

# OPEN TO ALL



**MYERS PARK  
BAPTIST  
CHURCH**

Inclusivity | Spirituality | Community | Justice

The Worship of God

**Epiphany**

January 7, 2024 | 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**

“Cleansing Fountain”

Claudio Olivera, pianist  
Early American Melody

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

Rev. Dr. Ben Boswell

### **\*Opening Hymn**

“O Thou Who By A Star Didst Guide”

See page 6.  
KINGSFOLD

### **Welcome of Our Guests**

Rev. Tara Gibbs

*If you are our guest today, please fill out the pew card or scan the QR code  
so we may offer you our gratitude for joining us today.*

### **Moment for Confronting Whiteness**

Tim Emry



### **\*Passing of the Peace**

### **Gospel Reading – Matthew 2:1-12 NRSV**

Victoria Yeghoyan

In the time of King Herod, after Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea, magi from the east came to Jerusalem, asking, “Where is the child who has been born king of the Jews? For we observed his star in the east and have come to pay him homage.” When King Herod heard this, he was frightened, and all Jerusalem with him, and calling together all the chief priests and scribes of the people, he inquired of them where the Messiah was to be born. They told him, “In Bethlehem of Judea, for so it has been written by the prophet:

‘And you, Bethlehem, in the land of Judah,  
are by no means least among the rulers of Judah,  
for from you shall come a ruler  
who is to shepherd my people Israel.’”

Then Herod secretly called for the magi and learned from them the exact time when the star had appeared. Then he sent them to Bethlehem, saying, “Go and search diligently for the child, and when you have found him, bring me word so that I may also go and pay him homage.” When they had heard the king, they set out, and there, ahead of them, went the star that they had seen in the east, until it stopped over the place where the child was. When they saw that the star had stopped, they were overwhelmed with joy. On entering the house, they saw the child with Mary his mother, and they knelt down and paid him homage. Then, opening their treasure chests, they offered him gifts of gold,

frankincense, and myrrh. And having been warned in a dream not to return to Herod, they left for their own country by another road.

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

### **\*Sermon Hymn**

“We Wise Men of Orient Are ”

KINGS OF ORIENT

We wise men of Orient are;  
bearing gifts we traverse afar,  
field and fountain, moor and mountain,  
following yonder star.

*Refrain:*

O star of wonder, star of night,  
star with royal beauty bright,  
westward leading, still proceeding,  
guide us to thy perfect light.

Born a King on Bethlehem's plain,  
gold I bring to crown Him again,  
king forever, ceasing never,  
over us all to reign. *[Refrain]*

Frankincense to offer have I;  
incense owns a Deity nigh;  
prayer and praising, voices raising,  
worshiping God on high. *[Refrain]*

### **Sermon**

Rev. Dr. Ben Boswell

“Christmas is for Dreamers”

### **Musical Reflection**

“Pure Imagination/Imagine”

J. Kevin Gray  
Leslie Breicusse/ John Lennon

Come with me and you'll be, in a world of pure imagination.  
Take a look and you'll see into your imagination.

We'll begin with a spin, traveling in the world of our creation.  
What we'll see, will defy explanation.

Imagine no possessions, I wonder if you can,  
no need for greed or hunger, a brotherhood of man.  
Imagine all the people, sharing all the world. Yoo-hoo, ooh-ooh.  
You may say I'm a dreamer, but I'm not the only one.  
I hope someday you'll join us, and the world will live as one.

*Congregation join in:*

**You may say I'm a dreamer, but I'm not the only one.  
I hope someday you'll join us, and the world will live as one.**

**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**

Chancel Choir  
Gordon Young

“Now Sing We Joyfully Unto God”  
Now sing we joyfully unto God! We sing!  
We sing so joyfully unto God, to God,  
so joyfully unto God, so joyfully unto God!  
Now sing we happily, unto God.  
Now sing we joyfully unto God! We sing! We sing,  
so joyfully unto God, to God, so joyfully unto God.  
Now sing we joyfully unto God!

**\*Presentation of Gifts and the Doxology**

OLD HUNDREDTH

Praise God from whom all blessings flow;  
Praise God, all creatures here below;  
Praise God above, ye heavenly host;  
Creator, Christ, and Holy Ghost. Amen.

**\*Prayer of Dedication**

Rev. Tara Gibbs

**\*Closing Hymn**

“Sing to the World ” stanzas 1, 2, and 4

See page 7.  
TURO

**Benediction**

Rev. Dr. Ben Boswell

**Postlude**

“In the Garden”

Claudio Olivera, pianist  
C. Austin Miles

*If you are our guest today, please connect with a  
minister after worship and receive a Welcome Bag.*

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



We are affiliated with [allianceofbaptists.org](http://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).

**WE'RE  
GLAD YOU  
ARE HERE**

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Connect with us  
in one easy step.

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  
BAPTIST  
CHURCH**

# O Thou Who By A Star Didst Guide

KINGSFOLD CMD

*English Country Songs, 1893*

John Mason Neale, 1842

Arr. Ralph Vaughan Williams (1872–1958)

1. O thou who by a star didst guide The Ma-gi on their way,  
2. As yet we know thee but in part, But still we trust thy word

Un - til it came and stood be-side The place where Je - sus lay;  
That bless-ed are the pure in heart, For they shall see the Lord.

Al - though by stars thou dost not lead Thy ser-vants now be - low,  
O Sav-ior, give us then thy grace To make us pure in heart,

Thy Ho - ly Spir - it, when they need, Will show them how to go.  
That we may see thee, face to face, Here - af - ter as thou art.

The musical score is written for voice and piano. It features a treble and bass staff with a key signature of one sharp (F#) and a 4/4 time signature. The melody is primarily in the treble staff, while the piano accompaniment is in the bass staff. The lyrics are arranged in four systems, each corresponding to a line of music. The first system includes two verses. The second system continues the first verse. The third system continues the first verse. The fourth system continues the first verse. The score ends with a double bar line.

# Sing To The World

TRURO LM

Thomas Williams, 1789

Harm. Lowell Mason (1792–1872)

J. Daniel White, 1992

1. Sing to the world: "The Christ is here." He comes to  
 2. Sing to the sky: "Thy king - dom come." God's will is  
 3. An - gels re - sound through - out the sky: "He comes that  
 4. O - pen the doors of heart and life; Re - ceive the

save from death and fear. He brings good news to  
 shown us in the Son. The Word is flesh, a -  
 we no more may die." And shep - herds sing to  
 Sav - ior, con - quer strife. The star that shines re -

rich and poor; And to all life God's grace re - store.  
 mong us lives, The Light of God re - demp - tion gives.  
 all who hear: "The Lamb of God to us is near."  
 veals the place: Where love a - bounds, God's grace em - brace.

This tune in a higher key, 16

A hymn for Epiphany to celebrate the ministry of R. Eugene Owens, third Senior Minister, Myers Park Baptist Church, 1969–1992.

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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**

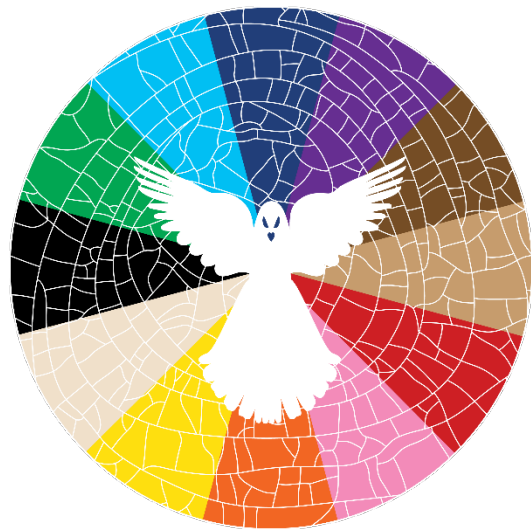
Associate Minister of Spiritual Growth

**Rev. Dr. JJ Flag**

Associate Minister of Pastoral Care & Justice

**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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