

OPEN TO ALL



**MYERS PARK
BAPTIST
CHURCH**

Inclusivity | Spirituality | Community | Justice

The Worship of God

The 9th Sunday of Pentecost

July 30, 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

“Concerto in G Major: Allegro”

Jane Cain, organ
Johann Sebastian Bach

Call to Worship and Invocation

Rev. Leigh Anne Duncan

***Opening Hymn**

“God is Here” stanzas 1, 3, and 4

See pages 6 and 7.
ABBOT’S LEIGH

Welcome of Our Guests

Rev. Tara Gibbs

*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 13:44-55 NRSV

Mac Sasser

“The kingdom of heaven is like treasure hidden in a field, which someone found and hid; then in his joy he goes and sells all that he has and buys that field. “Again, the kingdom of heaven is like a merchant in search of fine pearls; on finding one pearl of great value, he went and sold all that he had and bought it.

“Again, the kingdom of heaven is like a net that was thrown into the sea and caught fish of every kind; when it was full, they drew it ashore, sat down, and put the good into baskets but threw out the bad. So it will be at the end of the age. The angels will come out and separate the evil from the righteous and throw them into the furnace of fire, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth. “Have you understood all this?” They answered, “Yes.” And he said to them, “Therefore every scribe who has been trained for the kingdom of heaven is like the master of a household who brings out of his treasure what is new and what is old.”

When Jesus had finished these parables, he left that place. He came to his hometown and began to teach the people in their synagogue, so that they were astounded and said, “Where did this man get this wisdom and these deeds of power? Is not this the carpenter’s son? Is not his mother called Mary? And are not his brothers James and Joseph and Simon and Judas?”

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.**



***Sermon Hymn**

“To What Can the Kingdom of God Be Compared”

While some look for treasure or one priceless pearl,
God's reign is the gift wise ones seek in this world.
A girl sells possessions to help those in need;
A boy chooses faithfulness rather than greed.

God of love, here on earth, hidden things still surprise:
Loving deeds ... signs of birth ... faithful, Spirit-filled lives.
Your reign is a treasure that wise ones pursue;
may we seek your kingdom in all that we do.

A small bit of leaven will change the whole bread:
a poor woman sees that her neighbors are fed,
a church reaches out to the youth in the town,
a man shares his faith and God's blessings abound.

God of love, here on earth, hidden things still surprise:
loving deeds ... signs of birth ... faithful, Spirit-filled lives.
Your reign is among us, creation is blessed,
when even a few faithful lives change the rest.

TO GOD BE THE GLORY
text by Carolyn Winfrey Gillette

Sermon

“Treasure Hunting”

Rev. Dr. Ben Boswell

Solo

“I Was Searching For a Treasure”

I was searching for a treasure, one to change my very life,
but I didn't know where to find it, so all I found was pain and strife.

Will the circle be unbroken, by and by Lord, by and by.
There's a better home a-waiting, in the sky Lord, in the sky.

I'd heard of the man named Jesus, I'd read the Bible in my youth,
but I'd not been open, ready to be transformed by his truth.

All:

**Will the circle be unbroken, by and by Lord, by and by.
There's a better home a-waiting, in the sky Lord, in the sky.**

Lord of Jesus, here I stand now. God, please change the way I see,
for I know now of the treasure shared by the one from Galilee.

All:

**Will the circle be unbroken, by and by Lord, by and by.
There's a better home a-waiting, in the sky Lord, in the sky.**

J. Kevin Gray
WILL THE CIRCLE BE UNBROKEN
Additional text by J. Kevin Gray

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. 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

“Lord Jesus Christ, Be Present Now ”

William Byrd, Arr. Hal Hopson

Lord Jesus Christ, be present now. Our hearts in true devotion bow.
Thy spirit send with grace divine. O may thy truth within us shine.
Unseal our lips to sing thy praise. Our souls to thee in worship raise.
Make strong our faith, increase our light. O may we know thy name aright.
O Lord, be present now.

***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. Leigh Anne Duncan

***Closing Hymn**

“This is Our Story”

ASSURANCE

Go forth for Jesus, go forth in right. Bring love and grace to all in your sight. *text by J. Kevin Gray*
Don't be left wanting, pull up the weeds, search for the treasure, see what God see.

Refrain:

This is our story, this is our song. Living for Jesus all the day long.
This is our story, this is our song. Go forth in Jesus, go forth and be strong.

Look in the mirror, take in the view. Is this the very best version of you?
Today is the day to make things aright, afreshed and anointed and loved in God's sight. *[Refrain]*

Benediction

Rev. Dr. Ben Boswell

Postlude

“Praise to the Lord, the Almighty”

Jane Cain, organ
Craig Phillips

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. Leigh Anne Duncan, Campus Administrator,
Rev. Tara Gibbs, Associate Minister of Spiritual Growth,
Rev. Dr. JJ Flag, Minister of Pastoral Care and Justice,
and Mac Sasser.

Leading worship through music are
J. Kevin Gray, Minister of Music and Worship,
Jane Cain, organist,
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

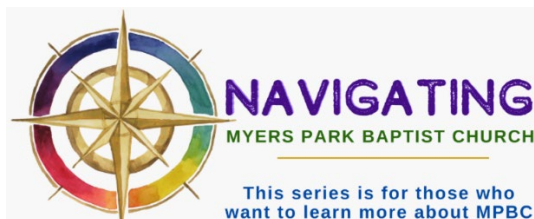


HOW TO JOIN MYERS PARK BAPTIST CHURCH

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.

**WE'RE
GLAD YOU
ARE HERE**

Connect with us
in one easy step.



Sundays | AUG 6, 13, & 20 & Joining Sunday | SEP 10

God Is Here!

1 God is here! As we your peo - ple meet to
 2 Here are sym - bols to re - mind us of our
 3 Here our chil - dren find a wel - come in the
 4 Lord of all, of church and king - dom, in an

of - fer praise and prayer, may we find in
 life - long need of grace; here are ta - ble,
 Shep - herd's flock and fold; here as bread and
 age of change and doubt keep us faith - ful

full - er mea - sure what it is in Christ we share.
 font, and pul - pit; here the cross has cen - tral place.
 wine are tak - en, Christ sus - tains us as of old.
 to the gos - pel; help us work your pur - pose out.

Commissioned for the dedication of a renovated worship space in Austin, Texas, this text is one of the few to devote attention to how customary church features facilitate worship. The tune was composed in wartime Britain to replace a Haydn tune tainted by Nazi associations.

TEXT: Fred Pratt Green, 1979, rev. 1988

MUSIC: Cyril Vincent Taylor, 1941

Text © 1979 Hope Publishing Company

Music © 1942, ren. 1970 Hope Publishing Company

ABBOT'S LEIGH

8.7.8.7.D

Here, as in the world a - round us, all our
 Here in hon - es - ty of preach - ing, here in
 Here the ser - vants of the Ser - vant seek in
 Here, in this day's ded - i - ca - tion, all we

var - ied skills and arts wait the com - ing
 si - lence, as in speech, here, in new - ness
 wor - ship to ex - plore what it means in
 have to give, re - ceive: we, who can - not

of the Spir - it in - to o - pen minds and hearts.
 and re - new - al, God the Spir - it comes to each.
 dai - ly liv - ing to be - lieve and to a - dore.
 live with - out you, we a - dore you! We be - lieve!

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

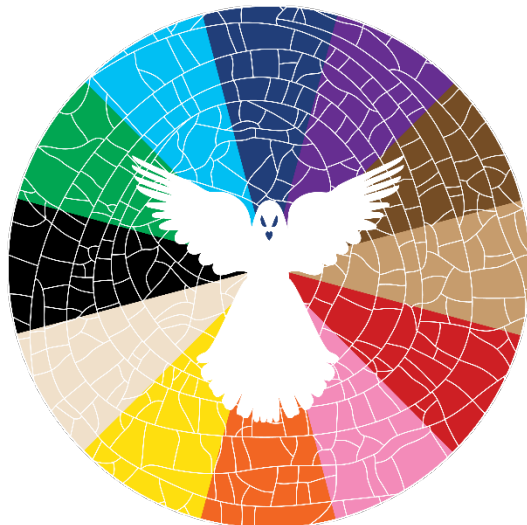
Rev. Carrie Veal
Executive Minister

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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