

THE WORSHIP OF GOD

# The Fourth Sunday of Eastertide

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April 26, 2026

10:00a



**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

**Cantilene**

Theodore Dubois

Raymond Weidner, guest organist

## Call to Worship

Dane Jordan

**Leader:** The boy Samuel heard a voice he did not yet recognize, calling him toward a future he could not yet imagine.

**People:** We open ourselves to the surprising ways the Holy speaks – through whisper, through wonder, through one another.

**Leader:** Teach us to listen with humility, curiosity, and compassion.

**People:** The call of God is not always easy, but it is always toward healing, honesty, and liberation.

**Leader:** May we be brave enough to hear God’s claim and call on our lives,

**People:** and act faithfully and boldly in response to that call.  
We gather for worship, ready to commit ourselves to that path:  
To listen deeply, to speak truthfully, and to live justly.

## Invocation

**\*Opening Hymn No. 53 “Open Now Thy Gates of Beauty”**

Schmolck, trans. Winkworth;  
UNSER HERRSCHER

## 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

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\*Please rise in body or in spirit.

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”**

Murray; BEACH SPRING

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.

**Hebrew Scripture – 1 Samuel 3:1-13 (NRSV)**

Nancy Hudson, Chair, Board of Deacons

Now the boy Samuel was ministering to the Lord under Eli. The word of the Lord was rare in those days; visions were not widespread.

At that time Eli, whose eyesight had begun to grow dim so that he could not see, was lying down in his room; the lamp of God had not yet gone out, and Samuel was lying down in the temple of the Lord, where the ark of God was. Then the Lord called, “Samuel! Samuel!” and he said, “Here I am!” and ran to Eli and said, “Here I am, for you called me.” But Eli said, “I did not call; lie down again.” So, Samuel went and lay down. The Lord called again, “Samuel!” Samuel got up and went to Eli and said, “Here I am, for you called me.” But Eli said, “I did not call, my son; lie down again.” Now Samuel did not yet know the Lord, and the word of the Lord had not yet been revealed to him. The Lord called Samuel again, a third time. And he got up and went to Eli and said, “Here I am, for you called me.”

Then Eli perceived that the Lord was calling the boy. Therefore, Eli said to Samuel, “Go, lie down, and if the Lord calls you, you shall say, ‘Speak, Lord, for your servant is listening.’” So, Samuel went and lay down in his place.

Now the Lord came and stood there, calling as before, “Samuel! Samuel!” And Samuel said, “Speak, for your servant is listening.” Then the Lord said to Samuel, “See, I am about to do something in Israel that will make both ears of anyone who hears of it tingle. On that day I will fulfill against Eli all that I have spoken concerning his house, from beginning to end. For I have told him that I am about to punish his house forever for the iniquity that he knew, because his sons were blaspheming God, and he did not restrain them.

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 No. 328 “Lord, Speak to Me, That I May Speak”, stanza 1**

*Havergal; CANONBURY*

Lord, speak to me, that I may speak  
in living echoes of Thy tone;  
as Thou has sought, so let me seek  
Thy erring children lost and lone.

**Sermon**

“Can You See and Hear?”

Layne Smith

**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**

Gary Hudson, Congregant

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



## Offertory

### **The Fruit of Silence**

*Based on a text by Mother Teresa; Peteris Vasks*

The fruit of silence is prayer.  
The fruit of prayer is faith.  
The fruit of faith is love.  
The fruit of love is service.  
The fruit of service is peace.

Vocal Ensemble; Claudio Olivera, piano

#### MUSIC NOTE

This morning's offertory consists of far fewer words than most but takes roughly twice as long. It is a slow, meditation that begins with silence, the kind found in today's scripture. It then proceeds to extol the profound virtues that grow out of that silence. May we quiet our hearts and minds so that we may contemplate and savor the fruits in word and sound.

### **\*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.**

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

Gary Hudson, Congregant

### **\*Closing Hymn No. 328 "Lord, Speak to Me, That I May Speak", stanzas 2-5**

*Havergal; CANONBURY*

### **Responding to the Word**

Layne Smith

### **Pastoral Blessing**

### **Postlude**

#### **Scherzo**

Raymond Weidner, guest organist

*Raymond Weidner*

***If you are our guest today, please connect with a minister after worship and receive a Welcome Bag.***



*Flowers on the altar are given to the glory of God and in joyful celebration of the marriage of Jamelia Livingston and Raymond Seward II.*



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.

**Myers Park Baptist Church is a faith community on a journey seeking a welcoming, loving, and just world.**

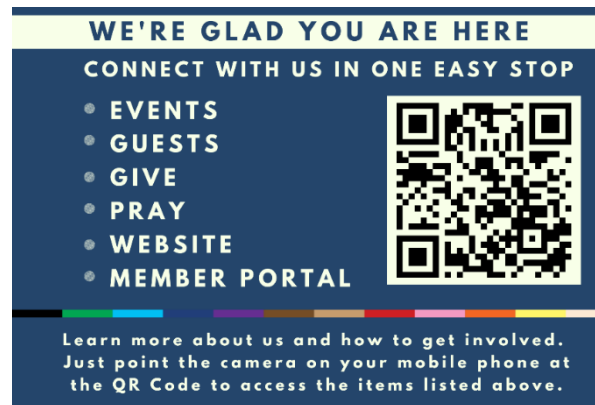


**HOW TO JOIN MYERS PARK BAPTIST CHURCH**

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.*

A graphic with a dark blue background and a light green header. The header contains the text "WE'RE GLAD YOU ARE HERE". Below the header, it says "CONNECT WITH US IN ONE EASY STOP". To the left of a QR code is a list of items: "EVENTS", "GUESTS", "GIVE", "PRAY", "WEBSITE", and "MEMBER PORTAL". Below the QR code and list, there is a white text box with a dark blue background containing the text: "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." The bottom of the graphic features a horizontal bar with several colored segments: black, green, blue, purple, orange, red, pink, and yellow.

**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

### Rev. Dane Jordan

Interim Minister of Youth  
[djordan@myersparkbaptist.org](mailto:djordan@myersparkbaptist.org)

### Rev. Marina Luckhoo

Associate Minister  
[mluckhoo@myersparkbaptist.org](mailto:mluckhoo@myersparkbaptist.org)

### Rev. Dr. Layne Smith

Interim Senior Minister  
[lsmith@myersparkbaptist.org](mailto:lsmith@myersparkbaptist.org)

### David Tang

Interim Minister of Worship and Music  
[dtang@myersparkbaptist.org](mailto:dtang@myersparkbaptist.org)

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[mpbc@myersparkbaptist.org](mailto:mpbc@myersparkbaptist.org)

We are affiliated with  
[allianceofbaptists.org](http://allianceofbaptists.org)



## UPCOMING EVENTS

### Sunday, April 26

9:00am-9:30am | Church Renaming Committee Listening Session – Church Parlor

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, April 28

10:00am-12:00pm | Mahjong Lessons – Room 250

### Thursday, April 30

7:00pm-9:00pm | Choir Practice – Berry Hall

### Saturday, May 2

4:00pm-8:00pm | Charlotte Knights Faith and Family Night – Truist Field

### Sunday, May 3

10:00am-11:00am | Creation Justice Sunday – 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

*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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