

OPEN TO ALL



**MYERS PARK
BAPTIST
CHURCH**

Inclusivity | Spirituality | Community | Justice

The Worship of God

The First Sunday of Epiphany

January 5, 2025 | 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 the childcare room located in the Cornwell Center (On upstairs level). Please see a greeter for more information.
Worship activities for children are available in the Narthex.*

Prelude

“The Evening Star, Op.38. No. 1”

Emily Urbanek, pianist, Choir Member
Felix Mendelssohn

Epiphany Proclamation

What star is this,
with beams so bright,
more lovely than the noon delight?
“Tis sent to announce a newborn king,
glad tidings of our God to bring.”

J. Kevin Gray
Charles Coffin

Call to Worship

All: Read Bolded Text Aloud

Rev. Carrie Veal
Written by Fran Pratt

God, we know that one way wisdom begins
is in curiosity.
We know that the way to finding
is by seeking.

Many people throughout history have been renowned for their wisdom
and remembered for their insight;
people who sought and studied,
people who waited and looked.

And just as the Magi were guided by the heavens to the infant Christ,
so all who search for Christ will find him.
Just as the ancient prophets and saints sought the wisdom of God
so all who search for wisdom will find her.

Just as Christ has taught us about wisdom:
Ask and it will be given,
seek and we shall find,
knock and the door will be opened.

Awaken in our hearts, O God
a desire for wisdom.
Awaken in our hearts, O God
a hunger for consciousness.
Awaken in our hearts, O God
a yearning for your kingdom.

Help us to keep our priorities straight:
To seek first your kingdom,
 to trust that you have provided.
And we will say to our people:
 “Arise, shine; for your light has come,
and the glory of the Lord has risen upon you.
 Nations shall come to your light,
and rulers to the brightness of your dawn.

Invocation

Rev. Carrie Veal

***Opening Hymn**

“What Star is This,” verses, 2, 3 and 4

WHAT STAR IS THIS

PUER NOBIS

1. What star is this, with beams so bright, More love - ly
 2. 'Tis now ful - filled what God de - creed, "From Ja - cob
 3. O Je - sus, while the star of grace Im - pels us
 4. To God the Fa - ther, heav'n - ly Light, To Christ, re -

1. than the noon - day light? 'Tis sent to an - nounce a
 2. shall a star pro - ceed"; And lo! the _ east - ern
 3. on to seek thy face, Let not our _ sloth - ful
 4. vealed in earth - ly night, To God the _ Ho - ly

1. new - born king, Glad tid - ings of our God to bring.
 2. sag - es stand To read in heav'n the Lord's com - mand.
 3. hearts re - fuse The guid - ance of thy light to use.
 4. Spir - it raise An end - less song of thank - ful praise!

Text: LM; Charles Coffin, 1676–1749; tr. by John Chandler, 1806–1876, alt.
 Music: adapt. by Michael Praetorius, 1571–1621.

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

The Hebrew Scripture – Isaiah 60:1-6

Mac Sasser, Church Member

Arise, shine; for your light has come, and the glory of the Lord has risen upon you. For darkness shall cover the earth, and thick darkness the peoples; but the Lord will arise upon you, and the Lord's glory will appear over you. Nations shall come to your light, and kings to the brightness of your dawn.

Lift up your eyes and look around; they all gather together, they come to you; your sons shall come from far away, and your daughters shall be carried on their nurses' arms. Then you shall see and be radiant; your heart shall thrill and rejoice, because the abundance of the sea shall be brought to you, the wealth of the nations shall come to you.

A multitude of camels shall cover you, the young camels of Midian and Ephah; all those from Sheba shall come. They shall bring gold and frankincense and shall proclaim the praise of the Lord.

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

“We Three Kings of Orient Are”

KINGS OF ORIENT

We Three Kings of Orient are;
bearing gifts, we traverse afar,
field and fountain, moor and mountain,
following yonder star.

Refrain:

O star of wonder, star of night,
star with royal beauty bright,
westward leading, still proceeding,
guide us to thy perfect light.

Born a King on Bethlehem's plain,
gold I bring to crown him again,
king forever, ceasing never,
over us all to reign. *[Refrain]*

Frankincense to offer have I;
incense owns a Deity nigh;
prayer and praising, voices raising,
worshiping God on high. *[Refrain]*

Sermon

“The Gift of Abundant Life”

Rev. Dr. Adrian Bird

Invitation to Silent Prayer and Confession

Rev. Marina Luckhoo

Church at Prayer

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. Marina Luckhoo

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



Offertory Anthem

“Bow Down Low”

Bow down low and bend your head,
for I've come to sweep this house,
for to sweep the Lord's house clean.

I've come to wash and clean
from this floor the stains of sin, for lo,
I've come again, and I've not come in vain.
Sweep high, sweep low, sweep clean, as you go.

Bow down low and bend your head
for I've come to sweep this house,
for to sweep the Lord's house clean.

Chancel Choir
arr. David Bridges

*Presentation of Gifts and the Doxology

**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.**

OLD HUNDREDTH

*Prayer of Dedication

Carol Pearsall, Church Member

*Closing Hymn

“Sing To the World,” verses 1, 2 and 4

See page 7.
TRURO

Benediction

Rev. Dr. Adrian Bird

Postlude

“This Little Light of Mine”


Emily Urbanek, pianist, Choir Member
Bradley Sowash

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'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

Sing To The World

TRURO LM

Thomas Williams, 1789

Harm. Lowell Mason (1792-1872)

J. Daniel White, 1992

1. Sing to the world: "The Christ is here." He comes to
 2. Sing to the sky: "Thy king - dom come." God's will is
 3. An - gels re - sound through - out the sky: "He comes that
 4. O - pen the doors of heart and life; Re - ceive the

save from death and fear. He brings good news to
 shown us in the Son. The Word is flesh, a -
 we no more may die." And shep - herds sing to
 Sav - ior, con - quer strife. The star that shines re -

rich and poor; And to all life God's grace re - store.
 mong us lives, The Light of God re - demp - tion gives.
 all who hear: "The Lamb of God to us is near."
 veals the place: Where love a - bounds, God's grace em - brace.

This tune in a higher key, 16

A hymn for Epiphany to celebrate the ministry of R. Eugene Owens, third Senior Minister, Myers Park Baptist Church, 1969-1992.

Words © 1995 J. Daniel White. Used by permission.

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. Carrie Veal

Associate Minister

Rev. Tara Gibbs

Associate Minister of Spiritual Growth

J. Kevin Gray

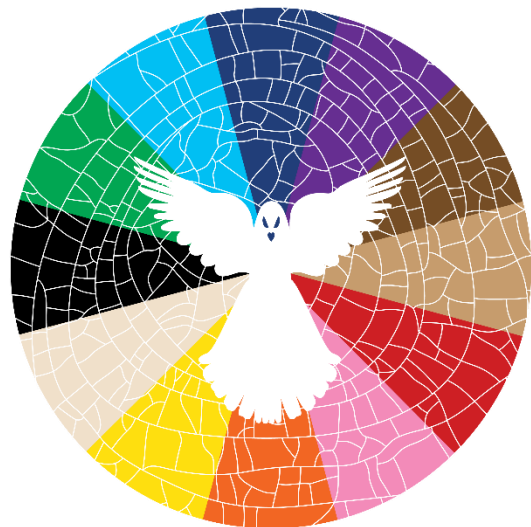
Minister of Music & Worship

Eva Bender

Chief Operating Officer

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