



*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
FIRST SUNDAY
of CHRISTMAS
DECEMBER 28, 2025 ~ 10:30 A.M.

GATHERING

WORDS of WELCOME

Rev. Alex Lester-Abdalla

PRELUDE — *Welcome, Happy Morning* - arr. Robert Below

Yun Kang

CALL to WORSHIP

One: There is good news of great joy for all!

All: **Our Savior is born: the Messiah, the Lord.**

One: Now we have seen the saving love of the Lord,

All: **The glory of God's people and a light to all. Let us worship God!**

HYMN — *Hark! The Herald Angels Sing*

MENDELSSOHN

*Hark! The herald angels sing, "Glory to the new-born king,
Peace on earth and mercy mild, God and sinners reconciled!"*

*Joyful, all ye nations, rise; join the triumph of the skies;
with the angelic host proclaim, "Christ is born in Bethlehem!"
Hark! The herald angels sing, "Glory to the new-born king!"*

*Christ, by highest heaven adored, Christ, the everlasting Lord,
late in time behold him come, offspring of the virgin's womb.*

*Veiled in flesh the Godhead see; hail the incarnate deity,
pleased in flesh with us to dwell, Jesus our Emmanuel.
Hark! The herald angels sing, "Glory to the new-born king!"*

Hail the heaven-born Prince of Peace! Hail the sun of righteousness!

Light and life to all he brings, risen with healing in his wings.

*Mild he lays his glory by, born that we no more may die,
born to raise us from the earth, born to give us second birth.
Hark! The herald angels sing, "Glory to the new-born king!"*

PRAYER of CONFESSION

Tim Carpenter, Liturgist

God our Savior, we confess that we fail to live in your light. You reveal your saving love, but we hide your love from others. You claim us as your children, but we do not claim you as our God. Forgive us, God of grace. Let your will be done in our lives so that we may live in peace according to your word; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

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

PROMISE of FORGIVENESS

One: Beloved of God, receive the good news: the light of Christ shines in our darkness, to bring light and life to all. By the gift of Christ, your sins are forgiven. Friends, 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.*

LITURGY of the WORD

PRAYER for ILLUMINATION

RESPONSIVE READING — *Psalms 148*

One: Praise the Lord!

All: Praise the Lord from the heavens; praise God in the heights!

One: Praise God, all God's angels; praise God, all God's host!

All: Praise God, sun and moon; praise God, all you shining stars!

One: Praise God, you highest heavens, and you waters above the heavens!

All: Let them praise the name of the Lord, for God commanded and they were created.

One: God established them forever and ever; God fixed their bounds, which cannot be passed.

All: Praise the Lord from the earth, you sea monsters and all deeps,

One: Fire and hail, snow and frost, stormy wind fulfilling God's command!

All: Mountains and all hills, fruit trees and all cedars!

One: Wild animals and all cattle, creeping things and flying birds!

All: Kings of the earth and all peoples, princes and all rulers of the earth!

One: Young men and women alike, old and young together!

All: Let them praise the name of the Lord, for God's name alone is exalted; God's glory is above earth and heaven.

One: God has raised up a horn for God's people, praise for all God's faithful, for the people of Israel who are close to God.

All: Praise the Lord!

One: This is the Word of the Lord.

All: Thanks be to God.

HYMN — *It Came Upon the Midnight Clear* (verses 1, 3, 4, & 5)

CAROL

*It came upon the midnight clear, that glorious song of old,
from angels bending near the earth, to touch their harps of gold:
"Peace on the earth, good will to all, from heaven's all gracious King":
the world in solemn stillness lay, to hear the angels sing.*

*Yet with the woes of sin and strife the world has suffered long;
beneath the heavenly hymn have rolled two thousand years of wrong;
and we at war on earth hear not the tidings that they bring;
O, hush the noise and cease the strife to hear the angels sing!*

*And you, beneath life's crushing load, whose forms are bending low,
who toil along the climbing way with painful steps and slow,
look now, for glad and golden hours come swiftly on the wing:
O, rest beside the weary road, and hear the angels sing.*

*For lo, the days are hastening on, by prophets seen of old,
when with the ever-circling years shall come the time foretold,
when peace shall over all the earth its ancient splendors fling,
and the whole world give back the song which now the angels sing.*

TIME for YOUNG DISCIPLES

SCRIPTURE READING — *Colossians 3:12-17*

One: This is the Word of the Lord.

All: Thanks be to God!

A TIME for GRATITUDE

HYMN — *The First Nowell* (verses 1, 2, 3, & 4)

THE FIRST NOWELL

*The first Nowell the angels did say was to certain poor shepherds in field as they lay,
in fields where they lay keeping their sheep, on a cold winter's night that was so deep.*

Nowell, Nowell, Nowell, Nowell, born is the King of Israel.

*They looked up and saw a star shing in the east beyond them far;
and to the earth it gave great light, and so it continued both day and night.*

Nowell, Nowell, Nowell, Nowell, born is the King of Israel.

*And by the light of that same star three wise men came from country far;
to seek for a king was their intent, and to follow the star wherever it went.*

Nowell, Nowell, Nowell, Nowell, born is the King of Israel.

*This star drew nigh to the northwest; o'er Bethlehem it took its rest,
and there it did both stop and stay, right over the place where Jesus lay.*

Nowell, Nowell, Nowell, Nowell, born is the King of Israel.

AFFIRMATION of FAITH — from *Our Song of Hope*

Our only hope is Jesus Christ. After we refused to live in the image of God, he was born of the virgin Mary, sharing our genes and our instincts, entering our culture, speaking our language, fulfilling the law of our God. Being united to Christ's humanity, we know ourselves when we rest in him. Jesus Christ is the hope of God's world. Amen.

PRAYERS of the PEOPLE

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 — *My Jesus, I Love Thee* - arr. Shirley Brendlinger

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 — *Joy to the World*

ANTIOCH

*Joy to the world, the Lord is come! Let earth receive her king;
let every heart, prepare him room,
and heaven and nature sing, and heaven and nature sing,
and heaven, and heaven and nature sing.*

*Joy to the earth, the Savior reigns! Let all their songs employ,
while fields and floods, rocks, hills, and plains
repeat the sounding joy, repeat the sounding joy,
repeat, repeat the sound joy.*

*No more let sins and sorrows grow, nor thorns infest the ground;
he comes to make his blessings flow
far as the curse is found, far as the curse is found,
far as, far as the curse is found.*

*He rules the world with truth and grace, and makes the nations prove
the glories of his righteousness
and wonders of his love, and wonders of his love,
and wonders, and wonders of his love.*

CHARGE and BLESSING

POSTLUDE — *A Joyous Acclamation* - Lani Smith

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.org.***

STEWARDSHIP CAMPAIGN UPDATE:

Thank you to all members who have made a pledge for 2026. As of December 5, 110 members have completed their Estimate of Giving (EOG) cards, totaling \$423,700. With a “grateful heart”, your support and generosity are appreciated. Of those received:

- 16 are new pledges
- 48 have increased their pledges
- 40 are the same as last year
- 6 are lower

If you have not pledged, you can do so by completing an EOG card using either the one mailed to you or one available in the Welcome Center. Please place the EOG card in an envelope and put it in the offering plate or mail it to the church office. You may also give online at mpcusa.org/e-estimate-card. Thank you again.

NO SUNDAY SCHOOL FOR NEXT WEEK

There are no classes for both children and adult Sunday School learners on January 4, 2026. Classes resume on January 11, 2026.

YEAR-END GIVING

Thank you for your continued generosity and support throughout this year. To ensure that your gifts appear on your 2025 Giving Statement for tax purposes, please make sure all gifts are post-marked, delivered to MPC, or [given online](#) by December 31, 2025.

DECEMBER FOOD CENTER REQUEST

Cookies are the requested items for the month of December. Donated items may be placed in the shopping cart located in the Welcome Center. Thank you for your generosity and continued support throughout this past year!

2026 OFFERING ENVELOPES

Offering envelopes will be available soon in the Welcome Center. If you would like them mailed, please contact MPC's Administrative Assistant, Kim Turner, in the church office at 215-295-4191 or at office@mpcusa.org and she will make arrangements to send them to you. Please note that envelopes will not be given to those who have signed up for online giving.

YEAR END INVOICE SUBMISSION

Invoices to be paid and reimbursement requests from this year need to be submitted by December 31 for accounting purposes. Please submit all items to Kim in the church office at office@mpcusa.org. Thank you for your help.

"Extending the Table" to Homebound Members

The Deacons will be "Extending the Table" and bringing communion to homebound members in 2026 on the first Sunday of each month. If you are unable to attend Sunday worship in person and would like to receive communion, please contact Kim in the church office at office@mpcusa.org or 215-295-4191. The goals will be to provide home communion at least twice a year to each interested person, beginning in February.

If you have ever served as a Deacon or Elder, would you like to be part of a team of two to extend God's love to our homebound members? You will only be asked to do it two Sundays a year (but can do it more if you would like). To volunteer, please contact A.K. Rosenbaum at akalsomom@verizon.net. Training will be provided.



CONGREGATIONAL PRAYER CONCERNS

The pastoral staff encourages you to notify the church office regarding hospitalizations and deaths in your immediate family. We will list these pastoral concerns in the bulletin. MPC also has a committed group of members who are part of the MPC prayer chain. If you have prayer concerns for the prayer chain, please contact Ron Workman at ron_workman@prodigy.net to be placed on the prayer chain. **Please note, out of respect for privacy, to be included in the Pastoral Concerns and/or MPC the prayer chain, the individual named must give their permission.** Let us pray without ceasing.

NEW ADULT SUNDAY CLASS - "CHANGING CULTURE, CHANGING TIMES, AND A CHANGING CHURCH"

Join Carter Lester, Interim Minister at MPC and former adjunct faculty in McCormick Theological Seminary's Doctor of Ministry program, for a three-week series on changes in our country, culture, and churches, and how they impact church life and ministry. The series will run January 11, 18, and 25 beginning at 9:30 a.m. in the conference room, located on the second floor.

NEXT READING FOR MPC BOOK DISCUSSION

The next reading for the MPC Book Discussion group is *Small Things Like These* by Claire Keegan and will be discussed on January 12. The story is set in 1985 in a small Irish town. During the weeks leading up to Christmas, Bill Furlong, a coal merchant and family man faces into his busiest season. Early one morning, while delivering an order to the local convent, Bill makes a discovery which forces him to confront both his past and the complicit silences of a town controlled by the church.

The MPC Book Discussion Group meets in the conference room from 5:30 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. You can also attend by Zoom. Contact the church office at office@mpcusa.org or Shellie Stoddard at stoddard.shellie@gmail.com for link and more information.

Inclement Weather Announcements

In the event of inclement weather during this winter season, members will be notified of church closings and delayed openings via email blasts, as well as website and Facebook postings. Every effort will be made to make the information available by 8:00 a.m. Only closing and delayed opening messages will be sent and posted.

MPC Weekly Calendar

SUNDAY, December 28

10:30 a.m. Worship Service

Noon Adonai Tabernacle

MONDAY, December 29

6:15 p.m. PNC Meeting

6:30 Scout Troop 3

TUESDAY, December 30

10:00 a.m. Weekday Nursery
School Projects

4:00 p.m. Community Meal

Sanctuary &
Livestream
Room 220

Room 200
Fellowship Hall

Room 220

Fellowship Hall

WEDNESDAY, December 31

Church offices close at noon

THURSDAY, January 1, 2026 - New Year's Day

Church offices closed

FRIDAY, January 2

SATURDAY, January 3

SUNDAY, January 4

10:30 a.m. Worship Service

Noon Deacons Meeting
Noon Adonai Tabernacle

Sanctuary &
Livestream

Conference Room
Room 220

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 to see when events takes place and room availability.

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.

CONTACT US MORRISVILLE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH STAFF

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