



*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 20, 2022
THIRD SUNDAY
in LENT

GATHERING

PRELUDE — *Prayer* - Alexandre Guilmant

Yun Kang

CALL to WORSHIP

Kathy Foster

One: We have come to worship God, the living God,
All: Who calls prophets and teachers to bear witness.
One: We have come to praise God, the almighty God,
All: Who answers the forces of hatred and hurt with the power of grace.
One: We have come to worship God, all-gracious God,
**All: Who chooses even you and me, to receive and carry the Word of life and hope. All
glory to God! Let us worship God together!**

HYMN — *We Are Marching in the Light of God*

SIYAHAMBA

*We are marching in the light of God; we are marching in the light of God.
We are marching in the light of God; we are marching in the light of God.
We are marching, marching, we are marching, marching we are marching in the light of, the light of God.
We are marching, marching, we are marching, marching, we are marching in the light of God.*

*We are dancing in the light of God; we are dancing in the light of God.
We are dancing in the light of God; we are dancing in the light of God.
We are dancing, dancing, we are dancing, dancing we are dancing in the light of, the light of God.
We are dancing, dancing, we are dancing, dancing, we are dancing in the light of God.*

*We are praying in the light of God; we are praying in the light of God.
We are praying in the light of God; we are praying in the light of God.
We are praying, praying, we are praying, praying we are praying in the light of, the light of God.
We are praying, praying, we are praying, praying, we are praying in the light of God.*

*We are singing in the light of God; we are singing in the light of God.
We are singing in the light of God; we are singing in the light of God.
We are singing, singing, we are singing, singing we are singing in the light of, the light of God.
We are singing, singing, we are singing, singing, we are singing in the light of God.*

PRAYER of CONFESSION

Pastor Alex Lester-Abdalla

You asked for my hands, O God, that you might use them for your purpose. I gave them for a moment, then withdrew them, for the work was hard. You asked for my mouth to speak out against injustice. I gave you a whisper that I might not be accused. You asked for my eyes to see the pain of poverty. I closed them, for I did not want to see. You asked for my life, that you might work through me. I gave a small part, that I might not get too involved. Lord, forgive my calculated efforts to serve you—only when it is convenient for me to do so, only in those places where it is safe to do so, and only with those who make it easy to do so. O God, forgive me, renew me, send me out as a usable instrument, that I might take seriously the meaning of your cross.

SILENT PRAYERS of CONFESSION

Here each worshiper may offer silent prayers of confession.

PROMISE *of* FORGIVENESS

One: People of God, hear the good news concerning the love and forgiveness of God: *"As far as the east is from the west, so far does God remove our transgressions from us. As a father has compassion on his children, so the Lord has compassion on those who fear him; for he knows how we are formed, he remembers that we are dust."* And so, 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.*

L I T U R G Y *o f t h e* W O R D

PRAYER *for* ILLUMINATION

*Take my hands and let them move at the impulse of thy love;
Take my feet and let them be swift and beautiful for thee,
Swift and beautiful for thee.
Amen.*

NEW TESTAMENT READING — 1 Corinthians 12:12-27

Carol Carpenter, Timothy Carpenter
Andrew Neiman, Nancy Powers

For just as the body is one and has many members, and all the members of the body, though many, are one body, so it is with Christ. For in the one Spirit we were all baptized into one body—Jews or Greeks, slaves or free—and we were all made to drink of one Spirit. Indeed, the body does not consist of one member but of many. If the foot were to say, 'Because I am not a hand, I do not belong to the body', that would not make it any less a part of the body. And if the ear were to say, 'Because I am not an eye, I do not belong to the body', that would not make it any less a part of the body. If the whole body were an eye, where would the hearing be? If the whole body were hearing, where would the sense of smell be? But as it is, God arranged the members in the body, each one of them, as he chose. If all were a single member, where would the body be? As it is, there are many members, yet one body. The eye cannot say to the hand, 'I have no need of you', nor again the head to the feet, 'I have no need of you.' On the contrary, the members of the body that seem to be weaker are indispensable, and those members of the body that we think less honourable we clothe with greater honour, and our less respectable members are treated with greater respect; whereas our more respectable members do not need this. But God has so arranged the body, giving the greater honour to the inferior member, that there may be no dissension within the body, but the members may have the same care for one another. If one member suffers, all suffer together with it; if one member is honoured, all rejoice together with it.

Now you are the body of Christ and individually members of it.

One: This is the Word of the Lord.

All: **Thanks be to God.**

ANTHEM — *Christ Has No Hands but Ours* - Tom Potter

Chancel Choir

*Christ has no hands but ours to reach, to touch, to heal,
to welcome in community, to fashion family.
As servants of our God we carry out the call
to walk the road where saints have trod and bring good news to all.
We see with eyes of faith that still would follow stars.
As points of light, we point the way and chase away the dark.*

*God waters from above the good seed that we sow,
and brings to harvest all our work so that the Church will grow.*

*Marked with the cross of Christ, we, as a witness are
sent forth to be the Gospel for Christ has no hands but ours.*

--adapted from the writings of Saint Teresa of Ávila

NEW TESTAMENT READING — *Romans 12:9-18*

Let love be genuine; hate what is evil, hold fast to what is good; love one another with mutual affection; outdo one another in showing honour. Do not lag in zeal, be ardent in spirit, serve the Lord. Rejoice in hope, be patient in suffering, persevere in prayer. Contribute to the needs of the saints; extend hospitality to strangers.

Bless those who persecute you; bless and do not curse them. Rejoice with those who rejoice, weep with those who weep. Live in harmony with one another; do not be haughty, but associate with the lowly; do not claim to be wiser than you are. Do not repay anyone evil for evil, but take thought for what is noble in the sight of all. If it is possible, so far as it depends on you, live peaceably with all.

The grass withers, the flower fades, but the word of the Lord will stand forever.

One: This is the Word of the Lord.

All: **Thanks be to God.**

SERMON

Take My Hands & Feet

Pastor Rachel Rhodes

HYMN — *In Christ There Is No East or West*

ST. PETER

*In Christ there is no east or west,
in him no south or north,
but one great fellowship of love
throughout the whole wide earth.*

*In Christ shall true hearts everywhere
their high communion find;
his service is the golden cord
close-binding humankind.*

*Join hands, disciples of the faith,
whate'er your race may be.
All children of the living God
are surely kin to me.*

*In Christ now meet both east and west;
in him meet south and north.
All Christly souls are one in him
throughout the whole wide earth.*

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 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! 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.

OFFERING

Invitation to Give

Offertory Music — *Beneath the Cross of Jesus* - F. C. Maker

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 Jesus, I Have Promised*

ANGEL'S STORY

*O Jesus, I have promised to serve thee to the end;
be thou forever near me, my Master and my friend;
I shall not fear the battle if thou art by my side,
nor wander from the pathway if thou wilt be my guide.*

*O let me feel thee near me! The world is ever near:
I see the sights that dazzle; the tempting sounds I hear.
My foes are ever near me, around me and within;
but, Jesus, draw thou nearer and shield my soul from sin.*

*O let me hear thee speaking in accents clear and still,
above the storms or passion, the murmurs of self-will;
O speak to reassure me, to hasten or control;
O speak, and make me listen, thou guardian of my soul.*

*O Jesus, thou hast promised to all who follow thee
that where thou art in glory there shall thy servant be.
And, Jesus, I have promised to serve thee to the end;
O give me grace to follow, my Master and my friend.*

POSTLUDE — *The Rejoicing from Music for the Royal Fireworks* - George Handel

QUESTIONS for REFLECTION

- What could it look like to offer your hands and your feet to God?
- How might God be calling you to do this more faithfully?

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.***

LENTEN MISSION PROJECT

This Lenten season we are collecting items to make a birthday cake for our Food Center clients. If you are able, we are asking you to fill a bag with the following items: cake mix, tub of icing, candles, and sprinkles for decorating. Bags can be dropped off in the Communication Center before/after Sunday worship, any Monday night from 7:00 - 8:00 p.m. or any Tuesday morning from 9:00 - 11:00 a.m. Thank you for helping to care for our neighbors!

UKRAINE RELIEF FUND

The Presbyterian Disaster Assistance (PDA) is working to aid those impacted by the war in Ukraine, 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 war. The MPC Outreach Committee has already made the commitment to assist the PDA, so might you also help? You may write a check made out to MPC and place "Ukraine Relief" on the comment line, or donate online at mpcusa.org/give and notate "Ukraine Relief" in the notes. There will also be baskets in the Sanctuary labelled "Ukraine Relief". Please visit pda.pcusa.org/situation/Ukraine to know more about PDA's efforts and to give directly to PDA for help in Ukraine.

... *beat their swords into plowshares, and their spears into pruning hooks...* - Isaiah 2:4

FREE CONCERT THIS SATURDAY

The College of New Jersey Choirs will present a free concert entitled "Dances of the Spirit" on Saturday, March 26 at 7:00 p.m. in the Sanctuary. They will perform Leonard Bernstein's *Chichester Psalms*, Benjamin Britten's *Rejoice in the Lamb*, and other well-known choral works. The choirs are directed by John Leonard and will be joined by organist Andrew Kotylo. A free will offering will be taken to support MPC's music program. Masks are required.

IN-PERSON EDUCATION AND MUSIC HAS RETURNED!

We have returned to in-person worship and music programs, as well as most education programs. Below you will also find specific updates for each activity.

EDUCATION

- Pre-K through High School Sunday School classes have returned to in-person sessions from 9:30 a.m. to 10:15 a.m.
- Confirmation Class is meeting in-person from 9:00 a.m. to 10:00 a.m.
- For the time being, Adult Sunday School will continue to meet over Zoom from 9:00 a.m. to 10:00 a.m.

If you would like to be added to the Adult Education email distribution list or if you have any questions about Children's Sunday School or Confirmation Class, please be in touch with Pastor Alex at alexlester-abdalla@mpcusa.net.

MUSIC

- Chancel Choir (Adult Choir) has returned to in-person rehearsals.
- Teen Choir rehearsal has returned after worship.
- Children's Music has returned during worship.
- God's Thunder (Youth Handbell Choir) returned for in-person rehearsals.

If you would like more information about any of our choir programs, please be in touch with Music Director Tim Carpenter, at timcarpenter@mpcusa.net.

Lenten Sermon Series—"Take My Life"



Today leading up to Palm Sunday, join us during worship for our Lenten Sermon Series which will be led by our pastors based on the hymn, "Take My Life." Each week we will discover what it means to give to God our moments & days, hands & feet, voice & lips, will & heart and our love & whole self.

MPC *Weekly Calendar*

SUNDAY, March 20 - Third Sunday in Lent

9:00 a.m.	Adult Sunday School	via Zoom
9:00	Confirmation Class	Room 200
9:30	Pre-K - High School	
	Sunday School	
10:30	Worship Service	Sanctuary
10:30	Worship Service	Livestream
11:30	Teen Choir	Music Room

MONDAY, March 21

6:30 p.m.	Mostly Motets	Sanctuary
7:00	Boy Scout Troop 3	Fellowship Hall
7:30	Session Meeting	Conference Room

TUESDAY, March 22

6:00 p.m.	Cub Scout Pack 3	Fellowship Hall
6:00	Pack 3 - Webelos	Room 104
6:30	Alcoholics Anonymous	Room 220

WEDNESDAY, March 23

9:00 a.m.	Food Center	Parking Lot
Noon	Brown Bag & Bible Study	Conference Room
7:00 p.m.	God's Thunder Rehearsal	Sanctuary
7:00	Girl Scout Troop 2888	Room 220
7:30	Chancel Chimes Rehearsal	Sanctuary

THURSDAY, March 24

10:00 a.m.	Clothing Center	Room 4
Noon	Alcoholics Anonymous	Room 220
6:30 p.m.	Oakville Girl Scouts	Room 220
7:00	Chancel Choir	Sanctuary

FRIDAY, March 25

6:00 p.m.	Pack 3 - Wolf Den	Fellowship Hall
6:00	TCNJ Chorus Rehearsal	Sanctuary
6:30	Cub Scout Pack 3	Fellowship Hall
7:00	AA Meeting	Room 220 & Lounge

SATURDAY, March 26

11:00 a.m.	Youth Club	Off Site
5:00 p.m.	TCNJ Chorus Rehearsal	Sanctuary
7:00	TCNJ Chorus Concert	Sanctuary

SUNDAY, March 27 - Fourth Sunday in Lent

9:00 a.m.	Adult Sunday School	via Zoom
9:00	Confirmation Class	Room 200
9:30	Pre-K - High School	
	Sunday School	
10:30	Worship Service	Sanctuary
10:30	Worship Service	Livestream
11:30	Teen Choir	Music Room
1:00 p.m.	Boy Scout Merit Badge Class	Room 220

CONTACT US

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