

THE WORSHIP OF GOD

Pride Sunday

August 17, 2025

10:00a



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

Dr. Matthew Manwarren, Organist

“Prelude on All Things Bright and Beautiful”

Albert L. Travis

Call to Worship

Rev. Marina Luckhoo

Leader: Come, beloved community—gather not in fear, but in sacred trust. For God has not given us the Spirit of timidity, but of power, love, and self-discipline.

People: **We come to breathe deep the love that casts out fear. We come with open hearts, ready to be transformed.**

Leader: We will not be ashamed of the witness we bear. We will speak truth with kindness and hold one another with grace.

People: **May this space be a sanctuary of radical welcome. All identities, all stories, all journeys—held in sacred worth.**

Leader : In love, we are made new. In openness, we are made whole.

People: **Let us worship the One whose mercy unites us, whose love empowers us, whose Spirit leads us into justice, peace, and boundless possibility.**

Invocation

*Opening Hymn

“All Are Welcome” stanzas 1, 4, and 5

See page 11
Marty Haugen

Welcome of Our Guests

Rev. Dane Jordan

*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.

**Please rise in body or in spirit.*

Take a few moments to breathe and still the mind.



Sing: 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

Epistle Reading – II Timothy 1:1-7 (NRSV)

Ellen Caldwell, Deacon

Paul, an apostle of Christ Jesus by the will of God,
for the sake of the promise of life that is in Christ Jesus,
To Timothy, my beloved child:
Grace, mercy, and peace from God the Creator and Christ Jesus our Lord.

I am grateful to God—whom I worship with a clear conscience, as my ancestors did—when I remember you constantly in my prayer’s night and day. Recalling your tears, I long to see you so that I may be filled with joy. I am reminded of your sincere faith, a faith that lived first in your grandmother Lois and your mother Eunice and now, I am sure, lives in you. For this reason, I remind you to rekindle the gift of God that is within you through the laying on of my hands, for God did not give us a spirit of cowardice but rather a spirit of power and of love and of self-discipline.

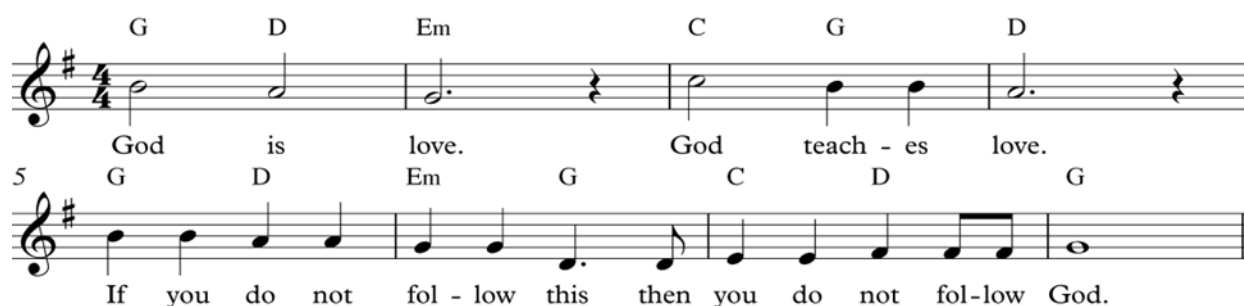
Leader: For the Word of God in scripture,
For the Word of God among us,
For the Word of God within us.

People: Thanks be to God.

*Sermon Song

J. Kevin Gray

"God is Love"



Sermon

"Names and the Act of Faith"

Rev. Dr. Layne Smith

A Moment to Reflect

Musical Reflection

J. Kevin Gray

As recorded by The Many

"Come As You Are"

Come, you who've been wounded, all you who've lost hope.
Come, you who are longing for what you do not know.
Come, you hungry for justice, aching for heaven on earth.
Come, you who've been tossed aside, who don't remember what you're worth.

Come, as you are; come weary, come and lay your burdens down.
Come as you are - bring your hopes, bring your doubts and your scars.
Come as you are.

Come, you who've been cast out, all you who've been shamed.
Come, you who are looking for that mystery you can't name.
Come, you crying for mercy, hoping for peace on Earth.
Come, you carrying questions, all you who've been so hurt.

Come, as you are; come weary, come and lay your burdens down.
Come as you are - bring your hopes, bring your doubts and your scars.
Come as you are.

Oh, You misfits and prophets; you sinners and Saints;
oh, you broken and needy, weird and weary and faint.
All who seek, just simply open their eyes;
all who need to find a safe place to cry.

Come, as you are, come weary, come and lay your burdens down.
Come as you are. Bring your hopes, bring your doubts and your scars.
Come as you are.

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

Scott Crowder, Deacon

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



Offertory

Chancel Choir
Mark Miller

“Christ Has Broken Down the Walls”
Christ has broken down the wall.
Let us join our hearts as one.
Christ has broken down the wall.

We are accepted as we are.
Through God's love all is reconciled,
we're accepted as we are.

Cast aside your doubts and fears.
Peace and love freely offered here.
Cast aside your doubts and fears.

We will tear down the walls!
We will tear down every wall!
God has called us, one and all.
Christ has broken down the wall.

*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

Scott Crowder, Deacon

*Closing Song

“This Joy that I Have”

SPIRITUAL

This joy that I have, the world didn't give it to me.
This joy that I have, the world didn't give it to me.
This joy that I have, the world didn't give it to me.
The world didn't give it; the world can't take it away.

This hope that I have, the world didn't give it to me.
This hope that I have, the world didn't give it to me.
This hope that I have, the world didn't give it to me.
The world didn't give it; the world can't take it away.

This love that I have, the world didn't give it to me.
This love that I have, the world didn't give it to me.
This love that I have, the world didn't give it to me.
The world didn't give it; the world can't take it away.

Responding to the Word

Rev. Dr. Layne Smith

Pastoral Blessing

Postlude

“Postlude on *All Things Bright and Beautiful*”

Dr. Matthew Manwarren, Organist
Thomas Hewitt Jones

***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.

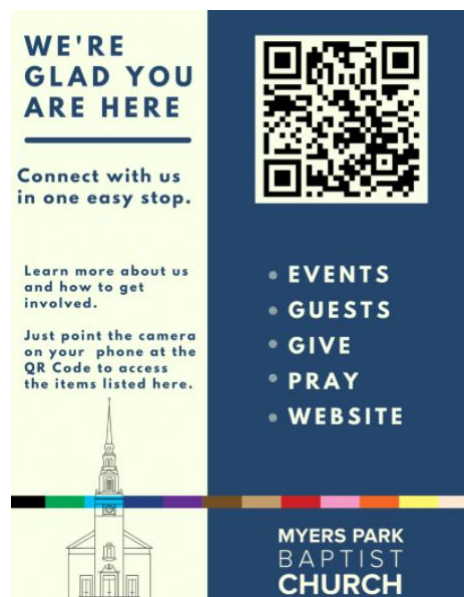


At Myers Park Baptist Church, we strive for inclusive language. However, there are times due to the historical nature or context of the text that we choose to leave language unchanged as initially presented. Be assured that MPBC holds God as non-gender-specific; God's essence encompasses all.



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.



Today — August 17, 2025

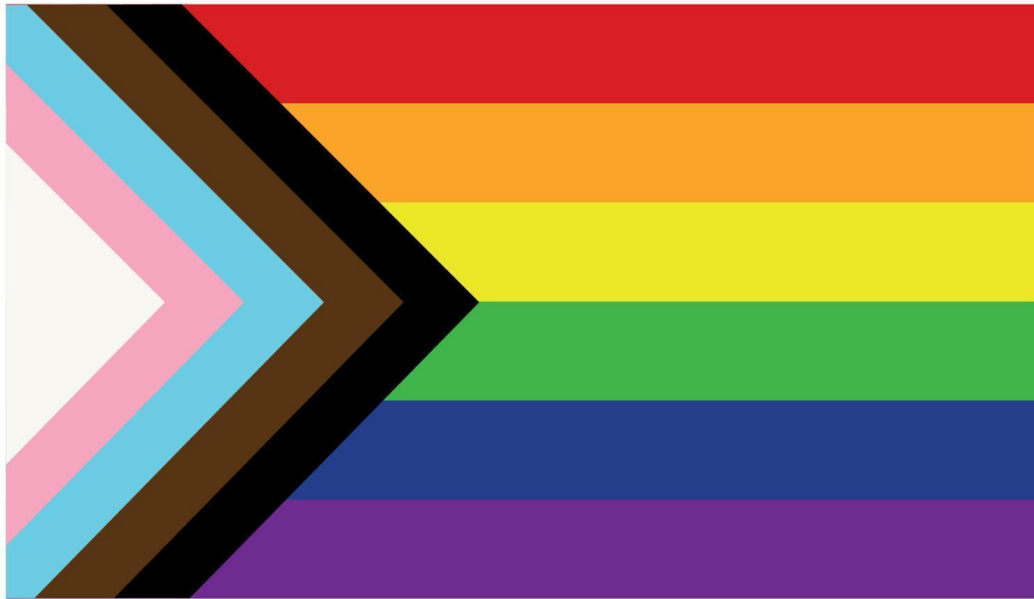
Event: March with Us in the Pride Parade

Meeting Location: VAPA Center parking lot (College & 11th Streets)

Arrival Time: Please be there by 12:30 PM

Need Assistance? Call Scott Crowder at 704-650-2918





What the Progressive Pride Flag Means

The Progressive Pride Flag is more than a burst of color—it's a layered story of history, inclusion, and the ongoing fight for equality.

The Rainbow Foundation

Inspired by Gilbert Baker's 1978 design, the six horizontal stripes each stand for a core value:

- **Red** – Life
- **Orange** – Healing
- **Yellow** – Sunlight
- **Green** – Nature
- **Blue** – Serenity
- **Violet** – Spirit

The Chevron for Progress

Added by Daniel Quasar in 2018, the forward-pointing chevron urges continued progress:

- **Black & Brown** – LGBTQ+ people of color, honoring struggles, contributions, and those lost to or living with HIV/AIDS.
- **Light Blue, Pink & White** – Trans men, trans women, and non-binary or gender-nonconforming people.

A Banner of Unity

The rainbow honors the past; the chevron calls for forward motion and ensures no one is left behind—making the flag a powerful emblem of pride and progress.

Myers Park Baptist Church Statement on LGBTQ+ Inclusion

Myers Park Baptist Church has long stood for inclusivity in our faith community. We originally affirmed this statement almost twenty-four years ago while revising it almost three years ago to make it even more inclusive.

We categorically reject any and all attempts to view or treat our LGBTQ+ sisters and brothers as any less valued than any other human. We continue to stand by and seek to live out this statement of inclusion in our individual lives, in our community of faith, and in our world.

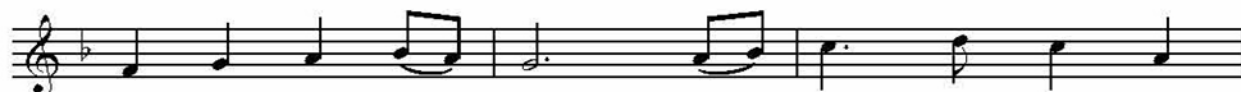
At this point in our life together, we seek a fuller statement of our inclusiveness. We are a Church that believes in the worth of every person as the good creation of God, and we are a Church committed to justice and peace in the civic realm. As such, we want to state our full welcome to and affirmation of all who wish to join us on our journey of faith as outlined in our Covenant. “Open to all and closed to none” means we welcome and affirm all persons without regard to race, gender identity, gender expression, sexual orientation or attraction, biological sex, age, economic status, physical or mental capacity. We believe that God’s call, gifts, and blessings are given to all God’s people, and we embrace the Spirit of God that calls, gifts, and blesses.

Approved October 2001; Revisions Approved November 14, 2022

All Are Welcome



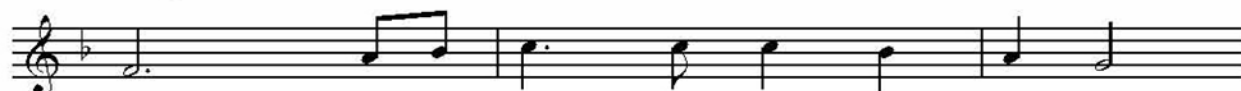
- * 1. Let us build a house where love can dwell And
- 2. Let us build a house where proph - ets speak, And
- 3. Let us build a house where love is found In
- * 4. Let us build a house where hands will reach Be -
- * 5. Let us build a house where all are named, Their



- * all can safe - ly live, A place where saints and
- words are strong and true, Where all God's chil - dren
- wa - ter, wine and wheat: A ban - quet hall on
- * yond the wood and stone To heal and strength - en,
- * songs and vi - sions heard And loved and treas - ured,



- * chil - dren tell How hearts learn to for -
- dare to seek To dream God's reign a -
- ho - ly ground, Where peace and jus - tice
- * serve and teach, And live the Word they've
- * taught and claimed As words with - in the



- * give. Built of hopes and dreams and vi - sions,
- new. Here the cross shall stand as wit - ness
- meet. Here the love of God, through Je - sus,
- * known. Here the out - cast and the stran - ger
- * Word. Built of tears and cries and laugh - ter,



- * Rock of faith and vault of grace; Here the
- And as sym - bol of God's grace; Here as
- Is re - vealed in time and space; As we
- * Bear the im - age of God's face; Let us
- * Prayers of faith and songs of grace, Let this



- * love of Christ shall end di - vi - sions:
- one we claim the faith of Je - sus:
- share in Christ the feast that frees us: All are wel - come,
- * bring an end to fear and dan - ger:
- * house pro - claim from floor to raft - er:



all are wel - come, all are wel - come in this place.

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

J. Kevin Gray

Minister of Music & Worship
kgray@myersparkbaptist.org

Rev. Dane Jordan

Interim Minister of Youth
djordan@myersparkbaptist.org

Rev. Marina Luckhoo

Associate Minister
mluckhoo@myersparkbaptist.org

Rev. Dr. Layne Smith

Interim Senior Minister
lsmith@myersparkbaptist.org

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We are affiliated with
allianceofbaptists.org



UPCOMING EVENTS

Today, August 17th

12:30pm-2:30pm Pride Parade- VAPA Center parking lot (College & 11th Streets)

Wednesday, August 20th

11:30am-12:00pm Meditation-Zoom
5:30 pm-7:00pm Summer Hangout-Suffolk Punch SouthPark

Saturday, August 23rd

8:30am-10:00am Landscaping Project – Brick Patio

Sunday, August 24th

11:15am-12:00pm Coffee Chat – Heaton Hall
11:30am-1:00pm Transition Team Meeting

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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