



*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 SEPTEMBER 5, 2021
FIFTEENTH SUNDAY
after PENTECOST

GATHERING

CALL to WORSHIP

Pastor Rachel Rhodes

One: Sing to the Lord a new song;
All: Sing to the Lord, all the earth.
One: The voice of the Lord is over the waters,
All: And in the temple God's people say: Glory!
One: Sing to the Lord a new song!
All: Let us worship God together.

HYMN — *God Is Here!*

ABBOT'S LEIGH

*God is here! As we your people meet to offer praise and prayer,
may we find in fuller measure what it is in Christ we share.
Here, as in the world around us, all our varied skills and arts
wait the coming of the Spirit into open minds and hearts.*

*Here are symbols to remind us of our lifelong need of grace;
here are table, font, and pulpit; here the cross has central place.
Here in honesty of preaching, here in silence, as in speech,
here, in newness and renewal, God the Spirit comes to each.*

*Here our children find a welcome in the Shepherd's flock and fold;
here as bread and wine are taken, Christ sustains us as of old.
Here the servants of the Servant seek in worship to explore
what it means in daily living to believe and to adore.*

*Lord of all, of church and kingdom, in an age of change and doubt
keep us faithful to the gospel; help us work your purpose out.
Here, in this day's dedication, all we have to give, receive:
we, who cannot live without you, we adore you! We believe!*

PRAYER of CONFESSION -

Pastor Alex Lester-Abdalla

God of grace, you claim us as beloved children and call us to follow you, but we do not always live out this calling. We stifle the gifts you have given us rather than using them for your glory. We sidestep opportunities to offer kindness rather than showing love to our neighbors. We pretend we can do nothing to further justice in our world and shy away from taking risks for the sake of the gospel. Forgive us, Lord. Wash us in the waters of your love and transform us by your grace, so that our lives might be pleasing to you.

(Time for silent prayer and confession.)

PROMISE of FORGIVENESS

One: At the beginning, at the end, and in every time between, the good news speaks to us of God's tender mercy and love for us. God comes not to punish, but to gift us with peace, not to judge, but to save us. Together let us rejoice and 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**

SCRIPTURE READING — *Isaiah 42:1-9*

Here is my servant, whom I uphold,
my chosen, in whom my soul delights;
I have put my spirit upon him;
he will bring forth justice to the nations.
He will not cry or lift up his voice,
or make it heard in the street;
a bruised reed he will not break,
and a dimly burning wick he will not quench;
he will faithfully bring forth justice.
He will not grow faint or be crushed
until he has established justice in the earth;
and the coastlands wait for his teaching.

Thus says God, the Lord,
who created the heavens and stretched them out,
who spread out the earth and what comes from it,
who gives breath to the people upon it
and spirit to those who walk in it:
I am the Lord, I have called you in righteousness,
I have taken you by the hand and kept you;
I have given you as a covenant to the people,
a light to the nations,
to open the eyes that are blind,
to bring out the prisoners from the dungeon,
from the prison those who sit in darkness.
I am the Lord, that is my name;
my glory I give to no other,
nor my praise to idols.
See, the former things have come to pass,
and new things I now declare;
before they spring forth,
I tell you of them.

One: This is the Word of the Lord.

All: **Thanks be to God.**

SERMON

New Breath, New Life

Pastor Rhodes

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

We trust in God, whom Jesus called Abba, Father. In sovereign love God created the world good. God acts with justice and mercy to redeem creation. In everlasting love, the God of Abraham and Sarah chose a covenant people to bless all families of the earth. Hearing their cry, God delivered the children of Israel from the house of bondage. Loving us still, God makes us heirs with Christ of the covenant. Like a mother who will not forsake her nursing child, like a father who runs to welcome the prodigal home, God is faithful still. Amen.

*Breathe on me, Breath of God;
fill me with anew,
that I may love what thou dost love,
and do what thou wouldst do.*

*Breathe on me, Breath of God,
until my heart is pure,
until with thee I will one will,
to do and to endure.*

*Breathe on me, Breath of God;
till I am wholly thine,
until this earthly part of me
glows with thy fire divine.*

*Breathe on me, Breath of God;
so shall I never die,
but live with thee the perfect life
of thine eternity.*

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

INVITATION

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 (*debts and debtors*)

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

PRAYER *after* COMMUNION

S E N D I N G

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

*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 cloud 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.*

QUESTIONS *for* REFLECTION

- In the midst of storms and turmoil,
how have you known the Lord's presence?
- What new things is God doing in your life?

OTHERS PARTICIPATING IN TODAY'S SERVICE

Tim Carpenter – Director of Music

Justin Hartz – Organist

Video Ministry Volunteers

WHO MAY RECEIVE COMMUNION IN THE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH?

“The opportunity to eat and drink with Christ is not a right bestowed upon the worthy, but a privilege given to the undeserving who come in faith, repentance, and love. All who come to the table are offered the bread and cup, regardless of their age or understanding.

Worshippers prepare themselves to celebrate the Lord’s Supper by putting their trust in Christ, confessing their sin, and seeking reconciliation with God and one another. Even those who doubt may come to the table in order to be assured of God’s love and grace in Jesus Christ.”

-Book of Order W-3.0409

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.***

GROUNDING IN GRACE PICNIC - YESTERDAY, TODAY, AND FOREVER

It's time to get back together again! Join us on Sunday, September 19 following worship, for our annual *Grounded in Grace* picnic held this year in the Memorial Gardens. Limited seating on the paved area will be provided for those with mobility issues. Everyone else is invited to please bring their own chairs or blankets and spread out on the grass. A boxed lunch will be provided. Please RSVP by emailing the church office at office@mpcusa.net or by calling 215-295-4191. A rain date is set for the following Sunday, September 26.

MPC WILL BE AT YARDLEY'S HARVEST DAY, BUT WE NEED YOUR HELP!

The Communications & Evangelism Committee is looking for a few volunteers to greet visitors who stop by the MPC booth at Yardley's Harvest Day on Saturday, September 18. We also need volunteers to help set up and break down our booth. Shifts are 1 1/2 hours beginning at 8:30 a.m. and ending at 5:30 p.m.. You may sign up through the Sign-Up Genius link located in the weekly MPC emails or contact Damon Miller at damonmiller@mpcusa.net for available times and any questions you may have. Yardley's Harvest Day is rain or shine and is one of the biggest events MPC attends to spread the word, "No matter who you are or where you are on your journey of faith, please know that you are welcome at MPC!" to others in our area. We hope you can join us!

THANK YOU!

Dear MPC Family and Friends,

I'm humbled and so grateful for the beautiful gift basket that was delivered to me last week. I was overwhelmed with the gifts, beautiful and very touching hand written notes and very generous monetary blessing that the basket contained. Your thoughtfulness, love and generosity are gifts, I will always remember. I am so grateful and feel so blessed to have worked at MPC the last six years as the Administrative Assistant. MPC will always hold a special place in my heart. Thank you and God bless you now and always.

With love from Diane Toner

MPC CLOTHING CENTER FALL REOPENING

The MPC Clothing Center will reopen its doors on Thursday, September 16 from 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. We are now accepting "CLEAN" gently worn Fall/Winter clothing and household items. Donations may be placed in the box next to the elevator on the Fellowship Hall level whenever the church is open, Monday-Friday. Hope to see you soon.

MPC PRAYER LIST

Did you know that here at MPC we maintain a regular, weekly prayer list? This list includes the names of individuals in our church, community, and wider world who are in need of prayer. Every week there are people in our church family who are praying over these names and situations. During the academic year, a faithful group meets each Wednesday at 12:15 p.m. to pray together. During the summer this list is distributed regularly so that our prayers for one another can continue. For many years, Drew Hunger has faithfully managed and distributed this Prayer List—please thank him when you have a moment! In the future, you are encouraged to send prayer concerns to our Minister of Visitation, Rev. Jack McAnlis at jackmcanlis@mpcusa.net. You are also welcome to contact Rev. McAnlis if you wish to be included in our weekly prayer meeting, which will begin again in September. Thank you for faithfully praying for our church family and for our world.

BOOKS NEEDED

Books are available again when the Food Center is open to our clients. We have more requests than we can fill for Bibles, cook books (especially ones with healthy recipes), biographies, Harry Potter and other teen series, coloring books/workbooks/activity books and crayons, and very early books on ABCs, Numbers, Colors, etc. All available Bibles and children's Bible stories are taken every time we are open. Please leave donations near the book carts which are right outside the Lounge. Please contact Susan Light at susanklight@gmail.com with any questions.

SUNDAY SCHOOL IS BACK!

We hope you will join us on September 19 as we welcome back in-person faith formation at MPC. All Sunday School classes will begin that morning at 9:30 am. This year we give thanks for the teachers of our Pre-k, One-Room Elementary School, Quest, High School Seminar, and Adult Sunday School classes as they create a safe and welcoming faith-formation experience. Masks, social distancing, and a spirit of openness will be in effect. If you have any questions, contact Pastor Alex at alexlester-abdalla@mpcusa.net. So come all of you who are weary and bearing heavy burdens, come all of you seeking renewed energy and spirit, for we care about you.



Coming Soon!
MPC's
Rally Day
Sunday, September 19

