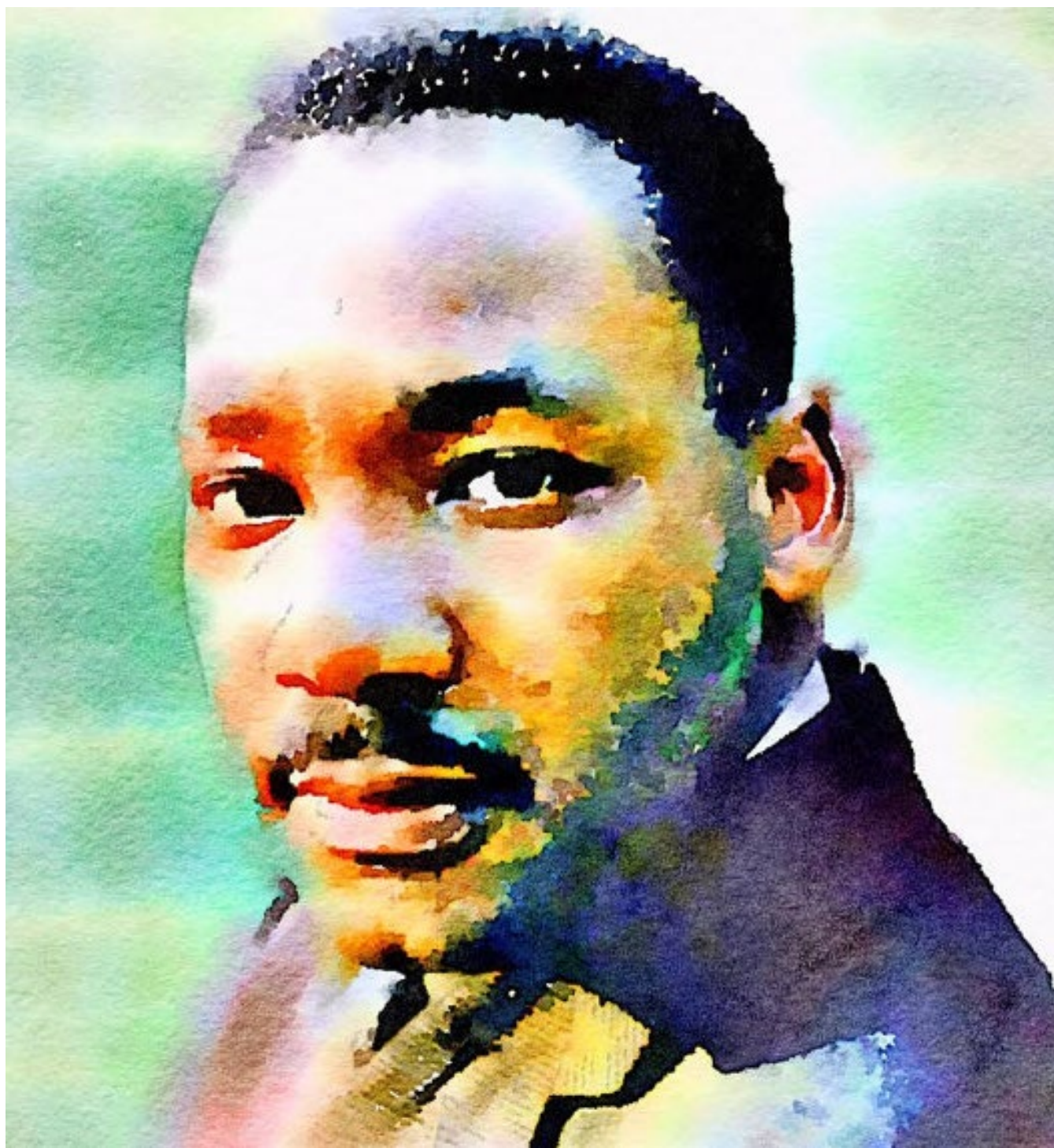




The Worship of God

Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Sunday

January 14, 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

“A Pleasant Thought”

Dr. Matthew Manwarren, organ
Florence B. Price

Call to Worship and Invocation

Rev. John Blackshire, Ph.D.

***Opening Hymn**

“Lift Every Voice and Sing”

See pages 8 and 9.
LIFT EVERY VOICE

Welcome of Our Guests

Rev. Carrie Veal

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.

***Passing of the Peace**

Moment for Confronting Whiteness

Kim Bohannon



New Testament Reading – James 1:19-25 & 2:14-26 NRSV

Eddie Bell

You must understand this, my beloved brothers and sisters: let everyone be quick to listen, slow to speak, slow to anger, for human anger does not produce God’s righteousness. Therefore rid yourselves of all sordidness and rank growth of wickedness, and welcome with meekness the implanted word that has the power to save your souls.

But be doers of the word and not merely hearers who deceive themselves. For if any are hearers of the word and not doers, they are like those who look at themselves in a mirror; for they look at themselves and, on going away, immediately forget what they were like. But those who look into the perfect law, the law of liberty, and persevere, being not hearers who forget but doers who act—they will be blessed in their doing.

What good is it, my brothers and sisters, if someone claims to have faith but does not have works? Surely that faith cannot save, can it? If a brother or sister is naked and lacks daily food and one of you says to them, “Go in peace; keep warm and eat your fill,” and yet you do not supply their bodily needs, what is the good of that? So faith by itself, if it has no works, is dead.

But someone will say, “You have faith, and I have works.” Show me your faith apart from works, and I by my works will show you faith. You believe that God is one; you do well. Even the demons believe—and shudder. Do you want to be shown, you senseless person, that faith apart from works is worthless? Was not our ancestor Abraham justified by works when he offered his son Isaac on the altar? You see that faith was active along with his works, and by works faith was brought to completion. Thus the scripture was fulfilled that says, “Abraham believed God, and it was reckoned to him as righteousness,” and he was called the friend of God. You see that a person is justified by works and not by faith alone. Likewise, was not Rahab the prostitute also justified by works when she welcomed the messengers and sent them out by another road? For just as the body without the spirit is dead, so faith without works is also dead.

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**

“We Shall Overcome, Only When All Are Free”

See page 10.

J. Kevin Gray

Sermon

“Practicing or Pretending?”

Rev. Dr. Ben Boswell

Musical Reflection

“Glory”

Chancel Choir, Emil Foster, and Tiffani D
John Legend, Common and Rhymefest, arr. for choir by Mark Brymer

Refrain:

One day when the glory comes,
it will be ours, it will be ours.
O-oh, one day when the war is won,
we will be sure, we will be sure.
O-oh, glory (Glory, glory)

Hands to the Heavens, no man, no weapon formed against,
yes glory is destined.

Every day women and men become legends,
sins that go against our skin become blessings.

The movement is a rhythm to us.

Freedom is like religion to us.

Justice is juxtaposition in us.

Justice for all just ain't specific enough. [Refrain]

Now the war is not over,
victory isn't won,
but we'll fight on to the finish,
and then when it's all done
we'll cry glory (Glory), oh glory (Glory).

The biggest weapon is to stay peaceful.

We sing; our music is the cuts that we bleed through.

Somewhere in the dreams we had an epiphany.

Now we right the wrongs in history.

No one can win the war individually.

it takes the wisdom of the elders and young people's energy.
Welcome to the story we call victory.
The coming of the Lord, my eyes have seen the glory. [Refrain]

Church at Prayer

Rev. John Blackshire, Ph.D.

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 or drop your offering in the plate.*



Offertory

"Precious Lord, Take My Hand"

Precious Lord, take my hand, lead me on,
let me stand, I am tired, I am weak, I am worn;
through the storm, through the night, lead me on to the light.
Take my hand, Lord, and lead me home.

When my way grows drear precious Lord, linger near,
When my life is almost gone.
Hear my cry, hear my call, hold my hand, lest I fall
Take my hand precious Lord lead me home.

When the darkness appears and the night draws near,
and the day is past and gone, at the river I stand,
guide my feet, hold my hand:
take my hand, Lord, and lead me home.

*Presentation of Gifts and the Doxology

**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.**

OLD HUNDREDTH

*Prayer of Dedication

Rev. Carrie Veal

*Closing Hymn

"For the Healing of the Nations" stanzas 1, 2, and 4

See page 11.
CWM RHONDDA

Benediction

Rev. Dr. Ben Boswell

Postlude

“Ev’ry Time I Feel the Spirit”

Dr. Matthew Manwarren, organist
Adolphus Hailstork

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

Flowers on the altar are given to the glory of God and in honor of Christa A. Overcash and in loving memory of Reece A. Overcash, Jr. by Belvie and Kay Jenkins, the Alice Jenkins Cookson family and the Carter Jenkins family.



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



We are affiliated with allianceofbaptists.org



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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.

Notes on some of our musical selections and composers

Florence B. Price

Florence Beatrice (Smith) Price became the first black female composer to have a symphony performed by a major American orchestra when Music Director Frederick Stock and the Chicago Symphony Orchestra played the world premiere of her Symphony No. 1 in E minor on June 15, 1933, on one of four concerts presented at the Auditorium Theatre from June 14 through June 17 during Chicago's Century of Progress Exposition. The historic June 15th concert entitled "The Negro in Music" also included works by Harry T. Burleigh, Roland Hayes, Samuel Coleridge-Taylor and John Alden Carpenter performed by Margaret A. Bonds, pianist and tenor Roland Hayes with the orchestra. Florence Price's symphony had come to the attention of Stock when it won first prize in the prestigious Wanamaker Competition held the previous year.

Lift Every Voice and Sing

Many people are surprised to learn that "Lift Every Voice and Sing" was first written as a poem. Created by James Weldon Johnson, it was performed for the first time by 500 school children in celebration of President Lincoln's birthday on February 12, 1900 in Jacksonville, FL. The poem was set to music by Johnson's brother, John Rosamond Johnson, and soon adopted by the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP) as its official song. Today "Lift Every Voice and Sing" is one of the most cherished songs of the African American Civil Rights Movement and is often referred to as the Black National Anthem.

-PBS/2023

Glory from "Selma"

"Glory," was written in 2011 by John Legend, Common, and Rhymefest as the theme song for "Selma," a motion picture that tells the story of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. and those who organized and participated in the 1965 Selma to Montgomery marches.

This song marks the first time, we are aware of, that the now fifty-year-old genre of Hip Hop has been utilized in worship at Myers Park Baptist Church.

We Shall Overcome, Only When We Sing Together

This is a world premiere performance of this hymn that was written in 2021, by J. Kevin Gray to honor those who have and are still on the front lines of the Civil Rights movement.

It was dedicated to David Tang and Frank McGinnis, who have been creative partners with Kevin on numerous projects and share the passion of dignity and prosperity for all people.

Precious Lord, Take my Hand

This hymn, by Thomas Dorsey, was chosen for today because it was requested by Dr. King to be sung at his funeral and performed by his close friend, Mahalia Jackson.

Adolphus Cunningham Hailstork III

Adolphus C. Hailstork is an American composer and educator. He was born in Rochester, New York, and grew up in Albany, New York, where he studied violin, piano, organ, and voice. He currently resides in Virginia Beach, Virginia. Hailstork is of African American, Native American, and European ancestry and his works blend musical ideas from the African, American, and European traditions.

WE'RE GLAD YOU ARE HERE

Connect with us
in one easy step.

Learn more about us
and how to get
involved.

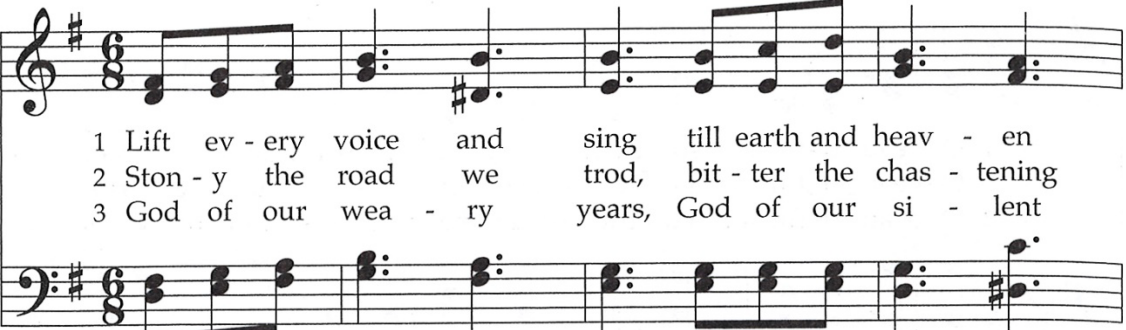
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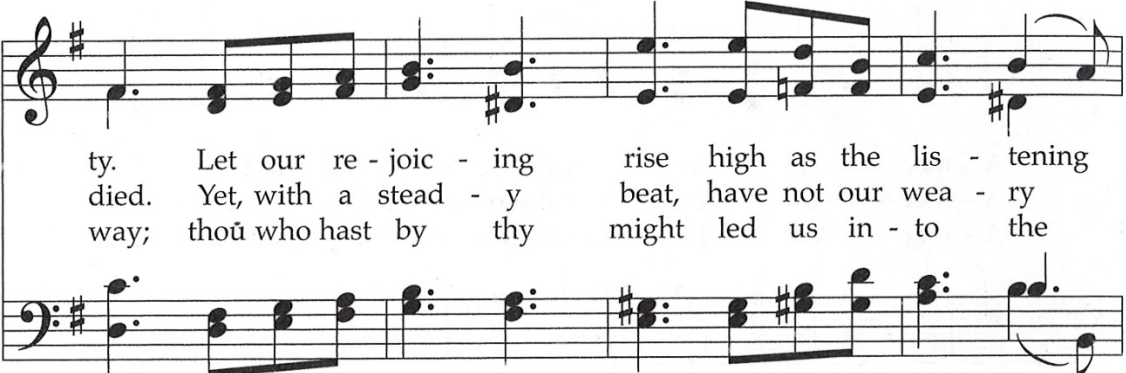
Lift Every Voice and Sing



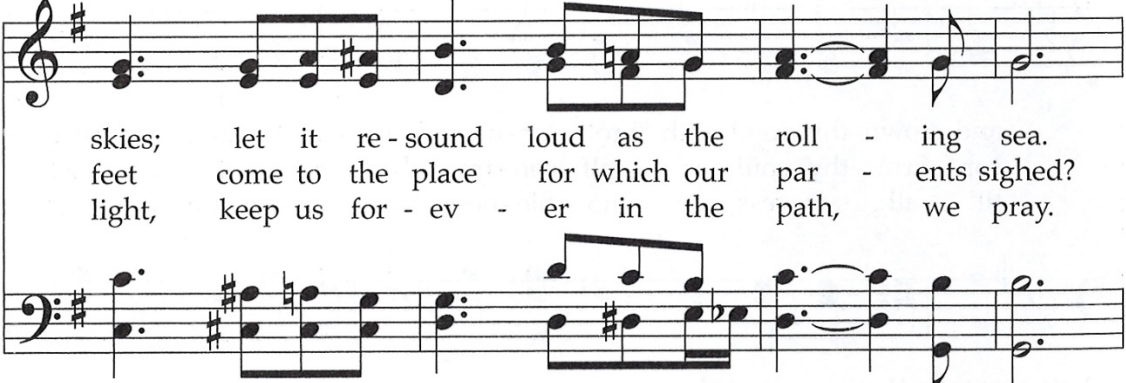
1 Lift ev - ery voice and sing till earth and heav - en
 2 Ston - y the road we trod, bit - ter the chas - tening
 3 God of our wea - ry years, God of our si - lent



ring, ring with the har - mo - nies of lib - er -
 rod, felt in the days when hope un - born had
 tears, thou who hast brought us thus far on the



ty. Let our re - joic - ing rise high as the lis - tening
 died. Yet, with a stead - y beat, have not our wea - ry
 way; thou who hast by thy might led us in - to the



skies; let it re - sound loud as the roll - ing sea.
 feet come to the place for which our par - ents sighed?
 light, keep us for - ev - er in the path, we pray.

Initially a poem for a school assembly at which Booker T. Washington spoke on Lincoln's birthday in 1900, this text and tune have gained national recognition and devotion, not only within the African American community, but also among all who seek liberation from oppression.

Sing a song full of the faith that the dark past has taught us;
We have come o - ver a way that with tears has been wa - tered;
Lest our feet stray from the plac - es, our God, where we met thee;

sing a song full of the hope that the pres - ent has brought
we have come, tread - ing our path through the blood of the slaugh -
lest, our hearts drunk with the wine of the world, we for - get

us. Fac - ing the ris - ing sun of our new day be -
tered, out from the gloom - y past, till now we stand at
thee; shad - owed be - neath thy hand may we for - ev - er

gun, let us march on, till vic - to - ry is won.
last where the white gleam of our bright star is cast.
stand, true to our God, true to our na - tive land.

We Shall Overcome, Only When We All Are Free

A song of justice, unity and peace, with a quote from the spiritual "We Shall Overcome"

Dedicated to David Tang and Frank McGinnis,
who help me to better understand the joy of teamwork and dwelling together in harmony

Words and music by James Kevin Gray



We shall o - ver - come___ on - ly when we sing to - ge - ther. Take our stand as___
Look out on the world___ with eyes that see each strug - gle. Lend a help - ing
Christ the Lord of Love___ shines glori - ous like a bea - con. Gi - ving light to___

6



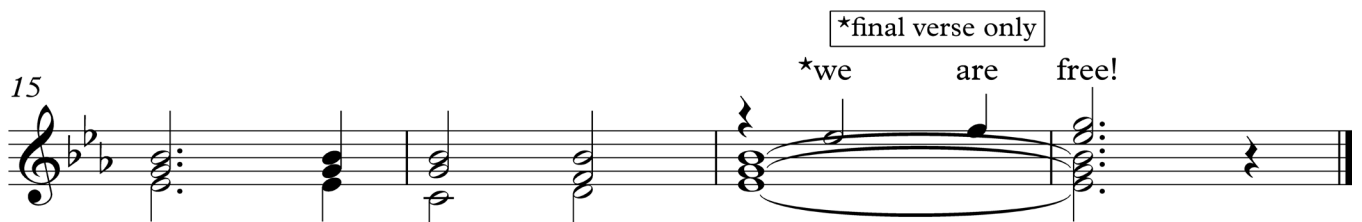
one, and face the stor - my wea - ther. Deep in our hearts___ let us a -
hand to neigh - bors who're in trou - ble.
all who have the eyes to see him. God's love is vast. ___ great as the

12



gree. We shall o - ver___ come___ on - ly___
sea. We shall all be one___ on - ly___
ing

15



*final verse only
*we are free!
when we all are free!_____
when we all are free!

For the Healing of the Nations

1. For the heal - ing of the na - tions, Lord, we pray with
 2. Lead us for - ward in - to free - dom; from de - spair your
 3. All that kills a - bun - dant liv - ing, let it from the
 4. You, Cre - a - tor God, have writ - ten your great name on

one ac - cord; for a just and e - qual shar - ing of the things that
 world re - lease, that, re - deemed from war and ha - tred, all may come and
 earth be banned; pride of sta - tus, race, or school - ing, dog - mas that ob -
 hu - man - kind; for our grow - ing in your like - ness bring the life of

earth af - fords; to a life of love in ac - tion help us
 go in peace. Show us how through care and good - ness fear will
 scure your plan. In our com - mon quest for jus - tice may we
 Christ to mind, that by our re - sponse and ser - vice earth its

rise and pledge our word, (pledge our word) help us rise and pledge our word.
 die and hope in - crease, (hope in - crease) fear will die and hope in - crease.
 hal - low life's brief span, (life's brief span) may we hal - low life's brief span.
 des - ti - ny may find, (may find) earth its des - ti - ny may find.

WORDS: Fred Kaan, 1965 (Rev. 21:1-22:5)

MUSIC: John Hughes, 1907

Words © 1968 Hope Publishing Co.

CWM RHONDDA

87.87.87

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

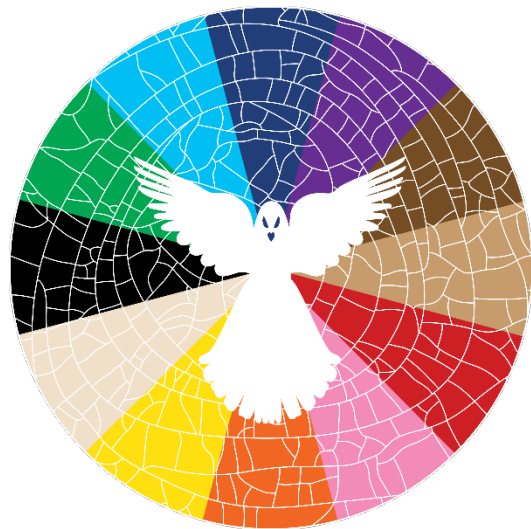
Associate Minister of Spiritual Growth

Rev. Dr. JJ Flag

Associate Minister of Pastoral Care & Justice

J. Kevin Gray

Minister of Music & Worship



**MYERS PARK
BAPTIST
CHURCH**

Inclusivity | Spirituality | Community | Justice

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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