



The Worship of God

The Fifth Sunday of Lent

April 6, 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

“Prelude and Fugue in E Minor, BWV 533, *The Cathedral*”

Dr. Matthew Manwarren, Organist
J.S. Bach

Call to Worship

Leader: There is a good word for you if you are weary.

People: It is the word of Love, deeper than every despair.

Leader: There is a good word if you have ever felt unworthy.

People: It is the word of Hope, “Do not be afraid!”

Leader: There is a good word that needs to be heard.

People: It is the word of Life, that raises up abundant blessings.

Rev. Dr. Layne Smith
From UCC Worship-Way

Invocation

*Opening Hymn

“There’s a Wideness in God’s Mercy”

See page 6.
IN BABILONE

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.



J. Kevin Gray

*Passing of the Peace

Invitation to Confession

J. Kevin Gray

A Time for Silent Confession

Corporate Prayer of Confession

Loving God, help us.

When we have run away, when we have turned our backs on love,
when we have sought immediate satisfaction and not long-term healing, help us.

Merciful God, forgive us.

When we have been selfish, when we have been mean,
when we have closed our ears to the cries of others, forgive us.

Powerful God, heal us.

When we are so broken we cannot move,
when we don’t know how to stem the bleeding of our wounds,
when we are too ashamed to seek community, heal us.

Give us the courage, the strength, and the hope
to accept your grace and hear your call in Christ.

Amen

Beth Merrill Neel

Song of Prayer

“Forgive Our Sins”

DETROIT

1. “For - give our sins as we for - give,” You
taught us, Lord, to pray, But you a - lone can
grant us grace To live the words we say.

Words of Assurance

Gospel Reading – John 12:1-8 (NRSV)

Mary Miller, Deacon

Six days before the Passover, Jesus came to Bethany, the home of Lazarus, whom he had raised from the dead. There they gave a dinner for him. Martha served, and Lazarus was one of those reclining with him. Mary took a pound of costly perfume made of pure nard, anointed Jesus’s feet, and wiped them with her hair.

The house was filled with the fragrance of the perfume. But Judas Iscariot, one of his disciples (the one who was about to betray him), said, “Why was this perfume not sold for three hundred denarii and the money given to the poor?” (He said this not because he cared about the poor but because he was a thief; he kept the common purse and used to steal what was put into it.)

Jesus said, “Leave her alone. She bought it so that she might keep it for the day of my burial. You always have the poor with you, but you do not always have me.”

Leader: This is the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ.

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 Bailey, Director of Children’s Ministries, and leaders. Parents can pick up children from room 212 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

“Since We Belong to Christ”

Carolyn Winfrey Gillette

ST. THOMAS

Since we be - long to__ Christ, We’re freed from death and sin: In
As Je - sus sat to eat, a__ wo - man took per - fume; as
Since she be - longed to__ Christ, he__ ho - nored her that day. He
Since we are yours, o__ Lord, we__ want to__ share your love. May
gra - ti - tude for this new life, we seek to__ fol - low him.
she a - noin - ted Je - sus’ feet, a fra - grancefilled the room.
knew her gift came at a price, she gave her__ best a way.
gifts we give to help the poor rise up to__ you a - bove.

Sermon

Rev. Dr. Layne Smith

“Throwing a Prodigal Party”

Musical Reflection

“Take My Life ”

Take my life and let it be consecrated, Lord, to thee.
Take my moments and my days; let them flow in ceaseless praise.
Take my hands and let them move at the impulse of thy love.
Take my feet and let them be swift and beautiful for thee.

Refrain:

Here am I, all of me. Take my life, it's all for thee.

Take my will and make it thine; it shall be no longer mine.
Take my heart; it is thine own; it shall be thy royal throne.
Take my love; my Lord, I pour at your feet its treasure store.
Take myself, and I will be ever, only, all for thee. [*Refrain*]

Take my life and let it be consecrated, Lord, to thee.

J. Kevin Gray
Kelly, Lloyd, Webber & Steinberg

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

Rev. Sharon Doar, Deacon

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



Offertory Anthem

“He, Watching Over Israel”

He, watching over Israel, slumbers not, nor sleeps.
Shouldst thou, walking in grief, languish?
He will quicken thee.

Chancel Choir
Felix Mendelssohn

*Presentation of Gifts and the Doxology

**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.**

OLD HUNDREDTH

*Prayer of Dedication

Rev. Sharon Doar, Deacon

***Closing Hymn**

“Called as Partners in Christ’s Service” verses 1, 2 and 3

See page 7.
BEECHER

Benediction

Rev. Dr. Layne Smith

Postlude

“Jesu, Meine Freude, BWV 633”

Dr. Matthew Manwarren, Organist
J.S. Bach

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. Dr. Layne Smith at lsmith@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, Jane Summey | Shalom Hall
 Theme | Compassion and Activism—Can They Work Together?

MYERS PARK BAPTIST CHURCH

Join us for Holy Week

PALM / PASSION SUNDAY April 13 10a Worship	GOOD FRIDAY April 18 12p Service	EASTER SUNDAY April 20 8:45 Breakfast 9:35 Prelude 10a Worship
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IN BABILONE **There's a Wideness in God's Mercy**

1 There's a wide-ness in God's mer - cy, like the wide - ness
 2 For the love of God is broad - er than the mea - sures
 of the sea. There's a kind - ness in God's jus - tice,
 of the mind. And the heart of the E - ter - nal
 which is more than lib - er - ty. There is no place where earth's
 is most won - der - ful - ly kind. If our love were but more
 sor - rows are more felt than up in heaven. There is no place
 faith - ful, we would glad - ly trust God's Word, and our lives re -
 where earth's fail - ings have such kind - ly judg - ment given.
 flect thanks - giv - ing for the good - ness of our Lord.

These stanzas, excerpted from quite a few more, offer a reminder that the model for our dealings with others should be God's generosity rather than limited human tolerance. The text is effectively set to a broad and sturdy Dutch folk melody, probably from the 17th century.

Called as Partners in Christ's Service

BEECHER

1 Called as part-ners in Christ's ser-vice, called to min - is - tries of grace,
 2 Christ's ex-am-ple, Christ's in-spir-ing, Christ's clear call to work and worth,
 3 Thus new pat-terns for Christ's mis-sion, in a small or glob-al sense,
 4 So God grant us for to - mor-row ways to or - der hu - man life

we re-pond with deep com-mit-ment fresh new lines of faith to trace.
 let us fol - low, nev - er fal-tering, rec - on - cil - ing folk on earth.
 help us bear each oth - er's bur-dens, break-ing down each wall or fence.
 that sur-round each per - son's sor-row with a calm that con-quests strife.

May we learn the art of shar-ing, side by side and friend with friend,
 Men and wom-en, rich - er, poor - er, all God's peo - ple, young and old,
 Words of com - fort, words of vi - sion, words of chal-lenge, said with care,
 Make us part-ners in our liv - ing, our com-pas-sion to in - crease,

e - qual part-ners in our car - ing to ful - fill God's cho - sen end.
 blend-ing hu - man skills to - geth - er gra - cious gifts from God un - fold.
 bring new power and strength for ac - tion, make us col-leagues, free and fair.
 mes - sen-gers of faith, thus giv-ing hope and con - fi - dence and peace.

This hymn is a celebration of mutuality and diversity as well as a challenge to the Christian community to live out a ministry of reconciliation and inclusion. This 20th-century text is set to a 19th-century tune named for the noted pastor and preacher Henry Ward Beecher.

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  Alliance of Baptists

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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