



*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
FIFTH SUNDAY of LENT
MARCH 17, 2024

GATHERING

PRELUDE — *Aria* - Caleb Simper

Yun Kang

WORDS of WELCOME

Pastor Rachel Rhodes

INTROIT — *Come, Worship God* from *Paris Antiphoner*

Chancel Choir

*Come, worship God, who is worthy of honor;
enter God's presence with thanks and a song!
You are the rock of your people's salvation
to whom our jubilant praises belong.*

*Now let us listen, for you speak among us;
open our hearts to receive what you say.
Peace be to all who remember your goodness,
trust in your word, and rejoice in your way!*

CALL to WORSHIP

Adrienne Poissant

One: Each day is a gift from God,

All: Each moment is that opportunity to reach out in service to all creation.

One: Each day is a reminder of the new covenant:

All: Not written on stone tablets easily broken, but inscribed on our hearts filled with joy and hope.

One: Each day we draw closer to God:

All: Who has forgotten more than we ever learn; who has forgiven us more than we ever acknowledge.

HYMN — *Lord, Speak to Me That I May Speak*

CANONBURY

*Lord, speak to me that I may speak in living echoes of your tone.
As you have sought, so let me seek your erring children, lost and lone.
O lead me, Lord, that I may lead the wandering and the wavering feet.
O feed me, Lord, that I may feed your hungering ones with manna sweet.
O teach me, Lord, that I may teach the precious truths which you impart.
And wing my words that they may reach the hidden depths of many a heart.
O fill me with your fullness, Lord, until my very heart o'erflow
in kindling thought and glowing word, your love to tell, your praise to show.
O use me, Lord, use even me, just as you will, and when, and where
until your blessed face I see, your rest, your joy, your glory share.*

PRAYER of CONFESSION

Pastor Alex Lester-Abdalla

When we resist your call to change our hearts and allow a deepening of relationship: God have mercy. When we nurse our wounded hearts and withhold forgiveness, which may transform relationship: Christ have mercy. When fear for our own security leads us to close our hearts from those who are in need: God have mercy.

SILENT PRAYERS of CONFESSION *Here each worshiper may offer silent prayers of confession.*

PROMISE of FORGIVENESS

One: The One who makes a covenant on our hearts is faithful, and forgives us our sins and failures. In Christ, God offers forgiving grace and welcome into a community of trust, abundance, and hope. Let us give thanks for the mercy of God, and 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.*

LITURGY of the WORD

PRAYER for ILLUMINATION

OLD TESTAMENT READING — *Psalm 119:9-16*

One: How can young people keep their way pure? By guarding it according to your word.

All: With my whole heart I seek you; do not let me stray from your commandments.

One: I treasure your word in my heart, so that I may not sin against you.

All: Blessed are you, O Lord; teach me your statutes.

One: With my lips I declare all the ordinances of your mouth.

All: I delight in the way of your decrees as much as in all riches.

One: I will meditate on your precepts, and fix my eyes on your ways.

All: I will delight in your statutes; I will not forget your word.

One: This is the Word of the Lord.

All: Thanks be to God!

ANTHEM — *Lord, Who Throughout These Forty Days* - English Folk tune, arr. Linda Shute

*Lord, who throughout these forty days for us didst fast and pray,
teach us with thee to mourn our sins, and close by thee to stay.*

*As thou didst hunger, teach us, gracious Lord,
to die to self, and live by thy most holy word.*

*And through these days of penitence, and through thy Passiontide,
yea, evermore, in life and death, Jesus! with us abide.*

--Claudia Hernaman

TIME for YOUNG DISCIPLES

GOSPEL READING — *John 12:20-33*

Now among those who went up to worship at the festival were some Greeks. They came to Philip, who was from Bethsaida in Galilee, and said to him, 'Sir, we wish to see Jesus.' Philip went and told Andrew; then Andrew and Philip went and told Jesus. Jesus answered them, 'The hour has come for the Son of Man to be glorified. Very truly, I tell you, unless a grain of wheat falls into the earth and dies, it remains just a single grain; but if it dies, it bears much fruit. Those who love their life lose it, and those who hate their life in this world will keep it for eternal life. Whoever serves me must follow me, and where I am, there will my servant be also. Whoever serves me, the Father will honour.

Now my soul is troubled. And what should I say—"Father, save me from this hour"? No, it is for this reason that I have come to this hour. Father, glorify your name.' Then a voice came from heaven, 'I have glorified it, and I will glorify it again.' The crowd standing there heard it and said that it was thunder. Others said, 'An angel has spoken to him.' Jesus answered, 'This voice has come for your sake, not for mine. Now is the judgement of this world; now the ruler of this world

will be driven out. And I, when I am lifted up from the earth, will draw all people to myself.' He said this to indicate the kind of death he was to die.

One: This is the Gospel of the Lord.

All: **Thanks be to God!**

SERMON

We Wish to See Jesus

Pastor Rhodes

HYMN — *Now The Green Blade Rises*

NOËL NOUVELET

*Now the green blade rises from the buried grain,
wheat that in dark earth many days has lain;
love lives again, that with the dead has been;
love is come again like wheat arising green.*

*In the grave they laid him, love by hatred slain,
thinking that he would never wake again,
laid in the earth like grain that sleeps unseen;
love is come again like wheat arising green.*

*Forth he came at Easter like the risen grain,
he that for three days in the grave had lain;
raised from the dead, my living Lord is seen;
love is come again like wheat arising green.*

*When our hearts are wintry, grieving, or in pain,
your touch can call us back to life again;
fields of our hearts that dead and bare have been:
love is come again like wheat arising green.*

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.

PRAYERS of the PEOPLE

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 — *When I Survey the Wondrous Cross* - Lowell Mason

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 — *How Clear Is Our Vocation, Lord*

REPTON

*How clear is our vocation, Lord, when once we heed your call
to live according to your word and daily learn, refreshed, restored,
that you are Lord of all and will not let us fall*

*But if, forgetful, we should find your yoke is hard to bear;
if worldly pressures fray the mind and love itself cannot unwind
its tangled skein of care: our inward life repair.*

*We marvel how your saints became in hindrances more sure:
whose joyful virtues put to shame the casual way we wear your name,
and by our faults obscure your power to cleanse and cure.*

*In what you give us, Lord, to do, together or alone,
in old routines or ventures new, may we not cease to look to you:
the cross you hung upon, all you endeavored, done.*

CHARGE and BLESSING

BENEDICTION RESPONSE — *Amen*

POSTLUDE — *The Heavens are Telling* - arr. Dorothy Wells

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.*

TODAY'S CHANCEL FLOWERS

The Chancel Flowers are offered to the glory of God and are given by Dave, Lisa and Vincent Kutch in loving memory or Anna and Gene Kutch. The second arrangement is given by Carol Carpenter in loving memory of her father, Albert D. Wismar.

MPC NOMINATING COMMITTEE NEEDS YOUR HELP

Each year the MPC Nominating Committee is tasked with selecting individuals from our church membership to serve with energy, intelligence, imagination, and love, as Deacons, Elders, and Trustees. As we discern God's will for the next chapter of leadership in the life of our church, the MPC Nominating Committee would love to hear from you!

If you would like to nominate someone who may be particularly gifted to serve as an Elder, Deacon, or Trustee in the life of our church, please send their name(s) to the Nominating Committee Chairperson, Dan Jones, at djones@fresnelpartners.com. We can't wait to see where the Spirit will lead us next!

MARCH'S FOOD CENTER REQUEST

Our Food Center is asking for peanut butter as this month's food donation. For safety reasons, peanut butter packaged in plastic jars is preferred. A shopping cart has been put in the Welcome Center to receive your donations. Thank you for your continued generous help!

NO ADULT SUNDAY SCHOOL HOLY WEEK AND EASTER

Priesthood of All Believers, please note that there will not be Adult Sunday School on March 24 and 31. However, we will start right back up on April 7 with a multi-week course taught by Pastor Alex about statements of faith. Stay tuned for more information and looking forward to seeing you there in the conference room from 9:30 a.m. to 10:15 a.m.

UPDATING OUR DIRECTORY INFORMATION

We want to be sure that we have correct information to contact you. If unable to check at the Welcome Center in the church, please contact the church office at 215-295-4191 or office@mpcusa.org with your name and your correct/preferred address, phone number and email.

THIS WEEK: MPC BOOK DISCUSSIONS FOR FELLOWSHIP AND LEARNING.

We have two interesting book selections to read together and gather to discuss in the coming months. We will meet on March 18, April 15 and May 20 at 7:00 p.m. in the Lounge. All are welcome and feel free to bring a friend. Selections are:

March 18: *A History of Christianity: the First Three Thousand Years* by Diarmaid MacCulloch. Discussion led by Jill Monroe Dillon and Alan Dillon will cover the first four chapters (pages 19 - 154) which includes "Part I A Millennium of Beginnings (1000BC - 100 CE)" and the first two chapters of "Part II One Church, One Faith, One Lord? (4 BCE - 451 CE)." Please include the "Introduction" (pages 1-15) in your reading. This book may be covered over one or two months.

Our next selection for April or May (TBD) will be *Caste: The Origins of Our Discontents* by Isabel Wilkerson. This is by the same author as *The Warmth of Other Suns: The Epic Story of America's Great Migration* which we enjoyed reading together a few years back.

Get your own copy of the books (at the bookstore, library or on-line) and read at your leisure. Please contact Chris Bannister at bannistercr@gmail.com with your interest and questions.

RECENT PRAYER REQUESTS

You are invited to hold these congregants and friends in your prayers this month:

Janne Fowler	Myrtle Lauver
Dana Kelley (niece of Dave & Nancy Powers)	Carolle Maust
Marilyn Jorgensen	Dee Turner (friend of the Rhodes)
Betsy Jurey	

Once a month, the list of prayer requests of this community will be listed in the bulletin. If you would like to add someone to the prayer list or receive the weekly prayer list, please email Rev. Brian Ballard, Minister for Visitation, at brianballard@mpcusa.org.

BOOK DISTRIBUTION DURING CODE BLUE AND MORE UPDATES

During the month of March, we will provide reading materials to Code Blue participants who will be dinner and overnight guests of MPC. Joy Rees will make available compact books, including small New Testaments with magnifier cards, and magazines to our guests. If you have thin paperback copies of books, please put them in the special Book Distribution collection box in the Welcome Center. We are also looking for magazines like *National Geographic* or *Smithsonian* which contain a lot of pictures and upbeat stories. Books written for middle school ages are also often very interesting adult reads.

Simple cookbooks with healthy recipes that do not require expensive ingredients are now in high demand. The Book Distribution always needs more preschool board books, books in Spanish for children, and books for the early school grades. Alice Garcia and Joy Rees are distributing bibles and dictionaries to Food Center clients, and there is a need for a steady supply again. Small items (coloring books for all ages, bible stories, puzzles, battery free toys, board games, etc.) are also very welcome. Please contact Alice Garcia at 609-230-1786 about helping with the books during some Food Center distributions, and Susan Light at 215-801-8185 about helping with obtaining/processing books.

CLOTHING CENTER DONATIONS

The MPC Clothing Center is now accepting clean and gently used spring and summer clothes, as well as spring and Easter decorations. No fall and winter clothing, or Christmas and winter decorations will be accepted at that time as space does not allow for storage of off-season items. As a reminder, all donated items (housewares, linens, glass, china, etc.) must be washed and clean, and no donations should be left outside the church doors. Donations may be dropped off at any time when the church is open. Please place all donations on the shelves downstairs by the elevator.

The Clothing Center is open each Thursday from 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.. The last day to shop before closing for the summer is June 13. Your continued support and cooperation are greatly appreciated.

MPC BLOOD PRESSURE SCREENING

We are pleased to announce a Blood Pressure Screening event on Sunday, April 14. The screening will take place in the chapel after the service, starting at 11:45 a.m. To ensure a smooth and efficient screening process, we kindly ask you to:

- Wear clothing that will make your arm easily accessible for blood pressure monitoring.
- Limit your caffeine intake on the day of the screening.
- If you are on medication for blood pressure, please continue to take it as usual on the day of the screening.
- Bring your own personal blood pressure monitoring record on the day of screening if you wish.

Your health is our priority. We look forward to seeing you there!



SCOUTS BSA TROOP 3

*Palm Sunday
Bake Sale*



SUNDAY, MARCH 24, 2024
10AM-12NOON
MORRISVILLE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Join us this Holy Week



Palm Sunday

March 24, 10:30 a.m.

Sanctuary & Livestream



Maundy Thursday

March 28, 6:00 p.m.

Fellowship Hall



Easter Sunday

March 31, 10:30 a.m.

Sanctuary & Livestream

iPhone



**Introducing
mobile giving**

Scan the appropriate QR code with your phone and find MPC by searching code 'FEDN99' or 'Morrisville Presbyterian Church'

Once set up, you can schedule recurring gifts or make one-time offerings with one click.

Android



Need Help? email Office@mpcusa.org and ask that your questions be forwarded to the stewardship committee.

MPC Weekly Calendar

SUNDAY, March 17 - Fourth Sunday of Lent

8:30 a.m.	God's Thunder	Chapel
9:00	New Members Class	Lounge
9:30	Sunday School for all ages	
10:30	Worship Service -	Sanctuary & Livestream
11:30	Fellowship Hour	Lounge
	Host: Clothing Center	
11:45	Nominating Committee Meeting	Conference Room
11:45	Teen Choir	Music Room
Noon	Adonai Tabernacle	Room 220

MONDAY, March 18

9:30 a.m.	Ivins Outreach Center	Lounge
5:30 p.m.	Food Packing	Food Center
6:30	Mostly Motets	Music Room
7:00	Book Discussion Group	Lounge
7:00	Boy Scout Troop 3	Fellowship Hall
7:00	Boy Scout Troop 3	Lounge
	Parent & Board Meeting	

TUESDAY, March 19

9:00 a.m.	Produce Prep	Food Center
5:30 p.m.	Outreach Committee	Zoom

WEDNESDAY, March 20

9:00 a.m.	Food Center Distribution	Parking Lot
Noon	Brown Bag & Bible Study	Conference Room
12:30 p.m.	Clothing Center Drop-off	Room 4
1:00	Prayer Meeting	Conference Room
6:00	Cub Scout Pack 3	Room 220

WEDNESDAY, March 20 (continued)

6:00 p.m.	Youth Club	Fellowship Hall
7:00	Girl Scout Troop 2888	Room 220
7:00	Ivins Outreach Center	Lounge
	Board Meeting	
7:15	Chancel Chimes	Chapel

THURSDAY, March 21

10:00 a.m.	Clothing Center	Room 4
6:00 p.m.	Oakville Girl Scouts	Fellowship Hall
7:00	Chancel Choir	Music Room

FRIDAY, March 22

6:30 p.m.	AA Meeting	Lounge
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SATURDAY, March 23

8:00 a.m.	Deacons' Food Basket Distribution	Fellowship Hall
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SUNDAY, March 24 - Palm Sunday

8:30 a.m.	God's Thunder	Chapel
9:30	New Members Class	Lounge
9:30	Sunday School for all ages (No Adult Sunday School)	
10:30	Worship Service -	Sanctuary & Baptism & New Members Livestream
10:30	Boy Scout Bake Sale	Welcome Center
11:30	Fellowship Hour	Lounge
	Host: Communications Committee	
11:45	Nominating Committee Meeting	Conference Room
11:45	Teen Choir	Music Room
Noon	Adonai Tabernacle	Room 220

Want to know when a future event is taking place or want to book a room for your committee or group? Check out the MPC calendar at mpcusa.org/calendar to see when events takes place and room availability.

CONTACT US

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