



THE WORSHIP OF GOD

Sunday

June 29, 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

“My Heart Abounds in Pleasure in This Fair Summertime”

Dr. Matthew Manwarren, Organist
Johannes Brahms

Call to Worship

J. Kevin Gray

Leader: Needing guidance, we gather in our shared search for wisdom.
People: **With hope we await the divine voice that will fill our hearts with understanding.**
Leader: Acknowledging weakness, we gather out of our common need for strength.
People: **With confidence we look for holy empowerment that will endure the challenges of our time.**
Leader: Trusting in love, we gather as heirs of eternal light and redemption.
People: **With joy we worship the Creator whose Spirit calls us into the heart of Christ.**

Invocation

*Opening Hymn

“Christ Has Called Us to New Visions”

See page 337 in the hymnal
IN BABILONE

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. Kevin Gray

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.

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

**Please rise in body or in spirit.*



Gospel Reading – Luke 9:51-62 (NRSV)

Kate Green, Congregant

When the days drew near for Jesus to be taken up, he set his face to go to Jerusalem. And he sent messengers ahead of him. On their way they entered a village of the Samaritans to prepare for his arrival, but they did not receive him because his face was set toward Jerusalem. When his disciples James and John saw this, they said, “Lord, do you want us to command fire to come down from heaven and consume them?” But he turned and rebuked them. Then they went on to another village.

As they were going along the road, someone said to him, “I will follow you wherever you go.” And Jesus said to him, “Foxes have holes, and birds of the air have nests, but the Son of Man has nowhere to lay his head.” To another he said, “Follow me.” But he said, “Lord, first let me go and bury my father.” And Jesus said to him, “Let the dead bury their own dead, but as for you, go and proclaim the kingdom of God.” Another said, “I will follow you, Lord, but let me first say farewell to those at my home.” And Jesus said to him, “No one who puts a hand to the plow and looks back is fit for the kingdom of God.”

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

“O Young and Fearless Prophet” verses 1, 2 and 4

See page 246 in the hymnal
PASSION CHORALE

Sermon

“We Will Follow You, But...”

Rev. Dr. Layne Smith

Musical Reflection

“Jesus Was Real”

J. Kevin Gray

Never covered in robes, weighted down with gold,
he was never bought off, yet in the end he was sold,
he was real, that's what crowds all said.

He knew that greed created people in need, and
their bodies and souls he just wanted to feed,
he was real, that's what the empires feared.
And they still fear, when his spirit is near.

Jesus was real, like you and I, he could feel.
He wasn't made out of stone, he was like grain in the field.
Grain made into bread, bread given for food,
not just transcendent thought, Jesus was real.

The poor flocked to him because they needed to see
this healer, this teacher from Galilee,
a flesh and blood man who saw the pain in their eyes.

He ate with sinners and saints, with the clean and unclean,
he preached love for each other, opened eyes to see,
the need for grace, and justice for all.
And if you listen close, you'll still hear his call.

Jesus was real, like you and I, he could feel.
He wasn't made out of stone, he was like grain in the field.
Grain made into bread, bread given for food,
not just transcendent thought, Jesus was real.

What they saw in him they could see in you,
if you poured yourself out and let God's light shine through,
you could be real, you could change the world,
just let go and lean into love.

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

Tony Dick, Deacon

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



Offertory Anthem

“Christ is Made the Sure Foundation”

Christ is made the sure foundation,
Christ the head and corner stone,
chosen of the Lord, and precious,
binding all the church in one,
Holy Zion’s help forever,
and her confidence alone.

To this temple, where we call thee,
come, O Lord of hosts today,
with thy wonted loving kindness,
hear thy servants as they pray,
and thy fullest benediction
shed within its walls always.

Laud and honor to the father,
laud and honor to the son,
laud and honor to the spirit,
ever three and ever one.
One in might and one in glory,
while unending ages run.

Chancel Choir
arr. Dale Wood

*Presentation of Gifts and the Doxology

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!

LASST UNS ERFREUEN

*Prayer of Dedication

Tony Dick, Deacon

*Closing Hymn

“I Have Decided to Follow Jesus”

See page 7 in the bulletin
ASSAM

Responding to the Word

Rev. Dr. Layne Smith

Benediction

Postlude

“Pasticcio”

Dr. Matthew Manwarren, Organist
Jean Langlais

*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.



The flowers on the altar are placed in memory of 1st Lt. Robert M. Gribble of the 14th Engineer Battalion, U.S. Army, who died in Vietnam on March 29, 1971. They are donated by Doug Sterner (U.S. Army) and Don Thompson (U.S. Air Force).



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. Layne Smith at lsmith@myersparkbaptist.org.



Statement on LGBTQ+ Inclusion by Myers Park Baptist Church, Charlotte, NC

Myers Park Baptist Church has long stood for inclusivity in our faith community. We originally affirmed this statement almost twenty-four years ago while revising it almost three years ago to make it even more inclusive. We categorically reject any and all attempts to view or treat our LGBTQ+ sisters and brothers as any less valued than any other human. We continue to stand by and seek to live out this statement of inclusion in our individual lives, in our community of faith, and in our world.

At this point in our life together, we seek a fuller statement of our inclusiveness. We are a Church that believes in the worth of every person as the good creation of God, and we are a Church committed to justice and peace in the civic realm. As such, we want to state our full welcome to and affirmation of all who wish to join us on our journey of faith as outlined in our Covenant. "Open to all and closed to none" means we welcome and affirm all persons without regard to race, gender identity, gender expression, sexual orientation or attraction, biological sex, age, economic status, physical or mental capacity. We believe that God's call, gifts, and blessings are given to all God's people, and we embrace the Spirit of God that calls, gifts, and blesses.

I Have Decided to Follow Jesus

text: anonymous

ASSAM



1. I have de - cid - ed to fol - low
 2. The world be - hind me, the cross be -
 3. Though none go with me, I still will



Je - sus, I have de - cid - ed to fol - low
 fore me, the world be - hind me, the cross be -
 fol - low, though none go with me, I still will



Je - sus, I have de - cid - ed to fol - low
 fore me, the world be - hind me, the cross be -
 fol - low, though none go with me, I still will



Je - sus: no turn-ing back, _____ no turn-ing
 fore me: no turn-ing back, _____ no turn-ing
 fol - low: no turn-ing back, _____ no turn-ing



back. _____
 back. _____
 back. _____

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 29th
11a- 12:30p Transition Team Meeting
11:15a-12:00p Coffee Chat – Heaton Hall

Tuesday July 1st
10:30a-12p Staff Meeting
7p-9:30p Carolina Voices

Thursday July 3rd
Church Office Closed

Friday July 4th
Church Office Closed

Sunday July 6th
11:15a-12:00p Coffee Chat- Heaton Hall
No childcare will be available during our worship service today. Children are welcome to stay in the sanctuary and participate in worship.

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.