



*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 AUGUST 22, 2021  
THIRTEENTH SUNDAY  
after PENTECOST

## CALL to WORSHIP

Pastor Rachel Rhodes

One: Come, all who are thirsty says Jesus, our Lord,

**All: Come, all who are weak, taste the living water that I shall give.**

One: Dip your hands in the stream, refresh body and soul, drink from it, depend on it, for this water will never run dry.

**All: Come, all who are thirsty, says Jesus, our Lord. Let us worship God together!**

## HYMN — *O Worship the King, All Glorious Above!*

LYONS

*O worship the King, all glorious above!  
O gratefully sing God's power and God's love:  
our shield and defender, the Ancient of Days,  
pavilioned in splendor and girded with praise.*

*O tell of God's might; O sing of God's grace,  
whose robe is the light, whose canopy space,  
whose chariots of wrath the deep thunderclouds form;  
and bright is God's path on the wings of the storm.*

*The earth with its store of wonders untold,  
Almighty, your power has founded of old;  
established it fast by a changeless decree,  
and round it has cast like a mantle, the sea.*

*Your bountiful care what tongue can recite?  
It breathes in the air; it shines in the light;  
it streams from the hills; it descends to the plain,  
and sweetly distills in the dew and the rain.*

*Frail children of dust, and feeble as frail,  
in you do we trust, nor find you to fail;  
your mercies, how tender, how firm to the end,  
our Maker, Defender, Redeemer, and Friend.*

## PRAYER of CONFESSION - adapted from Rev. Renee C. Jackson

Pastor Alex Lester-Abdalla

One: God of mercy, hear the prayers of your thirsting people. For every time we have attributed your miracles in our lives to our own hands alone,

**All: Forgive us, we pray.**

One: For every time we promised to trust you but turned to our own way when your response did not come soon enough or in the way we expected,

**All: Grant us mercy, O God.**

One: For the many opportunities to extend forgiveness that we have refused,

**All: Show us what it means to love, again, dear Lord.**

One: For each way we put our own understandings above your wisdom, for each time we resist your command to be reconciled with those who believe differently from us,

**All: Direct us in the way of peace, we pray.**

One: For our silent sins, our quiet acts of violence, and our indifference to the suffering around us,

**All: Forgive us, Loving One, and quench our thirst with your grace; Remake us into vessels of tenderness and compassion. For Christ's sake we pray.**

*(Time for silent prayer and confession.)*

## **PROMISE of FORGIVENESS**

One: Jesus says, “Those who drink of the water that I will give them will never be thirsty. The water that I will give will become in them a spring of living water.” And so, having been washed in that living water, 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 — *John 4:1-29***

Now when Jesus learned that the Pharisees had heard, ‘Jesus is making and baptizing more disciples than John’—although it was not Jesus himself but his disciples who baptized—he left Judea and started back to Galilee. But he had to go through Samaria. So he came to a Samaritan city called Sychar, near the plot of ground that Jacob had given to his son Joseph. Jacob’s well was there, and Jesus, tired out by his journey, was sitting by the well. It was about noon.

A Samaritan woman came to draw water, and Jesus said to her, ‘Give me a drink’. (His disciples had gone to the city to buy food.) The Samaritan woman said to him, ‘How is it that you, a Jew, ask a drink of me, a woman of Samaria?’ (Jews do not share things in common with Samaritans.) Jesus answered her, ‘If you knew the gift of God, and who it is that is saying to you, “Give me a drink”, you would have asked him, and he would have given you living water.’ The woman said to him, ‘Sir, you have no bucket, and the well is deep. Where do you get that living water? Are you greater than our ancestor Jacob, who gave us the well, and with his sons and his flocks drank from it?’ Jesus said to her, ‘Everyone who drinks of this water will be thirsty again, but those who drink of the water that I will give them will never be thirsty. The water that I will give will become in them a spring of water gushing up to eternal life.’ The woman said to him, ‘Sir, give me this water, so that I may never be thirsty or have to keep coming here to draw water.’

Jesus said to her, ‘Go, call your husband, and come back.’ The woman answered him, ‘I have no husband.’ Jesus said to her, ‘You are right in saying, “I have no husband”; for you have had five husbands, and the one you have now is not your husband. What you have said is true!’ The woman said to him, ‘Sir, I see that you are a prophet. Our ancestors worshipped on this mountain, but you say that the place where people must worship is in Jerusalem.’ Jesus said to her, ‘Woman, believe me, the hour is coming when you will worship the Father neither on this mountain nor in Jerusalem. You worship what you do not know; we worship what we know, for salvation is from the Jews. But the hour is coming, and is now here, when the true worshippers will worship the Father in spirit and truth, for the Father seeks such as these to worship him. God is spirit, and those who worship him must worship in spirit and truth.’ The woman said to him, ‘I know that Messiah is coming’ (who is called Christ). ‘When he comes, he will proclaim all things to us.’ Jesus said to her, ‘I am he, the one who is speaking to you.’

Just then his disciples came. They were astonished that he was speaking with a woman, but no one said, ‘What do you want?’ or, ‘Why are you speaking with her?’ Then the woman left her water-jar and went back to the city. She said to the people, ‘Come and see a man who told me everything I have ever done! He cannot be the Messiah, can he?’

One: This is the Gospel of the Lord.

All: **Thanks be to God.**

**SOLO** — *His Name So Sweet* - arr. Hal Johnson

*Refrain:*

*Oh Lord I jus' come from de fountain, I'm jus' from the fountain Lord,  
I jus' come from de fountain, His name so sweet.*

*Po' sinner, do you love Jesus? Yes, yes, I do love m'Jesus.  
Sinner, do you love Jesus? His name so sweet.*

*Refrain*

*Class leader, do you love Jesus? Yes, yes, I do love m'Jesus.  
Leader, do you love Jesus? His name so sweet.*

*Refrain*

*'Zid'n Elder, do you love Jesus? Yes, yes, I do love m'Jesus.  
Elder, do you love Jesus? His name so sweet.*

*Refrain*

**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. God raised this Jesus from the dead, vindicating his sinless life, breaking the power of sin and evil, delivering us from death to life eternal. With believers in every time and place, we rejoice that nothing in life or in death can separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord. Amen.

**HYMN** — *Glorious Things of Thee Are Spoken*

AUSTRIAN HYMN

*Glorious things of thee are spoken, Zion, city of our God.  
God, whose word cannot be broken, formed thee for a blest abode.  
On the rock of ages founded, what can shake thy sure repose?  
With salvation's walls surrounded, thou may'st smile at all thy foes.*

*Round each habitation hovering, see the cloud and fire appear  
for a glory and a covering, showing that the Lord is near.  
This deriving from their banner light by night and shade by day,  
safe they feed upon the manna which God gives them when they pray.*

*See, the streams of living waters, springing from eternal love,  
well supply thy sons and daughters and all fear of want remove.  
Who can faint while such a river ever flows, their thirst to assuage?  
Grace, so like the Lord the giver, never fails from age to age.*

**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.

## SENDING

### POSTLUDE — *I Heard the Voice of Jesus Say*

KINGSFOLD

*I heard the voice of Jesus say, "Come unto me and rest;  
lay down, O weary one, lay down your head upon my breast."*

*I came to Jesus as I was, so weary, worn, and sad;  
I found in him a resting place, and he has made me glad.*

*I heard the voice of Jesus say, "Behold, I freely give  
the living water, thirsty one; stoop down and drink and live."*

*I came to Jesus, and I drank of that lifegiving stream;  
my thirst quenched, my soul revived, and now I live in him.*

*I heard the voice of Jesus say, "I am this dark world's light;  
look unto me, your morn shall rise, and all your day be bright."*

*I looked to Jesus, and I found in him my star, my sun;  
and in that light of life I'll walk till traveling days are done.*

### QUESTION *for* REFLECTION

- How might God be looking to offer you living water?

### OTHERS PARTICIPATING IN TODAY'S SERVICE

Tim Carpenter – Director of Music

Justin Hartz – Organist

Kathryn Thomas – Soloist

Video Ministry Volunteers

### 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).***

#### **BACKPACK DRIVE!**

The Deacons are excited to announce that this year we are continuing to serve students in Morrisville, Bensalem, and Bristol by holding our annual Back-to-School Backpack Drive. The Ivins Outreach Center will distribute the bags to students with the greatest need in these districts, to girls and boys in grades 9-12.

We are asking our “generous” congregation to put specific items in a backpack or messenger bag and place them in the bins located in the Communication Center before or after Sunday Service or at 7:30 p.m. on Monday evenings.

If you would like to make a monetary donation to this important drive, you can do so online or by sending in a check to the church office. Please include “Backpack Drive” in the memo line.

Backpacks and donations will be accepted up until Sunday, August 29. Thank you so much for your generosity and for making this back-to-school year so special for these students. If you have any questions, please contact Patti at 267-394-0776. Thanking you in advance, Patti Sheffer and Lori Newman

**Please include these items in the backpack for high school students:**

Single-Subject Spiral Notebooks  
2-Pocket Folders  
3- Ring Binders  
Loose Leaf College Ruled Paper  
Colored Binder Dividers

Dictionary/Thesaurus  
Book covers  
Wire-Bound Weekly Planner  
Sticky Notes/Flags  
12-inch Ruler

#2 Pencils  
Black/Blue Pens  
Highlighters/Markers  
Colored Pencils  
Pencil Sharpener/Eraser