

# OPEN TO ALL



**MYERS PARK  
BAPTIST  
CHURCH**

Inclusivity | Spirituality | Community | Justice

The Worship of God

**The 16<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Pentecost**

September 17, 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**

“What a Friend We Have in Jesus”

Jane Cain, organ  
Robert Hobby

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

Rev. Leigh Anne Duncan

### **\*Opening Hymn**

“Come Thou Fount of Every Blessing”  
Come, thou Fount of every blessing;  
tune my heart to sing thy grace;  
streams of mercy, never ceasing,  
call for songs of loudest praise.  
Teach me some melodious sonnet,  
sung by flaming tongues above;  
praise the mount! I’m fixed upon it,  
mount of God’s unchanging love!

NETTLETON

Here I raise my Ebenezer;  
hither by thy help I’m come;  
and I hope, by thy good pleasure,  
safely to arrive at home.  
Jesus sought me when a stranger,  
wandering from the fold of God;  
he, to rescue me from danger,  
interposed his precious blood.

O to grace how great a debtor  
daily I’m constrained to be!  
Let that grace now, like a fetter,  
bind my wandering heart to thee.  
Prone to wander, Lord, I feel it,  
prone to leave the God I love;  
here’s my heart; O take and seal it;  
seal it for thy courts above.

### **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**

Then Peter came and said to him, “Lord, if another member of the church sins against me, how often should I forgive? As many as seven times?” Jesus said to him, “Not seven times, but, I tell you, seventy-seven times.

“For this reason the kingdom of heaven may be compared to a king who wished to settle accounts with those he enslaved. When he began the reckoning, one who owed him ten thousand talents was brought to him; and, as he could not pay, his lord ordered him to be sold, together with his wife and children and all his possessions, and payment to be made. So that same enslaved person fell on his knees before him, saying, ‘Have patience with me, and I will pay you everything.’ And out of pity for him, the king released him and forgave him the debt. But that same enslaved person, as he went out, came upon one of his fellow enslaved people who owed him a hundred denarii; and seizing him by the throat, he said, ‘Pay what you owe.’ Then his fellow enslaved person fell down and pleaded with him, ‘Have patience with me, and I will pay you.’ But he refused; then he went and threw him into prison until he would pay the debt. When his fellow enslaved people saw what had happened, they were greatly distressed, and they went and reported to their lord all that had taken place. Then his lord summoned him and said to him, ‘You wicked person! I forgave you all that debt because you pleaded with me. Should you not have had mercy on your fellow enslaved people, as I had mercy on you?’ And in anger his lord handed him over to be tortured until he would pay his entire debt. So my heavenly Creator will also do to every one of you, if you do not forgive your siblings from your heart.”

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**

“Forgive Our Sins As We Forgive”  
“Forgive our sins as we forgive,”  
you taught us, Lord, to pray,  
but you alone can grant us grace  
to live the words we say.

AMAZING GRACE

How can your pardon reach and bless  
the unforgiving heart,  
that broods on wrongs and will not let  
old bitterness depart?

In blazing light your cross reveals  
the truth we dimly knew:  
what trivial debts are owed to us,  
how great our debt to you!

Lord, cleanse the depths within our souls,  
and bid resentment cease;  
then, by your mercy reconciled,  
our lives will spread your peace.

## Sermon

Rev. Dr. Ben Boswell

“Forgive Us Our Debts”

## Musical Reflection

Vocal Ensemble

“Jubilee”

Naomi Raine and Bryan & Katie Torwalt

The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, I'm anointed to bring hope.  
The promise fulfilled in a moment, we're still watching it unfold.  
There's good news for the captives, a proclamation for every soul.  
This liberty is for the broken, an invitation to be made whole.

*Chorus:*

Listen for the free man, singing, God's delivered me.  
Look out for the woman shouting Jesus' garment made me clean.  
Listen up, for the seasons changing God's rebuilding everything.  
Listen for the people shouting, this is jubilee!

There is true joy in God's freedom. Jesus, justice.  
So open your heart and receive it. Jesus, justice.  
There is a hope to believe in the life of Jesus, justice. *[Chorus]*

Can you hear it?  
This is the sound.  
This is the sound of jubilee!

## 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

Rev. Tara Gibbs

*There are several ways to give:  
scan the QR code below or drop your offering in the plate.*



## Offertory Anthem

Chancel Choir

“Set Me As a Seal”

Rene' Clausen

Set me as a seal upon your heart,  
as a seal upon your arm  
for love is strong as death.

Many waters cannot quench love,  
neither can the floods drown it.

Set me as a seal upon your heart,  
as a seal upon your arm,  
for love is strong as death.

**\*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**

“Live into Hope” stanzas 1, 3, and 4

See page 7.  
TRURO

**Benediction**

Rev. Dr. Ben Boswell

**Postlude**

“Psalm 19”

Jane Cain, organ  
arr. Benedetto Marcello

*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.*



Audio/Video Team Members are Wes Cobb, Joe Kuhlmann, Hannah Combs, Alicia Dunn, Eric Roberts, 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](mailto:cveal@myersparkbaptist.org).



## THIS WEEK AT MPBC

### SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 17

- 9:00a: Reading in Community | Adults | Parlor
- 10:00a: Worship | Sanctuary
- 10:15a: Children's Worship | Room 108
- 11:15a: Coffee Connections | Heaton Hall Foyer
- 11:15a: Spiritual Growth for Children | Room 108
- 11:15a: Spiritual Growth for Youth | Conference Room
- 11:15a: Exploring Spiritual Togetherness | Adults | Parlor
- 11:15a: Faith & Community | Adults | Shalom Hall
- 11:15a: "Help My Unbelief!" | Hybrid | Adults | Library
- 4:00p: Youth Block | Youth Hall



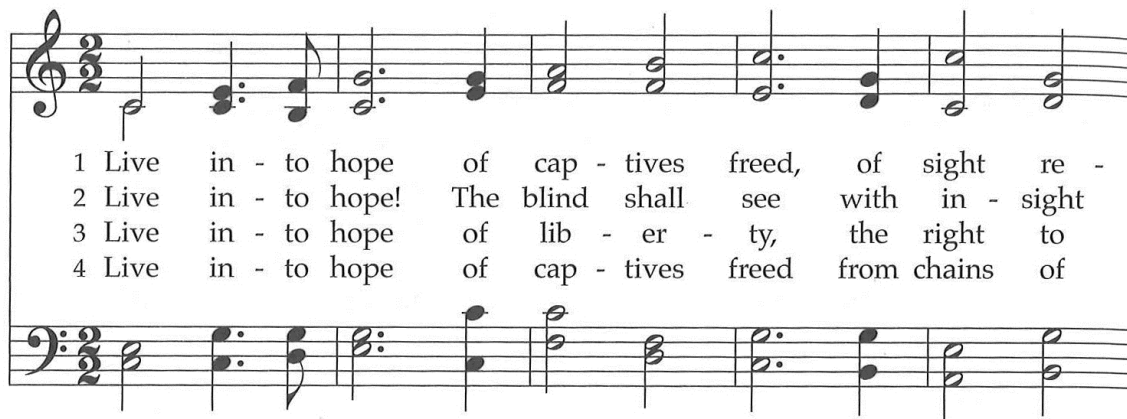
### WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 20

- 4:30p: Mosaic Sage-ing | Adults | Library
- 5:30p: Mosaic Dinner | Heaton Hall
- 6:00p: Community Wednesday - Trivia Night! | Everyone Ages 5 and Over | Heaton Hall
- 6:00p: Childcare | Birth to 4 | Room 108

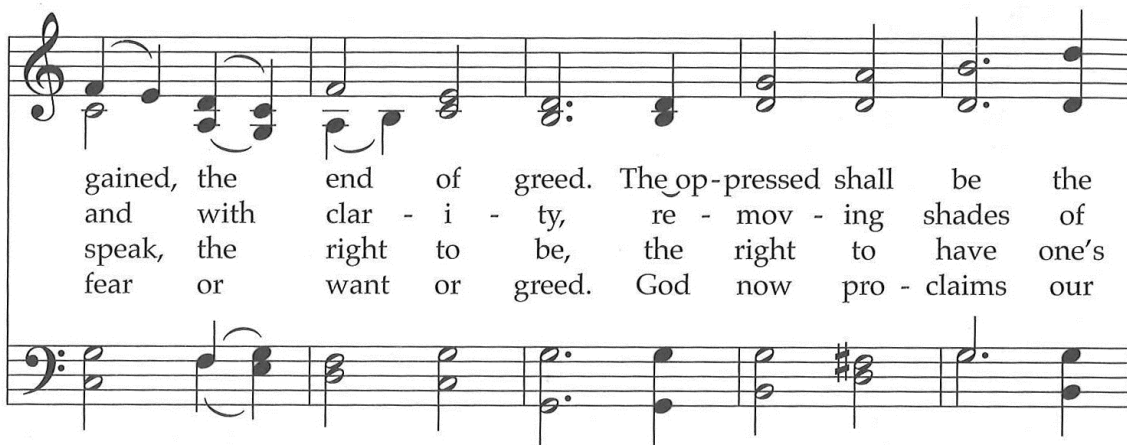
For more information about MPBC events, activities, and the latest updates, scan the code above and subscribe to our weekly newsletter.

Please reach out to our Executive Minister Carrie Veal, with any questions regarding programming: [cveal@myersparkbaptistchurch.org](mailto:cveal@myersparkbaptistchurch.org)

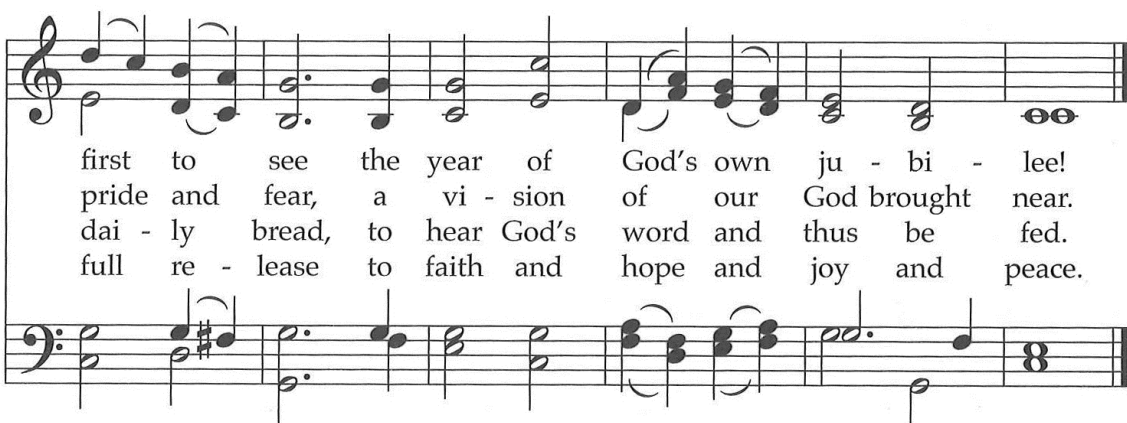
# Live into Hope



1 Live in - to hope of cap - tives freed, of sight re -  
 2 Live in - to hope! The blind shall see with in - sight  
 3 Live in - to hope of lib - er - ty, the right to  
 4 Live in - to hope of cap - tives freed from chains of



gained, the end of greed. The op-pressed shall be the  
 and with clar - i - ty, re - mov - ing shades of  
 speak, the right to be, the right to have one's  
 fear or want or greed. God now pro - claims our



first to see the year of God's own ju - bi - lee!  
 pride and fear, a vi - sion of our God brought near.  
 dai - ly bread, to hear God's word and thus be fed.  
 full re - lease to faith and hope and joy and peace.

This text on Luke 4:16–20, the author's first, was written for the United Presbyterian Women's National Meeting in July 1976 because the team planning worship could not find a suitable hymn on that passage. She wrote the words with this vigorous 18th-century tune in mind.

## 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

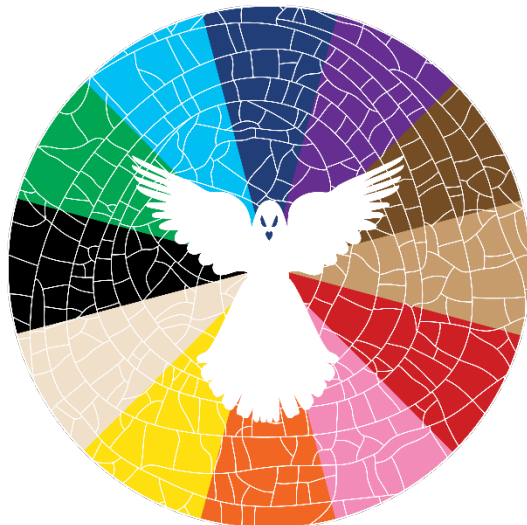
**Rev. Carrie Veal**  
Executive Minister

**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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