

# OPEN TO ALL



**MYERS PARK  
BAPTIST  
CHURCH**

Inclusivity | Spirituality | Community | Justice

The Worship of God

**The 11<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Pentecost | Sage-ing Adult Sunday**

August 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.

**Childcare is available for birth – kindergarten in room 107 located in the Education Building (behind the Sanctuary). Please see a greeter for more information.**

**Worship activities for children are available in the Narthex.**

**Prelude**

“Solemn Melody”

Lee Northcutt, organ  
Walford Davies

**Call to Worship and Invocation**

Rev. Gary Hudson

**\*Opening Hymn**

“God of Generations”

God of generations, we are all your children;  
to your church we bring our gifts, our worship and our song.  
Young and old we follow, hand in hand together:  
in your great love, together we are strong.

NICAEA  
lyrics by Carolyn Winfrey Gillette

God of every person, Helper on our journey,  
you have called us in our faith to grow and to mature.  
May we keep on learning, worshiping and praying,  
that each new day, we'll serve you all the more.

Abraham and Sarah trusted in your promise:  
age was no condition when you gave them work to do.  
Old and young we follow, hand in hand together;  
at every age, Lord, we belong to you.

**Welcome of Our Guests**

Rev. Sam Slack

*If you are our guest today, please text “guest” to 980.340.8900  
so we may offer you our gratitude for joining us today.*

**Moment for Sage-ing Initiative**

Betsy Thigpen

**\*Passing of the Peace**

**Hebrew Scripture – Genesis 18:1-14 (NRSV)**

David Zeeso

The Lord appeared to Abraham by the oaks of Mamre, as he sat at the entrance of his tent in the heat of the day. He looked up and saw three men standing near him. When he saw them, he ran from the tent entrance to meet them and bowed down to the ground. He said, “My lord, if I find favor with you, do not pass by your servant. Let a little water be brought, and wash your feet, and rest yourselves under the tree. Let me bring a little bread, that you may refresh yourselves, and after that, you may pass on—since you have come to your servant.”

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\*Please rise in body or in spirit.

So, they said, “Do as you have said.” And Abraham hastened into the tent to Sarah and said, “Make ready quickly three measures of choice flour, knead it, and make cakes.” Abraham ran to the herd and took a calf, tender and good, and gave it to the servant, who hastened to prepare it. Then he took curds and milk and the calf that he had prepared and set it before them, and he stood by them under the tree while they ate.

They said to him, “Where is your wife Sarah?” And he said, “There, in the tent.” Then one said, “I will surely return to you in due season, and your wife Sarah shall have a son.” And Sarah was listening at the tent entrance behind him. “Now Abraham and Sarah were old, advanced in age; it had ceased to be with Sarah after the manner of women. So Sarah laughed to herself, saying, “After I have grown old, and my husband is old, shall I be fruitful?” The Lord said to Abraham, “Why did Sarah laugh and say, ‘Shall I indeed bear a child, now that I am old?’ Is anything too wonderful for the Lord? At the set time I will return to you, in due season, and Sarah shall have a son.”

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

**\*Sermon Hymn**

“Our God, Our Help in Ages Past”

ST. ANNE

Our God, our help in ages past,  
our hope for years to come;  
our shelter from the stormy blast,  
and our eternal home.

Before the hills in order stood,  
or earth received her frame;  
from everlasting thou art God,  
to endless years the same.

A thousand ages in thy sight,  
are like an evening gone;  
short as the watch that ends the night,  
before the rising sun.

Our God, our help in ages past,  
our hope for years to come,  
be thou our guard while life shall last,  
and our eternal home.

**Sermon**

Rev. Dr. Bill Leonard

“Aging: The Irony of it All”

## Musical Reflection

### “100 Years”

I'm 15 for a moment, caught in between 10 and 20,  
and I'm just dreaming, counting the ways to where you are.  
I'm 22 for a moment, and she looks better than ever,  
and we're on fire, making our way back from Mars.

15, there's still time for you, time to buy and time to lose,  
15, there's never a wish better than this,  
when you only got a hundred years to live.

I'm 33 for a moment, I'm still the man, but you see I'm a “they”,  
a kid on the way, a family on my mind,  
I'm 45 for a moment, the sea is high, and I'm heading into a crisis,  
chasing the years of my life.

15, there's still time for you,  
time to buy and time to lose yourself,  
within a morning star.  
15, I'm all right with you,  
15, there's never a wish better than this,  
when you only got a hundred years to live.

Half time goes by, suddenly you're wise,  
another blink of an eye,  
67 is gone, the sun is getting high,  
we're moving on.

I'm 99 for a moment and dying for just another moment,  
and I'm just dreaming, counting the ways to where you are.

15, there's still time for you,  
22, I feel her too,  
33, you're on your way, every day's a new day.

15, there's still time for you,  
time to buy and time to choose.  
Hey 15, there's never a wish better than this,  
when you only got a hundred years to live.

J. Kevin Gray  
John Ondrasik

## Church at Prayer

Rev. Joe Aldrich

### 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.**

There are several ways to give:  
scan the QR code below, go to [pushpay.com/g/myersparkbaptist](https://pushpay.com/g/myersparkbaptist),  
or drop your offering in the plate.



**Offertory Anthem**

Chancel Choir  
John Rutter

“Look at the World”

Look at the world: everything all around us.  
Look at the world: and marvel every day.  
Look at the world: so many joys and wonders,  
so many miracles along our way.

*Refrain:*

Praise to thee, o Lord for all creation.  
Give us thankful hearts that we may see,  
all the gifts we share and every blessing, all things come of thee.

Look at the earth: bringing forth fruit and flower.  
Look at the sky: the sunshine and the rain.  
Look at the hills, look at the trees and mountains,  
valley, and flowing river, field, and plain. [*Refrain*]

Think of the spring, think of the warmth of summer,  
bringing the harvest before the winters cold.  
Everything grows, everything has a season,  
til' it is gathered to the creator's fold. [*Refrain*]

Every good gift, all that we need and cherish,  
comes from the God in token and in love.  
We are God's hands, stewards of all God's bounty,  
his is the earth and hers the heavens above. [*Refrain*]

**\*Presentation of Gifts and the Doxology**

OLD HUNDREDTH

**Praise God from whom all blessings flow.  
Praise God, all creatures, here below.  
Praise God above, ye heavenly hosts.  
Creator, Christ and Holy Ghost. Amen.**

**\*Prayer of Dedication**

Sandra Clory

**\*Closing Hymn**

HYMN TO JOY

“God, We Spend a Lifetime Growing”

lyrics by Carolyn Winfrey Gillette

God, we spend a lifetime growing, learning of your love and care,  
planting seeds you give for sowing, working for the fruit they'll bear.  
Now we honor faithful servants who, with joy, look back and see,  
years of growing in your presence, lives of fruitful ministry.

Thank you, Lord, for ones who teach us what has brought them to this place!  
May their faith-filled witness reach us; may we glimpse in them your grace.  
Strong in you, their strength uplifts us from our birth until life's end;  
spirit-filled, they give us gifts, as prophet, mentor, guide and friend.

Christ our Lord, you walk beside us, giving daily work to do;  
years go by and still you guide us as we seek to follow you.  
If our sight fails, weak hands tremble, minds forget the things we've known,  
Lord, we trust that you remember, hold us close, and see us home.

**Benediction**

Rev. Dr. Bill Leonard

**Postlude**

“God of Grace”

Lee Northcutt, organ

Paul Manz

***Following worship, please join us for  
Sermon TalkBack at 11:15a in the Sanctuary.***

***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 loving memory of the lives  
and marriage of Jim and Ann Berry by their daughter, Carol Leinbach and her husband, Leon.*



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



## 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](mailto:mluckhoo@myersparkbaptist.org).



### MPBC Sage-ing Committee Statement of Purpose, Vision and Action

**Purpose of Statement:** To plan and coordinate the senior activities of our church.

**Vision:** Offer programs and ministries that will provide a spirituality that is both personal and socially engaging.

#### Plan of Action for 2024:

- Circles of Elders
- Monthly noon luncheons
- Interest groups (i.e. Grief Education, poetry reading groups, book studies, social events, photography, etc.)
- Multi-generational community building events
- Annual Sage-ing Adult Worship Service in August
- Sage-ing Retreat/s
- Participation in Social Justice and MOJO Opportunities and other affinity groups
- In collaboration with our Clergy and the lay-led congregational care ministries, we will endeavor to reach out to our older members during times of celebration and joy, and times of sickness, loss and grief.

As a committee, we resolve to be committed and intentional in supporting and participating, as we are able, in our church-wide programs and ministries.



## 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**

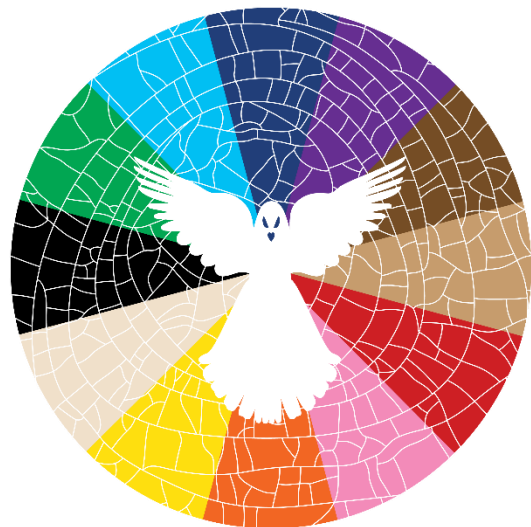
Minister of Music & Worship

**Rev. Katie Suddeth**

Interim Associate Minister

**Rev. Marina Luckhoo**

Interim Associate Minister



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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).*

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