

THE WORSHIP OF GOD

Sunday

August 24, 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

“Fanfare and Processional”

Dr. Matthew Manwarren, Organist
Lynn Trapp

Call to Worship

Rev. Dane Jordan

Leader: Beloved community, come as you are—wrestling with questions, weary from the road, uncertain of the next step.

People: **We come, not because we have arrived, but because we are still journeying. We press on, trusting that grace goes before us.**

Leader: Let us worship the God who calls us forward—through valleys of uncertainty, across mountains of hope. Let us worship the Christ who walks beside us, even when the path is unclear.

All: **We are citizens of heaven, rooted in the world. We hold on to faith, and we press on in love. Come, let us worship with open hearts and courageous spirits. The journey is holy, and we do not walk alone.**

Invocation

*Opening Hymn

“Guide Me, O Thou Great Jehovah”

Number 320
CWM RHONDDA

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

J. Kevin Gray

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 – Philippians 3:12-4:1 (NRSV)

Sawyer Young, Congregant

Not that I have already obtained this or have already reached the goal, but I press on to lay hold of that for which Christ has laid hold of me. Brothers and sisters, I do not consider that I have laid hold of it, but one thing I have laid hold of: forgetting what lies behind and straining forward to what lies ahead, I press on toward the goal, toward the prize of the heavenly call of God in Christ Jesus. Let those of us, then, who are mature think this way, and if you think differently about anything, this, too, God will reveal to you. Only let us hold fast to what we have attained.

Brothers and sisters, join in imitating me, and observe those who live according to the example you have in us. For many live as enemies of the cross of Christ; I have often told you of them, and now I tell you even with tears. Their end is destruction, their god is the belly, and their glory is in their shame; their minds are set on earthly things. But our citizenship is in heaven, and it is from there that we are expecting a Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ. He will transform the body of our humiliation that it may be conformed to the body of his glory, by the power that also enables him to make all things subject to himself. Therefore, my brothers and sisters, whom I love and long for, my joy and crown, stand firm in the Lord in this way, my beloved.

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 Hymn

“I’m Pressing on the Upward Way” stanzas 1 and 4

See page 7
HIGHER GROUND

Sermon

“Holding on to and Pressing On”

Rev. Dr. Layne Smith

Moment of Reflection

Church at Prayer

Rev. Dane Jordan

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

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

Robert Dulin, Congregant



Offertory Anthem

“Now Sing We Joyfully unto God”
Now sing we joyfully unto God! We sing!
We sing so joyfully unto God, to God,
so joyfully unto God, so joyfully unto God!
Now sing we happily unto God! We sing to God!
Now sing we joyfully unto God! We sing!
We sing so joyfully unto God, to God,
so joyfully unto God, so joyfully unto God!

Chancel Choir
Gordon Young

*Presentation of Gifts and the Doxology

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!

LASST UNS ERFREUEN

*Prayer of Dedication

Robert Dulin, Congregant

***Closing Hymn**

“God of Justice, God of Mercy” stanzas 1, 4, and 5

Number 316
HYFRYDOL

Responding to the Word

Rev. Dr. Layne Smith

Pastoral Blessing

Postlude

“Voluntary Festiva in G”

Dr. Matthew Manwarren, Organist
Martin Ellis

*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.

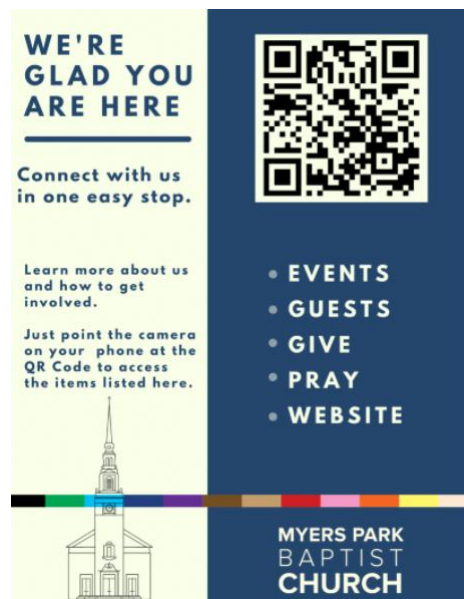


At Myers Park Baptist Church, we strive for inclusive language. However, there are times due to the historical nature or context of the text that we choose to leave language unchanged as initially presented. Be assured that MPBC holds God as non-gender-specific; God's essence encompasses all.



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.



Stanzas 1 and 4 I'm Pressing on the Upward Way

I press toward the mark for the prize . . . Phil. 3:14

HIGHER GROUND L.M. Ref.

Johnson Oatman, Jr., 1898

Charles H. Gabriel, 1898

* 1. I'm press - ing on the up - ward way, New heights I'm gain - ing ev - ery
 2. My heart has no de - sire to stay Where doubts a - rise and fears dis -
 3. I want to live a - bove the world, Though Sa - tan's darts at me are
 * 4. I want to scale the ut - most height, And catch a gleam of glo - ry

* day; Still pray - ing as I'm on - ward bound, "Lord, plant my
 may; Though some may dwell where these a - bound, My prayer, my
 hurled; For faith has caught the joy - ful sound, The song of
 * bright; But still I'll pray till heav'n I've found, "Lord, lead me

Refrain

* feet on high - er ground."
 aim is high - er ground. Lord, lift me up and let me stand
 saints on high - er ground.
 * on to high - er ground."

By faith on heav - en's ta - ble - land, A high - er plane

than I have found; Lord, plant my feet on high - er ground.

HOPE AND ASPIRATION

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
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We are affiliated with
allianceofbaptists.org



UPCOMING EVENTS

Today, August 24th

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

Monday, August 25th

4:30pm-6:30pm Ministry of Facilities Meeting

Wednesday, August 27th

11:30am-12:00pm Meditation-Zoom

Friday and Saturday, August 29th and 30th

MPBC Choir Retreat – Heaton Hall
For more information email J. Kevin Gray

Sunday, August 31st

11:15am-12:00pm Coffee Chat – Heaton Hall

Monday, September 1st

Church Office Closed

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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