



*Grounded in the grace of God, we are a  
vibrant Christian community, disciples of all ages,  
gathered for worship and nurture, scattered to serve and to love.*

MPC Mission Statement adopted by the Session March 31, 2008

WORSHIP for OCTOBER 17, 2021  
TWENTY-FIRST SUNDAY  
after PENTECOST

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## GATHERING

**PRELUDE** — *The Gift of Love* - Hal Hopson

Yun Kang

### CALL to WORSHIP

Elizabeth Dugan

One: Can you imagine unfettered love? Free and bold, wild and true, the kind of love that changes you? Can you imagine a home—safe and bright, with impromptu dancing, meals around table, and laughter late into the night? Can you imagine faith like a compass that guides the way you shop and vote, the way you love and hope; that asks questions and yet still believes, even despite uncertainty? Can you imagine a world where trees, bees, and all living things grow wild and free? Where peace is the narrative and hope the currency? A world where news stories are testimonies and funerals are far between? Can you imagine?

**All: Yes, we can imagine.**

One: Today in worship, dare to dream. Dare to imagine what could be. And pay attention, for God is here, in wandering thoughts, hopes, and prayers.

**All: Let us worship holy God, that great unfettered love.**

**HYMN** — *The Church of Christ Cannot Be Bound*

MC KEE

*The church of Christ cannot be bound  
by walls of wood or stone.*

*Where charity and love are found,  
there can the church be known.*

*True faith will open up the door  
and step into the street.*

*True service will seek out the poor  
and ask to wash their feet.*

*True love will not sit idly by  
when justice is denied.*

*True mercy hears the homeless cry  
and welcomes them inside.*

*If what we have we freely share  
to meet our neighbor's need,  
then we extend the Spirit's care  
through every selfless deed.*

*The church of Christ cannot be bound  
by walls of wood or stone.*

*Where charity and love are found,  
there can the church be known.*

## PRAYER *of* CONFESSION -

Pastor Alex Lester-Abdalla

- One: God of Grace, you invite us to dream of a better world,  
**All: But instead we bury our heads in the sand. We are afraid to recognize how much must change. We are afraid, because if we know the truth, then don't we have a job to do?**
- One: So instead, more often than not, we maintain the status quo.  
**All: We passively allow things to stay the same.**
- One: We don't speak out; we don't imagine a new day.  
**All: We don't dream of a world without racism, sexism, bigotry, or shame.**
- One: Instead we allow ourselves to believe that some things will never change.  
**All: Forgive us. Show us the way. Teach us to dream.**
- One: Teach us to imagine again.  
**All: Humbly we pray.**

## SILENT PRAYERS *of* CONFESSION

*Here each worshiper may offer silent prayers of confession.*

## PROMISE *of* FORGIVENESS

- One: People of God, hear the good news! Who is in a position to condemn? Only Christ. And Christ died for us, Christ rose for us, Christ reigns in power for us, and Christ prays for us. Anyone who is in Christ is a new creation. The old life has gone and the new life has begun. Friends, believe the good news of the Gospel:  
**All: In Jesus Christ we are forgiven! Thanks be to God! Alleluia! Amen!**

## RESPONSE *to* GOD'S GRACE — *Glory to the Father*

GLORIA PATRI

*Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit:  
as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be forever.  
Amen. Amen. Amen.*

## L I T U R G Y *o f t h e* W O R D

### OLD TESTAMENT READING — *Leviticus 19:9-10 & 25:8-12*

When you reap the harvest of your land, you shall not reap to the very edges of your field, or gather the gleanings of your harvest. You shall not strip your vineyard bare, or gather the fallen grapes of your vineyard; you shall leave them for the poor and the alien: I am the Lord your God.

You shall count off seven weeks of years, seven times seven years, so that the period of seven weeks of years gives forty-nine years. Then you shall have the trumpet sounded loud; on the tenth day of the seventh month—on the day of atonement—you shall have the trumpet sounded throughout all your land. And you shall hallow the fiftieth year and you shall proclaim liberty throughout the land to all its inhabitants. It shall be a jubilee for you: you shall return, every one of you, to your property and every one of you to your family. That fiftieth year shall be a jubilee for you: you shall not sow, or reap the aftergrowth, or harvest the unpruned vines. For it is a jubilee; it shall be holy to you: you shall eat only what the field itself produces.

One: This is the Word of the Lord.

**All: Thanks be to God.**

### ANTHEM — *Christ Has No Hands but Ours* - Tom Potter

Chancel Choir

*Christ has no hands but ours to reach, to touch, to heal,  
to welcome in community, to fashion family.  
As servants of our God we carry out the call  
to walk the road where saints have trod and bring good news to all.*

*We see with eyes of faith that still would follow stars.  
As points of light, we point the way and chase away the dark.*

*God waters from above the good seed that we sow,  
and brings to harvest all our work so that the Church will grow.*

*Marked with the cross of Christ, we, as a witness are  
sent forth to be the Gospel for Christ has no hands but ours.*

--adapted from the writings of Saint Teresa of Ávila

**NEW TESTAMENT READING** — *Mark 12:38-44*

As he taught, he said, 'Beware of the scribes, who like to walk around in long robes, and to be greeted with respect in the market-places, and to have the best seats in the synagogues and places of honour at banquets! They devour widows' houses and for the sake of appearance say long prayers. They will receive the greater condemnation.'

He sat down opposite the treasury, and watched the crowd putting money into the treasury. Many rich people put in large sums. A poor widow came and put in two small copper coins, which are worth a penny. Then he called his disciples and said to them, 'Truly I tell you, this poor widow has put in more than all those who are contributing to the treasury. For all of them have contributed out of their abundance; but she out of her poverty has put in everything she had, all she had to live on.'

The grass withers and the flower fades, but the Word of the Lord will stand forever.

One: This is the Gospel of the Lord.

All: **Thanks be to God.**

**SERMON**

*Can You Imagine?*

Pastor Rachel Rhodes

**HYMN** — *The Church of Christ in Every Age*

WAREHAM

*The church of Christ in every age,  
beset by change but Spirit-led,  
must claim and test its heritage  
and keep on rising from the dead.*

*Across the world, across the street,  
the victims of injustice cry  
for shelter and for bread to eat,  
and never live before they die.*

*Then let the servant church arise,  
a caring church that longs to be  
a partner in Christ's sacrifice,  
and clothed in Christ's humanity.*

*For Christ alone, whose blood was shed,  
can cure the fever in our blood,  
and teach us how to share our bread  
and feed the starving multitude.*

*We have no mission but to serve  
in full obedience to our Lord:  
to care for all, without reserve,  
and spread Christ's liberating word.*

**AFFIRMATION of FAITH** — written by Sarah Are

We believe in God the Creator,  
who, like a painter with a canvas,  
imagined creation and breathed it into being.  
We believe in Jesus,  
who many years later,  
walked this hurting world and showed us a new way to love.  
We believe in the Holy Spirit,  
who prods us and pulls us,  
leads us and guides us,  
carries us and loves us into new life, day after day.  
And we believe in the power of imagination,  
a gift from God that allows us to dream dreams,  
create anew, start over, try again, and live lives of hope.  
So in response, together, as God's church,  
We dare to dream.  
We strive to love.  
We try to imagine a new day.  
And we walk together,  
All with God's help.  
Amen.

**THE LORD'S PRAYER**

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 debts, as we forgive our debtors; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory, forever. Amen.

**S E N D I N G**

**HYMN** — *May the God of Hope Go with Us*

ARGENTINA

*May the God of hope go with us everyday,  
filling all our lives with joy and peace.  
May the God of justice speed us on our way,  
bringing light and hope to every land and race.  
Praying, let us work for peace;  
singing, share our joy for all;  
working for a world that's new,  
faithful when we hear Christ's call.*

**POSTLUDE** — *Grand Chorus* - Alexandre Guilmant

**QUESTIONS for REFLECTION**

- What is God calling you to reimagine?
- How is God at work in your money story?

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

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***\*Please note all announcements for Sunday bulletins are due by noon the Tuesday before they are to be published. Please email announcements to [Bulletin@MPCusa.net](mailto:Bulletin@MPCusa.net).***

### **A MONEY STORY: GOD'S AND OURS**

We all have a money story, whether we recognize it or not. Perhaps we are living from a story of joyful giving and abundant resources. Or perhaps we are functioning out of a space where resources have been scarce and fear has taken hold. Whatever our story might be, where might God be speaking a new narrative into the limited ones we have told ourselves? And how might God be transforming our stewardship practices into more full expressions of who we are and what we believe? Too often, we avoid talking about money with transparency and vulnerability. We're working to reframe this. Money and possessions are among the most common topics in scripture, and Jesus talked about money more than faith and prayer. Our money story, therefore, is a spiritual story. The best stories captivate and transform us—they change how we live. This stewardship season we hope you will join us as we remember, release, reimagine, and restore our own money stories, so that we can write the one God is begging us to live into.

Much of our liturgy today is written by Sarah Are | A Sanctified Art LLC | [sanctifiedart.org](http://sanctifiedart.org).

### **BROWN BAG & BIBLE STUDY ON WEDNESDAYS!**

**Now is the perfect time to join us!** We just started taking the plunge into 1 Corinthians together and it's not too late to join us! EVERYONE is welcome—this includes people who read the Bible and commentaries regularly, as well as people who don't even know what a commentary is. We are learning and growing together and we have a lot of fun doing it! Our Bible Study meets every Wednesday from noon-1:00 p.m. This fall we will be meeting over Zoom and in-person (at the same time!) in a hybrid classroom. We hope you'll carve out a part of your week to study God's word among friends. Following our Bible Study folks are also welcome to stay for our weekly prayer meeting that meets for about 15-20 minutes. **If you would like to attend Brown Bag & Bible Study (or are at least interested enough to check it out for a couple of weeks), please contact Pastor Rachel at [rachelrhodes@mpcusa.net](mailto:rachelrhodes@mpcusa.net). We'd love to have you!**

### **COMING UP IN ADULT EDUCATION**

“What does it mean to be “Presbyterian”?” Beginning October 31, also known as Reformation Sunday, the Rev. Jack McAnlis will lead a 4-week look at who we are as Presbyterians. How did we get here and what are the beliefs that keep us going? How important is the Bible and the doctrine of “predestination”? Religious movements of the 16<sup>th</sup> century gave rise to the Reformation, Protestantism and Presbyterianism. A major event in this process was in 1517 when Martin Luther circulated his Ninety-five Theses questioning basic tenets of the Roman Catholic church. John Calvin and other Reformers also sought to build a church that was true to the teachings of Jesus as found in the Bible. It is a rich theological tradition and important for study in bolstering our moral and spiritual lives as a community of faith in the 21<sup>st</sup> century. We hope you will join us either over Zoom or in-person from 9:30 to 10:20 a.m. each Sunday. If you are interested, you can attend in room 220 or email Pastor Alex at [alexlester-abdalla@mpcusa.net](mailto:alexlester-abdalla@mpcusa.net) to receive the Zoom link.

## MPC *Weekly Calendar*

### SUNDAY, October 17

9:00 a.m.	New Member Class	
9:30 a.m.	Sunday School for All Ages	
<b>10:30</b>	<b>Worship Service</b>	<b>Sanctuary</b>
<b>10:30</b>	<b>Worship Service</b>	<b>Livestream</b>

### MONDAY, October 18

6:00 p.m.	Cub Scout Pack 3 Meeting	Room 220
6:30	Mostly Motets	Sanctuary
7:00	Boy Scout Troop 3	Fellowship Hall

### TUESDAY, October 19

9:30 a.m.	Weekday Nursery School	Parking Lot
	Farm Day	
6:30 p.m.	Alcoholics Anonymous	Room 220

### WEDNESDAY, October 20

9:00 a.m.	Food Center	Room 4
Noon	Brown Bag & Bible	Conference Room
6:00 p.m.	Pack 3 Webelos	Room 104
6:00	Youth Club	Fellowship Hall
6:30	Girl Scout Troop 2888	Room 220
7:00	Ivins Outreach Center	Lounge
	Board Meeting	
7:15	Chancel Chimes	Sanctuary

### THURSDAY, October 21

10:00 a.m.	Clothing Center	Room 4
Noon	Alcoholics Anonymous	Room 220
6:30 p.m.	Oakville Girl Scouts	Room 220
7:00	Chancel Choir	Sanctuary

### FRIDAY, October 22

6:00 p.m.	Pack 3 Wolf Den	Fellowship Hall
7:00	Alcoholics Anonymous	Room 220

### SATURDAY, October 23

### SUNDAY, October 24

9:00 a.m.	New Member Class	
9:30 a.m.	Sunday School for All Ages	
<b>10:30</b>	<b>Worship Service</b>	<b>Sanctuary</b>
<b>10:30</b>	<b>Worship Service</b>	<b>Livestream</b>

## CONTACT US

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