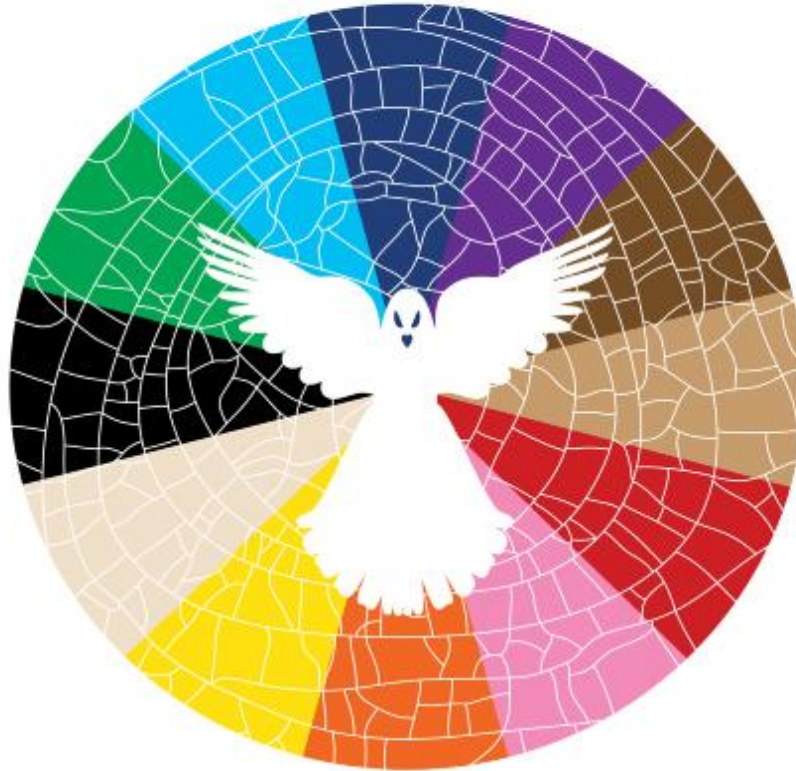


OPEN TO ALL



**MYERS PARK
BAPTIST
CHURCH**

Inclusivity | Spirituality | Community | Justice

The Worship of God

The Fourth Sunday of Epiphany

January 26, 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

“Aria”

Dr. Matthew Manwarren, Organist
Flor Peeters

Call to Worship and Invocation

Rev. Carrie Veal

***Opening Hymn**

“The Church of Christ in Every Age” verses 1, 2, 3 and 5

See page 8.
WAREHAM

Welcome of Our Guests

Rev. Carrie Veal

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**

Family Dedication

Rev. Carrie Veal

Leader: By God’s grace we are given children through the miracle of birth.
May we greet each new child with joy,
and surround them with faith,
so they may experience
God’s presence and want to serve God.

**People: Never let us neglect children,
but help us to delight in them,
showing them the welcome
God has shown us all.**

Leader: Parents, in presenting your children to God, do you promise in dependence upon God’s grace and with the help of the Church to teach them the gifts and claims of the Christian faith, and by prayer, word and example to bring them up in the nurture, discipline, and instruction of the Lord?

Parents: We do.

Leader: Friends in the household of faith,
I commend to you this family.
Will you covenant to stand with them
in the nurture of this child?
Will you stay constant
in their joys and struggles?
Will you do all in your power to
make this Church a true spiritual home for them,
lending them the support of your prayers and your example?

**People: With God’s help we will so seek to follow Christ ourselves
that this family will be strengthened and confirmed in their resolve,
and that this child, surrounded by steadfast love,
may be nurtured in the faith and strengthened
in the way that leads to life.**

Presentation and Blessing

Jacob Poole and Ben Kesterson, bringing Frances Christine Poole-Kesterson.

Prayer of Family Dedication

God of grace,
we pray for these parents,
and for all parents,
and for all who parent in the Lord.
Help them to know you,
to love with your love,
to teach your truth,
and to tell the story of Jesus to their children
so that your word may be heard.

Bless this child.
Guard them safely through struggles and challenges
that they may live the promises you give.
And keep us with this child
and with all children, ready to listen and to love,
even as in Jesus Christ you have loved us.
In Christ’s name we pray. Amen.

Hebrew Scripture –Isaiah 40:1-11

Conner Young, Youth

Comfort, O comfort my people, says your God. Speak tenderly to Jerusalem, and cry to her that she has served her term, that her penalty is paid, that she has received from the Lord’s hand double for all her sins.

A voice cries out: “In the wilderness prepare the way of the Lord; make straight in the desert a highway for our God. Every valley shall be lifted up, and every mountain and hill be made low; the uneven ground shall become level, and the rough places a plain. Then the glory of the Lord shall be revealed, and all flesh shall see it together, for the mouth of the Lord has spoken.”

A voice says, “Cry out!” And I said, “What shall I cry?” All flesh is grass; their constancy is like the flower of the field. The grass withers; the flower fades, when the breath of the Lord blows upon it; surely the people are grass.

The grass withers: The flower fades, but the word of our God will stand forever. Get you up to a high mountain, O Zion, herald of good news; lift up your voice with strength, O Jerusalem, herald of good news; lift it up, do not fear; say to the cities of Judah, “Here is your God!”

See, the Lord God comes with might, and his arm rules for him; his reward is with him and his recompense before him. He will feed his flock like a shepherd; he will gather the lambs in his arms and carry them in his bosom and gently lead the mother sheep.

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 Shaina Hinds, Director of Children’s Ministries, and leaders. Parents can pick up children from room 210 in the education building between 11-11:15. For those staying through Spiritual Growth, please pick up children in the childcare room at noon.

***Sermon Hymn**

“Comfort, Comfort, You My People”

See Page 9.
PSALM 42

Sermon

“Tell It Again”

Rev. James Blay

Church at Prayer

Rev. Carrie Veal

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

Craig Hopewell, Deacon

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



Offertory Anthem

“Immortal Love, For Ever Full, For Ever Flowing Free”
Immortal love, for ever full,
for ever flowing free,
For ever shared, for ever whole,
a never ebbing sea!

Chancel Choir
Phillip Dietterich

Our outward lips confess the name
all other names above;
Love only knoweth whence it came,
and comprehendeth love.

We may not climb the heav'nly steeps
to bring the Lord Christ down;
In vain we search the lowest deeps,
for him no depths can drown.

O Lord, and master of us all,
what e'er our name or sign,
We own thy sway, we hear thy call,
we test our lives by thine.

***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.**

***Prayer of Dedication**

Elaine Price-Hudson, Deacon

***Closing Hymn**

“Let Us Build a House” verses 1, 4 and 5

See page 11.
TWO OAKS

Benediction

Rev. James Blay

Postlude

“Festival Voluntary”


Dr. Matthew Manwarren, Organist
Flor Peeters

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



- **BIBLE BASICS 2.0**
Led by Rev. Carrie Veal
Room 254 (above the Church Offices)
- **FAITH & COMMUNITY**
Led by Bruce Elliott
Shalom Hall (downstairs under Heaton Hall)
- **STUDY OF BROKEN GROUND PODCAST SERIES**
Led by Members of MOJO Environmental Justice Group
Room 255 (above the Church Offices)

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, 3 and 5 The Church of Christ in Every Age

1 The church of Christ in ev - ery age, be - set by
2 A - cross the world, a - cross the street, the vic - tims
3 Then let the ser - vant church a - rise, a car - ing
4 For Christ a - lone, whose blood was shed, can cure the
5 We have no mis - sion but to serve in full o -

6

change but Spir - it - led, must claim and test its
of in - jus - tice cry for shel - ter and for
church that longs to be a part - ner in Christ's
fe - ver in our blood, and teach us how to
be - dience to our Lord: to care for all, with -

11

her - i - tage and keep on ris - ing from the dead.
bread to eat, and nev - er live be - fore they die.
sac - ri - fice, and clothed in Christ's hu - man - i - ty.
share our bread and feed the starv - ing mul - ti - tude.
out re - serve, and spread Christ's lib - er - at - ing word.

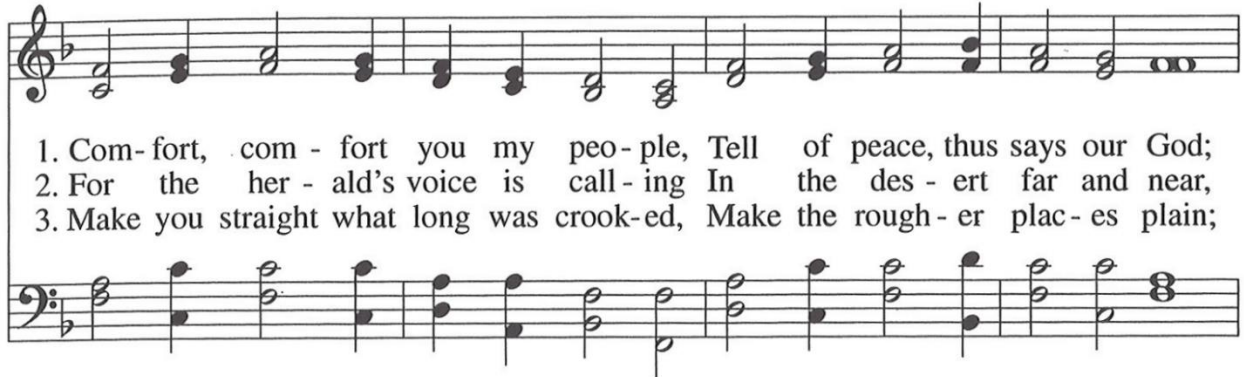
Comfort, Comfort You My People

PSALM 42 87877788

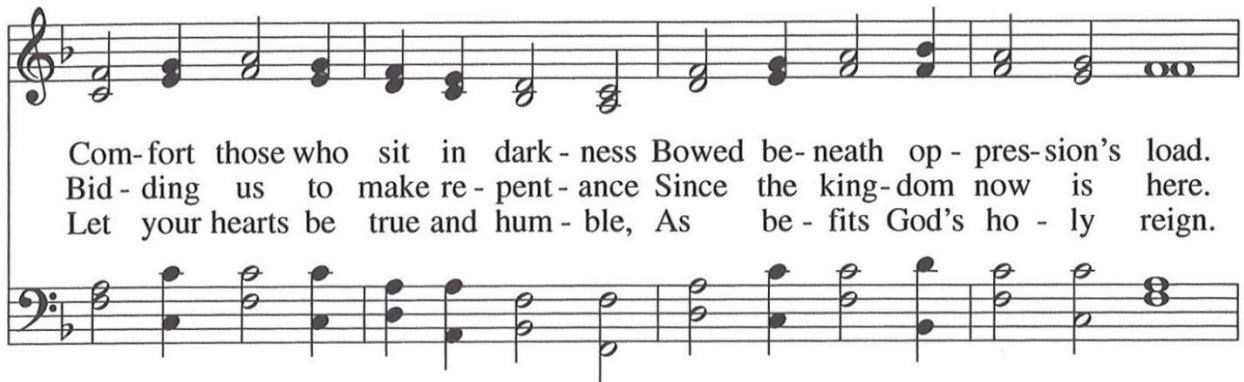
Johannes Olearius, 1671

Trans. Catherine Winkworth, 1863; alt.

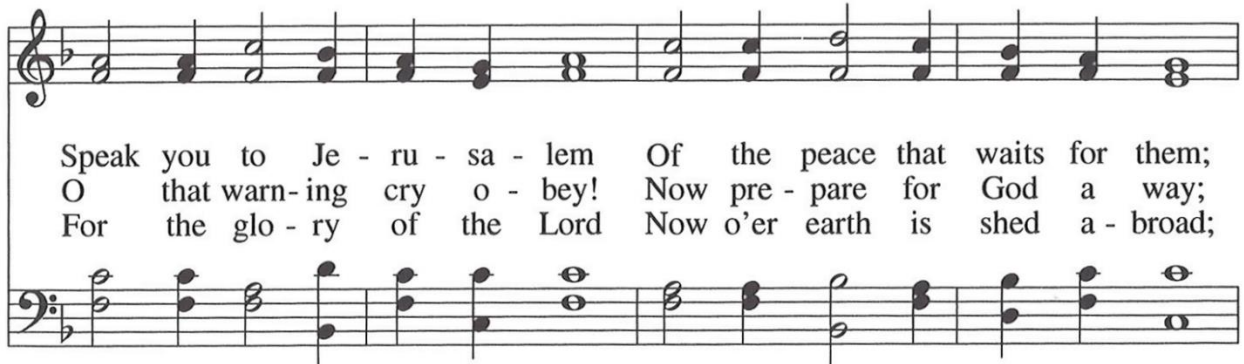
Genevan Psalter, 1551



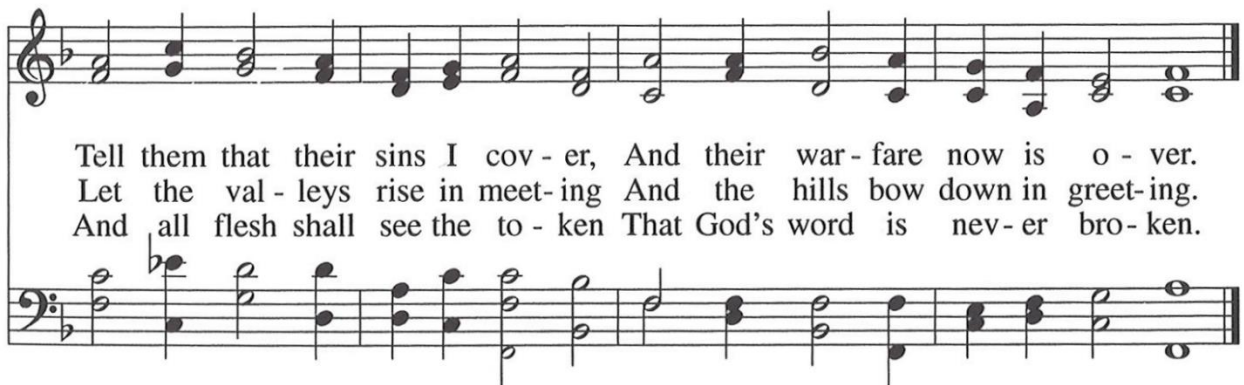
1. Com- fort, com - fort you my peo - ple, Tell of peace, thus says our God;
2. For the her - ald's voice is call - ing In the des - ert far and near,
3. Make you straight what long was crook - ed, Make the rough - er plac - es plain;



Com - fort those who sit in dark - ness Bowed be - neath op - pres - sion's load.
Bid - ding us to make re - pent - ance Since the king - dom now is here.
Let your hearts be true and hum - ble, As be - fits God's ho - ly reign.



Speak you to Je - ru - sa - lem Of the peace that waits for them;
O that warn - ing cry o - bey! Now pre - pare for God a way;
For the glo - ry of the Lord Now o'er earth is shed a - broad;

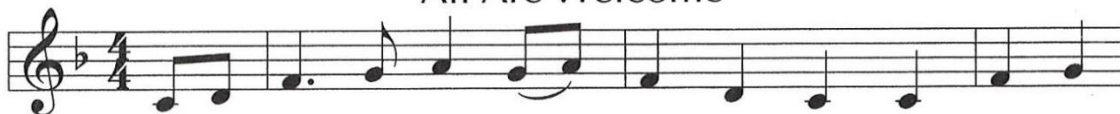


Tell them that their sins I cov - er, And their war - fare now is o - ver.
Let the val - leys rise in meet - ing And the hills bow down in greet - ing.
And all flesh shall see the to - ken That God's word is nev - er bro - ken.

Notes:

Let Us Build a House

All Are Welcome



1 Let us build a house where love can dwell and all can
 2 Let us build a house where proph - ets speak, and words are
 3 Let us build a house where love is found in wa - ter,
 4 Let us build a house where hands will reach be - yond the
 5 Let us build a house where all are named, their songs and



safe - ly live, a place where saints and chil - dren tell
 strong and true, where all God's chil - dren dare to seek
 wine, and wheat; a ban - quet hall on ho - ly ground
 wood and stone to heal and strength-en, serve and teach,
 vi - sions heard and loved and trea - sured, taught and claimed



how hearts learn to for - give. Built of hopes and dreams and
 to dream God's reign - a - new. Here the cross shall stand as
 where peace and jus - tice meet. Here the love of God, through
 and live the Word they've known. Here the out - cast and the
 as words with - in the Word. Built of tears and cries and



vi - sions, rock of faith and vault of grace; here the
 wit - ness and as sym - bol of God's grace; here as
 Je - sus, is re - vealed in time and space; as we
 strang - er bear the im - age of God's face; let us
 laugh - ter, prayers of faith and songs of grace; let this



love of Christ shall end di - vi - sions:
 one we claim the faith of Je - sus:
 share in Christ the feast that frees us: all are wel - come;
 bring an end to fear and dan - ger:
 house pro-claim from floor to raf - ter:



all are wel - come; all are wel - come in this place.

Although it was written for a church dedication, this text is not about a physical structure but a spiritual one. The building is at best only a vessel for the essential love and hope, life and faith, peace and justice, hospitality and nurture that form the worshiping community.

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

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

704.334.7232

mpbc@myersparkbaptist.org

We occasionally take photographs during our worship service. If you would prefer not to be included, please contact [Laura Geer](mailto:Lgeer@myersparkbaptist.org) | Communications Director | Lgeer@myersparkbaptist.org.

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