



*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 30, 2022
FOURTH SUNDAY
after EPIPHANY

GATHERING

PRELUDE — *Let Us Break Bread Together* - Mark Hayes

Yun Kang

CALL to WORSHIP

AK Rosenbaum

One: Praise the Lord, who has shown us the wonders of his unfailing love; and who, for the sake of his name, leads us and guides us.

All: In you, O Lord, we put our trust. You are our God, and our lives are in your hands.

One: Lord, let the light of your face shine on us as we celebrate together in your presence.

All: For our eyes have seen your glory and our hearts will leap for joy. 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 -

Pastor Alex Lester-Abdalla

Most gracious and most merciful God, we confess to you and to one another that time after time we have entered your presence with countless prayers, but with hearts that have been closed to your grace. We have lifted our hands to you in praise, but our feet have still walked in the ways of evil. We have rehearsed your commandments, but have refused to see your face in the needs of our neighbor. We pray, O Lord, that you forgive our lack of faith and pardon our acts of injustice. Grant us the healing that comes from your presence. May our hearts be molded for your service alone.

SILENT PRAYERS of CONFESSION

Here each worshiper may offer silent prayers of confession.

PROMISE of FORGIVENESS

One: The Psalmist says: *But I trust in you, O Lord, I say 'You are my God.' My times are in your hands; deliver me from my enemies and from those who pursue me. Let your face shine on your servant; save me in your unfailing love.* Friends, in Christ, God hears; God answers; God sets us free. And so, together 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

PSALTER LESSON — *Psalm 31:1-4, 15-16*

One: In you, O Lord, I seek refuge; do not let me ever be put to shame; in your righteousness deliver me.
All: **Incline your ear to me; rescue me speedily. Be a rock of refuge for me, a strong fortress to save me.**
One: You are indeed my rock and my fortress; for your name's sake lead me and guide me,
All: **Take me out of the net that is hidden for me, for you are my refuge.**
One: My times are in your hand; deliver me from the hand of my enemies and persecutors.
All: **Let your face shine upon your servant; save me in your steadfast love.**
One: This is the Word of the Lord.
All: **Thanks be to God.**

OLD TESTAMENT LESSON — *Lamentations 3:1-9, 19-24*

I am one who has seen affliction
under the rod of God's wrath;
he has driven and brought me
into darkness without any light;
against me alone he turns his hand,
again and again, all day long.
He has made my flesh and my skin waste
away,
and broken my bones;
he has besieged and enveloped me
with bitterness and tribulation;
he has made me sit in darkness
like the dead of long ago.
He has walled me about so that I cannot
escape;
he has put heavy chains on me;
though I call and cry for help,
he shuts out my prayer;
he has blocked my ways with hewn stones,
he has made my paths crooked.

The thought of my affliction and my home-
lessness
is wormwood and gall!
My soul continually thinks of it
and is bowed down within me.
But this I call to mind,
and therefore I have hope:
The steadfast love of the Lord never ceases,
his mercies never come to an end;
they are new every morning;
great is your faithfulness.
'The Lord is my portion,' says my soul,
'therefore I will hope in him.'

One: This is the Word of the Lord.
All: **Thanks be to God.**

SERMON

When Words Don't Reach

Pastor Rachel Rhodes

HYMN — *When Peace like a River*

VILLE DU HAVRE

*When peace like a river attendeth my way,
when sorrows like sea billows roll,
whatever my lot, thou hast taught me to say,
it is well, it is well with my soul.
It is well with my soul; it is well; it is well with my soul.*

*He lives: O the bliss of this glorious thought.
My sin, not in part, but the whole,
is nailed to the cross and I bear it no more.
Praise the Lord, praise the Lord, O my soul!
It is well with my soul; it is well; it is well with my soul.*

*Lord, hasten the day when our faith shall be sight,
the clouds be rolled back as a scroll,
the trumpet shall sound and the Lord shall descend;
even so it is well with my soul.
It is well with my soul; it is well; it is well with my soul.*

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.

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

HYMN — *Great Is Thy Faithfulness*

FAITHFULNESS

*Great is thy faithfulness, O God my Father;
there is no shadow of turning with thee.
Thou changed not; compassions they fail not.
As thou hast been thou forever wilt be*

Refrain:

*Great is thy faithfulness! Great is thy faithfulness!
Morning by morning, new mercies I see.
All I have needed thy hand hath provided.
Great is thy faithfulness, Lord unto me!*

*Summer and winter, springtime and harvest,
sun, moon, and stars in their courses above
join with all nature in manifold witness
to thy great faithfulness, mercy, and love.*

Refrain

*Pardon for sin and a peace that endureth,
thine own dear presence to cheer and to guide,
strength for today and bright hope for tomorrow:
blessings all mine, written thousand beside!*

Refrain

POSTLUDE — *Lord of the Dance* - Sydney Carter

QUESTIONS *for* REFLECTION

- How do you typically respond when facing suffering?
- How might God invite you to respond differently?

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.***

ADULT SUNDAY SCHOOL CONTINUES!

Priesthood of All Believers: Even though we cannot gather in person, we will not let that keep us from gathering all together! Adult Sunday School will continue to meet every Sunday from 9:00 a.m. to 10:00 a.m. over Zoom to discuss the Bible passages selected for that day's sermon. In the past, folks have mentioned how fruitful an experience it can be to discern the work of the Holy Spirit in Bible Study and Worship on the same day. We hope you will join us each week as we continue to gather for worship and nurture in this way. Please email Pastor Alex at alexlester-abdalla@mpcusa.net for the Zoom link if you are interested.

BOOK DISTRIBUTION UPDATED NEEDS AND REQUESTS:

Cold weather is bringing changes, but we are still finding ways to continue to distribute books. We have depleted the reserves of dictionaries and Bibles so if you have copies of either item, we can distribute them immediately. Currently, 90% of the books taken are those read by children under the age of 5. Almost no books (except Harry Potter and Lemony Snicket) for children above the third grade are taken. We have great interest in children's books on dinosaurs, trucks, "Disney Princesses" (including Pinkalicious, Dora, etc.). New coloring books are always welcome. Adults take current best sellers (published within the past couple of years), cookbooks, religious books, and Civil War books.

If you have books that fall outside of the above categories, you will find Good Stuff on Route 1 will usually take them. The Salvation Army and Good Will, a short distance away from Good Stuff, also take books.

For the time being, please do not drop off large used toys. There is no place to store them while we wait for the weather to warm up and the handling of them is too time consuming for the current volunteers. If we decide to add toys we will need a separate volunteer to handle this category. If you are interested in working with donated toys, please contact Susan Light at susanklight@gmail.com. Thank you for your generous and cheerful support.

*MPC Weekly Calendar**

SUNDAY, January 30			THURSDAY, February 3		
9:00 a.m.	Adult Sunday School	via Zoom	10:00 a.m.	Clothing Center	Room 4
10:30	Worship Service	Livestream	Noon	Alcoholics Anonymous	Room 220
MONDAY, January 31			FRIDAY, February 4		
TUESDAY, February 1			7:00 p.m.	AA Meeting	Room 220
6:30 p.m.	Alcoholics Anonymous	Room 220	SATURDAY, February 5		
7:00	Food Center	Parking Lot	SUNDAY, February 6		
WEDNESDAY, February 2			9:00 a.m.	Adult Sunday School	via Zoom
9:00 a.m.	Food Center	Parking Lot	10:30	Worship Service	Livestream
Noon	Brown Bag & Bible Study	via Zoom			

Please note that some events listed on the calendar may be cancelled, moved to another location, or be held virtually due to COVID restrictions at MPC. Please contact the leaders of the organizations for updated information.

Please visit www.mpcusa.org for the latest information regarding worship and activities within the building.

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