



THE WORSHIP OF GOD

The Seventh Sunday of Eastertide

May 17, 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.

Worship activities for children are available in the Narthex.

We invite you to prepare for worship in silence while listening to the prelude.

Prelude

“Little Prelude and Fugue in G Major, BWV 557”

J.S. Bach

Dr. Matthew Manwarren, organ

Call to Worship adapted from *The Magnificent Defeat* by Frederick Buechner

Marina Luckhoo

Leader: People of God, come— for faith begins in the moment we discover we are loved.

People: **It is the quiet turning of the heart, the first brave step our feet take when grace finds us where we are.**

Leader: Come with your questions, your hopes, your trembling courage.

People: **Faith is stepping into the unknown with nothing to guide us but a hand— steady, present, and sure.**

Leader: We gather in trust, leaning into the One who leads us forward, one step, one breath, one act of love at a time.

People: **We joyfully come to worship the living God who calls us into the future.**

Invocation

***Opening Hymn No. 41 “Praise the Lord! Ye Heavens Adore Him”**

Foundling Hospital Collection; AUSTRIA

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**

A Moment of Centering

Marina Luckhoo

Psalm 46:10a, 11

Be still and know that I am God!
The Lord of hosts is with us;
the God of Jacob is our refuge.

**Please rise in body or in spirit.*

Take a few moments to breathe and still the mind.



Sing **“Come Away from Rush and Hurry”**

**Come away from rush and hurry
to the stillness of God’s peace;
from our vain ambition’s worry,
come to Christ and find release.**

Dawn; NETTLETON

**Come away from noise and clamor,
life’s demands and frenzied pace;
come to join the people gathered
here to seek and find God’s face.**

Epistle Lesson – Hebrews 11:1-3, 8-16 (NRSV)

Mac Sasser, Deacon

Now faith is the assurance of things hoped for, the conviction of things not seen. Indeed, by faith our ancestors received approval. By faith we understand that the worlds were prepared by the word of God, so that what is seen was made from things that are not visible.

By faith Abraham obeyed when he was called to set out for a place that he was to receive as an inheritance, and he set out, not knowing where he was going. By faith he stayed for a time in the land he had been promised, as in a foreign land, living in tents, as did Isaac and Jacob, who were heirs with him of the same promise. For he looked forward to the city that has foundations, whose architect and builder is God. By faith, with Sarah’s involvement, he received power of procreation, even though he was too old, because he considered him faithful who had promised. Therefore from one person, and this one as good as dead, descendants were born, “as many as the stars of heaven and as the innumerable grains of sand by the seashore.”

All of these died in faith without having received the promises, but from a distance they saw and greeted them. They confessed that they were strangers and foreigners on the earth, for people who speak in this way make it clear that they are seeking a homeland. If they had been thinking of the land that they had left behind, they would have had opportunity to return. But as it is, they desire a better homeland, that is, a heavenly one. Therefore, God is not ashamed to be called their God; indeed, he has prepared a city for them.

Gospel Reading – Matthew 9:9-13 (NRSV)

As Jesus was walking along, he saw a man called Matthew sitting at the tax-collection station, and he said to him, “Follow me.” And he got up and followed him. And as he sat at dinner in the house, many tax collectors and sinners came and were sitting with Jesus and his disciples. When the Pharisees saw this, they said to his disciples, “Why does your teacher eat with tax collectors and sinners?” But when he heard this, he said, “Those who are well have no need of a physician, but those who are sick. Go and learn what this means, I desire mercy, not sacrifice.’ For I have not come to call the righteous but sinners.”

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.

Anthem

“Zion’s Walls”

Come fathers and mothers,
come sisters and brothers,
come join us in singing the praises of Zion.
O fathers, don’t you feel determined
to meet within the walls of Zion?
We’ll shout and go round
the walls of Zion.

*Words and Music by John G. McCurry;
Adapt. Aaron Copland; Arr. Glenn Koponen*

Chancel Choir; Dr. Matthew Manwarren, piano

Sermon

“Settler Faith or Pioneer Faith”

Layne Smith

A Moment to Reflect

Hymn of Response “We are Travelers on a Journey”

Gillard; BEACH SPRING

**We are travelers on a journey.
Fellow pilgrims on the road.
We are here to help each other
walk the mile and bear the load.
I will hold the Christ light for you
in the nighttime of your fear;
I will hold my hand out to you,
speak the peace you long to hear.**

**Sister, let me be your servant,
let me be as Christ to you;
pray that I may have the grace to
let you be my servant, too.
Brother, let me be your servant,
let me be as Christ to you;
pray that I may have the grace to
let you be my servant, too.**

I will weep when you are weeping,
when you laugh, I'll laugh with you;
I will share your joy and sorrow,
till we've seen this journey thro'.
When we sing to God in heaven,
we shall find such harmony,
born of all we've known together
of Christ's love and agony.

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

Ellen Caldwell

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



Offertory

“All Glory Be to God on High, BWV 711”

J.S. Bach

Dr. Matthew Manwarren, organ

*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

Ellen Caldwell

***Closing Hymn No. 61 “The God of Abraham Praise”**

Judah; LEONI

Responding to the Word

Layne Smith

Pastoral Blessing

Postlude

“Fantasy in C Major, BWV 570”

J.S. Bach

Dr. Matthew Manwarren, organ

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.

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 begins by 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.

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, the text "CONNECT WITH US IN ONE EASY STOP" is displayed. To the left of a QR code is a list of items: "EVENTS", "GUESTS", "GIVE", "PRAY", "WEBSITE", and "MEMBER PORTAL", each preceded by a small white circle. Below the QR code, 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." is written in a smaller font. The graphic is bordered by a thin white line at the top and bottom, and a thin black line on the left and right sides.

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

Rev. Marina Luckhoo

Associate Minister
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Rev. Dr. Layne Smith

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David Tang

Interim Music and Worship Minister
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We are affiliated with
allianceofbaptists.org



UPCOMING EVENTS

Sunday, May 17

10:00am-11:00am | Worship – Sanctuary
11:15am-12:15pm | Senior Minister Search Committee Meeting – Conference Room
11:15am-12:00pm | Spiritual Growth Classes for all ages – Multiple Locations
12:00pm-1:30pm | Celebration of Gratitude for Layne and Dianne Smith – Heaton Hall
4:00pm-6:00pm | The Youth Journey Fellowship – Youth Hall

Tuesday, May 19

10:00am-11:30am | Creative Friends – Room 32

Wednesday, May 20

5:30pm-7:00pm | May Hangout Sending off Layne and Dianne – Private Room at Suffolk Punch SouthPark

Thursday, May 21

10:00am-12:00pm | Cuppa Community – Amelies Park Road Shopping Center

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

Friday, May 22

Greenway Bike Group Meets – if interested contact Paula Fricke @ frickepj@aol.com

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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