



*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 24, 2021
TWENTY-SECOND SUNDAY
after PENTECOST

GATHERING

PRELUDE — *Spirit of God, Descend upon my Heart* - Frederick Atkinson

Yun Kang

CALL to WORSHIP

Linda Smigelski

One: In worship we tell a story:

All: A story of an unfettered love that changed the world.

One: In worship we tell a story:

All: A story of how we live and how we long to live.

One: In worship we tell a story:

All: Because we are forgetful people.

One: So may we remember who we are.

All: May we release the narratives that trap us.

One: May we reimagine this world to see what God sees.

All: And may we work toward restoration.

One: It's all that easy, and it's all that hard.

All: Let us worship holy God.

HYMN — *Take My Life*

HENDON

*Take my life and let it be
consecrated, Lord, to thee;
take my moments and my days;
let them flow in ceaseless praise;
let them flow in ceaseless praise.*

*Take my hands and let them move
at the impulse of thy love;
take my feet and let them be
swift and beautiful for thee,
swift and beautiful for thee.*

*Take my voice and let me sing
always only, for my King;
take my lips and let them be
filled with messages from thee,
filled with messages from thee.*

*Take my silver and my gold;
not a mite would I withhold;
take my intellect and use
every power as thou shalt choose,
every power as thou shalt choose.*

*Take my will and make it thine;
it shall be no longer mine.
Take my heart, it is thine own;
it shall be thy royal throne,
it shall be thy royal throne.*

*Take my love; my Lord, I pour
at thy feet its treasure store;
take myself and I will be
ever, only, all for thee,
ever, only, all for thee.*

PRAYER of CONFESSION -

Rev. Jack McAnlis

Holy God, to restore is to bring back; so today we bring our hearts back to you, our thoughts back to love, and our prayers back to peace. We try to stay in this place, but we confess, it's never been that easy for us. We flirt with reconciliation and then back away.

We come face-to-face with an opportunity for justice, but get scared. We are offered an opportunity to rewrite our story, but we lose our way. Bring us back to this moment. Bring us back to your story where brothers extend grace to one another, and even the one who denied it was forgiven. Bring us back. Restore us. Forgive us.

SILENT PRAYERS of CONFESSION

Here each worshiper may offer silent prayers of confession.

PROMISE of FORGIVENESS

One: People of God, hear the good news! Who is in a position to condemn? Only Christ. And Christ died for us, Christ rose for us, Christ reigns in power for us, and Christ prays for us. Anyone who is in Christ is a new creation. The old life has gone and the new life has begun. Friends, believe 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

OLD TESTAMENT READING — *Genesis 33:1-11*

Now Jacob looked up and saw Esau coming, and four hundred men with him. So he divided the children among Leah and Rachel and the two maids. He put the maids with their children in front, then Leah with her children, and Rachel and Joseph last of all. He himself went on ahead of them, bowing himself to the ground seven times, until he came near his brother.

But Esau ran to meet him, and embraced him, and fell on his neck and kissed him, and they wept. When Esau looked up and saw the women and children, he said, 'Who are these with you?' Jacob said, 'The children whom God has graciously given your servant.' Then the maids drew near, they and their children, and bowed down; Leah likewise and her children drew near and bowed down; and finally Joseph and Rachel drew near, and they bowed down. Esau said, 'What do you mean by all this company that I met?' Jacob answered, 'To find favour with my lord.' But Esau said, 'I have enough, my brother; keep what you have for yourself.' Jacob said, 'No, please; if I find favour with you, then accept my present from my hand; for truly to see your face is like seeing the face of God—since you have received me with such favour. Please accept my gift that is brought to you, because God has dealt graciously with me, and because I have everything I want.' So he urged him, and he took it.

One: This is the Word of the Lord.

All: **Thanks be to God.**

ANTHEM — *Until We Rest in Thee*

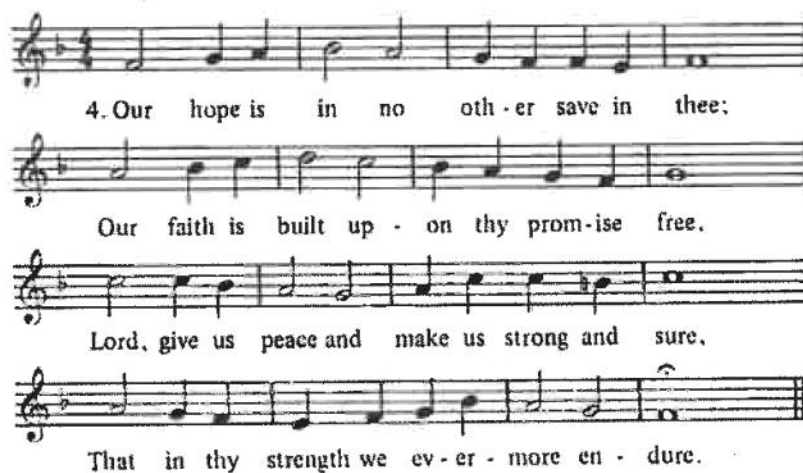
Chancel Choir:

*Thou made us as thy children, thy very own to be,
Thou promised to be with us, and keep us close to thee,
But all alone we wander and think we need thee not.
We stammer and we stumble for thy grace we have not sought.*

*Thou made us for thy body, and gave each one a part,
To serve thee with the mind and hand, to love thee with the heart,
Together we proclaim thy love and look to thee each day.
Without thy word made flesh in Christ, we would not know to say:
We have no rest, until we rest in thee;
We have no peace until thy peace we see;
We need no home save in thy loving care;
Thy church is ours, O God, in Christ to share.*

*Thou made us to enjoy thee, in worship and bow down.
Thou sent us forth to share thy grace in every house and town.
There's not a one in this wide world who does not need thy care.
Stretch out our hands, fling wide our hearts, this good news to declare:
We have no rest, until we rest in thee;
We have no peace until thy peace we see;
We need no home save in thy loving care;
Thy church is ours, O God, in Christ to share.*

All:



Until We Rest in Thee (code CGA-504)
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NEW TESTAMENT READING — *John 21:1-14*

After these things Jesus showed himself again to the disciples by the Sea of Tiberias; and he showed himself in this way. Gathered there together were Simon Peter, Thomas called the Twin, Nathanael of Cana in Galilee, the sons of Zebedee, and two others of his disciples. Simon Peter said to them, 'I am going fishing.' They said to him, 'We will go with you.' They went out and got into the boat, but that night they caught nothing.

Just after daybreak, Jesus stood on the beach; but the disciples did not know that it was Jesus. Jesus said to them, 'Children, you have no fish, have you?' They answered him, 'No.' He said to them, 'Cast the net to the right side of the boat, and you will find some.' So they cast it, and now they were not able to haul it in because there were so many fish. That disciple whom Jesus loved said to Peter, 'It is the Lord!' When Simon Peter heard that it was the Lord, he put on some clothes, for he was naked, and jumped into the lake. But the other disciples came in the boat, dragging the net full of fish, for they were not far from the land, only about a hundred yards off.

When they had gone ashore, they saw a charcoal fire there, with fish on it, and bread. Jesus said to them, 'Bring some of the fish that you have just caught.' So Simon Peter went aboard and hauled the net ashore, full of large fish, a hundred and fifty-three of them; and though there were so many, the net was not torn. Jesus said to them, 'Come and have breakfast.' Now none of the disciples dared to ask him, 'Who are you?' because they knew it was the Lord. Jesus came and took the bread and gave it to them, and did the same with the fish. This was now the third time that Jesus appeared to the disciples after he was raised from the dead.

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

One: This is the Gospel of the Lord.

All: **Thanks be to God.**

SERMON

Fishing for God Knows What

Pastor Rachel Rhodes

HYMN — *God, Whose Giving Knows No Ending*

BEACH SPRING

*God, whose giving knows no ending, from your rich and endless store,
nature's wonder, Jesus' wisdom, costly cross, grave's shattered door;
gifted by you, we turn to you offering up ourselves in praise,
thankful song shall rise forever, gracious donor of our days.*

*Skills and time are ours for pressing toward the goals of Christ, your Son;
all at peace in health and freedom, races joined, the church made one.
Now direct our daily labor, lest we strive for self alone.
Born with talents, make us servants fit to answer at your throne.*

*Treasure, too, you have entrusted, gain through powers your grace conferred:
ours to use for home and kindred, and to spread the gospel word.
Open wide our hands in sharing, as we heed Christ's ageless call,
healing, teaching, and reclaiming, serving you by loving all.*

AFFIRMATION of FAITH — written by Sarah Are

One: We believe in a restoring God,

All: **Who restores our bodies through the gift of Sabbath.**

One: We believe in a restoring God,

All: **Who restores our souls through the gift of grace and second chances.**

One: We believe in a restoring God,

All: **Who restores this hurting world through the gift of mercy and God's son Jesus Christ.**

One: And we believe in a restoring God who invites us to join in this restoration work.

All: **As people of faith, we seek to restore creation to God by feeding the hungry, loving our neighbors, forgiving seventy times seven, welcoming the children, seeing all, loving all, and living like we belong to all.**

One: And so we will work until God's promised day.

All: **This we believe. 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.*

Prayer of Dedication

- One: Gracious and loving God, with joyful and thankful hearts, we dedicate our gifts and our annual commitments to you.
- All: **May these gifts become tangible reminders of your work of restoration within us and among us. May these annual commitments be used in service of your kingdom, that we might be a restoration people. May they be the first fruits of all we have and not what we have left over, so that we may live out as closely as possible how you give to us.**
- One: Today we bring our hearts, minds, and money back to you in hopes that you will sow good. May we be surprised in our lives, in our church, and in our ministry together.
- All: **We dedicate our lives to you, O God. May we be a blessing to others as we live out your call. We pray that we will be good stewards of all that you have given to us. Restore us to you, O God, in the name of the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit. Amen.**

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.

S E N D I N G

HYMN — *Today We All Are Called to Be Disciples*

KINGSFOLD

*Today we all are called to be disciples of the Lord,
to help to set the captive free, make plowshare out of sword,
to feed the hungry, quench their thirst, make love and peace our fast,
to serve the poor and homeless first, our ease and comfort last.*

*God made the world and at its birth ordained our human race
to live as stewards of the earth, responding to God's grace.
But we are vain and sadly proud; we sow not peace but strife.
Our discord spreads a deadly cloud that threatens all of life.*

*Pray justice may come rolling down as in a mighty stream,
with righteousness in field and town to cleanse us and redeem.
For God is longing to restore an earth where conflicts cease,
a world that was created for a harmony of peace.*

*May we in service to our God act out the living word,
and walk the road the saints have trod till all have seen and heard.
As stewards of the earth may we give thanks in one accord
to God who calls us all to be disciples of the Lord.*

POSTLUDE — *Marche* - Alexandre Guilmant

QUESTIONS *for* REFLECTION

- Where is restoration needed in your life?
- How is God at work in your money story?

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.***

A MONEY STORY: GOD'S AND OURS

We all have a money story, whether we recognize it or not. Perhaps we are living from a story of joyful giving and abundant resources. Or perhaps we are functioning out of a space where resources have been scarce and fear has taken hold. Whatever our story might be, where might God be speaking a new narrative into the limited ones we have told ourselves? And how might God be transforming our stewardship practices into more full expressions of who we are and what we believe? Too often, we avoid talking about money with transparency and vulnerability. We're working to reframe this. Money and possessions are among the most common topics in scripture, and Jesus talked about money more than faith and prayer. Our money story, therefore, is a spiritual story. The best stories captivate and transform us—they change how we live. This stewardship season we hope you will join us as we remember, release, reimagine, and restore our own money stories, so that we can write the one God is begging us to live into.

Much of our liturgy today is written by Sarah Are | A Sanctified Art LLC | sanctifiedart.org.

COMING UP IN ADULT EDUCATION

“What does it mean to be “Presbyterian”? Beginning October 31, also known as Reformation Sunday, the Rev. Jack McAnlis will lead a 4-week look at who we are as Presbyterians. How did we get here and what are the beliefs that keep us going? How important is the Bible and the doctrine of “predestination”? Religious movements of the 16th century gave rise to the Reformation, Protestantism and Presbyterianism. A major event in this process was in 1517 when Martin Luther circulated his Ninety-five Theses questioning basic tenets of the Roman Catholic church. John Calvin and other Reformers also sought to build a church that was true to the teachings of Jesus as found in the Bible. It is a rich theological tradition and important for study in bolstering our moral and spiritual lives as a community of faith in the 21st century. We hope you will join us either over Zoom or in-person from 9:30 to 10:20 a.m. each Sunday. If you are interested, you can attend in room 220 or email Pastor Alex at alexlester-abdalla@mpcusa.net to receive the Zoom link.

GROUNDING IN GRATITUDE PICNIC - YESTERDAY, TODAY, AND FOREVER

Join us on November 7 following worship for our *Anniversary Celebration Grounded in Gratitude* picnic held in Memorial Gardens. Limited seating on the paved area will be provided for those with mobility issues and our honored 50+ year members. We ask that everyone else to please bring your own chairs or blankets and spread out on the grass. A boxed lunch will be provided. Gluten free and vegetarian options will be available. Please RSVP by calling the church office at 215-295-4191 or email at office@MPCusa.net.

MPC *Weekly Calendar*

SUNDAY, October 24

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

MONDAY, October 25

6:30 p.m.	Mostly Motets	Sanctuary
7:00	Session Meeting	
7:00	Boy Scout Troop 3	Fellowship Hall
7:00	Boy Scout Troop 3	Lounge
	Parent Meeting	
7:00	Boy Scout Pack 3	Room 220
	Committee Meeting	

TUESDAY, October 26

6:30 p.m.	Alcoholics Anonymous	Room 220
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WEDNESDAY, October 27

9:00 a.m.	Food Center	Room 4
Noon	Brown Bag & Bible	Conference Room
6:00 p.m.	Pack 3 Webelos	Room 104
6:30	Girl Scout Troop 2888	Room 220
7:15	Chancel Chimes	Sanctuary

THURSDAY, October 28

10:00 a.m.	Clothing Center	Room 4
Noon	Alcoholics Anonymous	Room 220
6:30 p.m.	Oakville Girl Scouts	Room 220
7:00	Chancel Choir	Sanctuary

FRIDAY, October 29

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

SATURDAY, October 30

Noon	Youth Club	Fellowship Hall
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SUNDAY, October 31

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

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