



THE WORSHIP OF GOD

The Sixth Sunday After Pentecost

July 5, 2026

10:00a

MYERS PARK
COVENANT
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.

Opening Voluntary

Jesu, Meine Freude

Johann S. Bach

Raymond Weidner, organ

Call to Worship

Dane Jordan

Leader: The Lord is good to all, and God’s compassion is over all that has been made.

People: **The Lord is gracious and merciful, slow to anger, and abounding in steadfast love.**

Leader: All your works shall give thanks to you, O Lord, and all your faithful shall bless you.

People: **They shall speak of the glory of your kingdom, and to make known to all people your mighty deeds.**

Leader: Your reign is everlasting, and your dominion endures throughout all generations.

People: **The Lord is faithful in word and deed. The Lord upholds all who are falling and raises up all who are bowed down.**

[adapted from Psalm 145]

Invocation

***Opening Hymn: “Once to Every Man and Nation”**

AUSTRIA

Once to ev - 'ry man and na - tion comes the mo - ment to de - cide.
 Then to side with truth is no - ble, when we share her wretch-ed... crust,
 Though the cause of e - vil pros-per, Yet the truth a - lone is... strong;

in the strife of truth with false-hood, for the good or e - vil... side;
 ere her cause bring fame and pro - fit, and 'tis prosp-'rous to be... just;
 Though her por - tion be the scaf - fold, And up - on the throne be... wrong;

Some great cause, some great de - ci - sion, off - 'ring each the bloom or blight,
 Then it is... the brave man choos-es While the cow - ard stands a - side,
 Yet the scaf - fold sways the fu - ture, and, be - hind the dim un-known,

and the choice goes by for - ev - er 'twixt that dark - nes and that light
 Till the mul - ti - tude make vir - tue Of the faith they had de - nied.
 stand - eth God with - in the sha - dow keep - ing watch a - bove His own.

***Passing of the Peace**

Leader: The Peace of Christ be with you.

People: **And also with you.**

Ministry Moment from the Senior Minister Search Committee

Bob Thomason, Life Deacon

Gospel Reading – Matthew 10:40-42 (NRSV)

Carla Hines

“Whoever welcomes you welcomes me, and whoever welcomes me welcomes the one who sent me. Whoever welcomes a prophet in the name of a prophet will receive a prophet’s reward, and whoever welcomes a righteous person in the name of a righteous person will receive the reward of the righteous, and whoever gives even a cup of cold water to one of these little ones in the name of a disciple—truly I tell you, none of these will lose their reward.”

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

People: **Thanks be to God.**

Sermon

“Prophets, Little Ones, and ‘A Cup of Cool’”

Rev. Dr. Bill Leonard

A Moment to Reflect

***Hymn: “America the Beautiful Reinterpreted” (2026)**

MATERNA

Paula Testerman, used by permission

Music Note

The words below, by Paula Testerman, were inspired by those of the poem, “America. A poem for July 4,” written by Professor Katharine Lee Bates. That poem, and its various rewritings, are adapted here and reimagined as new song lyrics, to be accompanied by the original music “Materna” by Samuel A. Ward, in commemoration of the 250th anniversary of the United States Declaration of Independence.

(P. Testerman, ed. David Tang)

O beautiful diversity: green forests, golden grains,
with purple mountains’ majesty above the fruitful plains!
America, America! Your dreams can still come true:
community and unity beneath your skies of blue!

O beautiful the heroes who are overcoming strife,
who more than self their country love, and mercy more than life!
America, America! Require integrity
so selfish gain no more will stain the banner of the free!

O hear the cries for liberty, the founders’ clarion call!
Come dream new dreams, envisioning equality for all!
America, America! Together mend your flaws,
confirm your soul through self-control and wisdom in your laws!

O see how Lady Liberty is crying out in pain
for souls she met but can't forget and longs to meet again!
America, America! The world needs you to see
the good in every neighborhood, from sea to shining sea!

Come share the dream, America: a new world, fair and free—
a symphony in harmony, from sea to shining sea!"

Church at Prayer

Tim Moore

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

"I Dream a World" from *Langston Dreams*

Langston Hughes; Rosephanye Powell

I dream a world where man
No other man will scorn,
Where love will bless the earth
And peace its paths adorn
I dream a world where all
Will know sweet freedom's way,
Where greed no longer saps the soul
Nor avarice blights our day.
A world I dream where black or white,
Whatever race you be,
Will share the bounties of the earth
And every man is free,
Where wretchedness will hang its head
And joy, like a pearl,
Attends the needs of all mankind-
Of such I dream, my world!

Jarret Ward, baritone; Raymond Weidner, piano

***Presentation of Gifts and the Doxology**

OLD HUNDREDTH

Praise God from whom all blessings flow.
Praise God, all creatures, here below.
Praise God above, ye heavenly hosts.
Creator, Christ, and Holy Ghost.
Amen.

***Prayer of Dedication**

Ellen Caldwell

***Closing Hymn: "This Little Light of Mine"**

Trad. African American



1. This lit - tle light of mine I'm gon - na let it shine,
2. Ev - 'ry - where I go, I'm gon - na let it shine,
3. Je - sus gave it to me, I'm gon - na let it shine,



This lit - tle light of mine I'm gon - na let it shine;
Ev - 'ry - where I go, I'm gon - na let it shine;
Je - sus gave it to me, I'm gon - na let it shine;



This lit - tle light of mine I'm gon - na let it shine,
Ev - 'ry - where I go, I'm gon - na let it shine,
Je - sus gave it to me, I'm gon - na let it shine,



Let it shine, let it shine, let it shine.
Let it shine, let it shine, let it shine.
Let it shine, let it shine, let it shine.

Responding to the Word

Tim Moore

Benediction

Rev. Dr. Bill Leonard

Closing Voluntary

Rigaudon

Andre Campra

Raymond Weidner, organ

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



We welcome today's guest organist, Raymond Weidner.



Audio/Video Team Members are Wes Cobb, Joe Kuhlmann, Hannah Combs, and Eric Roberts.



On Friday, June 26, 2026, Myers Park Baptist Church officially announced the results of the congregational election to change our name to **Myers Park Covenant Church**.

As we begin this exciting new chapter, you may notice a mix of our old and new names across our website, printed materials, signage, and other communications over the next few months. We are working diligently to update everything as quickly as possible.

Thank you for your patience, understanding, and continued support during this transition. We are excited for all that lies ahead and look forward to embracing this new season together.

At Myers Park Covenant 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 Myers Park Covenant Church holds God as non-gender-specific; God's essence encompasses all.



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



HOW TO JOIN MYERS PARK COVENANT CHURCH

Becoming a member of Myers Park Covenant Church 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 dark blue rectangular graphic with a white border. At the top, a yellow banner contains the text "WE'RE GLAD YOU ARE HERE". Below this, the text "CONNECT WITH US IN ONE EASY STOP" is displayed. A list of six items follows, each preceded by a white circle: "EVENTS", "GUESTS", "GIVE", "PRAY", "WEBSITE", and "MEMBER PORTAL". To the right of this list is a square QR code. At the bottom of the graphic, a white banner contains 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 edge of the graphic features a horizontal bar with a rainbow color gradient.

Our Covenant

We, the members of the Myers Park Covenant 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. Dr. Marina Luckhoo

Associate Minister
mluckhoo@myersparkbaptist.org

Rev. Dr. Tim Moore

Interim Senior Minister
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David Tang

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



UPCOMING EVENTS

SUNDAY, July 5

10a-11a | Worship | Sanctuary
11:15a-12p | Forum with Bill Leonard | Heaton Hall
11:15a-12:15p | Senior Minister Search Committee Meeting | Conference Room

MONDAY, July 6

Church Office Closed

WEDNESDAY, July 8

11:30a-12:30p | Meditation | Zoom

THURSDAY, July 9

7p-9p | Choir Rehearsal | Berry Hall

FRIDAY, JULY 10

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

SUNDAY, JULY 12

9:45a-12p | Preschool Childcare | Cornwell Center Childcare Room – Main Level
10a-11a | Worship | Sanctuary
11:15a-12:15p | Sermon Talk Back | Heaton Hall
11:15a-12p | Elementary Sunday School | Room 210
11:15a-12:15p | Senior Minister Search Committee Meeting | Conference Room

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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