

## THE WORSHIP OF GOD

Sunday

July 6, 2025

10:00a

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**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 will not be available during our worship service today.  
Children are welcome to stay in the sanctuary and participate in the service.  
Worship activities for children are available in the Narthex.***

### **Prelude**

“Prelude on SIMPLE GIFTS”

Dr. Matthew Manwarren, Organist  
Wilbur Held

### **Call to Worship**

J. Kevin Gray

Leader: With powerful words and dramatic gestures, with a quiet conversation and a gentle touch,

**People: we respond to God’s call to offer healing and hope to our world.**

Leader: With courage to face the injustices around us, with the willingness to go into the brokenness,

**People: we fulfill the call of Jesus to engage in faithful obedience.**

Leader: With the patience of a teacher of six-year-olds, with the gentleness of a nurse helping a patient,

**People: we become the Spirit’s refuge for all who live in worry and fear.**

### **Invocation**

#### **\*Opening Hymn**

“Not Alone for Mighty Empire” verses 1, 2 and 4

Number 289  
HYFRYDOL

### **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

Isaiah 40:31

But those who wait for the Lord shall renew their strength;  
they shall mount up with wings like eagles;  
they shall run and not be weary;  
they shall walk and not faint.

*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 – Galatians 6:7-16 (NRSV)**

Rev. Deborah Moore Clark, Choir Member

Do not be deceived; God is not mocked, for you reap whatever you sow. If you sow to your own flesh, you will reap corruption from the flesh, but if you sow to the Spirit, you will reap eternal life from the Spirit. So let us not grow weary in doing what is right, for we will reap at harvest time, if we do not give up. So then, whenever we have an opportunity, let us work for the good of all and especially for those of the family of faith.

**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**

“Be Thou My Vision”

Number 309

SLANE

**Sermon**

“Serve Till You Drop? Examining Faithfulness”

Rev. Dr. Layne Smith

**Musical Reflection**

“Hear My Prayer”

Hear my prayer, O God, incline thine ear.  
Thyself from my petition do not hide.  
Take heed to me.

Greg Pipkin  
Felix Mendelssohn

Hear how in prayer I mourn to thee.  
Take heed to me, take heed to me.



Without thee all is dark, I have no guide.  
I have no guide, no guide.  
Without thee all is dark.  
I have no guide; I have no guide.

Hear my prayer, O God, incline thine ear.  
Thyself from my petition do not hide.

My heart is sorely pained within my breast.  
My soul with deathly terror is oppress'd.  
Trembling and fearfulness upon me fall.  
With horror overwhelm'd, Lord, hear me call.

O for the wings, for the wings of a dove,  
far away, far away would I rove.

In the wilderness build me a nest,  
and remain there forever at rest.

### 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

Anna-Catherine Fowler, Deacon

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



### Offertory

"How Firm a Foundation"

Dr. Matthew Manwarren, Organist  
arr. Michael Burkhardt

### \*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**

“Lord of All Good”

Number 239

TOULON

**Responding to the Word**

Rev. Dr. Layne Smith

**A Word from the Transition Team**

Robin Buck, Transition Team Member

**Benediction**

**Postlude**

“Postlude on Two American Folk Hymns”

Dr. Matthew Manwarren, Organist

*Charles Callahan*

***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](mailto:mluckhoo@myersparkbaptist.org).






## Supporting Our Neighbors in Need of Food

Drop off non-perishable food items in the bins now located throughout our campus! Your donations support the largest food pantry network in NC, along with home grocery delivery and Meals on Wheels.



**MYERS PARK  
BAPTIST  
CHURCH**

Canned Goods, Flour, Sugar, Rice, Pasta, Grits, Beans, Peanut Butter, Non-perishables



Freedom  
School  
Partners

June 23–July 31

**Pinewood  
Freedom  
School**

Whether you're reading with scholars or supporting behind the scenes, there are so many meaningful ways to show up for students and families this summer.



MYERS PARK  
BAPTIST  
CHURCH

Freedom School is in full swing through July 31<sup>st</sup> and there are still volunteer slots open!

Among them are Reading Buddies, candy toppings for the Ice Cream Social, desserts and salads for the first Family Sharing night, chaperones for field trips, swimming, and skating.

All of these and more, are ready for volunteer sign-ups!

Your involvement will be enjoyed and greatly appreciated!

Questions? Call Martha Abernethy (704) 606-0161 [martha.abernethy59@gmail.com](mailto:martha.abernethy59@gmail.com)

or Jeanie Phillips (304) 481-9449 [jeanphillips42@hotmail.com](mailto:jeanphillips42@hotmail.com).

## 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](mailto:lsmith@myersparkbaptist.org)

**Rev. Marina Luckhoo**  
Associate Minister  
[mluckhoo@myersparkbaptist.org](mailto:mluckhoo@myersparkbaptist.org)

**J. Kevin Gray**  
Minister of Music & Worship  
[kgray@myersparkbaptist.org](mailto:kgray@myersparkbaptist.org)

704.334.7232  
[mpbc@myersparkbaptist.org](mailto:mpbc@myersparkbaptist.org)

We are affiliated with  
[allianceofbaptists.org](http://allianceofbaptists.org)



### UPCOMING EVENTS

Sunday, July 6<sup>th</sup>  
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.

Tuesday, July 8<sup>th</sup>  
10:30-12:00p Staff Meeting

Saturday, July 12<sup>th</sup>  
9am – 11am Landscaping Project – Brick Patio

*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](mailto:lgeer@myersparkbaptist.org).*