



*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 MARCH 27, 2022  
FOURTH SUNDAY  
in LENT

## GATHERING

**PRELUDE** — *Aria* - Caleb Simper

Yun Kang

**CALL to WORSHIP**

Kris Drake

One: I waited patiently for the Lord; the Lord inclined to me and heard my cry,

**All: The Lord put a new song in my mouth, a song of praise to our God.**

One: You have multiplied, O Lord my God, your wondrous deeds and your thoughts toward us,

**All: Were I to proclaim and tell of them, they would be more than can be counted.**

One: I have told the glad news of deliverance in the great congregation

**All: I have not hidden your saving help within my heart, I have spoken of your faithfulness and your salvation; Let us worship God together!**

**HYMN** — *O for a Thousand Tongues to Sing*

AZMON

*O for a thousand tongues to sing, my dear Redeemer's praise,  
the glories of my God and King, the triumphs of God's grace!*

*The name of Jesus charms our fears, and bids our sorrows cease,  
sings music in the sinner's ears, brings life, and health, and peace.*

*Christ speaks, and listening to his voice new life the dead receive;  
the mournful waken to rejoice; the poor in heart believe.*

*My gracious Master and my God, assist me to proclaim,  
to spread through all the earth abroad the honors of thy name.*

*To God all glory, praise, and love be now and ever given  
by saints below and saints above, the church in earth and heaven.*

**PRAYER of CONFESSION**

Rev. Jack McAnlis

You asked for my hands, O God, that you might use them for your purpose. I gave them for a moment, then withdrew them, for the work was hard. You asked for my mouth to speak out against injustice. I gave you a whisper that I might not be accused. You asked for my eyes to see the pain of poverty. I closed them, for I did not want to see. You asked for my life, that you might work through me. I gave a small part, that I might not get too involved. Lord, forgive my calculated efforts to serve you—only when it is convenient for me to do so, only in those places where it is safe to do so, and only with those who make it easy to do so. O God, forgive me, renew me, send me out as a usable instrument, that I might take seriously the meaning of your cross.

**SILENT PRAYERS of CONFESSION**

*Here each worshiper may offer silent prayers of confession.*

**PROMISE of FORGIVENESS**

One: People of God, hear the good news concerning the love and forgiveness of God: *“As far as the east is from the west, so far does God remove our transgressions from us. As a father has compassion on his children, so the Lord has compassion on those who fear him; for he knows how we are formed, he remembers that we are dust.”* And so, 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.*

**ANTHEM** — *O Praise the Lord with Heart and Voice* - Haydn/Hopson

Chancel Choir

*O Praise the Lord with heart and voice.  
All hosts on high and earth rejoice.  
Let echoes rise. Let songs break forth.  
From world to world the joy shall sound.*

**L I T U R G Y** *o f t h e* **W O R D**

**PRAYER for ILLUMINATION**

*Take my voice and let me sing always, only, for my King;  
Take my lips and let them be filled with messages from thee,  
Filled with messages from thee.  
Amen.*

**FIRST SCRIPTURE READING** — *Mark 1:35-39*

In the morning, while it was still very dark, he got up and went out to a deserted place, and there he prayed. And Simon and his companions hunted for him. When they found him, they said to him, "Everyone is searching for you." He answered, "Let us go on to the neighboring towns, so that I may proclaim the message there also; for that is what I came out to do." And he went throughout Galilee, proclaiming the message in their synagogues and casting out demons.

One: This is the Word of the Lord.

All: **Thanks be to God.**

**SECOND SCRIPTURE READING** — *Psalms 40:1-10*

I waited patiently for the Lord; he inclined to me and heard my cry. He drew me up from the desolate pit, out of the miry bog, and set my feet upon a rock, making my steps secure. He put a new song in my mouth, a song of praise to our God. Many will see and fear, and put their trust in the Lord.

You have multiplied, O Lord my God, your wondrous deeds and your thoughts toward us; none can compare with you. Were I to proclaim and tell of them, they would be more than can be counted.

Sacrifice and offering you do not desire, but you have given me an open ear. Burnt offering and sin offering you have not required. Then I said, "Here I am; in the scroll of the book it is written of me. I delight to do your will, O my God; your law is within my heart."

I have told the glad news of deliverance in the great congregation; see, I have not restrained my lips, as you know, O Lord. I have not hidden your saving help within my heart, I have spoken of your faithfulness and your salvation; I have not concealed your steadfast love and your faithfulness from the great congregation.

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

One: This is the Word of the Lord.

All: **Thanks be to God.**

**SERMON**

*Take My Voice & Let Me Sing*

Pastor Lester-Abdalla

*My life flows on in endless song, above earth's lamentation.  
 I hear the clear, though far-off hymn that hails a new creation.  
 No storm can shake my inmost calm while to that Rock I'm clinging,  
 Since Christ is Lord of heaven and earth, how can I keep from singing?*

*Through all the tumult and the strife, I hear that music ringing,  
 It finds an echo in my soul. How can I keep from singing?  
 No storm can shake my inmost calm while to that Rock I'm clinging,  
 Since Christ is Lord of heaven and earth, how can I keep from singing?*

*What though my joys and comforts die? I know my Savior liveth.  
 What though the darkness gather round? Songs in the night he giveth.  
 No storm can shake my inmost calm while to that Rock I'm clinging,  
 Since Christ is Lord of heaven and earth, how can I keep from singing?*

*The peace of Christ makes fresh my heart, a fountain ever-springing!  
 All things are mine since I am his! How can I keep from singing?  
 No storm can shake my inmost calm while to that Rock I'm clinging,  
 Since Christ is Lord of heaven and earth, how can I keep from singing?*

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

**We trust in God the Holy Spirit, everywhere the giver and renewer of life. The Spirit justifies us by grace through faith, sets us free to accept ourselves and to love God and neighbor, and binds us together with all believers in the one body of Christ, the church. The same Spirit who inspired the prophets and apostles rules our faith and life in Christ through Scripture, engages us through the Word proclaimed, claims us in the waters of baptism, feeds us with the bread of life and the cup of salvation, and calls women and men to all ministries of the church. In a broken and fearful world the Spirit gives us courage to pray without ceasing, to witness among all peoples to Christ as Lord and Savior, to unmask idolatries in church and culture, to hear the voices of peoples long silenced, and to work with others for justice, freedom, and peace. In gratitude to God, empowered by the Spirit, we strive to serve Christ in our daily tasks and to live holy and joyful lives, even as we watch for God's new heaven and new earth, praying, Come, Lord Jesus! 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.**

**OFFERING**

Invitation to Give

Offertory Music — *Take My Life and Let It Be* - arr. Raluca Bojor

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** — *Open My Eyes, That I May See*

OPEN MY EYES

*Open my eyes, that I may see glimpses of truth thou hast for me.  
Place in my hands the wonderful key that shall unclasp and set me free.  
Silently now I wait for thee, ready, my God, thy will to see.  
Open my eyes; illumine me, Spirit divine!*

*Open my ears, that I may hear voices of truth thou sendest clear.  
And while the wave notes fall on my ear, everything false will disappear.  
Silently now I wait for thee, ready, my God, thy will to see.  
Open my ears; illumine me, Spirit divine!*

*Open my mouth, and let me bear gladly the warm truth everywhere.  
Open my heart, and let me prepare love with thy children thus to share.  
Silently now I wait for thee, ready, my God, thy will to see.  
Open my heart; illumine me, Spirit divine!*

**POSTLUDE** — *Andante and Menuett from Four Pieces for Flute Clocks* - Joseph Haydn

### QUESTIONS *for* REFLECTION

- What song of faith is God inviting you to sing this Lent?
- Where might you proclaim this testimony of faith?

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

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***\*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](mailto:Bulletin@MPCusa.net).***

### **LENTEN MISSION PROJECT**

This Lenten season we are collecting items to make a birthday cake for our Food Center clients. If you are able, we are asking you to fill a bag with the following items: cake mix, tub of icing, candles, and sprinkles for decorating. Bags can be dropped off in the Communication Center before/after Sunday worship, any Monday night from 7:00 - 8:00 p.m. or any Tuesday morning from 9:00 - 11:00 a.m. Thank you for helping to care for our neighbors!

### **UKRAINE RELIEF FUND**

The Presbyterian Disaster Assistance (PDA) is working to aid those impacted by the war in Ukraine, and is so grateful for the outpouring of prayers and calls from congregations (MPC!) and individuals (You!) asking how they can help. MPC has assisted the PDA for years, and now is a most important time to reach out to our brothers and sisters in Christ being affected by this awful war. The MPC Outreach Committee has already made the commitment to assist the PDA, so might you also help? You may write a check made out to MPC and place "Ukraine Relief" on the comment line, or donate online at [mpcusa.org/give](http://mpcusa.org/give) and notate "Ukraine Relief" in the notes. There will also be baskets in the Sanctuary labelled "Ukraine Relief". Please visit [pda.pcusa.org/situation/Ukraine](http://pda.pcusa.org/situation/Ukraine) to know more about PDA's efforts and to give directly to PDA for help in Ukraine.

*... beat their swords into plowshares, and their spears into pruning hooks....* - Isaiah 2:4

## THANK YOU

To Our Dear Church Family.... the Church Staff, Committees, Women's Circle, and Church Members,

"I can't thank you enough for your overwhelming love and support...the beautiful get-well & birthday cards with personal notes, delicious treats, calls and visits, and most importantly, your uplifting prayers. You have brightened my days!!" (Nancy Sr.)

Nancy's Attleboro friends have shown their love as well. More than 30 residents gathered in her Independent Living facility on March 18th to celebrate her 99th birthday with a festive get-together.

During these three weeks, we have witnessed individuals of all ages and various talents, come together to use their "hands and feet" to serve God through their baking, writing notes, wrapping gifts, making calls...all to serve and to do his work. It's been wonderful to see!

Thank you ever so much.

In deep gratitude,  
*The Anderson Family*  
*Nancy Sr., Roger, and Nancy Jr.*

## IN-PERSON EDUCATION AND MUSIC HAS RETURNED!

We have returned to in-person worship and music programs, as well as most education programs. Below you will also find specific updates for each activity.

### EDUCATION

- Pre-K through High School Sunday School classes have returned to in-person sessions from 9:30 a.m. to 10:15 a.m.
- Confirmation Class is meeting in-person from 9:00 a.m. to 10:00 a.m.
- For the time being, Adult Sunday School will continue to meet over Zoom from 9:00 a.m. to 10:00 a.m.

If you would like to be added to the Adult Education email distribution list or if you have any questions about Children's Sunday School or Confirmation Class, please be in touch with Pastor Alex at alexlesterabdalla@mpcusa.net.

### MUSIC

- Chancel Choir (Adult Choir) has returned to in-person rehearsals.
- Teen Choir rehearsal has returned after worship.
- Children's Music has returned during worship.
- God's Thunder (Youth Handbell Choir) returned for in-person rehearsals.

If you would like more information about any of our choir programs, please be in touch with Music Director Tim Carpenter, at timcarpenter@mpcusa.net.

## Lenten Sermon Series—"Take My Life"



Today leading up to Palm Sunday, join us during worship for our Lenten Sermon Series which will be led by our pastors based on the hymn, "Take My Life." Each week we will discover what it means to give to God our moments & days, hands & feet, voice & lips, will & heart and our love & whole self.

## MPC Weekly Calendar

### SUNDAY, March 27 - Fourth Sunday in Lent

9:00 a.m.	Adult Sunday School	via Zoom
9:00	Confirmation Class	Room 200
9:30	Pre-K - High School	
	Sunday School	
<b>10:30</b>	<b>Worship Service</b>	<b>Sanctuary</b>
<b>10:30</b>	<b>Worship Service</b>	<b>Livestream</b>
11:30	Teen Choir	Music Room
1:00 p.m.	Boy Scout Merit Badge Class	Room 220

### MONDAY, March 28

6:30 p.m.	Mostly Motets	Music Room
7:00	Boy Scout Troop 3	Fellowship Hall
7:00	Boy Scout Troop 3	Lounge
	Parent Meeting	
7:00	Cub Scout Pack 3	Room 220
	Committee Meeting	

### TUESDAY, March 29

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

### WEDNESDAY, March 30

9:00 a.m.	Food Center	Parking Lot
Noon	Brown Bag & Bible Study	Conference Room
6:00 p.m.	Youth Club	Fellowship Hall
7:00	God's Thunder Rehearsal	Chapel
7:00	Girl Scout Troop 2888	Fellowship Hall
7:30	Chancel Chimes Rehearsal	Chapel

### THURSDAY, March 31

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

### FRIDAY, April 1

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

### SATURDAY, April 2

### SUNDAY, April 3 - Fifth Sunday in Lent

9:00 a.m.	Adult Sunday School	via Zoom
9:00	Confirmation Class	Room 200
9:30	Pre-K - High School	
	Sunday School	
<b>10:30</b>	<b>Worship Service</b>	<b>Sanctuary</b>
<b>10:30</b>	<b>Worship Service</b>	<b>Livestream</b>
11:30	Teen Choir	Music Room

To view upcoming events and meetings,  
please visit [www.mpcusa.org](http://www.mpcusa.org)  
and click on "Calendar" from the home page.

## CONTACT US

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