



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 14, 2021
TWENTY-FIFTH SUNDAY
AFTER PENTECOST

GATHERING

PRELUDE — *Spirit of God, Descend Upon My Heart* - Mark Hayes

Yun Kang

CALL to WORSHIP

Maddie McCleskey

One: We gather to worship God,
All: Who stretched the heavens like a tent and set the earth on its foundations.
One: We gather to worship God,
All: Who rides the winds like a chariot and wears light as a garment.
One: We gather to worship God,
All: Who suffered for the sake of our lives and offers us life abundant.

HYMN — *Here in This Place*

GATHER US IN

*Here in this place the new light is streaming;
now is the darkness vanished away;
see in this space our fears and our dreamings
brought here to you in the light of this day.*

*Gather us in, the lost and forsaken;
gather us in, the blind and the lame;
call to us now, and we shall awaken;
we shall arise at the sound of our name.*

*We are the young, our lives are a mystery.
We are the old who yearn for your face.
We have been sung through-out all of history,
called to be light to the whole human race.
Gather us in, the rich and the haughty;
gather us in, the proud and the strong;
give us a heart, so meek and so lowly;
give us the courage to enter the song.*

*Here we will take the wine and the water;
here we will take the bread of new birth.
Here you shall call your sons and your daughters,
call us anew to be salt for the earth.
Give us to drink the wine of compassion;
give us to eat the bread that is you;
nourish us well, and teach us to fashion
lives that are holy and hearts that are true.*

*Not in the dark of buildings confining,
not in some heaven light years away:
here in this place the new light is shining;
now is the kingdom, and now is the day.
Gather us in and hold us forever;
gather us in and make us your own;
gather us in, all peoples together,
fire of love in our flesh and our bone.*

PRAYER of CONFESSION -

Pastor Rachel Rhodes

You are the God of all people, O Lord, the creator of all things good. Forgive us when we fail to see the good. Forgive us when we refuse to see the “all.” We are searching for your presence and grasping for your grace, unable to believe that we cannot be separated from your love. Forgive us, God of mercy, and through Christ our redeemer, free us to try again.

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 of t h e W O R D

SCRIPTURE READING — *Psalm 29*

One: Ascribe to the Lord, O heavenly beings, ascribe to the Lord glory and strength. Ascribe to the Lord the glory of God’s name; worship the Lord in holy splendor.

All: **The voice of the Lord is over the waters; the God of glory thunders, the Lord, over mighty waters. The voice of the Lord is powerful; the voice of the Lord is full of majesty.**

One: The voice of the Lord breaks the cedars; the Lord breaks the cedars of Lebanon. God makes Lebanon skip like a calf, and Sirion like a young wild ox.

All: **The voice of the Lord flashes forth flames of fire.**

One: The voice of the Lord shakes the wilderness; the Lord shakes the wilderness of Kadesh.

All: **The voice of the Lord causes the oaks to whirl, and strips the forests bare; and in God’s temple all say, “Glory!”**

One: The Lord sits enthroned over the flood; the Lord sits enthroned as king forever.

All: **May the Lord give strength to God’s people! May the Lord bless God’s people with peace!**

One: This is the Word of the Lord

All: **Thanks be to God.**

ANTHEM — *Build Thee More Stately Mansions* - Gordon Young

Chancel Choir

*Build thee more stately mansions, O my soul,
As the swift seasons roll!
Leave thy low-vaulted past!
Let each new temple, nobler than the last,
Shut thee from heaven with a dome more vast,
Till thou at length art free,
Leaving thine outgrown shell by life’s unresting sea!
Build thee more stately mansions, O my soul!*

--Oliver Wendell Holmes

GOSPEL READING — *Mark 1:9-15*

In those days Jesus came from Nazareth of Galilee and was baptized by John in the Jordan. And just as he was coming up out of the water, he saw the heavens torn apart and the Spirit descending like a dove on him. And a voice came from heaven, “You are my Son, the Beloved; with you I am well pleased.”

And the Spirit immediately drove him out into the wilderness. He was in the wilderness forty days, tempted by Satan; and he was with the wild beasts; and the angels waited on him.

Now after John was arrested, Jesus came to Galilee, proclaiming the good news of God, and saying, "The time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God has come near; repent, and believe in the good news."

The grass withers and the flower fades, but the Word of the Lord will stand forever.

One: This is the Word of the Lord.

All: **Thanks be to God.**

SERMON

God Kicking Doors

Pastor Alex Lester-Abdalla

HYMN — *In Christ Called to Baptize*

ST. DENIO

*In Christ Called to Baptize, we witness to grace
and gather a people from each land and race.
In deep, flowing waters, we share in Christ's death,
then, rising to new life, give thanks with each breath.*

*In Christ called to banquet, one table we share,
a haven of welcome, a circle of care.
Although we are many, we share in one bread.
One cup of thanksgiving proclaims Christ, our head.*

*In Christ called to witness, by grace we will preach
the lifegiving gospel; God's love we will teach.
By grace may our living give proof to our praise
in costly compassion reflecting Christ's ways.*

*Unite us, anoint us, O Spirit of Love,
for you are within us, around us, above.
Equip us for service with gifts you bestow.
In Christ is our colling. In Christ may we grow.*

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. Unjustly condemned for blasphemy and sedition, Jesus was crucified, suffering the depths of human pain and giving his life for the sins of the world. God raised this Jesus from the dead, vindicating his sinless life, breaking the power of sin and evil, delivering us from death to life eternal. With believers in every time and place, we rejoice that nothing in life or in death can separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord. Amen.

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

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.*

Offertory Music — *God Is So Good* - Anonymous

Prayer of Dedication

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.***

CHRISTMAS ANGEL TREE

We are happy to announce that this year we are bringing back the Church Angel Tree 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 will be in the Communication Center starting Sunday, November 21. 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 will also be available next to the tree, if needed.

A "blessing" from MPC will be 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 Ziplock 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.

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

MPC is looking for volunteers to help clean the sanctuary prior to decorating for Advent. Please contact David Sterling, MPC Property Manager, at davidsterling@mpcusa.net or call 215-295-4191 ext. 231 for more details regarding tasks and schedule.



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

CONTACT US

MORRISVILLE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH STAFF

771 North Pennsylvania Ave. | Morrisville, PA 19067 | 215.295.4191 | Office@MPCusa.net

Rachel A. Rhodes, <i>Senior Pastor & Head of Staff (ext. 234)</i>	RachelRhodes@MPCusa.net
Alexander Lester-Abdalla, <i>Associate Pastor (ext. 225)</i>	AlexLester-Abdalla@MPCusa.net
Jack McAnlis, <i>Minister of Visitation (ext. 232)</i>	JackMcAnlis@MPCusa.net
Timothy Carpenter, <i>Director of Music</i>	TimCarpenter@MPCusa.net
Yun Kang, <i>Principal Organist</i>	YunKang@MPCusa.net
David Sterling, <i>Property Manager (ext. 231)</i>	DavidSterling@MPCusa.net
Laurie Jacobson, <i>Financial Secretary (ext. 226)</i>	LaurieJacobson@MPCusa.net
Damon Miller, <i>Communication Coordinator</i>	DamonMiller@MPCusa.net
Nicole Brice, <i>Administrative Assistant (ext. 0)</i>	Office@MPCusa.net