

# OPEN TO ALL



**MYERS PARK  
BAPTIST  
CHURCH**

Inclusivity | Spirituality | Community | Justice

The Worship of God

**PRIDE Sunday**

August 20, 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**

“Higher Ground”

Carolina Social Music Club  
Stevie Wonder

## **Call to Worship and Invocation**

Rev. Tara Gibbs

## **\*Opening Song**

“This Little Light of Mine”

SPIRITUAL

This little light of mine, I’m gonna let it shine.  
This little light of mine, I’m gonna let it shine.  
This little light of mine, I’m gonna let it shine.  
Let it shine, let it shine, let it shine.

Hide it under a bushel? No! I’m gonna let it shine.  
Hide it under a bushel? No! I’m gonna let it shine.  
Hide it under a bushel? No! I’m gonna let it shine.  
Hide it under a bushel? No! I’m gonna let it shine.  
Let it shine, let it shine, let it shine.

Everywhere I go, I’m gonna let it shine.  
Everywhere I go, I’m gonna let it shine.  
Everywhere I go, I’m gonna let it shine.  
Everywhere I go, I’m gonna let it shine.  
Let it shine, let it shine, let it shine.

All over the world, I’m gonna let it shine.  
All over the world, I’m gonna let it shine.  
All over the world, I’m gonna let it shine.  
All over the world, I’m gonna let it shine.  
Let it shine, let it shine, let it shine.

We’ve got the light of freedom, we’re gonna let it shine.  
We’ve got the light of freedom, we’re gonna let it shine.  
We’ve got the light of freedom, we’re gonna let it shine.  
We’ve got the light of freedom, we’re gonna let it shine.  
Let it shine, let it shine, let it shine.

## **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

### Musical Reflection

Carolina Social Music Club

“Valuable”

Lauren Daigle, Lori McKenna, and Mike Elizondo

I watch you from afar and think, “What a work of art”  
like the depths of the Grand Canyon or a canopy of stars  
and if I had to place a bet  
I'd bet there's a little voice inside your head, lyin'.

Dust all your precious things, display them on a shelf  
walk right past the mirror and don't recognize yourself  
you're the hands to the needy and a coat for the cold  
what I see when I see you is a heart made of gold.

*Refrain:*

If you feel like you are not valuable  
let me tell you, there's more  
if your heart is runnin' in circles  
tellin' your head things that are not true  
what would God say to you, you?  
Oh, every tear, is caught within God's hand  
and God knows the way your heart breaks within  
you're valuable.

Is there a story you've been told that put a stain on your soul?  
Was it handed down your family line, a memory you try to hide?  
Is there something in the distance that won't allow you to reconcile?  
Oh, just remember [*Refrain*]

### Hebrew Scripture Reading – Exodus 3:1-15 NRSV

Anna-Catherine Fowler, Conner and Foster Young

Moses was keeping the flock of his father-in-law Jethro, the priest of Midian; he led his flock beyond the wilderness, and came to Horeb, the mountain of God. There the angel of the Lord appeared to him in a flame of fire out of a bush; he looked, and the bush was blazing, yet it was not consumed. Then Moses said, ‘I must turn aside and look at this great sight, and see why the bush is not burned up.’ When the Lord saw that he had turned aside to see, God called to him out of the bush, ‘Moses, Moses!’ And he said, ‘Here I am.’ Then he said, ‘Come no closer! Remove the sandals from your feet, for the place on which you are standing is holy ground.’ He said further, ‘I am the God of your father, the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob.’ And Moses hid his face, for he was afraid to look at God.

Then the Lord said, ‘I have observed the misery of my people who are in Egypt; I have heard their cry on account of their taskmasters. Indeed, I know their sufferings, and I have come down to deliver them from the Egyptians, and to bring them up out of that land to a good and broad land, a land flowing with milk and honey, to the country of the Canaanites, the Hittites, the Amorites, the Perizzites, the Hivites, and the Jebusites. The cry of the Israelites has now come to me; I have also seen how the Egyptians oppress them. So come, I will send you to Pharaoh to bring my people, the Israelites, out of Egypt.’ But Moses said to God, ‘Who am I that I should go to Pharaoh, and bring the Israelites out of Egypt?’ He said, ‘I will be with you; and this shall be the sign for you that it is I who sent you: when you have brought the people out of Egypt, you shall worship God on this mountain.’

But Moses said to God, ‘If I come to the Israelites and say to them, “The God of your ancestors has sent me to you”, and they ask me, “What is his name?” what shall I say to them?’ God said to Moses, ‘I am

who I am.' He said further, 'Thus you shall say to the Israelites, "I am has sent me to you."' God also said to Moses, 'Thus you shall say to the Israelites, "The Lord, the God of your ancestors, the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob, has sent me to you."

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 Song**

"If God is the Lord of Love"

J. Kevin Gray

Solo:

If God is the Lord of love, then let us love.

If God is the Lord of hope, then let us hope.

If God is the Lord of all then let us proclaim it loud and proud.

We are one family here on earth, let us be glad!

**All:**

**If God has called them to preach, then let them preach.**

**If God has called them to love, let them love in peace.**

**If God has torn down the walls, then who are we to stand in the way?**

**God will be God, we are to follow, love and obey.**

Solo:

Don't be a hindrance, don't build back walls and dams to hold back the rivers.

Wade out deeper, learn to live sweeter, and sing God's praise through love!

**All:**

**If God is the Lord of love, then let us love.**

**If God is the Lord of hope, then let us hope.**

**If God is the Lord of all then let us proclaim it loud and proud.**

**We are one family here on earth, let us be glad!**

### **Sermon**

Rev. Dr. Ben Boswell

"From Ally to Collaborator"

### **Musical Reflection**

"True Colors"

Carolina Social Music Club  
Tom Kelly and Billy Steinberg

You with the sad eyes, don't be discouraged

oh, I realize it's hard to take courage.

In a world full of people you can lose sight of it all,

and the darkness inside you make you feel so small.

*Refrain:*

But I see your true colors shining through.  
I see your true colors, and that's why I love you.  
So don't be afraid to let them show.  
Your true colors, true colors are beautiful, like a rainbow.

Show me a smile then don't be unhappy,  
can't remember when I last saw you laughing.  
If this world makes you crazy,  
and you've taken all you can bare, you call me up  
because you know I'll be there. *[Refrain]*

## 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](https://pushpay.com/g/myersparkbaptist),  
or drop your offering in the plate.*



## Offertory Anthem

Chancel Choir  
Mark Miller

**"Child of God"**

No matter what people say, say or think about me,  
I am a child, I am a child of God.  
No matter what people say, say or think about you,  
you are a child, you are a child of God.  
No matter what the world says, says or thinks about me,  
I am a child, I am a child of God.  
No matter what some folks preach, decisions, pronouncements on you,  
you are a child, you are a child of God.  
And there is nothing, or no one who can separate,  
they can't separate you from the truth that you're someone,  
you are family, you are meant to be, a child, a child of God!  
You are a child, a child of God!

McKenzie Coleman and David Young, soloists

## \*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

**\*Sending Song**

“Til We Gather Again”

Stephen F. Key

Till we gather again, God be with you.  
Till we gather again, God be with you.  
May God give you God's love,  
give you God's kindness,  
keep you in perfect peace.  
God be with you till we meet again.

**Benediction**

Rev. Dr. Ben Boswell

**Postlude**

“Falling Grace”

Carolina Social Music Club

Steve Swallow

***In lieu of Sermon TalkBack today,  
please join us in the PRIDE Parade today from 1:00-4:00p, N. Tryon Street, Uptown.***

***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 during worship.***

Leading worship today with Rev. Dr. Ben Boswell  
are Rev. Carrie Veal, Executive Minister,  
Rev. Tara Gibbs, Associate Minister of Spiritual Growth,  
Rev. Dr. JJ Flag, Associate Minister of Pastoral Care and Justice,  
and Anna-Catherine Fowler, Conner and Foster Young.

Leading worship through music are  
J. Kevin Gray, Minister of Music and Worship,  
Carolina Social Music Club:  
Greg Jarrell, saxophone,  
Dawn Anthony, vocals,  
Philip Howe, piano,  
Michael Gudbaur, bass,  
Geoff Clapp, drums,  
McKenzie Coleman, soloist,  
David Young, soloist,  
Janice Bradner, piano,  
and the Chancel Choir.



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



We are affiliated with  
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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**

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Connect with us  
in one easy stop.

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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## 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](mailto:lgeer@myersparkbaptist.org).*

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