



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 JULY 11, 2021
SEVENTH SUNDAY
after PENTECOST

PRELUDE — *God Welcomes All*

THEMBA AMEN

*God welcomes all, strangers and friends;
God's love is strong and it never ends.*

CALL to WORSHIP — adapted from Henrietta Stith Andrews

One: A word of encouragement came from prophets to people;

All: Live a life that is full—build, plant, eat, love, multiply.

One: Pray for your communities.

All: Keep God in the center of all that is.

One: We enter into worship today with hope in our hearts,

All: For something happens in worship that reminds us we can live as God desires.

One: God has promised to always be faithful.

All: And that is a promise we can trust. Let us worship God together.

PRAYER of CONFESSION

Rev. Jack McAnlis

Merciful God, in the midst of any struggle, it's easy to grit our teeth and just try to get through it. It's easy to bury our heads in the sand and announce to the world, "wake me up when it's over!" But our indifference betrays our calling. Our avoidance ignores your desire to do something more among us and within us. Forgive us for trying to avoid the calling you have placed upon our lives. Forgive us for the ways we shove aside your hand that seeks to melt us and mold us, content to keep things the way they've always been. Forgive us for worshipping at the feet of the status quo, when you desire to use us in ways we cannot even begin to imagine. Open our hearts to your Spirit. Open our lives to the city you call us to serve, even when it's a city far from home.

(Time for silent prayer and confession.)

PROMISE of FORGIVENESS

One: Hear the good news: Do not worry; the Lord is near. God hears our prayers with compassion and with abundant, steadfast love. Rejoice, for in the name of Jesus Christ, you are forgiven!

All: 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 — *Jeremiah 29:4-7, 11-14*

Thus says the Lord of hosts, the God of Israel, to all the exiles whom I have sent into exile from Jerusalem to Babylon: Build houses and live in them; plant gardens and eat what they produce. Take wives and have sons and daughters; take wives for your sons, and give your daughters in marriage, that they may bear sons and daughters; multiply there, and do not decrease. But seek the welfare of the city where I have sent you into exile, and pray to the Lord on its behalf, for in its welfare you will find your welfare.

For surely I know the plans I have for you, says the Lord, plans for your welfare and not for harm, to give you a future with hope. Then when you call upon me and come and pray to me, I will hear you. When you search for me, you will find me; if you seek me with all your heart, I will let you find me, says the Lord, and I will restore your fortunes and gather you from all the nations and all the places where I have driven you, says the Lord, and I will bring you back to the place from which I sent you into exile.

One: This is the Word of the Lord.

All: **Thanks be to God.**

SERMON

Bloom Where You're Planted

Pastor Rhodes

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

We Trust in God, whom Jesus called Abba, Father. In sovereign love God created the world good. God acts with justice and mercy to redeem creation. In everlasting love, the God of Abraham and Sarah chose a covenant people to bless all families of the earth. Hearing their cry, God delivered the children of Israel from the house of bondage. Loving us still, God makes us heirs with Christ of the covenant. Like a mother who will not forsake her nursing child, like a father who runs to welcome the prodigal home, God is faithful still. Amen.

HYMN — *In the Bulb There Is a Flower*

PROMISE

*In the bulb there is a flower; in the seed, an apple tree;
in cocoons, a hidden promise: butterflies will soon be free!
In the cold and snow of winter there's a spring that waits to be,
unrevealed until its season, something God alone can see.*

*There's a song in every silence, seeking word and melody;
there's a dawn in every darkness, bringing hope to you and me.
From the past will come the future; what it holds, a mystery,
unrevealed until its season, something God alone can see.*

*In our end is our beginning; in our time, infinity;
in our doubt there is believing; in our life, eternity.
In our death, a resurrection; at the last, a victory,
unrevealed until its season, something God alone can see.*

PRAYER for THOSE ON THEIR WAY: 2021 Youth in Mission Trip

One: Faithful God, we pray for those we love as they journey toward West Virginia. We thank you for their energy and joy, for their compassion and their love. We thank you for their willingness to spend a week in service to you and to your people. We pray especially for our young people:

All: **May they watch and listen for your presence in the thin places you provide. May they hear your voice in the stories of those they serve; may they see your love and compassion in the conversations they have with one another; may they know the depth of your calling for each of them as they entrust their week and their lives to you.**

One: We pray especially for the adults who accompany them:

All: **May they serve faithfully this week as guide and support, as mentor, and protector. May they be encouraged by one another and inspired by the young people they accompany. May their hearts be open to your will and your call in their own lives; may they share their faith and their questions generously and lovingly; may they look to you each day in prayer as they lead those entrusted to their care.**

One: God we thank you for these our friends and we pray for those whom they will serve:

All: We pray for our siblings in Christ in West Virginia; for those who serve at the Folk Life Center and those whose homes will be places of work. We thank you for the preparations they have made to receive our friends, and for the hospitality and care they will offer them this week. We pray your blessing upon these relationships and trust that your Spirit goes before us in all that we do.

One: We thank you, God, that whether or not we are in West Virginia, you are always there. And so we give you thanks for the privilege it is to serve your church in this way.

All: May those we love and those we are called to love feel your constant presence this week. May they know your safety and protection, your laughter and your grace. May they love with your love and shower mercy and compassion upon one another.

One: Fill us with your grace, O God, as we pray for our friends this week:

All: Remind us to pray for them by name, to welcome them warmly when they return, and to pester them enthusiastically for stories about their experience. Remind us to pray for those they serve and to open our hearts to learn from our friends when they return.

One: Even though we do not journey with them, remind them that they never journey alone.

All: For wherever they go, you go also. Bless this week ahead. May it be for your glory alone. In Jesus name we pray, 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

CHARGE *and* BLESSING

POSTLUDE — *All Who Love and Serve Your City*

CHARLESTOWN

*All who love and serve your city, all who bear its daily stress,
all who cry for peace and justice, all who curse and all who bless:*

*In your day of wealth and plenty, wasted work and wasted play,
call to mind the word of Jesus, "You must work while it is day."*

*For all days are days of judgement, and the Lord is waiting still,
drawing near a world that spurns him, offering peace from Calvary's hill.*

*Risen Lord, shall yet the city be the city of despair?
Come today, our judge, our glory. Be its name "The Lord is there!"*

QUESTIONS *for* REFLECTION

- What new thing might God be working on in you?

OTHERS PARTICIPATING IN TODAY'S SERVICE

Tim Carpenter – Director of Music

Justin Hartz – Organist

Video Ministry Volunteers

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.*

PLEASE PRAY FOR THE YOUTH IN MISSION TRIP JULY 11-17

Thank you for your generous support as we return to Pipestem, West Virginia to provide hope, and help homeowners rebuild, repaint and repair their homes. Please pray for wisdom and understanding, for good group relationships, for our homeowners and for safe travels. The participants are as follows:

Students: Jack Fancher, Avery Gardner, Kathryn Gilbride, Brandon Keys, Austin Massey, Hope Massey, Maddie McCleskey, Eric Moyer-Harrington, Catherine Moyer-Harrington, Andrew Neiman, Madison Neiman, Vanessa Nolan, Robbie Oleynic, Lizzie Stoner, and Eva Washington.

Youth leaders: Dawn Flook, Patrick Gilbride, Dan Jones, Travis Keys, Alex Lester-Abdalla, and Nancy Stoner.

The Youth in Mission Team will be leading worship on Sunday, July 18, following their trip. We hope to see you there!