



THE WORSHIP OF GOD

Sage-ing Sunday

August 10, 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

“Now Thank We All Our God”

Dr. Matthew Manwarren, Organist

J.S. Bach/arr. Virgil Fox

Call to Worship

Leader: O God, you were there to hear our borning cry,

People: you are there as we grow older.

Leader: You rejoiced the day we were baptized

People: You see our life unfolding.

Rev. Dane Jordan

Invocation

A Brief History of the MPBC Sage-ing Initiative

Gary Hudson, Sage-ing Committee Chair

*Opening Hymn

“Now Thank We All Our God”

Number 51

NUN DANKET

Welcome of Our Guests

*If you are our guest today, please scan the QR code below
so we may offer you our gratitude for joining us today.*

Rev. Dr. Layne Smith



*Passing of the Peace

Moment of Centering

“Belonging”

It resonates with me, deep with remembrance
Sitting in a country church, Baptist to the bone
The Spirit slowly marching in, duty bound to relive troubled souls
Black folk bringing their suffering and their gratitude to the Lord
Young and old, mistreated or blessed, free or under contrary things
Walks of life of different stripes and colors
All God’s children on a path to spiritual bliss

It resonates with me, deep with remembrance
The aged deacons front and center;
the weight of praising resting upon their shoulders

Swaying, solemn, their voices lifted in prayer and heartfelt song
The congregation stirring, emotions raw with feeling
Solitary voices proclaiming testimony...
You can’t make me doubt him. See what He’s done for me

Eddie Bell, Congregant and Poet

*Please rise in body or in spirit.

It resonates with me, deep with remembrance
 A voice that can't be silent sings a gospel song
 The Spirit moving, folks just can't be still
 Bodies sway, feet stomp with syncopated rhythm
 and hands clap accompanying the heart-born song
 singing the people's music done the elders' way
 Unbound joy, all else of the troubling world forgotten
 No highfalutin going on in here
 Just assembled Black folk praising their good Lord.

It resonates with me, deep with remembrance
 This revealing painting takes me from near to far
 From unfree times, to present days
 To the treasured feeling of being home
 I'm in that praise house once again
 My body succumbing to the fever in that torrid room
 My spirit on fire
 Leaves no doubt that I belong

It resonates with me, deep with remembrance
 Of those precious people that look like me
 I know their strength, their substance, their traveled roads
 I joined their circle
 I am their child
 There will always be a place for me.

***Hymn**

"Great is Thy Faithfulness" stanza 1

See page 6
 FAITHFULNESS

Hebrew Reading – Isaiah 43:15-19 (NRSV)

Ernie Abernethy, Congregant

I am the Lord, your Holy One, the Creator of Israel, your King. Thus says the Lord, who makes a way in the sea, a path in the mighty waters, who brings out chariot and horse, army and warrior; they lie down; they cannot rise; they are extinguished, quenched like a wick: Do not remember the former things or consider the things of old. I am about to do a new thing; now it springs forth; do you not perceive it? I will make a way in the wilderness and rivers in the desert.

New Testament Reading – Philippians 1:3-6 and Matthew 22:34-40 (NRSV)

Sandy Clory, Congregant

I thank my God for every remembrance of you, always in every one of my prayers for all of you, praying with joy for your partnership in the gospel from the first day until now. I am confident of this, that the one who began a good work in you will continue to complete it until the day of Jesus Christ.

When the Pharisees heard that he had silenced the Sadducees, they gathered together, and one of them, an expert in the law, asked him a question to test him. "Teacher, which commandment in the law is the greatest?" He said to him, "'You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind.' This is the greatest and first commandment. And a second is like it: 'You shall love your neighbor as yourself.' On these two commandments hang all the Law and the Prophets."

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.

***Hymn**

"Great is Thy Faithfulness" stanzas 2 and 3

See page 6
 FAITHFULNESS

Sermon

"Thanks, and Yes!"

Rev. Dr. Steve Shoemaker

Musical Reflection

"I Thank You God"

McKenzie Coleman

J. Kevin Gray

In the early morning when the grass is filled with dew and the birds are singing away,
I thank God, I thank God.
When I close my eyes and feel the warmth of the sunlight on my face,
see the stars light up the night sky,
I'm amazed, yes, amazed.
Right then and there I say a prayer thanking God for all that's done.
I thank you God, I thank you God.

Poem

Sandy Hill, Congregant and Poet

"Matthew 22:39"

Relaxing in our comfort zones
we hear a whisper, easy to ignore.
A voice we've heard before,
inviting us to a higher realm,
a strange but longed-for realm
where we are called
to love ourselves and all kinds of people,
when it is easy or joyful
and when we'd rather not.
Thus we drift in and out of loving,
losing the path, finding it,
trying, failing, succeeding,
trying yet again.
Realizing at last
the answer to the soft
whisper of the soul
is to continually say,
as often as it takes:
Yes. Yes. Yes.

Church at Prayer

Rev. Sam Slack, Transition Team Member

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

“An Expression of Gratitude”

Chancel Choir
David Schwoebel

I thank my God in all my remembrance of you, always with joy in every prayer for you.

I thank my God for your fellowship in the gospel from the very first day till now.

I thank God for you, and I am sure that he who began a good work in you will bring it to completion at the day of Christ. And this I pray that your love may abound more and more. Abound in knowledge and judgement, that you may approve what is it excellent to the glory of God. That you may be pure and blameless, filled with fruits of righteousness which comes through Christ Jesus. I thank my God in all my remembrance of you, always with joy in every prayer for you. I thank my God!

*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

“Will You Come and Follow Me” stanzas 1, 2, and 5

See page 7
KELVINGROVE

Pastoral Blessing

Rev. Dr. Steve Shoemaker

Postlude

“Now Thank We All Our God”

Dr. Matthew Manwarren, Organist
Albert L. Travis

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.



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. Dr. Layne Smith at lsmith@myersparkbaptist.org



Great Is Thy Faithfulness

FAITHFULNESS 11.10.11.10 Ref.

Thomas O. Chisholm, 1923
Stanza 1 altered, 2015

William M. Runyan, 1923

1. Great is thy faith - ful - ness, O God my Mak - er, there is no shad - ow of
2. Sum - mer and win - ter, and spring - time and har - vest, sun, moon and stars in their
3. Par - don for sin and a peace that en - dur - eth, thy own dear pres - ence to

turn - ing with thee; thou chang - est not, thy com - pas - sions they fail not;
cours - es a - bove join with all na - ture in man - i - fold wit - ness
cheer and to guide; strength for to - day and bright hope for to - mor - row,

Refrain
as thou hast been thou for - ev - er wilt be.
to thy great faith - ful - ness, mer - cy and love.
bless - ings all mine, with ten thou - sand be - side! Great is thy faith - ful - ness!

Great is thy faith - ful - ness! Morn - ing by morn - ing new mer - cies I see; all I have

need - ed thy hand hath pro - vid - ed, great is thy faith - ful - ness, Lord, un - to me!

stanzas 1, 2, and 5 Will You Come and Follow Me



1. Will you come and fol - low me if I but call
2. Will you leave your - self be - hind if I but call
3. Will you let the blind - ed see if I but call
4. Will you love the "you" you hide if I but call
5. Lord, your sum - mons ech - oes true when you but call



your name? ____ Will you go where you don't know and
 your name? ____ Will you care for cruel and kind and
 your name? ____ Will you set the pris - oners free and
 your name? ____ Will you quell the fear in - side and
 my name. ____ Let me turn and fol - low you and



nev - er be the same? ____ Will you let my love be
 nev - er be the same? ____ Will you risk the hos - tile
 nev - er be the same? ____ Will you kiss the lep - er
 nev - er be the same? ____ Will you use the faith you've
 nev - er be the same. ____ In your com - pa - ny I'll



shown, ____ will you let my name be known, ____ will you
 stare ____ should your life at - tract or scare? ____ Will you
 clean, ____ and do such as this un - seen, ____ and ad -
 found ____ to re - shape the world a - round, ____ through my
 go ____ where your love and foot - steps show. ____ Thus I'll



let my life be grown in you and you in me? ____
 let me an - swer prayer in you and you in me? ____
 mit to what I mean in you and you in me? ____
 sight and touch and sound in you and you in me? ____
 move and live and grow in you and you in me. ____

WORDS: John L. Bell

MUSIC: Traditional Scottish; arr. by John L. Bell

KELVINGROVE

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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. Dane Jordan

Interim Minister of Youth
djordan@myersparkbaptist.org

J. Kevin Gray

Minister of Music & Worship
kgray@myersparkbaptist.org

Rev. Dr. Layne Smith

Interim Senior Minister
lsmith@myersparkbaptist.org

Rev. Marina Luckhoo

Associate Minister
mluckhoo@myersparkbaptist.org

704.334.7232

mpbc@myersparkbaptist.org

We are affiliated with
allianceofbaptists.org



UPCOMING EVENTS

Today, August 10th

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

Tuesday, August 12th

8:00am-3:30pm Roof Above Meal Prep – Kitchen

Wednesday, August 13th

11:30am-12:00pm Meditation – Zoom
7:30pm-9:00pm Carson McKee in Concert – The Evening Muse (3227 N. Davidson St.)

Saturday and Sunday, August 16th and 17th
Pride Festival – First Ward Park (301 E 7th St.)
Sign up through REALM or on our website

Wednesday, August 20th

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

Friday and Saturday, August 29th and 30th

MPBC Choir Retreat – Heaton Hall

For more information email J. Kevin Gray

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.

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