



*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 APRIL 9, 2023
EASTER SUNDAY

GATHERING

PRELUDE — *When I Survey the Wondrous Cross* - Lowell Mason

Yun Kang

INTROIT — *Crown Him the Lord of Life!* - George Job-Elvery / arr. Tim Carpenter

Chancel Choir & Brass

*Crown him the Lord of Life who triumphed o'er the grave,
And rose victorious in the strife for those he came to save;
His glories now we sing who died, and rose on high,
Who died, eternal life to bring and lives so death may die.
Sing Alleluia!*

-- M. Bridges

CALL to WORSHIP

Pastor Alex Lester-Abdalla

One: Rejoice and be glad:

All: **This is the day that the Lord has made!**

One: Rejoice and be glad:

All: **Heaven and earth will never be the same!**

One: Rejoice and be glad! Let us share the good news with all the world:

All: **Jesus Christ is risen today! Alleluia! Alleluia! Thanks be to God!**

HYMN — *Jesus Christ Is Risen Today*

EASTER HYMN

*Jesus Christ is risen today, Alleluia!
our triumphant holy day, Alleluia!
who did once upon the cross, Alleluia!
suffer to redeem our loss. Alleluia!*

*Hymns of praise then let us sing, Alleluia!
unto Christ, our heavenly King, Alleluia!
who endured the cross and grave, Alleluia!
sinners to redeem and save. Alleluia!*

*But the pains which he endured, Alleluia!
our salvation have procured. Alleluia!
Now above the sky he's King, Alleluia!
where the angels ever sing. Alleluia!*

*Sing we to our God above, Alleluia!
praise eternal as God's love. Alleluia!
Praise our God, ye heavenly host, Alleluia!
Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Alleluia!*

PRAYER of CONFESSION

Tori Paquette

All-knowing, all-powerful God, we confess that, even on this most holy day, we are unable to believe in the victory over death shown to us in the resurrection of Jesus Christ. We worship our risen Savior, but we find ourselves weighed down by many things. We would prefer an easy faith, one that does not require us to identify the many ways that our thoughts, words, and actions have scorned Your love. But faith is never easy. It requires our very souls. Forgive us when we choose to remain captive to fear and doubt. Remind us that Jesus gave His very life so that we might draw near to You. Deepen our faith, and enable us by Christ's resurrection power to live no longer for ourselves, but for Him who died and rose again on our behalf, through Christ our Lord, Amen.

SILENT PRAYERS *of CONFESSiON* *Here each worshiper may offer silent prayers of confession.*

PROMiSE *of FORGIVENESS*

One: Listen, beloved church: By the grace of God and the witness of our ancestors, the good news of Jesus' resurrection is our rock and our salvation. God who raised Jesus from the dead has not given us over to death, but instead restored us to new life. And so, together, let us proclaim 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

PRAYER *for ILLUMINATION*

NEW TESTAMENT READING — *Colossians 3:1-4*

So if you have been raised with Christ, seek the things that are above, where Christ is, seated at the right hand of God. Set your minds on things that are above, not on things that are on earth, for you have died, and your life is hidden with Christ in God. When Christ who is your life is revealed, then you also will be revealed with him in glory.

ANTHEM — *He Is Not Here!* - Russell Nagy

*Twas at the break of day when women came with spices to anoint our Lord,
And walking to the tomb, said "Who will move the mighty stone that bars the door?"
Then, behold, they found no stone; but a man was standing there instead,
Dazzling bright in raiment white, saying, "Jesus is not dead!"
He is not here! He is risen! See the tomb is empty where He lay.
He is not here! He is risen!" Jesus rose that Easter Day.*

*When John and Peter heard the strange account, they doubted that it could be true;
But running there to find the empty tomb, they suddenly believed it, too.
In the place where Jesus lay, sat the burial clothing of the dead,
Laid aside, like death denied, for He was no longer dead.
He is not here! He is risen! ...*

*See, the tomb is empty, He is risen! Jesus Christ is risen.
Alleluia! For Jesus Christ is risen from the dead.
And so we do proclaim on Easter Day that Jesus is not in the grave;
But risen from the dead, just as He said, in majesty and pow'r to reign.
He is not here! He is risen! ...*

--Joel Nagy

TIME *for YOUNG DISCIPLES*

GOSPEL READING — *Luke 24:1-12*

But on the first day of the week, at early dawn, they came to the tomb, taking the spices that they had prepared. They found the stone rolled away from the tomb, but when they went in, they did not find the body. While they were perplexed about this, suddenly two men in dazzling clothes stood beside them. The women were terrified and bowed their faces to the ground, but the men said to them, 'Why do you look for the living among the dead? He is not here, but has risen. Remember how he told you, while he was still in Galilee, that the Son of Man must be handed over to sinners, and be crucified, and on the third day rise again.' Then they remembered his words, and returning from the tomb, they told all this to the eleven and to all the rest.

Now it was Mary Magdalene, Joanna, Mary the mother of James, and the other women with them who told this to the apostles. But these words seemed to them an idle tale, and they did not believe them. But Peter got up and ran to the tomb; stooping and looking in, he saw the linen cloths by themselves; then he went home, amazed at what had happened.

One: This is the Gospel of the Lord.

All: **Thanks be to God.**

SERMON

Impossible

Pastor Rachel Rhodes

HYMN — *Christ Is Alive!*

TRURO

*Christ is alive! Let Christians sing.
The cross stands empty to the sky.
Let streets and homes with praises ring,
Love, drowned in death, shall never die.*

*Christ is alive! No longer bound
to the distant years in Palestine,
but saving, healing, here and now,
and touching every place and time.*

*In every insult, rift, and war
where color, scorn, or wealth divide,
Christ suffers still, yet loves the more,
and lives, where even hope has died.*

*Women and men, in age and youth,
can feel the Spirit, hear the all,
and find the way, the life, the truth,
revealed in Jesus, freed for all.*

*Christ is alive, and comes to bring
good news to this and every age,
till earth and sky and ocean ring
with joy, with justice, love and praise.*

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

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. Unjustly condemned for blasphemy and sedition, Jesus was crucified, suffering the depths of human pain and giving his life for the sins of the world. God raised Jesus from the dead, vindicating his sinless life, breaking the power of sin and evil, delivering us from death to life eternal. With believers in every time and place, we rejoice that nothing in life or in death can separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord. Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit. Amen.

PRAYERS of THANKSGIVING and SUPPLICATION

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.

OFFERING

Invitation to Give

Offertory Music — *Christ is Risen* - Gustav Holst / arr. Tim Carpenter

Based on the tune: THAXTED

Text may be found at hymn 233, verse 1

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.*

Prayer of Dedication

S E N D I N G

HYMN — *Thine Is the Glory*

JUDAS MACCABEUS

*Thine is the glory, risen, conquering Son;
endless is the victory thou o'er death hast won.
Angels in bright raiment rolled the stone away,
kept the folded graveclothes where thy body lay.*

*Thine is the glory, risen, conquering Son;
endless is the victory thou o'er death hast won.*

*Lo! Jesus meets us, risen from the tomb;
lovingly he greets us, scatters fear and gloom.
Let the church with gladness hymns of triumph sing,
for the Lord now liveth; death hath lost its sting.*

*Thine is the glory, risen, conquering Son;
endless is the victory thou o'er death hast won.*

*No more we doubt thee, glorious Prince of life!
Life is naught without thee; aid us in our strife.
Make us more than conquerors through thy deathless love;
bring us safe through Jordan to thy home above.*

*Thine is the glory, risen, conquering Son;
endless is the victory thou o'er death hast won.*

CHARGE and BLESSING

CHORAL BENEDICTION & POSTLUDE — *Thine Is the Glory* - G. F. Handel

QUESTION for REFLECTION

- Where, in your life, do you **see** resurrection hope today?
- Where, in your life, do you **need** resurrection hope today?

Easter Memorial Contributions - Easter Plants

IN LOVING MEMORY OF:

My parents, Warren and Dorothy Bietsch
My parents, Douglas and Virginia Purdy
My siblings, Garvin and Carol Purdy
Our parents
Our mother, Edith Huckle Damiani
Helen and Bill Borden
Nancy C. and Burt Anderson

BY:

Heather Bray
Nancy Ackerman
Nancy Ackerman
Carol and Roberta Carroll
John and Donna Damiani
Nancy and Roger Anderson
Nancy and Roger Anderson

TO GIVE THANKS FOR:

My granddaughters: Ashlynn and
Evangeline "Eva" Ackerman
The person receiving this plant
My cousin/friend, J'Ann Ellis

BY:

Nancy Ackerman
Dave Koch
Betsy Jurey

Easter Memorial Contributions - Music

IN LOVING MEMORY OF:

My parents, Warren and Dorothy Bietsch
Our parents
Our parents
Our parents
All our loved ones
Helen and Bill Borden
Nancy C. and Burt Anderson
Our parents and grandparents: Lewis and Peggy Kohn,
Sarah and Earl Levan
Our son, Timothy

BY:

Heather Bray
Tim and Carol Carpenter
Carol and Roberta Carroll
David and Nancy Powers
Jurey/Burgess Families
Nancy and Roger Anderson
Nancy and Roger Anderson
The Levan Family
Dee Ann and Clark Martin

TO GIVE THANKS FOR:

Our grandchildren; Layla, Benjamin,
James, Sloane and Colin
The beautiful music each Sunday

BY:

Gail and Drew Hunger
Dave Koch

Easter Memorial Contributions - Food Basket

IN LOVING MEMORY OF:

Earl and Marion Koose
Ralph Hernandez
Charles A. Hill
My parents, Warren and Dorothy Bietsch
Our parents: Grace and James Doster,
 Sally and George Hunger
My beautiful daughter, Becky Marseglia
My parents, Marilyn and John Ellis
My grandparents, Olive and John Sr. Ellis
My brother, Jon Ellis
Our parents: James and Marie Mallory
 and Lambert "Ott" Ward
Our siblings: James and Cathy Mallory,
 Hunter Mallory and Joy Deem
My parents, Edith and Charles Koch
My husband, Jerry Ashmen
My parents, John and Mina Masine
My parent-in-laws, Gerald and Dot Ashmen
Our parents
Our parents
Our parents: Charles and Inez Mitchell,
 John and Edith Damiani
Our parents
George A. Hunger, Sr.
Our parents
My husband, Ken
My parents
My brother, Lee
My cousin, Betty
Russell Gray
My grandparents, William and Ethel Anderson
Helen and Bill Borden
Nancy C. and Burt Anderson
Hal Prosser
My dad, Kempton L. Franke
Uncle Lee Forsythe
Ruth Parker
Betty, Helen, JoAnn, Tammy,
and David S.

BY:

Carol Hernandez & Family
Carol Hernandez & Family
Cornelia Hill
Heather Bray
Gail and Drew Hunger

Diane Ellis-Marseglia
Diane Ellis-Marseglia
Diane Ellis-Marseglia
Diane Ellis-Marseglia
Gary and Sue Ward

Gary and Sue Ward
Gary and Sue Ward
Dave Koch
Joan Ashmen
Joan Ashmen
Joan Ashmen
Tim and Carol Carpenter
Carol and Roberta Carroll
John and Donna Damiani

Jim Lytle and Christy Stephenson
Dorothy Hunger
David and Nancy Powers
Eleanor Franke
Eleanor Franke
Eleanor Franke
Eleanor Franke
Ross and Alice Gray
Bill Anderson
Nancy and Roger Anderson
Nancy and Roger Anderson
Kathie Prosser
Shirley DeAngelis
Shirley DeAngelis
Shirley DeAngelis
Shirley DeAngelis

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.***

ABOUT TODAY'S SERVICE

Today's Brass Choir includes Neal Kindig and Nicolas Goldkranz, trumpets; Colleen and Steve Sweetsir, horns; Patrick McIsaac, trombone; and Seth McHenry, timpani.

JOIN US FOR A NEW BIBLE STUDY CLASS

We are taking the plunge into the book of COLOSSIANS for the next few weeks with the Rev. Dr. Mark Achtemeier (Rachel's dad) and it's not too late to join us for this new adventure!

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. over Zoom so that anyone can join us—from home, from work, from across the country! We hope you'll carve out a part of your week to study God's word among friends.

Following our Bible Study each week, 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. We'd love to have you!

REBECCA CIRCLE MEETS TOMORROW!

All women of MPC are invited to become part of Rebecca Circle. Gather with friends, new and old, once each month for fellowship and a program. Topics include religion, spirituality, self-help, information, local trips and fun. Join this active, supportive and joyous group of sisters in Christ on the second Mondays of September through May, at 7:00 p.m. in the Lounge. For information, contact Jen Jones 215 962-3655.

STAMP OUT HUNGER FOOD DRIVE VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

The annual Stamp Out Hunger Food Drive, sponsored by the National Letter Carriers' Association, will be held on Saturday, May 13 at the Elks Lodge on Bridge Street in Morrisville. MPC and the Food Center have been involved for many years, and the Food Center benefits greatly from the large amount of food collected in the 19067 zip code. Help is needed from 11:00 a.m. thru 7:00 p.m. It's a fun day and a great community effort. Please join us! Sign up online at MPCusa.org/food-center, and bring a friend! Please email with questions to MPCfoodcenter@gmail.com. Thank you!!

APRIL 23 IS BLUE JEAN SUNDAY

Blue Jean Sunday will be held on April 23 from noon to 3:00 p.m. Help be a part of the annual cleanup of the church and yards. Please contact Property Manager David Sterling at davidsterling@mpcusa.net for more details and to sign up

MAY 7 IS WOMEN'S SUNDAY AT MPC

Women of MPC please make note that on May 7, Women's Sunday at MPC, we are asking that you bring a donation of a feminine hygiene product. Helping another woman maintain her dignity by providing these costly but necessary items is a simple and worthy effort. There will be a collection box as you enter church. The donations will be distributed through the Food Center and the Morrisville High School. Thank You!

MPC IS GOING TO SNIPES FARM AND EDUCATION CENTER

Join members of MPC for an exciting, faith-filled, family-oriented and educational trip to Snipes Farm and Education Center (SFEC) to enjoy a beautiful way to celebrate God's creation and bounty! MPC youth and volunteers are participating in Earth Day at the Snipes Farm and Education Center on April 22 from 9:00 a.m to noon. They may be planting trees or potatoes. They may be working on projects on the nature trail or preparing the herb or children's gardens for the upcoming season. They may even take a farm tour or learn about the life of bees, composting and more. There promises to be more visits to the SFEC in the coming months. You may contact Pastor Alex at alexlester-abdalla@mpcusa.net or Ray Hendrickson at hrh1453@gmail.com for more information. To learn more about SFEC, please visit www.snipesfarm.org. Last year's Earth Day was a most rewarding day for MPC! We hope you'll join us this year.

New Members Class

Believing—Belonging—Becoming

April 23, April 30, May 7

If you are not a member at MPC, we would love for you to consider joining us in ministry and mission. This three-week class, led by Pastor Rachel Rhodes and Pastor Alex Lester-Abdalla, will be an opportunity to explore church membership, whether you're ready to join or just curious about what that would mean.

We will explore topics like:

- What do we believe as Presbyterians?
- How are we called to be the church in the world?
- What does ministry and mission look like at MPC?
- Who is it that God is calling you to be and how can you seek to pursue God's call more fully through membership at MPC?

This class will gather at 9:00 a.m. for three Sundays and you'll be welcomed into membership during worship on Sunday, May 21.

If you are interested in participating, please contact the church office at 215-295-4191 or office@mpcusa.org by Wednesday, April 19, or email directly to Pastor Rachel at rachelrhodes@mpcusa.net.

SPECIAL COLLECTION FOR TODAY! ONE GREAT HOUR OF SHARING OFFERING

Around the world, millions of people lack access to sustainable food sources, clean water, sanitation, education, and opportunity. The three programs supported by [One Great Hour of Sharing](#) — Presbyterian Disaster Assistance, the Presbyterian Hunger Program, and Self-Development of People — all work in different ways to serve individuals and communities in need. From initial disaster response to ongoing community development, their work fits together to provide people with safety, sustenance, and hope.

Received during the season of Lent, each gift to One Great Hour of Sharing (OGHS) helps to improve the lives of people in these challenging situations. The Offering provides us a way to share God's love with our neighbors in need. In fact, OGHS is the single, largest way that Presbyterians come together every year to work for a better world.

One Great Hour of Sharing makes a difference in the world and in our own community:

- **32% - Presbyterian Disaster Assistance (PDA)** - Works alongside communities as they recover and find hope after the devastation of natural or human-caused disasters and support refugees.
- **36% - Presbyterian Hunger Program (PHP)** - Takes action to alleviate hunger, care for creation, and eliminate the systemic causes of poverty so all may be fed.
- **32% - Self-development of People (SDOP)** - Invests in communities responding to their experiences of oppression, poverty and injustice, and educates Presbyterians about the impact of these issues.

This offering will be collected today, Easter Sunday. Please include "OGHS" on the comment line of your check, or in the "Notes" section if using the [online portal](#). As in the past, thank you for your generous support to this offering.

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

Introducing mobile giving

iPhone



Scan the appropriate QR code
with your phone and find MPC by
searching code 'FEDN99' or
'Morrisville Presbyterian Church'

Once set up, you can schedule recurring
gifts or make one-time offerings with one
click.

Android



Need Help? email Office@mpcusa.org and ask that your questions be forwarded to the stewardship committee.

CLOTHING CENTER SPRING OPEN HOUSE



The [Clothing Center](#) will be open on **Saturday, May 6 from 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.** for our annual Spring Open House. We have been busy putting out our spring/summer clothing, receiving new donations weekly and have much from which to choose. Come shop at our Clothing Center and you will always leave with great items and still have money in your pocket! Come check us out.

We are open every Thursday from 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. until mid-June,
when we close for the summer.

MPC Weekly Calendar

SUNDAY, April 9 - Easter Sunday

10:30 Worship Service
10:30 Worship Service

Sanctuary
Livestream

MONDAY, April 10

Church office closed

Noon Deborah Circle
6:00 Cub Scout Pack 3
7:00 Boy Scout Troop 3
7:00 Boy Scout Troop 3
Parent & Board Meeting
7:00 Rebecca Circle
7:00 Trustees Meeting

Offsite
Room 220
Fellowship Hall
Lounge
Lounge
Zoom

TUESDAY, April 11

12:30 p.m. Staff Meeting
7:00 Financial Task Force

Conference Room
Room 200

WEDNESDAY, April 12

9:00 a.m. Food Center
Noon Brown Bag &
Bible Study
1:00 p.m. Prayer Meeting
6:00 Cub Scout Pack 3

Parking Lot
Conference Room
Zoom
Room 220

WEDNESDAY, April 12 (continued)

6:00 Youth Club Fellowship Hall
7:00 Girl Scout Troop 2888 Room 220
7:15 Chancel Chimes Chapel

THURSDAY, April 13

10:00 a.m. Clothing Center Room 4
6:00 p.m. Oakville Girl Scouts Fellowship Hall
7:00 Chancel Choir Music Room

FRIDAY, April 14

6:30 p.m. AA Meeting Lounge

SATURDAY, April 15

SUNDAY, April 16
8:30 a.m. God's Thunder Rehearsal Chapel
9:30 Sunday School for all ages
10:30 Worship Service **Sanctuary**
10:30 Worship Service **Livestream**
11:30 Fellowship Hour - Lounge
Hosted by: Outreach Committee
11:45 Teen Choir Music Room

CONTACT US

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