



*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 OCTOBER 3, 2021  
NINETEENTH SUNDAY  
after PENTECOST

## WORLD COMMUNION SUNDAY

### G A T H E R I N G

**PRELUDE** — *Morning Has Broken* - Bunessan

Yun Kang

### CALL to WORSHIP

Pastor Alex Lester-Abdalla

One: Draw near to the Lord who hears our pleas and our praise.

**All: We come to rest in God's holy presence.**

One: Here is the bread that the Lord provides; here is the manna to nourish our souls.

**All: We gather to feast on God's sustaining Word.**

One: Remember the Lord's wonderful words each evening; see God's glory with the morning light.

**All: Come, let us worship the Lord!**

**HYMN** — *Brethren, We Have Met to Worship*

HOLY MANNA

*Brethren, we have met to worship and adore the Lord our God.  
Will you pray with all your power while we try to preach the word?  
All is vain unless the Spirit of the holy One comes down.  
Brethren, pray, and holy manna will be showered all around.*

*Sisters, will you come and help us? Moses' sister aided him.  
Will you help the trembling mourners who are struggling hard with sin?  
Tell them all about the Savior. Tell them that he will be found.  
Sisters, pray, and holy manna will be showered all around.*

*Is there here a trembling jailer, seeking grace and filled with fears?  
Is there here a weeping Mary pouring forth a flood of tears?  
Brethren, join your cries to help them; sisters, let your prayers abound!  
Pray, O pray, that holy manna will be scattered all around.*

*Let us love our God supremely; let us love each other, too.  
Let us love and pray for sinners till our God makes all things new.  
Christ will call us home to heaven; at his table we'll sit down.  
Christ will gird himself and serve us with sweet manna all around.*

**PRAYER of CONFESSION** -

Reverend Jack McAnlis

**Lord, your generosity surprises us. For you do not measure out grace according to how hard we work, or how often we worship, or how closely we follow the rules. Instead, you lavish grace upon us with a spirit of abundance. But we insist on deciding who is deserving and who is not. We grumble that some receive too little while others have more than they deserve. Forgive us, we pray. Help us to live with humility and gratitude so that our words and deeds might embody your grace.**

**SILENT PRAYERS of CONFESSION**

*Here each worshiper may offer silent prayers of confession.*

## PROMISE *of* FORGIVENESS

One: Hear the good news of the Gospel: Do not fear, says the Lord, for I have redeemed you. I have called you by name; you are mine. God is doing a new thing; now it springs forth! By the grace of Jesus Christ, we are forgiven!

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 — *Exodus 16:1-18*

The whole congregation of the Israelites set out from Elim; and Israel came to the wilderness of Sin, which is between Elim and Sinai, on the fifteenth day of the second month after they had departed from the land of Egypt. The whole congregation of the Israelites complained against Moses and Aaron in the wilderness. The Israelites said to them, "If only we had died by the hand of the Lord in the land of Egypt, when we sat by the fleshpots and ate our fill of bread; for you have brought us out into this wilderness to kill this whole assembly with hunger."

Then the Lord said to Moses, "I am going to rain bread from heaven for you, and each day the people shall go out and gather enough for that day. In that way I will test them, whether they will follow my instruction or not. On the sixth day, when they prepare what they bring in, it will be twice as much as they gather on other days." So Moses and Aaron said to all the Israelites, "In the evening you shall know that it was the Lord who brought you out of the land of Egypt, and in the morning you shall see the glory of the Lord, because he has heard your complaining against the Lord. For what are we, that you complain against us?" And Moses said, "When the Lord gives you meat to eat in the evening and your fill of bread in the morning, because the Lord has heard the complaining that you utter against him—what are we? Your complaining is not against us but against the Lord."

Then Moses said to Aaron, "Say to the whole congregation of the Israelites, 'Draw near to the Lord, for he has heard your complaining.'" And as Aaron spoke to the whole congregation of the Israelites, they looked toward the wilderness, and the glory of the Lord appeared in the cloud. The Lord spoke to Moses and said, "I have heard the complaining of the Israelites; say to them, 'At twilight you shall eat meat, and in the morning you shall have your fill of bread; then you shall know that I am the Lord your God.'"

In the evening quails came up and covered the camp; and in the morning there was a layer of dew around the camp. When the layer of dew lifted, there on the surface of the wilderness was a fine flaky substance, as fine as frost on the ground. When the Israelites saw it, they said to one another, "What is it? For they did not know what it was. Moses said to them, "It is the bread that the Lord has given you to eat. This is what the Lord has commanded: 'Gather as much of it as each of you needs, an omer to a person according to the number of persons, all providing for those in their own tents.'" The Israelites did so, some gathering more, some less. But when they measured it with an omer, those who gathered much had nothing over, and those who gathered little had no shortage; they gathered as much as each of them needed.

One: This is the Word of the Lord.

All: **Thanks be to God.**

## SERMON

*Remembering Abundance*

Pastor Lester-Abdalla

**AFFIRMATION of FAITH** — from *A Brief Statement of Faith, PC (USA)*

**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 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.**

**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 (page 35 in the hymnal, *debts and debtors*)

THE BREAKING *of the* BREAD

COMMUNION *of the* PEOPLE

MUSIC *during* COMMUNION — *Look Who Gathers at Christ's Table!* Chancel Choir

*Look who gathers at Christ's table! Hear the stories that they bring,  
Some are weeping; some are laughing; some have songs they want to sing.  
Others ask why they're invited, burdened by the wrong they've done.  
Christ insists they all are welcome. There is room for everyone.*

*Clouds of light surround the table; ancient followers appear,  
saints confessing how they wrestled with their guilt, their doubt and fear.  
Peter tells of his denying Christ was ever in his sight;  
Paul relates his fruitless efforts to obliterate the light.*

*Their sad stories are repeated in a thousand different ways,  
but they share one thing in common: they all end in thanks and praise  
for the host who has invited north and south and east and west  
to converge around his table, where all life is fed and blest.*

*Bring your joy and bring your sadness, and prepare to be surprised  
by the host whose hands are wounded, who will open wide your eyes  
when he blesses bread and breaks it — truth and manna from above!  
and then passes wine that awakens in your heart the taste of love.*

PRAYER *after* COMMUNION

## SENDING

**HYMN** — *Lord, Speak to Me That I May Speak*

CANONBURY

*Lord, speak to me that I may speak  
in living echoes of your tone.*

*As you have sought, so let me seek  
your erring children, lost and lone.*

*O lead me, Lord, that I may lead  
the wandering and the wavering feet.*

*O feed me, Lord, that I may feed  
your hungering ones with manna sweet.*

*O teach me, Lord, that I may teach  
the precious truths which you impart.  
And wing my words that they may reach  
the hidden depths of many a heart.*

*O fill me with your fullness, Lord,  
until my very heart o'erflow  
in kindling thought and glowing word,  
your love to tell, your praise to show.*

*O use me, Lord, use even me,  
just as you will, and when, and where  
until your blessed face I see,  
your rest, your joy, your glory share.*

**POSTLUDE** — *Toccata in C Major* - Carlos Seixas

### QUESTIONS *for* REFLECTION

- When have you known scarcity?
- When have you known abundance?

### **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.

Worshipers 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

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***\*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! PEACE AND GLOBAL WITNESS OFFERING - SEASON OF PEACE**

The Peace and Global Witness Offering, one of four special offerings of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.), enables the church to promote the Peace of Christ by addressing systems of injustice across the world. By supporting this offering you are promoting ministries of reconciliation and peace within cultures of violence and conflict – including those near Morrisville, PA! This offer is to be distributed as follows:

- 25% MPC Congregational Peace Initiatives investing in local responses to injustice and violence.
- 25% Linking congregations in ministries of peace and reconciliation through presbyteries and synods
- 50% Advocating for peace making and justice through collaborative projects of education and Christian witness

This special offering will be collected on “World Communion Sunday”, October 3, 2021. Please include “Peace and Global Offering” in the “Notes” section of the Online Giving Portal at [www.mpcusa.org/give](http://www.mpcusa.org/give).

As always, thank you for your generous support so that MPC can promote the Peace of Christ!

*Now may the Lord of peace . . . give you peace at all times in all ways.*

2 Thessalonians 3:16

### **BROWN BAG & BIBLE STUDY IS BACK!**

**Have you been considering joining Bible Study but haven’t wanted to jump in midstream? Now is the perfect time to join us!** Starting Wednesday, October 13, at noon, we’ll be taking the plunge into 1 Corinthians together and we hope you’ll join us! 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. This fall we will be meeting over Zoom and in-person (at the same time!) in a hybrid classroom. We hope you’ll carve out a part of your week to study God’s word among friends. Following our Bible Study 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](mailto:rachelrhodes@mpcusa.net). We’d love to have you!**

### **STARTS NEXT WEEK! NEW MEMBERS CLASS: BELIEVING—BELONGING—BECOMING; OCTOBER 10, 17, & 24, 2021**

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 me to be and how can I seek to pursue God’s call more fully through membership at MPC?

This class will gather at 9:00 a.m. for three consecutive Sundays and you’ll be welcomed into membership during worship on Sunday, October 31.

If you are interested in participating, please contact the church office at 215-295-4191 or at [office@mpcusa.net](mailto:office@mpcusa.net) by Wednesday, October 6. You may also directly contact Pastor Rachel at [rachelrhodes@mpcusa.net](mailto:rachelrhodes@mpcusa.net).

## **HABITAT FOR HUMANITY WELCOMES YOUR HELP!**

“How good and pleasant it is when God’s people live together in unity!” Psalm 133:1

Faith Build 2021 is a project of Habitat Humanity and has designated Bristol Borough as one of its locations. This will be an opportunity for faith groups and congregations based in Bucks County to come together and put their faith into action. Let’s continue to make MPC one of those congregations!

MPC has a history of supporting Habitat for Humanity, both financially and “hands on”! MPC was a huge supporter for Faith Build 2019.

There are many ways and levels in which MPC (that’s you!) can get involved. It may be providing a prayer early in the morning for the crew that day, assisting with a lunch or joining a construction crew for the day, painting with friends, or supporting the project financially. The list goes on! Opportunities abound as well with the Habitat Restore locations in Langhorne and Warminster. In the meantime, prayerfully consider how you may become a part of this most worthwhile, faith project, including sign-up opportunities. If you have questions, please contact Ray Hendrickson at 215 495-3114 or visit the Bucks County Habitat for Humanity website at [www.habitatbucks.org](http://www.habitatbucks.org) or <http://construction.habitatbucks.volunteerhub.com/> as they are looking for immediate help at their construction site.

### *MPC Weekly Calendar*

#### **SUNDAY, October 3**

9:30 a.m.	Sunday School for All Ages	
<b>10:30</b>	<b>Worship Service</b>	<b>Sanctuary</b>
<b>10:30</b>	<b>Worship Service</b>	<b>Livestream</b>

#### **MONDAY, October 4**

10:00 a.m.	Dot Barker Funeral Service	
6:00 p.m.	Cub Scout Pack 3 Meeting	Room 220
7:00	Boy Scout Troop 3	Fellowship Hall

#### **TUESDAY, October 5**

6:30 p.m.	Alcoholics Anonymous	Room 220
7:00	Food Center	Room 4

#### **WEDNESDAY, October 6**

9:00 a.m.	Food Center	Room 4
6:00 p.m.	Pack 3 Webelos	Room 104
6:00	Youth Club	Fellowship Hall
6:30	Girl Scout Troop 2888	Room 220

#### **THURSDAY, October 7**

10:00 a.m.	Clothing Center	Room 4
Noon	Alcoholics Anonymous	Room 220
6:30 p.m.	Oakville Girl Scouts	Room 220

#### **FRIDAY, October 8**

6:00 p.m.	Pack 3 Wolf Den	Fellowship Hall
7:00	Alcoholics Anonymous	Room 220

#### **SATURDAY, October 9**

#### **SUNDAY, October 10**

9:00 a.m.	New Member Class	
9:30 a.m.	Sunday School for All Ages	
<b>10:30</b>	<b>Worship Service</b>	<b>Sanctuary</b>
<b>10:30</b>	<b>Worship Service</b>	<b>Livestream</b>

### **CONTACT US**

#### **MORRISVILLE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH STAFF**

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