

# OPEN TO ALL



**MYERS PARK  
BAPTIST  
CHURCH**

Inclusivity | Spirituality | Community | Justice

The Worship of God

**The 7<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Pentecost**

July 16, 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**

“Rhosymedre”

Jane Cain, Organ  
Ralph Vaughan Williams

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

Rev. Tara Gibbs

### **\*Opening Hymn**

“Praise to the Living God”

DIADEMATA

Praise to the living God, the God of Love and light,  
whose word brought forth the myriad suns and set the worlds in flight;  
whose infinite design, which we but dimly see,  
pervades all nature, making all a cosmic unity.

Praise to the living God, from whom all things derive,  
whose Spirit formed upon this sphere the first faint seeds of life;  
who caused them to evolve, unwitting toward God’s goal,  
till humankind stood on the earth, as living, thinking souls.

Praise to the living God, around, within, above,  
beyond the grasp of human mind, but whom we know as love.  
In these tumultuous days, so full of hope and strife,  
may we bear witness to the way, O source, and goal of life.

### **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**

### **Gospel Reading – Matthew 13:1-23 NRSV adapted**

Zach Mason

That same day Jesus went out of the house and sat beside the sea. Such great crowds gathered around him that he got into a boat and sat there, while the whole crowd stood on the beach. And he told them many things in parables, saying: “Listen! A sower went out to sow. And as he sowed, some seeds fell on the path, and the birds came and ate them up. Other seeds fell on rocky ground, where they did not have much soil, and they sprang up quickly, since they had no depth of soil. But when the sun rose, they were scorched; and since they had no root, they withered away. Other seeds fell among thorns, and the thorns grew up and choked them. Other seeds fell on good soil and brought forth grain, some a hundredfold, some sixty, some thirty. Let anyone with ears listen!”

Then the disciples came and asked him, “Why do you speak to them in parables?” He answered, “To you it has been given to know the secrets of the kingdom of heaven, but to them it has not been given. For to those who have, more will be given, and they will have an abundance; but from those who have nothing, even what they have will be taken away. The reason I speak to them in parables is that ‘seeing they do not perceive, and hearing they do not listen, nor do they understand.’ With them indeed is fulfilled the prophecy of Isaiah that says:

‘You will indeed listen, but never understand,  
and you will indeed look, but never perceive.  
For this people’s heart has grown dull,  
and their ears are hard of hearing,  
and they have shut their eyes;  
so that they might not look with their eyes,  
and listen with their ears,  
and understand with their heart and turn—  
and I would heal them.’

But blessed are your eyes, for they see, and your ears, for they hear. Truly I tell you, many prophets and righteous people longed to see what you see, but did not see it, and to hear what you hear, but did not hear it.

“Hear then the parable of the sower. When anyone hears the word of the kingdom and does not understand it, the evil one comes and snatches away what is sown in the heart; this is what was sown on the path. As for what was sown on rocky ground, this is the one who hears the word and immediately receives it with joy; yet such a person has no root, but endures only for a while, and when trouble or persecution arises on account of the word, that person immediately falls away. As for what was sown among thorns, this is the one who hears the word, but the cares of the world and the lure of wealth choke the word, and it yields nothing. But as for what was sown on good soil, this is the one who hears the word and understands it, who indeed bears fruit and yields, in one case a hundredfold, in another sixty, and in another thirty.”

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, 1<sup>st</sup> – 5<sup>th</sup> 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 108 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

“O People of the Earth Prepare”

Good people now prepare the plough, break up your fallow ground!  
The sower is gone forth to sow, and scatter blessings round.  
The sower is gone forth to sow, and scatter blessings round.

CORONATION  
text by William Cowper

O God of mercies, we have need of thy preparing grace;  
Let the same hand that gives the seed show us a fruitful place.  
Let the same hand that gives the seed show us a fruitful place.

### Sermon

“Vigorous Seeds”

Rev. Dr. Ben Boswell

### Solo

“Christ Taught Us of a Farmer” stanzas 1 and 2

Christ taught us of a farmer who went out sowing seeds.  
A few had trouble growing among the rocks and weeds.  
But others grew till harvest in soil that was so good.  
O God, you sow the gospel: The seed is your own word.

You sowed your word of love here so many years ago.  
Your message found a welcome; your word began to grow.  
By grace, this church was built here by saints who followed you.  
The seed took root and flourished: we hear and follow, too.

Madeline Beitel  
ENGLISH FOLK SONG

### A Moment for Silent Reflection

Rev. Dr. JJ Flag

### 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

“With a Voice of Singing”

With a voice of singing declare ye this, and let it be heard, Alleluia!  
Utter it even unto the ends of the earth. The Lord hath delivered God's people, Alleluia!  
O be joyful in God, all ye lands. O sing praises to the honor of God's name, make God's praise to be glorious. With a voice of singing, declare ye this, and let it be heard, Alleluia!

Chancel Choir  
Martin Shaw

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

LASST UNS ERFREUEN

Praise God from whom all blessings flow.  
Praise God, all creatures, here below. Alleluia. Alleluia!  
Praise God above, ye heavenly hosts.  
Creator, Christ and Holy Ghost.  
Alleluia. Alleluia. Alleluia. Alleluia. Alleluia.

**\*Prayer of Dedication**

Rev. Tara Gibbs

**\*Closing Hymn**

“Christ Taught Us of a Farmer” stanzas 3 and 4

ST. THEODULPH

We thank you for each member who lives in loving ways,  
for those who seek to serve you without expecting praise.  
For hearts and songs uplifted, for work and sacrifice,  
the seed you planted grows here: we grow in Jesus Christ.

In times of joy we praise you, in struggling times we search.  
And always we are learning to be your faithful church.  
Your Spirit gives us vision, and hearts and lives made new.  
Your harvest is for sharing: sent out, we work for you.

**Benediction**

Rev. Dr. Ben Boswell

**Postlude**

“Toccata in E minor”

Jane Cain, organ  
Johann Pachelbel

***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. Dr. JJ Flag, Minister of Pastoral Care and Justice,  
Rev. Tara Gibbs, Associate Minister of Spiritual Growth,  
and Zach Mason, Ministerial Intern.

Leading worship through music are  
J. Kevin Gray, Minister of Music and Worship,  
Jane Cain, organist,  
Madeline Beitel, soloist,  
and the Chancel Choir.




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



Flowers on the altar are given to the glory of God and in loving memory and honor of  
Farnum and Mattie Mae Gray by their family.



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).

## 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  
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

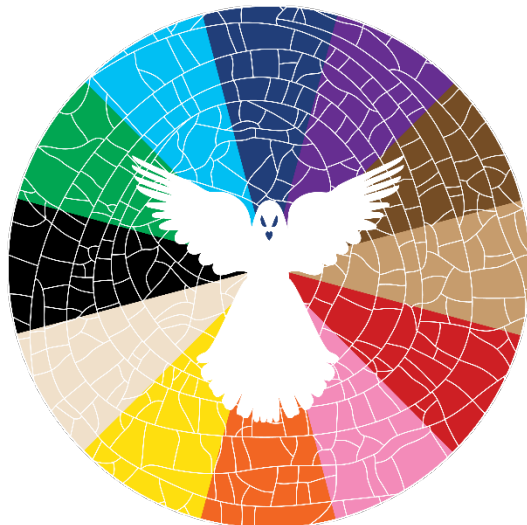
**Rev. Carrie Veal**  
Executive Minister

**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



**MYERS PARK  
BAPTIST  
CHURCH**

Inclusivity | Spirituality | Community | Justice

*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).*

One License A-729324 | WorshipCast License CCS # WC-12779 | CVLI Video License #504 239 870