



*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 JULY 4, 2021
SIXTH SUNDAY
after PENTECOST

PRELUDE — *All Things Bright and Beautiful*

ROYAL OAK

Refrain:

*All things bright and beautiful, all creatures great and small,
all things wise and wonderful, the Lord God made them all.*

*Each little flower that opens, each little bird that sings,
God made their glowing colors; God made their tiny wings.*

Refrain

*The purple-headed mountain, the river running by,
the sunset, and the morning that brightens up the sky:*

Refrain

*The cold wind in the winter, the pleasant summer sun,
the ripe fruits in the garden, God made them every one.*

Refrain

*God gave us eyes to see them, and lips that we might tell
how great is God Almighty, who has made all things well.*

CALL to WORSHIP — from *Psalm 34*

Caroline Thompson

One: I will bless the Lord at all times

All: We will bless our God at all times.

One: I will praise the Holy One with my voice.

All: Let us exalt God's name together.

One: We are seeking,

All: And God will answer us.

One: We cry out for help,

All: And God will deliver us.

One: God will deliver us from our fears.

All: God will hear us and save us.

One: So come now, let us worship together.

All: Let us taste and see that our God is good.

PRAYER of CONFESSION

Elizabeth Dugan

One: Blessed are we when we let go of possessions for the kingdom of God unfolds in open places.

All: Woe to us when we gather into barns for soon this life will be over.

One: Blessed are we who know the ache of hunger for the empty places in body and soul are the fertile soil for new growth.

All: Woe to us who have yet to know the pain of grief for the fullness of love is woven with sorrow.

One: Blessed are we who know scorn for the rejection of humans keeps us mindful of that beyond.

All: Woe to us who depend on the approval of others for the dance with the Spirit appears foolish.

One: Blessed are we who live in the harmony of life in the Spirit,

All: For we will recognize abundance.

One: Blessed are we who sit at the throne of God's grace.

All: **Lord, in your mercy, forgive us.**

(Time for silent prayer and confession.)

PROMISE of FORGIVENESS

One: Beloved church, the Lord is slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love. Be assured that God's grace is greater than anything we could ever hope or imagine. And so let us rejoice together and 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.

SCRIPTURE READING — *Matthew 5:1-11*

When Jesus saw the crowds, he went up the mountain; and after he sat down, his disciples came to him. Then he began to speak, and taught them, saying:

'Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

'Blessed are those who mourn, for they will be comforted.

'Blessed are the meek, for they will inherit the earth.

'Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they will be filled.

'Blessed are the merciful, for they will receive mercy.

'Blessed are the pure in heart, for they will see God.

'Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called children of God.

'Blessed are those who are persecuted for righteousness' sake, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

'Blessed are you when people revile you and persecute you and utter all kinds of evil against you falsely on my account.

One: This is the Gospel of the Lord.

All: **Thanks be to God.**

SERMON

God Mend Thine Every Flaw

Pastor Rhodes

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.

HYMN — *O Beautiful for Spacious Skies*

MATERNA

*O beautiful for spacious skies, for amber waves of grain,
for purple mountain majesties above the fruited plain!
America! America! God shed his grace on thee;
and crown thy good with brotherhood from sea to shining sea!*

*O beautiful for heroes proved in liberating strife,
who more than self their country loved, and mercy more than life!
America! America! God mend thine every flaw;
confirm thy soul in self-control, thy liberty in law!*

*O beautiful for patriot dream that sees beyond the years
thine alabaster cities gleam, undimmed by human tears!
America! America! May God thy gold refine
till all success be nobleness and every gain divine!*

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

PRAYER *after* COMMUNION

S E N D I N G

CHARGE *and* BLESSING

POSTLUDE — *This Is My Father's World*

TERRA BEATA

*This is my Father's world, and to my listening ears
all nature sings, and round me rings the music of the spheres.
This is my Father's world; I rest me in the thought
of rocks and trees, of skies and seas, his hand the wonders wrought.*

*This is my Father's world. O, let me ne'er forget
that though the wrong seems oft so strong, God is the ruler yet.
This is my Father's world. The battle is not done:
Jesus who died shall be satisfied, and earth and heaven be one.*

QUESTIONS *for* REFLECTION

- How have you known "blessing" in the way God intended it?

OTHERS PARTICIPATING IN TODAY'S SERVICE

Tim Carpenter – Director of Music

Patricia Guth – Organist

Kathryn Thomas – Soloist

Video Ministry Volunteers

Photos may be found on unsplash.com

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.

Worshipers 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.***

SUPPORT YOUTH IN MISSION'S 2021 TRIP TO WEST VIRGINIA!

Twenty-four youth and adults will be heading to West Virginia for the first time in two years for a Youth in Mission trip. The group of teens and adults will be traveling to Pipestem, West Virginia to make needed repairs to homes of residents in need. The dates of the trip for the group of fourteen women and ten men will be from July 11 to July 17, 2021. The group will stay at the Appalachian South Folk Life Center and along with repairing homes, will engage in a week-long devotional on “Who is my neighbor”.

Stock Sale

The YIM are also raising funds through a “Stock Sale.” To participate in the stock sale you can give by check or on-line at the MPC giving portal. If giving by check please write “YIM Stock Sale” on the memo line of your check. To give online go to www.mpcusa.org/give and click on “Online Giving Portal.” In the Giving Portal, enter your donation amount next to “YIM Stock Donation.”

As always, the Youth in Mission appreciate your support!