

OPEN TO ALL



**MYERS PARK
BAPTIST
CHURCH**

Inclusivity | Spirituality | Community | Justice

The Worship of God

The 14th Sunday of Pentecost

September 3, 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

“O Love That Wilt Not Let Me Go” with “Piano Concerto #21” by Mozart

Linda McKechnie, piano
arr. Linda McKechnie

Call to Worship and Invocation

Rev. Leigh Anne Duncan

***Opening Hymn**

“Community of Christ”

See page 6.
LEONI

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 – John 11:38-43 NRSV

Beth Resler Walters

Then Jesus, again greatly disturbed, came to the tomb. It was a cave, and a stone was lying against it. Jesus said, “Take away the stone.” Martha, the sister of the dead man, said to him, “Lord, already there is a stench because he has been dead four days.” Jesus said to her, “Did I not tell you that if you believed, you would see the glory of God?” So they took away the stone. And Jesus looked upward and said, “Father, I thank you for having heard me. I knew that you always hear me, but I have said this for the sake of the crowd standing here, so that they may believe that you sent me.” When he had said this, he cried with a loud voice, “Lazarus, come out!”

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

“Lord, If Only You Had Been Here”

NETTLETON

text by Carolyn Winfrey Gillette

“Lord, if only you had been here, one I love would not have died.”
Martha shared her grief with Jesus in these words she sadly cried.
Jesus said, “I’m resurrection. Martha, do you know it’s true?
I’m the life for which you’re longing.” She said, “I believe in you!”

“Lord, if only you had been here!” Jesus heard these words again.
Mary, sitting home and waiting, spoke to Jesus of her pain.
So our Lord was deeply troubled in this world of death and sin.
Sometimes all we see is struggle; death and evil seem to win.

“Lord, if only you had been here,” we cry out when all goes wrong —
When our grief is overwhelming, when life’s troubles seem so strong.
Then, O Lord, we hear your answer: “I am resurrection — See!
Not just in some distant future — I am life! Now live in me!”

When we share your resurrection, when we know that you are life,
We find courage for our living in this world of pain and strife.
We your church will work for justice, welcome strangers, help the poor.
Faced with death, we’ll be a witness: you are with us, Risen Lord.

Sermon

Rev. Dr. JJ Flag

“Wrestling and Resurrection”

Musical Reflection

Shanka Pettis

A. Bazel Androzzo

“If I Can Help Somebody”

If I can help somebody as I pass along,
If I can cheer somebody with a word or a song,
If I can show somebody they are travelling wrong,
Then my living shall not be in vain!
Then my living shall not be in vain,
Then my living shall not be in vain!

If I can help somebody as I pass along,
Then my living shall not be in vain!
If I can do my duty as a Christian oft,
If I can bring back beauty to a world up wrought,
If I can spread love’s message that our Jesus taught,
Then my living shall not be in vain!
Then my living shall not be in vain,
Then my living shall not be in vain!

Church at Prayer

Rev. Carrie Veal

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

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

“Bow Down Low”

Bow down low and bend your head.
For I've come to sweep this house,
for to sweep the Lord's house clean.

I've come to wash and clean.
From this floor the stains of sin, for lo,
I've come again, and I've not come in vain.
Sweep high, sweep low, sweep clean, as you go.

Bow down low and bend your head.
For I've come to sweep this house,
for to sweep the Lord's house clean.

Chancel Choir
arr. David Bridges

*Presentation of Gifts and the Doxology

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.

LASST UNS ERFREUEN

*Prayer of Dedication

Rev. Leigh Anne Duncan

*Closing Hymn

“God of the Sparrow God of the Whale” stanzas 1, 2, 3, 5, and 6

See page 7.
ROEDER

Benediction

Rev. Dr. JJ Flag

Postlude

“How Majestic is Your Name” with “Alleluia” by Mozart

Linda McKechnie, piano
arr. Linda McKechnie

*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. JJ Flag
are Rev. Carrie Veal, Executive Minister,
Rev. Leigh Anne Duncan, Campus Administrator,
and Beth Resler Walters.

Leading worship through music are
J. Kevin Gray, Minister of Music and Worship,
Shanka Pettis, soloist,
Linda McKechnie, pianist,
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.



Community of Christ

N.C. $\frac{Em}{G}$ B Em $\frac{Am}{C}$ B Em $\frac{Am}{C}$ $\frac{G}{B}$ Am7 D G

1 Com - mu - ni - ty of Christ, who make the cross your own,
 2 Com - mu - ni - ty of Christ, look past the church - 's door
 3 Com - mu - ni - ty of Christ, through whom the word must sound—
 4 When men - ace melts a - way, so shall God's will be done,

D $\frac{G}{B}$ $\frac{F\#dim}{A}$ G C $\frac{G}{B}$ D7 Em Am7 $\frac{G}{D}$ D G

live out your creed and risk your life for God a - lone:
 and see the ref - u - gee, the hun - gry, and the poor.
 cry out for jus - tice and for peace the whole world round:
 the cli - mate of the world be peace and Christ its sun;

G $\frac{G}{B}$ C \sharp m7(b5) D $\frac{G}{B}$ C G Am7 Bsus B

the God who wears your face, to whom all worlds be - long,
 Take hands with the op - pressed, the job - less in your street,
 dis - arm the powers that war and all that can de - stroy,
 our cur - ren - cy be love and kind - li - ness our law,

B $\frac{Em}{G}$ B Em D G $\frac{Am7}{C}$ Am $\frac{Em}{G}$ $\frac{Em}{B}$ B Em

whose chil - dren are of ev - ery race and ev - ery song.
 take towel and wa - ter, that you wash your neigh - bor's feet.
 turn bombs to bread, and tears of an - guish in - to joy.
 our food and faith be shared as one for ev - er - more.

WORDS: Shirley Erena Murray (1931-)
 MUSIC: Hebrew melody; arr. Meyer Lyon (1751-1797)
 Words © 1992 Hope Publishing Company

LEONI
 6.6.8.4.D.

God Of The Sparrow God Of The Whale

ROEDER 5 4 6 7 7

Jaroslav J. Vajda, 1983

Carl F. Schalk, 1983

Unison

1. God of the spar - row God of the whale
 2. God of the earth - quake God of the storm
 3. God of the rain - bow God of the cross
 4. God of the hun - gry God of the sick
 5. God of the neigh - bor God of the foe
 6. God of the a - ges God near at hand

God of the swirl - ing stars How does the crea - ture say
 God of the trum - pet blast How does the crea - ture cry
 God of the emp - ty grave How does the crea - ture say
 God of the prod - i - gal How does the crea - ture say
 God of the prun - ing hook How does the crea - ture say
 God of the lov - ing heart How do your chil - dren say

Awe How does the crea - ture say Praise
 Woe How does the crea - ture cry Save
 Grace How does the crea - ture say Thanks
 Care How does the crea - ture say Life
 Love How does the crea - ture say Peace
 Joy How do your chil - dren say Home

* last time

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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

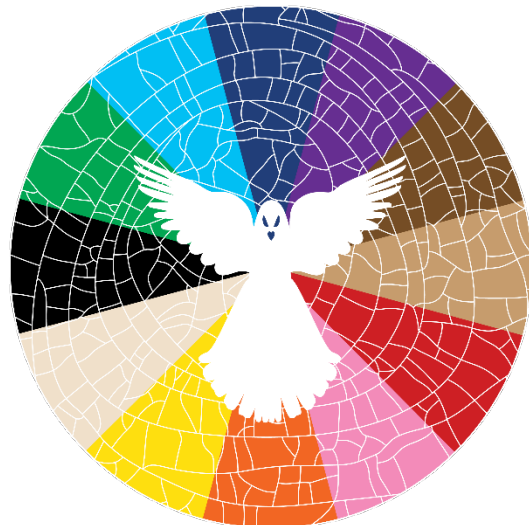
Rev. Carrie Veal
Executive Minister

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.

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