

"Ruth the Gleaner," Suzanne Moore, Copyright 2010, The Saint John's Bible

The Worship of God

The Third Sunday of Lent Women's History Month

March 23, 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.**

Silent Reflection

“To Be the Earth is to Know”

John Soos

To be the Earth is to know
the restlessness of being a seed
the darkness of being planted
the struggle toward the light
the pain of growth into the light
the joy of bursting and bearing fruit
the love of being food for someone
the scattering of your seeds
the decay of the seasons
the mystery of death
and the miracle of birth.

Prelude

Dr. Matthew Manwarren, Organist; Emily Chatham, Violinist

“Andante from Sonata in E Minor”

J.S. Bach

Call to Worship

J. Kevin Gray

Leader: Put away your hesitation to come before God;
quiet your fears and anxieties, for God welcomes us.

**People: God is our light and our salvation;
whom shall we fear?**

Leader: Look to the heavens and the earth for inspiration and assurance;
look around you, for God’s presence is everywhere.

**People: God is the stronghold of our lives;
of whom shall we be afraid?**

Leader: Let us watch and wait with our Creator;
let us trust in the one who gives life and hope.

**People: Teach us your ways, O God,
and lead us on a level path.**

Invocation

*Opening Hymn

“Be Thou My Vision”

See page 6.

SLANE

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

Invitation to Confession

Rev. Dr. Layne Smith

A Time for Silent Confession

Corporate Prayer of Confession

Holy God, though we often speak words of justice, our actions don't match those words.
While we seek to follow you, we find your laws of love, peace, and reconciliation hard.
We have forgotten to stop and remember who you are and who you have called us to be.
Forgive us for our wayward wandering that leads us away from you and your children.
We ask for your forgiveness and mercy to wash over us, cleansing us again.
Amen

Song of Prayer

"Hear Our Prayer O Lord"

AFTER PRAYER

Music score for "Hear Our Prayer O Lord" in D major, 4/4 time. The score is written for voice and piano. The lyrics are: "Hear our prayer, O Lord, hear our prayer, O Lord; incline your ear to us, and grant us your peace." The score includes a key signature of two sharps (F# and C#) and a time signature of 4/4. The melody is in the treble clef, and the accompaniment is in the bass clef. Chords are indicated above the staff: D, A, A7, D, D7, G, Em, D, A, D.

Words of Assurance

Rev. Dr. Layne Smith

Gospel Reading – Luke 13:1-9 (NRSV)

Kathleen Rackley, Congregant

At that very time there were some present who told Jesus about the Galileans whose blood Pilate had mingled with their sacrifices. He asked them, "Do you think that because these Galileans suffered in this way, they were worse sinners than all other Galileans? No, I tell you, but unless you repent you will all perish as they did. Or those eighteen who were killed when the tower of Siloam fell on them—do you think that they were worse offenders than all the other people living in Jerusalem? No, I tell you, but unless you repent you will all perish just as they did."

Then he told this parable: "A man had a fig tree planted in his vineyard, and he came looking for fruit on it and found none. So, he said to the man working the vineyard, 'See here! For three years I have come looking for fruit on this fig tree, and still, I find none. Cut it down! Why should it be wasting the soil?' He replied, 'Sir, let it alone for one more year, until I dig around it and put manure on it. If it bears fruit next year, well and good, but if not, you can cut it down.'"

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

LEONI

"One Day, the News Was Grim"

Carolyn Winfrey Gillette

One day, the news was grim: Some peo - ple sought the Lord, to tell of Ga - li
Then Je - sus turned to say: It's no - thing they did wrong, that means their loved ones
6 O God, we pray for help to see what we should change, to see the val - ues
le - ans killed by Pi - late's sword. "is a - ny - one to blame? is____
now are sing - ing moun - ful songs. And yet you know it's true that____
11 we our - selves should re - ar - range, Now help us know our sin, the____
it____ be - cause they sinned?"_ when - e - ver there is
tra - gic____ things a - bound;_ since life is fra - gile
14 good____ we - ve left un - done,____ the times when you have
trou - ble peo - ple ask a - gain.
now's the____ time to____ turn a - round.
looked for____ fruit and____ we've borne none.

Sermon

Rev. Carrie Veal

"The Digging and the Fertilizing"

Musical Reflection

J. Kevin Gray

David Mallett

"Garden Song"

Inch by inch, row by row, gonna make this garden grow,
all it takes is a rake and a hoe and a piece of fertile ground.
Inch by inch, row by row, someone bless these seeds I sow,
someone warm them from below, 'til the rain comes tumblin' down.
Pullin' weeds and pickin' stones, we are made of dreams and bone,
feel the need to grow my own 'cause the time is close at hand.
Grain for grain, sun and rain, find my way in nature's chain,
tune my body and my brain to the music from the land.

Church at Prayer

Rev. Marina Luckhoo

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

Elaine Price-Hudson, Deacon

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



Offertory Anthem

"The Journey"

Chancel Choir; Greg Pipkin and McKenzie Coleman, Soloists; Emily Chatham, Violinist
arr. Joseph Martin

'Tis a gift to be simple, 'tis a gift to be free, 'tis a gift to come down where you ought to be.
And when we find ourselves in the place just right, 'twill be in the valley, of love and delight.
When true simplicity is gained, to bow and to bend we shan't be ashamed.
To turn, turn will be our delight, til by turning, turning we come round right.
Going home, going home, I am going home. Going home, going home, never more to roam.
Though the road's been so long, now I'm going home.
To the place I belong, I am going home.

*Presentation of Gifts and the Doxology

OLD HUNDREDTH

Praise God from whom all blessings flow;
Praise God, all creatures here below;
Praise God above, ye heavenly host;
Creator, Christ, and Holy Ghost. Amen.

*Prayer of Dedication

Elaine Price-Hudson, Deacon

*Closing Hymn

"Lord, Whose Love in Humble Service" verses 1, 2 and 4

See page 7.
BEACH SPRING

Benediction

Rev. Carrie Veal

Postlude

"Plein Jeu"

Dr. Matthew Manwarren, Organist
Louis-Nicholas Clerambault

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



*We are delighted to welcome special guest musician,
Emily Chatham, to this morning's service.*



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 Office)
- **FAITH & COMMUNITY CLASS**
Guest Speaker, Tamar Reno | Heaton Hall
Western North Carolina Writer and Poet Witnessing Helene's Aftermath

Be Thou My Vision

SLANE

Ancient Irish

Trans. Mary E. Byrne, 1905

Versed Eleanor H. Hull, 1912; alt.

Traditional Irish melody

Harm. Carlton R. Young, 1963

Unison

1. Be thou my vi - sion, O Lord of my heart;
 2. Be thou my wis - dom, and thou my true word;
 3. Great God of heav - en, my vic - to - ry won,

Naught be all else to me, save that thou art.
 I ev - er with thee and thou with me, Lord;
 May I reach heav - en's joys, O bright heaven's Sun!

Thou my best thought, by day or by night,
 Thou and thou on - ly, first in my heart,
 Heart of my own heart, what - ev - er be - fall,

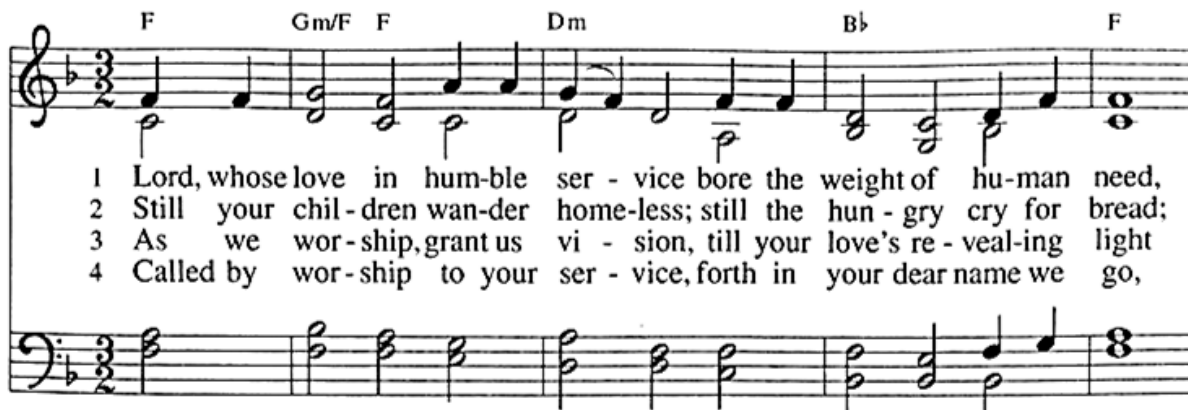
Wak - ing or sleep - ing, thy pres - ence my light.
 Great God of heav - en, my trea - sure thou art.
 Still be my vi - sion, O Rul - er of all.

Words alt. © 1989 by The United Methodist Publishing House.
 Harm. © 1964 by Abingdon Press. Used by permission.

Verses 1, 2 and 4

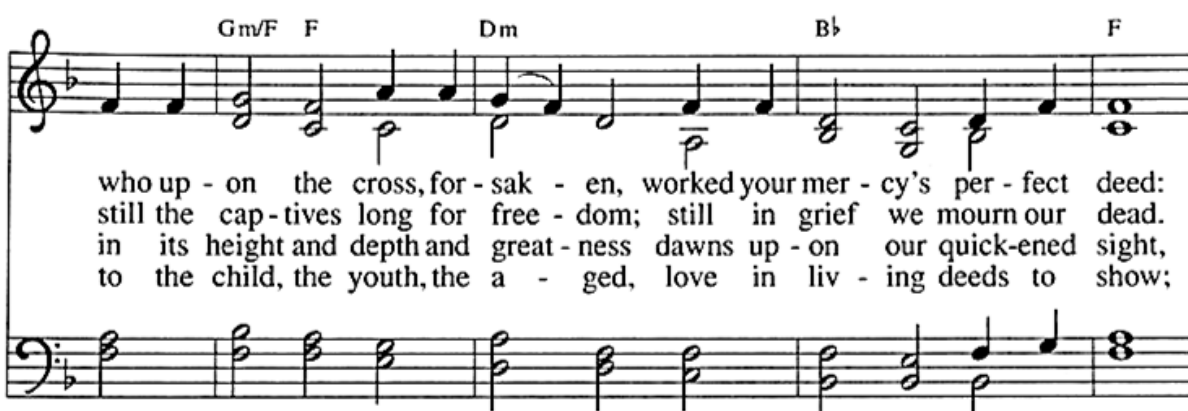
Lord, Whose Love in Humble Service

F Gm/F F Dm B♭ F



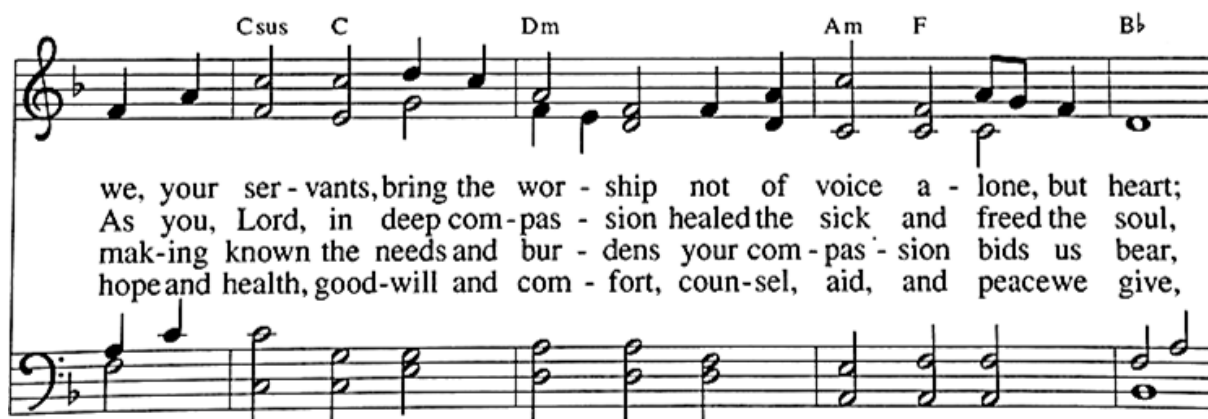
1 Lord, whose love in hum-ble ser - vice bore the weight of hu-man need,
 2 Still your chil-dren wan-der home-less; still the hun - gry cry for bread;
 3 As we wor-ship, grant us vi - sion, till your love's re - veal-ing light
 4 Called by wor-ship to your ser - vice, forth in your dear name we go,

Gm/F F Dm B♭ F



who up - on the cross, for - sak - en, worked your mer - cy's per - fect deed:
 still the cap-tives long for free - dom; still in grief we mourn our dead.
 in its height and depth and great-ness dawns up - on our quick-ened sight,
 to the child, the youth, the a - ged, love in liv - ing deeds to show;

Csus C Dm Am F B♭



we, your ser - vants, bring the wor - ship not of voice a - lone, but heart;
 As you, Lord, in deep com-pas - sion healed the sick and freed the soul,
 mak-ing known the needs and bur - dens your com-pas - sion bids us bear,
 hope and health, good-will and com - fort, coun-sel, aid, and peace we give,

C Dm B♭ F Gm Am B♭ F



con - se - crat - ing to your pur - pose ev - 'ry gift which you im - part.
 by your Spir - it send your pow - er to our world to make it whole.
 stir - ring us to ar - dent ser - vice, your a - bun-dant life to share.
 that your ser - vants, Lord, in free - dom may your mer - cy know and live.

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. Dr. Layne Smith
Interim Senior Minister

Rev. Carrie Veal
Associate Minister

Rev. Marina Luckhoo
Interim Associate Minister

J. Kevin Gray
Minister of Music & Worship



OUR AUDIO/VIDEO TEAM

Wes Cobb

Joe Kuhlmann

Hannah Combs

Eric Roberts

Volunteers

704.334.7232

mpbc@myersparkbaptist.org

We are affiliated with
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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