

THE WORSHIP OF GOD

Sunday

August 3, 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.**

We invite you to prepare for worship in silence while listening to the Prelude.

Prelude

“A Tuscan Adagio”

Dr. Matthew Manwarren, Organist
Franklin Ashdown

Call to Worship

J. Kevin Gray

Leader: Come, beloved community, not to store up treasures that rust and fade—
but to gather what lasts: wisdom, justice, joy, and peace.

People: **We come seeking the riches that cannot be hoarded:
compassion, connection, and contentment in Christ.**

Leader: Jesus warns us not to cling to abundance while neighbors go without.
Let us listen, not with fear—but with hearts open to transformation.

People: **We reject the myth of scarcity.
There is enough—for all—when we share what we have.**

Leader: In a world driven by more, let us pause, breathe, and remember:
Our lives do not consist in possessions, but in love made visible.
We gather to reorient our desires—
to trust in God’s grace, to release our grip, and to cultivate contentment.

People: **Let us worship the One who calls us away from fear and toward beloved community.
Let us worship with grateful hearts and open hands.**

Invocation

*Opening Hymn

“Awake, Awake to Love and Work”

Number 225
MORNING SONG

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.*



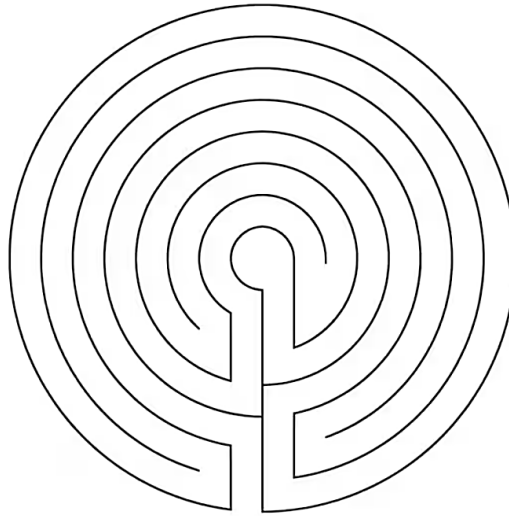
*Passing of the Peace

*Please rise in body or in spirit.

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 – Luke 12:13-21 (NRSV)

Carla Hines, Transition Team Member

Someone in the crowd said to Jesus, “Teacher, tell my brother to divide the family inheritance with me.” But he said to him, “Friend, who set me to be a judge or arbitrator over you?” And he said to them, “Take care! Be on your guard against all kinds of greed, for one’s life does not consist in the abundance of possessions.”

Then he told them a parable: “The land of a rich man produced abundantly. And he thought to himself, ‘What should I do, for I have no place to store my crops?’ Then he said, ‘I will do this: I will pull down my barns and build larger ones, and there I will store all my grain and my goods. And I will say to my soul, Soul, you have ample goods laid up for many years; relax, eat, drink, be merry.’ But God said to him, ‘You fool! This very night your life is being demanded of you. And the things you have prepared, whose will they be?’ So, it is with those who store up treasures for themselves but are not rich toward God.”

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

People: Thanks be to God.

*Sermon Hymn

"Seek Ye First"

SEEK YE FIRST

The musical score is written on four staves in G major (one sharp) and common time. The melody is simple, using quarter and eighth notes. The lyrics are arranged in four lines, each corresponding to a staff. The first line includes a first ending bracket over the notes for 'king - dom of God'. The lyrics are: 1. Seek ye first the king - dom of God; 2. Ask, and it shall be giv - en un - to you,; 3. You do not live by bread a - lone,; 4. Where two or three are gath - ered in my name, and seek, his and right - eous - ness, but and you shall find, there by am I in their word midst; and all these things shall be add - ed un - to you; knock, and the door shall be o - pened un - to you; that comes forth from the mouth of God; and what - so - ev - er you ask I will do; Al - le - lu, al - le - lu - ia.

1. Seek ye first the king - dom of God
2. Ask, and it shall be giv - en un - to you,
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Sermon

"Cultivating Contentment"

Rev. Dr. Layne Smith

Musical Reflection

"I'd Rather Have Jesus"

J. Kevin Gray
George Beverly Shea

I'd rather have Jesus than silver or gold.
I'd rather be his than have riches untold.
I'd rather have Jesus than houses or land.
I'd rather be led by his nail-pierced hand.

Than to be the king of a vast domain
and be held in sin's dread sway.
I'd rather have Jesus than anything
this world affords today.

I'd rather have Jesus than worldly applause.
I'd rather be faithful to his dear cause.
I'd rather have Jesus than worldwide fame.
Yes, I'd rather be true to His holy name.

Than to be the king of a vast domain
and be held in sin's dread sway.
I'd rather have Jesus than anything
this world affords today.

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

Vocal Ensemble

“Psalm 139”

Allen Pote

Lord, you have searched me and known me,
you know everything I do.
When I rise up, when I lie down,
you are with me through and through.

Before a word is on my tongue,
you know what I will say,
your presence follows me day by day.

Where can I flee from your spirit?
Where can I go to run away?
If I go to heaven, or live in hell,
you are there, you are there.

Lord, you have searched me and known me,
you know everything I do.
When I rise up, when I lie down,
you are with me through and through.

Before a word is on my tongue,
you know what I will say,
your presence follows me day by day.

Search me, O God, and know me,
try me and know my heart.
See if there be any wicked way in me
and lead me in the way everlasting. Amen.

*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

ST. GEORGE'S WINDSOR

"Bigger Barns"

Lyrics by Carolyn Winfrey Gillette

Bigger barns are what we need for our money, gadgets, more!

Lord, we're tempted to believe having wealth, we'll be secure!

Somewhere children cry for food or to have a doctor's care.

Can our bigger barns be good when poor neighbors know despair?

God of love, we long to know what will make us truly blest.

Jesus taught us long ago wealth won't give us peace or rest.

You are our security! Safe in you, we serve, O Lord.

May we find we're rich indeed when we're sharing with the poor.

A Word from the Transition Team

Sam Slack, Transition Team Member

Responding to the Word

Rev. Dr. Layne Smith

Pastoral Blessing

Postlude

"Toccata"

Dr. Matthew Manwarren, Organist

Rachel Laurin

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



Flowers on the altar are given to the glory of God and in honor and loving memory of Gretchen Allen.



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.





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

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

Tuesday, August 5th

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

Thursday, August 7th

7:00pm-8:00pm Lessons from the Holy Land
with Rev. Dr. Rodney Sadler – Heaton Hall

Saturday, August 9th

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

Sunday, August 10th

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

Saturday and Sunday, August 16th and 17th

Charlotte Pride Festival and March – First Ward
Park and Uptown Charlotte

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.