



*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
PALM SUNDAY
MARCH 24, 2024

GATHERING

PRELUDE — *Who is This From Galilee* - from *Southern Harmony*, 1854 Chancel Chimes

*Who is this from Galilee? Hosanna! Blessed is He!
Coming to Jerusalem, mighty Savior, humble Lamb
Heir of David, hail to thee! Hosanna! Our King has come.
Joyful crowds wave palms in praise. "Save us!" their entreaties raise.
But if voices cease to shout, as the Pharisees demand,
Even stones would all cry out, "Blessed is the Son of Man!"*

WORDS of WELCOME Pastor Alex Lester-Abdalla

INTROIT — *Ride On, King Jesus!* - arr. L. L. Fleming Chancel Choir

*Ride on, King Jesus, no man can hinder you!
When I looked around to find someone who's gentle and kind.
Someone to show me the way, I look to Jesus and I pray.
When I need someone to hear, to help me conquer my fear.
When I can't find my way, I look to Jesus and I pray.
Ride on, King Jesus, no man can hinder you!
--traditional spiritual*

CALL to WORSHIP Pastor Rachel Rhodes

One: The world belongs to God,
All: The earth and all its people.
One: How good it is, how wonderful,
All: To live together in unity.
One: Love and faith come together,
All: Justice and peace join hands.
One: If Christ's disciples keep silent,
All: These stones would shout aloud.
One: Open our lips, O God,
All: And our mouths shall proclaim your praise.

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
*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

Adrienne Poissant

Loving God, in this quiet time of prayer and meditation, we feel our souls stretching, reaching past our sins to be closer to you. Help us to look deep into ourselves, that our Lenten penitence might be about more than something to sacrifice, more than something to take on. In our inward gaze, may we find your voice that cries out with all creation, even when we are silent.

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

PROMISE of FORGIVENESS

One: Jesus' life shows us that transforming power of God's mercy in a world of hurt and pain. His ceaseless love and grace assures us of our forgiveness. 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.*

LITURGY of the WORD

ANTHEM — *If the People Keep Quiet* - Kyle Saint-Sauveur

I tell you, if the people keep quiet, the stones will cry out!

--Luke 19:40

TIME for YOUNG DISCIPLES

SCRIPTURE 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. Now as he was 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."

One: This is the Gospel of the Lord.

All: Thanks be to God!

SERMON

These Stones Would Shout Aloud

Pastor Lester-Abdalla

HYMN — *In a Deep, Unbounded Darkness*

DIVINUM MYSTERIUM

*In a deep, unbounded darkness, long before the first light shone,
you, O God, beyond all merit worked a wonder faith makes known:
in your mercy, in your mercy, you embraced us as your own,
evermore and evermore.*

*Though our world is everchanging, you are constant, firm, and sure,
faithful to your covenant promise. Trusting you, we live, secure;
singing praises, singing praises, long as heart and breath endure,
evermore and evermore.*

*Joy transforms our lips to boasting only in your matchless grace,
sending Christ to dwell among us, Word made flesh in time and space:
Friend and Savior, Friend and Savior, in whose life we glimpse your face,
evermore and evermore.*

OFFERING

Invitation to Give

Offertory Music — *Dearest Jesus, We are Here* - J. S. Bach, arr. Ron Mallory

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 A C R A M E N T *o f* B A P T I S M

PRESENTATION & PROMISES

PROFESSION *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.

THANKSGIVING OVER *the* WATER

BAPTISM & BLESSING

WELCOMING *the* NEWLY BAPTIZED

With joy and thanksgiving we welcome you into Christ's church, for we are all one in Christ. We promise to love, encourage, and support you, to share the good news of the gospel with you, and to help you know and follow Christ. Amen

R E C E P T I O N *o f* N E W M E M B E R S

PRESENTATION

PRAYER

Holy God, we praise you for calling us to be a servant people, and for joining us to Christ's body, the church. We praise you for leading new friends to this congregation. Empower us by your Spirit, that we might love one another as Christ loved us, honoring him in all that we say and do, giving our lives in service to others, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

S E N D I N G

HYMN — *Come! Live in the Light!*

WE ARE CALLED

*Come! Live in the light!
Shine with the joy and the love of the Lord!
We are called to be light for the kingdom,
to live in the freedom of the city of God.*

Refrain:

*We are called to act with justice;
we are called to love tenderly;
we are called to serve one another,
to walk humbly with God.*

*Come! Open your heart!
Show your mercy to all those in fear!
We are called to be hope for the hopeless
so hatred and violence will be no more.*

Refrain

*Sing! Sing a new song!
Sing of that great day when all will be one!
God will reign, and we'll walk with each other
as sisters and brothers united in love.*

Refrain

CHARGE and BLESSING

BENEDICTION RESPONSE — *Holy, Holy, Holy Lord* - American Folk Hymn, arr. R. Proulx
Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might.

Hosanna in the highest heaven, hosanna to the Lord. Amen

--traditional liturgical text

POSTLUDE — *Classical Postlude* - Franz Joseph Haydn

Yun Kang

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 Terri Danbury in loving memory of her mother, Florence Roberts. The second arrangement is given in loving memory of Florence "Peggy" Kohn by her children, grandchildren and great-grandchildren.

SACRAMENT OF BAPTISM

Receiving the sacrament of baptism today is William Lamont Byrd, as well as Sha'miia Eternity Byrd, O'shea Serenity Byrd, Osias Lamont Byrd, Aaila Honesty Byrd, and Eida Ember Byrd, all children of William and Michelle Byrd. Please join us in welcoming the newest members of Christ's church.

NO SUNDAY SCHOOL ON EASTER

Please note that there will be no Sunday School for all ages on Easter Sunday, March 31.

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!

CHANCEL FLOWERS NEEDED FOR APRIL 14 & 21

If you would like to give flowers on either date please contact DeeAnn Martin at 215-493-3865 or email deemar918@aol.com. An arrangement is \$35 and may be given in memory of a loved one, in celebration of a special occasion or in gratitude for a person, act of kindness or special ministry. These flowers not only add beauty to our Sunday worship but also serve as an outreach to our MPC family.

ADULT EDUCATION FOR APRIL

The Brief Statement of Faith was adopted by our denomination's General Assembly in 1991 as a creed for a "re-united" church. Portions are used quite often during worship at MPC. This creed, briefer than the Westminster Confession of Faith yet longer than either the Nicene or Apostles' Creed, provides content as to the core beliefs and essential tenets of the church's faith. It is the first Reformed confessional document to include a narrative of Jesus' life and ministry.

Join us for this Adult Sunday School class, led by Rev. Jack McAnlis, at 9:30 a.m. on Sundays April 7 and 14 as we explore the biblical and theological underpinnings of our denomination.

GIFTS OF WOMEN SUNDAY

April 14 is Gifts of Women Sunday at MPC - a recognition and celebration of the gifts that women bring to the church. Anne Stewart, Executive Vice President from Princeton Seminary will be our guest preacher. Presbyterian Women (PW) are asking each woman to bring a donation of a feminine hygiene product which will be distributed to Family Service Association of Bucks County, Libertae and the MPC Food Center. Your overwhelming generosity last year was very much appreciated and we are looking forward to once again helping women in our community by providing these necessary and very expensive items. There will be a receptacle to deposit your donation in the Welcome Center as you join us in worship on April 14.

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 April 15 and May 20 at 7:00 p.m. in the Lounge. All are welcome and feel free to bring a friend.

The book group will meet on April 15 to discuss *Caste: The Origins of Our Discontents* by Isabel Wilkerson. This is by the same author as *The Warmth of Other Suns: The Epic Story of America's Great Migration* which we enjoyed reading together a few years back.

On May 20, we will meet to discuss the second and third sections (pages 155-547) of *A History of Christianity: the First Three Thousand Years* by Diarmaid MacCulloch. The discussion will be led by Jill Monroe Dillon and Alan Dillon and you are welcome to come even if you read only a portion of the first three sections. Our discussion during the last meeting was lively and thought-provoking and will lead to future discussions in Adult Sunday School.

Books are available at the bookstore, library or on-line and read at your leisure. Please contact Chris Bannister at bannistercr@gmail.com with your interest and questions.

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.

The Clothing Center is open each Thursday from 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.. The last day to shop before closing for the summer is June 13. Your continued support and cooperation are greatly appreciated.

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!

Welcome New Members

Please extend an especially warm welcome to our New Members joining Morrisville Presbyterian Church today: . Michelle and William Byrd, Matthew DeSciscio, Julie Kroon and Rich Green, and Paula and Mark Marseglia. What a joy it is to welcome new friends into our mission and ministry here at MPC!



Michelle & William Byrd first started attending MPC in September 2023, hoping to sit in the back unnoticed. But as they put it, their plan didn't go very well! They were quickly swept up in the hospitality and warmth of MPC and are delighted to join as members. Michelle & William were married on February 4, 2016, and together they have six beautiful children: Sha'miia, O'shea, Osias, Aaila, Aaden (deceased), and Eida Byrd. Michelle & William love supporting their community and have numerous talents (general contracting, catering, video editing, etc.) that have led to the start of several businesses. They love spending time as a family and enjoy reading, cycling, cooking, grilling, and being out in nature. Michelle & William look forward to raising their children at MPC and getting involved in any way they can!



Matthew DeSciscio started his journey as a Catholic in Kenilworth, NJ where he never quite fit in. He attended the University of Scranton and bounced around every major from Communications to Seminary before settling on English and creative writing. His hobbies include reading, writing, fun family stuff, and watching movies, plays, soccer, and pro wrestling. He sort of stumbled into and found success in the pharmaceutical industry. However, he feels the single most important moment of his professional life was meeting his wife, Christi Anne. They married and moved to Morrisville to start a family. With Christi Anne and their two daughters, Camila Hope and Mackenzie Rose, Matthew has found true happiness and a home where he belongs. He is excited to join Morrisville Presbyterian Church — the first church where he will be a member—with the hopes of becoming the best version of himself while positively affecting the community around him.



Julie Kroon & Rich Green were both born and raised in New Jersey. The couple met in 2018 at a board game meetup group and started dating in 2019. They would go on to marry in 2022. Julie is a historic preservation architect, and Rich is an art teacher and a freelance comic book artist. In their free time, they enjoy canoeing, biking, going to art museums, reading books (Julie) and comics (Rich), exploring new places, and, of course, playing board games. They live in a historic home in Trenton, NJ. They look forward to joining MPC and participating in the community of the church.



Paula & Mark Marseglia are delighted to return to MPC! Paula was born and raised in Allentown, PA, after her parents immigrated from Austria. She spent many summers in Austria and she and her sister both spoke German at home. Paula was raised Catholic and attended Catholic school through high school. She moved to Bucks County in 1979 with her then husband and they became parents to two boys. Years ago, Mark married into a family that were long-time members of MPC and he joined the church in 1985. During his time here, he baptized two daughters, Becky and Katey, was ordained as a Deacon, participated in the choir and MPC Players, and played on the MPC softball team. He and Paula were even married here in 2002. But sadly, in 2005, they sent Mark's daughter, Becky, to heaven when she was just 16 years old. After that, it was too difficult for Mark to walk through the doors of MPC. However, they returned to MPC on Christmas Eve and are so glad they did! In their day-to-day life, Paula is a fulltime Montessori teacher's assistant and she enjoys gardening and restoring their 101-year old home in Morrisville. Mark has been in the HVAC field for 40 years and has 45 years as a player, coach, and referee in rugby. They are so excited to be back at MPC, and are so grateful for the outpouring of love that they have received.

Join us this Holy Week



Maundy Thursday

March 28, 6:00 p.m.

Fellowship Hall



Easter Sunday

March 31, 10:30 a.m.

Sanctuary & Livestream

iPhone



Introducing mobile giving

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.

Android



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

MPC Weekly Calendar

SUNDAY, March 24 - Palm Sunday

8:30 a.m.	God's Thunder	Chapel
9:30	New Members Class	Lounge
9:30	Sunday School for all ages (No Adult Sunday School)	

10:30 **Worship Service - Sanctuary & Baptism & New Members Livestream**

10:30	Boy Scout Bake Sale	Welcome Center
11:30	Fellowship Hour	Lounge
	Host: Communications Committee	
11:45	Nominating Committee Meeting	Conference Room
11:45	Teen Choir	Music Room
Noon	Adonai Tabernacle	Room 220

MONDAY, March 25

9:30 a.m.	Ivins Outreach Center	Lounge
5:30 p.m.	Food Packing	Food Center
7:00	Boy Scout Troop 3	Fellowship Hall
7:00	Boy Scout Troop 3	Lounge
	Parent & Board Meeting	
7:30	Session Meeting	Conference Room

TUESDAY, March 26

9:00 a.m.	Produce Prep	Food Center
10:30	Ivins Outreach Center Luncheon	Lounge

WEDNESDAY, March 27

9:00 a.m.	Food Center Distribution	Parking Lot
12:30 p.m.	Clothing Center Drop-off	Room 4
6:00	Cub Scout Pack 3	Room 220
7:00	Girl Scout Troop 2888	Room 220

THURSDAY, March 28 - Maundy Thursday

10:00 a.m.	Clothing Center	Room 4
6:00 p.m.	Maundy Thursday Supper and Worship Service	Fellowship Hall
6:00	Oakville Girl Scouts	Fellowship Hall
7:00	Chancel Choir	Music Room

FRIDAY, March 29 - Good Friday

Church closes at noon.

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

SUNDAY, March 31 - Easter Sunday

9:00 a.m.	Choir Rehearsal	Sanctuary
10:30	Worship Service	Sanctuary & Livestream
11:45	Nominating Committee Meeting	Conference Room
Noon	Adonai Tabernacle	Room 220

Want to know when a future event is taking place or want to book a room for your committee or group? Check out the MPC calendar at mpcusa.org/calendar to see when events takes place and room availability.

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