

THE WORSHIP OF GOD

Sunday

September 14, 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

“Jesus Loves Me”

Dr. Matthew Manwarren, Organist
arr. Jason Payne

Call to Worship

Rev. Marina Luckhoo

Leader: In the morning, when we rise, we seek the presence of God.

People: Give us grace, give us love, and open our hearts.

Leader: We long to be faithful.

People: Lord, we want to be your disciples.

Leader: The road may be uncertain, yet we choose this path.

People: We have decided to follow Jesus—no turning back, no turning back.

Leader: Come then, beloved of God, let us worship the One who calls us.

People: With open hearts and willing lives, we follow Christ together.

Invocation

*Opening Hymn

“Lift Up Your Heads, Ye Mighty Gates”

Number 16
TRURO

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

Gospel Reading – Mark 8:27-38 (NRSV)

Carol Pearsall, Life Deacon

Jesus went on with his disciples to the villages of Caesarea Philippi, and on the way, he asked his disciples, “Who do people say that I am?” And they answered him, “John the Baptist; and others, Elijah; and still others, one of the prophets.” He asked them, “But who do you say that I am?” Peter answered him, “You are the Messiah.” And he sternly ordered them not to tell anyone about him.

Then he began to teach them that the Son of Man must undergo great suffering and be rejected by the elders, the chief priests, and the scribes and be killed and after three days rise again. He said all this quite openly. And Peter took him aside and began to rebuke him. But turning and looking at his disciples, he rebuked Peter and said, “Get behind me, Satan! For you are setting your mind not on divine things but on human things.”

He called the crowd with his disciples and said to them, “If any wish to come after me, let them deny themselves and take up their cross and follow me. For those who want to save their life will lose it, and those who lose their life for my sake, and for the sake of the gospel, will save it. For what will it profit them to gain the whole world and forfeit their life? Indeed, what can they give in return for their life? Those who are ashamed of me and of my words in this adulterous and sinful generation, of them the Son of Man will also be ashamed when he comes in the glory of his Father with the holy angels.”

Leader: This is the Gospel of our Lord, Jesus Christ.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

*Sermon Hymn

See page 6

“Lord, I Want to Be a Christian” stanzas 1, 2, and 4

I WANT TO BE A CHRISTIAN

Sermon

“What Kind of Jesus? What Kind of Disciple?”

Rev. Dr. Layne Smith

A Moment to Reflect

Musical Reflection

J. Kevin Gray

“Give Me Jesus”

Traditional Spiritual

In the morning when I rise, in the morning when I rise, in the morning when I rise, give me Jesus.

Refrain:

Give me Jesus, give me Jesus, you can have all this world, but give me Jesus.

Oh, when I am alone, oh when I am alone, oh when I am alone, give me Jesus. [Refrain]

And when I come to sing, and when I come to sing, and when I come to sing, give me Jesus. [Refrain]

And when I come to die, and when I come to die, and when I come to die give me Jesus. [Refrain]

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

Ryan LaPrade, Life Deacon

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



Offertory Anthem

David Kerns, Flutist, and Chancel Choir

“Disciples Prayer”

J. Kevin Gray

Light of love and mercy, that shines through loving eyes,
the Spirit working in us to heal and bring life.
Grace and understanding - these are gifts from God,
that heal the broken spirit and make us whole.
Grace is making us whole.
Grace shining through human eyes.
Use us, O Lord, to be instruments of your grace.
In sharing love with others, we worship that above.
We become the hands and feet,
the embracing arms of God for all the world.
O make us Lord; your instruments are grace.

*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

Ryan LaPrade, Life Deacon

*Closing Hymn

“I Have Decided to Follow Jesus”

See page 7
ASSAM

Responding to the Word

Rev. Dr. Layne Smith

Pastoral Blessing

Postlude

“Jesus Shall Reign”

Dr. Matthew Manwarren, Organist
arr. Charles Callahan

*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

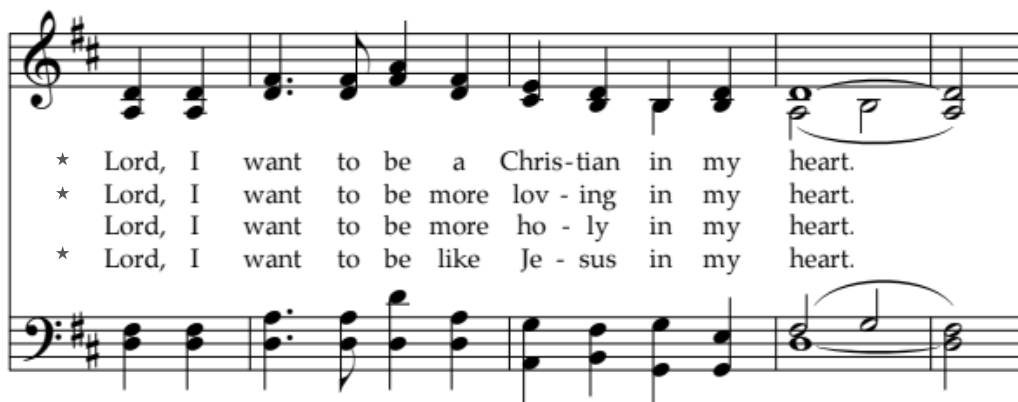
Becoming a member of Myers Park Baptist is as simple as filling out a joining card.
To receive a card or learn more, contact Rev. Marina Luckhoo at mluckhoo@myersparkbaptist.org.



Lord, I Want to Be a Christian



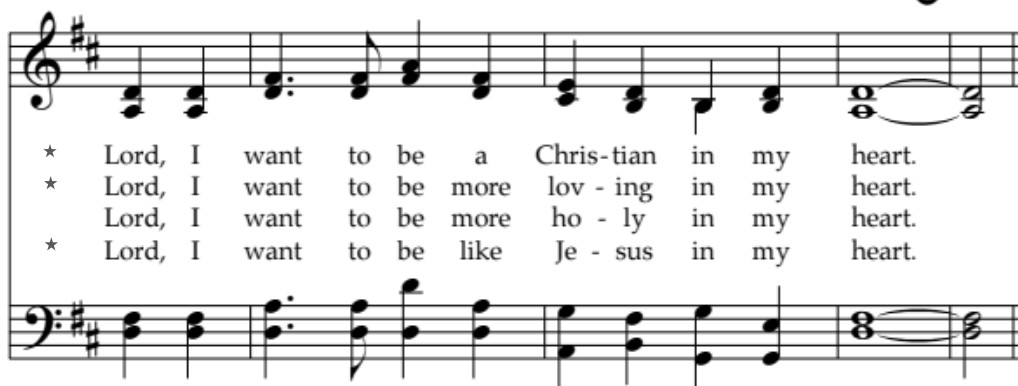
* 1 Lord, I want to be a Chris-tian in my heart, in my heart;
 * 2 Lord, I want to be more lov - ing in my heart, in my heart;
 * 3 Lord, I want to be more ho - ly in my heart, in my heart;
 * 4 Lord, I want to be like Je - sus in my heart, in my heart;



* Lord, I want to be a Chris-tian in my heart.
 * Lord, I want to be more lov - ing in my heart.
 * Lord, I want to be more ho - ly in my heart.
 * Lord, I want to be like Je - sus in my heart.



In my heart, in my heart, In my heart, in my heart, in my heart, in my heart,



* Lord, I want to be a Chris-tian in my heart.
 * Lord, I want to be more lov - ing in my heart.
 * Lord, I want to be more ho - ly in my heart.
 * Lord, I want to be like Je - sus in my heart.

Through its recurring phrase, "in my heart," this poignant African American spiritual expresses the desire that our professed faith will not be superficial or hypocritical but will permeate the very center of our being, so that we may truly be the people God calls us to be.

I Have Decided to Follow Jesus

1. I have de-cid-ed to fol-low Je-sus, I have de-
 2. The world be-hind me, the cross be-fore me, the world be-
 3. Though none go with me, I still will fol-low, though none go
 4. Will you de-cide now to fol-low Je-sus? Will you de-

cid-ed to fol-low Je-sus, I have de-cid-ed to fol-low
 hind me, the cross be-fore me, the world be-hind me, the cross be-
 with me, I still will fol-low, though none go with me, I still will
 cide now to fol-low Je-sus? Will you de-cide now to fol-low

Je - sus— no turn-ing back, no turn-ing back.
 fore me— no turn-ing back, no turn-ing back.
 fol - low— no turn-ing back, no turn-ing back.
 Je - sus?— no turn-ing back, no turn-ing back.

The Worshiping Church 576
 WORDS: Anonymous
 MUSIC (ASSAM, Irregular): Anonymous

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

Sunday, September 14th

11:15am-12:15pm Faith and Community Forum –
(Former Charlotte Observer Editor and writer Lew Powell) – Shalom Hall

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

Tuesday, September 16th

10:00am-11:30am Creative Friends Group – Room 32

Wednesday, September 17th

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

Sunday, September 21st

9:00am-9:45am Life Deacons Breakfast - Library

10:00am-11:00am Worship featuring Appalachia
Winds – Sanctuary

11:00am-11:15am SOULer SUNday – Brick Drive

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

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