

OPEN TO ALL



**MYERS PARK
BAPTIST
CHURCH**

Inclusivity | Spirituality | Community | Justice

The Worship of God

The 24th Sunday of Pentecost

November 12, 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

“Hymn to Joy”

Lee Northcutt, organ
Al Travis

Call to Worship and Invocation

Rev. Tara Gibbs

***Opening Hymn**

“Called as Partners in Christ’s Service”

See page 7.
BEECHER

Welcome of Our Guests

Candace Williamson

*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 25: 14-30 NRSV adapted

Mary Miller

Note about the reading: the Greek word δοῦλος or “doulos” can be translated as slave, servant, attendant, steward, retainer, bondsperson, or someone in a servile condition. Contemporary readers should take caution not to project their Western notions of the Transatlantic slave trade onto the biblical text.

“For it is as if a man, going on a journey, summoned his slaves and entrusted his property to them; to one he gave five talents, to another two, to another one, to each according to his ability. Then he went away. At once the one who had received the five talents went off and traded with them and made five more talents. In the same way, the one who had the two talents made two more talents. But the one who had received the one talent went off and dug a hole in the ground and hid his master’s money. After a long time the master of those slaves came and settled accounts with them. Then the one who had received the five talents came forward, bringing five more talents, saying, ‘Master, you handed over to me five talents; see, I have made five more talents.’ His master said to him, ‘Well done, good and trustworthy slave; you have been trustworthy in a few things; I will put you in charge of many things; enter into the joy of your master.’ And the one with the two talents also came forward, saying, ‘Master, you handed over to me two talents; see, I have made two more talents.’ His master said to him, ‘Well done, good and trustworthy slave; you have been trustworthy in a few things; I will put you in charge of many things; enter into the joy of your master.’ Then the one who had received the one talent also came forward, saying, ‘Master, I knew that you were a harsh man, reaping where you did not sow and gathering where you did not scatter, so I was afraid, and I went and hid your talent in the ground. Here you have what is yours.’ But his master replied, ‘You’re wicked and lazy! You knew, did you, that I reap where I did not sow and gather where I did not scatter? Then you ought to have invested my money with the bankers, and on my return I would have received what was my own with interest. So take the talent from him, and give it to the one with the ten talents. For to all those who have, more will be given, and

they will have an abundance, but from those who have nothing, even what they have will be taken away. As for this worthless slave, throw him into the outer darkness, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.”

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 with Children’s Worship leaders.
Parents can pick up children from room 108 in the education building between 11 -11:15.***

*Sermon Hymn

“O God, We Yearn for Safety”

O God, we yearn for safety; we long to be secure.
Yet faithful, loving service is what you value more.
You give us what is needed; you love, forgive and save.
Then, sending us to serve you, you call us to be brave.

You give to some ten talents — to others, two or three;
To some you give one blessing to manage faithfully.
For you, O Lord, are loving and don’t demand success;
You daily call your people to lives of faithfulness.

AURELIA

text by Carolyn Gillette Winfrey

Sermon

“Nothing from Nothing”

Rev. Dr. Ben Boswell

Musical Reflection

“You Can’t Beat God’s Giving”

You can’t beat God’s giving, no matter how you try,
and just as sure as you are living,
and the Lord is in heaven on high.
The more you give, the more God lives in you,
but keep on giving because it’s really true
that you can’t beat God’s giving, no matter how you try.

Doris Akers

Church at Prayer

Rev. John Blackshire, PhD.

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.

Moment for Stewardship

Janet Miller

Invitation to Offering

Rev. John Blackshire, PhD.

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



Offertory Anthem

“When in Our Music God is Glorified”

Chancel Choir
arr. Austin Lovelace

When in our music God is glorified, and adoration leaves no room for pride,
it is as though the whole creation cried Alleluia!
How often, making music, we have found a new dimension in the world of sound,
as worship moved us to a more profound Alleluia!
So has the church, in liturgy and song, in faith and love, through centuries of wrong,
born witness to the truth in every tongue, Alleluia!
And did not Jesus sing a song that night when utmost evil strove against the light?
Then let us sing, for whom he won the fight, Alleluia!
Let every instrument be tuned for praise! Let all rejoice who have a voice to raise!
And may God give us faith to sing always Alleluia!

*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

“O God, We Yearn for Safety”

You give your church the gospel — good news for us to share.
You give us great compassion for neighbors everywhere.
You give us skills to serve you and loving work to do.
We're blest to be a blessing, and called to risk for you.

ST. THEODULPH
text by Carolyn Gillette Winfrey

O God, it seems much safer to live from day to day,
Protecting what you lend us and hiding it away.
Yet all these gifts can't flourish when hidden in the ground;
When we are brave to share them your blessings will abound.

Benediction

Rev. Dr. Ben Boswell

Postlude

“March of the Priest”

Lee Northcutt, organ
Felix Mendelsohn

*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.





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.



OUR THEOLOGY OF GENEROSITY

Jesus assumed his followers would be giving generously and believed that giving is the most important and fundamental spiritual practice. The more closely we follow Jesus the more generous we become as individuals and as a community of faith. We expect our members to make the church the priority in their giving. Our covenant states, "We covenant together to nurture this church... 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." As an inclusive community for spirituality and social justice, we are changing lives at MPBC, and we can't do it without you. We are depending on the financial engagement of every person to increase our impact and create sustainability.

Here's how you can start your journey of generosity:

1. **Prayerfully reflect on what the church means to you and examine your capacity for generosity.**
2. **Start by giving something and try to make it a regular practice. Every dollar matters and each person can give something. Consistency is what matters.**
3. **Commit to increase your gift each year by a dollar amount or percentage.**
4. **Give above and beyond when you are able to help us reach our yearly goals.**
5. **Be faithful and commit to continue practicing generosity even in the difficult times in our lives, our church, and our society.**

Without generosity there is no community. Without generosity there is no church. We give because generosity is the glue that holds us together. Thank you for your gifts!



YOUR GIVING JOURNEY

GROWING IN GENEROSITY

We are people on a journey of faith and our journey involves growing to become more fearless and generous as followers of Jesus for the sake of our own spiritual development and for our church. Where do you see yourself on this journey of generosity?

INITIAL GIVER

is typically someone who is new to the church or getting more engaged and has made the decision to give for the first time.

CONSISTENT GIVER

is typically someone who participates in church programming beyond worship and has made the decision to give on a regular basis. This is often achieved by making a recurring gift online at <https://pushpay.com/g/myersparkbaptist/>.

INTENTIONAL GIVER

is typically someone who participates in church on a weekly basis and has made the decision to spend significant time reflecting on what they give their material resources to and has placed the church at the top of the list. This is often achieved by allocating 5% to 10% of one's income to the church.

COMMITTED GIVER

is typically someone who is 100% "all in" on the mission and vision of the church and/or one of the church's leaders, who has made the decision to let their giving govern their personal or family's finances by having giving determine their spending and saving, not the other way around.

SACRIFICIAL GIVER

is typically someone who is a church leader or long-time member who is constantly striving to increase their capacity to give more generously to the church. They strategize about the long-term impact of their generosity and see the sum total of their giving over their lifetime as a strategic investment in something greater than themselves.

We invite you to take a step up this year in your giving to help us as we grow forever forward together!

WE GIVE AS A FULFILLMENT OF OUR COVENANT

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.



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THIS WEEK AT MPBC

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 12

- 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, NOVEMBER 15

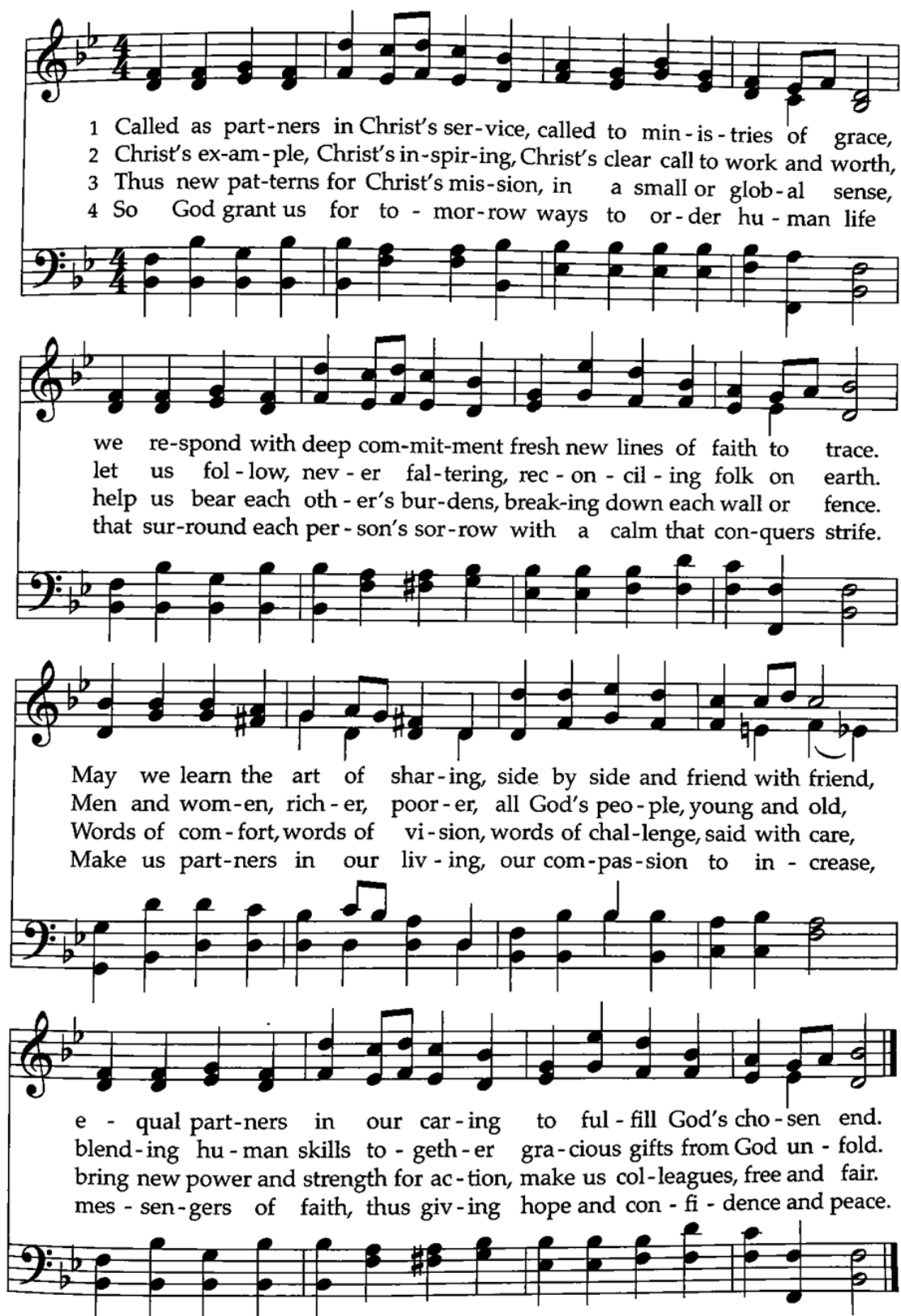
- 5:30p: Mosaic Dinner | Heaton Hall
- 6:00p: Childcare | Birth to 4 | Room 108
- 6:00p: Children's Programming | Room 208
- 6:15p: Community Night | Heaton Hall



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@myersparkbaptist.org

Called as Partners in Christ's Service



1 Called as part-ners in Christ's ser-vice, called to min-is-tries of grace,
 2 Christ's ex-am-ple, Christ's in-spir-ing, Christ's clear call to work and worth,
 3 Thus new pat-terns for Christ's mis-sion, in a small or glob-al sense,
 4 So God grant us for to - mor-row ways to or - der hu - man life

we re-spond with deep com-mit-ment fresh new lines of faith to trace.
 let us fol - low, nev - er fal-tering, rec - on - cil - ing folk on earth.
 help us bear each oth - er's bur-dens, break-ing down each wall or fence.
 that sur-round each per - son's sor-row with a calm that con-quers strife.

May we learn the art of shar-ing, side by side and friend with friend,
 Men and wom-en, rich - er, poor - er, all God's peo-ple, young and old,
 Words of com-fort, words of vi-sion, words of chal-lenge, said with care,
 Make us part-ners in our liv-ing, our com-pas-sion to in - crease,

e - qual part-ners in our car-ing to ful - fill God's cho-sen end.
 blend-ing hu - man skills to - geth - er gra-cious gifts from God un - fold.
 bring new power and strength for ac-tion, make us col-leagues, free and fair.
 mes - sen-gers of faith, thus giv-ing hope and con - fi - dence and peace.

This hymn is a celebration of mutuality and diversity as well as a challenge to the Christian community to live out a ministry of reconciliation and inclusion. This 20th-century text is set to a 19th-century tune named for the noted pastor and preacher Henry Ward Beecher.

TEXT: Jane Parker Huber, 1981

MUSIC: John Zundel, 1870

Text © 1981 Jane Parker Huber (admin. Westminster John Knox Press)

BEECHER

8.7.8.7.D

(alternate tune: EBENEZER)

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

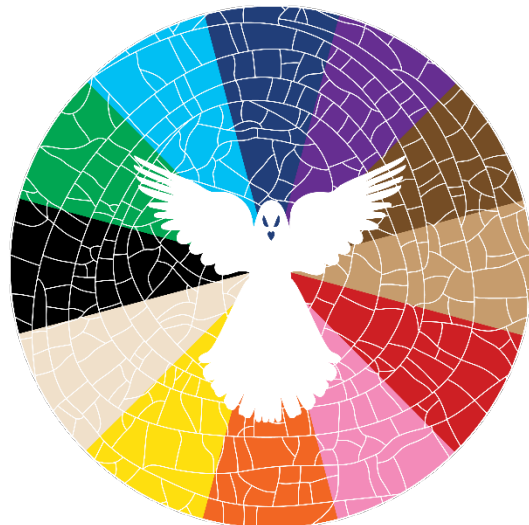
Rev. Carrie Veal
Executive Minister

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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