

THE WORSHIP OF GOD

The First Sunday of Pentecost

June 15, 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 main level). Please see a greeter for more information.
Worship activities for children are available in the Narthex.**

Prelude

“Fugue in E-Flat Major, BWV 552b”

Dr. Matthew Manwarren, Organist
J.S. Bach

Call to Worship

J. Kevin Gray

Leader: O God, we have come from far and near,

People: gathering as your church;

Leader: eager to hear your call, to make ourselves ready,

People: ready, for an encounter with you that transforms us.

Leader: O God, help us to make our hearts open,

People: open, to all you have to offer on this day, and for all the days of our journey.

Invocation

*Opening Hymn

“God of All Expand Our Minds”

God of all expand our minds, Alleluia!

Teach us joy for what we find, Alleluia!

Help us follow where you lead, Alleluia!

Instead of all we're taught to heed, Alleluia!

You are making all things new, Alleluia!

Feel it starting in the pew, Alleluia!

Christ calls us to a new way, Alleluia!

“Love them all,” you heard him say, Alleluia!

EASTER HYMN
Text by J. Kevin Gray

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.*



*Passing of the Peace

A Moment of Centering

Rev. Marina Luckhoo

Psalms 130:5 and Romans 8:6

O Lord, we wait for you, and in your word we trust. By the power of your Spirit,
set our hearts and minds on the source of life and peace: Jesus Christ our Savior.

Take a few moments to breathe and still the mind.



People: 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 – John 3:1-17 (NRSV)

Robin Buck, Transition Team Member

Now there was a Pharisee named Nicodemus, a leader of the Jews. He came to Jesus by night and said to him, “Rabbi, we know that you are a teacher who has come from God, for no one can do these signs that you do unless God is with that person.” Jesus answered him, “Very truly, I tell you, no one can see the kingdom of God without being born from above.” Nicodemus said to him, “How can anyone be born after having grown old? Can one enter a second time into the mother’s womb and be born?” Jesus answered, “Very truly, I tell you, no one can enter the kingdom of God without being born of water and Spirit. What is born of the flesh is flesh, and what is born of the Spirit is Spirit. Do not be astonished that I said to you, ‘You must be born from above.’

The wind blows where it chooses, and you hear the sound of it, but you do not know where it comes from or where it goes. So, it is with everyone who is born of the Spirit.” Nicodemus said to him, “How can these things be?” Jesus answered him, “Are you the teacher of Israel, and yet you do not understand these things?”

“Very truly, I tell you, we speak of what we know and testify to what we have seen, yet you do not receive our testimony. If I have told you about earthly things and you do not believe, how can you believe if I tell you about heavenly things? No one has ascended into heaven except the one who descended from heaven, the Son of Man. And just as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, so must the Son of Man be lifted up, that whoever believes in him may have eternal life.” “For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him may not perish but may have eternal life. Indeed, God did not send the Son into the world to condemn the world but in order that the world might be saved through him.”

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.



"Jesus and Nicodemus" Henry Ossawa Tanner

*Sermon Hymn

NETTLETON

"Nicodemus Sought Out Jesus"

words by Carolyn Winfrey Gillette

Nicodemus sought out Jesus at a lonely, quiet hour.
He said, "Teacher, God is with you! For in you we see God's power."
Jesus turned and gave an answer, filled with challenge and with love:
"You can never see God's kingdom till you're born from heav'n above."

"Born again!" said Nicodemus. "Is that something one can do?"
Jesus said, "Don't be surprised now that you must be born anew.
And it's not by your own doing; wind and Spirit will blow free!
They are not for your controlling; trust in God for what will be."

God, your Spirit still surprises like an ever-changing wind,
Bringing life and love and justice where despair and death have been.
May we see your Spirit working as a gift from heav'n above.
Blest, may we then be a blessing to this world that you so love.

Sermon

"Jesus Works the Night Shift"

Rev. Dr. Layne Smith

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

Jenny Martella, Deacon

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



Offertory Anthem

Chancel Choir
Joseph M. Martin

“Who Knows Where the Wind Blows”

Who knows where the wind blows?
Where it comes from, where it goes.
Hear the wind blow.
For such is the Spirit of God.

Refrain:

Who knows where the wind blows?
Where it comes from, where it goes.
Hear the wind blow.
For such is the Spirit of God.

Blow through me Spirit of God.
Refresh my life.
Help me to know your truth.
Fill me with your power from on high. *[Refrain]*

*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

Jenny Martella, Deacon

*Closing Hymn

EASTER HYMN

“God of All Expand Our Minds”

Go now to your separate lives, Alleluia!
Feeling still your kindred ties, Alleluia!
Sharing grace and God's good love, Alleluia!
Earth shall be as that above, Alleluia!

A Word from the Transition Team

Carla Hines, Transition Team Member

Use the area below for notes and personal reflections.

Benediction

Postlude

“Trinity Procession on NICAEA”

Dr. Matthew Manwarren, Organist
Phil Lehenbauer

*Flowers on the altar are given to the glory of God and
in honor of Christa A. Overcash and in loving memory of Reece A. Overcash, Jr.
by Belvie and Kay Jenkins, the Alice Jenkins Cookson family, and the Carter Jenkins family.*



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



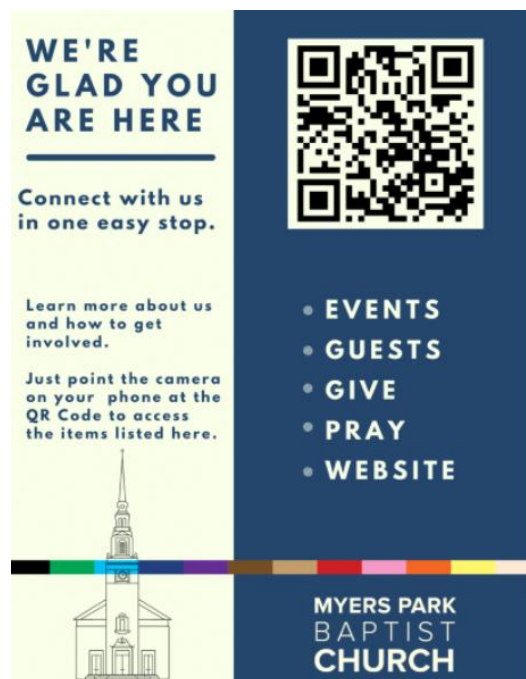
Audio/Video Team Members are Wes Cobb, Joe Kuhlmann,
Hannah Combs and Eric Roberts.



At Myers Park Baptist Church, we strive for inclusive language. However, there are times due to the historical nature or context of the text that we choose to leave language unchanged as initially presented. Be assured that MPBC holds God as non-gender-specific; God's essence encompasses all.

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. Marina Luckhoo at mluckhoo@myersparkbaptist.org.



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
lsmith@myersparkbaptist.org

Rev. Marina Luckhoo
Associate Minister
mluckhoo@myersparkbaptist.org

J. Kevin Gray
Minister of Music & Worship
kgray@myersparkbaptist.org

704.334.7232
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We are affiliated with
allianceofbaptists.org



UPCOMING EVENTS

Sunday June 15th
11a-12:30p Transition Team Meeting

Monday June 16th
9a-5p Curt Frueh Stratagemics Camp Begins

Tuesday June 17th
10:30a-12p Staff Meeting
7p-9:30p Carolina Voices

Wednesday June 18th
12p-1p Cornwell Advisory Board Meeting

Friday June 20th
6:30p-9:00p Charlotte Amateur Astronomers Club

Saturday June 21st
10a-12p Corinne Bertin Alliance Francaise

Sunday June 22nd
11:15a-1:00p Congregational Lunch and Transitional Team Meeting

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.