



"Resurrection," Donald Jackson, Copyright 2002, The Saint John's Bible

The Worship of God
Easter Sunday

April 20, 2025 | 10:00a

The Music of Easter 9:30a



**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.

Worship activities for children are available in the Narthex.

All are invited to pick up an Alleluia bell from the Narthex to ring when the word “Alleluia” is spoken or sung.

Music of Easter

“Voluntary on Old Hundredth”

“Voluntary”

“Canzona per Sonare No. 4”

“My Spirit be Joyful”

“Christe Redemptor”

Carolina Brass

Henry Purcell

William Boyce Largo, Moderato

J. S. Bach

G. Gabrieli, arr. Page

Claudio Monteverdi

Carolina Brass with Dr. Matthew Manwarren, Organist

Gospel Reading – Choral Introit:

“Life Everlasting”

Chancel Choir with Claudio Olivera, Pianist

J. Kevin Gray

Luke 24:1-12 (NRSV)

Mary Miller, Choir Member

But on the first day of the week, at early dawn, they came to the tomb, taking the spices that they had prepared. They found the stone rolled away from the tomb, but when they went in, they did not find the body. While they were perplexed about this, suddenly two men in dazzling clothes stood beside them. The women were terrified and bowed their faces to the ground, but the men said to them, “Why do you look for the living among the dead? He is not here but has risen. Remember how he told you, while he was still in Galilee, that the Son of Man must be handed over to sinners, and be crucified, and on the third day rise again.”

Then they remembered his words, and returning from the tomb, they told all this to the eleven and to all the rest. Now it was Mary Magdalene, Joanna, Mary the mother of James, and the other women with them who told this to the apostles. But these words seemed to them an idle tale, and they did not believe them. But Peter got up and ran to the tomb; stooping and looking in, he saw the linen cloths by themselves; then he went home, amazed at what had happened.

***Easter Proclamation**

Rev. Dr. Layne Smith

Leader: Christ is risen.

People: Christ is risen indeed. Alleluia!

Leader: And become the first fruits of those who have fallen asleep.

People: Death is swallowed up in victory.

Leader: Thanks be to God,

People: who gives us life through our Lord Jesus Christ.

***Opening Hymn**

“Christ the Lord is Risen Today”

EASTER HYMN

Christ the Lord is risen today, Alleluia!

All creation join to say, Alleluia!

Raise your joys and triumphs high, Alleluia!

Sing, O heavens, and earth reply, Alleluia!

Love's redeeming work is done, Alleluia!
Fought the fight, the battle won, Alleluia!
Death in vain forbids him rise, Alleluia!
Christ has opened paradise, Alleluia!

Lives again our glorious King, Alleluia!
Where, O death, is now thy sting? Alleluia!
Jesus died our souls to save, Alleluia!
Where your victory, O grave? Alleluia!

Hail the Lord of earth and heaven, Alleluia!
Praise to you by both be given, Alleluia!
Every knee to you shall bow, Alleluia!
Risen Christ, triumphant now, Alleluia!

Welcome of Our Guests

Rev. Dr. Layne Smith

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



Musical Reflection

Madeline Olivera, Soloist
George F. Handel

“I Know that My Redeemer Liveth” (from *Messiah*)
I know that my Redeemer liveth, and that he shall stand
at the latter day upon the earth.
And tho’ worms destroy this body,
yet in my flesh shall I see God.
For now is Christ risen from the dead,
the first fruits of them that sleep.

*Sermon Hymn

ODE TO JOY

“Alleluia! Alleluia!”
Alleluia, alleluia!
Hearts to heav'n and voices raise:
Sing to God a hymn of gladness,
sing to God a hymn of praise.
He, who on the cross a victim
for the love of all was bled,
Jesus Christ, the king of glory,
now is risen from the dead.

Now the iron bars are broken,
Christ from death to life is born,
glorious life, and life immortal,
on the holy Easter morn.
Christ has triumphed, and we conquer
by his mighty enterprise;
we with him to life eternal
by his resurrection rise.

Alleluia, alleluia!
Glory be to God on high!
Alleluia! To the Savior who has gained the victory!
Once he died and he was buried:
now he lives forever more.
Jesus Christ the world's redeemer,
whom we worship and adore.

Sermon

"Looking For the Living "

Rev. Dr. Bill Leonard

Musical Reflection

"Simple Gifts"

Carolina Brass
Aaron Copland

Church at Prayer

Rev. Marina Luckhoo

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

"Fairest Lord Jesus"

Chancel Choir
Derek Hakes

Fairest Lord Jesus, ruler of all nature, O thou of God and man the Son,
thee will I cherish, thee will I honor, thou, my soul's glory, joy and crown.
Fair are the meadows, fairer still the woodlands,
robed in the blooming garb of spring;
Jesus is fairer, Jesus is purer, who makes the woeful heart to sing.
Fair is the sunshine, fairer still the moonlight,
and all the twinkling starry host; Jesus shines brighter,
Jesus shines purer than all the angels heav'n can boast.
Beautiful Savior! Lord of all the nations! Son of God and Son of Man!
Glory and honor, praise, adoration, now and forevermore be thine.

*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

"Christ is Alive!"

TRURO

Christ is alive! Let Christians sing.
The cross stands empty to the sky.
Let streets and homes with praises ring.
Love, drowned in death, shall never die.

In every insult, rift, and war,
where color, scorn, or wealth divide,
Christ suffers still, yet loves the more,
and lives, where even hope has died.

Women and men, in age and youth,
can feel the Spirit, hear the call
and find the way, the life, the truth,
revealed in Jesus, freed for all.

Christ is alive, and comes to bring
good news to this and every age,
till earth and sky and ocean ring
with joy, with justice, love, and praise.

*Responses

Rev. Dr. Layne Smith

Choral Anthem

"Hallelujah Chorus" (from *Messiah*)

Chancel Choir
George F. Handel

Hallelujah, for the Lord God Omnipotent reigneth, Hallelujah!
The Kingdom of this world is become the Kingdom of our Lord and of his Christ;
and he shall reign for ever and ever, King of Kings, and Lord of Lords.
Hallelujah!

Please remain seated during the Hallelujah Chorus and Benediction

Easter Benediction

Rev. Dr. Bill Leonard

Postlude

"Toccata from Symphonie V"

Dr. Matthew Manwarren, Organist
Charles-Marie Widor

***We are delighted to welcome our special guest musicians,
to this morning's service.***

Carolina Brass:
Tim Hudson, Trumpet
Ganesh Om, Trumpet
Bob Campbell, Horn
David Wulfeck, Trombone
Justin Worley, Tuba

Claudio Olivera, Pianist

Dr. Matthew Manwarren, Organist

TO JOIN MYERS 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



The banner with bells is called a Tintinnabulum. Created by Beth Resler Walters, a member of the congregation, it is made of differing pieces of cloth and bells from around the world. It represents the individuality and harmony of voices from around the world, all ringing out together in praise of God: Alleluia!

Bells in the Blue Tintinnabulum

- The Jesus bell is the highest, crystal-clear, with a clapper encircled by fish.
- There are bells from Ireland, Japan and Turkey, among others.
- One holds the scripture “They who wait upon the Lord...”
- One is a large musical eighth note, representing musicians.
- One is a small cowbell, honoring how south Charlotte, even just some 35 years ago, was farm land, and before that was tilled where SouthPark Mall is now located.
- One has a Muslim medal.



Join the MPBC AIDS Walk Team – Support RAIN’s Life-Saving Work!

Led by Scott Crowder, our MPBC team is raising funds for RAIN’s programs that support people living with HIV in our community. While HIV is now treatable, many in the Deep South, including North Carolina, still face high rates of new diagnoses and deaths due to stigma and inequality.

RAIN provides compassionate care, helping those affected by HIV live long, healthy lives. The **AIDS Walk Charlotte** is RAIN’s signature fundraiser, and we’ve set a goal to raise **\$8,000**.

Join us on **Saturday, May 31**, for the walk, or make a donation today to help us reach our goal. Together, we can make a lasting impact.

To donate or join our team, visit Myersparkbaptist.org and click on “View Current Newsletter”.

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. Marina Luckhoo
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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