



*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*  
FIRST SUNDAY  
*after* EPIPHANY

JANUARY 11, 2026 ~ 10:30 A.M.

## GATHERING

### WORDS of WELCOME

Rev. Alex Lester-Abdalla

### PRELUDE — *Allein Gott in der Hoh sei Ehr* - Andreas Vetter

Yun Kang

### INTROIT — *Sing of God Made Manifest* - SALZBURG

Chancel Choir

*Sing of God made manifest in a child robust and blest,  
to whose home in Bethlehem where a star had guided them,  
Magi came and gifts unbound, signs mysterious and profound :  
myrrh and frankincense and gold, grave and God and king foretold.  
— Carl Daw Jr.*

### CALL to WORSHIP

Wes Gardner, Liturgist

One: Jesus was born in the town of Bethlehem, in the land of Judah during the time when Herod was king. Soon afterward some men who studied the stars came from the east to Jerusalem and asked:

All: **Where is the baby born to be King of the Jews? We saw his star when it came up in the East and we have come to worship him.**

One: Let us worship God together.

### HYMN — *The First Nowell* (verses 3, 4, 5, and 6)

THE FIRST NOWELL

*And by the light of that same star three wise men came from country far;  
to seek for a king was their intent, and to follow the star wherever it went.  
Nowell, Nowell, Nowell, Nowell, born is the King of Israel.*

*This star drew nigh to the northwest; o'er Bethlehem it took its rest,  
and there it did both stop and stay, right over the place where Jesus lay.  
Nowell, Nowell, Nowell, Nowell, born is the King of Israel.*

*Then entered in those wise men three, full reverently upon their knee,  
and offered there in his presence their gold, and myrrh, and frankincense.  
Nowell, Nowell, Nowell, Nowell, born is the King of Israel.*

### LITANY *for* EPIPHANY *of the* LORD

One: Arise, shine; for your light has come! The glory of the Lord has risen upon you.

All: **Jesus Christ is the light of the world.**

One: Nations will come to His light, and rulers will seek His radiance.

All: **Jesus Christ is the light of the world.**

One: He will judge the people with righteousness, and defend the cause of the poor.

All: **Jesus Christ is the light of the world.**

One: The mystery of the ages is revealed; the eternal plan of God is known to all.

All: **Jesus Christ is the light of the world.**

One: Let us kneel down before Him to give Him honor, glory and praise.

All: **Jesus Christ is the light of the world.**

One: Let us offer Him all the treasures of our hearts and our lives.

All: **Amen.**

**ANTHEM** — *Three Kings From Persian Lands Afar*

Solo with Choir & Instrumentalists

Peter Cornelius (soloist text and music) and Phillipp Nicolai (choir text and music)

Solo:

*Three kings from Persian lands afar to Jordan follow the pointing star:  
And this the quest of the travellers three, where the newborn King of the Jews may be.  
Full royal gifts they bear for the King: gold, incense, myrrh are their offering.  
The star shines out with a steadfast ray; the kings to Bethlehem make their way,  
And there in worship they bend the knee, as Mary's child in her lap they see.  
Their royal gifts they show to the King: gold, incense, myrrh are their offering.  
Thou child of man, lo to Bethlehem the kings are trav'ling, travel with them!  
The star of mercy, the star of grace, shall lead thy heart to its resting place.  
Gold, incense, myrrh thou canst not bring; offer thy heart to the infant King.*

Choir:

*How brightly shines the Morning Star! With grace and truth from heaven afar  
Our Jesse tree now bloweth. Of Jacob's stem and David's line,  
for thee, my Bridegroom, King Divine, my soul with love o'erfloweth.  
Thy Word, Jesu, inly feeds us, rightly leads us, life bestowing.  
Praise, O praise such love o'erflowing.*

**PRAYER of CONFESSION**

One: "The light has come into the world, and people loved the darkness rather than the light because their works were evil." (John 3:19) In the light of Christ, let us confess our sin before God and seek His mercy.

**All: God of glory, You sent Jesus among us as the light of the world, to reveal Your love for all people. We confess that our sin and pride hide the brightness of Your light. We turn away from the poor; we ignore cries for justice; we do not strive for peace. In Your mercy, cleanse us of our sin, and pour out the gifts of Your Spirit, that, forgiven and renewed, we may show forth Your glory shining in the face of Jesus Christ.**

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

**PROMISE of FORGIVENESS**

One: The mercy of the Lord is like rain, like showers that water the earth. In the name of Jesus Christ, we are forgiven.

**All: In Jesus Christ we are forgiven. Alleluia! Amen!**

**RESPONSE to GOD'S GRACE** — (from hymn 113) — *Angels We Have Heard on High*  
*Gloria in excelsis Deo! Gloria in excelsis Deo!*

GLORIA

**ANTHEM** — *Das Neugeborne Kindelein* - Dietrich Buxtehude

Chancel Choir & Instrumentalists

*Das neugeborne Kindelein,  
Das herzeliebe Jesulein,  
Bringt abermal ein neues Jahr  
Der auserwählten Christenschar.*

*Des freuen sich die Engelein,  
Die gerne um und bei uns sein,  
Und singen in den Lüften frei,  
Daß Gott mit uns versöhnet sei.  
Ist Gott versöhnt und unser Freund,  
Was kann uns tun der arge Feind?  
Trotz Teufel, Welt und Höllen Pfort,  
Das Jesulein ist unser Hort!*

The newborn little child,  
the dearly beloved little Jesus  
brings again a new year  
to his chosen Christian flock.

Thus the angels rejoice  
who like to be around and with us  
and singing freely in the heavens  
that God is reconciled with us.

Since God is reconciled and our friend,  
what can the wicked Foe do to us?  
Despite the Devil, the world, and Hell's portals,  
Lord Jesus, you are our refuge.

*Es bringt das rechte Jubeljahr,  
Was trauern wir dann immerdar?  
Frisch auf, Jetzt ist es Singens Zeit!  
Das Jesulein wendt alles Leid!*  
—text by Cyriakus Schneegass

You bring us a true jubilee year.  
Why should we always mourn?  
Look alive! - it's time now for singing:  
Lord Jesus, you turn away all suffering.

## LITURGY of the WORD

### PRAYER for ILLUMINATION

#### RESPONSIVE READING — *Revelation 22:16, Numbers 24: 17a, and Isaiah 60:3*

One: “I, Jesus, have sent my angel to you with this testimony for the Churches. I am both the root and stock of David, and the bright star of the morning!”

**All: I see Him, but not now; I behold Him, but not near;**

One: A Star shall come out of Jacob; A Scepter shall rise out of Israel.

**All: And nations shall come to your light, and kings to the brightness of your rising.**

One: This is the Word of the Lord.

**All: Thanks be to God.**

#### ANTHEM — from *Christus* - Felix Mendelssohn

Solo:

*When Jesus our Lord was born in Bethlehem, in the land of Judea, behold,  
from the East to the city of Jerusalem there came wise men and said:*

Trio:

*Say, where is he born, the King of Judea?  
For we have seen his star and are come to adore him.*

Chorus:

*There shall a star come out of Jacob,  
and a scepter shall rise out of Israel with might destroying princes and cities.  
As bright the star of morning gleams,  
so Jesus sheddeth glorious beams of light and consolation.  
Thy word, O Lord, radiance darting, truth imparting,  
gives salvation; thine be praise and adoration.*

### TIME for YOUNG DISCIPLES

Rev. Dr. Tom Kort

#### HYMN — *What Child is This?*

GREENSLEEVES

*What child is this, who, laid to rest, on Mary's lap is sleeping?  
Whom angels greet with anthems sweet while shepherds watch are keeping?  
This, this is Christ the King, whom shepherds guard and angels sing;  
haste, haste to bring him laud, the babe, the son of Mary!*

*Why lies he in such mean estate where ox and ass are feeding?  
Good Christian, fear; for sinners here the silent Word is pleading.  
Nails, spear, shall pierce him through; the cross be borne for me, for you.  
Hail, hail, the Word made flesh, the babe, the son of Mary!*

*So bring him incense, gold, myrrh; come, one and all, to own him.  
The King of kings salvation brings; let loving hearts enthrone him.  
Raise, raise the song on high. The virgin sings her lullaby.  
Joy, joy, for Christ is born, the babe, the son of Mary!*

**SCRIPTURE READING** — *Revelation 21:3-4, 22:5*

One: This is the Word of the Lord.

All: **Thanks be to God!**

**ANTHEM** — *Bethlehem Down* - Peter Warlock

Ensemble & Instrumentalists

*“When He is King we will give him the Kings' gifts,  
Myrrh for its sweetness, and gold for a crown, beautiful robes”,  
said the young girl to Joseph, fair with her first-born on Bethlehem Down.*

*Bethlehem Down is full of the starlight -  
Winds for the spices, and stars for the gold,  
Mary for sleep, and for lullaby music songs of a shepherd by Bethlehem fold.*

*When He is King they will clothe Him in grave-sheets,  
Myrrh for embalming, and wood for a crown,  
He that lies now in the white arms of Mary sleeping so lightly on Bethlehem Down.*

*Here He has peace and a short while for dreaming,  
Close-buddled oxen to keep Him from cold,  
Mary for love, and for lullaby music songs of a shepherd by Bethlehem fold.*  
— poem by Bruce Blunt

**AFFIRMATION of FAITH** — from *Our Song of Hope*

**Our God loves this world, God called it into being, God renews it through Jesus Christ, God governs it by the Spirit. God is the world's true Hope. We are a people of hope waiting for the return of our Lord. God has come to us through the ancient people of Israel, as the true Son of God, Jesus of Nazareth, as the Holy Spirit at work in our world. Our Lord speaks to us now through the inspired Scriptures. Christ is with us day by day.**

**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 — *All the Way My Savior Leads Me & God's Great Grace* - arr. Yongjin Roh  
*We Give Thee But Thine Own*

Song Trio  
SCHUMANN

*We give thee but thine own, whate'er the gift may be;  
All that we have is thine alone, a trust, O Lord, from thee.*

Prayer of Dedication

**S E N D I N G**

**HYMN** — *Joy to the World*

ANTIOCH

*Joy to the world, the Lord is come! Let earth receive her king;  
let every heart, prepare him room,  
and heaven and nature sing, and heaven and nature sing,  
and heaven, and heaven and nature sing.*  
*Joy to the earth, the Savior reigns! Let all their songs employ,  
while fields and floods, rocks, hills, and plains  
repeat the sounding joy, repeat the sounding joy,  
repeat, repeat the sound joy.*

*No more let sins and sorrows grow, nor thorns infest the ground;  
he comes to make his blessings flow  
far as the curse is found, far as the curse is found,  
far as, far as the curse is found.*

*He rules the world with truth and grace, and makes the nations prove  
the glories of his righteousness  
and wonders of his love, and wonders of his love,  
and wonders, and wonders of his love.*

## **CHARGE and BLESSING**

## **BENEDICTION RESPONSE**

**POSTLUDE** — *Joy to the World* - arr. John Rutter

Instrumentalists

## **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.org](mailto:Bulletin@MPCusa.org).*

### **REGARDING TODAY'S SERVICE**

Today we celebrate an Epiphany "Word-in-Music" featuring our choir, soloists and string quintet. The music will highlight texts about the newborn Christ, the guiding star, the arrival of the three wisemen, and the meaning of the three gifts for the Child.

We welcome the following instrumentalists as they help to lead us in worship this morning:

Steve Kyle: double bass, Elina Lang: cello, Dennis Krasnokutsky: violin and viola, Nelly Federova and Alex Yavtuhovich: violins.

### **CONGREGATIONAL MEETING**

A congregational meeting will be held on January 25 immediately following the worship service for the purpose of approving the terms of call for Pastor Alex Lester-Abdalla and presenting the annual 2026 budget.

### **2026 PER CAPITA CONTRIBUTION AMOUNT**

When making your Per Capita Contribution for 2026, please calculate the amount at \$37.00 per member. Further details regarding the increase will be provided in a future bulletin announcement. Should you have any immediate questions, please contact Tom Smith at [tsmith7493@gmail.com](mailto:tsmith7493@gmail.com) or 215-595-8575.

### **NEW ADULT SUNDAY CLASS - "CHANGING CULTURE, CHANGING TIMES, AND A CHANGING CHURCH"**

Join Carter Lester, Interim Minister at MPC and former adjunct faculty in McCormick Theological Seminary's Doctor of Ministry program, for an adult Sunday School series on changes in our country, culture, and churches, and how they impact church life and ministry. The series will run each Sunday through 25 beginning at 9:30 a.m. in the conference room, on the second floor.

### **MPC BOOK DISCUSSION GROUP MEETS TOMORROW**

The MPC Book Discussion group will meet tomorrow, Monday, January 12, to discuss *Small Things Like These* by Claire Keegan. The meeting will take place from 5:30 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. in the conference room. You can also attend by Zoom. Please contact Shellie Stoddard at [stoddard.shellie@gmail.com](mailto:stoddard.shellie@gmail.com) or the church office at [office@mpcusa.org](mailto:office@mpcusa.org) for link and more information.

The group's next reading is *Fire Weather: A True Story from a Hotter World* by John Vaillant. While not a winner, it was a finalist for the Pulitzer Prize in General Nonfiction and is a comprehensive account of the 2016 Fort McMurray wildfire in Canada. The book explores the connection between the fire, climate change, and the petrochemical industry.

### FOOD CENTER'S JANUARY REQUEST

For the month of January, the requested food donation is peanut butter. A shopping cart has been put in the Welcome Center to receive your donations. Thank you for your continued generosity!

### CODE BLUE PREPARATIONS

In this extreme cold and frigid weather, we hope you are staying warm! Code Blue preparations are under way for the month of March. As we have done in the past, MPC will open its doors providing shelter to those in need as we support Advocates for the Homeless and Those in Need (AHTN). We will be preparing meals ahead of time, to be kept in the freezer, and used as needed. This cook day will be on Sunday, February 1. If you are interested in cooking meals on February 1, would like to volunteer to cook and serve meals in March, or would like to be added to the email chain, please email [mpccodeblue@gmail.com](mailto:mpccodeblue@gmail.com). Your support of this ministry is greatly appreciated. Please reach out to Beth Becker or Dawn Flook with any questions.

### SOUPER BOWL SUNDAY

This March, Morrisville Presbyterian Church will once again be hosting Code Blue in partnership with Advocates for the Homeless & Those In Need, or AHTN. If you are interested in supporting the Code Blue effort with a financial contribution, our youth will be holding soup pots for any cash donations as you exit the sanctuary after Youth Sunday service on Sunday, February 1. Your contribution will go directly to the food we will serve. Thank you for your continued generosity of this important mission!

### CONGREGATIONAL PRAYER CONCERNS

The pastoral staff encourages you to notify the church office regarding hospitalizations and deaths in your immediate family. We will list these pastoral concerns in the bulletin. MPC also has a committed group of members who are part of the MPC prayer chain. If you have prayer concerns for the prayer chain, please contact Ron Workman at [ron\\_workman@prodigy.net](mailto:ron_workman@prodigy.net) to be placed on the prayer chain. **Please note, out of respect for privacy, to be included in the Pastoral Concerns and/or MPC the prayer chain, the individual named must give their permission.** Let us pray without ceasing.

#### *Circle meetings this week*

##### DEBORAH CIRCLE

Deborah Circle meets Monday  
at noon in the Lounge.

##### REBECCA CIRCLE

Rebecca Circle meets Monday night  
at 7:00 p.m. in the Conference Room.

*All women of MPC are welcome to come  
for fellowship and faith enrichment.*

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](mailto:Office@mpcusa.org) and ask that your questions be forwarded to the stewardship committee.



## MPC Weekly Calendar

### SUNDAY, January 11

9:00 a.m.	Chancel Choir Rehearsal	Sanctuary
9:30	Sunday School for all ages	
<b>10:30</b>	<b>Word in Music</b>	<b>Sanctuary &amp;</b>
	<b>Worship Service</b>	<b>Livestream</b>
11:30	Session Meeting	Room 220
11:45	Youth Choir	Music Room
Noon	Adonai Tabernacle	Chapel
Noon	“Extending the Table”	Conference Room
	Training	

### MONDAY, January 12

Noon	Deborah’s Circle	Lounge
Noon	Worship Committee	Zoom
5:30 p.m.	Book Discussion Group	Conference Room
6:15	PNC Meeting	Room 200
6:30	Cub Scout Pack 3	Rooms 220 & 122
6:30	Mostly Motets	Music Room
6:30	Scout Troop 3	Fellowship Hall
7:00	Food Center Food Packing	Room 4
7:00	Rebecca Circle	Conference Room

### TUESDAY, January 13

9:00 a.m.	Food Center Produce Prep	Room 4
10:00	Weekday Nursery	Room 220
	School Projects	

### WEDNESDAY, January 14

9:00 a.m.	Food Center Distribution	Parking Lot
Noon	Brown Bag Bible Study	Conference Room
6:00 p.m.	Youth Club	Fellowship Hall
7:00	Girl Scout Troop 2888	Room 220
7:15	Chancel Chimes Rehearsal	Room 121

### THURSDAY, January 15

8:30 a.m.	Weekday Nursery School	Fellowship Hall
	“Coffee & Conversation”	
10:00	Clothing Center	Room 4
7:00 p.m.	Chancel Choir Rehearsal	Music Room

### FRIDAY, January 16

### SATURDAY, January 17

### SUNDAY, January 18

8:30 a.m.	God’s Thunder Rehearsal	Room 121
9:30	Sunday School for all ages	
<b>10:30</b>	<b>Worship Service</b>	<b>Sanctuary &amp;</b>
		<b>Livestream</b>
11:45	Youth Choir	Music Room
Noon	Adonai Tabernacle	Chapel

### Inclement Weather Announcements

In the event of inclement weather during this winter season, members will be notified of church closings and delayed openings via email blasts, as well as website and Facebook postings. Every effort will be made to make the information available by 8:00 a.m. Only closing and delayed opening messages will be sent and posted.

### CONTACT US

#### MORRISVILLE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH STAFF

771 North Pennsylvania Ave. | Morrisville, PA 19067 | 215.295.4191 | [Office@MPCusa.org](mailto:Office@MPCusa.org) | [www.MPCusa.org](http://www.MPCusa.org)

J. Thomas Kort, <i>Transitional Pastor/ Head of Staff</i> .....	<a href="mailto:TomKort@MPCusa.org">TomKort@MPCusa.org</a>
Alexander Lester-Abdalla, <i>Associate Pastor (ext. 225)</i> .....	<a href="mailto:AlexLester-Abdalla@MPCusa.org">AlexLester-Abdalla@MPCusa.org</a>
Carter Lester, <i>Interim Pastor of Visitation</i> .....	<a href="mailto:RevCarterLester@gmail.com">RevCarterLester@gmail.com</a>
Timothy Carpenter, <i>Director of Music</i> .....	<a href="mailto:TimCarpenter@MPCusa.org">TimCarpenter@MPCusa.org</a>
Yun Kang, <i>Principal Organist</i> .....	<a href="mailto:YunKang@MPCusa.org">YunKang@MPCusa.org</a>
Kevin Subers, <i>Coordinator of Christian Education</i> .....	<a href="mailto:KevinSubers@MPCusa.org">KevinSubers@MPCusa.org</a>
David Sterling, <i>Property Manager (ext. 231)</i> .....	<a href="mailto:DavidSterling@MPCusa.org">DavidSterling@MPCusa.org</a>
Amanda White, <i>Financial Support Administrator</i> .....	<a href="mailto:AmandaWhite@MPCusa.org">AmandaWhite@MPCusa.org</a>
Damon Miller, <i>Communication Coordinator</i> .....	<a href="mailto:DamonMiller@MPCusa.org">DamonMiller@MPCusa.org</a>
Kimberly Turner, <i>Administrative Assistant (ext. 0)</i> .....	<a href="mailto:Office@MPCusa.org">Office@MPCusa.org</a>