

OPEN TO ALL



**MYERS PARK
BAPTIST
CHURCH**

Inclusivity | Spirituality | Community | Justice

The Worship of God

Pentecost

May 28, 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.

Prelude

“Johnny Appleseed Suite: I., II., and IV.”

Mark & Maggie O’Connor, violinists
Mark O’Connor (b. 1961)

Call to Worship and Invocation

Rev. Tara Gibbs

***Opening Hymn**

“O For a Thousand Tongues to Sing”
O for a thousand tongues to sing
my great Redeemer's praise,
The glories ever echoing
the triumphs of God's grace!

AZMON

My gracious Savior and my God,
assist me to proclaim,
to spread through all the earth abroad
the honors of your name.

Jesus! the name that calms our fears,
that bids our sorrows cease
is music in the sinner's ears,
is life, and health, and peace!

Glory to God, and love and praise
be ever, ever given
by all the saints in every age,
the church in earth and heaven.

Welcome of Our Guests

Rev. Carrie Veal

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

Excerpt from “Sample Mother Earth’s Soil”

Harper Harris and Langley Barfield
Eboné M. Lockett (b. 1976)
To view the poem in its entirety, see page 9.

When the day of Pentecost had come, they were all together in one place. And suddenly from heaven there came a sound like the rush of a violent wind, and it filled the entire house where they were sitting. Divided tongues, as of fire, appeared among them, and a tongue rested on each of them. All of them were filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in other languages, as the Spirit gave them ability.

Now there were devout Jews from every people under heaven living in Jerusalem. And at this sound the crowd gathered and was bewildered, because each one heard them speaking in the native language of each. Amazed and astonished, they asked, “Are not all these who are speaking Galileans? And how is it that we hear, each of us, in our own native language? Parthians, Medes, Elamites, and residents of Mesopotamia, Judea and Cappadocia, Pontus and Asia, Phrygia and Pamphylia, Egypt and the parts of Libya belonging to Cyrene, and visitors from Rome, both Jews and proselytes, Cretans and Arabs—in our own languages we hear them speaking about God’s deeds of power.” All were amazed and perplexed, saying to one another, “What does this mean?”

New Testament Reading – Acts 8:26-39 (NRSV)

David Zeeso

Then an angel of the Lord said to Philip, “Get up and go toward the south to the road that goes down from Jerusalem to Gaza.” (This is a wilderness road.) So he got up and went. Now there was an Ethiopian eunuch, a court official of the Candace, the queen of the Ethiopians, in charge of her entire treasury. He had come to Jerusalem to worship and was returning home; seated in his chariot, he was reading the prophet Isaiah. Then the Spirit said to Philip, “Go over to this chariot and join it.” So Philip ran up to it and heard him reading the prophet Isaiah. He asked, “Do you understand what you are reading?” He replied, “How can I, unless someone guides me?” And he invited Philip to get in and sit beside him. Now the passage of the scripture that he was reading was this:

“Like a sheep he was led to the slaughter,
and like a lamb silent before its shearer,
so he does not open his mouth.
In his humiliation justice was denied him.
Who can describe his generation?
For his life is taken away from the earth.”

The eunuch asked Philip, “About whom, may I ask you, does the prophet say this, about himself or about someone else?” Then Philip began to speak, and starting with this scripture he proclaimed to him the good news about Jesus. As they were going along the road, they came to some water, and the eunuch said, “Look, here is water! What is to prevent me from being baptized?” He commanded the chariot to stop, and both of them, Philip and the eunuch, went down into the water, and Philip baptized him. When they came up out of the water, the Spirit of the Lord snatched Philip away; the eunuch saw him no more and went on his way rejoicing.

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.

As the hymn begins, 1st – 5th graders are invited to leave for Children’s Worship. They will exit at the front of the Sanctuary by the piano with Children’s Worship leaders. Parents can pick up children from room 209 in the education building between 11 -11:15. Guests are welcome! Please scan the QR code below to register if this is your first visit.



***Sermon Hymn**

“Every Time I Feel the Spirit”

Choir:

Every time I feel the Spirit
movin' in my heart I will pray.
Every time I feel the Spirit
movin' in my heart I will pray.

Solo:

Up on the mountain my Lord spoke,
out of God's mouth came fire and smoke.
Looked all around me, it looked so fine
'till asked my Lord if all was mine.

All:

**Every time I feel the Spirit
movin' in my heart I will pray.
Every time I feel the Spirit
movin' in my heart I will pray.**

Solo:

Jordan river is chilly and cold,
it chills the body but not the soul.
There ain't but one train upon this track,
It runs to heaven and right back.

All:

**Every time I feel the Spirit
movin' in my heart I will pray.
Every time I feel the Spirit
movin' in my heart I will pray. (x2)**

Choir:

Every time, I feel the Spirit (x4)
Moving in my heart, moving in my heart, I will pray, I will pray!

Greg Pipkin, soloist

SPIRITUAL
arr. Kirby Shaw (b. 1942)

Sermon

“Spiritual Inclusivity”

Rev. Dr. Ben Boswell

Musical Reflection

“Johnny Appleseed Suite: III.”

Mark & Maggie O'Connor, violinists
Mark O'Connor (b. 1961)

Invitation to Silent Reflection/Confession

Rev. Carrie Veal

Church at Prayer

Invitation to Offering

Rev. Tara Gibbs

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



Offertory Anthem

Chancel Choir

“Come, Dove of Heaven”

Mark Miller

Come, Dove of heaven, Breath of peace, sing through us, we pray.
Come, Dove of heaven, Breath of peace, sing through us, sing through us today.
Come, Light Creator, Source of peace, shine on us, we pray.
Come, Light Creator, Source of peace, shine on us, today.

Breathe, Source and Word, come, God of peace, make us new, we pray.
Breathe, Source and Word, come, God of peace, make us new, today.

Come, Love incarnate Word of peace, dwell in us we pray.
Come, Love incarnate Word of peace, dwell in us today.

*Presentation of Gifts and the Doxology

LASST UNS ERFREUEN

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!

Paula W. M. Testerman (b. 1954)

*Prayer of Dedication

Rev. Tara Gibbs

Communion

Rev. Dr. Ben Boswell and Rev. Tara Gibbs

Invitation to the Table

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

Linda McKechnie, organ

*Closing Hymn

“Let us Build a House (All Are Welcome)” stanzas 1, 2, and 5

See page 11.

TWO OAKS

Benediction

Rev. Dr. Ben Boswell

Postlude

“F.C.’s Jig”

Mark & Maggie O’Connor, violinists

Mark O’Connor (b. 1961)

**Following worship, please join us for
Sermon TalkBack at 11:15a in the Sanctuary.**

**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. Dr. Ben Boswell
are Rev. Carrie Veal, Executive Minister,
Rev. Tara Gibbs, Associate Minister of Spiritual Formation,
Harper Harris,
Langley Barfield,
Angel Diaz,
Rev. Erica Saunders,
Conor Dougherty,
and David Zeeso.

Leading worship through music are
J. Kevin Gray, Minister of Music and Worship,
Mark & Maggie O'Connor, violinists,
Linda McKechnie, piano and organ,
and the Chancel Choir.



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



We are affiliated with 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.

**WE'RE
GLAD YOU
ARE HERE**

Connect with us
in one easy step.

Learn more about us
and how to get
involved.

Just point the camera
on your phone at the
QR Code to access
the items listed here.



- **EVENTS**
- **GUESTS**
- **GIVE**
- **PRAY**
- **WEBSITE**

**MYERS PARK
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“Sample Mother Earth’s Soil”

Eboné M. Lockett

It is said that the only sure way to tell if soil is contaminated
is to sample the soil and have a certified laboratory test it.

What laboratory certifies the lived experiences of the marginalized and neglected?
What laboratory certifies the urban waters prejudicially infected?
What laboratory certified the waters of Flint?
What laboratory measures in dollars and cents
all that was stolen, along with the land.
All that has been taken, along with the literal breath of mankind.
What laboratory certified the surface of the ground that has been heavily mined?
What laboratory certified the particulate matter lodged deep down in the lungs of our
darker-hued and economically skewed children and families?
All tokens of collateral damage - along with the winds and the trees-

How long have we been waiting to breathe fresh air?
Sample Mother Earth’s soil- History holds the truth there!

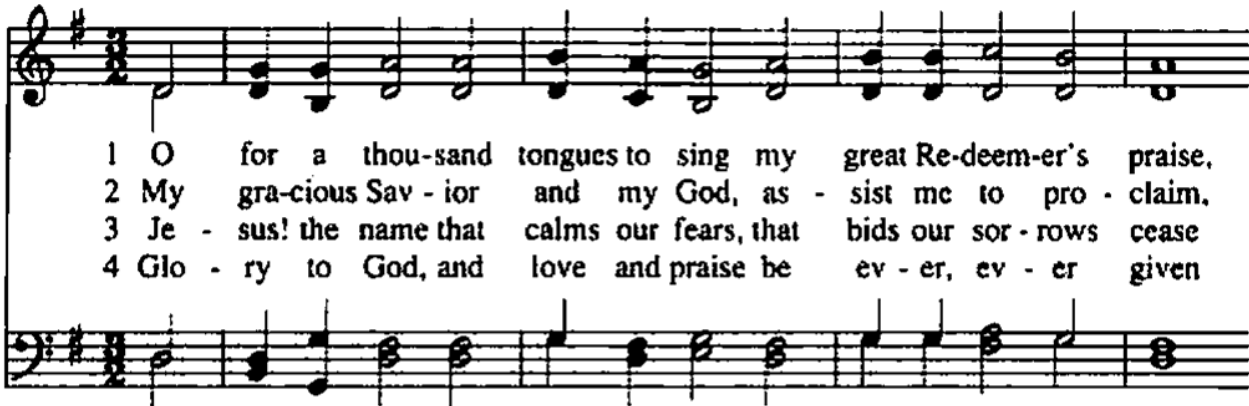
Before Gold Struck!
During the Trail of Tears!
After Urban Renewal!
What laboratory certified the stories that this sampled soil carries?
The many marginalized voices that have been silenced and buried?

We are the lab technicians.
We are Mother Earth’s clinicians.
We must cure her soil’s contamination
and fertilize seeds of hope, devoid of discrimination.
We must plant trees under whose shade we may never rest.
We must honor her air because it is our life-affirming breath.

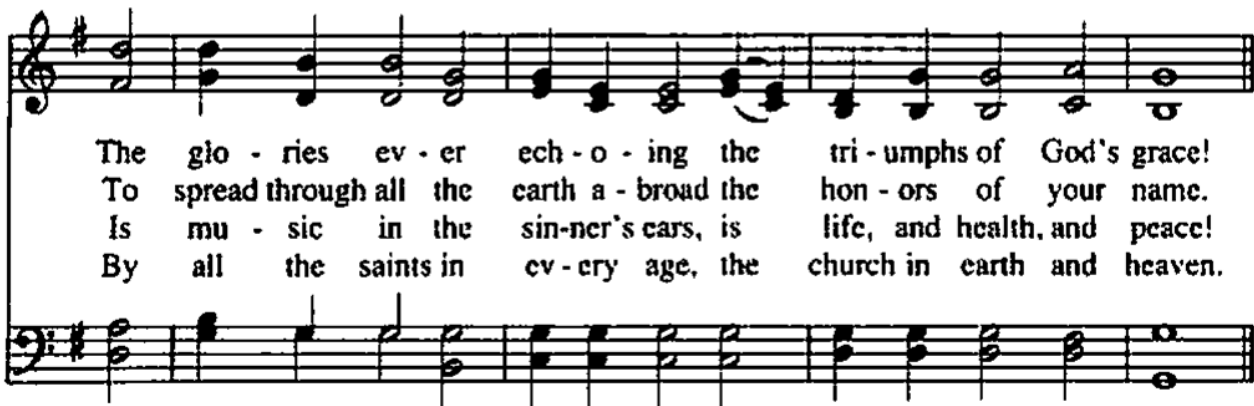
How long have we been waiting to breathe fresh air?
Sample Mother Earth’s soil- History holds truth there.

O for a Thousand Tongues to Sing

Charles Wesley, 1740; alt.



1 O for a thou-sand tongues to sing my great Re-deem-er's praise,
2 My gra-cious Sav - ior and my God, as - sist me to pro - claim,
3 Je - sus! the name that calms our fears, that bids our sor - rows cease
4 Glo - ry to God, and love and praise be ev - er, ev - er given



The gio - ries ev - er ech - o - ing the tri - umphs of God's grace!
To spread through all the earth a - broad the hon - ors of your name.
Is mu - sic in the sin-ner's ears, is life, and health, and peace!
By all the saints in ev - ery age, the church in earth and heaven.

The hymn is a cento from a longer poem of eighteen stanzas written by Charles Wesley on the first anniversary of his conversion. The present form of the hymn is one edited by John Wesley for The Wesleyan Hymn Book, 1780.

Tune: AZMON C.M.
Carl G. Glitser, 1828
Adapt. in L. Mason's Modern Psalmody, 1839
Alternate tune: RICHMOND

Let Us Build a House

All Are Welcome



1 Let us build a house where love can dwell and all can
2 Let us build a house where proph - ets speak, and words are
3 Let us build a house where love is found in wa - ter,
4 Let us build a house where hands will reach be - yond the
5 Let us build a house where all are named, their songs and



safe - ly live, a place where saints and chil - dren tell
strong and true, where all God's chil - dren dare to seek
wine, and wheat; a ban - quet hall on ho - ly ground
wood and stone to heal and strength-en, serve and teach,
vi - sions heard and loved and trea - sured, taught and claimed



how hearts learn to for - give. Built of hopes and dreams and
to dream God's reign - a - new. Here the cross shall stand as
where peace and jus - tice meet. Here the love of God, through
and live the Word they've known. Here the out - cast and the
as words with - in the Word. Built of tears and cries and



vi - sions, rock of faith and vault of grace; here the
wit - ness and as sym - bol of God's grace; here as
Je - sus, is re - vealed in time and space; as we
strang - er bear the im - age of God's face; let us
laugh - ter, prayers of faith and songs of grace; let this



love of Christ shall end di - vi - sions:
one we claim the faith of Je - sus:
share in Christ the feast that frees us: all are wel - come;
bring an end to fear and dan - ger:
house pro-claim from floor to raf - ter:



all are wel - come; all are wel - come in this place.

Although it was written for a church dedication, this text is not about a physical structure but a spiritual one. The building is at best only a vessel for the essential love and hope, life and faith, peace and justice, hospitality and nurture that form the worshipping community.

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

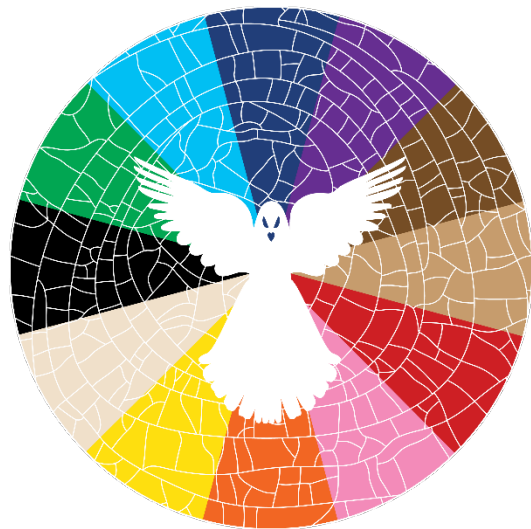
Associate Minister of Pastoral Care & Justice

Rev. Leigh Anne Duncan

Campus Administrator

J. Kevin Gray

Minister of Music & Worship



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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.

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