

“Resurrection,” Donald Jackson, Copyright 2002, *The Saint John’s Bible*

**The Worship of God**

**Easter Sunday**

**April 5, 2026 | 10:00a**

**The Music of Easter 9:30a**

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.

**Worship activities for children are available in the Narthex.**

**All are invited to pick up an Alleluia bell from the Narthex to ring when the word “Alleluia” is spoken or sung.**

**Music of Easter**

“Voluntary on Old 100th”	Carolina Brass Henry Purcell
“Contrapunctus IX”	J.S. Bach
“Fanfare, Tango and Fughetta Hebrew Themes”	Stanley Hoffman
“My Spirit Be Joyful”	J. S. Bach
“Crossing Brooklyn Ferry”	Elam Ray Sprinkle
“Fanfare”	Dr. Matthew Manwarren, Organist John Cook

**Gospel Reading - John 20:1-18 (NRSV)**

Ed Hinson, Life Deacon

Early on the first day of the week, while it was still dark, Mary Magdalene came to the tomb and saw that the stone had been removed from the tomb. So, she ran and went to Simon Peter and the other disciple, the one whom Jesus loved, and said to them, “They have taken the Lord out of the tomb, and we do not know where they have laid him.” Then Peter and the other disciple set out and went toward the tomb. The two were running together, but the other disciple outran Peter and reached the tomb first. He bent down to look in and saw the linen wrappings lying there, but he did not go in. Then Simon Peter came, following him, and went into the tomb. He saw the linen wrappings lying there, and the cloth that had been on Jesus’s head, not lying with the linen wrappings but rolled up in a place by itself. Then the other disciple, who reached the tomb first, also went in, and he saw and believed, for as yet they did not understand the scripture, that he must rise from the dead. Then the disciples returned to their homes.

But Mary stood weeping outside the tomb. As she wept, she bent over to look into the tomb, and she saw two angels in white sitting where the body of Jesus had been lying, one at the head and the other at the feet. They said to her, “Woman, why are you weeping?” She said to them, “They have taken away my Lord, and I do not know where they have laid him.” When she had said this, she turned around and saw Jesus standing there, but she did not know that it was Jesus. Jesus said to her, “Woman, why are you weeping? Whom are you looking for?” Supposing him to be the gardener, she said to him, “Sir, if you have carried him away, tell me where you have laid him, and I will take him away.” Jesus said to her, “Mary!” She turned and said to him in Hebrew, “Rabbouni!” (which means Teacher). Jesus said to her, “Do not touch me, because I have not yet ascended to the Father. But go to my brothers and say to them, ‘I am ascending to my Father and your Father, to my God and your God.’” Mary Magdalene went and announced to the disciples, “I have seen the Lord,” and she told them that he had said these things to her.

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

**People:** Thanks be to God.

### \*Easter Proclamation

Dane Jordan

Leader: Christ is risen.

**People: Christ is risen indeed. Alleluia!**

Leader: And become the first fruits of those who have fallen asleep.

**People: Death is swallowed up in victory.**

Leader: Thanks be to God,

**People: who gives us life through our Lord Jesus Christ.**

### \*Processional Hymn

“Christ the Lord is Risen Today”

EASTER HYMN

Christ the Lord is risen today, Alleluia!

All creation join to say, Alleluia!

Raise your joys and triumphs high, Alleluia!

Sing, O heavens, and earth reply, Alleluia!

Love's redeeming work is done, Alleluia!

Fought the fight, the battle won, Alleluia!

Death in vain forbids him rise, Alleluia!

Christ has opened paradise, Alleluia!

Lives again our glorious King, Alleluia!

Where, O death, is now thy sting? Alleluia!

Jesus died, our souls to save, Alleluia!

Where your victory, O grave? Alleluia!

Hail, the Lord of earth and heaven! Alleluia!

Praise to you by both be given, Alleluia!

Every knee to you shall bow, Alleluia!

Risen Christ, triumphant now, Alleluia!

### Welcome

Layne Smith

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



### Choral Anthem

Chancel Choir  
Dan Forrest (b. 1978)

“Crown Him”

Alleluia! Crown him with many crowns, the lamb upon his throne;  
hark! how the heavenly anthem drowns all music but its own.

Awake, my soul and sing of him who died for thee,  
and hail him as thy matchless King through all eternity.

Alleluia! Crown him the Lord of love: behold his hands and side-  
rich wounds, yet visible above, in beauty glorified;  
no angel in the sky can fully bear that sight,  
but downward bends her wandering eye at mysteries so bright.

Alleluia! Crown him the Lord of life! Who triumphed o'er the grave,  
who rose victorious in the strife for those he came to save;  
his glories now we sing, who died and rose on high,  
who died eternal life to bring and lives that death may die.

Alleluia! Crown him the Lord of heav'n ; one with the father known,  
one with the Spirit through him given from yonder glorious throne.  
To thee be endless praise, for thou for us hast died;  
be thou, O Lord, through endless days adored and magnified! Alleluia!

### Sermon

“Easter Comes to a Good Friday World”

Layne Smith

### Musical Reflection

“Simple Gifts”

Carolina Brass  
Aaron Copland

### Church at Prayer

Marina Luckhoo

### 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

Dane Jordan

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



### Offertory Anthem

“Cantique de Jean Racine”

Verbe égal au Très-Haut, notre unique espérance,  
Jour éternel de la terre et des cieux,  
De la paisible nuit nous rompons le silence:  
Divin Sauveur, jette sur nous les yeux.

Répands sur nous le feu de ta grâce puissante;  
Que tout l'enfer fuie au son de ta voix;  
Dissipe le sommeil d'une âme languissante  
Qui la conduit à l'oubli de tes lois!

Ô Christ! sois favorable à ce peuple fidèle  
Pour te bénir maintenant rassemblé;  
Reçois les chants qu'il offre à ta gloire immortelle,  
Et de tes dons qu'il retourne comblé.

Word of the Highest, our only hope,  
eternal day of earth and the heavens,  
we break the silence of the peaceful night:  
Savior Divine, cast your eyes upon us.

Pour on us the fire of your powerful grace,  
that all hell may flee at the sound of your voice:  
banish the slumber of a weary soul,  
that brings forgetfulness of your laws!

O Christ! Look with favor upon your faithful people  
now gathered here to praise you;  
receive their hymns offered to your immortal glory;  
May they go forth filled with your gifts.

Chancel Choir  
Gabriel Faure

**\*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**

Craig Hopewell, Chair, Human Resources

**\*Closing Hymn**

“Christ is Alive!”

TRURO

Christ is alive! Let Christians sing.  
The cross stands empty to the sky.  
Let streets and homes with praises ring.  
Love, drowned in death, shall never die.

In every insult, rift, and war,  
where color, scorn, or wealth divide,  
Christ suffers still, yet loves the more,  
and lives, where even hope has died.

Women and men, in age and youth,  
can feel the Spirit, hear the call  
and find the way, the life, the truth,  
revealed in Jesus, freed for all.

Christ is alive, and comes to bring  
good news to this and every age,  
till earth and sky and ocean ring  
with joy, with justice, love, and praise.

**Choral Benediction**

“Hallelujah Chorus” (from *Messiah*)

Chancel Choir  
George F. Handel

Hallelujah, for the Lord God Omnipotent reigneth, Hallelujah!  
The Kingdom of this world is become the Kingdom of our Lord and of his Christ;  
and he shall reign for ever and ever, King of Kings, and Lord of Lords.  
Hallelujah!

*Please remain seated during the Hallelujah Benediction and Postlude*

**Postlude**

“Toccatà from ‘Symphonie V’ ”

Dr. Matthew Manwarren, Organist  
Charles-Marie Widor

***We are delighted to welcome our special guest musicians,  
to this morning's service.***

Carolina Brass:

Tim Hudson, Trumpet

Ganesh Om, Trumpet

Bob Campbell, Horn

David Wulfeck, Trombone

Justin Worley, Tuba



***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

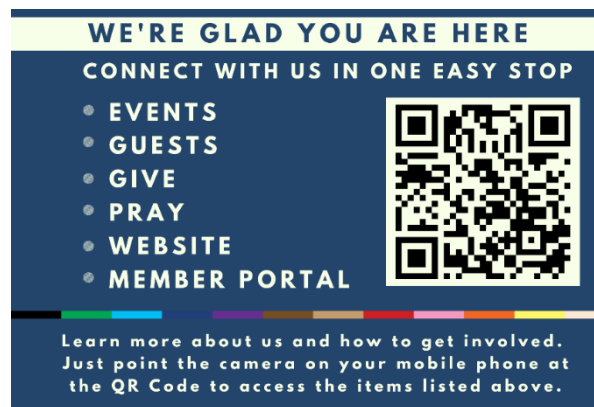
Becoming a member of Myers Park Baptist is as simple as filling out a joining card.

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.*



The banner with bells is called a Tintinnabulum. Created by Beth Resler Walters, a member of the congregation, it is made of differing pieces of cloth and bells from around the world. It represents the individuality and harmony of voices from around the world, all ringing out together in praise of God: Alleluia!

### Bells in the Blue Tintinnabulum

- The Jesus bell is the highest, crystal-clear, with a clapper encircled by fish.
- There are bells from Ireland, Japan and Turkey, among others.
- One holds the scripture “They who wait upon the Lord...”
- One is a large musical eighth note, representing musicians.
- One is a small cowbell, honoring how south Charlotte, even just some 35 years ago, was farmland, and before that was tilled where SouthPark Mall is now located.
- One has a Muslim medal.

## 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

#### Rev. J. Kevin Gray

Minister of Music & Worship  
[kgray@myersparkbaptist.org](mailto:kgray@myersparkbaptist.org)

#### 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

#### Easter Sunday, April 5

9:30am-10:00am | The Music of Easter - Sanctuary  
10:00am-11:00am | Worship – Sanctuary  
11:15am-12:15am | Easter Egg Hunt – Children's Ministry (meet on Brick Patio outside of Heaton Hall)

#### Monday, April 6

Church Office Closed

#### Tuesday, April 7

10:00am-11:30am | Creative Friends – Room 32  
12:00pm-1:30pm | Sage-ing Lunch – Heaton Hall

#### Friday, April 10

5:30pm-7:30pm | Fish Camp Dinner Night – Captain Steve's

#### Sunday, April 12

10:00am-11:00am | Worship – Sanctuary  
11:15-12:30pm | Lunch and Conversation with the Sr. Minister Search Committee – Heaton Hall  
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](mailto:lgeer@myersparkbaptist.org).*

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