

# OPEN TO ALL



**MYERS PARK  
BAPTIST  
CHURCH**

Inclusivity | Spirituality | Community | Justice

The Worship of God

**The 25<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Pentecost**

November 19, 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

“God Himself is Present”  
“Rejoice, the Lord is King”

Dr. Matthew Manwarren, organ  
arr. Michael Burkhardt  
arr. Brenda Portman

### Call to Worship and Invocation

Rev. Tara Gibbs

### \*Opening Hymn

“We are One, Yet We are Many”

We are one, yet we are many called by Christ to love and serve.  
Let us live our lives with purpose, through our acts may God be heard.  
We are blessed to be a blessing, joy in giving is our cry.  
Heal the broken, feed the needy, love embodied by and by.

BEACH SPRING  
J. Kevin Gray

Grounded in the words of Jesus, we are shown God's loving face.  
Judgment gone yet called to action going forth to create space.  
Space for mercy, grace and justice. Space for loving all the world.  
Walking in the light of Jesus, God's own will displayed, unfurled!

### 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

### Moment for Outreach

Seth Pilz

### Gospel Reading – 1 Corinthians 3:1-13 NRSV

Paul Wielunski

And so, brothers and sisters, I could not speak to you as spiritual people, but rather as people of the flesh, as infants in Christ. I fed you with milk, not solid food, for you were not ready for solid food. Even now you are still not ready, for you are still of the flesh. For as long as there is jealousy and quarreling among you, are you not of the flesh, and behaving according to human inclinations? For when one says, “I belong to Paul,” and another, “I belong to Apollos,” are you not merely human?

What then is Apollos? What is Paul? Servants through whom you came to believe, as the Lord assigned to each. I planted, Apollos watered, but God gave the growth. So neither the one who plants nor the one who waters is anything, but only God who gives the growth. The one who plants and the one who waters have a common purpose, and each will receive wages according to the labor of each. For we are

God's servants, working together; you are God's field, God's building. According to the grace of God given to me, like a skilled master builder I laid a foundation, and someone else is building on it. Each builder must choose with care how to build on it.

For no one can lay any foundation other than the one that has been laid; that foundation is Jesus Christ. Now if anyone builds on the foundation with gold, silver, precious stones, wood, hay, straw—the work of each builder will become visible, for the Day will disclose it, because it will be revealed with fire, and the fire will test what sort of work each has done.

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

“Christ is Made the Sure Foundation”

REGENT SQUARE

Christ is made the sure foundation, Christ the head and cornerstone,  
chosen of the Lord, and precious, binding all the church in one,  
Holy Zion's help forever, and her confidence alone.

To this temple, where we call You, come, O Lord of Hosts, today;  
with accustomed lovingkindness, hear Your servants as they pray;  
and your fullest benediction shed within its walls alway.

Lord, we dedicate our service, give our lives to live your praise.  
Take and bless like loaves and fishes, what we bring to you this day.  
You, O God, are seed and planter, we now follow and obey.

### Sermon

“The Foresight and the Seed”

Rev. John Blackshire, Ph.D.

### Church at Prayer

Bethany Johnson

### 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

Meredith and Andrew Greene

### Invitation to Offering

J. Kevin Gray

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



## Offertory Anthem

“Be Thou My Vision ”

Be thou my vision, O Lord of my heart;  
be all else but naught to me, save that thou art;  
thou my best thought by day or by night,  
waking or sleeping, thy presence my light.

Be thou my wisdom, and thou my true word;  
I ever with thee and thou with me Lord;  
thou my souls shelter, and thou my high tower;  
raise thou me heavenward, O power of power.

High King of Heaven, my victory won,  
may I reach heaven's joys O bright heaven's sun!  
Heart of my own heart, whatever befall,  
O still be my Vision, O ruler of all.

***At the conclusion of the Offertory Anthem, please bring your pledge cards forward and place them in the baskets on the table at the entrance to the Chancel.***

Chancel Choir  
arr. Carlton Young

## \*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. Dr. JJ Flag

## \*Closing Hymn

“Giving God, We Pause and Wonder”

Giving God, we pause and wonder:  
what would happen if we tithed —  
if we gave our gifts, Creator,  
hearts and hands all opened wide?  
We might learn, by gladly sharing,  
not to trust in things we own  
but to risk — it's part of caring —  
and to trust in you alone.

We could do abundant mission,  
sharing Christ who claims and frees.  
We could reach out with  
new vision in creative ministries.  
No more bound by limitations  
of what churches can't afford,  
we could learn with jubilation  
whole new ways to serve you, Lord.

Humbly on your strength relying,  
we could build a thousand schools;  
we could feed a million orphans  
and give countless farmers tools.

HYMN TO JOY  
Carolyn Winfrey Gillette

As we gladly shared your blessings,  
then the world might want to know:  
"See! How loving are those Christians!  
Who's the One who makes them so?"

**Benediction**

Rev. John Blackshire, Ph.D.

**Postlude**

"Now Thank We All Our God"

Dr. Matthew Manwarren, organ

Sigfrid Karg-Elert

*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 11:15*



**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!



PLEDGE CARD

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



Flowers on the altar are given to the glory of God and in loving memory of Mr. and Mrs. William Dixon Cornwell, Sr., by their family.



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**

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

The graphic features a light green background on the left and a dark blue background on the right. A QR code is positioned in the upper right. At the bottom, there is a colorful horizontal bar and a line drawing of a church building.

## 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).*

One License A-729324 | WorshipCast License CCS # WC-12779 | CVLI Video License #504 239 870