



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 MARCH 6, 2022
FIRST SUNDAY in LENT
YOUTH SUNDAY

GATHERING

PRELUDE — *My Jesus, I Love Thee* – arranged by Blessing Memory

Yun Kang

CALL to WORSHIP

Elisabeth Halloran

One: Be still, remember who you are. Come touch the waters of your birth. Be alive to God.

All: Remember who we are in Jesus Christ.

One: We are beloved. We are heirs. We are children of God.

All: Remember who we are in Jesus Christ.

One: We are claimed. We are marked. We are named by God alone.

All: Remember who we are in Jesus Christ.

One: We are chosen and blessed. We are gifted to love, to witness through word and deed.

All: Remember who we are in Jesus Christ.

One: Let us worship God together.

HYMN — *Let Us Build a House*

TWO OAKS

*Let us build a house where love can dwell and all can safely live,
a place where saints and children tell how hearts learn to forgive.
Built of hopes and dreams and visions, rock of faith and vault of grace;
here the love of Christ shall end divisions: all are welcome; all are welcome in this place.*

*Let us build a house where prophets speak, and words are strong and true,
where all God's children dare to seek to dream God's reign anew.
Here the cross shall stand as witness and as symbol of God's grace;
here as one we claim the faith of Jesus: all are welcome; all are welcome in this place.*

*Let us build a house where love is found in water, wine, and wheat;
a banquet hall on holy ground where peace and justice meet.
Here the love of God, through Jesus, is revealed in time and space;
as we share in Christ the feast that frees us: all are welcome; all are welcome in this place.*

*Let us build a house where hands will reach beyond the wood and stone
to heal and strengthen, serve and teach, and live the Word they've known.
Here the outcast and the stranger bear the image of God's face;
let us bring an end to fear and danger: all are welcome; all are welcome in this place.*

*Let us build a house where all are named, their songs and visions heard
and loved and treasured, taught and claimed as words within the Word.
Built of tears and cries and laughter, prayers of faith and songs of grace;
let this house proclaim from floor to rafter: all are welcome, all are welcome in this place.*

PRAYER of CONFESSION

Maddie McCleskey

Eternal God, our judge and redeemer, we confess that we have tried to hide from you, for we have done wrong. We have lived for ourselves, and missed opportunities for compassionate understanding. We have filled our lives with activities, choosing achievement over humility. We have turned from our neighbors, and failed to stand up for one another. We have ignored the pain of the world, and passed by the hungry, the poor, and the oppressed. In your great mercy forgive our sins and free us from selfishness, that we may choose your will and obey your commandments; through Jesus Christ our Savior.

SILENT PRAYERS *of* CONFESSION

Here each worshiper may offer silent prayers of confession.

PROMISE *of* FORGIVENESS

One: While it is true that we have sinned, it is a greater truth that we have been forgiven through God's love in Jesus Christ. To all who humbly seek the mercy of God I say, in Jesus Christ your sin is forgiven. Together let us proclaim this good news:

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 *of* t h e W O R D

FIRST SCRIPTURE READING — *Psalms 139:1-10,14*

Vincent Kutch

One: O Lord, you have searched me and known me. You know when I sit down and when I rise up; you discern my thoughts from far away.

All: You search out my path and my lying down, and are acquainted with all my ways. Even before a word is on my tongue, O Lord, you know it completely.

One: You hem me in, behind and before me, and lay your hand upon me. Such knowledge is too wonderful for me; it is so high that I cannot attain it.

All: Where can I go from your spirit? Or where can I flee from your presence? If I ascend to heaven, you are there; if I make my bed in Sheol, you are there.

One: If I take the wings of the morning and settle at the farthest limits of the sea, even there your hand shall lead me, and your right hand shall hold me fast.

All: I praise you, for I am fearfully and wonderfully made. Wonderful are your works; that I know very well.

One: This is the Word of the Lord.

All: Thanks be to God.

SECOND SCRIPTURE READING — *Colossians 3:12-17*

As God's chosen ones, holy and beloved, clothe yourselves with compassion, kindness, humility, meekness, and patience. Bear with one another and, if anyone has a complaint against another, forgive each other; just as the Lord has forgiven you, so you also must forgive. Above all, clothe yourselves with love, which binds everything together in perfect harmony. And let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, to which indeed you were called in the one body. And be thankful. Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly; teach and admonish one another in all wisdom; and with gratitude in your hearts sing psalms, hymns, and spiritual songs to God. And whatever you do, in word or deed, do everything in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him.

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

One: This is the Word of the Lord.

All: Thanks be to God.

YOUTH SERMONS

Sydney Flook & Vanessa Nolan

HYMN — *God, Be the Love to Search and Keep Me*

GREEN TYLER

*God, be the love to search and keep me;
God, be the prayer to move my voice;
God, be the strength to now uphold me:
O Christ, surround me; O Christ, surround me.*

*Bind to myself the Name of Holy,
great clod of witnesses enfold;
prophets, apostles, angels witness:
O Christ, surround me; O Christ, surround me.*

*Brightness of sun and glow of moonlight,
flashing of lightning strength of wind,
depth of the sea to soil of planet:
O Christ, surround me; O Christ, surround me.*

*Walking behind to hem my journey,
going ahead to light my way,
and from beneath, above, and all ways:
O Christ, surround me; O Christ, surround me.*

*Christ in the eyes of all who see me,
Christ in the ears that hear my voice,
Christ in the hearts of all who know me:
O Christ, surround me; O Christ, surround me.*

AFFIRMATION of FAITH — from *A Brief Statement of Faith*

James Leiby

We trust in Jesus Christ, fully human, fully God. Jesus proclaimed the reign of God: preaching good news to the poor and release to the captives, teaching by word and deed and blessing the children, healing the sick and binding up the brokenhearted, eating with outcasts, forgiving sinners, and calling all to repent and believe the gospel. The Spirit justifies us by grace through faith, sets us free to accept ourselves and to love God and neighbor, and binds us together with all believers in the one body of Christ, the Church. The same Spirit who inspired the prophets and apostles rules our faith and life in Christ through Scripture, engages us through the Word proclaimed, claims us in the waters of baptism, feeds us with the bread of life and the cup of salvation, and calls God's people to all ministries of the Church.

OFFERING

Catherine Moyer-Harrington

Invitation to Give

Offertory Music — *Nearer, My God, to Thee* - Lowell Mason

Yun Kang, piano;

Eliana Kang, violin; Elijah Kang, cello

Doxology — *Praise God From Whom All Blessings Flow*

OLD HUNDREDTH

*Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;
praise him, all creatures here below;
praise him above, ye heavenly host;
praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost.
Amen.*

S A C R A M E N T of t h e L O R D ' S S U P P E R

INVITATION

Hope Massey and Megan Oleynick

PRAYER of GREAT THANKSGIVING

One: The Lord be with you.

All: And also with you.

One: Lift up your hearts.

All: We lift them up to the Lord.

One: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

All: It is right to give our thanks and praise.

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.

THE BREAKING *of the* BREAD

COMMUNION *of the* PEOPLE

HYMN *during* COMMUNION — *For Everyone Born*

FOR EVERYONE BORN

*For everyone born, a place at the table, for everyone born, clean water and bread,
a shelter, a space, a safe place for growing, for everyone born, a star over head,
and God will delight when we are creators of justice and joy, compassion and peace:
yes, God will delight when we are creators of justice, justice and joy!*

*For woman and man, a place at the table, revising the roles, deciding the share,
with wisdom and grace, dividing the power, for woman and man, a system that's fair,
and God will delight when we are creators of justice and joy, compassion and peace:
yes, God will delight when we are creators of justice, justice and joy!*

*For young and for old, a place at the table, a voice to be heard, a part in the song,
the hands of a child in hands that are wrinkled, for young and for old, the right to belong,
and God will delight when we are creators of justice and joy, compassion and peace:
yes, God will delight when we are creators of justice, justice and joy!*

*For just and unjust, a place at the table, abuser, abused, with need to forgive,
in anger, in hurt, a mindset of mercy, for just and unjust, a new way to live,
and God will delight when we are creators of justice and joy, compassion and peace:
yes, God will delight when we are creators of justice, justice and joy!*

*For everyone born, a place at the table, to live without fear, and simply to be,
to work, to speak out, to witness and worship, for everyone born, the right to be free,
and God will delight when we are creators of justice and joy, compassion and peace:
yes, God will delight when we are creators of justice, justice and joy!*

PRAYER *after* COMMUNION

Caroline Stover

S E N D I N G

HYMN — *I'm Gonna Live So God Can Use Me*

I'M GONNA LIVE

I'm gonna live so God can use me anywhere Lord, anytime!

I'm gonna live so God can use me anywhere Lord, anytime!

I'm gonna work so God can use me anywhere Lord, anytime!

I'm gonna work so God can use me anywhere Lord, anytime!

I'm gonna pray so God can use me anywhere Lord, anytime!

I'm gonna pray so God can use me anywhere Lord, anytime!

I'm gonna sing so God can use me anywhere Lord, anytime!

I'm gonna sing so God can use me anywhere Lord, anytime!

POSTLUDE — *Postlude in C* - Caleb Simper

QUESTIONS *for* REFLECTION

- What is God inviting you to let go this Lenten season?
- Where have you found belonging in this community?

ANNOUNCEMENTS

**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.*

WE WELCOME MPC YOUTH AS LEADERS OF TODAY'S SERVICE

Thank you for supporting our youth this Sunday! The Call to Worship, Prayer of Confession, and Prayer of Great Thanksgiving were written by the youth of our church with the help of Sunday School teachers Patrick Gilbride, Lisa Kutch, Elizabeth Lester-Abdalla, Dave Massey, and Russel McCleskey. Musical offerings were practiced and performed by Eliana, Elijah, and Yun Kang.

Many thanks to the various youth who helped write liturgy, praise God through music, and lead this Sunday: Sydney Flook, Elisabeth Halloran, Ahnika Hernandez-Feehan, Eliana Kang, Brandon Keys, Bella Keys, Vincent Kutch, James Leiby, Maddie McCleskey, Catherine Moyer-Harrington, Vanessa Nolan, Megan Oleynick, Madeline Skinner, and Caroline Stover.

TODAY'S MARCH MADNESS BENEFITTING MPC FOOD CENTER

Once a year our youth guide us through worship, with seniors sharing their spiritual journeys as they embark on a new chapter in their lives. It has always been a poignant and inspiring service.

In celebration of Youth Sunday, today, and the upcoming start of March Madness, we are collecting "Slam Dunk" donations for the Food Center. Try your luck at making a basket with some soup, a box of mac & cheese, or a can of tomato sauce. You can also consider a cash donation instead. All food and monies will go directly to the MPC Food Center. Look for the basketball hoop in the narthex before and after service.

TODAY! YOUTH MISSION TRIP YOUTH & PARENT INFORMATION MEETING

A Youth Mission Trip parent meeting will be held following worship service in Room 220 today, Sunday, March 6.

Youth in Mission will be returning to Pipestem, WV this summer to continue God's work spreading the Word and helping others. This year's trip will be departing either July 9 or 10 and returning the following Saturday, July 16. All youth and their parents interested in this year's trip should plan on attending our Kick-off meeting to review important information regarding the trip. All current 8th grade students through high school seniors, along with their friends, are invited to join us and hear more about this great trip. We look forward to seeing you there!

LENTEN BAGS

The season of Lent is approaching and your Worship, Education, and Congregational Ministry Committees assembled bags which include activities to do throughout the 40-day journey. Lenten bags will be available for pick up (one per family, please) in the Communication Center today, February 27, and March 6. If you are unable to pick one up during these times, please contact the church office to make arrangements to get one.

IN-PERSON EDUCATION AND MUSIC HAS RETURNED!

We have returned to in-person worship and music programs, as well as most education programs. Below you will also find specific updates for each activity.

EDUCATION

- Pre-K through High School Sunday School classes have returned to in-person sessions from 9:30 a.m. to 10:15 a.m.
- Confirmation Class is meeting in-person from 9:00 a.m. to 10:00 a.m.
- For the time being, Adult Sunday School will continue to meet over Zoom from 9:00 a.m. to 10:00 a.m.

If you would like to be added to the Adult Education email distribution list or if you have any questions about Children's Sunday School or Confirmation Class, please be in touch with Pastor Alex at alexlesterabdalla@mpcusa.net.

MUSIC

- Chancel Choir (Adult Choir) has returned to in-person rehearsals.
- Teen Choir rehearsal has returned after worship.
- Children's Music has returned during worship.
- God's Thunder (Youth Handbell Choir) returned for in-person rehearsals.

If you would like more information about any of our choir programs, please be in touch with Music Director Tim Carpenter, at timcarpenter@mpcusa.net.

Lenten Sermon Series—"Take My Life"



Beginning today, join us during worship for our Lenten Sermon Series which will be led by our Pastors based on the hymn, "Take My Life." Today leading up to Palm Sunday, we will discover what it means to give to God our moments & days, hands & feet, voice & lips, will & heart and our love & whole self.

MPC *Weekly Calendar*

SUNDAY, March 6 - First Sunday in Lent

| | | |
|--------------|--------------------------------------|-------------------|
| 9:00 a.m. | Adult Sunday School | via Zoom |
| 9:00 | Confirmation Class | Room 200 |
| 9:30 | Pre-K - High School Sunday School | |
| 10:30 | Worship Service | Sanctuary |
| 10:30 | Worship Service | Livestream |
| 11:30 | Teen Choir | Music Room |
| 11:30 | Youth Mission Trip Meeting | Room 220 |
| Noon | Deacon Meeting | Conference Room |

MONDAY, March 7

| | | |
|-----------|-------------------|-----------------|
| 6:30 p.m. | Mostly Motets | Sanctuary |
| 7:00 | Boy Scout Troop 3 | Fellowship Hall |

TUESDAY, March 8

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|-----------|----------------------|-----------------|
| 6:00 p.m. | Cub Scout Pack 3 | Fellowship Hall |
| 6:00 | Pack 3 - Webelos | Room 104 |
| 6:30 | Alcoholics Anonymous | Room 220 |

WEDNESDAY, March 9

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|-----------|----------------------------|-----------------|
| 9:00 a.m. | Food Center | Parking Lot |
| Noon | Brown Bag & Bible Study | Conference Room |
| 6:00 p.m. | Youth Club | Fellowship Hall |
| 7:00 | Finance Meeting | |
| 7:00 | God's Thunder Rehearsal | Sanctuary |
| 7:00 | Girl Scout Troop 2888 | Room 220 |
| 7:30 | Chancel Chimes Rehearsal | Sanctuary |

THURSDAY, March 10

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|------------|----------------------|-----------------|
| 10:00 a.m. | Clothing Center | Room 4 |
| Noon | Alcoholics Anonymous | Room 220 |
| 6:30 p.m. | Oakville Girl Scouts | Room 220 |
| 6:30 | To Live Again | Fellowship Hall |
| 7:00 | Chancel Choir | Sanctuary |

FRIDAY, March 11

| | | |
|-----------|-------------------|-----------------|
| 6:00 p.m. | Pack 3 - Wolf Den | Fellowship Hall |
| 7:00 | AA Meeting | Room 220 |

SATURDAY, March 12

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|-----------|------------------------------------|-----------------|
| 7:00 a.m. | Girl Scout Troop 2888 Book Sale | Fellowship Hall |
|-----------|------------------------------------|-----------------|

SUNDAY, March 13 - Second Sunday in Lent

| | | |
|--------------|--------------------------------------|-------------------|
| 9:00 a.m. | Adult Sunday School | via Zoom |
| 9:00 | Confirmation Class | Room 200 |
| 9:30 | Pre-K - High School Sunday School | |
| 10:30 | Worship Service | Sanctuary |
| 10:30 | Worship Service | Livestream |
| 11:30 | Teen Choir | Music Room |

CONTACT US

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