The Worship of God
The First Sunday of Christmastide

Jazz in the Round

30 December 2018
at 11:00 in the morning

Myers Park Baptist Church
Heaton Hall

GATHERING

Silent Meditation
Truth is so obscure in these times, and falsehood so established, that, unless we love the truth, we cannot know it. – Blaise Pascal

My religion is based on truth and non-violence. Truth is my God. Nonviolence is the means of realizing it. – Gandhi

Suffering, failure, loneliness, sorrow, discouragement, and death will be part of our journey, but the kingdom of God will conquer all these horrors. No evil can resist grace forever. – Brennan Manning

I do not at all understand the mystery of grace - only that it meets us where we are but does not leave us where it found us. – Anne Lamont

Gathering Music
“O Come, All Ye Faithful”

Welcome
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.

All children are invited to remain in worship today.

*Call to Worship
Leader: We come to glorify God,
to rejoice in the One who saves us.
People: God came, so we might believe,
so we might be blessed.
Leader: Our hearts leap for joy!
For God came, to us in a child.
People: God came, for those who hunger for hope,
for those who thirst for grace.

*Please stand in body or in spirit.
Leader: Holy is the One who came, in God’s name, who fulfills every promise of God.
People: God came, to walk with those who follow in faith, to bring peace to a shattered world.

*Opening Song
“Go Tell It on the Mountain”

*Prayer of Invocation

THE PEOPLE CONFESS AND RECEIVE FORGIVENESS

The Invitation to Silent Confession

Prayer of Confession
Holy God,
we know that the blank slate of a new year seems so promising;
and we know that the blank slate of a new year is also an illusion.
Time continues, and our lives flow from one day to the next, from one year to the next.
In this time, we know we are sometimes loving and generous, bearing light to the shadows,
and we know we are sometimes less than what we wish we were.
We invite you on our journeys, O God.
We seek your presence with us in both the darkness and the light.
In our better moments and those where we fall short,
we seek your presence, always. Amen.

Assurance of Forgiveness
Leader: Friends, hear this good news. Truly, God can do what we cannot.
People: In Jesus Christ, we are forgiven and set free.

*Passing of the Peace
Leader: As beloved children of God, let us not be strangers to one another but family in Christ.
Please stand and greet each other with the peace of Christ.

All are invited to stand and share the peace of Christ with one another.

The Welcome of our Guests

HEARING AND PROCLAIMING THE WORD

The Gospel Reading John 1:1-14 (NRSV adapted)

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. The Word was in the beginning with God. All things came into being through the Word, and without the Word not one thing came into being.

What has come into being in the Word was life, and the life was the light of all people. The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overcome it.

There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. He came as a witness to testify to the light, so that all might believe through him. He himself was not the light, but he came to testify to the light. The true light, which enlightens everyone, was coming into the world.
The Word was in the world, and the world came into being through it; yet the world did not know it. The Word came to what was its own, and its own people did not accept it. But to all who received the Word, who believed in it, were given power to become children of God, and were born, not of blood or of the will of the flesh or of the will of humanity, but of God.

And the Word became flesh and lived among us, and we have seen its glory, the glory of God's only son, full of grace and truth.

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.

*Congregational Song
“Angels We Have Heard on High”

The Sermon
“The Incarnate God”

The Reverend W. Benjamin Boswell

The Musical Reflection
“Trumpet Child”

Jazz Ensemble
Linford Detweiler (b. 1964)

The trumpet child will blow his horn, will blast the sky till it's reborn; with Gabriel's power and Satchmo's grace, he will surprise the human race.

The trumpet he will use to blow is being fashioned out of fire; the mouthpiece is a glowing coal the bell a burst of wild desire.

The trumpet child will riff on love, Thelonious notes from up above; he'll improvise a kingdom come accompanied by a different drum.

The trumpet child will banquet here until the lost are truly found; a thousand days, a thousand years nobody knows for sure how long.

The rich forget about their gold; the meek and mild are strangely bold; the lion lies beside the lamb and licks a murderer's outstretched hand.

RESPONDING TO THE WORD

Prayers for the People

The Lord’s Prayer

Our God, who art in heaven, hallowed be Thy name. Thy kingdom come, Thy 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 Thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever. Amen.
Sharing of Gifts

Please place gifts and member/guest cards in the basket as it is passed.

Mobile giving is available – see page 5.

Gifts of loose cash in December support the work of Med Assist, a nonprofit pharmacy program providing access to life-saving prescription medications, patient support, advocacy and related services to poor, vulnerable, and uninsured North Carolina residents.

Offertory Music

“Take Me to the Alley”

Well they build their houses in preparation for the King
and they line the sidewalks with every sort of shiny thing.
They will be surprised when they hear him say
take me to the alley,
take me to the afflicted ones.
Take me to the lonely ones that somehow lost their way;
let them hear me say, I am your friend
come to my table, rest here in my garden.
You will have a pardon, you will have a pardon,
take me to the alley.

Gregory Porter (b. 1971)

*The Doxology

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.

Lasst uns Erfreuen

SENDING

Prayer of Dedication

*Closing Song

“God Rest You Merry, Christians All”

See page 9.

God Rest You Merry

The Benediction

Sending Forth Song

“Auld Lang Syne”

Traditional Folk Song

Should old acquaintance be forgot,
and never brought to mind?
Should old acquaintance be forgot,
and old lang syne?

CHORUS:
For auld lang syne, my dear,
for auld lang syne,
we'll take a cup of kindness yet,
for auld lang syne.
Leading worship today with The Reverend W. Benjamin Boswell, Senior Minister, are The Reverend Joseph D. Aldrich, Associate Minister, The Reverend Leigh Anne Hagerman, Church Administrator, and David Zeeso, Member of the Congregation.

The Jazz Ensemble leads worship through music:
- Phillip Howe, piano
- Ocie Davis, drums
- Mike Gudbur, bass
- Greg Jarrell, saxophone
- Toni Tupponce, vocals

The sound technician is Eric Roberts.
The webcast technician is John Bambach.

THEOLOGY OF WORSHIP

Why do we worship?
Worship at Myers Park Baptist is the gathering of a diverse, intergenerational, ecumenical community of faith, celebrating God’s active and timeless presence in the world. In worship, God re-forms our hearts, minds and bodies, and ignites our imaginations with sacred stories—stories that invite us to question, explore mystery, express joy and grief, and deepen our faith. We worship to learn how to develop caring, empowering relationships with each other, and to stay centered in God as the world swirls around us. We worship to be inspired and prepared to exemplify the compassion and justice of Jesus in our church family and in the world. Through worship, God frees and transforms us in heart, mind and body, so we can make a difference within ourselves, in our relationships and in our community.

How do we worship?
Focusing on God, worship at Myers Park Baptist unfolds consistently with the Isaiah 6 scriptural model: praise, confession, pardon, calling to respond, commitment and sending out. All our worship services are built on this ancient structural form, regardless of worship style, venue or theme. Communal practices within worship — radical hospitality, confession and assurance of pardon, passing the peace, silence and listening, spirited hymn singing, presentations of gifts, and active participation in Communion—transform worshipers into newness with God and one another. Themes for services, based on lectionary scriptures, annually portray the narrative arc of God’s redeeming love for humankind.

MOBILE GIVING

You can now text your contributions and offerings to MPBC! It is secure, simple, and efficient:
- Start a new text message to phone number 73256.
- In the message of the text, enter 1900Q, a space, and the amount you want to give (i.e., 1900Q 100).
- The system will return a message to you; click on the link provided and follow instructions.
- You will then receive a receipt to confirm your gift was received. It is that simple!
- Next time, since your setup is already done – just text “1900Q, a space, then amount you wish to give” to 73256.

Questions? Contact Rev. Leigh Anne Hagerman, Church Administrator, at 704.334.7232 x116 or lhagerman@myersparkbaptist.org
O Come, All Ye Faithful

ADESTE FIDELES 6 6 10 5 6 with refrain

John Francis Wade (c. 1740–1743)
Trans. Frederick Oakeley, 1841

Harm. The English Hymnal, 1906

1. O come, all ye faithful, Joyful and triumphant, O
   Come, ye, O come ye to Bethlehem!

2. Yea, Lord, we greet Thee, Born this happy morning,
   Jesus, to Thee be all glory given;

3. Sing, choirs of angels, Sing in exultation!
   Sing, all ye citizens of heaven above!

Come, and behold Him, Born the King of angels!
Word of the Father, Now in flesh appearing!

Refrain

O come, let us adore Him, O come, let us adore Him, O come, let us adore Him, Christ, the Lord!
Go, Tell It On The Mountain

American folk hymn
Adapt. John W. Work II (1872–1925)
Arr. John W. Work

Refrain: Unison

Go, tell it on the moun-tain, O-ver the hills and ev-ery-where,
Go, tell it on the moun-tain That Je-sus Christ is born.

Harmony

1. While shep-herds kept their watch-ing O’er si-lent flocks by night,
2. The shep-herds feared and trem-bled When lo! a-bove the earth
3. Down in a low-ly man-ger The hum-ble Christ was born,

Be-hold through-out the heav-ens There shone a ho-ly light.
Rang out the an-gel cho-rus That hailed our Sav-ior’s birth.
And God sent us sal-va-tion That bless-ed Christ-mas morn.

Words from *The Book of Hymns* © 1964, 1966 by The Board of Publication of The United Methodist Church, Inc.
Angels We Have Heard On High

French carol

GLORIA 7777 with Refrain

Harm. Austin C. Lovelace

1. Angels we have heard on high Sweetly singing o'er the plains,
2. Shepherds, why this jubilee? Why your joyous strains prolong?
3. Come to Bethlehem and see Him whose birth the angels sing;
4. See him in a manger laid, Whom the choirs of angels praise;

And the mountains in reply Echoing their joyous strains.
What the glad some tidings be Which inspire your heavenly song?
Come, adore on bended knee Christ the Lord, the new born King.
Mary, Joseph, lend your aid, While our hearts in love we raise.

Refrain

Gloria in excelsis Deo, Gloria in excelsis Deo.

Music from The United Methodist Hymnal.
Harm. © 1964 by The United Methodist Publishing House. Used by permission.
God Rest You Merry, Christians All

GOD REST YOU MERRY Irregular with refrain

Traditional melody
Harmonized in Bramley & Stainer,
Christmas Carols Old and New, 1871

English traditional, 18th century; alt.

1. God rest you merry, Christians all, Let nothing you dismay,
   Remember Christ our Savior Was born on Christmas Day;
   To save us all from Satan's power When we were gone astray.

2. From God our heavenly Marker A blessed angel came;
   And unto certain shepherds Brought tidings of the same;
   How that in Bethlehem was born The Son of God by name.

3. "Fear not, then," said the angel, "Let nothing you affright,
   This day is born a Savior Of a pure Virgin bright,
   To free all those who trust in Him From Satan's power and might."

4. Now to the Lord sing praises, All you within this place,
   And with true love and gentleness Each other now embrace;
   This holy tide of Christmas All others doth deface.

Refrain

O tidings of comfort and joy, Comfort and joy;

O tidings of comfort and joy.
Welcome. We’re glad you’re here.

If you are our guest, we’d love to hear from you! Please share with us a little about who you are:

- text “guest” to 474747 OR
- fill out a guest card located in the pew rack. Simply return the guest card in the offering plates during worship as your gift to us.

If you would like to learn more about us, stop by the Welcome Table in the Narthex after worship to speak with one of our members or ministers.

WEEKLY NEWS

December 31, 2018 - January 6, 2019

HAPPY NEW YEAR

HOLIDAY CLOSINGS

CHURCH OFFICES | Close at Noon December 31 | Closed January 1
CORNWELL CENTER | Closes at 5:00p December 31 | Closed January 1
THROUGH-THE-WEEK SCHOOL | Closed Through January 2

CELEBRATING TODAY | ENSURING OUR FUTURE

EMPOWER CHURCH

FINISH STRONG

Stewardship | Empower Church | Finish Strong
Help us finish 2018 strong! Our Church and hearts are set on fire by the love of God and what we can accomplish in God’s name. We’re in this together. Make a contribution today at www.myersparkbaptist.org/online-giving.

2018 Donations
As the year comes to a close, please note the following deadlines for donations: cash received by noon on December 31 will be credited on 2018 contribution statements; checks postmarked by December 31, 2018 and received by January 5, 2019 will be credited on 2018 contribution statements;
and stock gifts received by our advisor by 3:00p on December 31 will be credited in 2018.

FEATURES

Our Stephen Ministry is Here for You
During the holidays, the stress of the season can bring back memories that are not always pleasant. Memories of many types of losses can cause diverse emotions, from sadness to anger. Unfortunately, our emotions sometimes take us places we do not want to go as we feel we are not in control of our lives. At times like this, a listening, nonjudgmental, confidential ear may be exactly what you need. Consider being matched with a Stephen Minister. We have 12 newly trained Stephen Ministers ready to help. If this sounds like something you might consider, please contact Joe Aldrich at jaldrich@myersparkbaptist.org or 704.334.7232 x 113.

Advent Podcast Series | Incarnate
Episode 3 | This week Chrissy and Ben hit the fast-forward button to cover three chapters in one (45-minute-ish) episode. Chapters 4, 5, and 6 in Frost’s book are full of sociological and theological gems that lead us down paths of conversation from labor movement to military training, to elbow learning. Doesn’t that sound fun?!

Episode 4 | In these two special raw and uncut episodes (4 and 5), Chrissy and Ben are moving at warp speed, through four chapters in this action-packed episode. You may have never realized how much James K.A. Smith, C.S. Lewis, theological anthropology, and click activism have in common. After listening to this episode, all of that will change. Most importantly, Chrissy and Ben (pulling from Frost’s book of course) will leave you with an idea for a daily spiritual practice for Advent and beyond. Try it, if you dare!

Episode 5 | Chrissy and Ben are back again for one final episode of Theology Upstream Podcasts (for a while). In this raw and uncut episode they crack jokes and transition somewhat abruptly from one topic to the next, all the while working to weave together themes of rootedness and community. True to form, Frost uses the most unpredictable stories to prove his points (um, hello Rev. Jim Jones), but always finds a way to bring us back to incarnational practices. Also, Merry Christmas, Happy Incarnation!

Midweek Meditation with the Pastor
Wednesdays | January 9, 16, 23, 30, February 6, and 13 | 11:30a

| Library
Inhale, exhale. Our lives rest in the balance of these two simple words. Even more, the act of breathing is filled with sacred significance. Come catch your breath at the all-campus Midweek Meditation launching Wednesdays in January from 11:30 until noon in the Library. Guided by the Rev. Ben Boswell with support from Lisa Cashion and Julie Marr of SoulStudio, this dedicated time will begin with a word, poem, or insight pertaining to mindfulness followed by peace, quiet, calm, clarity, and quite possibly, a transformed life. Register through myMPBC or by contacting Carol Cedar in the Church Office (ccedar@myersparkbaptist.org | 704.334.7232 x 100).
Awakening the Body Series | The Perfect Body
Wednesday, January 9 | 6:30-8:00p | Heaton Hall
How many of us made some kind of resolution this year to lose weight, to eat healthier, or to exercise? In this season of body-based resolutions and newfound commitments, we will learn about all of the external forces at work in our lives that put pressure on us to have bodies that look and function a certain way. From media to sexual and gender normativity, there are so many expectations on all of our bodies, it’s hard to keep up! At this gathering we’ll name some of those stress-inducing forces in our lives and learn some spiritual practices that might help us cope under the societal pressure of perfection. Bethany Johnson will lead our discussion.

New Adult Faith Formation Class: Faith Development
Begins Sunday, January 6 | 9:45-10:45a | Room 250
This class is for those who want the opportunity to examine their personal faith system in community with others. The five month discussion class will explore these main areas: 1) Developing a Personal Theology: which explores such questions as: Do you believe in God? What is the nature of a human's relationship to God? Who was Jesus? What is God’s sense of power and control in the world? Why is there evil? What is grace? 2) How Can the Bible be a Faith Resource? 3) The Spiritual Life: What is the value of silence and meditation? Why is corporate worship important? What can I expect to happen when I pray? How do I develop a faith journal? and 4) Missions: How do I act on my faith? The class is facilitated by Jon and Teddi Benson with some individual sessions led by the ministerial staff. For more information contact Jon Benson at jonathonbenson6@gmail.com.

New Adult Faith Formation Class: Doorways
Begins Sunday, January 13 | 9:45-10:45a | Shalom Conference Room
This group will go through doors, not into a place, not with right answers, but doorways for you to find a path that you want to investigate and come to know as your personal faith. It starts with exploring your sense - and the sense of others on this exploration with you - of the nature of God, then of the person of Jesus, including the writings and concepts of current theologians. Eventually, we will look at how you continue your "pathway" and where it might be leading you. Many Sundays we will face the truly unexpected and it will give us new space and freedom to see even Christianity in a new way. This class will be led by Beth Walters.

COMMUNITY

Hang Out With the Pastor
Monday, January 7 | 5:00 - 6:00p | The Common Market Southend
Hang Outs will continue into the new year on the first Monday of each month at 5:00 p.m. at a new location - The Common Market in SouthEnd. The address is 235 W. Tremont Avenue. Here are some things we want you to know: bring the family. Bring your appetite or just come and hang out! There is something for everyone. This is a casual way to find connection.

MLK National Holiday Celebration
Beginning January 15, 2019
Join members of MPBC and the Charlotte community to celebrate the life of Martin Luther King, Jr. Rev. Ben Boswell will be speaking at the wreath-laying ceremony at Marshall Park on Tuesday, January 15 at noon. Then, come march in the MLK Holiday Parade on Saturday, January 19, 10:00a-noon in uptown Charlotte. Contact Ryan LaPrade (ralaprade@gmail.com) to sign up to march with the MPBC team.

Blaze A Trail: Getting Our Act Together
Wednesday, January 23 | 11:30a - 1:00p | Cornwell Conference Center
Join us for discussion and instruction on Getting Our Act Together (GOAT) with a systematic plan to identify and keep track of important financial and health information. The session will get you inspired by providing you with your very own GOAT book binder to organize important information to have at your fingertips! Facilitated by: Vikki Hunley, Marketing Director - The Ivy, Rev. Joe Aldrich, and Bonnie Banks. Registration required for food and materials ($5.00 payable at the door) You may register online on myMPBC or by calling Caroline Manning in the Church office, 704.334.232 x115. RSVP by January 16, 2019.

Our Whole Lives (OWL) Training
Thursday, January 24 - Saturday, January 26
You are invited to a training on the resource OWL (Our Whole Lives). This first series will cover ages kindergarten through high school seniors. We will offer training on the Adult Resource at a later date. Clergy from the UCC Church, the co-author of OWL, will be our facilitators. This comprehensive training will provide the information you will need to lead this class for our children and youth. And best of all, it is FREE. You must be able to commit to all three days. To learn more and to register, please contact Rev. Carrie Veal (cveal@myersparkbaptist.org | 704.334.7232 x118). Carrie is excited for this opportunity and would love for you to join her on this journey.

Navigating MPBC
Beginning January 27, 2019
If you are a guest who would like to learn more about our Church or are interested in membership, Navigating is the class for you. Contact Rev. Carrie Veal (cveal@myersparkbaptist.org | 704.334.7232 x118) to learn more.

Reserve a Spot in the Columbarium Expansion
All niches in the existing Columbarium have been reserved and the Ministry of Facilities Management is in the process of planning for an expansion. You can see the plan drawing in Heaton Hall Foyer. We are gathering interest and need before we commit to moving forward. If you would be interested in reserving a space in the Columbarium expansion, please contact Leigh Anne Hagerman (704.334.7232 x 116 or lhagerman@myersparkbaptist.org).

CHILDREN

Children's Ministry Teacher Training - Part 2
Sunday, January 6 | 8:30 - 9:45a
In this session, we will cover how to teach preschoolers and elementary age children. We will also talk about well-being in the classroom and how you can feel ready for anything that comes your way. Please RSVP for this training from myMPBC on our website. We will provide childcare and serve a continental breakfast and coffee. To learn more, please contact Rev. Carrie Veal.

Through-The-Week School 2019-2020 Registration
Opens Monday, January 7
Come play with us at Through-the-Week School for the 2019-2020 school year! Registration opens for ages 1-5 on January 7. To find out more about TTWS and to register, visit www.throughtheweekpreschool.com. Questions? Contact Belinda Geuss at bgeuss@myersparkbaptist.org.

Parent Workshop: Children and Anxiety
Thursday, January 10 | 7:00-9:00p | Cornwell Conference Center
Dr. Michele Mannering will lead a parenting workshop discussing how anxiety and stress manifest in the behavior of young children. She will help parents gauge the spectrum of childhood worry and offer strategies to manage anxiety at home. This workshop, sponsored by Through-The-Week School and the Children's Ministry will give parents the chance to learn and connect. Childcare will be provided at no cost. To learn more and to sign up, please contact Rev. Carrie Veal.

YOUTH

Kanuga 2019 | January 18-20
Music, laughter, and snow! This January, youth in grades 6-12 will retreat to the Kanuga Conference Center in the North Carolina mountains. Join us for this wonderful weekend of fellowship and community as we share and learn together while having fun. We will have small and large group sessions with free time throughout. We leave Friday, January 18 and return on Sunday around noon. Sign up through myMPBC.

Apply for MPBC Scholarships Beginning January 1!
Giving scholarship funds to students at MPBC is one way that we are living into our calling as a community of God. It is our hope that through these gifts we are able to share with our college students while remaining connected, involved, and invested in their lives as they discover more fully who God has created them to be in this world. Details about the following scholarships can be found on our website at www.myersparkbaptist.org/forms: The Weathers Scholarship Fund and the Howard Webb Family Fund and a Scholarship given by a long-time member in honor of Betty Jo Harrick.
Applications can be found online or by emailing Allen at adavis@myersparkbaptist.org. Applications are due by April 1.

Discipleship
Discipleship Class is for youth who have completed 7th grade and who join together on a journey of faith leading to a decision about baptism and
ON-GOING OPPORTUNITIES (details available on our website)

Room In The Inn
Every Saturday December-March we open our doors to our neighbors who are homeless. Volunteer for RITI Now >

Oatmeal and Staples Food Drive
We are collecting through January 15 in support of Charlotte's homeless shelters and hurricane relief. Make a monetary donation >

Music Ministry

Choirs For All Ages
Adult Chancel Choir meets Thursdays, 7:00-9:00p and Sundays at 10:15a. Contact Fran Morrison.
Youth Choir meets Sundays, 5:00-6:00p. Resume January 6. Contact Charlotte Judge.
Children's Choirs meet Wednesdays, 5:00-6:45p. Resume January 9. Contact Charlotte Judge.
Coffee Chat for parents meets in the Parlor on Wednesdays while children are in choir. Contact Carrie Veal.
Youth Instrumental Ensemble meets Sundays, 6:00-7:00p. Resume January 6. Contact Charlotte Judge.

New Classes Starting January 6 & 13
Start the new year by joining a faith formation class. Full list of Faith Formation Classes >
We have two new classes (details above):

Faith Development - For those who want to examine their personal faith system. Led by Jon and Teddi Benson.
Doorways - Focusing on opening doors to pathways to finding faith. Led by Beth Walters.

For children birth - twelfth grade. With trained paid staff and volunteers, we want every child to know that they are prepared for and cared for each time they are on our campus.

Faith Formation Classes meet Sundays, 9:45-10:45a. Resume January 6. Contact Carrie Veal (children) or Allen Davis (youth).

Children's Worship on Sundays, 11:15a-noon. Children leave from worship to go to the Sanctuary Basement Room 3. Contact Carrie Veal.
Youth Fellowship meets Sundays, 3:30-5:00p in the Youth Hall. Resume January 6. Contact Allen Davis.

SCHEDULE

Looking for Our Schedule of Activities and Meetings?
An always-current calendar is available on our website, through myMPBC, and on the ChurchLife App (find out how to get the app here).

Access our online calendar now >
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 God’s 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 to nurture this Church as a community of faith and as an instrument for reconciliation in this 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.

Myers Park Baptist Church
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@MPBaptist

Our Ministers

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Rev. Joseph D. Aldrich | Associate Minister | jaldrich@myersparkbaptist.org
Rev. Leigh Anne Hagerman | Church Administrator | lhagerman@myersparkbaptist.org
Rev. Carrie Veal | Minister of Children and Community Life | cveal@myersparkbaptist.org
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