



The Worship of God

The Fifth Sunday of Lent

March 22, 2026 | 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

“The Prayer”

I pray you'll be our eyes and watch us where we go,
and help us to be wise in times when we don't know.
Let this be our prayer when we lose our way.

Lead us to a place,
guide us with your grace,
to a place where we'll be safe.

I pray you'll find your light, and hold it in our hearts,
when stars go out each night, eternal light will shine.
Let this be our prayer, when shadows fill our day.

Lead us to a place,
guide us with your grace,
give us faith so we'll be safe.

We are dreaming of a world that has no violence,
a world without injustice, toil, or hunger.
Where neighbors reach a helping hand to strangers
as a sign of friendship brotherhood in love.
We ask that life be kind and watch us from above.
We hope each soul will find, another soul to love.
Let this be our prayer, just like every child.

Need to find a place,
guide us with your grace,
give us faith so we'll be safe.

Madeline Olivera and J. Kevin Gray
David Foster and Carole Bayer Sager

Call to Worship

J. Kevin Gray

Leader: God’s love is poured out for all people, through voices both strong and gentle.

People: We remember the women of faith who carried hope and shared God’s love.

Leader: Their courage proclaimed good news and opened the way for justice and compassion.

People: We gather to follow their witness, spreading love, hope, and grace to the world.

Invocation

***Opening Hymn**

“Come, Celebrate the Women”

LANCASHIRE
words by Shirley Murray

Come, celebrate the women who brought the church to birth!
The gentle revolution that shall transform the earth:
Whose faith was salt and leaven, whose hearts and minds were free,
and this was their direction to peace and unity.

Oh, daughters of disciples, you weave the story still,
the fabric of the future with warmth and love and skill.
You made the bread of wholeness, the wine of harmony,
and all shall share your feasting in peace and unity!

Welcome

Dane Jordan

*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

Ray Owens, Chair, Church Renaming Committee

Invitation to Confession

Dane Jordan

A Time for Silent Confession

Prayer of Confession

Loving God, we pause to look honestly at our lives.
We confess the moments when we have failed to live with the love you show us,
when we have ignored the voices of those you have called,
especially the wisdom and courage of women who bear your truth.
Forgive us when fear replaces hope, or when silence keeps us from sharing your love.
Renew our hearts with grace, not shame, so that we may walk forward with courage,
spreading hope, justice, and compassion to all.

Song of Prayer

“Hear Our Prayer, O Lord”

AFTER PRAYER

D A A7 D

Hear our prayer, O Lord, hear our prayer, O Lord; in -

D D7 G Em D A D G D

cline your ear to us, and grant us your peace. A - men.

Words of Assurance

Dane Jordan

Leader: Be assured that God is merciful.
Be assured that God's everlasting arms embrace you.
Be assured that you are beloved and forgiven.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

Gospel Reading – John 20:18, and Mark 14:3-9

Deborah Moore Clark, Deacon

While Jesus was at Bethany in the house of Simon, the leper, as he sat at the table, a woman came with an alabaster jar of very costly ointment of nard, and she broke open the jar and poured the ointment on his head. But some were there who said to one another in anger, "Why was this ointment wasted in this way? For this ointment could have been sold for more than three hundred denarii, and the money given to the poor." And they scolded her. But Jesus said, "Let her alone, why do you trouble her? She has performed a good service for me. For you always have the poor with you, and you can show kindness to them whenever you wish; but you will not always have me. She has done what she could; she has anointed my body beforehand for its burial. Truly I tell you, wherever the good news is proclaimed in the whole world, what she has done will be told in remembrance of her."

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

People: **Thanks be to God.**

*Sermon Hymn

"A Prophet-Woman Broke a Jar" stanzas 1 and 2

See pg. 7
Robert Lowry

Sermon

"The Women of Holy Week – The Anointer, the Witnesses, and the Proclaimer"

Beth Maczka

A Moment to Reflect

Musical Reflection

Chancel Choir with soloists, Jarret Ward and McKenzie Coleman

"Reach Down, Lord"

Kyle Pederson

Reach down, Lord, reach your justice down.
When we walk on the broken road, reach your justice down.
If we stumble into the pit and the dark is all we see, reach below and lift us up.
Reach your justice down. Reach down, Lord. Reach your justice down.
When we walk in the shadow of death, reach your justice down.

Church at Prayer

J. Kevin Gray

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

Janet Miller, Life Deacon

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



Offertory

David Young, Soloist
Leonard Bernstein

“Simple Song”

Sing God a simple song: Lauda, Laudē.
Make it up as you go along: Lauda, Laudē.
Sing like you like to sing. God loves all simple things,
for God is the simplest of all, for God is the simplest of all.

I will sing the Lord a new song
to praise God, to bless God, to bless the Lord.
I will sing his praises while I live
all of my days.

Blessed is the one who loves the Lord,
blessed is the one who praises God.
Lauda, Lauda, Laudē
and walks in Gods ways.
I will lift up my eyes
to the hills from whence comes my help.
I will lift up my voice to the Lord,
singing Lauda, Laudē.

For the Lord is my shade,
is the shade upon my right hand,
and the sun shall not smite me by day,
nor the moon by night.

Blessed is the one who loves the Lord,
Lauda, Lauda, Laudē, and walks in Gods ways.
Lauda, Lauda, Laudē,
Lauda, Lauda di da di day. All of my days.

*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.
Amen.**

OLD HUNDREDTH
text by Paula Testerman

*Prayer of Dedication

Janet Miller, Life Deacon

*Closing Hymn

“A Prophet-Woman Broke a Jar” stanzas 3 and 4

See pg. 7
Robert Lowry

Responding to the Word

Beth Maczka

Pastoral Blessing

Beth Maczka

Postlude

“Étude in C minor, Op. 25, No. 12”

Claudio Olivera, pianist
Frédéric Chopin

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.

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.

A Prophet-Woman Broke a Jar

Brian Wren, 1991

Robert Lowry, 1869, alt.

1. A proph - et - wo - man broke a jar, By Love's di - vine ap -
 2. A faith - ful wo - man left a tomb By Love's di - vine com -
 3. Though wo - man - wis - dom, wo - man - truth, For cen - tu - ries were
 4. The Spir - it knows; the Spir - it calls, By Love's di - vine or -

point - ing, With rare per - fume she filled the room, Pre - sid - ing and a -
 mis - sion. She saw; she heard; she preached the Word, A - ris - ing from sub -
 hid - den, Un - sung, un - writ - ten, and un - heard, De - rid - ed and for -
 dain - ing, The friends we need, to serve and lead, Their power and gifts un -

noint - ing. A proph - et - wo - man broke a jar, The sneers of scorn de -
 mis - sion. A faith - ful wo - man left a tomb, With res - ur - rec - tion
 bid - den, The Spir - it's breath, the Spir - it's fire, On free and slave des -
 chain - ing. The Spir - it knows, the Spir - it calls, From wo - men, men, and

fy - ing, With rare per - fume she filled the room, Pre -
 gos - pel. She saw; she heard; she preached the Word, A -
 cend - ing. Can tum - ble our di - vid - ing walls, Our shame
 child - ren, The friends we need, to serve and lead. Re -

par - ing Christ for dy - ing.
 pos - tle to a - pos - tles.
 and sad - ness mend - ing.
 joice, and make them wel - come!

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
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Rev. Marina Luckhoo

Associate Minister
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Rev. Dr. Layne Smith

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We are affiliated with
allianceofbaptists.org



UPCOMING EVENTS

Sunday, March 22

10:00am-11:00am | Worship – Sanctuary
11:15am-12:45pm | Reclaiming Mary Magdalene
Lecture with Beth Maczka – Heaton Hall
11:15am-12:15am | Spiritual Growth Classes for all
ages – Multiple Locations
4:00pm-6:00pm | The Youth Journey Fellowship
Youth Hall

Wednesday, March 25

5:30pm-7:00pm | Suffolk Punch Hangout – Suffolk
Punch SouthPark

Thursday, March 26

6:00pm-7:00pm | Ordination of James Kevin Gray |
Chancel

Sunday, March 29

10:00am-11:00am | Palm/Passion Sunday |
Worship – Sanctuary
11:15am | Reception for James Kevin Gray |
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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