



The Worship of God
Palm/Passion Sunday

Myers Park Baptist Church
March 29, 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.

Reflection

*And when at times the mob is swayed to carry praise or blame too far,
we may choose something like a star to stay our minds on and be staid.* – Robert Frost

Introit

David Young, Soloist, Claudio Olivera, Piano
Henry Cowell

“The Donkey”

When fishes flew and forests walked
and figs grew upon thorn,
some moment when the moon was blood
then surely I was born.

With monstrous head and sickening cry
and ears like errant wings,
the devil's walking parody
on all four-footed things.

The tattered outlaw of the earth,
of ancient crooked will;
starve, scourge, deride me: I am dumb,
I keep my secret still.

Fools! For I also had my hour;
one far fierce hour and sweet:
There was a shout about my ears,
and palms before my feet.

Call to Worship

J. Kevin Gray

Leader: We gather between beauty and sorrow, waving palms in praise.

People: One moment we cry “Hosanna!” and the next, “Crucify him.”

Leader: We enter this holy tension of glory and grief.

People: Come, let us worship the One who meets us here.

Invocation

*Proclamation Hymn

“Hosanna, Loud Hosanna”

Number 144
ELLACOMBE

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

Gospel Reading – Matthew 21:1-11 (NRSV)

Cindy Clemens, Deacon

When they had come near Jerusalem and had reached Bethphage, at the Mount of Olives, Jesus sent two disciples, saying to them, “Go into the village ahead of you, and immediately you will find a donkey tied and a colt with her; untie them and bring them to me. If anyone says anything to you, just say this, ‘The Lord needs them.’ And he will send them immediately.” This took place to fulfill what had been spoken through the prophet: “Tell the daughter of Zion, look, your king is coming to you, humble and mounted on a donkey, and on a colt, the foal of a donkey.”

The disciples went and did as Jesus had directed them; they brought the donkey and the colt and put their cloaks on them, and he sat on them. A very large crowd spread their cloaks on the road, and others cut branches from the trees and spread them on the road. The crowds that went ahead of him and that followed were shouting, “Hosanna to the Son of David! Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord! Hosanna in the highest heaven!”

When he entered Jerusalem, the whole city was in turmoil, asking, “Who is this?” The crowds were saying, “This is the prophet Jesus from Nazareth in Galilee.”

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

People: **Thanks be to God.**

*Sermon Hymn

“All Glory, Laud, and Honor” stanzas 1 and 5

Number 140
ST. THEODULPH

Sermon

“Who is that Man?”

Layne Smith

A Moment to Reflect

Invitation to Offering

Marcy McClanahan, Life Deacon

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



Offertory

“Crucifixus”

Crucifixus etiam pro nobis;
sub Pontio Pilato passus
et sepultus est.

Translation:

*He was crucified also for us,
under Pontius Pilate he suffered
and was buried.*

Mahari Freeman, Soloist
Jean-Baptiste Faure

***Presentation of Gifts and the Doxology**

ST. THEODULPH

Thou didst accept their praises;
accept the prayers we bring,
who in all good delightest,
thou good and gracious King!

***Prayer of Dedication**

Marcy McClanahan, Life Deacon

A Moment for Silent Reflection

Solemn Procession of the Cross

Chancel Choir
Ralph Karl Sydow

“Surely, He Hath Borne Our Griefs”
Surely, he hath borne our griefs,
and carried our sorrows;
he was wounded for our transgressions.
He was bruised for our iniquities.
Surely, he hath borne our griefs,
and carried our sorrows.

Church at Prayer

Rev. 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.

Solemn Recessional of the Cross

Lenora Leggatt, Violinist
Tomasco Giovanni Albinoni

“Adagio in g minor”

*The cross is carried out, followed by the ministers, the choir, and congregation.
Please bring your palm branch and worship bulletin and draw near to the cross.*

Prayer of Confession

Layne Smith

Eternal God,
before the cross of Jesus,
we bring the brokenness of our lives
and the world around us.
Before the cross of Jesus,
we confess our ease in shouting “Hosanna,”
while later denying him three times.
Before the cross of Jesus,
our pretense falls away
and we are reminded
that the first cross we are called to carry is our own.
Before this cross we confess
that we often shout crucify
or remain silent rather than living
in full solidarity with the crucified of the world.
Amen.

Assurance of Pardon

Layne Smith

Leader: Beyond the stark reality of this cross,
we glimpse the promise of something new.

People: **Before the cross of Jesus,
we discover the way to healing and new life.**

Raising of the Cross

Instrumental Solo

“O Sacred Head, Now Wounded”

Lenora Leggatt, Violinist
Passion Chorale

The congregation is invited to lay their palms at the foot of the cross at the conclusion of the service.

Cross bearers are:

Rick Bahnson

Dean Bowen

Cindy Clemens

Tony Dick

John Geer

Carla Hines

Craig Hopewell

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.

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
djordan@myersparkbaptist.org

Rev. Marina Luckhoo

Associate Minister
mluckhoo@myersparkbaptist.org

Rev. Dr. Layne Smith

Interim Senior Minister
lsmith@myersparkbaptist.org

704.334.7232

mpbc@myersparkbaptist.org

We are affiliated with
allianceofbaptists.org



UPCOMING EVENTS

Sunday, March 29

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

11:15am-12:15pm | Senior Minister Search
Committee Meeting – Conference Room

Good Friday, April 3

12:00pm-12:45pm | Worship

Easter Sunday, April 5

9:00am-9:30am | Rain Fundraising Breakfast -
Brick Patio / Heaton Hall Foyer

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

11:15am-12:15pm | 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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