

THE WORSHIP OF GOD

Sunday

July 27, 2025
10:00am



**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

Dr. Matthew Manwarren, Organist
George Shearing

“There is a Happy Land”
“I Love Thee, My Lord”

Call to Worship

Rev. Dane Jordan

Leader: Come, beloved community—gather at the shore with the seekers, the hungry, the hopeful. We have seen signs and wonders, bread multiplied, and compassion made manifest.

People: **We come as witnesses of the One who feeds and frees, who turns scarcity into abundance, and questions into deeper truth.**

Leader: In this place, we ask not only for miracles—but for meaning. Not only for bread—but for the boldness to become signs ourselves.

People: **May we be signs of justice, symbols of grace, breadcrumbs leading others toward love Incarnate.**

Leader: Come, you who have tasted provision and long for transformation. Come, worship the Source who calls each of us to be bread for the journey.

People: **We are here. We are ready. Let us worship with wonder and witness.**

Invocation

*Opening Hymn

“I Come with Joy” stanzas 1, 3, and 4

Number 367
DOVE OF PEACE

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

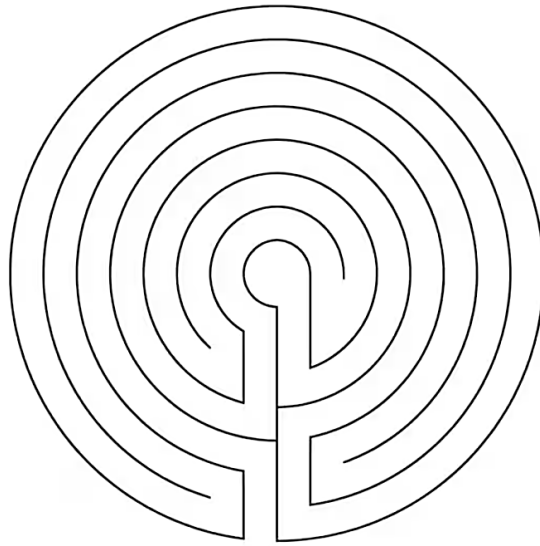
A Moment of Centering

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.

*Please rise in body or in spirit.



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 6:1-15 (NRSV)

Victoria Yeghoyan, Congregant

After this, Jesus went to the other side of the Sea of Galilee, also called the Sea of Tiberias. A large crowd kept following him because they saw the signs that he was doing for the sick. Jesus went up the mountain and sat down there with his disciples.

Now the Passover, the festival of the Jews, was near. When he looked up and saw a large crowd coming toward him, Jesus said to Philip, “Where are we to buy bread for these people to eat?” He said this to test him, for he himself knew what he was going to do. Philip answered him, “Two hundred denarii would not buy enough bread for each of them to get a little.”

One of his disciples, Andrew, Simon Peter’s brother, said to him, “There is a boy here who has five barley loaves and two fish. But what are they among so many people?” Jesus said, “Make the people sit down.” Now there was a great deal of grass in the place, so they sat down, about five thousand in all. Then Jesus took the loaves, and when he had given thanks, he distributed them to those who were seated; so also, the fish, as much as they wanted. When they were satisfied, he told his disciples, “Gather up the fragments left over, so that nothing may be lost.” So, they gathered them up, and from the fragments of the five barley loaves, left by those who had eaten, they filled twelve baskets. When the people saw the sign that he had done, they began to say, “This is indeed the prophet who is to come into the world.”

When Jesus realized that they were about to come and take him by force to make him king, he withdrew again to the mountain by himself.

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

People: Thanks be to God.

*Sermon Hymn

BEECHER

words by Carolyn Winfrey Gillette

"Where is Bread?"

"Where is bread?" the great crowd murmured —
thousands strong, yet all in need.
"Where is bread?" your people wondered,
faced with such a crowd to feed.
Who, Lord Jesus, could have guessed it?
One small boy brought food to share.
Taking what he gave, you blessed it;
all were fed, with much to spare.

Where is bread? We know their yearning;
every day, we wish for more.
God, in time, we're slowly learning;
all we own can make us poor.
Our possessions can possess us,
leaving hunger deep inside.
Christ our Bread, come now and bless us;
at your feast, we're satisfied.

"Where is bread?" the call is rising;
millions cry who must be fed.
God, your answer seems surprising:
"You, my Church, you give them bread."
Bread to fill each hungry spirit,
bread for hungry stomachs, too!
Give us bread and help us share it.
Richly blest, may we serve you.

Sermon

"What Kind of 'Sign' Are You?"

Rev. Dr. Layne Smith

Musical Reflection

J. Kevin Gray

"What Have You Brought for the Lord to Share?"

What have you brought for the Lord to share-
to feed the hungry, the broken and the lost?
Those who've gathered, expecting a word-
a word of hope, a simple sign of grace-
what have you brought today?

Jesus broke the bread and blessed a few small fish,
feeding the thousands from these leftover gifts.
Whatever we bring, be it big or be it small,
when touched by Jesus, it brings wholeness to us all.

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

Nancy Culp, 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

“In This Very Room”

In this very room there's quite enough love for one like me,
and in this very room there's quite enough joy for one like me,
and there's quite enough hope and quite enough power to chase away any gloom,
for Jesus, Lord Jesus, is in this very room.

And in this very room there's quite enough love for all of us,
and in this very room there's quite enough joy for all of us,
and there's quite enough hope and quite enough power to chase away any gloom,
for Jesus, Lord Jesus, is in this very room.

And in this very room there's quite enough love for all the world,
and in this very room there's quite enough joy for all the world,
and there's quite enough hope and quite enough power to chase away any gloom,
for Jesus, Lord Jesus, is in this very room.

*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

Nancy Culp, Deacon

*Closing Hymn

“Go Forth for God” stanzas 1, 2, and 4

See Page 7
GOING FORTH

A Word from the Transition Team

Ryan LaPrade, Transition Team Member

Pastoral Blessing

Postlude

“Toccata on Old Time Religion”

Dr. Matthew Manwarren, Organist
Gordon Young

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.

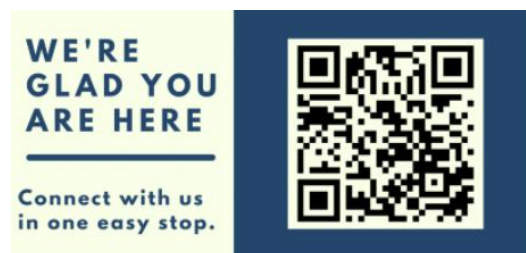


At Myers Park Baptist Church, we strive for inclusive language. However, there are times due to the historical nature or context of the text that we choose to leave language unchanged as initially presented. Be assured that MPBC holds God as non-gender-specific; God's essence encompasses all.



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



Go Forth for God

F C F B \flat F C Dm B \flat C F B \flat D Am C

1 Go forth for God, go to the world in peace; be of good
 2 Go forth for God, go to the world in love; strength - en the
 3 Go forth for God, go to the world in strength; hold fast the
 4 Go forth for God, go to the world in joy, to serve God's

B \flat F B \flat D F C F A C F Dm Bdim D C Dm

cour - age, armed with heaven - ly grace, in God's good Spir - it
 faint, give cour - age to the weak; help the af - flict - ed;
 good, be ur - gent for the right; ren - der to no one
 peo - ple ev - ery day and hour, and serv - ing Christ, our

Gm B \flat Gm F A Gm B \flat A F A C B \flat D F C F F A Gsus G

dai - ly to in - crease, till in the king - dom we see face to
 rich - ly from a - bove God's love sup - plies the grace and power we
 e - vil; Christ at length shall o - ver - come all dark - ness with his
 ev - ery gift em - ploy, re - joic - ing in the Ho - ly Spir - it's

C F C Dm A Dm Gm B \flat Gm F A Csus C F

face. Go forth for God, go to the world in peace.
 seek. Go forth for God, go to the world in love.
 light. Go forth for God, go to the world in strength.
 power. Go forth for God, go to the world in joy.

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

mpbc@myersparkbaptist.org

We are affiliated with
allianceofbaptists.org



UPCOMING EVENTS

Wednesday, July 30th

9:00am-10:00am Summer Morning Walks-
Freedom Park

11:30am-12:30pm Meditation-Zoom

5:30pm-7:00pm Summer Hangout-Suffolk
Punch, SouthPark

Thursday, July 31st

11:00am-1:00pm Freedom School Finale – Heaton
Hall

Tuesday, August 5th

12:00pm-1:00pm Sage-ing Lunch with Speaker
Brian Smith, Director of IT at Southminster –
Heaton Hall

Sunday, August 10th

11:15am-1:00pm Congregational Lunch and
Transition Conversation – 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.