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.

Silent Meditation
“A merely personal God becomes tribal and sentimental, and a merely universal God never leaves the realm of abstract theory and philosophical principles. Together, Jesus and Christ give us a God who is both personal and universal.

What if Christ is a name for the transcendent within of every “thing” in the universe?
What if Christ is a name for the immense spaciousness of all true Love?
What if Christ refers to an infinite horizon that pulls us both from within and pulls us forward, too?
What if Christ is another name for everything—in its fullness?

When you can honor and receive your own moment of sadness or fullness as a gracious participation in the eternal sadness or fullness of God, you are beginning to recognize yourself as a participating member of this one universal Body. You are moving from I to We.”

– Richard Rohr, The Universal Christ

Ringing of the Angelus Bell

Prelude
“Sonatina in C”
Muzio Clementi (1752-1832)

Call to Worship
Leader: The Lord be with you.
People: And also with you.

*Opening Sentences
Leader: Compelled by sacred story, we gather together to hear our names whispered through the breath of God.
People: We assemble as characters in God’s story, beloved heirs of wisdom and truth.
Leader: Enlivened by the prospect of new light, we listen for a fresh word from the Holy.
People: We await revelation for this day, a hopeful word delivered into our embrace.
Leader: Guided by the promise of divine presence, we converse with God and people everywhere and throughout all of time.
People: We approach scripture with curious minds and open hearts, the posture of a people inspired by mystery and reconciliation.

*Procession and Opening of the Bible
“Come, Great God of All the Ages”

See page 8.
ABBOT’S LEIGH

*Please rise in body or in spirit.
The Kyrie Eleison

Gloria (Taizé)

Assurance of Pardon

*The Canticle (Glory to God in the highest.)

*Passing of the Peace

Preschool children will leave with their teachers and may be picked up in Room 107 after Sermon TalkBack. Children in grades 1 - 5 will remain in worship today.

Welcome of Our Guests

If you are our guest today, please text “guest” to 474747 or fill out a guest card located in the pew rack and place it in the offering plate during worship as your gift to us.
Epistle Lesson – Colossians 1:15-23 (NRSV adapted)

Christ is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn of all creation; for in Christ all things in heaven and on earth were created, things visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or rulers or powers—all things have been created through Christ and for Christ. Christ is before all things, and in Christ all things hold together. Christ is the head of the body, the church; the beginning, the firstborn from the dead, so that Christ might come to have first place in everything. For in Jesus all the fullness of God was pleased to dwell, and through Jesus God was pleased to reconcile all things, whether on earth or in heaven, by making peace through the blood of the cross.

And you who were once estranged and hostile in mind, doing evil deeds, Jesus has now reconciled in his fleshly body through death, so as to present you holy and blameless and irreproachable before God—provided that you continue securely established and steadfast in the faith, without shifting from the hope promised by the gospel that you heard, which has been proclaimed to every creature under heaven.

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.

*Sermon Hymn

“Community of Christ”

Number 278  
LEONI

Sermon

“Bringing It All Together”

Rev. W. Benjamin Boswell

Time for Silent Reflection

THE CONGREGATION RESPONDS TO GOD’S WORD

Church at Prayer

Austin Maynor

The Lord’s Prayer

Our God, who art 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.

Offertory

Mobile giving is available – see page 7.

Gifts of loose cash in July will benefit Friendship Trays, which prepares and delivers meals to elderly, handicapped and convalescing individuals through the Charlotte-area Meals on Wheels” program.

Anthem

“The Majesty and Glory of Your Name”

When I gaze into the night skies and see the work of your fingers; the moon and stars suspended in space.

Oh, who are we that you are mindful of us? You have given us a crown of glory and honor, and have made us a little lower than the angels. You have put us in charge of all creation: the beasts of the field, the birds of the air, the fish of the sea. Oh, who are we that you are mindful of us.

O Lord, our God, the majesty and glory of your name transcends the earth and fills the heavens. O Lord, our God; little children praise you perfectly, and so would we. Alleluia!”

--Psalm 8, paraphrased
*Presentation of Gifts
As the Deacons move down the center aisle, the congregation is asked to stand.
This presentation to God enacts our self-offering and gratitude to God.

*Doxology
Praise God from whom all blessings flow;
Praise God, all creatures, here below;
Praise God above, ye heavenly hosts;

*Prayer of Dedication
Rev. Leigh Anne Hagerman

THE COMMUNITY IS SENT INTO THE WORLD FOR MINISTRY

*Procession into the World and Closing of the Bible
“There is Now a New Creation”

Benediction
Rev. W. Benjamin Boswell

Postlude
“Toccata in g minor” Johann Pachelbel (1653-1706)

Following worship, all are invited to Sermon TalkBack in Heaton Hall.

Following worship, 3's and 4's and TK/K may be picked up in Room 107.
There will be childcare for TalkBack in Room 107 for children of all ages.
Leading worship today with Rev. W. Benjamin Boswell, Senior Minister, are Rev. Leigh Anne Hagerman, Church Administrator, Austin Maynor, Pastoral Intern, and Nancy Culp, member of the congregation.

The Chancel Choir leads worship through music with Dr. Matt Caine, Minister of Music and Worship, and John Richardson, Organist.

Today's opening sentences were written by Austin Maynor, Pastoral Intern.

The acolyte today is Megan Merritt.

The sound technician is Spencer Rackley. The webcast technician is Van Wilson.

Flowers on the altar are given to the glory of God and in grateful celebration of Ted Lucas on the occasion of his 90th birthday on July 29, by Cam and Buddy Wester.

We give God thanks for the ministry of Joanne Hylinski, Assistant Director of Through-the-Week School, who joined our staff on July 23, 2018.
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.

HOW TO JOIN MYERS PARK BAPTIST CHURCH

Becoming a member of Myers Park Baptist is as easy as filling out a Joining Card. To receive a card or learn more, stop by the Welcome Table in the Narthex.

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
Come, Great God of All the Ages

1 Come, great God of all the ages; make your earthly mission known; speak through every deed and person;
cornerstone; help us form the church eternal;
hear your call; through the moving of your presence,
one true God; in commitment and rejoicing

let your way and will be shown. Guide the church to true commitment; give direction now, we ask; fit us for the follower; lead all people to your way; urge us to strong
caration, love embodied in our deeds; challenge us to reverence, let us, Lord, the future see; place us in the

This text was written in 1987 for the capital cornerstone campaign of the National Presbyterian Church in Washington, DC. It is set here to a mid-20th-century tune created in wartime England to replace a Haydn tune tainted by Nazi associations.

TEXT: Mary Jackson Cathey, 1987
MUSIC: Cyril Vincent Taylor, 1941
Text © 1990 Hope Publishing Company
Music © 1942, ren. 1970 Hope Publishing Company
work of building; dedicate us to the task.
faith and action as we build the church today.
do your bidding, see your purpose, fill all needs.
church triumphant, now and for eternity.

There Is Now a New Creation

1 There is now a new creation through the grace of Jesus Christ,
2 Call the lost and found together; tell the news to every one:
3 Wrap the prodigal in welcome; run to greet the wayward child.
4 Come and join the celebration; come and join this happy feast;
5 There is now a new creation through the grace of Jesus Christ.

peace and reconciliation with the God of endless life.
now the past is gone forever and a new life has begun.
All is finished and forgiven; let us now be reconciled.
Jesus makes an invitation to the great and the least.
Sing, with thanks and adoration, to the God of endless life!

At the center of this text stands a reference to the well-known parable of the Prodigal Son (Luke 15:11–32),
and the fourth stanza forms an effective bridge between that gospel story and the celebration of the Lord's Supper. The first and last stanzas draw on 2 Corinthians 5:17.

TEXT: David Gambrell, 2009
MUSIC: Willi's Psalmala Sacra, 1715, alt.
Text © 2011 David Gambrell (admin. Presbyterian Publishing Corp.)
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
July 22-28, 2019

MYERS PARK BAPTIST CHURCH

SUMMER WORSHIP
10:00a Worship | 11:00a Sermon TalkBack
Rev. Dr. Bill Leonard Preaching
SUNDAYS, JULY 28 & AUGUST 4

Sunday, July 28
The Seventh Sunday of Pentecost | Rev. Dr. Bill Leonard Preaching
"Prayer and Protest: A Minority Witness"
Summer at Myers Park Baptist would not be complete without a visit from our beloved professor Dr. Bill Leonard. He will preach back-to-back Sundays and lead TalkBack on both occasions.

Sunday, August 4
The Eighth Sunday of Pentecost | Jazz Worship in the Round | Rev. Dr. Bill Leonard Preaching
"Double-Edged Grace: Up Close (and At a Distance)"

FEATURES

IDENTITY CRISIS
EXAMINING OUR IDENTITY

Awakening Shalom Podcast Series: Identity Crisis
Who are we? How are we communicating who we are? What does it mean to be Baptist? Do denominations even matter anymore? What's in a name?
If you are not a fan of podcasts or are not comfortable with the technology, there is good news. The last episode of the four-part series is a great summary of the relevant topics and you can easily access it on your computer either through iTunes or the Church website.

Town Hall Meetings
The Board of Deacons would like to hear your thoughts about the "Reimagining Lay Leadership" proposal that was presented at the Congregational Meeting on June 2. Three one-hour Town Hall meetings will be offered and will be led by Marcy McClanahan. Childcare will be provided. We encourage you to sign up to attend through myMPBC.

- Wednesday, July 24 | 11:30a - 1:00 | with light lunch $5
- Saturday, August 17 | 10:00a
- Wednesday, September 11 | 7:00p

Freedom School Finale!
Thursday, July 25, 2019 | 12:00p | Heaton Hall
As Freedom School at Pinewood Elementary comes to an end, we would like to express our deepest gratitude for the financial and physical commitment you have made to our Freedom School partners this summer. The scholars and teachers will be celebrating the end of another fantastic summer on July 25th in Heaton Hall at 12:00p. It’ll be a time to see them shine as they celebrate their work and prepare for the coming school year. We are in need of volunteers who can serve between the hours of 10:00a and 2:00p. If you are available and interested, please email Karen Taylor at fitztaylor@aol.com or Laura Handler at laura.hoeing@gmail.com.

CELEBRATING PRIDE
Although June was the official LGBTQ+ PRIDE month, PRIDE festivals and parades continue over the next few months allowing participants to attend the events in various cities around the country. Charlotte’s PRIDE event will take place August 17-18. All are invited and encouraged to join us again this year as we host a booth and march in the parade. Stay tuned for details.

Make Sure You Have Your MPBC Shirt
Did you know that we have specially designed MPBC t-shirts for everyone to wear at various events like the PRIDE Parade, RAIN AIDS Walk, and MLK Holiday Parade (and of course any day you like)? You can purchase yours for $15 in the Church Office by contacting Caroline Manning (cmanning@myesparkbaptist.org | 704.334.7232 x 115). So, let's come together wearing our MPBC shirts as we show our support of our fellow brothers and sisters.
Virtual Book Group
This summer, join us as we dive into On the Mystery: Discerning Divinity in Process by Catherine Keller, PhD, our 2019 J21 Scholar. We meet through Zoom each week, an online platform, in preparation for Dr. Keller’s arrival in October. Jump into the conversation when you can from wherever you are! You can purchase copies of the book on Smile.amazon.com (choose Myers Park Baptist Church as your charitable organization) or in the Church Office for $20. If you have any questions, email Mia McClain at mmcclain@myersparkbaptist.org. Registration is available through myMPBC.

Week 3 | July 24 | 6:00p | Chapters 5 and 6
Love and Justice | A conversation on how we relate to one another - creature and earth.

LOOKING AHEAD

Awakening to Environmental Injustice

Awakening to Environmental Injustice | Launching September 22
Reconciling with the earth, Reconciling with each other, Reconciling with God
"The Lord God took Adam - made from the ground - and put him in the garden of Eden to serve, work, and worship the earth." Genesis 2:15

We are a people on a journey, and this fall, we eagerly invite you to join us on a voyage through an exploration of environmental injustices in our city, state, country, and beyond. From August 2019 to May 2020, we aim to explore how the mismanagement of natural and human-made resources are in direct relation to racism, class-ism, and disembodiment - how the misuse of our planet stems from a lack of seeing ourselves, our neighbors, and the earth as divine - sacred - holy.

Save the dates for these exciting events that will be part of our Awakening to Environmental Injustice series:

Jesus in the 21st Century will welcome
Catherine Keller, PhD | October 11-13
We are excited to welcome this year's J21 Scholar, Catherine Keller, PhD, during the Awakening to Environmental Injustice series. Dr. Keller is the Professor of Constructive Theology at the Theological School of Drew University, with concentrations in ecological justice and feminist thought. She is author of On the Mystery: Discerning God in Process (we are reading and discussing this together in our Virtual Book Group - see above for more information) and Political Theology of the Earth: Our Planetary Emergency and the Struggle for a New Public, just to name a few. This will be a weekend you will not want to miss, full of engaging events such as a live podcast recording with Dr. Keller and Tripp Fuller from Homebrewed Christianity. Tell a friend and come on out!

Awakening Now! Featuring "Little Miss Flint"
Saturday, November 2 | Noon - 3:00p
Join us this fall for our first ever intergenerational Awakening Forum, featuring Amariyanna "Mari" Copeny, popularly known as "Little Miss Flint." In early 2016, the then 8-year-old from Flint, Michigan wrote a letter to President Obama, describing the unending plight of her
community, which had been living with lead-contaminated water since 2014. Since then, Mari has fundraised over $500,000 with the nonprofit organization, "Pack Your Back," that has impacted over 25,000 children in Flint and beyond. Come and engage with local environmental justice organizations and initiatives, and hear what "Little Miss Flint" has to say about the ongoing crisis and how young people can get involved in justice movements around the country. This event is free and open to the public. All ages are encouraged to attend.

SAFE (Sexual Awareness and Family Empowerment Seminar)
September 27 - 28
Almost every week we hear from a colleague in ministry or read about a church who is in the middle of a sexual misconduct case involving a minor. Often people ask the question, how did this happen... in a church? The answer? Not enough people are aware, trained, and involved in the lives of minors in churches. In the climate of #metoo and #churchtoo, we must do all that we can to speak, act, and show that we are a space that is safe for all minors and that equips all adults in best practices of being in community with minors who are on our campus. The SAFE Seminar will help all of us! This is more than just a faith and sexuality workshop for parents. It’s an equipping time for every congregant on the MPBC campus. Make plans to join us.

Intergenerational Family Retreat
February 28 - March 1
We will be heading to the mountains for a weekend of sabbath and fellowship at Montreat Conference Center. We are excited to announce that our retreat leader will be Rev. Dana Trent, author of Saffron Cross, For Sabbath's Sake, Dessert First, and One Breath at a Time. Mark the dates Friday, February 28 - Sunday, March 1 on your calendars and stay tuned - many details to come!

COMMUNITY SUMMER OPPORTUNITIES

Meditation With the Pastor
Wednesdays | 11:30a - Noon | Library
Rev. Ben Boswell will guide a weekly meditation on Wednesdays throughout the summer. This dedicated time begins with a word, poem, or insight pertaining to mindfulness, followed by peace, quiet, calm, clarity, and quite possibly a transformed life. Inhale, Exhale. Our lives rest in the balance of these simple actions. Come catch your breath with us.

Booty on the Lawn - Campus-Wide Event
Friday, July 26 | 6:00 - 9:00p | Cornwall Center Front Lawn and Parking Lot
This 3-hour event will commemorate the opening of Charlotte’s annual 24-Hours of Booty for 2019 (starts at 7:00p on Friday). It will showcase the Cornwall Center and invite members of the community to watch the race from our lawn. There will be activities for all ages such as: children’s obstacle course, yoga on the lawn, music with DJ, wellness vendors, food trucks, face painting, spin class, bikes on the lawn, and Cornwall promotional items. Questions? Contact the Cornwall Center at 704.927.0774 or visit www.cornwellcenter.org.
Stay Engaged This Summer - Join Us At The Ballgame!
Friday, July 26 | Start Time is 7:00p
This is a fun opportunity to get together and enjoy a night out supporting the Charlotte Knights. Tickets are $19 each and include a $2 gift card for food or beverage. Please RSVP through myMPBC or by contacting Caroline Manning (cmanning@myersparkbaptist.org | 704.334.7232 x 115). Tickets can be picked up in the Church office.

O'Connor Method String Camp Returns to MPBC
July 29 - August 2 (Orientation July 28)
Mark and Maggie O'Connor are bringing their string camp back to MPBC this summer. It is a delightful week of watching music emerge from all ages. Camp and registration information are available on our website. There are jam sessions at the end of each day. Come and listen in. If you would like to volunteer to assist with Sunday registration or greeting/shepherding parents and students for the first few days as they become familiar with our campus, visit our website.

Rituals and Relationships
School, work, sports, vacations, and more - our lives are full, and we are constantly moving. Taking time to talk can become challenging. Rituals and Relationships is designed to help families make space for this important time together. The topic for the week of July 22 will be "teaching." This session of Rituals and Relationships will be emailed to you, posted on the Children's Ministry Facebook Page, and the Children's Ministry website page. For more information, please contact Rev. Carrie Veal (cveal@myersparkbaptist.org | 704.334.7232 x 118).

Summer Youth Gatherings
This summer, we have fun opportunities to get together. MPBC youth are going to the Whitewater Center on August 13. Please check your inbox for an email from Allen Davis with details about this gathering and others. If you have any questions, please email him at adavis@myersparkbaptist.org.

Hang Out with the Pastor
Monday, August 5 | 5:00p | The Common Market South End
We get together on the first Monday of each month at 5:00p at The Common Market in South End at 235 W. Tremont Avenue. All are invited to this casual time of fellowship! Bring the family, bring your appetite, or just come and hang out. There is something for everyone. We hope to see you there.
Stephen Ministry Is Here For You
Are you feeling stressed, lonely or depressed? Do you need support? We are here to help. Contact Rev. Ben Boswell.

SUNDAYS

Sermon TalkBack is Also Online!
We continue our tradition of Sermon TalkBack following worship. We are excited to also offer online TalkBack. Rev. Ben Boswell will field questions from both those present in Heaton Hall and those who will be able to tune in online and send in their questions through the MPBC Facebook page. Our goal is to provide TalkBack to everyone who wishes to participate, even if they can't be onsite. So, join the conversations this summer!

Summer Sunday Morning Yoga
On Sunday mornings, a Yoga 1, 2 class will be offered at 9:00a in the Cornwall Center's Group Exercise Studio. This gentler, slower paced practice makes it more accessible for people of all sizes, ages, and fitness levels. It assists with stress management and restoration of the mind, body, and soul while creating an atmosphere of safety and comfort that fosters self-esteem and body awareness. Childcare is available in Room 107.

Children's Summer Worship
This summer all three of our interns will lead children's worship on a rotation basis. Since a child's faith formation is paramount to any church, we want to give the interns as much exposure as possible. We will follow our usual worship liturgy with the children hearing different voices and experiencing different styles of leadership. Be sure you offer encouragement to our interns who are learning while teaching! Questions? Contact Rev. Carrie Veal (cveal@myersparkbaptist.org | 704.334.7232 x 118) or Jennifer Jennings (jjennings@myersparkbaptist.org | 704.334.7232 x 610).
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.

INCLUSIVITY | COMMUNITY | SPIRITUALITY | JUSTICE

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