



*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 JANUARY 1, 2023
FIRST SUNDAY
OF CHRISTMAS

GATHERING

PRELUDE — *Just As I Am* - William B. Bradbury

Yun Kang

CALL to WORSHIP

Pastor Alex Lester-Abdalla

One: There is good news of great joy for all!

All: Our Savior is born: the Messiah, the Lord.

One: Now we have seen the saving love of the Lord,

All: The glory of God's people and a light to all. Let us worship God!

HYMN — *Angel, from the Realms of Glory*

REGENT SQUARE

*Angels, from the realms of glory, wing your flight o'er all the earth;
you, who sang creation's story, now proclaim Messiah's birth:
come and worship, come and worship,
worship Christ, the newborn king!*

*Shepherds, in the fields abiding, watching o'er your flocks by night,
God with us is now residing; yonder shines the infant light:
come and worship, come and worship,
worship Christ, the newborn king!*

*Sages, leave your contemplations; brighter visions beam afar;
seek the great desire of nations; you have seen his natal star:
come and worship, come and worship,
worship Christ, the newborn king!*

*All creation, join in praising God the Father, Spirit, Son,
evermore your voices raising to the eternal Three in One:
come and worship, come and worship,
worship Christ, the newborn king!*

PRAYER of CONFESSION -

Reverend Jack McAnlis

God our Savior, we confess that we fail to live in your light. You reveal your saving love, but we hide your love from others. You claim us as your children, but we do not claim you as our God. Forgive us, God of grace. Let your will be done in our lives so that we may live in peace according to your word; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

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

PROMISE of FORGIVENESS

One: Beloved of God, receive the good news: the light of Christ shines in our darkness, to bring light and life to all. By the gift of Christ, your sins are forgiven. Friends, let us proclaim 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.*

LITURGY of the WORD

PRAYER *for* ILLUMINATION

FIRST SCRIPTURE READING — *Psalm 148*

One: Praise the Lord!

All: Praise the Lord from the heavens; praise him in the heights!

One: Praise him, all his angels; praise him, all his host!

All: Praise him, sun and moon; praise him, all you shining stars!

One: Praise him, you highest heavens, and you waters above the heavens!

All: Let them praise the name of the Lord, for he commanded and they were created.

One: He established them forever and ever; he fixed their bounds, which cannot be passed.

All: Praise the Lord from the earth, you sea monsters and all deeps,

One: Fire and hail, snow and frost, stormy wind fulfilling his command!

All: Mountains and all hills, fruit trees and all cedars!

One: Wild animals and all cattle, creeping things and flying birds!

All: Kings of the earth and all peoples, princes and all rulers of the earth!

One: Young men and women alike, old and young together!

All: Let them praise the name of the Lord, for his name alone is exalted; his glory is above earth and heaven.

One: He has raised up a horn for his people, praise for all his faithful, for the people of Israel who are close to him.

All: Praise the Lord!

One: This is the Word of the Lord.

All: Thanks be to God.

TIME *for* YOUNG DISCIPLES

SECOND SCRIPTURE READING — *Colossians 3:12-17*

As God's chosen ones, holy and beloved, clothe yourselves with compassion, kindness, humility, meekness, and patience. Bear with one another and, if anyone has a complaint against another, forgive each other; just as the Lord has forgiven you, so you also must forgive. Above all, clothe yourselves with love, which binds everything together in perfect harmony. And let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, to which indeed you were called in the one body. And be thankful. Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly; teach and admonish one another in all wisdom; and with gratitude in your hearts sing psalms, hymns, and spiritual songs to God. And whatever you do, in word or deed, do everything in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him.

One: This is the Word of the Lord.

All: Thanks be to God.

A TIME *for* GRATITUDE

Pastor Alex Lester-Abdalla

HYMN — *Come, Ye Thankful People, Come*

ST. GEORGE'S WINDSOR

Come, ye thankful people, come; raise the song of harvest home.

All is safely gathered in, ere the winter storms begin.

God, our Maker, doth provide for our wants to be supplied.

Come to God's own temple, come; raise the song of harvest home.

*All the world is God's own field, fruit in thankful praise to yield,
wheat and tares together sown, unto joy or sorrow grown.*

First the blade, and then the ear, then the full corn shall appear.

Lord of harvest, grant that we wholesome grain and pure may be.

*For the Lord our God shall come, and shall take the harvest home;
 from each field shall in that day all offenses purge away;
 give the angels charge at last in the fire the tares to cast,
 but the fruitful ears to store in God's garner evermore.*

*Even so, Lord, quickly come to thy final harvest home.
 Gather thou thy people in, free from sorrow, free from sin,
 there forever purified, in thy presence to abide:
 come, with all thine angels, come; raise the glorious harvest home!*

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

Our only hope is Jesus Christ. After we refused to live in the image of God, he was born of the virgin Mary, sharing our genes and our instincts, entering our culture, speaking our language, fulfilling the law of our God. Being united to Christ's humanity, we know ourselves when we rest in him. Jesus Christ is the hope of God's world. Amen.

OFFERING

Invitation to Give

Offertory Music — *Savior, Like a Shepherd Lead Us* - W. B. Bradbury

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.*

S A C R A M E N T *o f t h e* L O R D ' S S U P P E R

INVITATION

PRAYER of GREAT THANKSGIVING

One: The Lord be with you.

All: And also with you.

One: Lift up your hearts.

All: We lift them up to the Lord.

One: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

All: It is right to give our thanks and praise.

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.

THE BREAKING of the BREAD

COMMUNION of the PEOPLE

MUSIC during COMMUNION — *The First Nowell* (verses 1, 2, 5)

THE FIRST NOWELL

*The first Nowell the angels did say was to certain poor shepherds in field as they lay,
 in fields where they lay keeping their sheep, on a cold winter's night that was so deep.
 Nowell, Nowell, Nowell, Nowell, born is the King of Israel.*

*They looked up and saw a star shing in the east beyond them far;
 and to the earth it gave great light, and so it continued both day and night.
 Nowell, Nowell, Nowell, Nowell, born is the King of Israel.*

*Then entered in those wise men three, full reverently upon their knee,
and offered there in his presence their gold, and myrrh, and frankincense
Nowell, Nowell, Nowell, Nowell, born is the King of Israel.*

PRAYER *after* COMMUNION

S E N D I N G

HYMN — *We Three Kings of Orient Are*

KINGS OF ORIENT

*We three kings of Orient are; bearing gifts we traverse afar,
Field and fountain, moor and mountain, following yonder star.
O star of wonder, star of night, star with royal beauty bright,
Westward leading, still proceeding, guide us to thy perfect light!*

*Born a King on Bethlehem's plain, gold I bring to crown him again,
King forever, ceasing never over us all to reign
O star of wonder, star of night, star with royal beauty bright,
Westward leading, still proceeding, guide us to thy perfect light!*

*Frankincense to offer have I; incense owns a deity nigh;
prayer and praising gladly raising, worshiping God Most High
O star of wonder, star of night, star with royal beauty bright,
Westward leading, still proceeding, guide us to thy perfect light!*

*Myrrh is mine; its bitter perfume breathes a life of gathering gloom;
sorrowing, sighing, bleeding, dying, sealed in the stone-cold tomb.
O star of wonder, star of night, star with royal beauty bright,
Westward leading, still proceeding, guide us to thy perfect light!*

*Glorious now behold him arise, King and God and Sacrifice:
Alleluia! Alleluia! sounds through the earth and skies.
O star of wonder, star of night, star with royal beauty bright,
Westward leading, still proceeding, guide us to thy perfect light!*

CHARGE *and* BLESSING

POSTLUDE — *Fanfares and Flourishes* - Fred B. Binckes

QUESTION *for* REFLECTION

- What are you grateful for this Christmas?

WHO MAY RECEIVE COMMUNION IN THE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH?

“The opportunity to eat and drink with Christ is not a right bestowed upon the worthy, but a privilege given to the undeserving who come in faith, repentance, and love. All who come to the table are offered the bread and cup, regardless of their age or understanding.

Worshippers prepare themselves to celebrate the Lord’s Supper by putting their trust in Christ, confessing their sin, and seeking reconciliation with God and one another. Even those who doubt may come to the table in order to be assured of God’s love and grace in Jesus Christ.”

-Book of Order W-3.0409

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 in loving memory of Don J. Donini by his wife, Bernice, and daughters Barbara, Marilyn and Elizabeth. The second arrangement is given by Suzanne Leahy "in honor of my sister, Nancy Kernan, who celebrates her birthday today, and in appreciation of her kind, loving, and sassy spirit."

FELLOWSHIP HOUR RETURNS JANUARY 8

Fellowship Hour will resume on January 8. The host will be the Ivins Outreach Center. Please come, visit, enjoy a light snack, and stop by to hear and learn more about our host group.

REGISTER NOW FOR WOMEN'S RETREAT

The Women's Retreat is taking place on February 24-26, and will be held at the Pendle Hill Quaker Retreat Center in Wallingford, PA. The presenter is Pastor Diane Jamison Fitch who will lead us in study on the topic *Transitions: Invitations to New Beginnings*, based on Isaiah 43:18-19. Look for the pink brochures to register or call the church office at 215-295-4191.

2023 OFFERING ENVELOPES

Offering envelopes will be available in the Communication Center starting today, Sunday, December 18. If you would like them mailed, please contact Laurie Jacobson at lauriejacobson@mpcusa.net or through the church office at 215-295-4191 extension 226, and she will send them to you. Please note that envelopes will not be given to those who have signed up for online giving.

CLOTHING CENTER REQUEST

The Clothing Center is requesting that until further notice, please hold any future donations until mid-January.

DICTIONARY DONATIONS UPDATE

So far the Book Distribution has collected 74 hardcover and 14 paperback adult dictionaries for the Jefferson Elementary School in Trenton. We will continue our Reference Book Drive until we have donated 400 adult dictionaries to the families whose children attend Jefferson. We are over 20% of the way to our goal.

We are also collecting other reference books including children's dictionaries, and thesauruses for adults and children, and have collected another 115 of these reference books. We appreciate MPC's generosity in donating reference books. Please consider asking your friends if they have extra reference books and if they would put a notice in their church's bulletin requesting dictionaries. Please contact Susan Light at 215-801-8185 for more information on how you can help achieve our goal. Thank you.

SUPPORT THE TRENTON AREA SOUP KITCHEN

MPC has supported the Trenton Area Soup Kitchen (TASK) substantially for years. TASK's mission is to feed those who are hungry in the Trenton area and to offer programs to encourage self-sufficiency and improve the quality of life. TASK is so much more than a soup kitchen! They serve nutritious meals, free of charge, no questions asked to anyone who comes seeking nourishment. They also provide education, job training and workforce development that empowers people to pursue their hopes and dreams; and provide case management, access to community resources, and assistance to help neighbors in need. Not only has MPC supported this organization financially, but prior to the pandemic, MPC volunteers travelled to Trenton to prepare meals and support for those in attendance. Might we continue this outreach, both financially and "hands-on"? Contact Ray Hendrickson at hrh1453@gmail.com for additional information or for volunteer opportunities. Visit trentonsoupkitchen.org for more information on TASK.

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 of your interest. She will add you to the email listing to receive the Zoom link.

MPC Weekly Calendar

SUNDAY, January 1, 2023

10:30 a.m. Worship Service

10:30 Worship Service

Sanctuary

Livestream

THURSDAY, January 5

10:00 a.m. Clothing Center

6:00 p.m. Oakville Girl Scouts

7:00 Chancel Choir

Room 4

Fellowship Hall

Music Room

MONDAY, January 2

6:00 p.m. Cub Scout Pack 3

6:30 Mostly Motets

7:00 Boy Scout Troop 3

7:00 Boy Scout Troop 3

Parent & Board Meeting

7:00 Personnel Committee

Room 220

Music Room

Fellowship Hall

Lounge

Zoom

FRIDAY, January 6

7:00 p.m. AA Meeting

8:00 p.m. Youth Lock-In

Lounge

Fellowship Hall &

Room 220

SATURDAY, January 7

8:30 a.m. Youth Lock-In Pickup

8:30 a.m. Youth Lock-In Pickup

Fellowship Hall &

Room 220

TUESDAY, January 3

6:00 p.m. Cub Scout Pack 3

6:30 Butterfly Essential

Wellness Class

Fellowship Hall

Room 220

SUNDAY, January 8 - Epiphany Sunday

8:30 a.m. God's Thunder

9:30 Sunday School for all ages

10:30 Worship Service

10:30 Worship Service

11:30 Fellowship Hour -

Hosted by: Ivins Outreach Center

11:45 Teen Choir

Noon

Deacon Meeting

Chapel

Sanctuary

Livestream

Lounge

Music Room

Conference Room

WEDNESDAY, January 4

9:00 a.m. Food Center

6:00 Cub Scout Pack 3

7:00 Girl Scout Troop 2888

7:15 Chancel Chimes

Parking Lot

Room 220

Room 220

Chapel

Introducing mobile giving

iPhone



Android



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.

Need Help? email Office@mpcusa.org and ask that your questions be forwarded to the stewardship committee.

CONTACT US

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