Myers Park
United Methodist Church

A Service of Christian Worship

October 18, 2026 **8:30, 9:45, and 11:00 a.m.**

Twenty-first Sunday after Pentecost

WE GATHER

Opening Voluntary
Intermezzo from *Organ Sonata No. 4 in A minor, Op. 98* Josef Rheinberger

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!

† **Processional Hymn No. 64**

Holy, Holy, Holy! Lord God Almighty NICAEA

Holy, holy, holy! Lord God Almighty!
Early in the morning our song shall rise to thee.
Holy, holy, holy! Merciful and mighty,
God in three persons, blessed Trinity!

Holy, holy, holy! All the saints adore thee,
casting down their golden crowns around the glassy sea;
cherubim and seraphim falling down before thee,
which wert, and art, and evermore shalt be.

Holy, holy, holy! Though the darkness hide thee,
though the eye of sinful man thy glory may not see,
only thou art holy; there is none beside thee,
perfect in power, in love, and purity.

Holy, holy, holy! Lord God Almighty!
All thy works shall praise thy name, in earth and sky and sea.
Holy, holy, holy! Merciful and mighty,
God in three persons, blessed Trinity.

† **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.

The Sacrament of Holy Baptism (11:00)

Congregational Response (11:00)

Child of Blessing, Child of Promise — STUTTGART

Child of blessing, child of promise, baptized with the Spirit's sign;
with this water God has sealed you unto love and grace divine.

Child of God your loving parent, learn to know whose child you are.
Grow to laugh and sing and worship, trust and love God more than all.

Prayer of Confession

Gracious God,
You fill creation with wonder and mystery,
yet we rush toward easy answers and quick certainty.
In the hurried chaos of our lives and world,
we miss opportunities for deeper connection
with you and with one another.

Forgive us, we pray.
Slow our steps,
open our hearts to trust your wisdom,
and awaken us to the gift of your presence,
through Jesus Christ our Lord. 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.

WE HEAR AND RESPOND TO THE WORD

Anthem (9:45, 11:00)

Psalm 47 — John Behnke

Sing aloud! And clap your hands!
Sing to God throughout the land.
Let your hope and joy abound, as you make a joyful sound!
Alleluia! Praise the Lord!

God the Lord rules over all,
Every creature, great and small.
Share your joy with everyone for the victory has been won!
Alleluia! Praise the Lord!

Trumpets blow and handbells ring!
Now ascended, Christ the King.
All in heaven glories raise, as we lift our earthly praise.
Alleluia! Praise the Lord!

Old Testament Reading — Exodus 33:12-23

✝ **Gospel Reading** Matthew 22:15-22

Reader: This is the Word of God for the people of God.
People: Thanks be to God.

Sermon

Prayers of the People

After each petition, we enter into the prayer together with these words:

Pastor: Lord, in your mercy,
People: Hear our prayer.

The Lord's Prayer No. 895

Our Father, who art in heaven,
hallowed be thy name.
Thy kingdom come,
thy 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 thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory,
forever. Amen.

Offertory

Meditation on HOW GREAT THOU ART (8:30) Joyce Jones

All Thy Gifts of Love (9:45, 11:00) David Brunner

For food in a world where many walk in hunger,
for peace in a world where many walk in fear,
for friends in a world where many walk alone,
we give you thanks, O God.

For health in a world where many walk in sickness,
for joy in a world where many walk in grief,
for friends in a world where many walk alone,
we give you thanks, O God.

For love in a world where many walk in anger,
light in a world where many walk in darkness,
friends in a world where many walk alone,
we give you thanks, O God.

For these and all the many things unspoken,
for gifts unknown or, as of yet, unseen.
For these and all thy gifts of love,
we give thee thanks, O God.

† **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. 361**

Rock of Ages, Cleft for Me TOPLADY

Rock of Ages, cleft for me, let me hide myself in thee;
let the water and the blood, from thy wounded side which flowed,
be of sin the double cure; save from wrath and make me pure.

Not the labors of my hands can fulfill thy law's demands;
could my zeal no respite know, could my tears forever flow,
all for sin could not atone; thou must save, and thou alone.

Nothing in my hand I bring, simply to the cross I cling;
naked, come to thee for dress; helpless, look to thee for grace;
foul, I to the fountain fly; wash me, Savior, or I die.

While I draw this fleeting breath, when mine eyes shall close in death,
when I soar to worlds unknown, see thee on thy judgment throne,
Rock of Ages, cleft for me, let me hide myself in thee.

† **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**

Grand Choeur César Franck

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† Stand as you are able

WORSHIP LEADERS

✠

PREACHER

Dr. James C. Howell, Senior Pastor

✠

LITURGISTS

Rev. Nancy Dixon Walton, Pastor of Congregational Care
Rev. Hannah Howell, Pastor of Emerging Ministries

✠

LAY READERS

Hilary Coman (8:30)
Bob Truscello (9:45)
Scott Haenni (11:00)

✠

MUSICIANS

Dr. Hugh Ferguson Floyd, Director of Music
Brian Childers, Director of Music for Children, Youth, and Handbells
Sue Bayne, Music Ministry Assistant and Piano
Lee Northcutt, organist
Children's Choirs
Women's Choir
Chancel Choir

✠

AMERICAN SIGN LANGUAGE INTERPRETER

Larnetta Way (9:45)

✠

CRUCIFERS

Frank Turner IV (8:30)
Thomas McLaurin (9:45)
Charlie Long (11:00)

✠

ACOLYTES

Eloise Givens and Miller Givens (8:30)
Bo Gibson and Grey Gibson (9:45)
Shelby Stephens and William Ripple (11:00)

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BIBLE CARRIERS

Wells Givens (8:30)
Ellie Vander Leeuw (9:45)
Anna Ripple (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 loving memory of *Mary Lynn Moser* by *Tom Moser*.

The Flowers in the Chapel Narthex are given to the glory of God and in celebration of the wedding of *Sara Elizabeth Milgrom* and *Matthew Davis Hamlet,* which took place yesterday in the sanctuary.

Receiving the Sacrament of Holy Baptism at the 11 a.m. service are *Townes Edward Steinbeck*, son of *Meredith and Asher Steinbeck*; and *John Garland Straughn*, son of *Bailey and Erich Straughn*.

2027 Church Leadership Nominations: It's time to nominate and elect members of our church family to serve on the Trustee, Finance, and Staff-Parish Relations committees, Administrative Board, and as Conference delegates. Who do you see leading our church forward? Email leaders@mpumc.org with names of emerging or experienced leaders.

Missions October Collection: As we gear up for Room in the Inn season, we need help restocking supplies for our ministry and items for our unhoused neighbors. Please purchase items from the Amazon Wishlist only as we have specific needs and do not want products to go to waste.

Wednesday Night Supper, *October 21, 5:30-7 p.m., Jubilee Hall*: Join us for great food and fellowship! Enjoy a breakfast bar with chicken and waffles with hot honey or maple syrup, corned beef hash, eggs, and mixed green salad with seasonal vinaigrette. Child-friendly option: waffles with syrup and eggs. Dessert and drink included. Adults: $12, Children: $6. Click here to register.

Room in the Inn Book Study, *Wednesdays, Oct. 21-Nov. 11, 6:30-7:30 p.m., room 108*: Join us for a four-week study of *Kingdom of the Poor: My Journey Home* by Charles Strobel, founder of the Room in the Inn. We will discuss the book for the first three weeks and then wrap up our time together on November 11 with a special presentation by Roof Above's Joe Hamby. Books are available for purchase in Goodness Gracious. Click here to sign up.

Phantom of the Organ, *October 28, 6:30 p.m., Sanctuary*: This annual program of spooky organ music and popular songs is fun for the whole family. Evan Wesley Currie, organist, and our children's and youth ensembles perform along with a surprise cast of characters. Put on your costume and join us!

New Gallery on Display, *Center of Hope, 4th Floor:* Art by The Guild of Charlotte Artists is on display and for sale until October 29. A portion of sales supports the church. Discover how the theme of "Wonder, Awe, and Mystery" is represented in each piece. Email Rev. Hannah Howell at hhowell@mpumc.org with any questions.

Register for the 2027 Women's Retreat: Join women of all ages January 29-31 for a weekend of friendship, fellowship, and spiritual renewal at Lake Junaluska. Register by October 29 for the early bird discount! Click here to learn more and to register. Email Rev. Hannah Howell at hhowell@mpumc.org with questions.

Medicare Part D Counseling Appointments: The Medicare Open Enrollment period is now through December 7. Make an appointment with our SHIIP Counselor to consider options for 2027. Consults will be held on select dates this fall, and advanced appointment scheduling is required. To learn more and to schedule an appointment, contact Julie Williams at jwilliams@mpumc.org or 704-295-4815.

Good Grief Small Group, *Sundays beginning November 1, 11 a.m. and Mondays beginning November 2, 10:30 a.m., room 105*: This four-week small group led by Parish Nurse Lauren Smith and Rev. Nancy Dixon Walton gives space to tend to all kinds of loss. *Please register by October 29.* Contact Julie Williams at jwilliams@mpumc.org or 704-295-4815 to sign up.

Youth Christmas Tree Pre-Sale: Help us get a head start on this year's Christmas tree sale by pre-ordering your North Carolina-grown Christmas tree, wreath, or garland now! To ensure we don't have a surplus of leftover trees, we will only accept pre-orders this year. We will not sell walk-up trees. Orders will be available for pickup December 3-5. Proceeds support Youth summer mission trips. Please help us spread the word by sharing with friends. Click here to order.

Check out the *Myers Park Weekly Update* for a complete list of events and opportunities.

THANK YOU FOR YOUR CONTINUED GENEROSITY
Make your offering today by scanning the QR code or by mail to 1501 Queens Road, Charlotte, NC 28207.

STEPHEN MINISTRY
To schedule a confidential call regarding Stephen Ministry care, call 704-295-4835.

HEARING ASSISTANCE
Assisted listening devices are available upon request. Please ask an usher for assistance.

SUNDAY MORNING SHUTTLE
Don't hunt for a parking space! Ride the convenient Sunday shuttle bus, which runs continually from 9 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. between Myers Park Traditional School at 2132 Radcliffe Avenue and the church.

TALK WITH A PASTOR
A pastor on staff stands ready to respond to your question or concern. If you need immediate pastoral help, call **704-376-8584** and follow the prompts to the pastor on call.

OUR PASTORS

Dr. James C. Howell, Senior Pastor
james@mpumc.org | 704-376-8584

Rev. Hannah Howell, Pastor of Emerging Ministries
hhowell@mpumc.org | 704-295-4803

Dr. Uiyeon Kim, Executive Pastor of Discipleship
ukim@mpumc.org | 704-295-4840

Rev. Ben Rogers, Pastor of Missions & Community Engagement
brogers@mpumc.org | 704-295-4828

Rev. Nancy Dixon Walton, Pastor of Congregational Care
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MYERS PARK
UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

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