

Myers Park
United Methodist Church



Parting Sea, Hadassah Hospital, Jerusalem

A Service of Christian Worship

September 17, 2023

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

Sixteenth Sunday after Pentecost

WE GATHER

Opening Voluntary

Fairest Lord Jesus

arr. Bruce Greer

Welcome

Chiming of the 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!

† **Processional Hymn No. 598**

O Word of God Incarnate

MUNICH

O Word of God incarnate, O Wisdom from on high,
O Truth unchanged, unchanging, O Light of our dark sky:
We praise you for the radiance that from the hallowed page,
a Lantern to our footsteps, shines on from age to age.

The Church from you, our Savior, received the gift divine,
and still that light is lifted o'er all the earth to shine.
It is the sacred vessel where gems of truth are stored;
it is the heaven drawn picture of Christ, the living Word.

The scripture is a banner before God's host unfurled;
it is a shining beacon above the darkling world.
It is the chart and compass that o'er life's surging tide,
mid mists and rocks and quicksands, to you, O Christ, will guide.

O make your Church, dear Savior, a lamp of purest gold,
to bear before the nations your true light as of old.
O teach your wandering pilgrims by this their path to trace,
till, clouds and darkness ended, they see you face to face.

† **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,

We carry anger in our hearts we cannot release.

Our past regrets continue to shame us with pain.

Scarcity binds our hearts from generosity and growth.

Give us courage to choose you in the face of temptations.

Set us free for joyful obedience and faithful witness.

Open us to a future of peace, hope, and love with 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.

Presentation of Bibles

Parents' Response

We will, with God's help.

Children's Response

We receive these Bibles with our hands, our hearts, and our minds.

We will read and study the Bible together. Thank you.

Congregational Response

We rejoice in this step in your journey with God.

**We pray God will guide you, your family, and us
as you use this Holy Bible in your home,**

in your church school classes, and in our worship.

We will learn together and grow in our love for the Scriptures.

WE HEAR AND RESPOND TO THE WORD

Hymn of Preparation No. 599 (verse 1)

Break Thou the Bread of Life

BREAD OF LIFE

Break thou the bread of life, dear Lord, to me,

as thou didst break the loaves beside the sea;

beyond the sacred page I seek thee, Lord;

my spirit pants for thee, O Living Word!

Old Testament Reading

Exodus 14:21-31

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

Jesus Loves Me (8:30)

arr. Benjamin M. Culli

The Majesty and Glory of Your Name (9:45, 11:00)

Tom Fettke

When I gaze into the night skies and see the work of your fingers;
the moon and stars suspended in space.

O what is man, that you are mindful of him?

You have given man a crown of glory and honor,
and have made him a little lower than the angels.

You have put him in charge of all creation:
the beasts of the field, the birds of the air, the fish of the sea.

O Lord, our God, the majesty and glory of your name
transcends the earth and fills the heavens.

O Lord, our God, little children praise you perfectly,
and so would we. Alleluia.

† 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. 451

Be Thou My Vision

SLANE

**Be thou my vision, O Lord of my heart;
naught be all else to me, save that thou art.
Thou my best thought by day or by night,
waking or sleeping, thy presence my light.**

**Be thou my wisdom, and thou my true word;
I ever with thee and thou with me, Lord;
thou and thou only, first in my heart,
great God of heaven, my treasure thou art.**

**Great God of heaven, my victory won,
may I reach heaven's joys, O bright heaven's Sun!
Heart of my own heart, whatever befall,
still be my vision, O Ruler of all.**

† 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**

I Will Sing the Wondrous Story

arr. Mary Ellen Kerrick

† Stand as you are able

WORSHIP LEADERS

✠

PREACHER

Dr. James C. Howell, Senior Pastor

✠

LITURGISTS

Rev. Taylor Pryde Barefoot, Pastor for Emerging Ministries

Rev. Bill Roth, Pastor of Congregational Care

Leslie Lowery, Assistant Director of Children's Ministries

Betsy Scott, Assistant Director of Children's Ministries

✠

LAY READERS

Griffin Sigmon (8:30)

Caroline Smith (9:45)

Wynn Poe (11:00)

✠

MUSICIANS

Dr. Hugh Ferguson Floyd, Director of Music

Evan Wesley Currie, Associate Director of Music and Organist

Brian Childers, Director of Music for Children, Youth, and Handbells

Nancy C. Hamff, flute

Chancel Choir

✠

AMERICAN SIGN LANGUAGE INTERPRETER

Larnetta Way (9:45)

✠

CRUCIFERS

Jed Ferry (8:30)

Ellie Harrison (9:45)

Gavin Porter (11:00)



ACOLYTES

Everett Ferry and Meredith Caldwell (8:30)

Kate Harrison and Betty Shull (9:45)

Macie Porter and Oliver Porter (11:00)



BIBLE CARRIERS

Emily Caldwell (8:30)

Brody Schaaf (9:45)

Lila Hobbs (11:00)

Welcome to Myers Park United Methodist Church

Welcome! If you are visiting or fairly new, we are so honored you've come, and we look forward to getting to know you. Help us connect with you by signing the [virtual hospitality pad](#). May you encounter God's loving presence as you worship with us today. Be blessed!

The Flowers on the Altar are given to the glory of God and in memory of *Camille Walker Coman* by *Hilary Coman* and *Mike Cushinsky*.

In honor of Third Grade Bible Sunday, the altar also holds church staff members' personal Bibles.

Today, as they mark this special stepping stone in their faith journey, these 79 third graders will receive the gift of an engraved Bible from the church at this morning's worship services: *Luke Adkisson, James Allen, Oliver Allen, River Arkwright, Ellie Boothe, Liam Boyles, Lily Brown, Charlotte Buckfelder, Grant Cameron, Blair Cannon, Shep Carroll, Pierce Chance, Grayson Clair, Charlotte Corrado, Roane Cross, Maggie Crozier, Izzy Delaney, Kate Dobson, Grant Evitts, Lawsyn FitzGerald, Gabe Fleck, Addison Gildea, Rowe Gutter, Hudson Hambacher, Tom Harmeling, Penelope Hassey, Will Havis, Amelia Hawkins, Tee Henson, Caroline Hickman, Alexander Hieronymus, Hadley Hobbs, Elizabeth Holland, Daniel Kendrick, Carson Kloss, Anna Langley, Evvie Lilly, Jack Lipe, Anna Lundin, Wes Matthews, Will McIntosh, Jack Metheney, James Mochan, Kennedy Nelson, Pippa Neun, Olivia Ogburn, Kerridy O'Neal, Campbell Petrik, Wynn Poe, Anna Priester, Jack Reeves, Howell Rhodes, Maggie Rhodes, Ridge Ries, Anna Ripple, William Ripple, Charlotte Roseman, Hunter Sandy, Vivi Schaaf, Clara Seeburg, Grace Sheehy, Lily Sheehy, Louise Shwedo, Griffin Sigmon, Caroline Smith, Anna Gray Stevenson, Marlow Stewart, Pete Stewart, Madison Tate, Hart Taylor, Thorn Taylor, Eli Wakefield, Coco White, Cooper White, Hattie Whitley, Ella Wilson, Beckett Wirsing, Eliza Witter, and Caroline Wysong.*

Mindfulness Mondays Fall Series, begins September 18, 11 a.m., room 108: We will kick off our fall series with mindfulness instructor Katrina Larrison talking about the three tenets of mindfulness and the nine mindful attitudes. Beginning September 25, each weekly session will cover one chapter of Dr. Jon Kabat-Zinn's book, *Wherever You Go There You Are*. Click [here](#) for details.

Prayer Walk at The Meadows at Plato Price, September 20, 8-9 a.m.: As we prepare to host the Carter Work Project in October at The Meadows at Plato Price, we invite you to gather with us to lift up and pray for this new community. Click [here](#) to register.

Small Group Study of Romans, *Fridays beginning September 22, 8-9:30 a.m., room 105 and on Zoom*: Join us for an eight-week focused study on Romans. Reading just two chapters of Romans a week, we will discover the life-altering stories that invite us to follow Christ as true disciples. This study is accessible for adults with little previous Bible experience. Email John Stubbs at jstubbs@davismoorecapital.com or Frank Turner at fturner3@icloud.com if you want to participate.

Discover Myers Park, *September 24, 11 a.m., room 108*: Join Rev. Jessica Dayson to learn about our church and the beliefs and practices of our denomination. There is no obligation to join, but the opportunity will be available for you. Email Jeanne Poole at jpoole@mpumc.org for details.

Walking Tour of the Church, *September 24, after the 11 a.m. service*: Join David Dulin on a walking tour of the church and learn more about its rich history, beautiful architecture, and symbolic art. We'll meet in the Parish Life Building lobby and make our way to the sanctuary. To join, contact David at 704-650-3217 or ddulin@unitedwaygreaterclt.org.

Middle School Retreat, *September 29-October 1, Awanita Valley*: All 6th, 7th, and 8th graders are invited to join us for a camp-themed retreat. We will enjoy hummer rides, lakeside activities, a "camping" costume contest, and s'mores. Cameron Moore will lead us in worship. The cost is \$170 for 6th & 7th graders. Confirmation students have already paid for the retreat with their registration dues. 6th and 7th graders, click [here](#) to sign up. 8th grade Confirmands, click [here](#) to confirm you are attending.

Journey Around the World, *October 1, 9:45-10:45 a.m., Jubilee Hall*: Ever wonder where we partner in the world? Here's your chance to learn! Fellow church members will share stories from their travels to Puerto Rico, Mexico, Kenya, Armenia, and more! Find out ways you can go in the coming years as well! We will have delicious food and service opportunities for all ages. Come, learn, linger, serve!

Baptism Class, *October 1, 9:45 a.m., Bride's Room*: This class will deepen your understanding of this Holy Sacrament and is an essential first step for those preparing for baptism. If you have questions about or want to schedule a baptism, email Peg Broughton at peg@mpumc.org.

Forward Begins, *October 1, 4-5 p.m., rooms 106 and 108*: All fourth and fifth graders are invited to attend Forward, a ministry in which children grow faithfully in fellowship and deepen their spiritual foundation as they get ready for middle school. Forward meets the first Sunday of each month during the school year. Meetings are outside when weather permits. Adult leaders are needed each month. Click [here](#) to sign up. Email Amy Jo Alspaugh at amyjo@mpumc.org with any questions.

Sign Up for the Fourth Grade Day Retreat, *by October 1*: Fourth graders, join us October 15 from 2 to 5 p.m. at Anne Springs Close Greenway in Fort Mill for a day of kayaking, archery, and group problem-solving games! The cost is \$26. Click [here](#) to register. Parents, if you would like to chaperone, email Leslie Lowery at llovery@mpumc.org.

Sign Up for the Third Grade Day Retreat, *by October 1*: Third graders, join us October 21 from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. at Camp Canaan in Rock Hill for a day of devotions, zip-lining, team-building, and more while building community with each other. Breakfast and lunch included. The cost is \$100. Click [here](#) to register.

For The Love of Reading is back for the 2023-2024 school year! We are looking for readers who can come to Hidden Valley Elementary School weekly on Thursdays from 10:15 to 11:15 a.m. beginning October 12. Transportation to the school from the church will be provided for those who are interested. For details and to sign up, email Amie Rucker at amierucker@gmail.com.

Join Dr. Howell's new email and video series, *How to Become Spiritual*, to receive two short emails weekly helping us think about how to cultivate a personal spirituality. [Sign up here](#) to receive these emails (although if you already get his biweekly emails, you're automatically signed up) and invite your friends and family to [sign up here](#), too! He will also release a weekly video covering similar but not identical ideas – so watch for those on our website or on social media!

Maybe I'm Amazed Podcast: Dr. Howell talks with North Carolina Conference Missionary Wil Bailey about his experiences with mission work in Costa Rica and the value of building relationships and *being church* together. Click [here](#) to listen and subscribe.

THANK YOU FOR YOUR CONTINUED GENEROSITY

Make your offering today at www.myersparkumc.org/give
or by mail to 1501 Queens Road, Charlotte, NC 28207.

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

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