



Jesus Loves Me, Varnette Honeywood, 1983

The Worship of God
The Seventh Sunday of Epiphany
Black History Month

February 16, 2025 | 10:00a



MYERS PARK
BAPTIST
CHURCH

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

“Soliloquy”

Dr. Matthew Manwarren, Organist
David Conte

Call to Worship and Invocation

Rev. Marina Luckhoo

***Opening Hymn**

“God You Spin the Whirling Planets”

See page 6.
AUSTRIA

Welcome of Our Guests

If you are our guest today, please scan the QR code below so we may offer you our gratitude for joining us today.

Rev. Carrie Veal



***Passing of the Peace**

A Moment of Centering

Take a few moments to breathe and still the mind.

J. Kevin Gray

**All: Come and find the quiet center in the crowded life we lead,
find the room for hope to enter, find the frame where we are freed:
clear the chaos and the clutter, clear our eyes, that we can see
all the things that really matter, be at peace, and simply be.**

BEACH SPRING

Gospel Reading – Luke 6:17-26 (NRSV)

Mark Chatman, Choir Member

Jesus came down with them and stood on a level place with a great crowd of his disciples and a great multitude of people from all Judea, Jerusalem, and the coast of Tyre and Sidon. They had come to hear him and to be healed of their diseases, and those who were troubled with unclean spirits were cured. And everyone in the crowd was trying to touch him, for power came out from him and healed all of them.

Then he looked up at his disciples and said: “Blessed are you who are poor, for yours is the kingdom of God. Blessed are you who are hungry now, for you will be filled. Blessed are you who weep now, for you will laugh. Blessed are you when people hate you, and when they exclude you, revile you, and defame you on account of the Son of Man. Rejoice on that day and leap for joy, for surely your reward is great in heaven, for that is how their ancestors treated the prophets.

“But woe to you who are rich, for you have received your consolation. Woe to you who are full now, for you will be hungry. Woe to you who are laughing now, for you will mourn and weep. Woe to you when all speak well of you, for that is how their ancestors treated the false prophets.”

**Please rise in body or in spirit.*

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**

Text by Carolyn Winfrey Gillette
NETTLETON

“Blessed Are the Poor in Spirit”

Blessed are the poor in spirit; all God's realm is surely theirs.
Those in mourning will find comfort as an answer to their prayers.
Meek ones whom this world despises will inherit everything.
God, your kingdom still surprises; may we seek the reign you bring.

Blessed, too, are those who hunger and who thirst for what is right.
They will not be prone to wander, for your will is their delight.
Those who show God's care and mercy will receive that mercy too.
God, in Christ you show us clearly of the joy we have in you.

Those who share the peace God gives them will find blessings as God's own.
Those oppressed for faithful living will call heaven's kingdom Home.
When the world's ways seem distressing and we feel life's painful sting,
God, remind us of the blessings of the wondrous life you bring.

Sermon

“The Sermon on the Plain”

Rev. Joshua M. Speight

Musical Reflection

“He’s Got the Whole World in His Hand”

Mahari Freeman
arr. Margaret Bonds

He's got the whole world in His hand. (x4)

He's got the woods and the waters in His hand,
He's got the sun and the moon right in His hand,
He's got the whole world in His hand.

He's got the birds and the bees right in His hand,
He's got the beasts of the field right in His hand,
He's got the whole world in His hand.
He's got you and me right in His hand,
He's got everybody in His hand,
He's got the whole world in His hand.

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

Anna-Catherine Fowler, Deacon

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



Offertory Anthem

Chancel Choir
Tom Fettke

“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, what 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, what 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, Alleluia, the majesty and glory of your name, Alleluia.

*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. Alleluia.**

*Prayer of Dedication

Anna-Catherine Fowler, Deacon

*Closing Hymn

“Let Streams of Living Justice”

See page 7.
THAXTED

Benediction

Rev. Joshua M. Speight

Postlude

“Toccata in F Major”

Dr. Matthew Manwarren, Organist
Dietrich Buxtehude

If you are our guest today, please connect with a minister after worship and receive a Welcome bag.



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.



Join Us After Worship Today

Spiritual Growth Opportunities

Educational opportunities that transform the whole person
spiritually, culturally, & theologically

- **BIBLE BASICS 2.0** | Led by Rev. Carrie Veal
Room 254 (upstairs above the Church Offices)
- **SPIRITUAL PRACTICES** | Led by Rev. Marina Luckhoo
Library (off of Heaton Hall Foyer)
- **STUDY OF BROKEN GROUND PODCAST**
Led by Members of the MOJO Environmental Justice Group
Room 250 (upstairs above the Church Offices)

NOTES AND REFLECTIONS:

God, You Spin The Whirling Planets

AUSTRIA 8 7 8 7 D

Jane Parker Huber

Franz Joseph Haydn, 1797

1. God, you spin the whirl-ing plan-ets, Fill the seas and spread the plain,
2. You have called us to be faith-ful In our life and min - is - try.
3. God, your word is still cre - at - ing, Call-ing us to life made new.

Mold the moun-tains, fash-ion blos-soms, Call forth sun-shine, wind, and rain.
We re-pond in grate-ful wor-ship Joined in one com-mu-ni-ty.
Now re-veal to us fresh vis-tas Where there's work to dare and do.

We, cre-a - ted in your im - age, Would a true re - flec-tion be
When we blur your gra-cious im - age, Fo - cus us and make us whole.
Keep us clear of all dis - tor - tion. Pol - ish us with lov - ing care.

Of your jus - tice, grace, and mer - cy And the truth that makes us free.
Healed and strength-ened as your peo-ple, We move on - ward toward your goal.
Thus, new crea - tures in your im - age, We'll pro - claim Christ ev - ery-where.

Words from "A Singing Faith" by Jane Parker Huber.

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Let Streams of Living Justice



1 Let streams of liv - ing jus - tice flow down up - on the earth;
2 For heal - ing of the na - tions, for peace that will not end,
3 Your ci - ty's built to mu - sic; we are the stones you seek;



give free - dom's light to cap - tives, let all the poor have worth.
for love that makes us lov - ers, God grant us grace to mend.
your har - mo - ny is lan - guage; we are the words you speak.



The hun - gry's hands are plead - ing, the work - ers claim their rights,
Weave our var - ied gifts to - geth - er; knit our lives as they are spun;
Our faith we find in ser - vice, our hope in oth - ers' dreams,



the mourn - ers long for laugh - ter, the blind - ed seek for sight.
on your loom of time en - roll us till our thread of life is run.
our love in hand of neigh - bor; our home - land bright - ly gleams.



Make lib - er - ty a bea - con, strike down the i - ron pow'r;
O great weav - er of our fab - ric, bind church and world in one;
In - scribe our hearts with jus - tice; your way—the path un - tried;



a - bol - ish an - cient ven - geance: pro - claim your peo - ple's hour.
dye our tex - ture with your ra - diance, light our col - ors with your sun.
your truth—the heart of strang - er; your life—the Cru - ci - fied.

Text: William Whitla, b. 1934
Music: THAXTED, Gustav Holst, 1874–1934
Text © 1989 William Whitla.

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

J. Kevin Gray

Minister of Music & Worship

Rev. Marina Luckhoo

Interim Associate Minister

Rev. Carrie Veal

Associate Minister

OUR AUDIO/VIDEO TEAM

Wes Cobb

Joe Kuhlmann

Hannah Combs

Eric Roberts

Volunteers



704.334.7232

mpbc@myersparkbaptist.org

We are affiliated with  Alliance of Baptists
allianceofbaptists.org

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.

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