

THE WORSHIP OF GOD

Sunday

August 31, 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

“Arabesque”

Dr. Matthew Manwarren, Organist
Louis Vierne

Call to Worship

Rev. Dane Jordan

Leader: Because of violence done to our siblings, we come not to hide, but to confess.

People: **We gather in the presence of the Holy One, who names injustice and calls us to repair.**

Leader: We will not stand aloof when suffering unfolds. We will not rejoice in another’s pain.

People: **We come to be transformed.**

Leader: On the day of distress, God does not forget. God does not abandon the wounded or the weary.

People: **God calls us to stand with the vulnerable, to speak truth, and to live love.**

Leader: We are here to listen, to lament, and to learn. We are here to build a world where justice flows like a river and mercy like an endless stream.

All: **Let us worship the God who calls us from silence into solidarity, from comfort into courage, from complicity into compassion.**

Invocation

***Opening Hymn**

“Your Love, O God”

FINLANDIA

Your love, O God, is broad like beach and meadow,
wide as the wind, and our eternal home.

You leave us free to seek you or reject you,
you give us room to answer "yes" or "no."

Your love, O God, is broad like beach and meadow,
wide as the wind, and our eternal home.

But there are walls that keep us all divided;
we fence each other in with hate and war.
Fear is the bricks and mortar of our prison,
our pride of self, the prison coat we wear.
Your love, O God, is broad like beach and meadow,
wide as the wind, and our eternal home.

O judge us, God, and in your judgment free us,
and set our feet in freedom's open space;
take us as far as your compassion wanders
among the children of the human race.
Your love, O God, is broad like beach and meadow,
wide as the wind, and our eternal home.

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

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.

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

Hebrew Scripture Reading – Obadiah 1:10-11 (CEV)

Rev. Deborah Moore Clark, Choir Member

You were cruel to your relatives, the descendants of Jacob. Now you will be destroyed, disgraced forever. You stood there and watched as foreigners entered Jerusalem and took what they wanted. In fact, you were no better than those foreigners.

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

See Page 6

“Today We Are All Called to Be Disciples”

KINGSFOLD

Sermon

“They Stood There and Watched”

Rev. Dr. Telika McCoy

A Moment to Reflect

Musical Reflection

J. Kevin Gray and Vocal Scholars

“I’m Gonna Walk it With You”

Brian Claflin and Ellie Grace

Well, it looks like it might be a hard road, but I’m gonna walk it with you.
And I know that you might have a heavy load, but I can carry some too.
I will lift you up when they push you down, I will raise my voice and stand my ground.
Well, it looks like it might be a hard road, but I’m gonna walk it with you.

And it looks like it might be a long night, but I ain’t goin’ nowhere.
And I know it’s gonna be a hard fight, but I will stay right here.
I will shine a light in the darkest hour. I will face the man in the tallest tower.
Well, it looks like it might be a long night, but I ain’t goin’ nowhere.

I will work! I will fight! I will stride in the name of love!
I will speak! I will shout! I will sing it to the skies above!

Well, it looks like it might be a hard road, but I’m gonna walk it with you.

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

Janice Bradner, Congregant

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



Offertory Anthem
“If Ye Love Me”

Vocal Ensemble
Thomas Tallis

Sung Text: If ye love me, keep my commandments.
And I will pray the Father,
and he shall give you another comforter,
that he may 'bide with you forever;
E'en the sp'rit of truth. -John 14:15–17

Reference Text: -John 13:34–35 “I give you a new commandment, that you love one another. Just as I have loved you, you also should love one another. By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another.”

***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**

Janice Bradner, Congregant

***Closing Hymn**
“Be the Change”

See page 7
Marc Kaplin and Colin Britt

Responding to the Word

Rev. Dr. Layne Smith

Pastoral Blessing

Rev. Dr. Telika McCoy

Postlude
“Allegro”

Dr. Matthew Manwarren, Organist
William Boyce

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

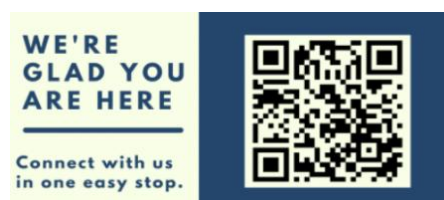


Audio/Video Team Members are Wes Cobb, Joe Kuhlmann,
Hannah Combs and Eric Roberts.



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. Marina Luckhoo at
mluckhoo@myersparkbaptist.org.



Today We All Are Called to Be Disciples

1 To - day we all are called to be dis - ci - ples of the
 2 God made the world and at its birth or - dained our hu - man
 3 Pray jus - tice may come roll - ing down as in a might-y
 4 May we in ser - vice to our God act out the liv - ing

Lord, to help to set the cap - tive free, make
 race to live as stew - ards of the earth, re -
 stream, with righ - teous - ness in field and town to
 word, and walk the road the saints have trod till

plow - share out of sword, to feed the hun - gry, quench their
 spond - ing to God's grace. But we are vain and sad - ly
 cleanse us and re - deem. For God is long - ing to re -
 all have seen and heard. As stew - ards of the earth may

thirst, make love and peace our fast, to serve the
 proud; we sow not peace but strife. Our dis - cord
 store an earth where con - flicts cease, a world that
 we give thanks in one ac - cord to God who

poor and home - less first, our ease and com - fort last.
 spreads a dead - ly cloud that threat - ens all of life.
 was cre - at - ed for a har - mo - ny of peace.
 calls us all to be dis - ci - ples of the Lord.

This text placing stewardship in the context of faithful witness was written by a retired Presbyterian minister to be part of the 1986 stewardship campaign titled "Called to Be Disciples." The tune name recalls the Sussex village where the arranger first heard the melody.

Be the Change

Words adapted from Gandhi (attr.)

Music by Marc Kaplan and Colin Britt

Jersey City, NJ | 2010

Steady (♩ = 88)

Melody

Harmony

1. Be the change _____ you want to see in the world, be the change
 2. Be the voice _____ you want to hear in the world, be the voice
 3. Be the light _____ you want to shine in the world, be the light

C/G G Cadd9 Am7

_____ you want to see in the world, be the change _____ you want to
 _____ you want to hear in the world, be the voice _____ you want to
 _____ you want to shine in the world, be the light _____ you want to

B7 Em Am7 C/D G

see in the world,
 hear in the world,
 shine in the world, } and change will come to you.

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

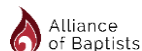
Rev. Dr. Layne Smith

Interim Senior Minister
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mpbc@myersparkbaptist.org

We are affiliated with
allianceofbaptists.org



UPCOMING EVENTS

Monday, September 1st
Church Office Closed

Tuesday, September 2nd
10:00am-11:30am Creative Friends Group – Library
12:00pm-1:30p Sage-ing Lunch – Heaton Hall
(featuring special guest speaker Alissa Celek, Executive Director for The Shepherd's Center Charlotte)

Wednesday, September 3rd
11:30am-12:00pm Meditation-Zoom

Saturday, September 6th
9:00am-12:00pm Pinewood Community Garden Project – Pinewood Elementary School
9:00am-12:00pm Sanctuary Cleaning Day - Sanctuary

Sunday, September 7th
11:15am-1:00pm Welcome Sunday – 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.
One License A-729324 | WorshipCast License CCS # WC-12779 | CVLI Video License #504 239 870*