

OPEN TO ALL



**MYERS PARK
BAPTIST
CHURCH**

Inclusivity | Spirituality | Community | Justice

The Worship of God

The 17th Sunday of Pentecost

September 15, 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
“Aria”

Jane Cain, organist
Noel Rawsthorne

Call to Worship and Invocation

Rev. Marina Luckhoo

***Opening Hymn**

“We Come to You for Healing, Lord” verses 1, 2 and 5

See page 6.
LAND OF REST

Welcome of Our Guests

Rev. Katie Suddeth

*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**

Hebrew Scripture – Job 1:13-22, 2:7-13 (NRSV)

Katherine Richards

One day when his sons and daughters were eating and drinking wine in the eldest brother’s house, a messenger came to Job and said, “The oxen were plowing and the donkeys were feeding beside them, and the Sabeans fell on them and carried them off and killed the servants with the edge of the sword; I alone have escaped to tell you.” While he was still speaking, another came and said, “The fire of God fell from heaven and burned up the sheep and the servants and consumed them; I alone have escaped to tell you.” While he was still speaking, another came and said, “The Chaldeans formed three columns, made a raid on the camels and carried them off, and killed the servants with the edge of the sword; I alone have escaped to tell you.” While he was still speaking, another came and said, “Your sons and daughters were eating and drinking wine in their eldest brother’s house, and suddenly a great wind came across the desert, struck the four corners of the house, and it fell on the young people, and they are dead; I alone have escaped to tell you.”

Then Job arose, tore his robe, shaved his head, and fell on the ground and worshiped. He said, “Naked I came from my mother’s womb, and naked shall I return there; the Lord gave, and the Lord has taken away; blessed be the name of the Lord.” In all this Job did not sin or charge God with wrongdoing. So, Satan went out from the presence of the Lord and inflicted loathsome sores on Job from the sole of his foot to the crown of his head. Job took a potsherd with which to scrape himself and sat among the ashes. Then his wife said to him, “Do you still persist in your integrity? Curse God and die.” But he said to her, “You speak as any foolish woman would speak. Shall we receive the good at the hand of God, and not receive the bad?” In all this Job did not sin with his lips.

Now when Job's three friends heard of all these troubles that had come upon him, each of them set out from his home—Eliphaz the Temanite, Bildad the Shuhite, and Zophar the Naamathite. They met together to go and console and comfort him. When they saw him from a distance, they did not recognize him, and they raised their voices and wept aloud; they tore their robes and threw dust in the air upon their heads. They sat with him on the ground seven days and seven nights, and no one spoke a word to him, for they saw that his suffering was very great.

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

"Precious Lord Take My Hand"

See page 7.
Thomas A. Dorsey

Sermon

"The Wisdom of Grief"

Rev. Dr. Ben Boswell

Musical Reflection

"Kum Bah Yah" (Come by Here)

Chancel Choir
arr. Ed Lojeski

"Kum ba yah" in Gullah, the Creole dialect spoken by the former enslaved persons living on the Sea Islands of South Carolina and Georgia means "Come by here," so the title can be translated as "Come by here, my lord, come by here." This song is often associated with campfire singalongs and optimistic moments where everyone holds hands, and all the problems of society disappear. However, that is not the emotional and artistic origin of this song.

It was first sung by Gullah people in the hush harbors and praise houses of coastal South Carolina and Georgia. The Gullah are a proud people with a rich tradition of African spirituality that gave them the resources to survive enslavement when their world and families were torn apart. Kumbaya is a sincere prayer asking God to come and dwell with them in the midst of grief and troubled times, troubles that were not isolated, but systematic and for the long term. This is not a song asking God to make it all better right now, because some trials are too hard, some pains too deep for an instant healing, but it asks God to come be with us through the tribulation, through grief, through our crying; it asks God to come be with us through the whole journey.

Kum ba yah, my Lord, kum ba yah!
Oh Lord, kum ba yah!

Hear me crying, Lord, kum ba yah!
Oh Lord, kum ba yah!

Hear me praying, Lord, kum ba yah!
Oh Lord, kum ba yah!

Oh, I need you, Lord, kum ba yah!
Oh Lord, kum ba yah

Kum ba yah, my Lord, kum ba yah!
Oh Lord, kum ba yah!

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

Ray Owens

You are invited to give by scanning the QR code below or dropping your offering in the plate.



Offertory

J. Kevin Gray
Paul Simon

“Bridge Over Troubled Water”

When you're weary, feeling small,
when tears are in your eyes, I'll dry them all.
I'm on your side, oh, when times get rough,
and friends just can't be found,
like a bridge over troubled water,
I will lay me down.

When you're down and out, when you're on the street,
when evening falls so hard, I will comfort you.
I'll take your part, oh, when darkness comes,
and pain is all around,
like a bridge over troubled water,
I will lay me down.

Sail on silver girl, sail on by,
your time has come to shine,
all your dreams are on their way.
See how they shine, oh, if you need a friend,
I'm sailing right behind.
Like a bridge over troubled water,
I will ease your mind.

*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

Ray Owens

*Closing Hymn

DIX

“By the Rivers of Babylon”

words by Carolyn Winfrey Gillette

By the streams of Babylon, we sit weeping bitter tears.
Here so many hopes are gone; now we're filled with countless fears.
Yet, O God, you tell us: "Rise! See the world through faith-filled eyes!"

We will rise and seek your way, knowing love will one day win.
We won't let fear rule the day; we will welcome strangers in.
Every day, we'll seek and find countless ways to be more kind.

We will pray for those who lead, even as we take a stand.
We will rise with those in need, seeking justice in the land.
We will learn and listen well from the truth that others tell.

We will rise and work for peace; we will treasure your good earth.
We will march, that wars may cease; we'll see every person's worth.
God, now give us faith-filled lives as we heed your call and rise.

Benediction

Rev. Dr. Ben Boswell

Postlude

“Toccata in Seven”

Jane Cain, organist
John Rutter

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

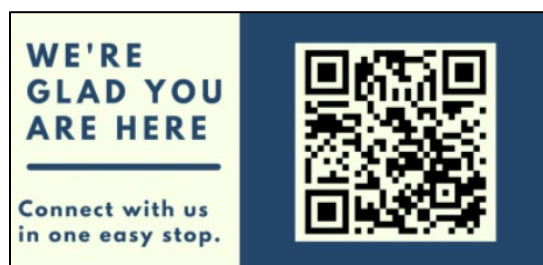


Alliance
of Baptists

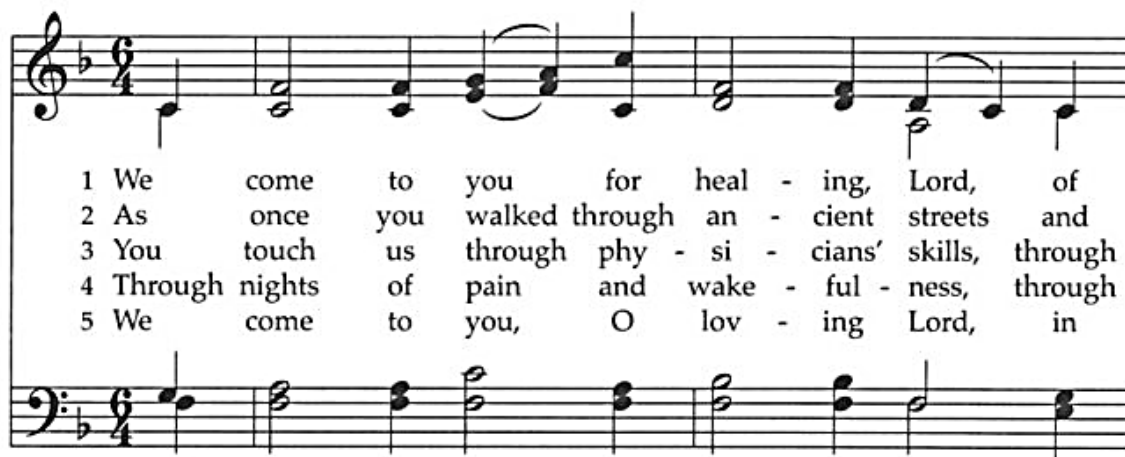


HOW TO JOIN MYERS PARK BAPTIST CHURCH

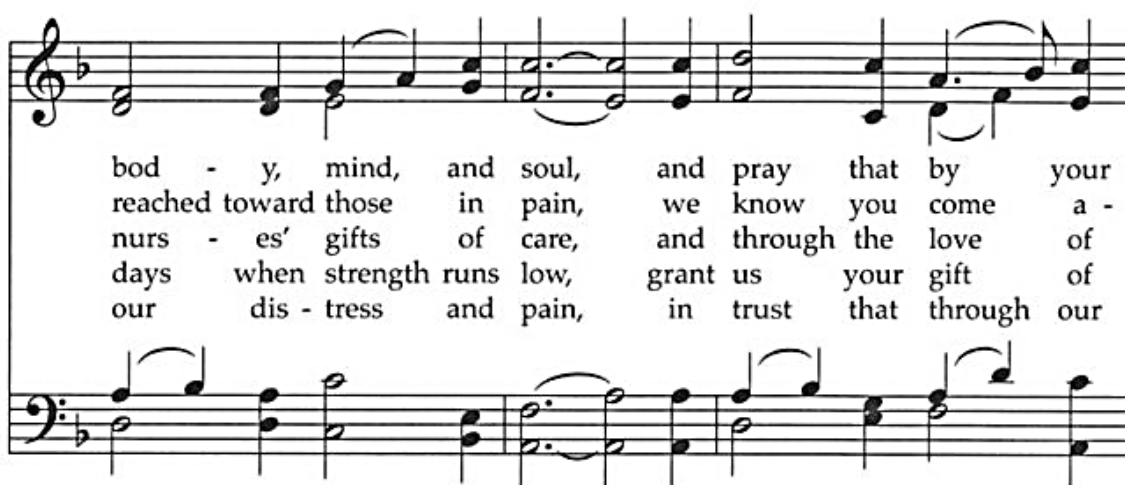
Becoming a member of Myers Park Baptist is as simple as filling out a Joining Card.
To receive a card or learn more, contact Rev. Carrie Veal at cveal@myersparkbaptist.org



We Come to You for Healing, Lord



1 We come to you for heal - ing, Lord, of
 2 As once you walked through an - cient streets and
 3 You touch us through phy - si - cians' skills, through
 4 Through nights of pain and wake - ful - ness, through
 5 We come to you, O lov - ing Lord, in



bod - y, mind, and soul, and pray that by your
 reached toward those in pain, we know you come a -
 nurs - es' gifts of care, and through the love of
 days when strength runs low, grant us your gift of
 our dis - tress and pain, in trust that through our



Spir - it's touch we may a - gain be whole.
 mong us still with power to heal a - gain.
 faith - ful friends who lift our lives in prayer.
 pa - tience, Lord, your calm - ing peace to know.
 nights and days your grace will heal, sus - tain.

Unlike many hymns on the theme of healing, this text appropriately includes the ministry of medical personnel as instruments of God's healing activity. It also acknowledges that illness is not limited to physical symptoms, but involves mental, emotional, and spiritual dimensions.

TEXT: Herman G. Stuempfle Jr., 2002

MUSIC: American folk melody; arr. Annabel Morris Buchanan, 1938

Text © 2006 GIA Publications, Inc.

Music Arr. © 1938, ren. The H. W. Gray Company (admin. Alfred Music Publishing)

LAND OF REST

CM

(alternate harmonization, 691)

CCLI# 1296903

Precious Lord, Take My Hand

1. Pre-cious Lord, take my hand, lead me on, let me stand,
2. When my way grows drear, pre-cious Lord, lin-ger near,
3. When the dark-ness ap-pears and the night draws near,

The first system of the musical score features a treble and bass staff in G major (one sharp) and 3/4 time. The melody is in the treble staff, and the accompaniment is in the bass staff. The lyrics are written below the staffs.

I am tired, I am weak, I am worn;
when my life is al-most gone,
and the day is past and gone,

The second system continues the melody and accompaniment. The lyrics are written below the staffs.

through the storm, through the night, lead me on to the light:
hear my cry, hear my call, hold my hand lest I fall:
at the riv-er I stand, guide my feet, hold my hand:

The third system continues the melody and accompaniment. The lyrics are written below the staffs.

Refrain
Take my hand, pre-cious Lord, lead me home.

The Refrain section is marked with a repeat sign and a first ending bracket. The melody and accompaniment are shown for the first ending.

WORDS: Thomas A. Dorsey, 1932

MUSIC: Thomas A. Dorsey, 1932

PRECIOUS LORD
Irr.

© 1938 Hill & Range Songs, renewed Unchappell Music, Inc.

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



**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.

One License A-729324 | WorshipCast License CCS # WC-12779 | CVLI Video License #504 239 870