

THE WORSHIP OF GOD

Sunday

September 21, 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

“Piece V”

Dr. Kyle Jones, saxophone; Dr. Matthew Manwarren, piano
Céasar Franck

Call to Worship

Rev. Dane Jordan

Leader: We come with open hearts, trusting in the wideness of God's mercy.

People: We come from many paths, yet grace gathers us into one sacred story.

Leader: God’s grace is not measured, earned, or withheld. It flows freely, extravagantly, without limit.

People: We receive this grace with awe and gratitude, knowing we are deeply loved.

Leader: When we falter, grace lifts us. When we doubt, grace embraces us. When we wander, grace welcomes us home.

People: Thanks be to God, whose grace is extravagant, inclusive, and always enough.

Invocation

*Opening Hymn

“There’s a Wideness in God’s Mercy”

Number 276
IN BABILONE

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

Gospel Reading Matthew 20:1-16 (NRSV)

David Zeeso, Choir Member

“For the kingdom of heaven is like a landowner who went out early in the morning to hire laborers for his vineyard. After agreeing with the laborers for a denarius for the day, he sent them into his vineyard. When he went out about nine o’clock, he saw others standing idle in the marketplace, and he said to them, ‘You also go into the vineyard, and I will pay you whatever is right.’ So, they went. When he went out again about noon and about three o’clock, he did the same. And about five o’clock he went out and found others standing around, and he said to them, ‘Why are you standing here idle all day?’

They said to him, ‘Because no one has hired us.’ He said to them, ‘You also go into the vineyard.’ When evening came, the owner of the vineyard said to his manager, ‘Call the laborers and give them their pay, beginning with the last and then going to the first.’ When those hired about five o’clock came, each of them received a denarius. Now when the first came, they thought they would receive more; but each of them also received a denarius. And when they received it, they grumbled against the landowner, saying, ‘These last worked only one hour, and you have made them equal to us who have borne the burden of the day and the scorching heat.’ But he replied to one of them, ‘Friend, I am doing you no wrong; did you not agree with me for a denarius? Take what belongs to you and go; I choose to give to this last the same as I give to you. Am I not allowed to do what I choose with what belongs to me? Or are you envious because I am generous?’ So, the last will be first, and the first will be last.”

Leader: This is the gospel of the Lord, Jesus Christ.

People: Thanks be to God.

*Sermon Hymn

“A Man Owned a Vineyard”

A man owned a vineyard and needed a crew
to tend to his land — there was plenty to do.
He called out to people downtown in the square,
“come work hard all day and I'll pay you what's fair.”
God, you call and you send; there is work here to do.
There's your whole world to tend; may we garden for you!
O Lord, in your vineyard may we seek to be
the workers who tend to your justice and peace.

He went back a number of times on that day;
he called to new workers and promised fair pay.
Can we but imagine those first workers' rage,
when all those who labored received the same wage?
God, the gift of your grace comes as quite a surprise,
for your mercies embrace even latecomers' lives.
May all who have worked long and hard humbly learn:
your grace is a gift and not something we earn.

He called the complainers and said, "This is true —
that I kept my word and I gave you your due.
I share with compassion; I'm loving and kind.
I care for all people and give what is mine!"
God you give what is yours, more than what we deserve;
may we reach out in love where you call us to serve.
May we who have witnessed your grace gladly share,
your justice and love with your world everywhere.

Sermon

“Is God Fair?”

Rev. Dr. Layne Smith

A Moment to Reflect

Musical Reflection

“O Love”

O Love that will not let me go,
I rest my weary soul in thee;
I give thee back the life I owe,
that in thy ocean depths its flow
may richer, fuller be.

O Joy that seeks me through pain,
I cannot close my heart to thee;
I trace the rainbow through the rain,
and feel the promise is not vain,
that morn shall tearless be.

Chancel Choir
Elaine Hagenberg

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

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

Amy Johnson, Deacon



Offertory

"Gabriel's Oboe"

Dr. Kyle Jones, saxophone; Dr. Matthew Manwarren, organ
Ennio Morricone

*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

Amy Johnson, Deacon

*Closing Hymn

"Called as Partners in Christ's Service" stanzas 1, 2, and 4

See page 7
BEECHER

Responding to the Word

Rev. Dr. Layne Smith

Pastoral Blessing

Postlude

"Fanfare"

Dr. Matthew Manwarren
William Mathias

*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.



Today's special music is made possible through a generous donation to our music program.

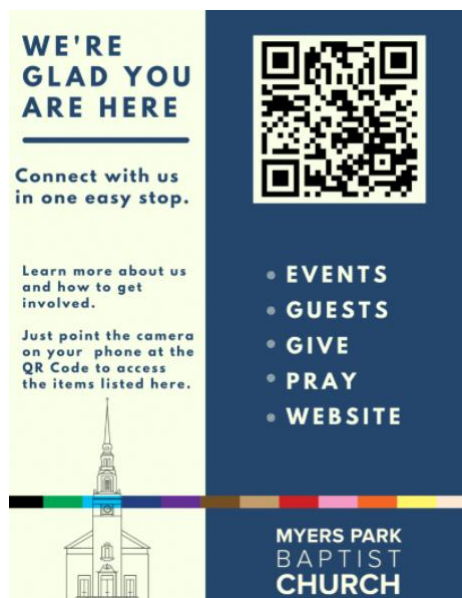


At Myers Park Baptist Church, we strive for inclusive language. However, there are times due to the historical nature or context of the text that we choose to leave language unchanged as initially presented. Be assured that MPBC holds God as non-gender-specific; God's essence encompasses all.



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.



Called as Partners in Christ's Service



- * 1 Called as part-ners in Christ's ser-vice, called to min-is-tries of grace,
- * 2 Christ's ex-am-ple, Christ's in-spir-ing, Christ's clear call to work and worth,
- 3 Thus new pat-terns for Christ's mis-sion, in a small or glob-al sense,
- * 4 So God grant us for to - mor-row ways to or - der hu - man life



- * we re-spond with deep com-mit-ment fresh new lines of faith to trace.
- * let us fol-low, nev - er fal-tering, rec - on - cil - ing folk on earth.
- help us bear each oth - er's bur-dens, break-ing down each wall or fence.
- * that sur-round each per - son's sor-row with a calm that con-quests strife.



- * May we learn the art of shar-ing, side by side and friend with friend,
- * Men and wom-en, rich - er, poor - er, all God's peo-ple, young and old,
- Words of com-fort, words of vi-sion, words of chal-lenge, said with care,
- * Make us part-ners in our liv-ing, our com-pas-sion to in - crease,



- * e - qual part-ners in our car-ing to ful - fill God's cho - sen end.
- * blend-ing hu - man skills to - geth - er gra-cious gifts from God un - fold.
- bring new power and strength for ac-tion, make us col-leagues, free and fair.
- * mes - sen-gers of faith, thus giv-ing hope and con - fi - dence and peace.



This hymn is a celebration of mutuality and diversity as well as a challenge to the Christian community to live out a ministry of reconciliation and inclusion. This 20th-century text is set to a 19th-century tune named for the noted pastor and preacher Henry Ward Beecher.

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 21

11:15am - 1:00pm | Transitional Team and Congregational Lunch – Heaton Hall

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

TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 23

6:00pm - 8:00pm | Theology Pub - Hawthorne Pizza (6215 Old Post Rd)

WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 24

12:00pm - 12:45pm | Meditation Taizé - Zoom

12:00pm - 12:45pm | Taizé Service - Chapel

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 28

10:00am - 11:00am | Vivaldi's "Four Seasons" Seasons of Life / Journeys of Faith – Sanctuary

11:15am - 12:15pm | Faith Formation Classes for Adults and Children – Multiple locations

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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