



*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 NOVEMBER 28, 2021
FIRST SUNDAY
OF ADVENT

GATHERING

PRELUDE — *Von Himmel hoch, da komm ich her*
(*From Heaven Above to Earth I Come*) - Martin Luther/arr. T.R. Carpenter

Handbell Ensemble

LIGHTING of the ADVENT CANDLES

MPC Book Group

*He came down that we may have hope;
he came down that we may have hope;
he came down that we may have hope;
hallelujah forever more.*

CALL to WORSHIP — based on *Revelation 1*

Beth DiTulio

One: Can one be homesick for something you've never known?

All: We are homesick for a just world, for peace like rivers, or the end of suffering.

One: Yes, we are homesick—

All: For joy that is contagious, for nations that feel like neighbors, and for hospitals that run empty.

One: We are homesick for the world God promises.

All: We are homesick, but we are on our way.

One: God is here. God is still creating.

All: Let us worship Holy God.

HYMN — *Lift Up Your Heads, Ye Mighty Gates*

TRURO

*Lift up your heads, ye mighty gates;
behold the King of glory waits;
the King of kings is drawing near;
the Savior of the world is here.*

*Fling wide the portals of your heart;
make it a temple, set apart
from earthly use for heaven's employ,
adorned with prayer and love and joy.*

*Redeemer, come! I open wide
my heart to thee; here, Lord, abide.
Let me thy inner presence feel;
thy grace and love in me reveal.*

PRAYER of CONFESSION -

Reverend Jack McAnlis

Gracious God, we find ourselves with two options every day—to stay homesick for the world you had in mind, or to allow cynicism to win. Do we hope against hope, or do we throw in the towel? Do we insist on a better world, or do we assume it's impossible? Forgive us for the days when cynicism wins. Forgive us for numbing our homesick hurt instead of using it to fuel a better world. Kindle in us a hope that won't let go.

SILENT PRAYERS of CONFESSION

Here each worshiper may offer silent prayers of confession.

PROMISE of FORGIVENESS

One: Family of faith, even when we throw in the towel, even when we give up on hope, God does not give up on us. We are loved. We are claimed. We are invited closer to God's home. So hear and trust 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.*

LITURGY of the WORD

SCRIPTURE READING — 1 Thessalonians 3:9-13

How can we thank God enough for you in return for all the joy that we feel before our God because of you? Night and day we pray most earnestly that we may see you face to face and restore whatever is lacking in your faith.

Now may our God and Father himself and our Lord Jesus direct our way to you. And may the Lord make you increase and abound in love for one another and for all, just as we abound in love for you. And may he so strengthen your hearts in holiness that you may be blameless before our God and Father at the coming of our Lord Jesus with all his saints.

One: This is the Word of the Lord

All: **Thanks be to God.**

ANTHEM — *Comfort, Comfort Now My People* - arr. John Bell

Chancel Choir

*"Comfort, comfort now my people; speak of peace," so says our God.
"Comfort those who sit in darkness, burdened by a heavy load.
To Jerusalem proclaim: God shall take away your shame;
Now get ready to recover, guilt and suffering are over."

Hear the herald's proclamation in the desert far and near,
calling all to true repentance; telling that the Lord is near.
O, that warning cry obey! For your Lord prepare a way;
Let the valleys rise to greet him and the hills bow down to meet him.

Straighten out what has been crooked; make the roughest places plain.
Let your hearts be true and humble, live as fits God's reign.
Soon the glory of the Lord shall on earth be spread abroad,
Human flesh shall surely see it; God is ready to decree it.*

--Isaiah 40:1-5 adapted by John Bell

SECOND SCRIPTURE READING — Luke 21:25-36

"There will be signs in the sun, the moon, and the stars, and on the earth distress among nations confused by the roaring of the sea and the waves. People will faint from fear and foreboding of what is coming upon the world, for the powers of the heavens will be shaken. Then they will see 'the Son of Man coming in a cloud' with power and great glory. Now when these things begin to take place, stand up and raise your heads, because your redemption is drawing near."

Then he told them a parable: "Look at the fig tree and all the trees; as soon as they sprout leaves you can see for yourselves and know that summer is already near. So also, when you see these things taking place, you know that the kingdom of God is near. Truly I tell you, this generation will not pass away until all things have taken place. Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will not pass away.

“Be on guard so that your hearts are not weighed down with dissipation and drunkenness and the worries of this life, and that day does not catch you unexpectedly, like a trap. For it will come upon all who live on the face of the whole earth. Be alert at all times, praying that you may have the strength to escape all these things that will take place, and to stand before the Son of Man.”

One: This is the Word of the Lord.

All: Thanks be to God.

SERMON

Apocalyptic Hope

Pastor Alex Lester-Abdalla

HYMN — *Come, Thou Long Expected Jesus*

HYFRYDOL

*Come, thou long expected Jesus,
born to set thy people free;
from our fears and sins release us;
let us find our rest in thee.
Israel's strength and consolation,
hope of all the earth thou art;
dear desire of every nation,
joy of every longing heart.*

*Born thy people to deliver,
born a child and yet a king,
Born to reign in us forever,
now thy gracious kingdom bring.
By thine own eternal Spirit
rule in all our hearts alone;
By thine all sufficient merit
raise us to thy glorious throne.*

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. In a broken and fearful world the Spirit gives us courage to pray without ceasing, to witness among all peoples to Christ as Lord and Savior, to unmask idolatries in church and culture, to hear the voices of peoples long silenced, and to work with others for justice, freedom, and peace. In gratitude to God, empowered by the Spirit, we strive to serve Christ in our daily tasks and to live holy and joyful lives, even as we watch for God's new heaven and new earth, praying, Come, Lord Jesus!

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.

OFFERING

Invitation to Give

Offertory Music — *O Come, O Come Emmanuel* - arr. T.R. Carpenter

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 — *Our God, Our Help in Ages Past*

ST. ANNE

*Our God, our help in ages past,
our hope for years to come,
our shelter from the stormy blast,
and our eternal home:*

*Beneath the shadow of thy throne
thy saints have dwelt secure;
sufficient is thine arm alone,
and our defense is sure.*

*Before the hills in order stood,
or earth received its frame,
from everlasting thou art God,
to endless years the same.*

*A thousand ages in thy sight
are like an evening gone,
short as the watch that ends the night
before the rising sun.*

*Time, like an ever rolling stream,
bears all our years away;
they fly forgotten, as a dream
dies at the opening day.*

*Our God, our help in ages past,
our hope for years to come,
be thou our guard while life shall last,
and our eternal home.*

POSTLUDE — *Hymn of Promise* - Natalie Sleeth

Yun Kang

QUESTIONS *for* REFLECTION

- Have you ever been homesick and how did it feel?
- What do you hope for this Advent?

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.***

REGARDING TODAY'S SERVICE

The Candle Lighting Liturgy, Call to Worship, Prayer of Confession, and Prayer of Illumination are prayers by Rev. Sarah (Are) Speed | A Sanctified Art LLC | sanctifiedart.org.

LIGHTING TODAY'S ADVENT CANDLES

The lighting of the Advent candles today are members of the MPC Book Group: Jill Monroe-Dillon, Christy Stephenson, Shellie Stoddard.

HANDBELL ENSEMBLE

Members of today's Handbell Ensemble are: Carol Carpenter, Beth Curtiss, Kathryn Jervis, Nancy Powers, AK Rosenbaum, Kristine Schmidt, and Natalie Sturr.

ADVENT BAGS

The season of Advent is approaching and your Worship, Education, and Congregational Ministry Committees assembled bags which include a devotional and other activities to do throughout the season. Advent Bags will be available for pick up (one per family, please) in the Communication Center before and after worship today. If you are unable to pick one up during these times, please contact the church office to make arrangements to get one.

ADULT SUNDAY SCHOOL UPDATE

Calling the priesthood of all believers! During this Advent Adult Sunday School will be exploring the many dimensions of the Incarnation. Carol Carpenter and Travis Keys will be leading a four-week conversation centered around the Incarnation video series by Adam Hamilton. If you are interested you can attend in-person in room 220 from 9:30 a.m. to 10:15 or via Zoom from a Zoom link Pastor Alex sends each week. If you would like to be added to the distribution list, please contact Pastor Alex at alexlester-abdalla@mpcusa.net. We hope you will join us!

CHRISTMAS ANGEL TREE

We are happy to announce that the Church Angel Tree is back for the Christmas Holiday! We are once again working with the Food Center to prepare toiletry bags for the many individuals we service each week from the Lower Bucks County and greater Trenton area. The Angel Tree is in the Communication Center and we are asking anyone interested in taking an Angel from the tree to put together a 1.5 gallon Ziploc bag filled with the following items:

- A few tooth brushes
- Mouthwash - small bottle
- Bar of wrapped soap
- Deodorant (neutral scent)
- Razors
- Chapstick
- Hand lotion
- Hand sanitizer
- Mask

Ziploc bags are available next to the tree, if needed.

A "blessing" from MPC is printed on the back of the angel and should be included inside each bag letting the recipients know that God loves them! We also know how generous our congregation is, but ask that you not include extra items in the bag. Instead, perhaps fill another bag!

The Ziploc bag can be dropped off Monday nights from 7:00 p.m. - 8:00 p.m., Tuesday mornings from 9:00 a.m. - 11:00 a.m., or before/after the Sunday worship services in the box marked "Angel Tree" in the Communication Center. We ask that all bags be delivered no later than December 28 for distribution to our Food Center clients beginning in the New Year! We are so grateful and thankful for all of you, and for all you do each year to make the Angel tree such a success!

If you have any questions, you can email Patti Sheffer at patricia.sheffer@yahoo.com or Lori Newman at mne4444276@aol.com.

CLOTHING CENTER DONATIONS

Due to generous amounts of donations, please **NO CLOTHING** donations until January 3. Household items are being accepted at this time. See schedule at www.mpcusa.org/clothing-center for drop-off days/times and materials accepted at this time.

Scouts BSA Troop 3

Annual Christmas Tree Sale

Our annual Christmas Tree sale begins on Saturday, November 27 at 1p, and we will be open daily through Thursday, December 23 or when we sell out.

Weekdays 6-9 | Saturdays 9-9 | Sundays 10-9

Morrisville Presbyterian Church
771 N Pennsylvania Ave - Morrisville, PA



Christmas
Open House



MPC Clothing Center

Open House

Saturday, December 11th 2021

9:00am - 12:00pm

Room 4, near Fellowship Hall

Come and do some shopping.

See you there!

MPC *Weekly Calendar*

SUNDAY, November 28

First Sunday of Advent

10:00 a.m. Boy Scout Troop 3
Christmas Tree Sale

10:30 Worship Service Sanctuary

10:30 Worship Service Livestream

MONDAY, November 29

6:00 p.m. Boy Scout Troop 3
Christmas Tree Sale

6:30 Mostly Motets Sanctuary

7:00 Boy Scout Troop 3 Fellowship Hall

TUESDAY, November 30

6:00 p.m. Boy Scout Troop 3
Christmas Tree Sale

6:00 Boy Scout Pack 3 Fellowship Hall

6:30 Alcoholics Anonymous Room 220

WEDNESDAY, December 1

9:00 a.m. Food Center Room 4

Noon Brown Bag & Bible Conference Room

6:00 p.m. Boy Scout Troop 3
Christmas Tree Sale

6:00 Pack 3 Webelos Room 104

6:00 Youth Club

7:00 Girl Scout Troop 2888 Room 220

7:15 Chancel Chimes Sanctuary

THURSDAY, December 2

10:00 a.m. Clothing Center Room 4

Noon Alcoholics Anonymous Room 220

6:00 p.m. Boy Scout Troop 3
Christmas Tree Sale

6:30 Oakville Girl Scouts Room 220

7:00 Chancel Choir Sanctuary

FRIDAY, December 3

6:00 p.m. Boy Scout Troop 3
Christmas Tree Sale

6:00 Pack 3 Wolf Den Fellowship Hall

7:00 Alcoholics Anonymous Room 220

SATURDAY, December 4

9:00 a.m. Boy Scout Troop 3
Christmas Tree Sale

SUNDAY, December 5

Second Sunday of Advent

9:30 a.m. Sunday School for All Ages

10:00 Boy Scout Troop 3
Christmas Tree Sale

10:30 Worship Service Sanctuary

10:30 Worship Service Livestream

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