



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 JUNE 13, 2021
THIRD SUNDAY
after PENTECOST

PRELUDE — *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.*

CALL to WORSHIP - from *Psalm 30*

Pastor Alex Lester-Abdalla

One: O Lord our God, we praise you.

All: **We cried to you for help and you answered us.**

One: You have restored our lives. You have rescued us from the grave.

All: **Where there was no way, God leads us in a new way. Where there was no mercy, God surprises us with fresh mercy.**

One: Where there was weeping, God invites us into a new dance.

All: **Sing praise to God! Let us worship God together!**

PRAYER of CONFESSION

Rev. Jack McAnlis

Merciful God, in the light of your glory we see the evil we have done, the suffering we have caused, the good we have refused, and the truth we have denied. We are as blind and sinful as Saul to the pain and the destruction of our wrong doings and our well-meaning crusades. Forgive us, O God. Heal us of our sin, wash us in your mercy, give us sight to see with your eyes, and feed us with your grace, so that we may follow your way and tell the good news of the Gospel.

(Time for silent prayer and confession.)

PROMISE of FORGIVENESS

One: Beloved church, God's anger lasts but a moment, but God's favor lasts a lifetime. The Lord forgives our shortcomings and sends deliverance through Jesus Christ. Just as the Lord forgave Saul and used him to spread the gospel, so, too, God forgives us. And so let us proclaim together 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.*

SCRIPTURE READING — *Acts 9:1-20*

Meanwhile Saul, still breathing threats and murder against the disciples of the Lord, went to the high priest and asked him for letters to the synagogues at Damascus, so that if he found any who belonged to the Way, men or women, he might bring them bound to Jerusalem. Now as he was going along and approaching Damascus, suddenly a light from heaven flashed around him. He fell to the ground and heard a voice saying to him, 'Saul, Saul, why do you persecute me?' He asked, 'Who are you, Lord?' The reply came, 'I am Jesus, whom you are persecuting. But get up and enter the city, and you will be told what you are to do.' The men who were travelling with him stood speechless because they heard the voice but saw no one. Saul got up from the ground, and though his eyes were open, he could see nothing; so they led him by the hand and brought him into Damascus. For three days he was without sight, and neither ate nor drank.

Now there was a disciple in Damascus named Ananias. The Lord said to him in a vision, 'Ananias.' He answered, 'Here I am, Lord.' The Lord said to him, 'Get up and go to the street called Straight, and at the house of Judas look for a man of Tarsus named Saul. At this moment he is praying, and he has seen in a vision a man named Ananias come in and lay his hands on him so that he might regain his sight.' But Ananias answered, 'Lord, I have heard from many about this man, how much evil he has done to your saints in Jerusalem; and here he has authority from the chief priests to bind all who invoke your name.' But the Lord said to him, 'Go, for he is an instrument whom I have chosen to bring my name before Gentiles and kings and before the people of Israel; I myself will show him how much he must suffer for the sake of my name.' So Ananias went and entered the house. He laid his hands on Saul and said, 'Brother Saul, the Lord Jesus, who appeared to you on your way here, has sent me so that you may regain your sight and be filled with the Holy Spirit.' And immediately something like scales fell from his eyes, and his sight was restored. Then he got up and was baptized, and after taking some food, he regained his strength. For several days he was with the disciples in Damascus, and immediately he began to proclaim Jesus in the synagogues, saying, 'He is the Son of God.'

One: This is the Word of the Lord.

All: **Thanks be to God.**

SERMON

When the Scales Fall

Pastor Rachel Rhodes

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

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 women and men to all ministries of the church. 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. In gratitude to God, empowered by the Spirit, we strive to serve Christ in our daily tasks and to live holy and joyful lives, even as we watch for God's new heaven and new earth, praying, Come, Lord Jesus!

HYMN — *Open My Eyes, That I May See*

OPEN MY EYES

*Open my eyes, that I may see glimpses of truth thou hast for me
Place in my hands the wonderful key that shall unclasp and set me free.
Silently now I wait for thee, ready, my God, thy will to see.
Open my eyes; illumine me, Spirit divine!*

*Open my ears, that I may hear voices of truth thou hast for me.
And while the wave notes fall on my ear, everything false will disappear.
Silently now I wait for thee, ready, my God, thy will to see.
Open my eyes; illumine me, Spirit divine!*

*Open my mouth, and let me bear gladly the warm truth everywhere.
Open my heart, and let me prepare love with thy children thus to share.
Silently now I wait for thee, ready, my God, thy will to see.
Open my eyes; illumine me, Spirit divine!*

HONORING HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATES

May God's blessing be yours on your journey guiding you and cherishing you. May the Son's blessing be yours—nourishment and love feeding you and guiding you. May the Spirit's blessing be yours—joy and wisdom comforting you and challenging you. 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.

POSTLUDE — *You Servants of God, Your Master Proclaim*

HANOVER

*You servants of God, your Master proclaim,
and publish abroad Christ's wonderful name.
The name all victorious of Jesus extol,
whose kingdom is glorious, who rules over all.*

*Ascended on high, almighty to save,
he still remains nigh; his presence we have.
The great congregation his triumph shall sing,
ascribing salvation to Jesus our King.*

*"Salvation to God, who sits on the throne!"
Let all cry aloud and hoor the Son.
The praises of Jesus the angels proclaim,
fall down on their faces, and worship the Lamb.*

*Then let us adore and give him his right,
all glory and power, all wisdom and might,
all honor and blessing, with angels above,
and thanks never ceasing, and infinite love!*

QUESTION *for* REFLECTION

- How might God be seeking to melt and mold your heart?
- What is getting in the way of God's transformation within you?

OTHERS PARTICIPATING IN TODAY'S SERVICE

Tim Carpenter – Director of Music

Justin Hartz – Organist

Video Ministry Volunteers

Photos may be found on unsplash.com

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.*

MPC CLOTHING CENTER SEASONAL CLOSING

The Clothing Center will be closing for the summer on June 17. Please **DO NOT** leave any clothing donations at the church. We will reopen again mid-September. Donations will resume at that time. Thank you for all your support throughout the year.

SUPPORT YOUTH IN MISSION'S 2021 TRIP TO WEST VIRGINIA!

Twenty-four youth and adults will be heading to West Virginia for the first time in two years for a Youth in Mission trip. The group of teens and adults will be traveling to Pipestem, West Virginia to make needed repairs to homes of residents in need. The dates of the trip for the group of fourteen women and ten men will be from July 11 to July 17, 2021. The group will stay at the Appalachian South Folk Life Center and along with repairing homes, will engage in a week-long devotional on "Who is my neighbor".

Car Wash and Bake Sale

The group is asking for your support of their car wash and bake sale fundraisers to be held on Sunday, June 13 (today) and Sunday, June 27, following the worship service. So whether you are streaming worship from home or worshipping in-person, please plan on stopping by MPC for a car wash and to pick up some baked treats!

Stock Sale

The YIM are also raising funds through a "Stock Sale." To participate in the stock sale you can give by check or on-line at the MPC giving portal. If giving by check please write "Stock Sale" on the memo line of your check. To give online go to www.mpcusa.org/give and click on "Online Giving Portal." In the Giving Portal, enter your donation amount next to "YIM Stock Donation."

As always, the Youth in Mission appreciate your support!