



Rembrandt van Rijn, *The Return of the Prodigal Son*, c. 1669, oil on canvas, 262 × 205 cm, State Hermitage Museum, St. Petersburg, Russia.

THE WORSHIP OF GOD

Sunday, October 12, 2025

10:00am

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

“Clair de Lune”

Claudio Olivera, Pianist
Claude Debussy

Call to Worship

Leader: Come, all who wander and all who wait.

People: Come, all who long for home.

Leader: Here, grace meets us-not with judgment, but with open arms.

People: Here, the table is set for the lost and the found alike.

Leader: Let us worship the God who runs to meet us.

People: The one who rejoices in our return and never stops calling us beloved.

Rev. Dr. Layne Smith

Invocation

***Opening Hymn**

“All Are Welcome” stanzas 1, 3 and 5

See page 7.
TWO OAKS

Welcome of Our Guests

*If you are our guest today, please scan the QR code below
so we may offer you our gratitude for joining us today.*



Rev. Dane Jordan

***Passing of the Peace**

A Moment of Centering

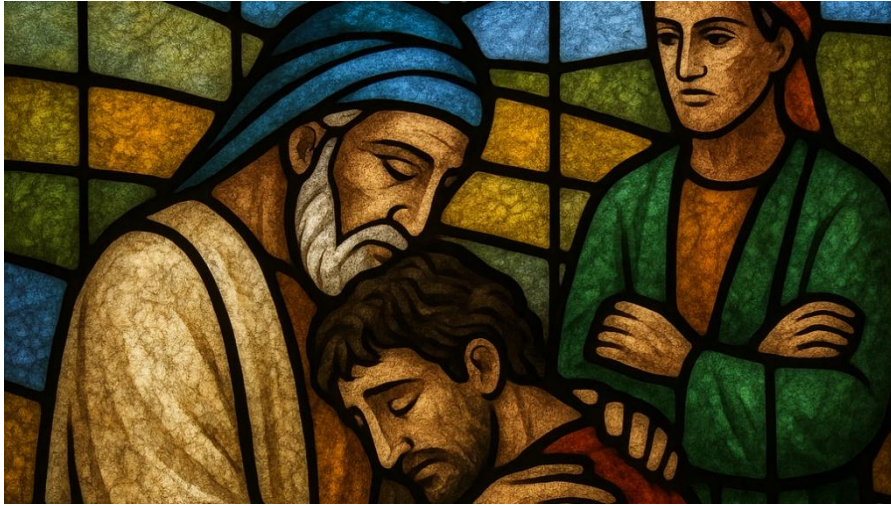
J. Kevin Gray

*In this moment, we are invited to rest in the unanxious presence of God,
to dwell in God’s unchanging love, breathing in the grace that is always offered.*

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

**Please rise in body or in spirit.*



Gospel Reading – Luke 15:1-3 and 11-32 (NRSV)

Rev. Dr. Layne Smith, Janet Miller,
Kate Green, and Mark Chatman

Now all the tax collectors and sinners were coming near to listen to him. And the Pharisees and the scribes were grumbling and saying, “This fellow welcomes sinners and eats with them.” So, he told them this parable:

Then Jesus said, “There was a man who had two sons. The younger of them said to his father, ‘Father, give me the share of the wealth that will belong to me.’ So, he divided his assets between them. A few days later the younger son gathered all he had and traveled to a distant region, and there he squandered his wealth in dissolute living. When he had spent everything, a severe famine took place throughout that region, and he began to be in need. So, he went and hired himself out to one of the citizens of that region, who sent him to his fields to feed the pigs. He would gladly have filled his stomach with the pods that the pigs were eating, and no one gave him anything. But when he came to his senses he said, ‘How many of my father’s hired hands have bread enough and to spare, but here I am dying of hunger! I will get up and go to my father, and I will say to him, ‘Father, I have sinned against heaven and before you; I am no longer worthy to be called your son; treat me like one of your hired hands.’”

“So, he set off and went to his father. But while he was still far off, his father saw him and was filled with compassion; he ran and put his arms around him and kissed him. Then the son said to him, ‘Father, I have sinned against heaven and before you; I am no longer worthy to be called your son.’ But the father said to his servants, ‘Quickly, bring out a robe—the best one—and put it on him; put a ring on his finger and sandals on his feet. And get the fatted calf and kill it, and let us eat and celebrate, for this son of mine was dead and is alive again; he was lost and is found!’ And they began to celebrate.”

“Now his elder son was in the field, and as he came and approached the house, he heard music and dancing. He called one of the servants and asked what was going on. He replied, ‘Your brother has come, and your father has killed the fatted calf because he has got him back safe and sound.’ Then he became angry and refused to go in. His father came out and began to plead with him. But he answered his father, ‘Listen! For all these years I have been working like a servant for you, and I have never disobeyed your command, yet you have never given me even a young goat so that I might celebrate with my friends. But when this son of yours came back, who has devoured your assets with prostitutes, you killed the fatted calf for him!’ Then the father said to him, ‘Son, you are always with me, and all that is mine is yours. But we had to celebrate and rejoice, because this brother of yours was dead and has come to life; he was lost and has been found.’”

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

People: Thanks be to God.

*Sermon Hymn

ASH GROVE

“We’re Part of the Blessing”

words by Carolyn Winfrey Gillette

We're part of the blessing of God's new creation;
the world may not see it, but we know it's true.
For God in Christ Jesus has given salvation;
the old life is gone! God makes everything new!
We're part of the blessing, for we are God's children.
We're loved and forgiven! We're welcomed back home.
And now we are called to be part of God's kingdom,
to welcome the children God claims as his own.

We're part of the blessing of God's new creation;
as we have been welcomed, may we share God's grace.
There's no room for grumbling in God's gracious kingdom;
there's no place to question God's loving embrace.
The outcast, the sinner, the poor, struggling mother,
the addict, the seeker, the one who is lost —
God welcomes them home and invites them to dinner;
God runs out to greet us through Christ and his cross.

Sermon

“The Three Prodigals”

Rev. Dr. Layne Smith

A Moment to Reflect

Musical Reflection

J. Kevin Gray and David Young, Choir Member

“Softly and Tenderly”

Will Lamartine Thompson

Softly and tenderly, Jesus is calling, calling for you and for me.
See, on the portals he’s waiting and watching, watching for you and for me.

Refrain:

Come home, come home, ye who are weary, come home.
Earnestly, tenderly, Jesus is calling, calling, O sinner, come home!

Why should we tarry when Jesus is pleading, pleading for you and for me?
Why should we linger and heed not his mercies, mercies for you and for me? *[Refrain]*.

O for the wonderful love he has promised, promised for you and for me!
Though we have sinned, he has mercy and pardon, pardon for you and for me. *[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.

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



Offertory Anthem

Chancel Choir

"I Sing Because I'm Happy"

arr. Kenneth Paden, adapted by Rollo Dilworth

I sing because I'm happy; I sing because I'm free.

For his eye is on the sparrow, and I know he watches me.

I'm so happy yes, I'm so happy yes, I am.

For his eye is on the sparrow, and I know he watches me.

***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**

Mary Miller, Deacon

***Closing Hymn**

Number 260

"Lord God, Your Love Has Called Us Here" stanzas 1, 2, and 5

ST. CATHERINE

***Responding to the Word**

Rev. Dr. Layne Smith

***Pastoral Blessing**

Postlude

Claudio Olivera, Pianist

"Vallée d'Obermann (excerpt)"

Franz Liszt

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.



Everyone is invited!

Join us after worship today for Spiritual Growth groups and classes.

FAITH AND COMMUNITY

"Nutrition and its Power for Healing and Health"

Shalom Hall

With Guest Speaker Elaine Jones RDN, LDN

10.12.25 • 11:15 AM

MYERS PARK BAPTIST CHURCH

Unlikely Saints Spiritual Growth Class

Sundays | 11:15 AM-12:15 PM | Room 250

MYERS PARK BAPTIST CHURCH

Spiritual Growth

A Class for Members of the LGBTQ+ Community and Allies

Queer-ies Bible Study

To learn more, scan or visit myersparkbaptist.org/grow/spiritual-growth

Sundays | 11:15 am - 12:15 pm Church Library

MYERS PARK BAPTIST CHURCH

Children's Ministry

Faith, Fun, & Friends Each Sunday Morning

11:15 AM - 12:15 PM | Room 210 | Grades 1-5

MYERS PARK BAPTIST CHURCH

Youth Ministry

Exploring Life, Faith, & Purpose Together

Sundays | 4 PM | Youth Hall | Grades 6 - 12

MYERS PARK BAPTIST CHURCH

— More opportunities during the week! —

Kingdom of the Poor SPIRITUAL GROWTH CLASS

Join us on Wednesdays starting October 1 as we read "The Kingdom of the Poor: My Journey Home" by Charles Strobel — a moving memoir from a Nashville priest and tireless advocate for those experiencing homelessness.

This study, led by Robin Buck and Cher Lindblom, will prepare our hearts and minds for our winter outreach initiative, Room In The Inn (RITI), inviting us to see every person as worthy of love and dignity.

WEDs, Oct 22, 29 & Nov 5 | 6:30 - 7:30p | Library

MYERS PARK BAPTIST CHURCH

2nd & 4th Tuesdays:

Theology Pub

Open & Honest Conversations About Life, Faith, & Living Well

HAWTHORNE'S: MERIDIEN PLACE | 6-8 PM

MYERS PARK BAPTIST CHURCH

Stanzas 1, 3 and 5

All Are Welcome



* 1. Let us build a house where love can dwell And
 2. Let us build a house where proph - ets speak, And
 * 3. Let us build a house where love is found In
 4. Let us build a house where hands will reach Be -
 * 5. Let us build a house where all are named, Their

* all can safe - ly live, A place where saints and
 words are strong and true, Where all God's chil - dren
 * wa - ter, wine and wheat: A ban - quet hall on
 yond the wood and stone To heal and strength - en,
 * songs and vi - sions heard And loved and treas - ured,

* chil - dren tell How hearts learn to for -
 dare to seek To dream God's reign a -
 * ho - ly ground, Where peace and jus - tice
 serve and teach, And live the Word they've
 * taught and claimed As words with - in the

* give. Built of hopes and dreams and vi - sions,
 new. Here the cross shall stand as wit - ness
 * meet. Here the love of God, through Je - sus,
 known. Here the out - cast and the stran - ger
 * Word. Built of tears and cries and laugh - ter,

* Rock of faith and vault of grace; Here the
 And as sym - bol of God's grace; Here as
 * Is re - vealed in time and space; As we
 Bear the im - age of God's face; Let us
 * Prayers of faith and songs of grace, Let this

* love of Christ shall end di - vi - sions:
 one we claim the faith of Je - sus:
 * share in Christ the feast that frees us: All are wel - come,
 bring an end to fear and dan - ger:
 * house pro - claim from floor to raft - er:

all are wel - come, all are wel - come in this place.

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
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Rev. Dane Jordan

Interim Minister of Youth
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Rev. Marina Luckhoo

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Rev. Dr. Layne Smith

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We are affiliated with
allianceofbaptists.org



UPCOMING EVENTS

Sunday, October 12th

See page 6.

Monday, October 13th

9:45am-12:00pm Roundtable meeting – Parlor

Tuesday, October 14th

8:am-3:00pm Roof Above Meal Prep – Kitchen
6:00pm-8:00pm Theology Pub – Hawthorne's Pizza

Wednesday, October 15th

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

Sunday, October 19th

10:00am-11:00am Worship – Sanctuary
11:15am-12:15am Spiritual Growth Classes for all ages – Multiple Locations
4:00pm-6:00pm Youth Block

Tuesday, October 21st

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

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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