



The Worship of God

## The First Sunday of Lent

February 22 | 10:00a

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**

“Meditation: Love Unknown”

Dr. Matthew Manwarren, organ  
Francis Jackson

**Call to Worship**

Layne Smith

Leader: In this Lenten season of repentance and renewal, we turn to you, O God, our provider and healer.

**People: Lord, cleanse our hearts, restore our spirits, and supply all that we need.**

Leader: When we walk through wilderness and waiting, you sustain us with mercy and grace.

**People: We trust in you alone, for you heal, you restore, and your love never fails.**

**Invocation**

**\*Opening Hymn**

“Lord, Who Throughout These Forty Days”

Number 133  
ST. FLAVIAN

**Welcome**

J. Kevin Gray

*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**

**Ministry Moment**

Mike Bowen, Senior Minister Search Committee

**Invitation to Confession**

Dane Jordan

**A Time for Silent Confession**

**Prayer of Confession**

Written by Beth Merrill Neel

O Lord, you are our shepherd,  
and yet we want.  
We lie down, when we could act,  
we stir the pot, when we could offer peace,  
we wander, tempting paths instead of following you.  
We see courage and comfort in earthly things,

*\*Please rise in body or in spirit.*

we hate our enemies and refuse to break bread with them,  
 we see scarcity, even when you offer us abundance.  
 We pray for forgiveness,  
 for your goodness and mercy,  
 so that we might dwell in you,  
 in your grace, forever.

**Song of Prayer**

“Hear Our Prayer, O Lord”

HEAR OUR PRAYER

*\*The Chancel Choir will sing the first time through, followed by the congregation*

**Words of Assurance**

Dane Jordan

Friends, hear this Good News: the love of God is beyond measure, and you are included in that love. Know that you are forgiven and thus freed to love and serve.

**Hebrew Scripture – 1 Kings 17:8-24 (NRSV)**

Rev. Deborah Moore Clark, Senior Minister Search Committee

Then the word of the Lord came to Elijah, saying, “Go now to Zarephath, which belongs to Sidon, and live there, for I have commanded a widow there to feed you.” So, he set out and went to Zarephath. When he came to the gate of the town, a widow was there gathering sticks; he called to her and said, “Bring me a little water in a vessel, so that I may drink.” As she was going to bring it, he called to her and said, “Bring me a morsel of bread in your hand.” But she said, “As the Lord your God lives, I have nothing baked, only a handful of meal in a jar and a little oil in a jug; I am now gathering a couple of sticks so that I may go home and prepare it for myself and my son, that we may eat it and die.” Elijah said to her, “Do not be afraid; go and do as you have said, but first make me a little cake of it and bring it to me, and afterward make something for yourself and your son. For thus says the Lord the God of Israel: The jar of meal will not be emptied and the jug of oil will not fail until the day that the Lord sends rain on the earth.” She went and did as Elijah said, so that she, as well as he and her household, ate for many days. The jar of meal was not emptied, neither did the jug of oil fail, according to the word of the Lord that he spoke by Elijah.

After this, the son of the woman, the mistress of the house, became ill; his illness was so severe that there was no breath left in him. She then said to Elijah, “What have you against me, O man of God? You have come to me to bring my sin to remembrance and to cause the death of my son!” But he said to her, “Give me your son.” He took him from her bosom, carried him up into the upper chamber where he was lodging, and laid him on his own bed. He cried out to the Lord, “O Lord my God, have you brought calamity even upon the widow with whom I am staying, by killing her son?”

Then he stretched himself upon the child three times and cried out to the Lord, “O Lord my God, let this child’s life come into him again.” The Lord listened to the voice of Elijah; the life of the child came into him again, and he revived. Elijah took the child, brought him down from the upper chamber into the house, and gave him to his mother; then Elijah said, “See, your son is alive.” So, the woman said to Elijah, “Now I know that you are a man of God and that the word of the Lord in your mouth is truth.”

**\*Sermon Hymn**

“There is a Balm in Gilead” stanza 1

Number 335  
Spiritual

**Gospel Lesson – Acts 3:1-10, 8:26-40 (NRSV)**

Layne Smith

One day Peter and John were going up to the temple at the hour of prayer, at three o’clock in the afternoon. And a man lame from birth was being carried in. People would lay him daily at the gate of the temple called the Beautiful Gate so that he could ask for alms from those entering the temple. When he saw Peter and John about to go into the temple, he asked them for alms. Peter looked intently at him, as did John, and said, “Look at us.” And he fixed his attention on them, expecting to receive something from them. Peter said, “I have no silver or gold, but what I have I give you; in the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth, stand up and walk.” And he took him by the right hand and raised him up, and immediately his feet and ankles were made strong. Jumping up, he stood and began to walk, and he entered the temple with them, walking and leaping and praising God. All the people saw him walking and praising God, and they recognized him as the one who used to sit and ask for alms at the Beautiful Gate of the temple, and they were filled with wonder and astonishment at what had happened to him.

Then an angel of the Lord said to Philip, “Get up and go toward the south to the road that goes down from Jerusalem to Gaza.” (This is a wilderness road.) So, he got up and went. Now there was an Ethiopian eunuch, a court official of the Candace, the queen of the Ethiopians, in charge of her entire treasury. He had come to Jerusalem to worship and was returning home; seated in his chariot, he was reading the prophet Isaiah. Then the Spirit said to Philip, “Go over to this chariot and join it.” So, Philip ran up to it and heard him reading the prophet Isaiah. He asked, “Do you understand what you are reading?” He replied, “How can I, unless someone guides me?” And he invited Philip to get in and sit beside him. Now the passage of the scripture that he was reading was this: “Like a sheep he was led to the slaughter, and like a lamb silent before its shearer, so he does not open his mouth. In his humiliation, justice was denied him. Who can describe his generation? For his life is taken away from the earth.”

The eunuch asked Philip, “About whom, may I ask you, does the prophet say this, about himself or about someone else?” Then Philip began to speak, and starting with this scripture he proclaimed to him the good news about Jesus. As they were going along the road, they came to some water, and the eunuch said, “Look, here is water! What is to prevent me from being baptized?” He commanded the chariot to stop, and both of them, Philip and the eunuch, went down into the water, and Philip baptized him. When they came up out of the water, the Spirit of the Lord snatched Philip away; the eunuch saw him no more and went on his way rejoicing. But Philip found himself at Azotus, and as he was passing through the region he proclaimed the good news to all the towns until he came to Caesarea.

**\*Sermon Hymn**

“There is a Balm in Gilead” stanza 2

Number 335  
Spiritual

**New Testament Reading – Acts 12:6-17 (NRSV)**

Marina Luckhoo

The very night before Herod was going to bring him out, Peter, bound with two chains, was sleeping between two soldiers, while guards in front of the door were keeping watch over the prison. Suddenly an angel of the Lord appeared, and a light shone in the cell. He tapped Peter on the side and woke him, saying, “Get up quickly.” And the chains fell off his wrists. The angel said to him, “Fasten your belt and put on your sandals.” He did so. Then he said to him, “Wrap your cloak around you and follow me.” Peter went out and followed him; he did not realize that what was happening with the angel’s help was real; he thought he was seeing a vision. After they had passed the first and the second guard, they came before the iron gate leading into the city.

It opened for them of its own accord, and they went outside and walked along a lane, when suddenly the angel left him. Then Peter came to himself and said, “Now I am sure that the Lord has sent his angel and rescued me from the hands of Herod and from all that the Jewish people were expecting.” As soon as he realized this, he went to the house of Mary, the mother of John whose other name was Mark, where many had gathered and were praying. When he knocked at the outer gate, a maid named Rhoda came to answer. On recognizing Peter’s voice, she was so overjoyed that, instead of opening the gate, she ran in and announced that Peter was standing at the gate. They said to her, “You are out of your mind!” But she insisted that it was so. They said, “It is his angel.” Meanwhile Peter continued knocking, and when they opened the gate they saw him and were amazed. He motioned to them with his hand to be silent and described for them how the Lord had brought him out of the prison. And he added, “Tell this to James and to the brothers and sisters.” Then he left and went to another place.

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**

“There is a Balm in Gilead” stanza 3

Number 335  
Spiritual

**Sermon**

“Days of Miracle and Wonder”

Rev. Dr. Martha Kearse

**A Moment to Reflect**

**Church at Prayer**

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.*

Janice Bradner, Deacon



**Offertory Anthem**

“When You Believe”

Many nights we prayed with no proof anyone could hear.  
In our hearts, a hopeful song we barely understood.  
Now, we are not afraid, although we know there's much to fear.  
We were moving mountains long before we knew we could.

David Young, McKenzie Coleman, Madeline Olivera,  
and Amelia Meena with the Chancel Choir  
*Stephen Schwartz, arr. Audrey Snyder*

**Refrain:**

There can be miracles, when you believe.  
Though hope is frail, it's hard to kill.  
Who knows what miracles, you can achieve?  
When you believe, somehow you will,  
you will when you believe.

In this time of fear, when prayer so often proves in vain.  
Hope seems like the summer bird, too swiftly flown away.  
Yet now I'm standing here with heart so full, I can't explain,  
seeking faith and speakin' words, I never thought I'd say. *[Refrain]*

Ashira l'Adonai ki ga'oh ga'ah. | I will sing to the Lord for he has triumphed gloriously.  
Michamocha ba-elim Adonai | Who is like you, oh Lord, among the celestials?  
Michamocha nedar-bakodesh | Who is like you, majestic in holiness?

Nachitah v'chasd'cha, am zu ga'alta | In your love, you lead the people you redeemed.  
Nachitah v'chasd'cha, am zu ga'alta | In your love, you lead the people you redeemed.

Ashira, Ashira, Ashira | I will sing, I will sing, I will sing.  
Ashira l'Adonai ki ga'oh ga'ah | I will sing to the Lord for he has triumphed gloriously.  
Ashira l'Adonai ki ga'oh ga'ah | I will sing to the Lord for he has triumphed gloriously.

Michamocha ba-elim Adonai | Who is like you, oh Lord, among the celestials?  
Michamocha nedar-bakodesh | Who is like you, majestic in holiness?  
Nachitah v'chasd'cha, am zu ga'alta | In your love, you lead the people you redeemed.  
Nachitah v'chasd'cha, am zu ga'alta | In your love, you lead the people you redeemed.

Ashira, Ashira, Ashira | I will sing, I will sing, I will sing. *[Refrain]*

#### **\*Presentation of Gifts and the Doxology**

**O Glorious God, to you we bring  
praise, treasures, lives as offering;  
empower each repentant heart  
to follow Christ when we depart.**

OLD HUNDREDTH  
*text by Paula Testerman*

#### **\*Prayer of Dedication**

Janice Bradner, Deacon

#### **\*Closing Hymn**

“A Servant Church”

ST. THEODULPH

The prophet's word rings clear through the corridors of time,  
its echoes call the people from every race and clime.  
Tell kings and priests, tell rich and poor, tell simple folk and fine,  
what does the Lord require of us? Hear now this truth sublime!

Do justice in the nations, to strangers, neighbors, kin.  
Be open to God's Spirit, and from the fire within,  
your fair regard will draw them all, though they have distant been,  
and you may lead them then to God who frees us from all sin.

Walk humbly with your God in His sanctuaries still,  
and turn not from your master in school or shop or mill.  
Stray not from God amid the lost, the hopeless and the ill,  
and in the Spirit's fellowship, with peace your heart will fill.

Lord, we would be your people; your body we would be,  
your hands and feet to labor 'till all in you are free!  
We will not mute the prophet's call; help us your world to see.  
Lord, make of us a servant church in selfless ministry!

***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](mailto:mluckhoo@myersparkbaptist.org).



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

**WE'RE GLAD YOU ARE HERE**

**CONNECT WITH US IN ONE EASY STOP**

- **EVENTS**
- **GUESTS**
- **GIVE**
- **PRAY**
- **WEBSITE**
- **MEMBER PORTAL**



Learn more about us and how to get involved. Just point the camera on your mobile phone at the QR Code to access the items listed above.

## 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**

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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](http://allianceofbaptists.org)



### UPCOMING EVENTS

#### **Sunday, February 22**

10:00am-11:00am | Worship – Sanctuary  
11:15am-12:15am | Spiritual Growth Classes for all ages – Multiple Locations  
11:15am-12:15pm | Senior Minister Search Committee Meeting – Conference Room  
4:00pm-6:00pm | Churchwide Service Event: Fighting Hunger – Heaton Hall

#### **Sunday, March 1**

10:00am-11:00am | Worship – Sanctuary  
11:15am-12:15am | Spiritual Growth Classes for all ages – Multiple Locations  
11:15am-12:15pm | Senior Minister Search Committee Meeting – Conference Room  
4:00pm-6:00pm | The Youth Journey Fellowship – Youth Hall

#### **Tuesday, March 3**

10:00am-11:30am | Creative Friends – Room 32  
12:00pm-1:30pm | Sage-ing Lunch – 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](mailto:lgeer@myersparkbaptist.org).*

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