



*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 MARCH 26, 2023  
FIFTH SUNDAY in LENT

## GATHERING

**PRELUDE** — *Preludio* - Luigi Bottzaao

Yun Kang

**MINUTE for MISSION**

*Weekday Nursery School*

Jill Monroe-Dillon

**INTROIT** — *God is Calling* - Polish Carol

Chancel Choir

*God is calling through the whisper of the Spirit's deepest sighs,  
through the thrill of sudden beauties that can catch us by surprise.  
Flash of lightning, crash of thunder; hush of stillness, rush of wonder:  
God is calling— can you hear? God is calling— can you hear?*

--text by Mary Louise Bringle

**CALL to WORSHIP**

Pastor Rachel Rhodes

One: The hand of the Lord is upon us,

**All: The spirit of the Lord sets us in a valley.**

One: We are surrounded by dry bones,

**All: And the Lord asks, "Mortal can these bones live?"**

One: We gather to hear the Word of God,

**All: A Word of sinews and breath and life!**

One: We gather to be filled with your Spirit,

**All: Let us worship God together!**

**HYMN** — *Come, O Spirit, Dwell Among Us*

EBENEZER

*Come, O Spirit, dwell among us; come with Pentecostal power;  
give the church a stronger vision; help us face each crucial hour.  
Built upon a firm foundation, Jesus Christ, the Cornerstone,  
still the church is called to mission that God's love shall be made known.*

*We would raise our alleluias for the grace of yesteryears;  
for tomorrow's unknown pathway hear, O Lord, our humble prayers.  
In the church's pilgrim journey you have led us all the way;  
still in presence move before us, fire by night and cloud by day.*

*Come, O Spirit, dwell among us; give us words of fire and flame.  
Help our feeble lips to praise you, glorify your holy name.  
Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, Three in One: what mystery!  
We would sing our loud hosannas now and through eternity.*

**PRAYER of CONFESSION**

Tori Paquette

**God of resurrection, we know the power of death. We have seen its works, we have felt its sting. We have been to the valley of despair, and felt like there was no chance for life. We have been to the valley of apathy, and felt like there was nothing we could do. We do not always believe in your power to resurrect. We do not always believe in your power to redeem the pain of the world. Forgive us. We cry from the depths—however faint our call may be, we pray you hear our voice.**

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

## PROMISE *of* FORGIVENESS

One: Thus says the Lord, “you shall know that I am the Lord when I open your graves, and bring you up from your graves, O my people. I will put my spirit within you, and you shall live.” Let us proclaim the good news of the gospel:

All: In Jesus Christ we are forgiven! Thanks be to God! 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

## PRAYER *for* ILLUMINATION

### FIRST SCRIPTURE READING — *Romans 8:6-11*

To set the mind on the flesh is death, but to set the mind on the Spirit is life and peace. For this reason the mind that is set on the flesh is hostile to God; it does not submit to God’s law—indeed, it cannot, and those who are in the flesh cannot please God.

But you are not in the flesh; you are in the Spirit, since the Spirit of God dwells in you. Anyone who does not have the Spirit of Christ does not belong to him. But if Christ is in you, then the body is dead because of sin, but the Spirit is life because of righteousness. If the Spirit of God who raised Jesus from the dead dwells in you, God who raised Christ Jesus from the dead will give life to your mortal bodies also through God’s Spirit that dwells in you.

One: This is the Word of the Lord.

All: Thanks be to God.

### ANTHEM — *Gracious Spirit, Dwell with Me* — Adoro te devote (chant) - arr. K. Lee Scott

*Gracious Spirit, dwell with me: I would gracious be;  
Help me now thy grace to see, I would be like thee;  
And with words that help and heal thy life would mine reveal;  
And with actions bold and meek, for Christ my Savior speak.*

*Truthful Spirit, dwell with me: I would truthful be;  
Help me now thy truth to see, I would be like thee;  
And with wisdom kind and clear thy life in mine appear;  
And with actions brotherly, speak Christ's sincerity.*

*Holy Spirit, dwell with me: I would holy be;  
Show thy mercy tenderly, make me more like thee;  
Separate from sin I would, and cherish all things good,  
And whatever I can be give him who gave me thee.*

*Mighty Spirit, dwell with me, I would mighty be;  
Help me now thy pow'r to see, I would be like thee;  
'Gainst all weapons hell can wield, be thou my strength and shield;  
Let thy word my weapon be, Lord, Thine the victory.  
Gracious Spirit, dwell with me, I would be like thee!*

--verses 1-3 text by Thomas T. Lynch, verse 4 text by K. Lee Scott

## TIME *for* YOUNG DISCIPLES

## SECOND SCRIPTURE READING — *Ezekiel 37:1-14*

The hand of the Lord came upon me, and brought me out by the spirit of the Lord and set me down in the middle of a valley; it was full of bones. The Lord led me all around them; there were very many lying in the valley, and they were very dry. The Lord said to me, “Mortal, can these bones live?” I answered, “O Lord God, you know.” Then the Lord said to me, “Prophecy to these bones and say to them: O dry bones, hear the word of the Lord. Thus says the Lord God to these bones: I will cause breath to enter you, and you shall live. I will lay sinews on you and will cause flesh to come upon you and cover you with skin and put breath in you, and you shall live, and you shall know that I am the Lord.”

So I prophesied as I had been commanded, and as I prophesied, suddenly there was a noise, a rattling, and the bones came together, bone to its bone. I looked, and there were sinews on them, and flesh had come upon them, and skin had covered them, but there was no breath in them. Then the Lord said to me, “Prophecy to the breath, prophecy, mortal, and say to the breath: Thus says the Lord God: Come from the four winds, O breath, and breathe upon these slain, that they may live.” I prophesied as the Lord commanded me, and the breath came into them, and they lived and stood on their feet, a vast multitude.

Then the Lord said to me, “Mortal, these bones are the whole house of Israel. They say, ‘Our bones are dried up, and our hope is lost; we are cut off completely.’ Therefore prophecy and say to them: Thus says the Lord God: I am going to open your graves and bring you up from your graves, O my people, and I will bring you back to the land of Israel. And you shall know that I am the lord when I open your graves and bring you up from your graves, O my people. I will put my spirit within you, and you shall live, and I will place you on your own soil; then you shall know that I, the Lord, have spoken and will act, says the Lord.”

One: This is the Word of the Lord.

All: **Thanks be to God.**

## SERMON

*A People Under Construction: Mortal Can These Bones Live?*

Pastor Alex Lester-Abdalla

## HYMN — *Come Down, O Love Divine*

DOWN AMPNEY

*Come down, O Love Divine; seek out this soul of mine,  
and visit it with your own ardor glowing.*

*O Comforter, draw near; within my heart appear,  
and kindle it, your holy flame bestowing.*

*O let it freely burn, till earthly passions turn  
to dust and ashes in its heat consuming.*

*And let your glorious light shine ever on my sight,  
and clothe me round, the while my path illuming.*

*And so the yearning strong, with which the soul will long,  
shall far out-pass the power of human telling.*

*For none can guess God's grace, till Love creates a place  
wherein the Holy Spirit makes a dwelling.*

## AFFIRMATION of FAITH — from *A Brief Statement of Faith*

We trust in God the Holy Spirit everywhere the giver and renewer of life. The Spirit justifies us by grace through faith, sets us free to accept ourselves and to love God and neighbor, and binds us together with all believers in the one body of Christ, the Church. The same Spirit who inspired the prophets and apostles rules our faith and life in Christ through Scripture, engages us through the Word proclaimed, claims us in the waters of baptism, feeds us with the bread of life and the cup of salvation, and calls people to all ministries of the Church.

*(Continued on next page)*

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.

## PRAYERS *of* THANKSGIVING *and* SUPPLICATION

### 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 — *Were You There* - arr. Melva Costen

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 — *Breathe on Me, Breath of God*

TRENTHAM

*Breathe on me, Breath of God; fill me with life anew,  
that I may love what thou dost love, and do what thou wouldst do.*

*Breathe on me, Breath of God, until my heart is pure,  
until with thee I will one will, to do and to endure.*

*Breathe on me, Breath of God, till I am wholly thine;  
until this earthly part of me glows with thy fire divine.*

*Breathe on me, Breath of God, so shall I never die,  
but live with thee the perfect life of thine eternity.*

### CHARGE *and* BLESSING

CHORAL BENEDICTION — *Dresden Amen*

POSTLUDE — *Festival Postlude* - arr. George Blake

## QUESTIONS *for* REFLECTION

- What are the "dry places" in your life or faith this Lent?
- How might God be inviting you to live with the "breath of Life" this Lent?

## 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](mailto:Bulletin@MPCusa.net).***

### **TODAY'S CHANCEL FLOWERS**

The chancel flowers are offered to the glory of God and are given in loving memory of Florence "Peggy" Kohn by her children, grandchildren and great-grandchildren. The flowers are also given in gratitude for all those who were a part of Code Blue this month. So many of our members volunteered for this outreach ministry to offer shelter and a warm meal to those in our community who were in need during some very frigid March evenings.

### **LENT 2023 SERMON SERIES: *A PEOPLE UNDER CONSTRUCTION***

Lent is a time when we are called to be God's people under construction. A time when we bring before the Lord all the things that separate us from God; all the things that we'd like to renovate in our lives. And that work can be messy and hard! But it is also work that can be exciting, life-giving, and freeing as God partners with us along the way. Because out of the ashes of any destruction, we are digging and finding what's valuable and discarding what's not, and trusting that all the while, God is making things new.

### **NEW BIBLE STUDY STARTS THIS WEEK**

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, March 29 at noon, we'll be taking the plunge into the book of COLOSSIANS for six weeks with the Rev. Dr. Mark Achtemeier (Rachel's dad). The first week (March 29) we will meet in-person in the conference room and over Zoom, we will not meet during Holy Week, and then each subsequent week will meet over Zoom only. We hope you'll consider joining us for this new adventure!

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. over Zoom so that anyone can join us—from home, from work, from across the country! We hope you'll carve out a part of your week to study God's word among friends.

Following our Bible Study each week, 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!

### **WEEKDAY NURSERY SCHOOL OPEN HOUSE**

MPC Weekday Nursery School is enrolling for the 2023-2024 school year now. The nursery school serves children aged 2.7-4 years old. Please join us at our next Open House to learn what we are all about on Saturday, April 1, from 1:00 -3:00 p.m. Visit [Weekdaynursery.org](http://Weekdaynursery.org) for more information!

## *Join us this Holy Week*



**Palm Sunday**  
April 2, 10:30 a.m.  
Sanctuary & Livestream



**Maundy Thursday**  
April 6, 6:00 p.m.  
Fellowship Hall



**Easter Sunday**  
April 9, 10:30 a.m.  
Sanctuary & Livestream

### **CODE BLUE IS NOW A PART OF MPC!**

We have partnered with Advocates for the Homeless and Those in Need (AHTN) for this March to provide a hot meal and a cot for the night when weather conditions become dangerous for unsheltered individuals. We are for asking for volunteers to help us grocery shop, prepare meals, and on the nights that we host, serve meals. For more information or to volunteer, contact Fran Akelewicz at 908-419-4908 or [fakelewicz@gmail.com](mailto:fakelewicz@gmail.com).

### **DEACON'S HOLIDAY FOOD BASKETS**

A trip to the grocery store has us all feeling "the pinch." As food costs have risen considerably, so has the need. We would ask that you prayerfully consider making a donation to the Deacons fund so that we can continue our outreach to our surrounding community, especially this Easter. While funds are adequate at the moment, it is projected that we may be in a deficit in the near future without your help.

For your convenience, the online giving app has been modified to indicate a place where you can specify donations to the Deacons for this purpose. Additionally, envelopes will be provided on the information table found in our narthex, as well as in the pews and bulletins.

We know that this is a struggling time for many, but especially for those who are hungry. We are extremely grateful for all the ways you continually support the Deacons and thank you for your generosity.

### **WELCOME TO THE NURSERY, HANNAH!**

We are pleased to welcome Hannah Keyes as our interim Nursery Coordinator! Hannah is a full-time student at The College of New Jersey, pursuing her Master's degree in Urban Elementary Education. She has professional experience as a student teacher, child care provider, tutor, and camp counselor. Hannah can't wait to meet you and your children! Please stop by the nursery to say hello. If you have any questions about nursery care, please don't hesitate to speak with one of the pastors or with Carol Carpenter, the Chair of the Children & Family Committee.

We would also like to thank Nicole Brice for her time as Nursery Coordinator. Following a two-week training and orientation period, Nicole will hand over the reins to Hannah. Nicole will continue to be our Church Administrative Assistant.

### **DICTIONARY UPDATE**

We have now collected 190 adult dictionaries and 157 thesauruses and other reference books as well as children dictionaries. We are only 10 dictionaries away from being halfway to our goal of 400 adult dictionaries for the families served by the Jefferson Intermediate School in Trenton.

Early in March we contributed 1,146 books to the Jefferson Intermediate School. With donations from other sources, more than 1500 books were distributed to 376 children. We have been asked by the principal of the Morrisville High School to collect books for summer reading for students, grades 7-12. We now have outlets for children books for all ages and for adults. Our two main book sources in Baltimore are providing additional books to us. We also appreciate the support provided by MPC.

For more information on how you can help donate books, please contact Susan Light at 215-801-8185.

### **ONLINE FELLOWSHIP**

Did you know that each Sunday afternoon starting at 12:30 p.m., several church members meet via Zoom to check in, share ideas and have a few laughs? We meet for about forty minutes, and you can log on when you are available. If you attend church remotely, are a snowbird and go to a warmer climate during the winter season, or want to share some fellowship time with welcoming and caring church members, please email Karla Jones at [kmdjones@verizon.net](mailto:kmdjones@verizon.net) of your interest. She will add you to the email listing to receive the Zoom link.

## MPC Weekly Calendar

### SUNDAY, March 26 - Fifth Sunday in Lent

8:30 a.m.	God's Thunder Rehearsal	Chapel
9:30	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>
11:30	Fellowship Hour -	Lounge
	Hosted by: Communications Committee	
11:45	Nominating Comm.	Conference Room
11:45	Teen Choir	Music Room

### MONDAY, March 27

10:30 a.m.	Lenten Small Group Meeting	Lounge
5:45 p.m.	Outreach Committee	Zoom
6:00	Cub Scout Pack 3	Room 220
6:30	Mostly Motets	Music Room
7:00	Boy Scout Troop 3	Fellowship Hall
7:00	Boy Scout Troop 3	Lounge
	Parent & Board Meeting	
7:00	Session Committee	Conference Room
	Chair Meeting	
7:30	Session Meeting	Conference Room

### TUESDAY, March 28

11:45 a.m.	Ivins Outreach Center Training	Lounge
12:30 p.m.	Staff Meeting	Conference Room
6:00	Cub Scout Pack 3	Fellowship Hall
6:30	Butterfly Essential	Room 220
	Wellness Class	
7:00	Financial Task Force	Room 200

### WEDNESDAY, March 29

9:00 a.m.	Food Center	Parking Lot
Noon	Brown Bag & Bible Study	Conference Room
1:00 p.m.	Prayer Meeting	Zoom
6:00	Cub Scout Pack 3	Room 220
7:00	Girl Scout Troop 2888	Room 220
7:15	Chancel Chimes	Chapel

### THURSDAY, March 30

10:00 a.m.	Clothing Center	Room 4
11:45	Ivins Outreach Center Training	Lounge
6:00 p.m.	Oakville Girl Scouts	Fellowship Hall
7:00	Chancel Choir	Music Room

### FRIDAY, March 31

6:30 p.m.	AA Meeting	Lounge
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### SATURDAY, April 1

8:30 a.m.	Youth Club	Parking Lot
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### SUNDAY, April 2 - Palm Sunday

8:30 a.m.	God's Thunder Rehearsal	Chapel
9:30	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>
11:30	Fellowship Hour -	Lounge
	Hosted by: Education Committee	
11:45	Teen Choir	Music Room
Noon	Deacon Meeting	Conference Room

## 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](mailto:Office@mpcusa.org) and ask that your questions be forwarded to the stewardship committee.

### CONTACT US

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