



*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 19, 2023
FOURTH SUNDAY in LENT

GATHERING

PRELUDE — *Word of God Incarnate* - Janet Harris

Yun Kang

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 Alex Lester-Abdalla

One: O come, let us sing to the Lord!

All: Let us make a joyful noise to the rock of our salvation!

One: Let us come into his presence with thanksgiving;

All: Let us make a joyful noise to the Lord with songs of praise!

One: O come, let us worship and bow down, let us kneel before the Lord, our Maker!

All: Let us worship God together!

HYMN — *Guide Me, O Thou Great Jehovah*

CWM RHONDDA

*Guide me, O thou great Jehovah, pilgrim through this barren land.
I am weak, but thou art mighty. Hold me with thy powerful hand.
Bread of heaven, bread of heaven, feed me till I want no more;
feed me till I want no more.*

*Open now the crystal fountain, whence the healing stream doth flow.
Let the fire and cloudy pillar lead me all my journey through.
Strong deliverer, strong deliverer, be thou still my strength and shield;
be thou still my strength and shield.*

*When I tread the verge of Jordan, bid my anxious fears subside.
Death of death, and hell's destruction, land me safe on Canaan's side.
Songs of praises, songs of praises I will ever give to thee;
I will ever give to thee.*

PRAYER of CONFESSION

Merciful God, in this life of faith you are always seeking to make us new, but we are a stubborn people. You are so patient with us, but we fail to be patient with you. You promise you will never leave us, but we assume your promise has conditions. You promise to be with us always, but we easily conclude you have left us to fend for ourselves. Forgive us, O God, for our fickle hearts. Forgive us for our forgetful minds. Help us to stand on the firm foundation of your promise, that we might live as your faithful people.

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

PROMISE of FORGIVENESS

One: Hear the good news: there is forgiveness and steadfast love with God who saves us from all our sins. God has shown this love for us in that, while we still were sinners, Christ died for us. Together, let us proclaim the good news of the gospel:

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

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.*

LITURGY of the WORD

PRAYER for ILLUMINATION

Tori Paquette

PSALTER READING — *Psalm 95*

- One: O come, let us sing to the Lord; let us make a joyful noise to the rock of our salvation!
All: Let us come into his presence with thanksgiving; let us make a joyful noise to him with songs of praise!
- One: For the Lord is a great God, and a great King above all gods. In his hand are the depths of the earth; the heights of the mountains are his also. The sea is his, for he made it, and the dry land, which his hands have formed.
All: O come, let us worship and bow down, let us kneel before the Lord, our Maker! For he is our God, and we are the people of his pasture, and the sheep of his hand.
- One: O that today you would listen to his voice! Do not harden your hearts, as at Meribah, as on the day at Massah in the wilderness,
All: When your ancestors tested me, and put me to the proof, though they had seen my work.
- One: For forty years I loathed that generation and said, 'They are a people whose hearts go astray, and they do not regard my ways.'
All: Therefore in my anger I swore, 'They shall not enter my rest.'
- One: This is the Word of the Lord.
All: Thanks be to God.

ANTHEM — *Vencerá el Amore* - Carlos Colón

*Love shall overcome even when the storm is raging;
Though the night is long, still God's power is unchanging
After nights of bitter weeping, there comes a brighter dawn for saints of God's own keeping.
Love shall overcome: from these chains our God will free us
When we pray as one, Jesus will redeem us.
And the tears we cried will be a precious offering. And the peace of Christ shall reign forever.
Love shall reign. Peace shall reign. Christ shall reign. Love shall overcome.*

-- text by Carlos Colón, translated by Greg Scheer

TIME for YOUNG DISCIPLES

OLD TESTAMENT READING — *Exodus 17:1-7*

From the wilderness of Sin the whole congregation of the Israelites journeyed by stages, as the Lord commanded. They camped at Rephidim, but there was no water for the people to drink. The people quarrelled with Moses, and said, 'Give us water to drink.' Moses said to them, 'Why do you quarrel with me? Why do you test the Lord?' But the people thirsted there for water; and the people complained against Moses and said, 'Why did you bring us out of Egypt, to kill us and our children and livestock with thirst?'

So Moses cried out to the Lord, ‘What shall I do with this people? They are almost ready to stone me.’ The Lord said to Moses, ‘Go on ahead of the people, and take some of the elders of Israel with you; take in your hand the staff with which you struck the Nile, and go. I will be standing there in front of you on the rock at Horeb. Strike the rock, and water will come out of it, so that the people may drink.’ Moses did so, in the sight of the elders of Israel. He called the place Massah and Meribah, because the Israelites quarrelled and tested the Lord, saying, ‘Is the Lord among us or not?’

One: This is the Word of the Lord.

All: **Thanks be to God.**

SERMON

A People Under Construction: Groaning & Grace

Pastor Rhodes

HYMN — *Glorious Things of Thee Are Spoken*

AUSTRIAN HYMN

*Glorious things of thee are spoken, Zion, city of our God.
God, whose word cannot be broken, formed thee for a blest abode.
On the rock of ages founded, what can shake thy sure repose?
With salvation's walls surrounded, thou may'st smile at all thy foes.

Round each habitation hovering, see the cloud and fire appear
for a glory and a covering, showing that the Lord is near.
This deriving from their banner light by night and shade by day,
safe they feed upon the manna which God gives them when they pray.

See, the streams of living waters, springing from eternal love,
well supply thy sons and daughters and all fear of want remove.
Who can faint while such a river ever flows, their thirst to assuage?
Grace, so like the Lord the giver, never fails from age to age.*

AFFIRMATION of FAITH — *Apostles' Creed*

I believe in God the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth, and in Jesus Christ his only Son our Lord; who was conceived by the Holy Ghost, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, dead, and buried; he descended into hell; the third day he rose again from the dead; he ascended into heaven, and sitteth on the right hand of God the Father Almighty; from thence he shall come to judge the quick and the dead. I believe in the Holy Ghost; the holy catholic Church; the communion of saints; the forgiveness of sins; the resurrection of the body; and the life everlasting. Amen.

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 — *The Old Rugged Cross* - George Bennard

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 — *O Come and Sing unto the Lord*

IRISH

*O come and sing unto to the Lord; to God our voices raise;
let us in our most joyful songs the Lord, our Savior, praise.*

*Before God's presence let us come with praise and thankful voice;
let us sing psalms to God with grace; with grateful hearts, rejoice.*

*The Lord our God is King of kings, above all gods enthroned;
the depths of earth and mountains high by God alone are owned.*

*To God the spacious sea belongs; God made its waves and tides,
and by God's hand the rising land was formed, and still abides.*

*O come, and bowing down to God our worship let us bring;
yea, let us kneel before the Lord, our Maker and our King.*

CHARGE and BLESSING

CHORAL BENEDICTION — *Dresden Amen*

POSTLUDE — *Heart Rejoices* - Edward Broughton

QUESTIONS *for* REFLECTION

- When have you been offered grace that you didn't deserve?
 - How might you share that grace with others?

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.***

TODAY'S CHANCEL FLOWERS

The chancel flowers are offered to the glory of God and are given by Carol Carpenter in loving memory of her father, Albert D. Wismar. The second arrangement is given in loving memory of Nancy C. Anderson by her family on what would have been her 100th birthday.

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. We hope you will continue to join us this Lent as we seek to be God's people under construction!

CHANCEL FLOWERS NEEDED FOR APRIL

If you would like to give flowers on one of the Sundays following Easter, please contact DeeAnn Martin at 215-493-3865 or email deemar918@aol.com. An arrangement is \$30 and may be given in memory of a loved one, in celebration of a special event or in gratitude for a ministry or act of kindness. These flowers not only add beauty to our worship, but also serve as an outreach ministry to our church family.

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 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.

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.

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 for more information!

SYRIA/TURKEY RELIEF FUND

A 7.8 magnitude earthquake near the Turkey-Syria border struck in the early hours of February 6, 2023. This earthquake is estimated to affect more than 23 million people and to date, it is estimated that 36,000 have perished! The [Presbyterian Disaster Assistance](#) (PDA Presbyterian Disaster Assistance) is working to aid those impacted by this earthquake and is so grateful for the outpouring of prayers and calls from congregations (MPC!) and individuals (You!) asking how they can help! MPC has assisted the PDA for years and now is a most important time to reach out to our brothers and sisters in Christ being affected by this awful disaster! The MPC Outreach Committee has already made the commitment to assist the PDA with this disaster, so might you also help? You may use a check made out to MPC and place "Syria/Turkey Relief" on the comment line. There will also be baskets in the sanctuary labelled "Disaster Relief". MPC has always been a most giving church.

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.

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

MPC Weekly Calendar

SUNDAY, March 19 - Fourth Sunday in Lent

8:30 a.m.	God's Thunder Rehearsal	Chapel
9:30	Sunday School for all ages	
10:30	Worship Service	Sanctuary
10:30	Worship Service	Livestream
11:30	Fellowship Hour -	Lounge
	Hosted by: Trustees	
11:45	Nominating Comm.	Conference Room
11:45	Teen Choir	Music Room

MONDAY, March 20

10:30 a.m.	Lenten Small Group Meeting	Lounge
6:00 p.m.	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	

TUESDAY, March 21

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

WEDNESDAY, March 22

9:00 a.m.	Food Center	Parking Lot
Noon	Brown Bag & Bible Study	Zoom

WEDNESDAY, March 22 (continued)

1:00 p.m.	Prayer Meeting	Zoom
6:00	Cub Scout Pack 3	Room 220
6:00	Youth Club	Offsite
7:00	Girl Scout Troop 2888	Room 220
7:15	Chancel Chimes	Chapel

THURSDAY, March 23

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 24

6:30 p.m.	AA Meeting	Lounge
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SATURDAY, March 25

SUNDAY, March 26 - Fifth Sunday in Lent

8:30 a.m.	God's Thunder Rehearsal	Chapel
9:30	Sunday School for all ages	
10:30	Worship Service	Sanctuary
10:30	Worship Service	Livestream
11:30	Fellowship Hour -	Lounge
	Hosted by: Communications Committee	
11:45	Nominating Comm.	Conference Room
11:45	Teen Choir	Music Room

To view upcoming events and meetings,
please visit www.mpcusa.org and click on “[Calendar](#)” from the home page.

iPhone




Introducing mobile giving

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 and ask that your questions be forwarded to the stewardship committee.

CONTACT US

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