

OPEN TO ALL



**MYERS PARK
BAPTIST
CHURCH**

Inclusivity | Spirituality | Community | Justice

The Worship of God

The 8th Sunday of Pentecost

July 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.*

Prelude

Mark & Maggie O’Connor
Joe Henry & Mark O’Connor

“We Just Happened to Fly”

I stand below it, a deep cloudless sky
where once we stood and then happened to fly.
We held out the quick diamond blade to the dark
that ended its reign with yet but a spark
that fell away clean the quietest star
lighting our way to be where we are.

Refrain:

And we just happened to fly
we just happened to fly,
we just happened to fly,
we just happened to fly.

I listen out now where the mountain is still,
that echoed our voices when only a hill,
when time could run backward and forward the same,
as rivers slipped free of their shape and their name,
and rocked us together when we waded deep,
and carried us on to a dream beyond sleep. *[Refrain]*

The memory serving us well will define
the way that the heart will speak to the mind.
It stands on the road in front of us now,
the past leading on with what it allows
of tomorrow and all that tomorrow may bring,
up from the well where we gathered to sing. *[Refrain]*

Call to Worship and Invocation

Rev. Tara Gibbs

*Opening Hymn

“God We Gather as Your People”

God, we gather as your people with our friends from far and near.
Let our voices sound with praises, knowing you have called us here.
Now we seek and greet each other, now in joy approach our friends.
Here we mingle, bound together as to all our love extends.

God of grace and God of glory teach our hearts to sing your praise.
For we find in you forgiveness, for each step and word misplaced.
Called to be your faithful people, help us be your voice of love,
showing mercy, helping justice, as we look to you above.

NETTLETON
Stanza 2: J. Kevin Gray

*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 12:1-21 NRSV

Savannah Robbins

At that time Jesus went through the grainfields on the sabbath; his disciples were hungry, and they began to pluck heads of grain and to eat. When the Pharisees saw it, they said to him, "Look, your disciples are doing what is not lawful to do on the sabbath." He said to them, "Have you not read what David did when he and his companions were hungry? He entered the house of God and ate the bread of the Presence, which it was not lawful for him or his companions to eat, but only for the priests. Or have you not read in the law that on the sabbath the priests in the temple break the sabbath and yet are guiltless? I tell you, something greater than the temple is here. But if you had known what this means, 'I desire mercy and not sacrifice,' you would not have condemned the guiltless. For the Son of Man is lord of the sabbath." He left that place and entered their synagogue; a man was there with a withered hand, and they asked him, "Is it lawful to cure on the sabbath?" so that they might accuse him. He said to them, "Suppose one of you has only one sheep and it falls into a pit on the sabbath; will you not lay hold of it and lift it out? How much more valuable is a human being than a sheep! So it is lawful to do good on the sabbath." Then he said to the man, "Stretch out your hand." He stretched it out, and it was restored, as sound as the other.

But the Pharisees went out and conspired against him, how to destroy him. When Jesus became aware of this, he departed. Many crowds followed him, and he cured all of them, and he ordered them not to make him known. This was to fulfill what had been spoken through the prophet Isaiah: "Here is my servant, whom I have chosen, my beloved, with whom my soul is well pleased. I will put my Spirit upon him, and he will proclaim justice to the Gentiles. He will not wrangle or cry aloud, nor will anyone hear his voice in the streets. He will not break a bruised reed or quench a smoldering wick until he brings justice to victory. And in his name the Gentiles will hope."

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 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.***



Musical Reflection

Mark and Maggie O'Connor
Stevie Wonder

"Love's in Need of Love Today"
Good morn or evening friends,
here's your friendly announcer.
I have serious news to pass on to every-body.
What I'm about to say
could mean the world's disaster,
could change your joy and laughter to tears and pain.

It's that love's in need of love today.
Don't delay send yours in right away.
Hate's goin' round breaking many hearts.
Stop it please, before it's gone too far.

The force of evil plans to make you its possession,
and it will if we let it; destroy ev-er-y-body.
We all must take precautionary measures.
If love and peace you treasure,
then you'll hear me when I say,

Oh that love's in need of love today.
Don't delay send yours in right away.
Hate's goin' round breaking many hearts.
Stop it please, before it's gone too far.

Sermon

“No Law Against Love”

Rev. Dr. Ben Boswell

Musical Reflection

“We Shall Overcome”

Mark and Maggie O'Connor
African American Spiritual

Church at Prayer

Rev. Dr. JJ Flag

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,
or drop your offering in the plate.*



Offertory Anthem

“Lord, Here Am I”

Master, thou callest, I gladly obey;
only direct me, and I'll find thy way.
Teach me the mission appointed for me,
what is my labor, and where it shall be.

Refrain:

Master, thou callest, and this I reply,
“Ready and willing, Lord, here am I.”

Chancel Choir
John Ness Beck
text: Fanny Crosby

Willing, my savior, to take up the cross;
willing to suffer reproaches and loss.
Willing to follow, if thou wilt but lead;
only support me with grace in my need. [Refrain]

Living, or dying, I still would be thine;
yet I am mortal while thou art divine.
Pardon, whenever I turn from the right;
pity, and bring me again to the light. [Refrain]

***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**

“Sent Forth by God’s Blessing”

THE ASH GROVE

Sent forth by God’s blessing, our true faith confessing,
the people of God from this dwelling take leave.
The service is ended, O now be extended
the fruits of our worship in all who believe.
The seed of Christ’s teaching, receptive hearts reaching,
shall blossom in action for God and for all.
God’s grace did invite us, and love shall unite us
to work for God’s kingdom and answer the call.

With praise and thanksgiving to God ever-living,
the tasks of our ev’ryday life we will face—
our faith ever sharing, in love ever caring,
embracing God’s children of each tribe and race.
With your grace you feed us, with your light now lead us;
unite us as one in this life that we share.
Then may all the living with praise and thanksgiving
give honor to Christ and his name that we bear.

Benediction

Rev. Dr. Ben Boswell

Postlude

“Jerusalem Ridge”

Mark & Maggie O’Connor
Bill Monroe & Kenny Baker, arr. by Mark O’Connor

**Following worship, please join us for Sermon TalkBack
at 11:15a in the Sanctuary featuring Mark O’Connor.**

**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 Savannah Robbins.

Leading worship through music are
J. Kevin Gray, Minister of Music and Worship,
Jane Cain, organist,
Mark & Maggie O'Connor, violin, guitar, vocals,
and the Chancel Choir.



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



Flowers on the altar are in memory of and appreciation for all the wonderful women who have done so much for Myers Park Baptist for so many years. Thanks be to God for every one of them.



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.

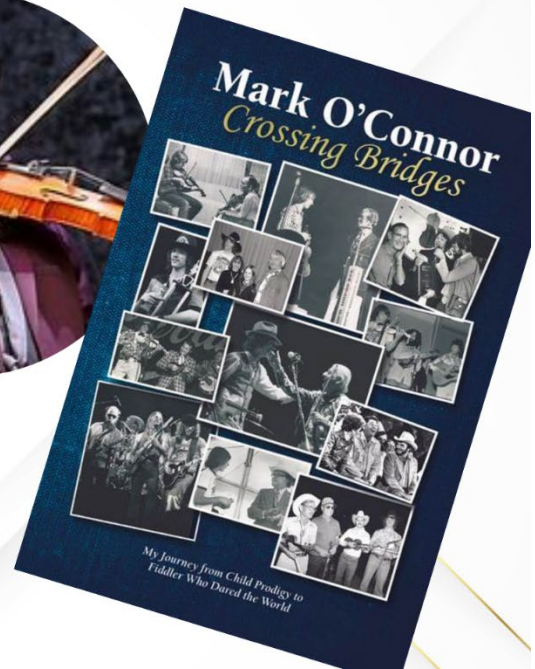
TALK BACK

with

Mark O'CONNOR

Sunday, July 23

Stay following worship for Talk Back. Rev. Dr. Ben Boswell will be speaking with Mark about his latest book *Crossing Bridges*. Copies will be available for purchase & Mark will even sign it for you!



**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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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

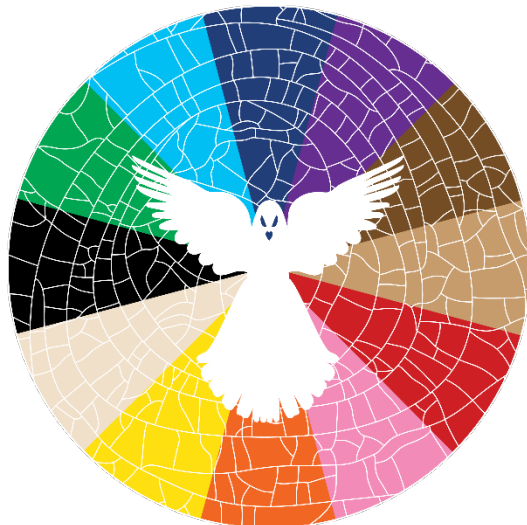
Rev. Carrie Veal
Executive Minister

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



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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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