



The Worship of God

**The 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday of Eastertide**  
**Creation Justice Sunday**

April 23, 2023 | 10:00a

*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.*

*Childcare is available for children ages birth – kindergarten. Please see a greeter for more information.  
Worship activities for children are available in the Narthex.*

### Silent Reflection

“When I Am Among the Trees”

When I am among the trees,  
especially the willows and the honey locust  
equally the beech, the oaks and the pines,  
they give off such hints of gladness.  
I would almost say that they save me, and daily.  
I am so distant from the hope of myself,  
in which I have goodness, and discernment,  
and never hurry through the world  
but walk slowly, and bow often.  
Around me the trees stir in their leaves  
and call out, “Stay awhile.”  
The light flows from their branches.  
And they call again, “It’s simple,” they say,  
“and you too have come  
into the world to do this, to go easy, to be filled  
with light, and to shine.”

*Devotions: The Selected Poems*

*Mary Oliver (1935–2019)*

### Prelude

“The Awakening”

*Jim Brock, percussion; Rebecca Kleinmann, flute*

### Call to Worship and Invocation

*Rev. Carrie Veal*

### Choral Introit

“Each of Us is a Flower”

Each of us is a flower, growing in God's Garden  
Each of us is a flower, we need the sun and rain [repeat]

Sun shine your light on me  
Moon bring the gentle night  
Wind bring the gentle rain  
Earth dig my roots down deep

*Children’s Choir*

*Charlotte Diamond (b. 1945)*

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*\*Please rise in body or in spirit.*

### \*Opening Hymn

“God, You Spin the Whirling Planets”

HYFRYDOL

God, you spin the whirling planets, fill the seas and spread the plain.  
Mold the mountains, fashion blossoms, call forth sunshine, wind and rain.  
We, created in your image, would a true reflection be  
of your justice, grace and mercy and the truth that makes us free.

You have called us to be faithful in our life and ministry.  
We respond in grateful worship joined in one community.  
When we blur your gracious image focus us and make us whole.  
Healed and strengthened as your people, we move onward toward your goal.

God, your word is still creating, calling us to life made new.  
Now reveal to us fresh vistas where there's work to dare and do.  
Keep us clear of all distortion, polish us with loving care.  
Thus, new creatures in your image, will proclaim Christ everywhere.

### Welcome of Our Guests

Rev. Leigh Anne Duncan

*If you are our guest today, please text “guest” to 980.340.8900  
so we may offer you our gratitude for joining us today.*

### \*Passing of the Peace

### Moment for Creation Justice

Kathryn Norton and Eliza McClelland

### Gospel Reading – Matthew 6:19-21 (NRSV)

Grant Kinghorn

Do not store up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust consume and where thieves break in and steal; but store up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust consumes and where thieves do not break in and steal. For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.

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

“The Earth is the Lord’s”

ST. DENIO

“The earth is the Lord's and the fullness thereof.”  
Creation reminds us, O God, of your love.  
By grace we are learning, as year leads to year,  
we're called to be stewards, your caretakers here.

Carolyn Winfrey Gillette (b. 1961)

May we be good stewards of all that you give,  
protecting creation wherever we live.  
May we be a church that renews and restores  
and lovingly cares for this earth that is yours.

### Sermon

Rev. Amy Brooks Paradise

“Where are Our Hearts this Day?”

## Song of Reflection

“Saltwater”

Julian Lennon (b. 1974)

We are a rock revolving around a golden sun.  
We are a billion children rolled into one.  
So when I hear about the hole in the sky saltwater wells in my eyes.

We climb the highest mountain, we'll make the desert bloom.  
We're so ingenious we can walk on the moon,  
but when I hear of how the forests have died, saltwater wells in my eyes.

[Refrain]:

I have lived for love, but now that's not enough  
for the world I love is dying, and now I'm crying.  
And time is not a friend and friends we're out of time  
as it's slowly passing by, right before our eyes.

We light the deepest ocean, send photographs of Mars;  
we're so enchanted by how clever we are.  
Why should one baby feel so hungry she cries, saltwater wells in my eyes. [Refrain]

We are a rock revolving around a golden sun.  
We are a billion children rolled into one.  
What will I think of me the day that I die, saltwater wells in my eyes.

J. Kevin Gray, soloist

## Invitation to Silent Reflection/Confession

Rev. Leigh Anne Duncan

## Church at Prayer

### 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.**

## Invitation to Offering

Rev. Carrie Veal

*There are several ways to give:  
scan the QR code below, go to [pushpay.com/g/myersparkbaptist](https://pushpay.com/g/myersparkbaptist),  
or drop your offering in the plate.*



## Offertory Anthem

“Creation Reflection”

Chancel Choir  
J. Kevin Gray (b. 1976)

Creator of the sea and sky,  
who crafted planet Earth.  
The One who made all living things  
and deemed that each had worth.  
We stand in awe of ocean's deep,  
we gaze amazed at mountains high,  
each flowering plant that grows in fields of green,

each cloud that fills the sky.  
Through greed and apathetic hearts  
we've scarred this earth you made.  
We've not been stewards of the world,  
help us change our wicked way,  
turn our callousness to praise,  
before it is too late.

Grant us new eyes to see our lives  
with justice for this earth.  
May we clean the water, air and land  
for children not yet birthed.  
Creator God, we lift our praise  
for these great gifts you give.  
Stir now our hearts to be your hands of care  
for everything that lives.  
Stir now our hearts.

**\*Presentation of Gifts and the Doxology**

**God made all creatures wild and free,  
each atom, every galaxy;  
praise our Maker! Alleluia!  
God places earth in human care,  
land, living beings, water, air;  
come now folk from every nation,  
help our God renew Creation! Alleluia!**

LASST UNS ERFREUEN  
*Paula W. M. Testerman (b. 1954)*

**\*Prayer of Dedication**

Rev. Carrie Veal

**\*Closing Hymn**

“God’s Got the Whole World in God’s Hands”

Solo: We’ve got the whole world in our hands.

We’ve got the whole world in our hands. *[repeat]*

Evie Steude, soloist

Solo: We've got the rivers and the oceans in our hands. *[repeat twice]*

We've got the whole world in our hands.

Robert Jones, soloist

**All: We've got the trees and the animals in our hands. *[repeat twice]***

**We've got the whole world in our hands.**

**All: We've got the whole world in our hands.**

**We've got the whole world in our hands. *[repeat]***

**Benediction**

Rev. Amy Brooks Paradise

**Congregation: So Be It!**

**Children: Let's get to It! Hosanna!**

**Postlude**

Jim Brock and Rebecca Kleinmann

“Earth Callings”

***If you are our guest today, please connect with a minister after worship and receive a Welcome bag.***

***Childcare for children ages birth to kindergarten will be provided until noon.***

Leading worship today with Rev. Amy Brooks Paradise  
are Rev. Carrie Veal, Executive Minister,  
Rev. Leigh Anne Duncan, Campus Administrator,  
Kathryn Norton,  
Eliza McClelland,  
and Grant Kinghorn.

Leading worship through music are  
J. Kevin Gray, Minister of Music and Worship,  
Candace Williamson, Interim Children and Youth Music Coordinator,  
Chancel Choir and Children's Choir,  
Jane Cain, Organist,  
Jim Brock, Percussion,  
Rebecca Kleinmann, Flute.



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



We are affiliated with  Alliance  
allianceofbaptists.org 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).

## WE'RE GLAD YOU ARE HERE

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Connect with us  
in one easy step.

Learn more about us  
and how to get  
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Just point the camera  
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BAPTIST  
CHURCH

## 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

**J. Kevin Gray**

Minister of Music & Worship



**JUSTICE  
IS what  
LOVE  
looks like**  
MYERS PARK BAPTIST CHURCH

*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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