



*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 APRIL 10, 2022
PALM SUNDAY

GATHERING

PRELUDE — *Peuple Chantez (People Sing!)* - J. B. Faure / arr. T. R. Carpenter

Chancel Chimes &
Yun Kang, piano

CALL to WORSHIP

Wendy Yazujian

One: Awake to the day of triumph for our Savior!

All: Give thanks for this day that leads to the cross!

One: Come with your branches, hosannas, and songs! Fill the air with welcome to the Lord!

All: Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord!

HYMN — *All Glory, Laud, and Honor*

VALET WILL ICH DIR GEBEN

Refrain:

*All glory, laud, and honor to thee, Redeemer, King,
to whom the lips of children made sweet hosannas ring!*

*Thou art the King of Israel, thou David's royal Son,
who in the Lord's name comest, the King and blessed One.*

Refrain

*The people of the Hebrews with palms before thee went;
our praise and prayers and anthems before thee we present.*

Refrain

*To thee, before thy passion, they sang their hymns of praise;
to thee, now high exalted, our melody we raise.*

Refrain

*Thou didst accept their praises; accept the prayers we bring,
who in all good delightest, thou good and gracious King!*

Refrain

PRAYER of CONFESSION

Pastor Alex Lester-Abdalla

O Lord, who on this day entered the rebellious city that later rejected you, we confess that our wills are as rebellious as Jerusalem's, that our faith is often more show than substance, that our hearts are in need of cleansing. Have mercy on us, Son of David, Savior of our lives. Help us to lay at your feet all that we have and all that we are, trusting you to forgive what is sinful, to heal what is broken, to welcome our praises, and to receive us as your own.

SILENT PRAYERS of CONFESSION

Here each worshiper may offer silent prayers of confession.

PROMISE *of* FORGIVENESS

One: Hear the Word of the Lord from Psalm 118: *Let those who fear the Lord say, "His steadfast love endures forever." Out of my distress I called on the Lord; the Lord answered me and set me free. The Lord is my strength and my song; he has become my salvation. I shall not die, but I shall live, and recount the deeds of the Lord.* In Christ, God answers us and sets us free! 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

OLD TESTAMENT READING — *Psalm 118:1-2, 19-29*

One: O give thanks to the Lord, for he is good;

All: **His steadfast love endures forever!**

One: Let Israel say,

All: **"His steadfast love endures forever."**

One: Open to me the gates of righteousness, that I may enter through them and give thanks to the Lord. This is the gate of the Lord; the righteous shall enter through it.

All: **I thank you that you have answered me and have become my salvation.**

One: The stone that the builders rejected has become the chief cornerstone.

All: **This is the Lord's doing; it is marvelous in our eyes.**

One: This is the day that the Lord has made;

All: **Let us rejoice and be glad in it.**

One: Save us, we beseech you, O Lord! O Lord, we beseech you, give us success!

All: **Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord. We bless you from the house of the Lord. The Lord is God, and he has given us light.**

One: Bind the festal procession with branches, up to the horns of the altar.

All: **You are my God, and I will give thanks to you; you are my God, I will extol you.**

One: O give thanks to the Lord, for he is good,

All: **For his steadfast love endures forever.**

One: This is the Word of the Lord.

All: **Thanks be to God.**

ANTHEM — *A Stable Lamp is Lighted* - David Hurd

Chancel Choir & Erica Simon, flute

*A stable lamp is lighted whose glow shall wake the sky;
The stars shall bend their voices, and every stone shall cry;
And every stone shall cry, and straw like gold shall shine;
A barn shall harbor heaven, a stall become a shrine.*

*This Child through David's city shall ride in triumph by;
The palm shall strew its branches, and every stone shall cry;
And every stone shall cry, Though heavy, dull, and dumb,
And lie within the roadway to pave the kingdom come.*

*He shall be forsaken and yielded up to die;
The skies shall groan and darken, and every stone shall cry;
And every stone shall cry, for stony hearts of men:
God's blood upon the spearhead, God's love refused again.*

*But now, as at the ending, the low is lifted high;
The stars shall bend their voices, and every stone shall cry;
And every stone shall cry, in praises of the Child
By whose descent among us the worlds are reconciled.*
-- text by Richard Wilber

GOSPEL READING — *Luke 19:28-40*

After he had said this, he went on ahead, going up to Jerusalem.

When he had come near Bethphage and Bethany, at the place called the Mount of Olives, he sent two of the disciples, saying, ‘Go into the village ahead of you, and as you enter it you will find tied there a colt that has never been ridden. Untie it and bring it here. If anyone asks you, “Why are you untying it?” just say this: “The Lord needs it.”’ So those who were sent departed and found it as he had told them. As they were untying the colt, its owners asked them, ‘Why are you untying the colt?’ They said, ‘The Lord needs it.’ Then they brought it to Jesus; and after throwing their cloaks on the colt, they set Jesus on it. As he rode along, people kept spreading their cloaks on the road. As he was now approaching the path down from the Mount of Olives, the whole multitude of the disciples began to praise God joyfully with a loud voice for all the deeds of power that they had seen, saying, ‘Blessed is the king who comes in the name of the Lord! Peace in heaven, and glory in the highest heaven!’ Some of the Pharisees in the crowd said to him, ‘Teacher, order your disciples to stop.’ He answered, ‘I tell you, if these were silent, the stones would shout out.’

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

One: This is the Gospel of the Lord.

All: **Thanks be to God.**

SERMON

What Happened to Jesus?

Pastor Rhodes

HYMN — *My Song Is Love Unknown*

LOVE UNKNOWN

*My song is love unknown, my Savior's love to me,
Love to the loveless shown that they might lovely be.*

*O who am I that for my sake
My Lord should take frail flesh, and die?*

*He came from heaven's throne salvation to bestow;
The world that was his own would not its Savior know.
But O my Friend, my Friend indeed,
Who at my need his life did spend!*

*Sometimes we strew his way, and his sweet praises sing,
Resounding all the day hosannas to our King.
Then "Crucify!" is all our breath,
And for his death we thirst and cry.*

*Unheeding, we will have our dear Lord made away,
A murderer to save, the prince of life to slay.
Yet steadfast be to suffering goes,
That he his foes from thence might free.*

*Here might I stay and sing, no story so divine:
Never was love, dear King, never was grief like thine.
This is my Friend, in whose sweet praise
I all my days could gladly spend.*

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

We trust in Jesus Christ, fully human, fully God. Jesus proclaimed the reign of God: preaching good news to the poor and release to the captives, teaching by word and deed and blessing the children, healing the sick and binding up the brokenhearted, eating with outcasts, forgiving sinners, and calling all to repent and believe the gospel. Unjustly condemned for blasphemy and sedition, Jesus was crucified, suffering the depths of human pain and giving his life for the sins of the world. God raised this Jesus from the dead, vindicating his sinless life, breaking the power of sin and evil, delivering us from death to life eternal. With believers in every time and place, we rejoice that nothing in life or in death can separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord. Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit. 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 — *Morceau de Concours* - Gabriel Fauré

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 — *At the Name of Jesus*

KING'S WESTON

*At the name of Jesus every knee shall bow,
every tongue confess him King of glory now:
'tis the Father's pleasure we should call him Lord,
who from the beginning was the mighty Word.*

*Humbled for a season to receive a name
from the lips of sinners unto whom he came,
faithfully he bore it spotless to the last,
brought it back victorious, when from death he passed;*

*Bore it up triumphant, with its human light,
through all ranks of creatures, to the central height,
to the throne of Godhead, to the Father's breast,
filled it with the glory of that perfect rest.*

*Christians, this Lord Jesus shall return again,
with his Father's glory o'er the earth to reign;
for all wreaths of empire meet upon his brow,
and our hearts confess him King of glory now.*

POSTLUDE — *Palm Sunday Procession* - Phil Lehenbauer

QUESTION *for* REFLECTION

- How will you allow yourself to experience all of Holy Week?

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.*



Holy Week Services

Maundy Thursday Worship Service - April 14

6:00 p.m.

Sanctuary and Livestream

Easter Sunday Worship Services - April 17

8:30 a.m. Worship Service - Memorial Garden

10:30 a.m. Worship Service - Sanctuary & Livestream

See below for more details

TODAY'S GUEST ARTIST

Our flutist this morning is Erica Simon, Principal Flute of the Capitol Philharmonic, New Jersey. Please take a moment after the service to welcome and thank Erica for sharing her musical talent.

NO SUNDAY SCHOOL ON EASTER

Due to Easter, we will not be having Sunday School on April 17th. We hope you will join us at either our 8:30 am service in the Memorial Gardens or at our 10:30 am service in the sanctuary. We look forward to seeing you as we join to celebrate Jesus Christ's resurrection together!

HOLY WEEK SERVICES SCHEDULE

Join us this Thursday, April 14 for our Maundy Thursday worship service at 6:00 p.m. in the Sanctuary. Communion will be by intinction. This service will also be livestreamed.

On Easter Sunday, April 17, two services will be held. At 8:30 a.m. a scaled back worship service will be held outside in the Memorial Garden. This service will have an expanded children's message and hymns will be sung a 'Capella. Families are requested to bring their own chairs. In the event of rain, the service will be moved indoors at an announced location and masking will be required.

At 10:30 a.m. a traditional service will be held in the Sanctuary. The 10:30 service will also be livestreamed.

SPRING HAS SPRUNG AT THE MPC CLOTHING CENTER

The MPC Clothing Center has many new spring and summer offerings ready for purchase every Thursday from 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.. Masks are optional. Also, as you are cleaning out your closets, we are accepting slightly worn clean spring and summer clothing as well as any household items. The donation bin is located on the basement level. **As always, please do not leave donations outside when the church is locked.** . Hope to see you soon.

JOIN US FOR A FIVE-YEAR CELEBRATION

Pastor Rachel Rhodes has been with MPC for 5 years! Please join us in the Memorial Garden on Sunday, April 24 following worship to celebrate Rachel's leadership and the life of our church. A basket will be available to collect cards if you so choose to write a personal note of gratitude or memory. We look forward to this special fellowship hour celebrating Rachel!

ONE GREAT HOUR OF SHARING

Around the world, millions of people lack access to sustainable food sources, clean water, sanitation, education, and opportunity. The three programs supported by One Great Hour of Sharing — Presbyterian Disaster Assistance, the Presbyterian Hunger Program, and Self-Development of People — all work in different ways to serve individuals and communities in need. From initial disaster response to ongoing community development, their work fits together to provide people with safety, sustenance, and hope.

Received during the season of Lent, each gift to One Great Hour of Sharing (OGHS) helps to improve the lives of people in these challenging situations. The Offering provides us a way to share God's love with our neighbors in need. In fact, OGHS is the single, largest way that Presbyterians come together every year to work for a better world.

- **PRESBYTERIAN DISASTER ASSISTANCE (PDA)** - (32%)
Works alongside communities as they recover and find hope after the devastation of natural or human-caused disasters, and support for refugees.
- **PRESBYTERIAN HUNGER PROGRAM (PHP)** - (36%)
Takes action to alleviate hunger, care for creation, and address the systemic causes of poverty so all may be fed.
- **SELF-DEVELOPMENT OF PEOPLE (SDOP)** - (32%)
Invests in communities responding to their experiences of oppression, poverty and injustice and educates Presbyterians about the impact of these issues.

This offering will be collected on Easter Sunday, April 17. Please indicate your offering as "OGHS" whether you are using a check or online. As in the past, thank you for your generous support to this offering.

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MPC Weekly Calendar

SUNDAY, April 10 - Palm Sunday

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, April 11

Noon	Deborah Circle	Lounge
6:30 p.m.	Mostly Motets	Music Room
7:00	Boy Scout Troop 3	Fellowship Hall
7:00	Rebecca Circle	Lounge
7:00	Trustees Meeting	

TUESDAY, April 12

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

WEDNESDAY, April 13

9:00 a.m.	Food Center	Parking Lot
Noon	Brown Bag & Bible Study	Conference Room
7:00 p.m.	Finance Meeting	
7:00	Girl Scout Troop 2888	Fellowship Hall

THURSDAY, April 14 - Maundy Thursday

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

FRIDAY, April 15 - Good Friday

Church Office closes at 1:00 p.m.

6:00 p.m.	Pack 3 - Wolf Den	Fellowship Hall
7:00	AA Meeting	Room 220 & Lounge

SATURDAY, April 16

SUNDAY, April 17 - Easter Sunday

8:30 a.m.	Worship Service	Memorial Garden
10:30	Worship Service	Sanctuary
10:30	Worship Service	Livestream
11:30	Teen Choir	Music Room

To view upcoming events and meetings,
please visit www.mpcusa.org
and click on "Calendar" from the home page.

THANK YOU! UKRAINE RELIEF FUND CONTINUES

MPC has always been a most generous church and it continues to be! A combination of your donations and \$875 from the recent College of New Jersey choir concert held at MPC have totaled \$10,000 in contributions to date being sent to The Presbyterian Disaster Assistance (pda.pcusa.org) specifically to aid those impacted by the war in Ukraine. MPC has assisted the PDA for years, and now MPC (that's you!) continues to reach out to our brothers and sisters in Christ being affected by this awful war. Your contributions are still welcomed to add to this fund, using a check made out to MPC with "Ukraine Relief" placed on the comment line. There will also be baskets in the sanctuary labelled "Ukraine Relief". The MPC Outreach Committee continues to monitor the situation and continues to ask for your prayers.

New Members Class Believing—Belonging—Becoming April 24, May 1, May 15

If you are not a member at MPC, we would love for you to consider joining us in ministry and mission. This three-week class, led by Pastor Rachel Rhodes and Pastor Alex Lester-Abdalla, will be an opportunity to explore church membership, whether you're ready to join or just curious about what that would mean.

We will explore topics like:

- What do we believe as Presbyterians?
- How are we called to be the church in the world?
- What does ministry and mission look like at MPC?
- Who is it that God is calling me to be and how can I seek to pursue God's call more fully through membership at MPC?

This class will gather at 9:00 a.m. for three Sundays and you'll be welcomed into membership during worship on Sunday, May 22.

If you are interested in participating, please contact the church office at 215-295-4191 or office@mpcusa.org by Wednesday, April 20.

CONTACT US

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