

OPEN TO ALL



**MYERS PARK
BAPTIST
CHURCH**

Inclusivity | Spirituality | Community | Justice

The Worship of God

The 1st Sunday of Christmastide

December 31, 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.

Prelude

“Christmas Medley”

Rick Bean, pianist
Rick Bean

Call to Worship and Invocation

Rev. Carrie Veal

*Opening Carol

“God Rest Ye Merry Gentlefolk”

TRADITIONAL

God rest ye merry, gentlefolk let nothing you dismay,
remember, Christ our Savior was born on Christmas day,
to save us all from Satan's power when we were gone astray.
O tidings of comfort and joy, comfort and joy,
O tidings of comfort and joy.

From God our Heavenly Father a blessed angel came,
and unto certain shepherds brought tidings of the same,
how that in Bethlehem was born the Son of God by name.
O tidings of comfort and joy, comfort and joy,
O tidings of comfort and joy.

Now to the Lord sing praises all you within this place,
and with true love and brotherhood each other now embrace,
this holy tide of Christmas all other doth deface.
O tidings of comfort and joy, comfort and joy,
O tidings of comfort and joy.

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

Gospel Reading – Matthew 26:69-75 NRSV

Rev. John Blackshire, Ph.D.

Now Peter was sitting outside in the courtyard. A female servant came to him and said, “You also were with Jesus the Galilean.” But he denied it before all of them, saying, “I do not know what you are talking about.” When he went out to the porch, another female servant saw him, and she said to the bystanders, “This man was with Jesus the Nazarene.” Again he denied it with an oath, “I do not know the man.” After a little while the bystanders came up and said to Peter, “Certainly you are also one of them, for your accent betrays you.” Then he began to curse, and he swore an oath, “I do not know the man!” At that moment the cock crowed. Then Peter remembered what Jesus had said: “Before the cock crows, you will deny me three times.” And he went out and wept bitterly.

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.

*Sermon Carol

“What Child is This?”

GREENSLEEVES

What Child is this, who, laid to rest,
on Mary's lap is sleeping?
Whom angels greet with anthems sweet,
while shepherds watch are keeping?

Chorus:

This, this is Christ, the King,
whom shepherds guard and angels sing:
haste, haste to bring him laud,
the Babe, the Son of Mary!

Why lies he in such mean estate,
where ox and ass are feeding?
good Christian, fear: for sinners here
the silent Word is pleading. [*Chorus*]

So bring him incense, gold, and myrrh,
come, peasant, king to own him.
The King of kings salvation brings;
let loving hearts enthrone him. [*Chorus*]

Sermon

“Plan the Exit”

Rev. John Blackshire, Ph.D.

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. Carrie Veal

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



Offertory

“Now Behold the Lamb”

Dawn Anthony
Kirk Franklin

*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 Carol

“Go, Tell it on the Mountain”

Go, tell it on the mountain! Over the hills and everywhere,
go, tell it on the mountain that Jesus Christ is born.

AFRICAN AMERICAN FOLK MUSIC
adapted by John W. Work

While shepherds kept their watching o'er silent flocks by night,
behold throughout the heavens there shone a Holy light.

Go, tell it on the mountain! Over the hills and everywhere,
go, tell it on the mountain that Jesus Christ is born.

The shepherds feared and trembled when, lo! above the earth
rang out the angel chorus that hailed our Savior's birth.

Go, tell it on the mountain! Over the hills and everywhere,
go, tell it on the mountain that Jesus Christ is born.

Down in a lowly manger our humble Christ was born,
and brought us all salvation that blessed Christmas morn.

Go, tell it on the mountain! Over the hills and everywhere,
go, tell it on the mountain that Jesus Christ is born,
that Jesus Christ is born!

Benediction

Rev. John Blackshire, Ph.D.

Postlude

“Go, Tell it on the Mountain”

Rick Bean, pianist

*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  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.

**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
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CHURCH**

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

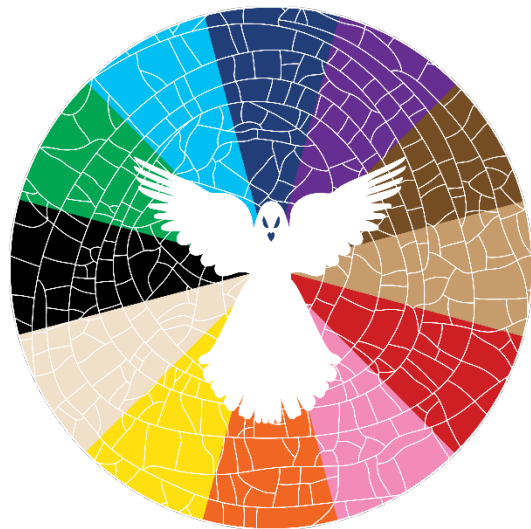
Associate Minister of Spiritual Growth

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.

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