church to drop them into the cauldron of fire.)*

### **Introduction of the Imposition of Ashes**

Rev. Dr. JJ Flag

### **\*Procession to the Narthex**

### **\*Burning of the Prayers of Confession**

### **The Imposition of Ashes**

Rev. Dr. Ben Boswell and Rev. Dr. JJ Flag

### \*Closing Hymn

“We Join, O Christ, Your Journey”

AURELIA

We join, O Christ, Your journey  
These solemn forty days,  
As with Your twelve disciples  
You walk imperiled ways.  
Like theirs, our steps are halting,  
Our faithfulness unsure.  
Lord, when we falter, help us  
To follow and endure.

Your self-denial shames us  
When safety is our goal,  
When, keen to claim advantage,  
We win—but lose our soul.  
We watch You reach to other  
With open, giving hands  
And see again our failure  
To answer love’s demands.

You came, O Christ, among us  
With might and right to reign;  
Yet, though a kin-dom beckoned,  
You chose the path of pain.  
A robe, a crown, a scepter—  
You counted these but loss  
And gained at last Your kin-dom  
Enthroned upon a cross.

### Benediction

Rev. Dr. Ben Boswell

### Postlude

“My Song Is Love Unknown”

Jane Cain, organist  
(John Ireland, 1879–1962)

Leading worship today with Rev. Dr. Ben Boswell, Senior Minister,  
are Rev. Carrie Veal, Executive Minister,  
Rev. Leigh Anne Duncan, Campus Administrator,  
Rev. Dr. JJ Flag, Minister of Pastoral Care and Justice,  
and Rev. Tara Gibbs, Associate Minister of Spiritual Formation,

Leading worship through music are  
Dr. Tony McNeill, Interim Minister of Music,  
Jane Cain, Organist,  
Bethany Wherry, Soprano,  
and David Young, Tenor.



Audio/Video Team Members are Wes Cobb, Joe Kuhlmann,  
Hannah Combs and volunteers.



We are affiliated with [allianceofbaptists.org](http://allianceofbaptists.org)  Alliance  
of Baptists



### **HOW TO JOIN MYERS PARK BAPTIST CHURCH**

Becoming a member of Myers Park Baptist is as simple as filling out a Joining Card.  
To receive a card or learn more, contact Rev. Carrie Veal at [cveal@myersparkbaptist.org](mailto:cveal@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 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 together to nurture this church as a community of faith and as an instrument for reconciliation in the 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

**Rev. Carrie Veal**

Executive Minister

**Rev. Tara Gibbs**

Associate Minister of Spiritual Growth

**Rev. Dr. JJ Flag**

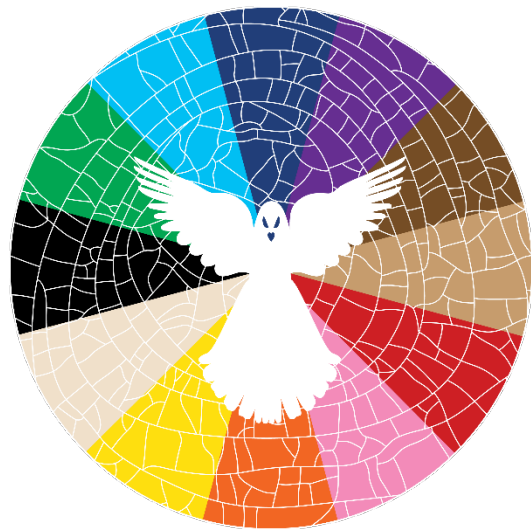
Associate Minister of Pastoral Care & Justice

**Rev. Leigh Anne Duncan**

Campus Administrator

**Dr. Tony McNeill**

Interim Minister of Music & Worship



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*We occasionally take photographs during our worship service. If you would prefer not to be included, please contact Laura Geer | Communications Director | [lgeer@myersparkbaptist.org](mailto:lgeer@myersparkbaptist.org).*

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