

## THE WORSHIP OF GOD

Sunday

July 13, 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 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

“Trumpet Voluntary”

Dr. Matthew Manwarren, Organist  
Raymond Weidner

### Call to Worship

Rev. Marina Luckhoo

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

“The Church of Christ in Every Age” verses 1, 3 and 5

Number 219  
WAREHAM

### Welcome of Our Guests

Rev. Marina Luckhoo

*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

J. Kevin Gray

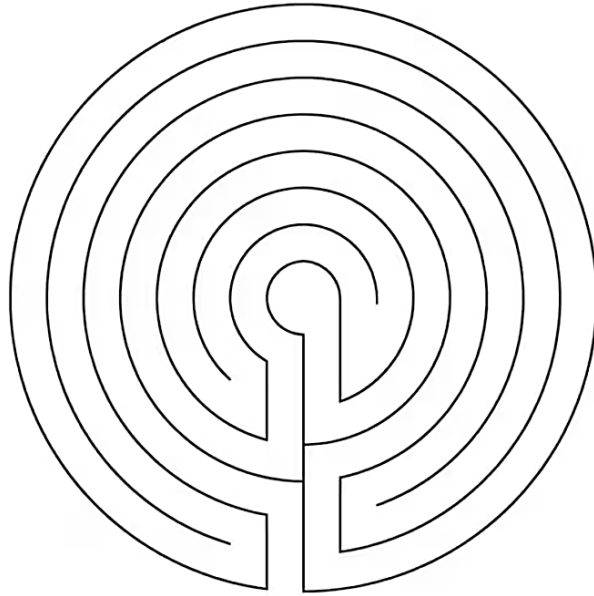
Colossians 1:11-12

May you be made strong with all the strength that comes from his glorious power,

so that you may have all endurance and patience,

joyfully giving thanks to the God.

*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 – Luke 10:25-37 (NRSV)**

Ted Phillips, Congregant

An expert in the law stood up to test Jesus. “Teacher,” he said, “what must I do to inherit eternal life?” He said to him, “What is written in the law? What do you read there?” He answered, “You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your strength and with all your mind and your neighbor as yourself.” And he said to him, “You have given the right answer; do this, and you will live.”

But wanting to vindicate himself, he asked Jesus, “And who is my neighbor?” Jesus replied, “A man was going down from Jerusalem to Jericho and fell into the hands of robbers, who stripped him, beat him, and took off, leaving him half dead. Now by chance a priest was going down that road, and when he saw him he passed by on the other side. So likewise, a Levite, when he came to the place and saw him, passed by on the other side. But a Samaritan while traveling came upon him, and when he saw him he was moved with compassion. He went to him and bandaged his wounds, treating them with oil and wine. Then he put him on his own animal, brought him to an inn, and took care of him. The next day he took out two denarii, gave them to the innkeeper, and said, ‘Take care of him, and when I come back I will repay you whatever more you spend.’ Which of these three, do you think, was a neighbor to the man who fell into the hands of the robbers?” He said, “The one who showed him mercy.” Jesus said to him, “Go and do likewise.”

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

**People:** Thanks be to God.



### \*Sermon Hymn

AURELIA

“O God, You Give Us Neighbors”

words by Carolyn Winfrey Gillette

O God, you give us neighbors for whom your love abounds.  
They've come here seeking refuge; they work here in our towns.  
Their children go to school here; they come to church and pray.  
O Lord, we grieve when neighbors are being sent away.

God, you give us neighbors and call us all to see  
our common fears and longings, our shared humanity.  
You call us all to listen to burdens they have known,  
to hear the truth they tell us, to see the love they've shown.

O God, you give us neighbors; and now, what must we do?  
This question asked of Jesus is one we ask anew.  
May we not make excuses and choose to walk on by  
these neighbors fleeing violence — some sent back now to die.

God, may we work for justice for those who live in fear;  
may we show Christ's compassion, and pray and persevere —  
and by your Holy Spirit, in all we do and say,  
may we stand up for neighbors now being sent away.

### Sermon

“Wounded Travelers and Welcoming Innkeepers”

Rev. Dr. Layne Smith

### Musical Reflection

McKenzie Coleman and David Young, Choir Members

“You Raise Me Up”

Rolf Lovland

When I am down and, oh my soul, so weary;  
when troubles come and my heart burdened be;  
then, I am still and wait here in the silence,  
until you come and sit awhile with me.

You raise me up, so I can stand on mountains;  
you raise me up, to walk on stormy seas;  
I am strong, when I am on your shoulders;  
you raise me up... to more than I can be.

There is no life - no life without its hunger;  
each restless heart beats so imperfectly;  
but when you come and I am filled with wonder,  
sometimes, I think I glimpse eternity.

You raise me up, so I can stand on mountains;  
you raise me up, to walk on stormy seas;  
I am strong, when I am on your shoulders;  
you raise me up... to more than I can be.

### Church at Prayer

Rev. Dr. Layne Smith

### 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

Julie Barfield, Deacon

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



### Offertory Anthem

Chancel Choir  
Mark Miller

"I Believe"  
I believe in the sun,  
  
I believe in the sun, even when, even when it's not shining,  
  
I believe in love, even when, even when I don't feel it,  
  
I believe in God, even when, even when God is silent.

### Worship Notes:

*The Inscription of Hope and Cologne Cathedral*

The words of today's anthem were originally found written on the wall of the basement in Cologne Cathedral during World War II.

The basement of the cathedral became a hiding place for Jewish families evading Hitler and the Nazi regime.

The poem is believed to have been written by a Jewish child.

### \*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

Julie Barfield, Deacon

### \*Closing Hymn

“Sent Forth by God’s Blessing”

Number 371  
ASHE GROVE

### A Word from the Transition Team

Tammie Lesesne, Transition Team Member

### Responding to the Word

Rev. Dr. Layne Smith

### Pastoral Blessing

### Postlude

“Fanfare”

Dr. Matthew Manwarren, Organist  
C.S. Lang

*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.

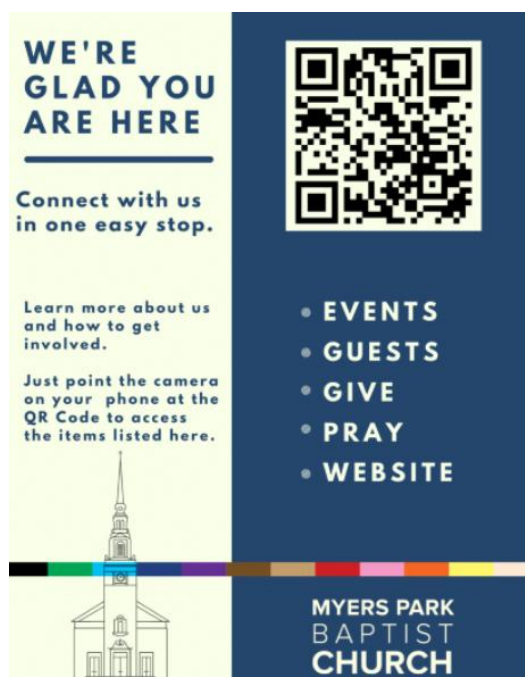


At Myers Park Baptist Church, we strive for inclusive language. However, there are times due to the historical nature or context of the text that we choose to leave language unchanged as initially presented. Be assured that MPBC holds God as non-gender-specific; God's essence encompasses all.



### 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).





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).




**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

## 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 13<sup>th</sup>  
8:00am-6:30pm O'Connor Music Camp Starts  
11:15am-12:00pm Coffee Chat – Heaton Hall  
11:30am-12:30pm Transition Team Meeting

Tuesday, July 15<sup>th</sup>  
10:30am-12:00pm Staff Meeting

Wednesday, July 16<sup>th</sup>  
12:00pm-1:00pm Cornwell Advisory Board Meeting

Sunday, July 20<sup>th</sup>  
11:15am-12:00pm Coffee Chat – Heaton Hall

*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).*