



The Worship of God

The 5th Sunday of Epiphany

February 4, 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 J. Kevin Gray, pianist

Call to Worship and Invocation Rev. Dr. Ben Boswell

***Opening Hymn** See pages 6 and 7.
“Lift Every Voice and Sing” 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**

Gospel Reading – Luke 19:1-10 NRSV Jason Blackwell

He entered Jericho and was passing through it. A man was there named Zacchaeus; he was a chief tax collector and was rich. He was trying to see who Jesus was, but on account of the crowd he could not, because he was short in stature. So he ran ahead and climbed a sycamore tree to see him, because he was going to pass that way. When Jesus came to the place, he looked up and said to him, “Zacchaeus, hurry and come down, for I must stay at your house today.” So he hurried down and was happy to welcome him. All who saw it began to grumble and said, “He has gone to be the guest of one who is a sinner.” Zacchaeus stood there and said to the Lord, “Look, half of my possessions, Lord, I will give to the poor, and if I have defrauded anyone of anything, I will pay back four times as much.” Then Jesus said to him, “Today salvation has come to this house, because he, too, is a son of Abraham. For the Son of Man came to seek out and to save the lost.”

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 210 in the education building between 11 -11:15.**

*Sermon Hymn

“I Surrender All”

SURRENDER

Solo, Shanka Pettis:

All to Jesus I surrender,
all to him I freely give;
I will ever love and trust him,
in his presence daily live.

Refrain:

I surrender all, I surrender all;
all to thee, my blessed Savior,
I surrender all.

All:

**All to Jesus I surrender,
make me, Savior, wholly thine;
let me feel thy Holy Spirit,
truly know that thou art mine. [Refrain]**

**All to Jesus I surrender,
Lord, I give myself to thee;
fill me with thy love and power,
let thy blessing fall on me. [Refrain]**

Sermon

Rev. Dr. Drew G. I. Hart

“Come Down from Your Tree”

Musical Reflection

Shanka Pettis

“I’ll Just Say Yes”

Aaron W. Lindsey & Brian Courtney Wilson

I’ll just say yes, you lead the way;
I’m not afraid of what it means for me to say,
that this life you gave is not my own;
I’m trusting you to hear my yes and lead me on.

Yes, Lord yes, Lord my life is yours.

And there is peace when I say yes.
I might not see it now, but you save the best
for all who trust you and obey.
There is an answer no more delay
(I’ll just say yes).

Church at Prayer

Rev. Dr. JJ Flag

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. Dr. Ben Boswell

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



Offertory Anthem

Chancel Choir

“Total Praise”

Richard Smallwood, arr. Doreen Rao

Lord, I will lift mine eyes to the hills knowing my help is coming from you.
Your peace, you give me in time of the storm.

You are the source of my strength.
You are the strength of my life.
I lift my hands in total praise to you. Amen.

You are the source of my strength.
You are the strength of my life.
I lift my hands in total praise to you. Amen.

***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

“I Have Decided to Follow Jesus”

ASSAM

Solo, Shanka Pettis:

I have decided to follow Jesus;
I have decided to follow Jesus;
I have decided to follow Jesus;
no turning back, no turning back.

All:

Though none go with me, I still will follow;
though none go with me, I still will follow;
though none go with me, I still will follow;
no turning back, no turning back.

The world behind me, the cross before me;
the world behind me, the cross before me,
the world behind me, the cross before me;
no turning back, no turning back.

Benediction

Rev. Dr. Drew G. I. Hart

Postlude

J. Kevin Gray, 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, Eric Roberts, and volunteers.

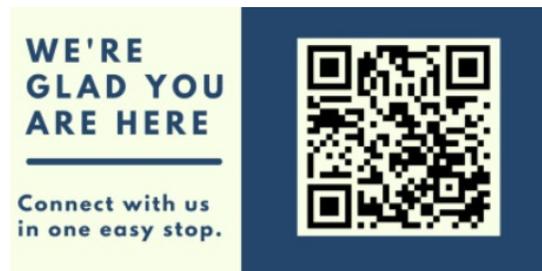


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HOW TO JOIN MYERS PARK BAPTIST CHURCH

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.



A note about the cover art:

During the collaborative research and writing process that would later result in [Liberating Church: A Twenty-First Century Hush Harbor Manifesto](#), our project team hosted a day-long workshop to present our work and receive feedback. We began the day by inviting participants to name the ancestors who inspire us: Harriet Tubman, Sojourner Truth, Ella Baker, Howard Thurman, John Coltrane, Audre Lorde, Septima Clark, Mahalia Jackson, Fannie Lou Hamer, Alma Woodsey Thomas, Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., Donnie Hathaway, Octavia Butler, Art Blakey, Marsha P. Johnson, Malcolm X, Maya Angelou, James Baldwin, John Lewis, Abbey Lincoln, Nina Simone, Toni Morrison.

The background of this piece depicts symbols inspired by sacred icons combined with patterns resembling Alma Woodsey Thomas' artwork. Alongside this imagery are adinkras representing the eight marks of liberating church found in our research of Hush Harbors: Sankofa, Talking Book, Everybody's Got Shoes, Ubuntu, North Star, Joy Unspeakable, Stay Woke, and Steal Away.

- Helms Jarrell

Lift Every Voice and Sing

1 Lift ev - 'ry voice and sing till earth and heav - en ring,
 2 Ston - y the road we trod, bit - ter the chast - 'ning rod,
 3 God of our wea - ry years, God of our si - lent tears,

ring with the har - mon - ies of lib - er - ty;
 felt in the days when hope un - born had died;
 thou who hast brought us thus far on the way;

let our re - joic - ing rise, high as the lis - t'ning skies,
 yet with a stead - y beat, have not our wea - ry feet
 thou who hast, by thy might, led us in - to the light,

let it re - sound loud as the roll - ing sea.
 come to the place for which our peo - ple sighed?
 keep us for - ev - er in the path, we pray.

WORDS: James Weldon Johnson, 1871-1938, alt., © 1921 Edward B. Marks Music Corp.
 MUSIC: J. Rosamond Johnson, 1873-1954, © 1921 Edward B. Marks Music Corp.

Irregular
 LIFT EVERY VOICE

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 us;
 we have come, tread - ing our path through the blood of the slaugh - tered,
 lest, our hearts drunk with the wine of the world, we for - get thee;

fac - ing the ris - ing sun of our new day be - gun,
 out from the gloom - y past, till now we stand at last
 shad - owed be - neath thy hand, may we for - ev - er stand,

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

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

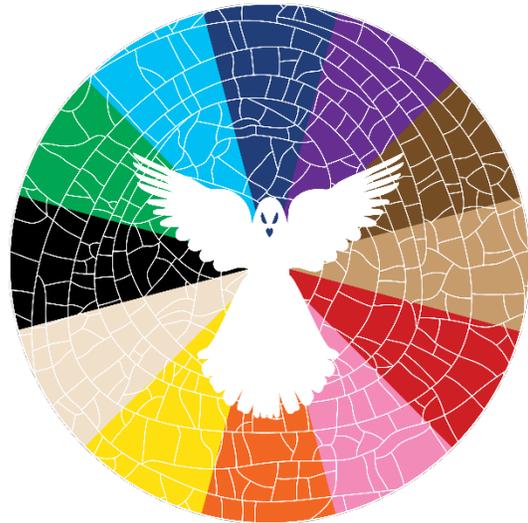
Associate Minister of Spiritual Growth

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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