



Apollo 8: Earthrise, Bill Anders
Image Credit: NASA

The Worship of God
The 4th Sunday of Eastertide
Creation Justice Sunday

April 21, 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.

Silent Reflection

“On This Occasion”

Poem by Sofia Bartholomew
Inspired by “Earthrise” by Amanda Gorman

As the world burns and the waters rise
As pollution clouds the warming skies
As natural disasters reach all-time highs
As Mother Earth cries and once-lush habitat dries
In the planet’s largest ocean, the plastic continent doubles in size
While the scientists devise, analyze, and advise
Politicians dance around the problem under guise of addressing it
To no one’s surprise, industries disguise their detrimental effects
As the fearful skeptic denies, convinced it’s all lies
As the escalating temperatures rise atmosphere-high
As the melting glacier fries
As the endangered species dies
Seemingly no one tries to preserve the now-uncertain future
Tomorrow’s landscape painted in the colorless dyes of extinction
The mass migration begins as the population flies
Searching for the shrinking supplies upon which society relies
As unheeding governments turn blind eyes
As the ardent protester defies
As the ailing planet sighs
As the ticking time-bombs arise
When will we realize that strength lies in allies?
We must improvise, or risk saying our goodbyes to this planet as we know it
Lost to a human-wrought demise
Instead, to this occasion, let us rise.

Prelude

“The Calling”

Jim Brock, percussion; Rebecca Kleinmann, flute

Call to Worship

Rev. Marina Luckhoo

Service Intention

Paula Fricke

Invocation

Rev. Marina Luckhoo

*Opening Hymn

“God, You Spin the Whirling Planets”

See page 7.
AUSTRIA

Welcome of Our Guests

Rev. Tara Gibbs

*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

Creation Justice Moment

Kate Green

Epistle Reading – Romans 8: 22-23 (NRSV)

Robin Buck

We know that the whole creation has been groaning in labor pains until now; and not only the creation, but we ourselves, who have the first fruits of the Spirit, groan inwardly while we wait for adoption, the redemption of our bodies.

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 Hymn

“O Great, Creating God”

TERRA PATRIS

We breathe as one, O God, one body with all earth,
one flesh, one blood, one common good, one love that gives us birth.
O great creating God, your cry goes out, unheard,
for when we bruise or we misuse your earth, we scorn your word.

We cry in grief, O God. Creation’s wounds we mourn:
by war and greed, disease and need, the web of life is torn.
O great, creating God, forgive our prideful sins
for we have scarred your earth and marred the gift where life begins.

We live in hope, O God, and bear your holiness:
in Christ we turn our hearts and learn to heal and serve and bless.
O great creating God, in grace creating still,
may we renew this world with you, in peace with your good will.

Sermon

Rev. Dr. Ben Boswell

“Groaning for Change”

Musical Reflection

Jim Brock, percussion; Rebecca Kleinmann, flute

“An Awakening”

Church at Prayer

Julie Bartholomew

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, go to pushpay.com/g/myersparkbaptist,
or drop your offering in the plate.



Offertory Anthem

Chancel Choir
John Rutter

“For the Beauty of the Earth”

For the beauty of the earth, for the beauty of the skies,
for the love which from our birth, over and around us lies,
over and around us lies.

Lord of all, to thee we raise, this our joyful hymn of praise.

For the beauty of each hour of the day and of the night,
hill and vale and tree and flower, sun and moon and stars of light,
sun and moon and stars of light.

Lord of all, to thee we raise, this our joyful hymn of praise.

For the joy of human love, brother, sister, parent, child,
friends on earth and friends above, for all gentle thoughts and mild,
for all gentle thoughts and mild,

Lord of all, to thee we raise, this our joyful hymn of praise.

For each perfect gift of thine to our race so freely given.
graces human and divine, flow'rs of earth and buds of heav'n,
flow'rs of earth and buds of heav'n;
Lord of all, to thee we raise, this our joyful hymn, our joyful hymn of praise.

*Presentation of Gifts and the Doxology

LASST UNS ERFREUEN
text: Paula W. M. Testerman

**God made all creatures wild and free,
each atom, every galaxy;
praise our Maker! Alleluia!
God places earth in human care,
land, living beings, water, air;
come now folk from every nation,
help our God renew Creation! Alleluia!**

*Prayer of Dedication

Deb Steiner

*Closing Hymn

“Lead With Love”

Melanie DeMore, second & third verse by J. K. Gray

Chorus:

**You gotta put one foot in front of the other and lead with love,
You gotta put one foot in front of the other and lead with love. [Repeat]**

The future's bright **[All] The future's bright,**
For God is here. **[All] For God is here.**
Let's do the work. **[All] Let's do the work.**
Our way is clear. **[All] Our way is clear. [Chorus]**

We have a charge, **[All] We have a charge,**
To save the earth, **[All] To save the earth,**
To give it space, **[All] To give it space,**
For a rebirth. **[All] For a rebirth. [Chorus]**

We are the ones, **[All] We are the ones,**
To change it all. **[All] To change it all.**
We love this world, **[All] We love this world,**
Let's heed the call! **[All] Let's heed the call! [Chorus]**

Benediction

Sofia Bartholomew

Postlude


“Earth and All Stars”

Dr. Matthew Manwarren
setting by Keith Kolander

*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.



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. Marina Luckhoo at mluckhoo@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**

God, You Spin The Whirling Planets

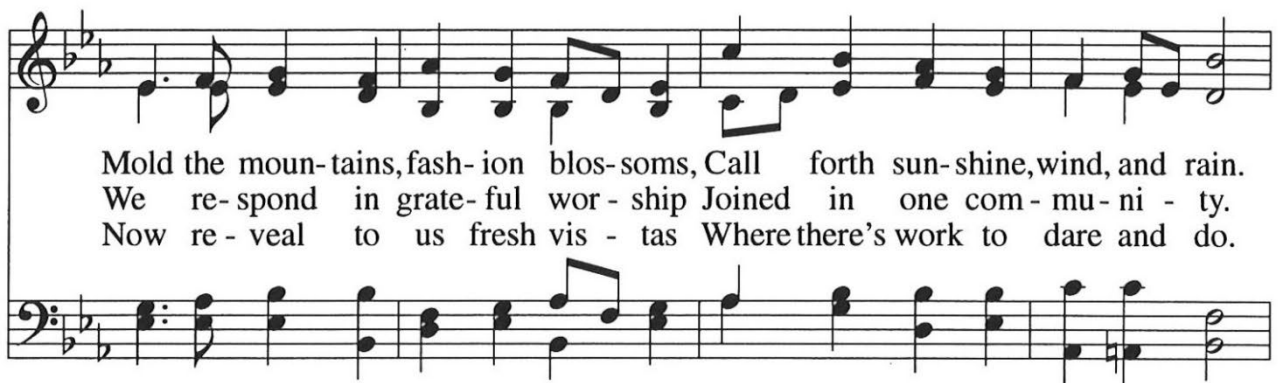
AUSTRIA 8787D

Jane Parker Huber

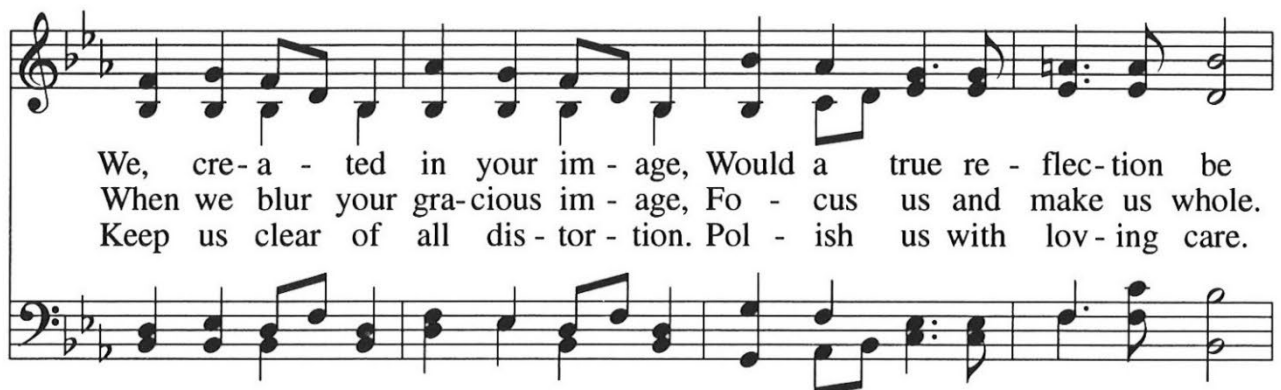
Franz Joseph Haydn, 1797



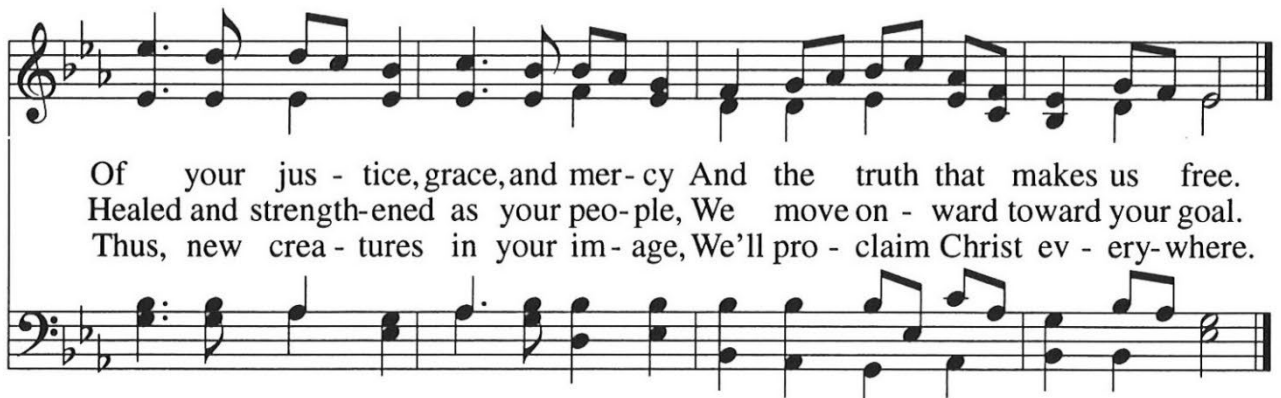
1. God, you spin the whirl-ing plan-ets, Fill the seas and spread the plain,
2. You have called us to be faith-ful In our life and min - is - try.
3. God, your word is still cre - at - ing, Call-ing us to life made new.



Mold the moun-tains, fash-ion blos-soms, Call forth sun-shine, wind, and rain.
We re- spond in grate-ful wor-ship Joined in one com-mu-ni-ty.
Now re-veal to us fresh vis-tas Where there's work to dare and do.



We, cre-a - ted in your im - age, Would a true re - flec-tion be
When we blur your gra-cious im - age, Fo - cus us and make us whole.
Keep us clear of all dis - tor - tion. Pol - ish us with lov - ing care.



Of your jus - tice, grace, and mer-cy And the truth that makes us free.
Healed and strength-ened as your peo-ple, We move on - ward toward your goal.
Thus, new crea - tures in your im - age, We'll pro - claim Christ ev - ery-where.

Words from "A Singing Faith" by Jane Parker Huber.

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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

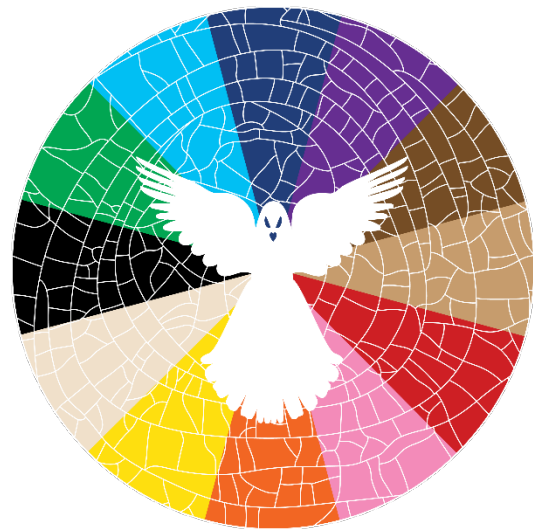
Executive Minister

Rev. Tara Gibbs

Associate Minister of Spiritual Growth

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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