

THE WORSHIP OF GOD

Welcome Sunday

September 7, 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

“Processional”

Dr. Matthew Manwarren, organist
William Mathias

Call to Worship

J. Kevin Gray

- Leader: Come, beloved community, for God meets us here—
in the warmth of welcome, in the face of a stranger, in the promise of new life.
- People: **We come with open hearts, ready to receive and to give,
trusting that every guest may carry God’s presence.**
- Leader: Like Abraham and Sarah, we set the table in hope, planting seeds of hospitality and justice,
awaiting the harvest of unexpected joy.
- People: **Here we meet Jesus in one another,
and discover again that nothing is too wonderful for God.**
- All: **Come, let us worship the God who surprises us with grace!**

Invocation

*Opening Hymn

“We are a People on a Journey”

See page 7
FOREVER FORWARD

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

Hebrew Reading – Genesis 18:1-10 (NRSV)

Deborah Steiner, Choir Member

The Lord appeared to Abraham by the oaks of Mamre, as he sat at the entrance of his tent in the heat of the day. He looked up and saw three men standing near him. When he saw them, he ran from the tent entrance to meet them and bowed down to the ground. He said, “My lord, if I find favor with you, do not pass by your servant. Let a little water be brought, and wash your feet, and rest yourselves under the tree. Let me bring a little bread, that you may refresh yourselves, and after that you may pass on—since you have come to your servant.” So, they said, “Do as you have said.” And Abraham hastened into the tent to Sarah and said, “Make ready quickly three measures of choice flour, knead it, and make cakes.” Abraham ran to the herd and took a calf, tender and good, and gave it to the servant, who hastened to prepare it. Then he took curds and milk and the calf that he had prepared and set it before them, and he stood by them under the tree while they ate.

They said to him, “Where is your wife, Sarah?” And he said, “There, in the tent.” Then one said, “I will surely return to you in due season, and your wife Sarah shall have a son.” And Sarah was listening at the tent entrance behind him.

Epistle Reading – Hebrews 13:1-2 (NRSV)

Let mutual affection continue. Do not neglect to show hospitality to strangers, for by doing that some have entertained angels without knowing it.

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

"The Table is Set"

J. Kevin Gray

**Soloist will sing one time through then congregation will join in.*

The musical score is written in G major (one sharp) and 4/4 time. It consists of four staves of music. The first staff begins with a treble clef and a key signature of one sharp (F#). The melody is: G4 (quarter), A4 (quarter), B4 (quarter), C5 (quarter), B4-A4 (beamed eighth notes), G4 (quarter), F#4 (quarter), E4 (quarter), D4 (half). The lyrics are: "The ta-ble is set for the un-ex-pect-ed guest, for the ones who have ga-thered here to". The second staff begins with a measure rest of 4 measures, then the melody continues: C4 (half), B3 (quarter), A3 (quarter), G3 (quarter), F#3 (quarter), E3 (quarter), D3 (half). The lyrics are: "day... Let us live in love, reach-ing out to the world, sing-ing, shout-ing the joy of the Lord!". The third staff begins with a measure rest of 9 measures, then the melody continues: C4 (half), B3 (quarter), A3 (quarter), G3 (quarter), F#3 (quarter), E3 (quarter), D3 (half). The lyrics are: "Come now, bro-thers, come now, si-sters, come they, and them, one and all! Let us". The fourth staff begins with a measure rest of 13 measures, then the melody continues: C4 (half), B3 (quarter), A3 (quarter), G3 (quarter), F#3 (quarter), E3 (quarter), D3 (half). The lyrics are: "live in love, reach ing out to the world, sing-ing, shout-ing the joy of the Lord!".

Sermon

"Hospitality: Meeting Jesus in the Stranger"

Rev. Dr. Layne Smith

A Moment to Reflect

Musical Reflection

"I Dream of a Church"

David Young
Mark Miller

I dream of a church where everyone is welcome.
I dream of a place we all can call home.
I dream of a world where justice is flowing,
with hope and peace growing, where God's will is done.

Make it so, make it so.
We pray for that day, make it so.
We dream of a world, where love reigns among us,
and your will is done, O God, make it so.

O God fill our hearts to reach out in welcome.
Make us to see your vision once more.
Let's dream of a world where our hands are your hands.
We offer ourselves, O God, make it so.

Church at Prayer

Rev. Marina Luckhoo

Invitation to Offering

Bob Thomason, Life Deacon

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



Offertory

Chancel Choir
Aaron Copland

“The Promise of Living”

The promise of living with hope and thanksgiving is born of our loving our friends and our labor.
The promise of growing with faith and with knowing
is born of our sharing our love with our neighbor.
The promise of living, the promise of growing is born of our singing in joy and thanksgiving.
For many a year we’ve known these fields and know all the work that makes them yield.
We’re ready to work, we’re ready to lend a hand.
By working together we’ll bring in the blessings of harvest.
We plant each row with seeds of grain, and Providence sends us the sun and the rain.
By lending a hand, by lending an arm, bring out the blessings of harvest.
Give thanks there was sunshine, give thanks there was rain,
give thanks, we have hands to deliver the grain.
O let us be joyful, O let us be grateful to the Lord for his blessing.
The promise of ending is right understanding in peace,
in our own hearts and peace with our neighbor.
The promise of living, the promise of growing,
the promise of ending is labor and sharing and loving.

*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

Bob Thomason, Life Deacon

Communion

Invitation to the Table

Rev. Dr. Layne Smith

Prayer of Thanksgiving

Words of Institution

All are invited to participate in Communion. You may come forward to one of the stations at the front of the Sanctuary to receive bread and juice or pre-packaged, gluten-free elements. If you prefer to be served at your seat, please raise your hand and a Deacon will assist you.

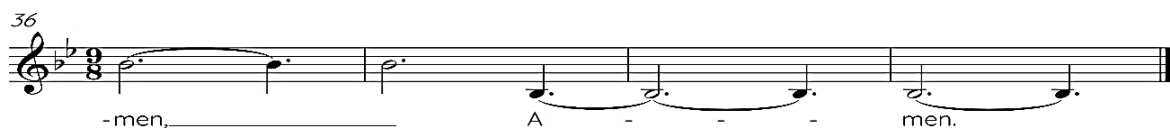
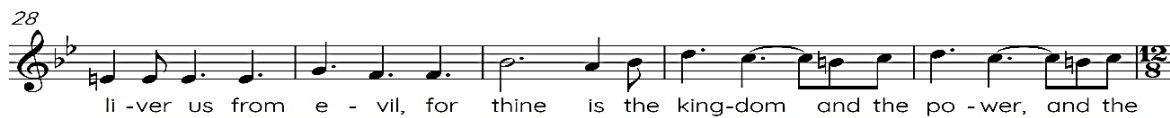
Music During Communion

Dr. Matthew Manwarren, organist

Congregational Benediction (Sung)

"The Lord's Prayer"

Albert Hay Malotte



Postlude

"Grand Choeur"

Dr. Matthew Manwarren, organist

Theodore Salomé

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.



We Are a People on a Journey

1. We are a peo - ple on a jour - ney, o - pen to all and closed to none,
2. O - pen to all new light be - fore us, guid - ing be - yond what we can see,
3. When on our jour - ney we en - coun - ter stran - gers ig - nored or friends in need,
4. Come, lift your voice in cel - e - bra - tion; join the pro - ces - sion through the world:

led by the love we've known through Je - sus, warm - ly em - brac - ing ev - ery - one.
trust - ing a faith in - formed by rea - son, chal - lenged with - in com - mu - ni - ty,
na - ture ne - glect - ed, life en - dan - gered, vic - tims op - pressed by power and greed,
grow - ing, ex - plor - ing, march - ing, sing - ing, ban - ners of love for all un - furled!

On the path of faith pro - gress - ing, firm - ly stead - fast, bold - ly free,
we'll ex - plore vast ways of wis - dom, search for mean - ing all a - round
we will take a stand for jus - tice; we will join our hands for peace;
Liv - ing just - ly, serv - ing kind - ly, walk - ing hum - bly through our days,

we will move for - ev - er for - ward grow - ing in di - ver - si - ty,
as we move for - ev - er for - ward seek - ing truth wher - ev - er found,
then we'll move for - ev - er for - ward bear - ing hope that fear may cease,
let us move for - ev - er for - ward rais - ing songs of joy and praise,

grow - ing in di - ver - si - ty.
seek - ing truth wher - ev - er found.
bear - ing hope that fear may cease.
rais - ing songs of joy and praise!

1, 2, 3. 4.

Words and Music: Larry E. Schultz

FOREVER FORWARD

Irregular

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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

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
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Rev. Dr. Layne Smith

Interim Senior Minister
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We are affiliated with
allianceofbaptists.org



UPCOMING EVENTS

Sunday, September 7th

11:15am-1:00pm Welcome Sunday and Ministry Fair – Heaton Hall

4:00pm-6:00pm The Youth Journey Fellowship – Youth Hall

Monday, September 8th

10:00am-11:30am The RoundTable – Church Parlor

Wednesday, September 10th

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

Thursday, September 11th

9:00am-11am and 12:00pm-3:00pm Roof Above Meal Prep – Kitchen

Sunday, September 14th

11:15am-12:15pm Faith and Community Forum – Shalom 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.

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