

OPEN TO ALL



**MYERS PARK
BAPTIST
CHURCH**

Inclusivity | Spirituality | Community | Justice

The Worship of God

Welcome Sunday

September 8, 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

“Processional for a Joyful Day”

Dr. Matthew Manwarren, organist

Dale Wood

Call to Worship and Invocation

Rev. Tara Gibbs

***Opening Hymn**

“We are a People on a Journey” verses 1, 2 and 4

see page 6.

FOREVER FORWARD

Welcome of Our Guests

Rev. Marina Luckhoo

If you are our guest today, please scan the QR code below so we may offer you our gratitude for joining us today.



***Passing of the Peace**

Moment of Engagement

Anna-Catherine Fowler

Hebrew Reading - Esther 4:1-17 (NRSV)

Ash, Hannah, and Stella Anabtawi

When Mordecai learned all that had been done, Mordecai tore his clothes and put on sackcloth and ashes and went through the city, wailing with a loud and bitter cry; he went up to the entrance of the king’s gate, for no one might enter the king’s gate clothed with sackcloth. In every province, wherever the king’s command and his decree came, there was great mourning among the Jews, with fasting and weeping and lamenting, and most of them lay in sackcloth and ashes.

When Esther’s maids and her eunuchs came and told her, the queen was deeply distressed; she sent garments to clothe Mordecai, so that he might take off his sackcloth, but he would not accept them. Then Esther called for Hathach, one of the king’s eunuchs who had been appointed to attend her and ordered him to go to Mordecai to learn what was happening and why. Hathach went out to Mordecai in the open square of the city in front of the king’s gate, and Mordecai told him all that had happened to him and the exact sum of money that Haman had promised to pay into the king’s treasuries for the destruction of the Jews. Mordecai also gave him a copy of the written decree issued in Susa for their destruction, that he might show it to Esther, explain it to her, and charge her to go to the king to make supplication to him and to entreat him for her people.

Hathach went and told Esther what Mordecai had said. Then Esther spoke to Hathach and gave him a message for Mordecai: “All the king’s servants and the people of the king’s provinces know that, if any man or woman goes to the king inside the inner court without being called, there is but one law: to be put to death. Only if the king holds out the golden scepter to someone may that person live. I myself have not been called to come in to the king for thirty days.”

**Please rise in body or in spirit.*

When they told Mordecai what Esther had said, Mordecai told them to reply to Esther, “Do not think that in the king’s palace you will escape any more than all the other Jews. For if you keep silent at this time, relief and deliverance will rise for the Jews from another place, but you and your father’s family will perish. Who knows? Perhaps you have come to royal dignity for just such a time as this.” Then Esther said in reply to Mordecai, “Go, gather all the Jews to be found in Susa, and hold a fast on my behalf, and neither eat nor drink for three days, night or day. I and my maids will also fast as you do. After that I will go to the king, though it is against the law, and if I perish, I perish.” Mordecai then went away and did everything as Esther had ordered him.

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, 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**

NEW BRITAIN
Carol M. Bechtel

“For Such a Time as This”

A hymn of joy today we raise
for ministries and gifts;
for all the ways you bid us join
your cloud of witnesses.

For all the saints whose lives shine forth
as templates of your grace,
we give you thanks and pledge our lives
in gratitude to trace.

Our world cries out to hear your name;
the Church in mission risks,
as men and women join to serve
for such a time as this.

Sermon

Rev. Dr. Ben Boswell

“For Such a Time as This”

Musical Reflection

Chancel Choir; Oksana McCartney, cellist; Susan Blumberg, violinist

“Look to the New Day”

J. Kevin Gray

As the sun breaks forth behind the mountain,
so is the new day that dawns within our soul.
We feel hope, we see clear as the sun begins to shine.
The night is past and gone, the dark is left behind.
Turn to the east and witness the glory of the rising sun!
Feel the warmth of the sun's rays upon you. Arise and sing.
Feel the light on your face. Alleluia!

Church at Prayer

Rev. Marina Luckhoo

Invitation to Offering

Rev. Marina Luckhoo

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



Offertory Anthem

Madeline Beitel, McKenzie Coleman, David Young, and Kevin Gray

“One Voice”

Ruth Moody

This is the sound of one voice, one spirit, one voice.
The sound of one who makes a choice.
This is the sound of one voice. This is the sound of one voice.

This is the sound of voices two,
the sound of me singing with you,
helping each other to make it through.
This is the sound of voices two. This is the sound of voices two.

This is the sound of voices three,
singing together in harmony,
surrendering to the mystery.
This is the sound of voices three. This is the sound of voices three.

This is the sound of all of us,
singing with love and the will to trust,
leave the rest behind, it will turn to dust.
This is the sound of all of us. This is the sound of all of us.

This is the sound of one voice,
one people, one voice,
a song for every one of us.
This is the sound of one voice. This is the sound of one voice.

*Presentation of Gifts and the Doxology

LASST UNS ERFREUEN

**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.**

*Prayer of Dedication

Rev. Tara Gibbs

Communion

Invitation to the Table

Rev. Dr. Ben Boswell and Rev. Carrie Veal

Prayer of Thanksgiving and 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

Words of Institution

All are invited to participate in Communion. You may come forward to one of the stations at the front of the Sanctuary to receive bread and juice or pre-packaged, gluten-free elements. If you prefer to be served at your seat, please raise your hand and a Deacon will assist you.

Music During Communion

Dr. Matthew Manwarren, organist; Susan Blumberg, violinist

*Closing Hymn

“Christ has Called Us to New Visions” verses 1, 2 and 4

see page 7.
IN BABILONE

Benediction

Rev. Dr. Ben Boswell

Postlude

“March of the Old Hundredth Psalm Tune”

Dr. Matthew Manwarren, organist
Brenda Portman

If you are our guest today, please connect with a minister after worship and receive a Welcome bag.

All are invited to join us for lunch and a Ministry Fair on the Cornwell Center lawn.



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. Carrie Veal at cveal@myersparkbaptist.org.



Verses 1, 2 and 4 We Are a People on a Journey

1. We are a peo - ple on a jour - ney, o - pen to all and closed to none,
2. O - pen to all new light be - fore us, guid - ing be - yond what we can see,
3. When on our jour - ney we en - coun - ter stran - gers ig - nored or friends in need,
4. Come, lift your voice in cel - e - bra - tion; join the pro - ces - sion through the world:

led by the love we've known through Je - sus, warm - ly em - brac - ing ev - ery - one.
trust - ing a faith in - formed by rea - son, chal - lenged with - in com - mu - ni - ty,
na - ture ne - glect - ed, life en - dan - gered, vic - tims op - pressed by power and greed,
grow - ing, ex - plor - ing, march - ing, sing - ing, ban - ners of love for all un - furled!

On the path of faith pro - gress - ing, firm - ly stead - fast, bold - ly free,
we'll ex - plore vast ways of wis - dom, search for mean - ing all a - round
we will take a stand for jus - tice; we will join our hands for peace;
Liv - ing just - ly, serv - ing kind - ly, walk - ing hum - bly through our days,

we will move for - ev - er for - ward grow - ing in di - ver - si - ty,
as we move for - ev - er for - ward seek - ing truth wher - ev - er found,
then we'll move for - ev - er for - ward bear - ing hope that fear may cease,
let us move for - ev - er for - ward rais - ing songs of joy and praise,

grow - ing in di - ver - si - ty.
seek - ing truth wher - ev - er found.
bear - ing hope that fear may cease.
rais - ing songs of joy and praise!

Words and Music: Larry E. Schultz

FOREVER FORWARD

Commissioned by Myers Park Baptist Church, Charlotte, North Carolina.

Irregular

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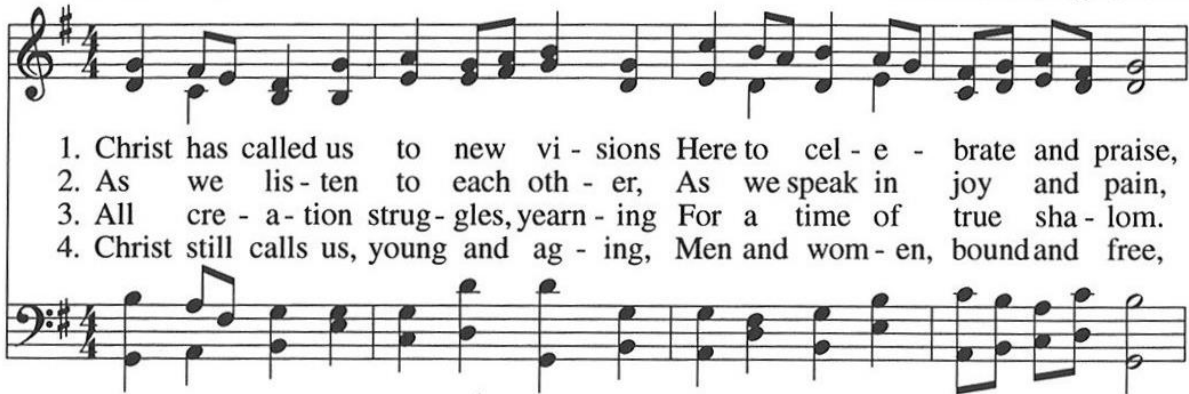
Christ Has Called Us To New Visions

Verses 1, 2 and 4

IN BABILONE 8 7 8 7 D

Jane Parker Huber, 1981

Dutch melody
Arr. Julius Röntgen, 1906



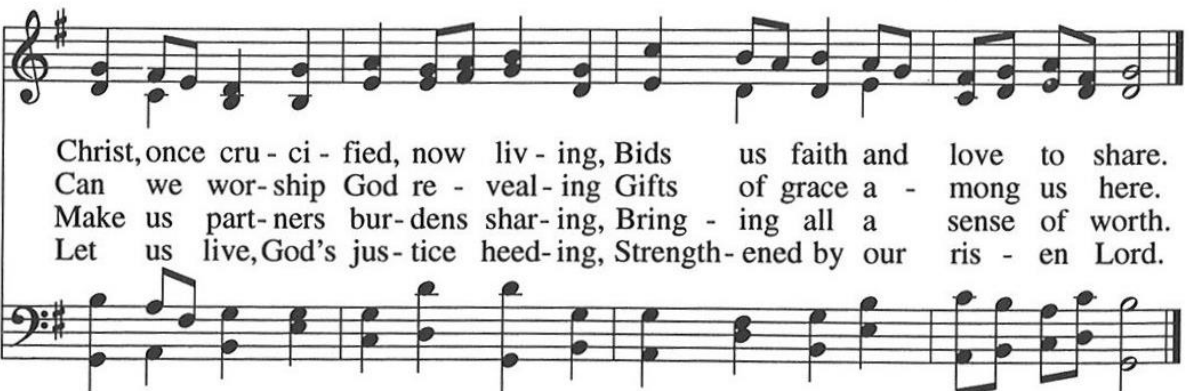
1. Christ has called us to new vi - sions Here to cel - e - brate and praise,
2. As we lis - ten to each oth - er, As we speak in joy and pain,
3. All cre - a - tion strug - gles, yearn - ing For a time of true sha - lom.
4. Christ still calls us, young and ag - ing, Men and wom - en, bound and free,



Here con - fess our old di - vi - sions, Here our peace pe - ti - tions raise.
We be - come as sis - ter, bro - ther, Rec - on - ciled, at one a - gain.
Are we try - ing, Are we learn - ing Now to make the earth our home?
Col - ors, tal - ents, thoughts en - gag - ing, Joined in one com - mu - ni - ty.



Come re - pen - tant, come for - giv - ing, Come in joy and hope and prayer.
On - ly thus in work and feel - ing For our neigh - bor far or near
For the hun - gry and de - spair - ing, For the poor of all the earth,
Christ re - mold - ing, heal - ing, lead - ing, Sins for - giv - en! Life re - stored!



Christ, once cru - ci - fied, now liv - ing, Bids us faith and love to share.
Can we wor - ship God re - veal - ing Gifts of grace a - mong us here.
Make us part - ners bur - dens shar - ing, Bring - ing all a sense of worth.
Let us live, God's jus - tice heed - ing, Strength - ened by our ris - en Lord.

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

Associate 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.

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