



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 DECEMBER 19, 2021
FOURTH SUNDAY
OF ADVENT

GATHERING

PRELUDE — *People, Look East* - arr. Timothy Carpenter

Handbell Ensemble

LIGHTING of the ADVENT CANDLES

The Keys family

*He came down that we may have love;
he came down that we may have love;
he came down that we may have love;
hallelujah forever more.*

CALL to WORSHIP

DeeAnn Martin

One: We are seeking—

All: Deeper faith, a place to belong, the feeling that God is here in this room.

One: We are seeking—

All: Joy that overflows, the movement of the Spirit, a hand to hold, when alone in the dark.

One: We are seeking—

All: The freedom to be, the courage to love, the conviction to act in the face of injustice.

One: We are seeking, but here in this space,

All: We are found.

One: Take a deep breath. This is your sanctuary.

All: God is here. We are found. Let us worship God together!

HYMN — *People, Look East*

BESANÇON

*People look east. The time is near of the crowning of the year.
Make your house fair as you are able; trim the hearth and set the table.
People, look east: Love, the Guest, is on the way.*

*Furrows, be glad. Though earth is bare, one more seed is planted there.
Give up your strength the seed to nourish, that in course the flower may flourish.
People, look east: Love, the Rose, is on the way.*

*Birds, though you long have ceased to build, guard the nest that must be filled.
Even the hour when wings are frozen God for fledging time has chosen.
People look east: Love, the Bird, is on the way.*

*Stars, keep the watch. When night is dim one more light the bowl shall brim,
shining beyond the frosty weather, bright as sun and moon together.
People look east: Love, the Star, is on the way.*

*Angels, announce with shouts of mirth Christ who brings new life to earth.
Set every peak and valley humming with the word, the Lord is coming.
People look east: Love, the Lord, is on the way.*

PRAYER of CONFESSION -

Pastor Alex Lester-Abdalla

God of safe spaces, we wish we were more like Mary, who in the face of great change, went and sought help. She did not wait for help to find her; she walked to the shelter she needed. Too often we wait silently for the world to change around us instead of speaking up for the things we need. Forgive us for failing to care for ourselves the way you would care for us. Give us the courage to be more like Mary. God of safe places, we wish we were more like Elizabeth, who greeted Mary with laughter and contagious joy. How many people have crossed our doorstep and how many times have we failed to see them? Give us the courage of Mary, and the grace of Elizabeth. Holy God, hear our prayer.

SILENT PRAYERS of CONFESSION

Here each worshiper may offer silent prayers of confession.

PROMISE *of* FORGIVENESS

One: Family of faith, even if we miss the person standing on our doorstep, even if we fail to care for ourselves the way God would care for us, even if we forget and ignore, turn away and shut down, God still loves us. There is nothing we can do to lose God's love.

All: Rest in this promise:

One: If we get lost,

All: We will be found.

One: If we mess up,

All: We are forgiven.

One: If we withhold love,

All: God is lavish in loving us.

One: We are claimed. We are loved. We are forgiven.

All: Thanks be to God. 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.*

L I T U R G Y *of the* W O R D

OLD TESTAMENT LESSON — *Micah 5:2-5a*

But you, O Bethlehem of Ephrathah,
who are one of the little clans of Judah,
from you shall come forth for me
one who is to rule in Israel,
whose origin is from of old,
from ancient days.

Therefore he shall give them up until the time
when she who is in labour has brought forth;
then the rest of his kindred shall return
to the people of Israel.

And he shall stand and feed his flock in the strength of the Lord,
in the majesty of the name of the Lord his God.

And they shall live secure, for now he shall be great
to the ends of the earth;
and he shall be the one of peace.

One: This is the Word of the Lord

All: Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL READING — *Luke 1:39-55*

In those days Mary set out and went with haste to a Judean town in the hill country, where she entered the house of Zechariah and greeted Elizabeth. When Elizabeth heard Mary's greeting, the child leapt in her womb. And Elizabeth was filled with the Holy Spirit and exclaimed with a loud cry, 'Blessed are you among women, and blessed is the fruit of your womb. And why has this happened to me, that the mother of my Lord comes to me? For as soon as I heard the sound of your greeting, the child in my womb leapt for joy. And blessed is she who believed that there would be a fulfilment of what was spoken to her by the Lord.'

And Mary said,
'My soul magnifies the Lord,
and my spirit rejoices in God my Saviour,
for he has looked with favour on the lowliness of his servant.

Surely, from now on all generations will call me blessed;
for the Mighty One has done great things for me,
and holy is his name.

His mercy is for those who fear him
from generation to generation.

He has shown strength with his arm;
he has scattered the proud in the thoughts of their hearts.
He has brought down the powerful from their thrones,
and lifted up the lowly;
he has filled the hungry with good things,
and sent the rich away empty.
He has helped his servant Israel,
in remembrance of his mercy,
according to the promise he made to our ancestors,
to Abraham and to his descendants for ever.’

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

One: This is the Gospel of the Lord.

All: **Thanks be to God.**

SERMON

The Power of Blessing

Pastor Rachel Rhodes

HYMN — *Oh Lord, How Shall I Meet You*

VALET WILL ICH DIR GEBEN

*O Lord, how shall I meet you, how welcome you aright?
Your people long to greet you, my hope, my heart's delight!*

*O kindle, Lord most holy, a lamp within my breast,
to do in spirit lowly all that may please you best.*

*Love caused your incarnation; love brought you down to me;
your thirst for my salvation procured my liberty.*

*O love beyond all telling, that led you to embrace
in love, all loves excelling, our lost and fallen race.*

*You come, O Lord, with gladness, in mercy and goodwill,
to bring an end to sadness and bid our fears be still.*

*In patient expectation we live for that great day
when your renewed creation your glory shall display.*

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. Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit. 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 — *Love Came Down at Christmas* - arr. Timothy Carpenter

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 — *My Soul Cries Out with a Joyful Shout*

Chancel Choir
Erica Simon, flute

All women

*My soul cries out with a joyful shout that the God of my heart is great,
And my spirit sings of the Wondrous things that you bring to the ones who wait.
You fixed your sight on your servant's plight and my weakness you did not spurn.
So from east to west shall my name be blest; could the world be about to turn?
All My heart shall sing of the day you bring; let the fires of your justice burn.
Wipe away all tears for the dawn draws near and the world is about to turn!*

All men

*Though I am small, my God, my all, you work great things in me.
And your mercy will last from the Depths of the past to the end of the age to be.
Your very name puts the proud to shame and to those who would for you yearn
You will show your might, put the strong to flight for the world is about to turn.
All My heart shall sing of the day you bring; let the fires of your justice burn.
Wipe away all tears for the dawn draws near and the world is about to turn!*

Choir only

*Wipe away all tears for the dawn draws near and the world is about to turn!
From the halls of power to the fortress tower not a stone will be left on stone.
Let the king beware! for your justice tears ev'ry tyrant from his throne.
The hungry poor shall weep no more for the food they can never earn;
There are tables spread, ev'ry mouth be fed for the world is about to turn.
All My heart shall sing of the day you bring; let the fires of your justice burn.
Wipe away all tears for the dawn draws near and the world is about to turn!*

Congregation and Choir

*Though the nations rage from age to age, we remember who holds us fast.
God's mercy must deliver us from the conqueror's crushing grasp.
This saving Word that our forebears heard is the promise which holds us bound
'Til the spear and rod can be crushed by God who is turning the world around
My heart shall sing of the day you bring; let the fires of your justice burn.
Wipe away all tears for the dawn draws near and the world is about to turn!*

POSTLUDE — *Blest Are Ye Faithful Souls* - Johannes Brahms

Yun Kang

QUESTIONS *for* REFLECTION

- What blessings have been offered to you throughout your life?
- How have you known the love of God more fully through those blessings?



Christmas Eve Schedule

4:00 p.m.

Children & Family Service
Childcare will be provided.

8:00 p.m.

Lessons & Carols Service
This service will be livestreamed.

6:30 p.m.

Lessons & Carols Service
Childcare will be provided.

10:00 p.m.

Christmas Communion
Service

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.***

REGARDING TODAY'S SERVICE

Most of today's liturgy is written by Rev. Sarah (Are) Speed | A Sanctified Art LLC | sanctifiedart.org.

TODAY! ALL-CHURCH CHRISTMAS CAROLING AT 4:30 P.M.

Please join the Youth Ministry as we host a fun evening of caroling around the MPC neighborhoods. We will meet in the church parking lot at 4:30 p.m. and depart on foot for an hour of festive caroling. Please dress for the weather and be prepared to walk about one mile. We will return to the church parking lot to enjoy hot chocolate and Christmas cookies around a warm fire. No RSVP is needed.

NO SUNDAY SCHOOL ON 12/26/21 AND 1/2/22

Due to Christmas and New Years, we will not be having Sunday School on December 26 and January 2. We hope you will spend time with family and friends in thanks and prayer and we look forward to seeing you on January 9!

CHRISTMAS JOY OFFERING: SUPPORTING PAST, PRESENT, AND FUTURE LEADERS

Each year during the Advent and Christmas season, we turn our eyes to Bethlehem and celebrate the wondrous gift of Jesus Christ, our Savior. Through giving to the Christmas Joy Offering you honor this gift by providing assistance to current and retired church workers in their times of need, and by developing our future leaders at Presbyterian-related schools and colleges that equip communities of color specifically:

- 50% of your gifts provide assistance for current and retired church workers and their families with critical financial need.
- 50% of your gifts make it possible for students to learn and grow in faith at Presbyterian-related schools and colleges equipping communities of color.

This offering will be collected by December 24 through a check sent to the church office with "Christmas Joy Offering" written on the memo line, or through our Online Giving Portal on the website with "Christmas Joy Offering" written in the notes section. As always, thank you for your generous support to this special offering and others of the PCUSA!

YEAR END GIVING

Thank you for your continued generosity and support throughout this year. To ensure that your gifts appear on your 2021 giving statement for tax purposes, please make sure all gifts are post-marked, delivered to MPC, or given online by December 31, 2021.

2022 OFFERING ENVELOPES

Offering envelopes are available in the Communication Center. If you would like them mailed, please contact Laurie Jacobson at the church office or at lauriejacobson@mpcusa.net and she will send them to you. Please note that envelopes were not given to those who have signed up for online giving.

BOOK DISTRIBUTION NEEDS:

Cold weather is bringing changes, but we are still finding ways to continue to distribute books. We have depleted the reserves of dictionaries and Bibles so if you have copies of either item, we can distribute them immediately. Currently, 90% of the books taken are those read by children under the age of 5. Almost no books (except Harry Potter and Lemony Snicket) for children above the third grade are taken. We have great interest in children's books on dinosaurs, trucks, "Disney Princesses" (including Pinkalicious, Dora, etc.). Adults take current best sellers (published within the past couple of years), cookbooks, religious books, and Civil War books.

If you have books that fall outside of the above categories, you will find Good Stuff on Route 1 will usually take them. The Salvation Army and Good Will, a short distance away from Good Stuff, also take books. Thank you for your generous and cheerful support. - *Susan Light*

CHRISTMAS ANGEL TREE

We are happy to announce that the Church Angel Tree is back for the Christmas Holiday! We are once again working with the Food Center to prepare toiletry bags for the many individuals we service each week from the Lower Bucks County and greater Trenton area. The Angel Tree is in the Communication Center and we are asking anyone interested in taking an Angel from the tree to put together a 1.5 gallon Ziploc bag filled with the following items:

- A few tooth brushes
- Mouthwash - small bottle
- Bar of wrapped soap
- Deodorant (neutral scent)
- Razors
- Chapstick
- Hand lotion
- Hand sanitizer
- Mask

Ziploc bags are available next to the tree, if needed.

A "blessing" from MPC is printed on the back of the angel and should be included inside each bag letting the recipients know that God loves them! We also know how generous our congregation is, but ask that you not include extra items in the bag. Instead, perhaps fill another bag!

The Ziploc bag can be dropped off Monday nights from 7:00 p.m. - 8:00 p.m., Tuesday mornings from 9:00 a.m. - 11:00 a.m., or before/after the Sunday worship services in the box marked "Angel Tree" in the Communication Center. We ask that all bags be delivered no later than December 28 for distribution to our Food Center clients beginning in the New Year! We are so grateful and thankful for all of you, and for all you do each year to make the Angel tree such a success!

If you have any questions, you can email Patti Sheffer at patricia.sheffer@yahoo.com or Lori Newman at mne4444276@aol.com.

Christmas Memorial Contributions - Poinsettias

IN LOVING MEMORY OF:

Parents, Douglas and Virginia Purdy
Siblings, Carol and Garvin Purdy
Loved ones
My husband, Charles A. Hill
Irene Csejtey, James T. Brice Sr. and
James "Jimmy" T. Brice II
My father and my grandparents
Nancy Dugan, Mom, Grammy

Terry Sinclair, Dad and Pops

Eugene and Anna Kutch
Grandmom and Grandpa Elko
Guy and Martha Blewett
Phillip and Martha Faridy
Our parents
Our parents, James & Marie Mallory and Ott Ward
Our siblings, Hunter, Jim Mallory and Joy Deem
My husband, Theodore A. Marks
My son, Theodore G. Marks
My daughter, Caroline N. Marks
My mother, Lois Wahlen
Mother and grandmother, Martha Rork
Husband and father, Jim Laird

BY:

Nancy Ackerman
Nancy Ackerman
Carol Evans and family
Connie Hill
Nicole Brice

Jill Monroe-Dillon
Robb, Elizabeth, Nick and
Riley Dugan
Robb, Elizabeth, Nick and
Riley Dugan
Lisa, Dave and Vincent Kutch
Lisa, Dave and Vincent Kutch
Lisa, Dave and Vincent Kutch
Lisa, Dave and Vincent Kutch
Carol and Roberta Carroll
Gary and Sue Ward
Gary and Sue Ward
Joan G. Marks
Joan G. Marks
Joan G. Marks
Kathleen Foster
Cynthia Laird
Cynthia Laird

Christmas Memorial Contributions - Poinsettias

TO GIVE THANKS FOR:

My family, Aaron & my furbabies
All who receive a poinsettia

IN CELEBRATION OF;

Our grandsons, Kai and Luke Mercer

BY:

Nicole Brice
Dave Koch

BY:

Kathleen and Steve Foster

Christmas Memorial Contributions - Music

IN LOVING MEMORY OF:

Our parents, Frances and Charles T. Burgess
Cousin, Rae B. Bennett
Ray, Ruth, Bill Yantz, Rudy, Mary Chris, and Rudy Sosna
Jack and Jeanne Burgess
Walter and Mary Ellis
Loved ones
Our parents
My husband, Charles A. Hill
Elaine Kreiling and Bonnie Werline
Parents, Estelle and Charles Wagner
Sister, Carole Eagan
Mary Jane, A. Richard Akelewicz and Gwen Fraser
Our son Timothy
Ray, Aggie and David Slover
My father and my grandparents
Our parents
James R. Ellsworth, Albert Histan and
Anna Histan
Our parents
My son, sadly missed, John C. Moyer
My special friend, Rae B. Bennett
My husband, Theodore A. Marks
My son, Theodore G. Marks
My daughter, Caroline N. Marks
My husband, Burtis A. Anderson

IN CELEBRATION OF:

All the MPC music makers

TO GIVE THANKS FOR:

Our grandchildren, Layla, Benjamin, James, Sloane
and Colin
The gift of music

BY:

Betsy Jurey and Bill Burgess
Betsy Jurey and Bill Burgess
Dave and Sandy Yantz
J'Ann B. Ellis
J'Ann B. Ellis
Carol Evans & family
Tim and Carol Carpenter
Connie Hill
Bill Anderson
Jane Detraz
Jane Detraz
Frances Akelewicz
Clark and DeeAnn Martin
Nancy and John Kernan
Jill Monroe-Dillon
David and Nancy Powers
The Neiman Family

Carol and Roberta Carroll
Mary Moyer
Mary Moyer
Joan G. Marks
Joan G. Marks
Joan G. Marks
Nancy C. Anderson

BY:

Dave Koch

BY:

Gail and Drew Hunger

Charles and Peggy Guenzel

Christmas Memorial Contributions - Food Baskets

IN LOVING MEMORY OF:

My dad, Uncle Lee, Forsyth grands, Betty, Helen,
JoAnn, Olga and David
Edith and Charles Koch
James R. Ellsworth, Albert Histan and
Anna Histan
Our parents
Our parents, James & Marie Mallory and Ott Ward
Our, siblings, Hunter, Jim Mallory and Joy Deem
Our loved ones
My friend, Mary Ann Johnson
My husband, Jerry Ashmen
Parents, Mina and John Masine
Parents, Dot and Gerald Ashmen
My husband, Burtis A. Anderson
Our parents, Helen and William Borden
Burtis Anderson
Beloved husband, Bruce R. Jablon
Beloved parents, Raymond and
Marie Elmer
Our parents, Grace and James Doster &
George and Sally Hunger
Our parents, Ralph and Jean Nelson &
Don and Muriel Curtiss
Cousin, Helen Chokey
Niece, Evelyn Fitz
Wife, Sandra Foster
Our parents, grandparents and beloved Grant Michael
Loved ones
Our parents
My brother, David Pruner
My husband, Charles A. Hill
Daughter, Becky Marseglia
Parents, John and Marilyn Ellis
Brother, Van Ellis
Grandparents, John and Olive Ellis
George Davenport
Steven Annenberg
Elaine Kreiling, Bonnie Werline,
MaryAnn Johnson and Anne Orazi
Husband, William "My Bill" Detraz
Our parents
My husband, parents, brother and cousin Betty
Loving parents and grandparents, Lewis and
Florence Kohn

BY:

Shirley DeAngelis

Dave Koch
The Neiman Family

Carol and Roberta Carroll
Gary and Sue Ward
Gary and Sue Ward
Kathleen and Steve Foster
Kathleen Foster
Joan Ashmen
Joan Ashmen
Joan Ashmen
Nancy C. Anderson
Nancy and Roger Anderson
Nancy and Roger Anderson
Diane, Kellie and Tom Jablon
Diane, Kellie and Tom Jablon

Gail and Drew Hunger

Beth and Randy Curtiss

Ross and Alice Gray
Ross and Alice Gray
Bob Foster
The Newman Family
Carol Evans and family
Tim and Carol Carpenter
Bill Pruner
Connie Hill
Diane Ellis-Marseglia
Diane Ellis-Marseglia
Diane Ellis-Marseglia
Diane Ellis-Marseglia
The Davenport Family
Susan Annenberg
Bill Anderson

Jane Detraz
Susan and Todd Light
Eleanor Franke
The Levan Family

Christmas Memorial Contributions - Food Baskets

IN LOVING MEMORY OF:

Earl and Sarah Levan
 My parents, Carolyn and Merrill Smith
 My father and my grandparents
 G.F Kolle, Edna T. Kolle, Helen and Walter Carroll
 Our parents

BY:

The Levan Family
 Tom Smith
 Jill Monroe-Dillon
 Patricia C. Kolle
 David and Nancy Powers

TO GIVE THANKS FOR:

Great Grandson, Macklen William Mertens

BY:

Bill Anderson

MPC Weekly Calendar

SUNDAY, December 19

Fourth Sunday of Advent

9:30 a.m. Sunday School for All Ages
10:30 **Worship Service** **Sanctuary**
10:30 **Worship Service** **Livestream**
 4:30 p.m. All-Church Caroling **Parking Lot**

MONDAY, December 20

7:00 p.m. Session Meeting
 7:00 Boy Scout Troop 3 **Fellowship Hall**

TUESDAY, December 21

9:00 a.m. Weekday Nursery School **Room 220**
 Santa Day
 6:00 p.m. Boy Scout Pack 3 **Fellowship Hall**
 6:00 Pack 3 Webelos **Room 104**
 6:30 Alcoholics Anonymous **Room 220**

WEDNESDAY, December 22

9:00 a.m. Food Center **Room 4**
 7:00 p.m. Girl Scout Troop 2888 **Room 220**

THURSDAY, December 23

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 **Sanctuary**

FRIDAY, December 24

Christmas Eve

4:00 p.m. Children & Family Service **Sanctuary**
6:30 Lessons & Carols Service **Sanctuary**
8:00 Lessons & Carols Service **Sanctuary**
 7:00 Alcoholics Anonymous **Room 220**
10:00 Christmas Communion **Sanctuary**
Service

SATURDAY, December 25

Christmas Day

SUNDAY, December 26

10:30 a.m. Worship Service **Sanctuary**
10:30 **Worship Service** **Livestream**

CONTACT US

MORRISVILLE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH STAFF

771 North Pennsylvania Ave. | Morrisville, PA 19067 | 215.295.4191 | Office@MPCusa.net

Rachel A. Rhodes, <i>Senior Pastor & Head of Staff (ext. 234)</i>	RachelRhodes@MPCusa.net
Alexander Lester-Abdalla, <i>Associate Pastor (ext. 225)</i>	AlexLester-Abdalla@MPCusa.net
Jack McAnlis, <i>Minister of Visitation (ext. 232)</i>	JackMcAnlis@MPCusa.net
Timothy Carpenter, <i>Director of Music</i>	TimCarpenter@MPCusa.net
Yun Kang, <i>Principal Organist</i>	YunKang@MPCusa.net
David Sterling, <i>Property Manager (ext. 231)</i>	DavidSterling@MPCusa.net
Laurie Jacobson, <i>Financial Secretary (ext. 226)</i>	LaurieJacobson@MPCusa.net
Damon Miller, <i>Communication Coordinator</i>	DamonMiller@MPCusa.net
Nicole Brice, <i>Administrative Assistant (ext. 0)</i>	Office@MPCusa.net