



*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
FOURTH SUNDAY of LENT
MARCH 10, 2024

GATHERING

PRELUDE — *All the Way My Savior Leads Me* - Adam Mason

Yun Kang

WORDS of WELCOME

Pastor Brian Ballard

INTROIT — *Come, Worship God* from *Paris Antiphoner*

Chancel Choir

*Come, worship God, who is worthy of honor;
enter God's presence with thanks and a song!
You are the rock of your people's salvation
to whom our jubilant praises belong.*

*Now let us listen, for you speak among us;
open our hearts to receive what you say.
Peace be to all who remember your goodness,
trust in your word, and rejoice in your way!*

CALL to WORSHIP

Pastor Rachel Rhodes

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

All: God's steadfast love endures for ever.

One: Let everyone give thanks for God's steadfast love.

All: Let us give thanks for God's wonderful works to humankind.

One: Let us offer thanksgiving sacrifices.

All: And tell of God's deeds with songs of joy.

HYMN — *For the Beauty of the Earth*

DIX

*For the beauty of the earth, for the glory of the skies,
for the love which for our birth over and around us lies:
Lord of all, to thee we raise this our hymn of grateful praise.*

*For the wonder of each hour of the day and of the night,
hill and vale, and tree and flower, sun and moon, and stars of light:
Lord of all, to thee we raise this our hymn of grateful praise.*

*For the joy of ear and eye, for the heart and mind's delight,
for the mystic harmony linking sense to sound and sight:
Lord of all, to thee we raise this our hymn of grateful praise.*

*For the joy of human love, brother, sister, parent, child,
friends on earth, and friends above, for all gentle thoughts and mild:
Lord of all, to thee we raise this our hymn of grateful praise.*

*For thyself, best gift divine to the world so freely given;
for that great, great love of thine, peace on earth and joy in heaven:
Lord of all, to thee we raise this our hymn of grateful praise.*

PRAYER of CONFESSION

Adrienne Poissant

Merciful God, we confess the folly of our sin and the hypocrisy of our complaints. We grumble about the evils in our world, even as we commit injustices and profit through deceit. We fret about the scarcity of resources while hoarding earth's goods and cheating the poor. We protest the problems of our world, but we do not actively work to address them. Merciful God, expose our sins before the light of your grace. Heal our sin and free us from our foolish ways that we may know the joy of eternal life in Jesus Christ.

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

PROMISE of FORGIVENESS

One: God did not send the Son into the world to condemn the world but in order that the world might be saved through him:

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 107: 1-3, 17-22*

O give thanks to the Lord, for he is good;
for his steadfast love endures for ever.

Let the redeemed of the Lord say so,
those he redeemed from trouble
and gathered in from the lands,
from the east and from the west,
from the north and from the south.

Some were sick through their sinful ways,
and because of their iniquities endured affliction;
they loathed any kind of food,
and they drew near to the gates of death.
Then they cried to the Lord in their trouble,
and he saved them from their distress;
he sent out his word and healed them,
and delivered them from destruction.

Let them thank the Lord for his steadfast love,
for his wonderful works to humankind.
And let them offer thanksgiving sacrifices,
and tell of his deeds with songs of joy.

One: This is the Word of the Lord.

All: **Thanks be to God!**

ANTHEM — *I Believe* - Mark A. Miller

*I Believe in the sun – even when it's not shining.
I Believe in love – even when I don't feel it.
I Believe in God – even when God is silent.*

--anonymous Jewish poem

TIME for YOUNG DISCIPLES

Pastor Alex Lester-Abdalla

GOSPEL READING — *Numbers 21:4-9*

From Mount Hor they set out by the way to the Red Sea, to go around the land of Edom; but the people became impatient on the way. The people spoke against God and against Moses, 'Why have you brought us up out of Egypt to die in the wilderness? For there is no food and no water, and we detest this miserable food.' Then the Lord sent poisonous serpents among the people, and they bit the people, so that many Israelites died. The people came to Moses and said, 'We have sinned by speaking against the Lord and against you; pray to the Lord to take away the serpents

from us.’ So Moses prayed for the people. And the Lord said to Moses, ‘Make a poisonous serpent, and set it on a pole; and everyone who is bitten shall look at it and live.’ So Moses made a serpent of bronze, and put it upon a pole; and whenever a serpent bit someone, that person would look at the serpent of bronze and live.

One: This is the Word of the Lord.

All: **Thanks be to God!**

SERMON

Life and Death and Snakes

Pastor Ballard

HYMN — *Now Thank We All Our God*

NUN DANKET ALLE GOTT

*Now thank we all our God with heart and hands and voices,
who wondrous things hath done, in whom this world rejoices;
who, from our mothers' arms, hath blessed us on our way
with countless gifts of love, and still is ours today.*

*O may this bounteous God through all our life be near us,
with ever joyful hearts and blessed peace to cheer us;
and keep us in God's grace, and guide us when perplexed,
and free us from all ills in this world and the next.*

*All praise and thanks to God, who reigns in highest heaven,
to Father and to Son and spirit now be given:
the one eternal God, whom heaven and earth adore,
the God who was, and is, and shall be evermore.*

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.

PRAYERS of the PEOPLE

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 — *The Old Rugged Cross* - George Bennard

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 — *When I Survey the Wondrous Cross*

HAMBURG

*When I survey the wondrous cross on which the Prince of glory died,
my richest gain I count but loss, and pour contempt on all my pride.
Forbid it, Lord, that I should boast, save in the death of Christ my God;
all the vain things that charm me most, I sacrifice them to his blood
See, from his head, his hands, his feet, sorrow and love flow mingled down;
did e'er such love and sorrow meet, or thorns compose so rich a crown?
Were the whole realm of nature mine, that were a present far too small;
love so amazing, so divine, demands my soul, my life, my all.*

CHARGE and BLESSING

BENEDICTION RESPONSE — *Amen*

POSTLUDE — *Postlude No. 1 in C Major* - Kyle Saint-Sauveur

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 by Jonathan and Heidi Dous in loving memory of Jonathan's parents, Bob and Dottie Dous and Heidi's Dad, Ron Stohler: "The years may pass but their memories are always close in the hearts of our whole family." The second arrangement is given by Tom and Robin Evans honoring Birthday Week in the Evans' household: Today is Robin's birthday; Robin's mother will be 92 on Tuesday; and daughter Cara's birthday is Wednesday. Your MPC family celebrates you, also!

MPC NOMINATING COMMITTEE NEEDS YOUR HELP

Each year the MPC Nominating Committee is tasked with selecting individuals from our church membership to serve with energy, intelligence, imagination, and love, as Deacons, Elders, and Trustees. As we discern God's will for the next chapter of leadership in the life of our church, the MPC Nominating Committee would love to hear from you!

If you would like to nominate someone who may be particularly gifted to serve as an Elder, Deacon, or Trustee in the life of our church, please send their name(s) to the Nominating Committee Chairperson, Dan Jones, at djones@fresnelpartners.com. We can't wait to see where the Spirit will lead us next!

MARCH'S FOOD CENTER REQUEST

Our Food Center is asking for peanut butter as this month's food donation. For safety reasons, peanut butter packaged in plastic jars is preferred. A shopping cart has been put in the Welcome Center to receive your donations. Thank you for your continued generous help!

REBECCA CIRCLE MEETS TOMORROW

All women of MPC are welcome to become part of Rebecca Circle. This group meets monthly on the second Monday in the evening from September-May to share faith, fun and fellowship. Our next meeting is tomorrow, Monday, March 11 at 7:00 p.m. in the Lounge. Pastor Brian Ballard will lead us in a Lenten program. For more information text or call Jen Jones 215 962-3655. See you there?

DEBORAH CIRCLE MEETING

Don't forget that Deborah Circle meets tomorrow at noon in the Lounge.

MARCH ADULT SUNDAY SCHOOL CONCLUDES NEXT WEEK

Women are essential to the story of God's salvation in the Bible. From well known characters like Eve and Mary to the important lesser known people like Miriam and Esther, women have shaped faith and life throughout the Biblical narrative. So we hope you will join us to study these powerful figures as we continue this Adult Sunday School class taught by Kathryn Jervis on March 17. Come and learn in our Conference Room, located on the second floor, from 9:30 to 10:15 a.m.

MPC BOOK DISCUSSIONS FOR FELLOWSHIP AND LEARNING.

We have two interesting book selections to read together and gather to discuss in the coming months. We will meet on March 18, April 15 and May 20 at 7:00 p.m. in the Lounge. All are welcome and feel free to bring a friend. Selections for our discussions:

March 18: *A History of Christianity: the First Three Thousand Years* by Diarmaid MacCulloch. Discussion led by Jill Monroe Dillon and Alan Dillon will cover the first four chapters (pages 19 - 154) which includes "Part I A Millennium of Beginnings (1000BC - 100 CE)" and the first two chapters of "Part II One Church, One Faith, One Lord? (4 BCE - 451 CE)." Please include the "Introduction" (pages 1-15) in your reading. This book may be covered over one or two months.

Our next selection for April or May (TBD) will be *Caste: The Origins of Our Discontents* by Isabel Wilkerson. This by the same author of *The Warmth of Other Suns: The Epic Story of America's Great Migration* which we enjoyed reading together a few years back.

Get your own copy of the books (at the bookstore, library or on-line) and read at your leisure. Please contact Chris Bannister at bannistercr@gamil.com with your interest and questions.

BOOK DISTRIBUTION DURING CODE BLUE AND MORE UPDATES

During the month of March, we will provide reading materials to Code Blue participants who will be dinner and overnight guests of MPC. Joy Rees will make available compact books, including small New Testaments with magnifier cards, and magazines to our guests. If you have thin paperback copies of books, please put them in the special Book Distribution collection box in the Welcome Center. We are also looking for magazines like *National Geographic* or *Smithsonian* which contain a lot of pictures and upbeat stories. Books written for middle school ages are also often very interesting adult reads.

Simple cookbooks with healthy recipes that do not require expensive ingredients are now in high demand. The Book Distribution always needs more preschool board books, books in Spanish for children, and books for the early school grades. Alice Garcia and Joy Rees are distributing bibles and dictionaries to Food Center clients, and there is a need for a steady supply again. Small items (coloring books for all ages, bible stories, puzzles, battery free toys, board games, etc.) are also very welcome. Please contact Alice Garcia at 609-230-1786 about helping with the books during some Food Center distributions, and Susan Light at 215-801-8185 about helping with obtaining/processing books.

CLOTHING CENTER DONATIONS

The [MPC Clothing Center](#) is now accepting clean and gently used spring and summer clothes, as well as spring and Easter decorations. No fall and winter clothing, or Christmas and winter decorations will be accepted at that time as space does not allow for storage of off-season items. As a reminder, all donated items (housewares, linens, glass, china, etc.) must be washed and clean, and no donations should be left outside the church doors. Donations may be dropped off at any time when the church is open. Please place all donations on the shelves downstairs by the elevator.

Open each Thursday from 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m., the Clothing Center volunteers are committed to providing a pleasant shopping experience for our valued customers. The last day to shop before closing for the summer is June 13.

Profits from the Clothing Center are given to charitable agencies and organizations, both local and global, determined by the MPC Outreach Committee. Your continued support and cooperation are greatly appreciated. Thank you!

MPC BLOOD PRESSURE SCREENING

We are pleased to announce a Blood Pressure Screening event on Sunday, April 14. The screening will take place in the chapel after the service, starting at 11:45 a.m. To ensure a smooth and efficient screening process, we kindly ask you to:

- Wear clothing that will make your arm easily accessible for blood pressure monitoring.
- Limit your caffeine intake on the day of the screening.
- If you are on medication for blood pressure, please continue to take it as usual on the day of the screening.
- Bring your own personal blood pressure monitoring record on the day of screening if you wish.

Your health is our priority. We look forward to seeing you there!

UPDATING OUR DIRECTORY INFORMATION

We want to be sure that we have correct information to contact you. If unable to check at the Welcome Center in the church, please contact the church office at 215-295-4191 or office@mpcusa.org with your name and your correct/preferred address, phone number and email.

MPC Weekly Calendar

SUNDAY, March 10 - Fourth Sunday of Lent

8:30 a.m.	God's Thunder	Chapel
9:00	New Members Class	Lounge
9:30	Sunday School for all ages	
10:30	Worship Service -	Sanctuary & Livestream
11:30	Fellowship Hour	Lounge
	Host: Presbyterian Women	
11:45	Nominating Committee Meeting	Conference Room
11:45	Teen Choir	Music Room
Noon	Adonai Tabernacle	Room 220

MONDAY, March 11

9:30 a.m.	Ivins Outreach Center	Lounge
Noon	Deborah Circle	Lounge
5:30 p.m.	Food Packing	Food Center
6:30	Mostly Motets	Music Room
7:00	Boy Scout Troop 3	Fellowship Hall
7:00	Boy Scout Troop 3	Lounge
	Parent & Board Meeting	
7:00	Rebecca Circle	Lounge
7:00	Trustees Meeting	Conference Room

TUESDAY, March 12

9:00 a.m.	Produce Prep	Food Center
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WEDNESDAY, March 13

9:00 a.m.	Food Center Distribution	Parking Lot
Noon	Brown Bag & Bible Study	Conference Room

WEDNESDAY, March 13 (continued)

12:30 p.m.	Clothing Center Drop-off	Room 4
1:00	Prayer Meeting	Conference Room
6:00	Cub Scout Pack 3	Room 220
6:00	Youth Club	Fellowship Hall
7:00	Girl Scout Troop 2888	Room 220
7:15	Chancel Chimes	Chapel

THURSDAY, March 14

10:00 a.m.	Clothing Center	Room 4
6:00 p.m.	Oakville Girl Scouts	Fellowship Hall
7:00	Chancel Choir	Music Room

FRIDAY, March 15

6:30 p.m.	AA Meeting	Lounge
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SATURDAY, March 16

SUNDAY, March 17 - Fifth Sunday of Lent

8:30 a.m.	God's Thunder	Chapel
9:00	New Members Class	Lounge
9:30	Sunday School for all ages	
10:30	Worship Service -	Sanctuary & Livestream
11:30	Fellowship Hour	Lounge
	Host: Clothing Center	
11:45	Nominating Committee Meeting	Conference Room
11:45	Teen Choir	Music Room
Noon	Adonai Tabernacle	Room 220

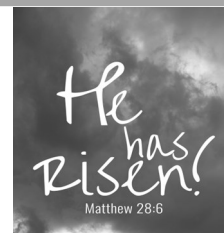
Join us this Holy Week



Palm Sunday
March 24, 10:30 a.m.
Sanctuary & Livestream



Maundy Thursday
March 28, 6:00 p.m.
Fellowship Hall



Easter Sunday
March 31, 10:30 a.m.
Sanctuary & Livestream

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