



*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 FIFTH SUNDAY  
*after* EPIPHANY  
FEBRUARY 4, 2024

## GATHERING

**PRELUDE** — *Go, Tell It on the Mountain* - arr. Paul Manz

Yun Kang

**WORDS of WELCOME**

Pastor Alex Lester-Abdalla

**CALL to WORSHIP**

Grace DiTulio & Micah Subers

One: Rejoice in the Lord always!

**All: All thanks and praise to God!**

One: In the face of fear and worries the psalmist reminds us,

**All: To be still and know that God is God.**

One: Let the peace of God settle among you.

**All: We will share God's peace with all.**

One: In the company of all that have gathered here,

**All: 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**

Elisabeth Halloran

Lord you are our refuge and strength, yet we confess that we fail to make time for you in our busy lives. Though you are our ever-present help in trouble, we worry about the opinions of others. We ignore opportunities to support and to uplift. We gossip and use destructive language. We forget that we are all created in your image and are slow to embrace each other's uniqueness and purpose in you. We ask your forgiveness of our shortcomings and bring us closer to you.

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

## PROMISE *of* FORGIVENESS

Angel Kamara

One: The Lord is compassionate and gracious, slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love. God does not treat us as our sins deserve or repay us according to our iniquities. For as high as the heavens are above the earth, so great is God's love for those who revere God. As far as the east is from the west, so far has God removed our transgressions from us. 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

#### FIRST SCRIPTURE READING — *Psalm 46*

Vincent Kutch

One: God is our refuge and strength, a very present help in trouble.

**All: Therefore we will not fear, though the earth should change, though the mountains shake in the heart of the sea, though its waters roar and foam, though the mountains tremble with its tumult.**

One: There is a river whose streams make glad the city of God, the holy habitation of the Most High.

**All: God is in the midst of the city; it shall not be moved; God will help it when the morning dawns.**

One: The nations are in an uproar; the kingdoms totter; God utters God's voice; the earth melts.

**All: The Lord of hosts is with us; the God of Jacob is our refuge.**

One: Come, behold the works of the Lord; see what desolation God has brought on the earth. God makes wars cease to the end of the earth; God breaks the bow, and shatters the spear, God burns the shields with fire.

**All: "Be still, and know that I am God! I am exalted among the nations; I am exalted in the earth." The Lord of hosts is with us; the God of Jacob is our refuge.**

One: This is the Word of the Lord.

**All: Thanks be to God!**

#### ANTHEM — *From All That Dwell Below the Skies* - Michael Burkhardt

Teen Choir

*From all that dwell below the skies let the Creator's praise arise;  
Let the redeemer's name be sung though every land by every tongue  
Eternal are your mercies, Lord; eternal truth attends your Word;  
Your praise shall sound from shore to shore 'til sun shall rise and set no more.  
Let every creature rise and bring praise and thanksgiving to our king;  
angels descend with songs again, and earth repeat the loud amen.  
All praise to God, Creator be, all praise, eternal Son, to thee;  
Whom with the Spirit we adore forever and forever more.  
--Isaac Watts*

### TIME *for* YOUNG DISCIPLES

## SECOND SCRIPTURE READING — *Philippians 4:4-9*

Rejoice in the Lord always; again I will say, Rejoice. Let your gentleness be known to everyone. The Lord is near. Do not be anxious about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.

Finally, brothers and sisters, whatever is true, whatever is honorable, whatever is just, whatever is pure, whatever is pleasing, whatever is commendable, if there is any excellence and if there is anything worthy of praise, think about these things. As for the things that you have learned and received and heard and noticed in me, do them, and the God of peace will be with you.

One: This is the Word of the Lord.

All: **Thanks be to God!**

## SERMON

Megan Oleynick

## HYMN — *Be Still, My Soul*

FINLANDIA

*Be still, my soul: the Lord is on thy side.  
Bear patiently the cross of grief or pain.  
Leave to thy God to order and provide,  
who through all changes faithful will remain.*

*Be still, my soul: thy God doth undertake  
to guide the future surely as the past.  
Thy hope, thy confidence let nothing shake;  
all now mysterious shall be bright at last.*

*Be still, my soul: the hour is hastening on  
when we shall be forever with the Lord;  
when disappointment, grief, and fear are gone,  
sorrow forget, love's purest joys restored.*

## AFFIRMATION of FAITH — written by Middle School (Quest) Sunday School Class

Elijah Song

**We believe in God, the everlasting love for all of God's children. This God creates the world and everything in it: including nature, weather, and medicine. This God gave Sarah a child, made a covenant with us through Noah, and gave us the rainbow as a sign of God's promises. God sent Moses to lead the Israelites out of Egypt and into the Promised Land. We believe in Jesus our savior, the Prince of Peace. Jesus is the messenger of God who helped the world even though it killed him. This Jesus was brave, helped everyone and was gracious to all—it did not matter whether they were poor, sick, or hungry. We believe in the Holy Spirit who is mysterious, yet within us and is the unknown love of God. We believe that God wants us to spread God's love, praise God with songs and hymns, give to others, and follow God's commandments. We think it is cool that God is always with us, even if we are not with God.**

## OFFERING

Tucker McCleskey

Invitation to Give

Offertory Music — *Brethren, We Have Met Together* - Moore/Lamb

God's Thunder

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.*

# SACRAMENT *of the* LORD'S SUPPER

## INVITATION

Pastor Lester-Abdalla, Maddie McCleskey, & Eliana Song

## 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

MUSIC *during* COMMUNION — *O Lord, How Shall I Meet You* - Melchoir Teschner

## PRAYER *after* COMMUNION

Hope Massey

## 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!*

## CHARGE *and* BLESSING

POSTLUDE — *March* - G. F. Handel

## THANK YOU YOUTH AND TEACHERS!

Liturgy throughout this worship service was written by our wonderful youth with the help of trusted adults. The Confession and Assurance of pardon was written by our High School Seminar. The Affirmation of Faith was written by our middle school Quest Class. The Great Thanksgiving was written by our Youth Club. So a big "Thank you" to all the youth and adults who helped: Elijah Song, Tucker McCleskey, Micah Subers, Lincoln Bausher, Bella Keys, Courtney Neiman, Grace DiTulio, Vincent Kutch, James Leiby, Eliana Song, Hope Massey, Megan Oleynick, Max Dous, Maddie McCleskey, Ahnika Hernandez-Feehan, Mori Skinner, Jordan Driver, Angel Kamara, Elisabeth Halloran, Ells Halloran, Ashley Kerr, Kathryn Gilbride, Elizabeth Lester-Abdalla, Wendy McCleskey, Adrienne Poissant, Kevin Subers, Russel McCleskey, Dan Jones, Patrick Gilbride, and Eric Moyer-Harrington.

## 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](mailto:Bulletin@MPCusa.net).*

### **TODAY'S CHANCEL FLOWERS**

The Chancel Flowers are offered to the glory of God and are given in celebration of the 50th Anniversary of our parents, Phyllis and Larry Low, with love from Amanda and Ryan Owen and Zachary and Laura Low. The second arrangement is given by Phyllis and Larry's grandchildren: "Congratulations, Grammy and Pop-Pop. We think you are very lucky, Pop-Pop; but Grammy, you keep telling us that you are only 39 years old? We love you."--Evelyn and Tyler Owen and Bradley, Owen and Adelaide Low.

### **INTERESTED IN MPC'S YOUTH MISSION TRIP TO WEST VIRGINIA? FIND OUT MORE TODAY!**

Calling all youth, friends, and their parents, to join us after worship service today in the sanctuary for a brief informational meeting to discuss the upcoming mission trip to West Virginia. This will be your chance to sign up, have a brief discussion about the trip, and ask any questions. This year's trip will depart from MPC on Saturday, July 6, and return the following Saturday, July 13. Youth completing 8th grade through high school seniors are eligible. Be sure to bring your friends!

### **SIGN UP TO BE A GREETER**

Please sign up to be a Greeter in the Welcome Center on Sunday mornings. No special skills required, just arrive by 10:10 a.m. and welcome folks as they arrive for worship. The sign-up sheet is in the Welcome Center.

### **SHROVE TUESDAY PANCAKE SUPPER—FEBRUARY 13**

Join us Tuesday, February 13, for the Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper being served from 5:30 to 7:00 p.m. in Fellowship Hall. Everyone is welcome to this wonderfully intergenerational opportunity to share a meal with the MPC community as we prepare for the upcoming Holy Season. This dinner kicks off Youth Ministry's fundraising for the 2024 Youth in Mission trip to Pipestem, WV. The support our MPC community shows this outreach every year always overwhelms us. A free will offering will be accepted in lieu of purchasing tickets.

### **ADULT SUNDAY SCHOOL**

Join us February 11 and 18 to hear from our pastoral intern, Adrienne Poissant, as she shares accounts of her recent study abroad to Scotland. Join Adrienne as she reflects on what our siblings of faith are doing in churches throughout Scotland and how we are responding to modern questions about the Church. All classes are held at 9:30 a.m. in the Conference Room.

### **MPC BOOK DISCUSSIONS FOR FELLOWSHIP, LEARNING AND SOCIAL JUSTICE AWARENESS**

Our next meeting and discussion of *The Reading List*, by Sara Nisha Adams, will be held Monday, February 19 at 7:00 p.m. in the Lounge. All are welcome. If you are interested in attending virtually--let us know, we can make that happen. Get your own copy of the book (book store, on-line, library) and read it at your leisure. In March we will discuss a section of *A History of Christianity: The First Three Thousand Years* by Diarmaid MacCulloch. That date is set for March 18 at 7:00 p.m. Please contact Shellie Stoddard at 215-510-5717 or [stoddard.shellie@gmail.com](mailto:stoddard.shellie@gmail.com) with your interest and questions.

### **FEBRUARY'S FOOD CENTER REQUEST**

Our Food Center is asking for pasta sauce in any variety as this month's food donation. For safety reasons, sauce packaged in cans or plastic jars is preferred. A shopping cart has been put in the Welcome Center to receive your donations. Thank you for your generous help!

### **SUPPORT CUB SCOUT PACK 3**

On Sunday, February 11, indulge your sweet tooth while supporting Cub Scout Pack 3. Bake Sale items will be available in the Welcome Center before and after worship service. All donations will be used to send our Cubs to summer camp.



## MPC Weekly Calendar

### SUNDAY, February 4 - Youth Sunday

8:30 a.m.	God's Thunder	Chapel
9:30	Sunday School for all ages	
<b>10:30</b>	<b>Worship Service</b>	<b>Sanctuary &amp; Livestream</b>
11:30	Fellowship Hour	Lounge
	Host: Youth Ministry	
11:30	Youth in Mission Trip Meeting	Sanctuary
11:45	Teen Choir	Music Room
Noon	Deacons Meeting	Conference Room

### MONDAY, February 5

9:30 a.m.	Ivins Outreach Center	Lounge
5:30 p.m.	Food Packing	Food Center
6:30	Mostly Motets	Music Room
7:00	Boy Scout Troop 3	Fellowship Hall
7:00	Boy Scout Troop 3	Lounge
	Parent & Board Meeting	
7:00	Personnel Committee	Zoom
7:00	Youth Ministry	Conference Room

### TUESDAY, February 6

9:00 a.m.	Produce Prep	Food Center
11:30	Older Adult Luncheon	Fellowship Hall
Noon	Congregational Ministry	Zoom

### WEDNESDAY, February 7

9:00 a.m.	Food Center Distribution	Parking Lot
Noon	Brown Bag & Bible Study	Conference Room

### WEDNESDAY, February 7 (continued)

12:30 p.m.	Clothing Center Drop-off	Room 4
1:00	Prayer Meeting	Conference Room
2:30	Worship Committee	Zoom
6:00	Cub Scout Pack 3	Room 220
6:00	Youth Club	Fellowship Hall
7:00	Finance Committee	Zoom
7:00	Girl Scout Troop 2888	Room 220
7:15	Chancel Chimes	Chapel

### THURSDAY, February 8

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

### FRIDAY, February 9

6:30 p.m.	AA Meeting	Lounge
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### SATURDAY, February 10

### SUNDAY, February 11 - Scout Sunday

8:30 a.m.	God's Thunder	Chapel
9:30	Sunday School for all ages	
<b>10:30</b>	<b>Worship Service</b>	<b>Sanctuary &amp; Livestream</b>
11:30	Fellowship Hour	Lounge
	Host: Boy Scouts	
11:45	Teen Choir	Music Room

Want to know when a future event is taking place or want to book a room for your committee or group? Check out the MPC calendar at [mpcusa.org/calendar](http://mpcusa.org/calendar) to see when events takes place and room availability.

### Mobile giving

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!

iPhone



Need help?  
Email to  
[Office@mpcusa.org](mailto:Office@mpcusa.org)

Android



### CONTACT US

#### MORRISVILLE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH STAFF

771 North Pennsylvania Ave. | Morrisville, PA 19067 | 215.295.4191 | [www.MPCusa.org](http://www.MPCusa.org) | [Office@MPCusa.org](mailto:Office@MPCusa.org)

Rachel A. Rhodes, <i>Senior Pastor &amp; Head of Staff (ext. 234)</i> .....	<a href="mailto:RachelRhodes@MPCusa.org">RachelRhodes@MPCusa.org</a>
Alexander Lester-Abdalla, <i>Associate Pastor (ext. 225)</i> .....	<a href="mailto:AlexLester-Abdalla@MPCusa.org">AlexLester-Abdalla@MPCusa.org</a>
Brian Ballard, <i>Minister of Visitation (ext. 232)</i> .....	<a href="mailto:BrianBallard@MPCusa.org">BrianBallard@MPCusa.org</a>
Timothy Carpenter, <i>Director of Music</i> .....	<a href="mailto:TimCarpenter@MPCusa.org">TimCarpenter@MPCusa.org</a>
Adrienne Poissant, <i>Pastoral Intern</i> .....	<a href="mailto:AdriennePoissant@MPCusa.org">AdriennePoissant@MPCusa.org</a>
Yun Kang, <i>Principal Organist</i> .....	<a href="mailto:YunKang@MPCusa.org">YunKang@MPCusa.org</a>
David Sterling, <i>Property Manager (ext. 231)</i> .....	<a href="mailto:DavidSterling@MPCusa.org">DavidSterling@MPCusa.org</a>
Laurie Jacobson, <i>Financial Secretary (ext. 226)</i> .....	<a href="mailto:LaurieJacobson@MPCusa.org">LaurieJacobson@MPCusa.org</a>
Damon Miller, <i>Communication Coordinator</i> .....	<a href="mailto:DamonMiller@MPCusa.org">DamonMiller@MPCusa.org</a>
Rachel Zobel, <i>Christian Education Coordinator</i> .....	<a href="mailto:RachelZobel@MPCusa.org">RachelZobel@MPCusa.org</a>
Nicole Brice, <i>Administrative Assistant (ext. 0)</i> .....	<a href="mailto:Office@MPCusa.org">Office@MPCusa.org</a>