



*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 JANUARY 9, 2022  
THE BAPTISM OF THE LORD

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## GATHERING

**PRELUDE** — *Elevation in F Major* - Alexandre Guilmant

Yun Kang

**CALL to WORSHIP**

Caroline Thompson

One: O God, some of us are discouraged and long for your embrace.

**All: Wash us with your love.**

One: Some of us are weary, weighed down by the desperation of this world.

**All: Wash us with your hope.**

One: Some of us are anxious and seek refuge from chaotic lives.

**All: Wash us with your peace.**

One: Some of us are restless, yearning for renewal or transformation.

**All: Wash us with your grace.**

One: However we come into your presence, pour out your Spirit upon us.

**All: Let us come to the waters of baptism. Let us worship God!**

**HYMN** — *Come, Thou Fount of Every Blessing*

NETTLETON

*Come, thou Fount of every blessing; tune my heart to sing thy grace;  
streams of mercy, never ceasing, call for songs of loudest praise.  
Teach me some melodious sonnet, sung by flaming tongues above;  
praise the mount! I'm fixed upon it, mount of God's unchanging love!*

*O to grace how great a debtor daily I'm constrained to be!  
Let that grace now, like a fetter, bind my wandering heart to thee.  
Prone to wander, Lord, I feel it, prone to leave the God I love;  
here's my heart; O take and seal it; seal it for thy courts above.*

**PRAYER of CONFESSION** -

Pastor Alex Lester-Abdalla

**God of grace, you claim us as beloved children and call us to follow you, but we do not always live out this calling. We stifle the gifts you have given us rather than using them for your glory. We sidestep opportunities to offer kindness rather than showing love to our neighbors. We pretend we can do nothing to further justice in our world and shy away from taking risks for the sake of the gospel. Forgive us, Lord. Wash us again in the waters of baptism and transform us by your grace, so that our words may further righteousness and our deeds be pleasing in your sight. We pray in the name of Jesus Christ, who offers us new life.**

**SILENT PRAYERS of CONFESSION**

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

**PROMISE of FORGIVENESS**

One: Hear the good news of the gospel: As a voice from heaven said to Jesus, so God says to each of us: You are my beloved child, and with you I am well pleased. Give thanks to God and by the Spirit's power let us share this good gospel news near and far:

**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.*

## LITURGY of the WORD

### FIRST SCRIPTURE READING — *Psalm 29*

One: Ascribe to the Lord, O heavenly beings, ascribe to the Lord glory and strength. Ascribe to the Lord the glory of his name; worship the Lord in holy splendour.

**All: The voice of the Lord is over the waters; the God of glory thunders, the Lord, over mighty waters. The voice of the Lord is powerful; the voice of the Lord is full of majesty.**

One: The voice of the Lord breaks the cedars; the Lord breaks the cedars of Lebanon. He makes Lebanon skip like a calf, and Sirion like a young wild ox.

**All: The voice of the Lord flashes forth flames of fire. The voice of the Lord shakes the wilderness; the Lord shakes the wilderness of Kadesh.**

One: The voice of the Lord causes the oaks to whirl, and strips the forest bare; and in his temple all say, 'Glory!'

**All: The Lord sits enthroned over the flood; the Lord sits enthroned as king forever. May the Lord give strength to his people! May the Lord bless his people with peace!**

One: This is the Word of the Lord.

**All: Thanks be to God.**

### GOSPEL READING — *Luke 3:15-17, 21-22*

As the people were filled with expectation, and all were questioning in their hearts concerning John, whether he might be the Messiah, John answered all of them by saying, 'I baptize you with water; but one who is more powerful than I is coming; I am not worthy to untie the thong of his sandals. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire. His winnowing-fork is in his hand, to clear his threshing-floor and to gather the wheat into his granary; but the chaff he will burn with unquenchable fire.'

Now when all the people were baptized, and when Jesus also had been baptized and was praying, the heaven was opened, and the Holy Spirit descended upon him in bodily form like a dove. And a voice came from heaven, 'You are my Son, the Beloved; with you I am well pleased.'

One: This is the Gospel of the Lord.

**All: Thanks be to God.**

### SERMON

*Standing in Line with Jesus*

Pastor Rachel Rhodes

### HYMN — *Open Now Thy Gates of Beauty*

UNSER HERRSCHER

*Open now thy gates of beauty,  
Zion, let me enter there,  
where my soul in joyful duty  
waits for God who answers prayer;  
O how blessed is this place,  
filled with solace, light, and grace.*

*Speak, O Lord, and I will hear thee;  
let thy will be done indeed;  
may I undisturbed draw near thee,  
while thou dost thy people feed.  
Here of life the fountain flows,  
here is balm for all our woes.*

**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.

**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.

**S E N D I N G**

**HYMN** — *Baptized in Water*

BUNESSAN

*Baptized in water, sealed by the Spirit,  
cleansed by the blood of Christ our King;  
heirs of salvation, trusting the promise,  
faithfully now God's praises we sing.*

*Baptized in water, sealed by the Spirit,  
marked with the sign of Christ our King;  
born of the Spirit, we are God's children,  
joyfully now God's praises we sing.*

**POSTLUDE** — *Processional in C* - Hal Hopson

**QUESTION for REFLECTION**

- What does it mean to you to be beloved of God?
- Does your life reflect that truth?



**Congregational Meeting**

Sunday, January 9, 2022 ~ following Worship Service ~ via Zoom\*

- Approving Terms of Call for Installed Pastors
- Review of Budget
- Report on Stewardship Campaign

\*Please see email titled "Your Worship Information for Sunday, 1/9/22" from MPC for login information.

## 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).*

### **REBECCA CIRCLE MEETING TOMORROW!**

Rebecca Circle will meet by Zoom at 7:00 p.m. on Monday, January 10. Our speaker will be Rev. Nancy Schongalla, the founder and executive director of a nonprofit, Adopt a South African Preschool (ASAP). ASAP puts education toys in the hands of at risk children, many of whom have not held a toy before. Children learn through play. ASAP helps prepare at risk children to thrive in school and in life. Their caregivers in informal daycares receive training in early childhood education while borrowing educational toys from ASAP Preschool Hub resource libraries. A wonderful team in South Africa turns all donated funds into concrete support. Contact Ruth Workman at [ruthworkman@prodigy.net](mailto:ruthworkman@prodigy.net) with any questions or concerns.

### **JOIN US IN THE GOSPEL OF JOHN!**

Have you been considering joining Bible Study but haven't wanted to jump in midstream? Now is the perfect time to join us! Starting Wednesday, January 12 at noon, we'll be taking the plunge into the Gospel of John, and we hope you'll consider joining us for this new adventure in the new year.

EVERYONE is welcome—this includes people who read the Bible and commentaries regularly, as well as people who don't even know what a commentary is. We are learning and growing together and we have a lot of fun doing it! Our Bible Study meets every Wednesday from noon-1:00 p.m. And at least for the month of January, we will be meeting over Zoom. We hope you'll make this part of your New Year's resolution and carve out a part of your week to study God's word among friends. Following our Bible Study each week, folks are also welcome to stay for our weekly prayer meeting that meets for about 15-20 minutes. If you would like to attend Brown Bag & Bible Study (or are at least interested enough to check it out for a couple of weeks), please contact Pastor Rachel at [rachelrhodes@mpcusa.net](mailto:rachelrhodes@mpcusa.net). We'd love to have you!

### **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](mailto: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*

### **MANY THANKS**

The Deacons would like to take this opportunity to thank everyone who filled bags with toiletries and/or donated money to this year's Angel Tree project! It was an incredible success and exceeded our goal of 100 bags, we collected 130 toiletry bags for the Food Center Clients! Included in the Ziploc bag was the list of products collected, information about MPC including the address, phone number and website, and an angel blessing assuring our clients that God loves them. The Food Center will start distributing these care bags to our clients this month. Again, thanks so much for the wonderful outpouring of generosity!

## MPC *Weekly Calendar*

### SUNDAY, January 9

9:30 a.m.	Sunday School for All Ages	
<b>10:30</b>	<b>Worship Service</b>	<b>Sanctuary</b>
<b>10:30</b>	<b>Worship Service</b>	<b>Livestream</b>
11:30	Congregational Meeting	Sanctuary

### MONDAY, January 10

11:00 a.m.	Deborah Circle	via Zoom
7:00 p.m.	Boy Scout Troop 3	Fellowship Hall
7:00	Rebecca Circle	via Zoom
7:00	Trustees Meeting	

### TUESDAY, January 11

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

### WEDNESDAY, January 12

Noon	Brown Bag & Bible Study	via Zoom
6:00 p.m.	Youth Club	Fellowship Hall
7:00	Girl Scout Troop 2888	Room 220
7:15	Chancel Chimes	Sanctuary

### THURSDAY, January 13

Noon	Alcoholics Anonymous	Room 220
6:30 p.m.	Oakville Girl Scouts	Room 220

### FRIDAY, January 14

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

### SATURDAY, January 15

Noon	To Live Again	Fellowship Hall
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### SUNDAY, January 16

9:30 a.m.	Sunday School for All Ages	
<b>10:30</b>	<b>Worship Service</b>	<b>Sanctuary</b>
<b>10:30</b>	<b>Worship Service</b>	<b>Livestream</b>

## CONTACT US

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