



*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
THIRD SUNDAY of LENT
MARCH 3, 2024

GATHERING

PRELUDE — *Adagio K.356* - W. A. Mozart

Yun Kang

WORDS of WELCOME

Pastor Rachel Rhodes

INTROIT — *We Have Come at Christ's Own Bidding* - Kyle Saint-Sauveur

Chancel Choir

*We have come at Christ's own bidding to this high and holy place.
Where we wait with hope and longing for a token of God's grace.
Here we pray for new assurance that our faith is not in vain,
Searching like those first disciples for a sign both clear and plain.*

--Carl P. Daw, Jr

CALL to WORSHIP

Adrienne Poissant

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 — *God Is Here!*

ABBOT'S LEIGH

*God is here! As we your people meet to offer praise and prayer,
may we find in fuller measure what it is in Christ we share.
Here, as in the world around us, all our varied skills and arts
wait the coming of the Spirit into open minds and hearts.*

*Here our children find a welcome in the Shepherd's flock and fold;
here as bread and wine are taken, Christ sustains us as of old.
Here the servants of the Servant seek in worship to explore
what it means in daily living to believe and to adore.*

*Lord of all, of church and kingdom, in an age of change and doubt
keep us faithful to the gospel; help us work your purpose out.
Here, in this day's dedication, all we have to give, receive:
we, who cannot live without you, we adore you! We believe!*

PRAYER of CONFESSION

Pastor Alex Lester-Abdalla

With hearts of sorrow, we come before you, O God, to confess what you already know—we have failed to keep your laws. Again and again, we have followed our own selfish will, rather than your holy and life-giving will for our lives. We have twisted your decrees and institutions to suit our preconceptions and interests rather than your own. Forgive us, O God, and cleanse us from hidden faults, that the words of our mouths, and the meditations of all our hearts, may be acceptable to you, our Rock and our Redeemer.

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

PROMISE of FORGIVENESS

One: Oh, what joy for those whose sins are forgiven, whose mistakes have been wiped away by God's mercy and grace! So let's rejoice in God's unfailing love, which has set us free yet again. 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

PRAYER for ILLUMINATION

OLD TESTAMENT READING — *Exodus 20:1-17*

One: Then God spoke all these words: I am the Lord your God, who brought you out of the land of Egypt, out of the house of slavery;

All: You shall have no other gods before me.

One: You shall not make for yourself an idol, whether in the form of anything that is in heaven above, or that is on the earth beneath, or that is in the water under the earth.

All: You shall not bow down to them or worship them;

One: For I the Lord your God am a jealous God, punishing children for the iniquity of parents, to the third and the fourth generation of those who reject me,

All: But showing steadfast love to the thousandth generation of those who love me and keep my commandments.

One: You shall not make wrongful use of the name of the Lord your God, for the Lord will not acquit anyone who misuses his name.

All: Remember the sabbath day, and keep it holy. For six days you shall labour and do all your work. But the seventh day is a sabbath to the Lord your God;

One: You shall not do any work—you, your son or your daughter, your male or female slave, your livestock, or the alien resident in your towns. For in six days the Lord made heaven and earth, the sea, and all that is in them, but rested the seventh day;

All: Therefore the Lord blessed the sabbath day and consecrated it.

One: Honor your father and your mother, so that your days may be long in the land that the Lord your God is giving you. You shall not murder. You shall not commit adultery.

All: You shall not steal. You shall not bear false witness against your neighbour.

One: You shall not covet your neighbour's house; you shall not covet your neighbour's wife, or male or female slave, or ox, or donkey,

All: Or anything that belongs to your neighbour.

One: This is the Word of the Lord.

All: Thanks be to God!

ANTHEM — *A Vineyard Grows* - K. Lee Scott

*Amid the world's bleak wilderness a vineyard grows with promise green,
the planting of the Lord Himself.*

His love selected this terrain;

His vine with love He planted there to bear the choicest fruit for Him.

*We are His branches, chosen, dear, and though we feel the Dressers' knife,
we are the objects of His care.*

*From Him we draw the juice of life,
for Him supply His winery with fruit from which true joys derive.
Vine, keep what I was meant to be: Your branch with Your rich life in me.
--Jaroslav Vajda*

TIME for YOUNG DISCIPLES

GOSPEL READING — John 2:13-22

The Passover of the Jews was near, and Jesus went up to Jerusalem. In the temple he found people selling cattle, sheep, and doves, and the money-changers seated at their tables. Making a whip of cords, he drove all of them out of the temple, both the sheep and the cattle. He also poured out the coins of the money-changers and overturned their tables. He told those who were selling the doves, 'Take these things out of here! Stop making my Father's house a market-place!' His disciples remembered that it was written, 'Zeal for your house will consume me.' The Jews then said to him, 'What sign can you show us for doing this?' Jesus answered them, 'Destroy this temple, and in three days I will raise it up.' The Jews then said, 'This temple has been under construction for forty-six years, and will you raise it up in three days?' But he was speaking of the temple of his body. After he was raised from the dead, his disciples remembered that he had said this; and they believed the scripture and the word that Jesus had spoken.

One: This is the Gospel of the Lord.

All: **Thanks be to God!**

SERMON

Holy Havoc

Pastor Rhodes

HYMN — O God, Who Gives Us Life

NOEL

*O God, who gives us life and breath, who shapes us in the womb,
who guards our lives from birth to death, then leads us from the tomb:
deliver us from fears that kill the life we have from you.
Help us to know your Spirit still is making all things new.*

*O God, who calls your people out to venture and to dare,
to plumb the bleak abyss of doubt and find you even there:
when we despair in wandering through wastes of empty lies,
refresh us with the living spring of hope that never dies.*

*O God of covenant and law; revealed in cloud and flame,
your mighty deeds evoke our awe; we dare not speak your name.
Yet we by faith are drawn to you and will your people prove,
as on our hearts you write anew the covenant of love.*

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.

OFFERING

Invitation to Give

Offertory Music — *Beneath the Cross of Jesus* - Elizabeth Cecilia Clephane

*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.*

S A C R A M E N T *o f t h e* L O R D ' S S U P P E R

INVITATION

PRAYER *of* GREAT THANKSGIVING

One: The Lord be with you.

All: **And also with you.**

One: Lift up your hearts.

All: **We lift them up to the Lord.**

One: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

All: **It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

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.

THE BREAKING *of the* BREAD

COMMUNION *of the* PEOPLE

MUSIC *during* COMMUNION — *I Am the Bread of Life* - Suzanne Toolan

PRAYER *after* COMMUNION

S E N D I N G

HYMN — *Christ Is Made the Sure Foundation*

WESTMINSTER ABBEY

*Christ is made the sure foundation, Christ the head and cornerstone,
chosen of the Lord and precious, binding all the church in one;
holy Zion's help forever, and our confidence alone.*

*To this temple, where we call you, come, O Lord of hosts, and stay;
come, with all your loving kindness; bear your people as we pray,
and your fullest benediction shed within these walls today.*

*Here bestow on all your servants what they seek from you to gain;
what they gain from you, forever with the blessed to retain;
and hereafter in your glory evermore with you to reign.*

*Laud and honor to the Father, laud and honor to the Son,
laud and honor to the Spirit, ever three and ever one:
one in might and one in glory while unending ages run!*

CHARGE *and* BLESSING

BENEDICTION RESPONSE — *Amen*

POSTLUDE — *March* - G. F. Handel

WHO MAY RECEIVE COMMUNION IN THE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH?

“The opportunity to eat and drink with Christ is not a right bestowed upon the worthy, but a privilege given to the undeserving who come in faith, repentance, and love. All who come to the table are offered the bread and cup, regardless of their age or understanding.

Worshippers prepare themselves to celebrate the Lord’s Supper by putting their trust in Christ, confessing their sin, and seeking reconciliation with God and one another. Even those who doubt may come to the table in order to be assured of God’s love and grace in Jesus Christ.”

Book of Order W-3.0409

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 Ron and Ruth Workman in loving memory of Ron's father, William R. Workman. The second arrangement is given by Lew Mohr to thank the members of the Congregational Ministry Committee for the Valentine luncheon they prepared for our seniors. It was a wonderful afternoon of good food and fellowship. Many share Lew's gratitude for all that the CMC does throughout the year to enrich the lives of our church family.

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!

NEXT LENTEN SOUP SUPPER IS THIS WEDNESDAY, MARCH 6

Mark your calendar for this Wednesday, March 6, as well as Maundy Thursday, March 28. The Lenten Suppers begin at 6:00 p.m. Come and join us for a simple meal, fellowship, and program as we journey together through Lent.

NURSERY VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

Childcare at church is an amazing gift to young families, providing a safe, fun space for small children, and enabling parents to participate in worship in our sanctuary. We are reliant on volunteers to staff the nursery and we need your help. To volunteer, please add your name to the sign-up sheet outside the Nursery, or contact Cynde Jacobus at cyndej127@gmail.com or Patrick Gilbride at pgilbrid@estee.com. Thank you for considering this wonderful way to support young families and the mission of MPC.

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.

CHANCEL FLOWERS NEEDED FOR MARCH

If you would like to give flowers on a Sunday in March 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 or in gratitude or celebration of a person, ministry or act of kindness. These flowers not only add beauty to our worship but also serve as an outreach ministry to our church family.

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!

MARCH ADULT SUNDAY SCHOOL CLASS CONTINUES

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 as we study these powerful figures in a three week Adult Sunday School class taught by Kathryn Jervis March 10 and 17. Come and learn in our Conference Room, located on the second floor, from 9:30 to 10:15 a.m.

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!

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 3 - Third 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: Book Ministry & Book Club	
11:45	Nominating	Conference Room
	Committee Meeting	
11:45	Teen Choir	Music Room
Noon	Adonai Tabernacle	Room 220
Noon	Deacons Meeting	Conference Room
Noon	Boy Scout Merit Badge Class	Room 208
1:00 p.m.	Code Blue Cooking	Fellowship Hall

MONDAY, March 4

9:00 a.m.	Ivins Outreach Center	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	Personnel Committee	Zoom
7:30	Youth Ministry	Conference Room

TUESDAY, March 5

9:00 a.m.	Produce Prep	Food Center
Noon	Congregational Ministry Committee	Zoom
1:00 p.m.	CMC Soup Making	Fellowship Hall
6:00	Weekday Nursery School Open House	
7:00	Food Center Distribution	Parking Lot

WEDNESDAY, March 6

9:00 a.m.	Food Center Distribution	Parking Lot
Noon	Brown Bag & Bible Study	Conference Room
12:30 p.m.	Clothing Center Drop-off	Room 4
1:00	Prayer Meeting	Conference Room
2:30	Worship Committee	Zoom
6:00	Lenten Soup Supper	Fellowship Hall
6:00	Cub Scout Pack 3	Room 220
7:00	Finance Committee	Zoom

WEDNESDAY, March 6 (continued)

7:00	Girl Scout Troop 2888	Room 220
7:15	Chancel Chimes	Chapel

THURSDAY, March 7

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 8

6:30 p.m.	AA Meeting	Lounge
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SATURDAY, March 9

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	Conference Room
	Committee Meeting	
11:45	Teen Choir	Music Room
Noon	Adonai Tabernacle	Room 220



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