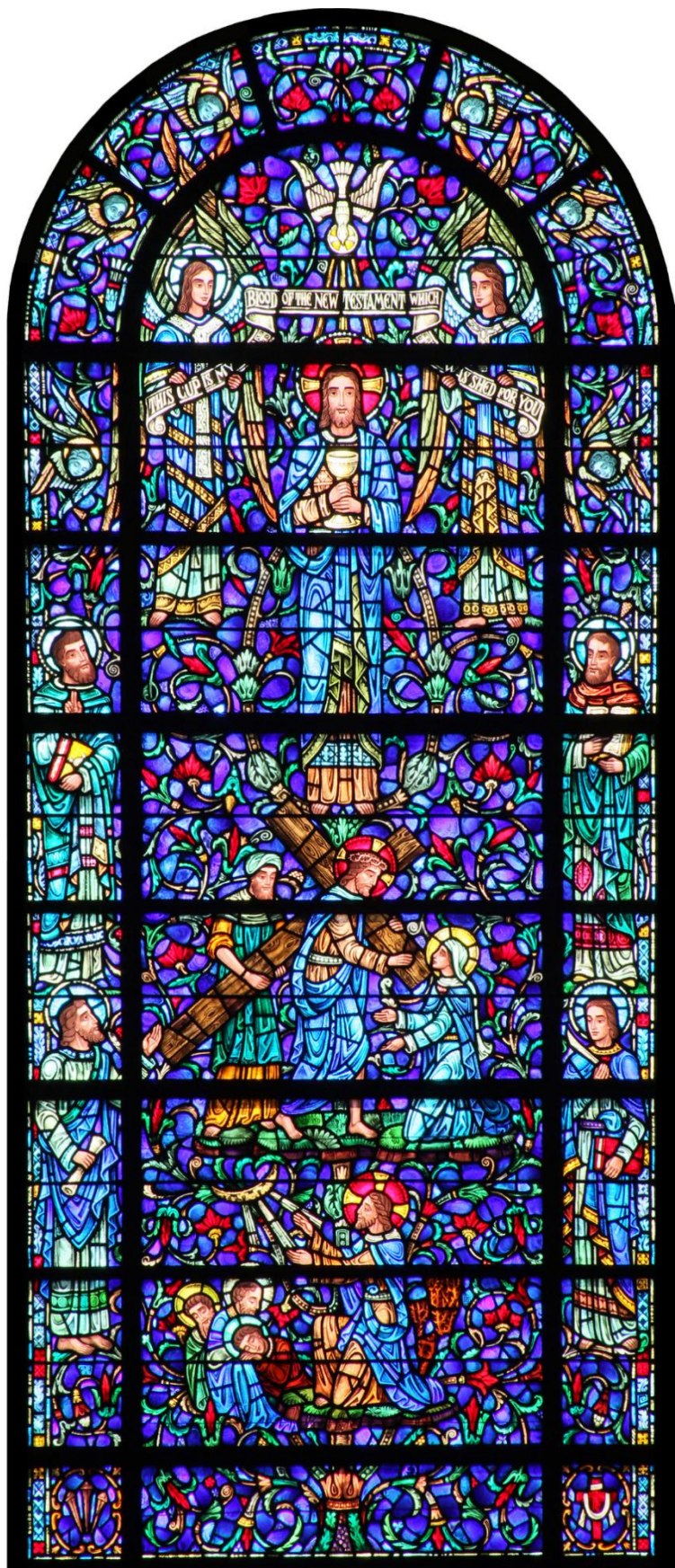




THE WORSHIP OF GOD

Sunday

October 26, 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

“F. C.’s Jig”

Mark and Maggie O’Connor
Mark O’Connor

Call to Worship

Leader: Come, beloved community, not with pride, but with open hearts.

People: Here, grace meets us in truth.

Leader: Here, we belong, not by merit, but by mercy.

People: Let us bring our gifts: our stories, our struggles, our hope.

Rev. Marina Luckhoo

Invocation

***Opening Hymn**

“The Mighty God, with Power Speaks”

See pages 6 and 7.
KINGSFOLD

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

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 – Luke 18:9-14 (NRSV)

Kathryn Long, Congregant

Jesus also told this parable to some who trusted in themselves that they were righteous and regarded others with contempt: “Two men went up to the temple to pray, one a Pharisee and the other a tax collector.

“The Pharisee, standing by himself, was praying thus, ‘God, I thank you that I am not like other people: thieves, rogues, adulterers, or even like this tax collector. I fast twice a week; I give a tenth of all my income.’ But the tax collector, standing far off, would not even lift up his eyes to heaven but was beating his breast and saying, ‘God, be merciful to me, a sinner!’ I tell you; this man went down to his home justified rather than the other, for all who exalt themselves will be humbled, but all who humble themselves will be exalted.”

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

People: **Thanks be to God.**

*Sermon Hymn

Words by Carolyn Winfrey Gillette

“When You are Praying”

NEW BRITAIN

"When you are praying," Jesus said, "Don't put on vain displays — but close your door and speak your heart, and humbly offer praise."

God, give us grace to follow you; protect us on your way.
When evil tempts us from your path, deliver us, we pray.

O Lord, we turn in trust to you; you know the things we need —
and like a parent, you so love: the ones who ask, receive.

Sermon

“Unlikely Characters”

Rev. Dana Cassell

A Moment to Reflect

Musical Reflection

“Jesu, Joy of Man’s Desiring”

Mark and Maggie O’Connor

J.S. Bach, Arr. Mark O’Connor

Church at Prayer

Rev. Dr. Layne Smith

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
Jane Marshall

“My Eternal King”

My God, I love thee; not because I hope for heav’n thereby,
nor yet because who love thee not must die eternally.

Thou, O my Jesus, thou didst me upon the cross embrace;
for me didst bear the nails, the nails and spear, and manifold disgrace.

Why, then why, O blessed Jesus Christ, should I not love thee well?
Not for the hope of winning heav’n, or of escaping hell;

Not with the hope of gaining aught, not seeking a reward;
but as thyself hast loved me, O ever-loving Lord!

E’en so I love thee, and will love, and in thy praise will sing;
solely because thou art my God, and my Eternal King.

***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**

Eddie Bell, Stewardship Committee

***Closing Hymn**

“God Whose Goodness Knows No Ending”

Number 271
BEACH SPRING

Responding to the Word

Rev. Dr. Layne Smith

Pastoral Blessing

Rev. Dana Cassell

Postlude

“The Holly and the Ivy”

Mark and Maggie O’Connor
Arr. Mark O’Connor

***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.

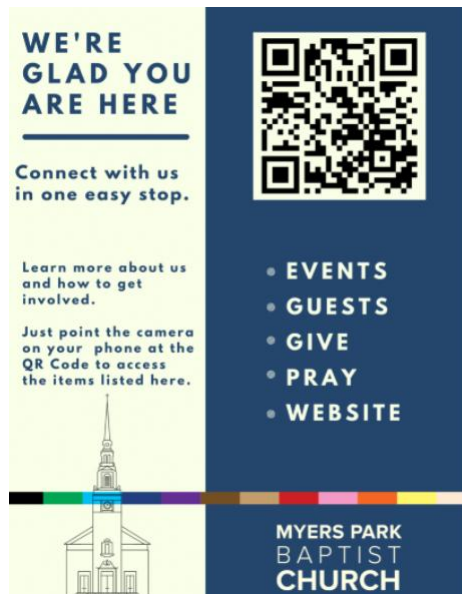


HOW TO JOIN MYERS PARK BAPTIST CHURCH

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.



*To learn more about upcoming events, our church portal,
social media pages, and weekly newsletter, simply scan the QR code below.*



The Mighty God, with Power Speaks

1. The Might - y God, with pow - er speaks, and all the world o -
 2. God comes not with a si - lent form, but rid - ing on the
 3. The heav'ns de - clare your jus - tice, Lord, as end - less as the

beys; from dawn un - til the set - ting sun, God's
 winds; be - fore God's face, the rag - ing storm its
 sky; a - gainst the taunts of dis - be - lief, our

won - der earth dis - plays. True beau - ty beams from
 blasts of thun - der sends. O God of mer - cy,
 God will tes - ti - fy. Re - ceive my heart - felt

WORDS: Michael Morgan (1948-)
 MUSIC: Trad. English-Celtic melody,
 arr. Hal H. Hopson (1933-)

Words © 1999 Michael Morgan
 Music Arr. © 2010 Hope Publishing Company

Zi - on's hill, there God's rule shines forth, and
 in my life love and peace re - store; my
 gift of thanks, God of love and might, re -

stars a - cross the fir - ma-ment so bright-ly beam their worth.
 sin and guilt are washed a - way, and I am whole once more.
 fresh my faith with each new day; pro - tect me through the night.

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
lsmith@myersparkbaptist.org

704.334.7232

mpbc@myersparkbaptist.org

We are affiliated with
allianceofbaptists.org



UPCOMING EVENTS

Sunday, October 26th

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

Tuesday, October 28th

6:00pm-8:00pm Theology Pub – Hawthorne's Meridien Place

Wednesday, October 29th

11:30am-12:00pm Meditation - Zoom
6:30pm-7:30pm Kingdom of the Poor with Guest Speaker Joe Hamby – Heaton Hall

Thursday, October 30th

7:00pm-9:00pm Heaton Hall Open House – Heaton Hall

Sunday, November 2nd

4:30pm-6:00pm Step Up and Celebrate – Enjoy Music and Dancing with the option to bring an appetizer to share - 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.

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