



*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 15, 2021
TWELFTH SUNDAY
after PENTECOST

CALL to WORSHIP

Pastor Alex Lester-Abdalla

One: God is the source of wisdom,
All: The fount of life eternal.
One: Let us listen for the wisdom of God
All: And worship the One whose words shape the world.
One: With heart and mind, with word and deed,
All: Let us worship God together.

HYMN — O God, in a Mysterious Way

DUNDEE

*O God, in a mysterious way
great wonders you perform.
You plant your footsteps in the sea
and ride upon the storm.*

*Deep in unfathomable mines
of never-failing skill,
you treasure up your bright designs
and work your sovereign will.*

*O fearful saints, fresh courage take.
The clouds you so much dread
are big with mercy and shall break
in blessings on your head.*

*Our unbelief us sure to err
and scan your work in vain.
You are your own interpreter,
and you will make it plain.*

PRAYER of CONFESSION

Pastor Rachel Rhodes

O Lord, the voice of your wisdom rings out in the world, guiding us to place our trust in you. The voice of your wisdom rings out into the world, challenging us to seek the things that matter. Too often, O Lord, we refuse to listen. We place our trust in things that are fleeting. We seek things that make us comfortable, rather than seeking the way of your peace. Forgive us, God of grace, and teach us to walk in the path lined by your wisdom.

(Time for silent prayer and confession.)

PROMISE of FORGIVENESS

One: The mercy of the Lord is from everlasting to everlasting. I declare to you, in the name of Jesus Christ, you are forgiven. Believe 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 — *Job 28:12-28*

“But where shall wisdom be found? And where is the place of understanding? Mortals do not know the way to it, and it is not found in the land of the living. ‘The deep says, ‘It is not in me,’ and the sea says, ‘It is not with me.’ It cannot be gotten for gold, and silver cannot be weighed out as its price. It cannot be valued in the gold of Ophir, in precious onyx or sapphire. Gold and glass cannot equal it, nor can it be exchanged for jewels of fine gold. No mention shall be made of coral or of crystal; the price of wisdom is above pearls. ‘The chrysolite of Ethiopia cannot compare with it, nor can it be valued in pure gold.

“Where then does wisdom come from? And where is the place of understanding? It is hidden from the eyes of all living, and concealed from the birds of the air. Abaddon and Death say, ‘We have heard a rumor of it with our ears.’ “God understands the way to it, and he knows its place. For he looks to the ends of the earth, and sees everything under the heavens. When he gave to the wind its weight, and apportioned out the waters by measure; when he made a decree for the rain, and a way for the thunderbolt; then he saw it and declared it; he established it, and searched it out. And he said to humankind, ‘Truly, the fear of the Lord, that is wisdom; and to depart from evil is understanding.’”

One: This is the Word of the Lord.

All: Thanks be to God.

SERMON

Wisdom

Pastor Lester-Abdalla

AFFIRMATION of FAITH — from *A Brief Statement of Faith*

We trust in God the Holy Spirit, everywhere the giver and renewer of life. The Spirit justifies us by grace through faith, sets us free to accept ourselves and to love God and neighbor, and binds us together with all believers in the one body of Christ, the church. The same Spirit who inspired the prophets and apostles rules our faith and life in Christ through Scripture, engages us through the Word proclaimed, claims us in the waters of baptism, feeds us with the bread of life and the cup of salvation, and calls women and men to all ministries of the church. In a broken and fearful world the Spirit gives us courage to pray without ceasing, to witness among all peoples to Christ as Lord and Savior, to unmask idolatries in church and culture, to hear the voices of peoples long silenced, and to work with others for justice, freedom, and peace. In gratitude to God, empowered by the Spirit, we strive to serve Christ in our daily tasks and to live holy and joyful lives, even as we watch for God’s new heaven and new earth, praying, Come, Lord Jesus!

HYMN — *Be Thou My Vision*

SLAINE

*Be thou my vision, O Lord of my heart;
naught be all else to me, save that thou art;
thou my best thought, by day or by night,
waking or sleeping, thy presence my light.*

*Be thou my wisdom, and thou my true Word;
I ever with thee and thou with me, Lord;
thou my soul's shelter, and thou my high tower;
raise thou me heavenward, O Power of my power.*

*Riches I heed not, nor vain, empty praise;
thou mine inheritance, now and always;
thou and thou only, first in my heart,
High King of Heaven, my treasure thou art.*

*High King of Heaven, my victory won,
may I reach heaven's joys, O bright heaven's Sun!
Heart of my own heart, whatever befall,
still be my vision, O Ruler of all.*

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

POSTLUDE — *Come and Seek the Ways of Wisdom*

MADELEINE

*Come and seek the ways of Wisdom,
she who danced when earth was new.*

*Follow closely what she teaches,
for her words are right and true.
Wisdom clears the path to justice,
showing us what love must do.*

*Listen to the voice of Wisdom,
crying in the marketplace.
Hear the Word made flesh among us,
full of glory, truth, and grace.
When the word takes root and ripens,
peace and righteousness embrace.*

*Sister Wisdom, come, assist us;
nurture all who seek rebirth.
Spirit-guide and close companion,
bring to light our sacred worth.
Free us to become your people,
holy friends of God and earth.*

QUESTION *for* REFLECTION

- What are you digging for?

OTHERS PARTICIPATING IN TODAY'S SERVICE

Tim Carpenter – Director of Music

Patricia Guth – Organist

James Moyer – Soloist

Video Ministry Volunteers

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.***

MPC PRAYER LIST

Did you know that here at MPC we maintain a regular, weekly prayer list? This list includes the names of individuals in our church, community, and wider world who are in need of prayer. Every week there are people in our church family who are praying over these names and situations. During the academic year, a faithful group meets each Wednesday at 12:15 p.m. to pray together. During the summer this list is distributed regularly so that our prayers for one another can continue. For many years, Drew Hunger has faithfully managed and distributed this Prayer List—please thank him when you have a moment! In the future, you are encouraged to send prayer concerns to our Minister of Visitation, Jack McAnlis at jackmcanlis@mpcusa.net. You are also welcome to contact Rev. McAnlis if you wish to be included in our weekly prayer meeting, which will begin again in September. Thank you for faithfully praying for our church family and for our world.

BOOKS NEEDED

Books are available again when the Food Center is open to our clients. We have more requests than we can fill for Bibles, cook books (especially ones with healthy recipes), biographies, Harry Potter and other teen series, coloring books/workbooks/activity books and crayons, and very early books on ABCs, Numbers, Colors, etc. All available Bibles and children's Bible stories are taken every time we are open. Please leave donations near the book carts which are right outside the Lounge. Please contact Susan Light at susanklight@gmail.com with any questions.

BACKPACK DRIVE!

The Deacon's 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 Ivin's 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	Dictionary/Thesaurus	#2 Pencils
2-Pocket Folders	Book covers	Black/Blue Pens
3- Ring Binders	Wire-Bound Weekly Planner	Highlighters/Markers
Loose Leaf College Ruled Paper	Sticky Notes/Flags	Colored Pencils
Colored Binder Dividers	12-inch Ruler	Pencil Sharpener/Eraser