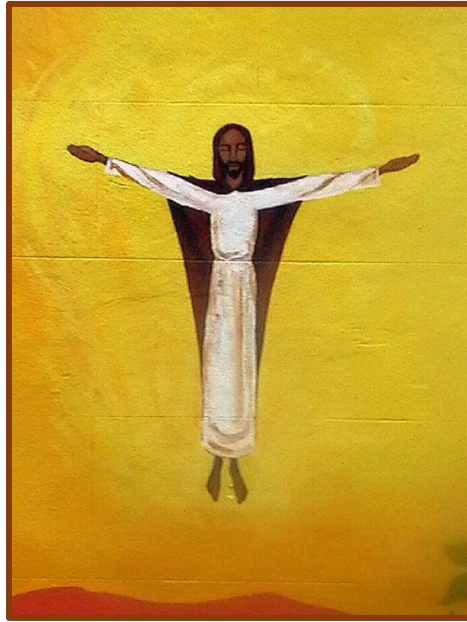


Myers Park  
United Methodist Church



*Ascension, Mural in Bristol, England*

**A Service of Christian Worship**

**May 21, 2023**

**8:30, 9:45, and 11:00 a.m.**

**Seventh Sunday of Easter  
Ascension Sunday**

WE GATHER

**Opening Voluntary**

Come, Thou Fount of Every Blessing

arr. A. Travis and H. Hopson

Come, thou fount of every blessing, tune my heart to sing thy grace;  
Streams of mercy, never ceasing call for songs of loudest praise.  
Teach me some melodious sonnet, sung by flaming tongues above;  
Praise the mount! I'm fixed upon it, mount of thy redeeming love.

Here I raise my Ebenezer, hither by thy help I'm come;  
and I hope, by thy good pleasure, safely to arrive at home.  
Jesus sought me when a stranger, wandering from the fold of God;  
He, to rescue me from danger, interposed his precious blood.

O to grace how great a debtor, daily I'm constrained to be!  
Let that grace now, like a fetter, bind my wandering heart to thee.  
Prone to wander Lord, I feel it, prone to leave the God I love;  
here's my heart, O take and seal it, seal it for thy courts above.

Welcome

**Chiming of the Holy Trinity**

† **Call to Worship**

How Lovely Is Your Dwelling Place

Paul Tate

**How lovely is your dwelling place, O Lord, my God!**

**How lovely is your dwelling place, O God!**

† **Hymn No. 145**

Morning Has Broken

BUNESSAN

Morning has broken like the first morning;

blackbird has spoken like the first bird.

Praise for the singing! Praise for the morning!

Praise for them, springing fresh from the Word!

Sweet the rain's new fall sunlit from heaven,

like the first dewfall on the first grass.

Praise for the sweetness of the wet garden,

sprung in completeness where his feet pass.

Mine is the sunlight! Mine is the morning

born of the one light Eden saw play!

Praise with elation, praise every morning

God's recreation of the new day!

† **The Apostles' Creed No. 881**

**I believe in God the Father Almighty,**

**maker of heaven and earth;**

**and in Jesus Christ his only Son our Lord:**

**who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,**

**born of the Virgin Mary,**

**suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, dead, and buried.**

**The third day He rose from the dead;**

**He ascended into heaven,**

**and sitteth at the right hand of God the Father Almighty;**

**from thence He shall come to judge the quick and the dead.**

**I believe in the Holy Spirit,**

**the holy catholic church,**

**the communion of saints,**

**the forgiveness of sins,**

**the resurrection of the body,**

**and the life everlasting. Amen.**

† **Gloria Patri, No. 71**

GREATOREX

**Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Ghost;  
as it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be,  
world without end. Amen. Amen.**

**Prayer of Confession**

**Gracious God,  
Forgive us for the doubt that clouds our vision,  
the pain that makes us hide from you,  
from ourselves, and from those we love most.  
Free us from our confusion.  
Heal us from our wounds.  
Resurrect us from our shame.  
Raise us into the hope and joy  
that we realize when we are close to you. Amen.**

**Words of Assurance**

**...In the name of Jesus Christ, you are forgiven!  
In the name of Jesus Christ, you are forgiven!  
Glory to God. Amen.**

**Rite of Confirmation**

**Congregational Response**

**We give thanks for all that God has given you  
and we welcome you in Christian love.  
As members together with you  
in the body of Christ and in this congregation  
of The United Methodist Church,  
we renew our covenant faithfully  
to participate in the ministries of the Church  
by our prayers, our presence,  
our gifts, our service, and our witness,  
that in everything God may be glorified  
through Jesus Christ. Amen.**

**WE HEAR AND RESPOND TO THE WORD**

**Hymn of Preparation No. 393**

**Spirit of the Living God  
Spirit of the living God, fall afresh on me.  
Spirit of the living God, fall afresh on me.  
Melt me, mold me, fill me, use me.  
Spirit of the living God, fall afresh on me.**

LIVING GOD

**New Testament Reading**

1 Peter 4:12-14; 5:6-11

## † Gospel Reading

John 17:1-11

Reader: This is the Word of God for the people of God.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

## Sermon

## Prayers of the People

## The Lord's Prayer No. 895

## Offertory

Standing on the Promises (8:30)

Lloyd Larson

Show Me, Teach Me, Guide Me (9:45, 11:00)

Brian Childers

Show me your ways, O Lord, show me your ways.

Teach me your paths, O Lord, teach me your paths.

Guide me, and teach me, for you are my God, my hope is in you all the day!

The paths of the Lord are mercy and truth for those who keep God's word.

Forgive me for my sins, O Lord, for my eyes are on you!

Show me, teach me, guide me, O Lord.

Come, Jesus, Holy Son of God (9:45, 11:00)

G. F. Handel

Come, Jesus, Holy Son of God, come.

Holy Son of God, thy truth unseal. Thy love reveal.

Lord, hear thou in mercy our prayer to thee.

Come, Jesus, Holy Son of God, come.

Send forth thy light. Come in thy might. Send forth thy light.

Lord, hear thou in mercy our prayer to thee.

Come, Jesus, Holy Son of God.

For thee we long. Hear thou our prayer.

To thee be glory now and evermore.

Lord, hear thou in mercy our prayer to thee.

## † Doxology

LASST UNS ERFREUEN

**Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;**

**Praise God, all creatures here below; Alleluia! Alleluia!**

**Praise God above, ye heavenly host;**

**Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost.**

**Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!**

## † Prayer of Dedication

## WE GO OUT TO SERVE

### † Closing Hymn No. 534

Be Still, My Soul

FINLANDIA

**Be still, my soul: the Lord is on your side;  
bear patiently the cross of grief or pain;  
leave to your God to order and provide;  
in every change he faithful will remain.**

**Be still, my soul: your best, your heavenly friend  
through thorny ways leads to a joyful end.**

**Be still, my soul: your God will undertake  
to guide the future as he has the past.**

**Your hope, your confidence let nothing shake;  
all now mysterious shall be bright at last.**

**Be still, my soul: the waves and winds still know  
the Christ who ruled them while he dwelt below.**

**Be still, my soul: the hour is hastening on  
when we shall be forever with the Lord,  
when disappointment, grief, and fear are gone,  
sorrow forgot, love's purest joys restored.**

**Be still, my soul: when change and tears are past,  
all safe and blessed we shall meet at last.**

### † Benediction

### † Benediction Response

Lift High the Cross

CRUCIFER

**Lift high the cross, the love of Christ proclaim  
till all the world adore His sacred name.**

**Come, Christians, follow this triumphant sign.**

**The hosts of God in unity combine.**

**Lift high the cross, the love of Christ proclaim  
till all the world adore His sacred name.**

### † Closing Voluntary

*Freu Dich Sehr, O Meine Seele*

G. Böhm

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† Stand as you are able

## **WORSHIP LEADERS**



### **PREACHER**

Dr. Uiyeon Kim, Pastor of Discipleship



### **LITURGISTS**

Rev. Bill Roth, Pastor of Congregational Care  
Sarah Simmons, Assistant Director of Youth Ministry



### **LAY READERS**

Natalie Watson (8:30)  
Jack George (9:45)  
Madison Shott (11:00)



### **PRAYERS**

Cameron Vigor (8:30)  
Virginia Gaston (9:45)  
Abby Rucker (11:00)



### **MUSICIANS**

Dr. Hugh Ferguson Floyd, Director of Music  
Evan Wesley Currie, Associate Director of Music and Organist  
Sue Bayne, piano  
Women's Choir



### **AMERICAN SIGN LANGUAGE INTERPRETER**

Larnetta Way (9:45)



### **CRUCIFERS**

Andrew O'Brien (8:30)  
Myers Gaston (9:45)  
Colin Murdock (11:00)



### **ACOLYTES**

Ann Douglas O'Brien (8:30)  
Will Ricketts and Ben Ricketts (9:45)  
James Murdock and Emma Fogg (11:00)



### **BIBLE CARRIERS**

Lucy Herr (8:30)  
Brynn Vernon (9:45)  
Teddy Stubbs (11:00)

## *Welcome to Myers Park United Methodist Church*

**Welcome!** We are thankful you are here worshipping with us. We invite you to register your attendance with us today: <https://form.jotform.com/201695904497164>.

**The Flowers on the Altar** are given to the glory of God and in loving memory of *Anne Marie Wicker* by her family.

**The Flowers in the Chapel Narthex** are given to the glory of God and in loving memory of *Lee Morris* by his family.

**The Stepping Stones on the Altar** were created by the Confirmation class.

**Today, on Confirmation Sunday**, we celebrate the 74 eighth graders who are joining the church through their personal commitment of faith after a yearlong Confirmation process. These students gathered weekly to learn, serve, and grow, mentored by clergy and adults. Together as a congregation, we celebrate this important step in their faith journey. Enjoy the special insert in today's bulletin.

**Dr. Howell, our senior pastor, is away on a sabbatical** he was due to take when the pandemic descended 3+ years ago. We celebrate this gift of time for him to travel, study, write, and rest. Until his return on August 1, be blessed by the leadership of our other beloved and extraordinary pastors. And enjoy the [Surprising Things I Learned in Seminary](#) videos and [biweekly emails](#) he prepared to roll out through the summer.

**Hear My Prayer: An Evening of German Music, tonight, 7 p.m., Sanctuary:** Join us for a night of music featuring German composers. The Chancel Choir and Chamber Singers will be joined by a string orchestra, including our own Myers Park Strings.

**Young Adults Meet, May 22, 7 p.m., Francis Chapel:** If you're in your 20s or 30s, join us for fellowship and connection. Email Rev. Taylor Pryde Barefoot at [tbarefoot@mpumc.org](mailto:tbarefoot@mpumc.org) with questions.

**While children's Sunday School is on vacation**, use our Summer Prayer Bucket to stay connected with God no matter where you are! Buckets are filled with 12 prayer activities and are \$15 each (one per family, please). Click [here](#) to sign up. Pick-up is in the lobby of the Parish Life Building.

**The Children's Circle preschool is hiring** for the 2023-2024 school year. We are looking for positive, fun, responsible people who love children and love to play! Our openings are in Toddlers and Twos, and we have two-day, three-day, four-day or five-day positions. To express your interest, email Director Susan Matz at [smatz@mpumc.org](mailto:smatz@mpumc.org) or fill out the [employment application](#) and email it to Susan or place it in the mailbox (labeled Tuition) in the preschool lobby.

**Have you welcomed a new baby to your family recently?** Be sure to let us know so we can share the news and provide a gift from the church. Email Jeanne Poole, Membership Secretary, at [jpoole@mpumc.org](mailto:jpoole@mpumc.org) with your baby news.

**Adult Handbells 101, June 11, 2-3:30 p.m.:** A fast and furious hands-on intro to the world of making music with handbells. Previous ringing experience is helpful but not required. Note: This is a great recruiting tool! Invite your friends who love hearing bells ring and encourage them to attend. Click [here](#) to register and to check out the adult handbell workshops coming up in July and August.

**Common Space**, *Sundays in June and July, 9:45 a.m., room 108*: Join us for this summer Sunday School opportunity that provides a dedicated space for discussion, intentional community, and spiritual growth. Whether you're looking to meet new people or reconnect with old friends, this gathering will offer a supportive and welcoming environment for people of all ages and backgrounds including new members, non-members, and lifelong attendees of our church. Make the most of your Sunday mornings by pairing worship with this unique opportunity to get involved. We can't wait to see you there!

**Missions Collection**: Refugee Support Services (RSS) provides fresh food and groceries weekly to Charlotte's international refugee community. As their hardworking chickens take a summer break, RSS needs to provide a culturally appropriate protein alternative. Our Food Insecurity Team is asking you to please order dried lentils and chickpeas from this [Amazon wishlist](#). If you have questions or want to deliver the beans and see the amazing RSS program in action, contact CindyLu Brubaker at 770-655-5993 or [cindylubruber@twc.com](mailto:cindylubruber@twc.com).

**Border Immersion**, *October 19-24, McAllen, Texas*: This trip will focus on the many realities facing communities on the U.S. Mexico border today. Participants will engage with local church leaders, migrants, federal agents, social justice agencies, community organizers, and those living the "border life." Cost is \$375 per person + flight + hotel + two dinners. Email Sarah Gillespie [sarahb48@carolina.rr.com](mailto:sarahb48@carolina.rr.com) with questions. [Sign up on our website!](#)

**Zoe Empowers Trip to Kenya**, *January 18-27*: Reconnect with our Zoe Empowers partners! We have been invited to celebrate, encourage, and support these groups and their mission of empowerment and hope. Witness firsthand how fellow group members provide an extended family within their communities and how group projects and businesses are helping them to thrive in the midst of adversity. Cost is \$1290 + flight. Click [here](#) to sign up.

**Maybe I'm Amazed Podcast**: Dr. Howell talks with Dr. Steve Cheyney, University Pastor and Honors College faculty member at UNC Charlotte, about the appeal, study, and understanding of conspiracy theories. Click [here](#) to listen and subscribe.

**Discipleship is alive at our church** thanks to your continued generosity to our [Operating Fund](#)! Because of your weekly offerings, our church is able to provide opportunities for fellowship and connection for all ages from [adults](#) to [youth](#) to [children](#)!

### **THANK YOU FOR YOUR CONTINUED GENEROSITY**

Make your offering today at [www.myersparkumc.org/give](http://www.myersparkumc.org/give)  
or by mail to 1501 Queens Road, Charlotte, NC 28207.

Questions about giving opportunities?  
Contact Jamie Yearwood, Director of Development,  
at [jyearwood@mpumc.org](mailto:jyearwood@mpumc.org) or 704-295-4808.

Check out [This Week at Myers Park](#) for a complete list of events and opportunities.



## OUR PASTORS

**Dr. James C. Howell, Senior Pastor**

james@mpumc.org 704-376-8584

**Rev. Nathan Arledge, Pastor of Missions & Community Engagement**

nathan@mpumc.org 704-295-4816

**Rev. Taylor Pryde Barefoot, Pastor for Emerging Ministries**

tbarefoot@mpumc.org 704-295-4803

**Rev. Jessica Dayson, Pastor of Lay Involvement**

jdayson@mpumc.org 704-295-4813

**Dr. Uiyeon Kim, Pastor of Discipleship**

ukim@mpumc.org 704-295-4840

**Rev. Bill Roth, Pastor of Congregational Care**

broth@mpumc.org 704-295-4835

**Rev. Nancy Watson, Pastor of Senior Engagement**

nwatson@mpumc.org 704-295-4823

## TALK WITH A PASTOR

A pastor on staff stands ready to respond to your question or concern.

Those needing immediate pastoral help should call  
704-376-8584 and follow the prompts to the pastor on call.

## OUR MISSION

We are the body of Christ, growing in faith and serving others.



**MYERS PARK**

UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

1501 QUEENS RD. | CHARLOTTE, NC 28207

704-376-8584 | WWW.MYERSPARKUMC.ORG