



*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 MARCH 5, 2023
SECOND SUNDAY in LENT

GATHERING

PRELUDE — *Spirit of God, Descend upon My Heart* - Frederick Atkinson

Yun Kang

INTROIT — *Come Into God's Presence*

Chancel Choir

Come into God's presence singing "Worthy the Lamb".

Praise the Lord together singing "Glory to God"

--Text and music - Anon.

CALL to WORSHIP

Pastor Alex Lester-Abdalla

One: We have come to worship God, the living God,

All: Who calls prophets and teachers to bear witness.

One: We have come to praise God, the almighty God,

All: Who answers the forces of hatred and hurt with the power of grace.

One: We have come to worship God, all-gracious God,

All: Who chooses even you and me to receive and carry the Word of life and hope. All glory to God! Let us worship God together!

HYMN — *Sing Praise to God Who Reigns Above*

MIT FREUDEN ZART

*Sing praise to God who reigns above, the God of all creation,
the God of power, the God of love, the God of our salvation.
With healing balm my soul is filled, and every faithless murmur stilled:
to God all praise and glory!*

*What God's almighty power has made God's gracious mercy keepeth;
by morning glow or evening shade God's watchful eye ne'er sleepeth.
Within the kingdom of God's might, lo! all is just and all is right:
to God all praise and glory!*

*The Lord is never far away, but, through all grief distressing,
an everpresent help and stay, our peace and joy and blessing,
as with a mother's tender hand God gently leads the chosen band:
to God all praise and glory!*

*This all my toilsome way along I sing aloud thy praises,
that all may hear the grateful song, my voice unwearied raises.
Be joyful in the Lord, my heart; both soul and body, take your part:
to God all praise and glory!*

PRAYER of CONFESSION

Tori Paquette

Merciful God, in this life of faith you are always seeking to make us new, but we are a stubborn people. You are always seeking to melt us and mold us for your glory, but we prefer things the way they have always been. We are reluctant to change our minds, our habits, and our hearts, even if that change would move us toward greater faithfulness. We worry about what our friends or neighbors will think, rather than concerning our hearts with your voice alone. Forgive us, God of mercy, for our selfishness and stubbornness. Forgive us for the idolatry that keeps us captive. Melt us, mold us, fill us, and use us. Help us to be your people under construction to the glory of your name.

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

PROMISE *of* FORGIVENESS

One: Oh, what joy for those whose sins are forgiven, whose mistakes have been wiped away by God's mercy and grace! So let's rejoice in God's unfailing love, which has set us free yet again. Together, 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.*

L I T U R G Y *o f* *t h e* W O R D

PRAYER *for* ILLUMINATION

OLD TESTAMENT READING — *Psalms 121*

One: I lift up my eyes to the hills—from where will my help come?

All: My help comes from the Lord, who made heaven and earth.

One: He will not let your foot be moved; he who keeps you will not slumber. He who keeps Israel will neither slumber nor sleep.

All: The Lord is your keeper; the Lord is your shade at your right hand. The sun shall not strike you by day, nor the moon by night.

One: The Lord will keep you from all evil; he will keep your life.

All: The Lord will keep your going out and your coming in from this time on and for evermore.

One: This is the Word of the Lord.

All: Thanks be to God.

TIME *for* YOUNG DISCIPLES

GOSPEL READING — *John 3:1-17*

Now there was a Pharisee named Nicodemus, a leader of the Jews. He came to Jesus by night and said to him, 'Rabbi, we know that you are a teacher who has come from God; for no one can do these signs that you do apart from the presence of God.' Jesus answered him, 'Very truly, I tell you, no one can see the kingdom of God without being born from above.' Nicodemus said to him, 'How can anyone be born after having grown old? Can one enter a second time into the mother's womb and be born?' Jesus answered, 'Very truly, I tell you, no one can enter the kingdom of God without being born of water and Spirit. What is born of the flesh is flesh, and what is born of the Spirit is spirit. Do not be astonished that I said to you, "You must be born from above." The wind blows where it chooses, and you hear the sound of it, but you do not know where it comes from or where it goes. So it is with everyone who is born of the Spirit.' Nicodemus said to him, 'How can these things be?' Jesus answered him, 'Are you a teacher of Israel, and yet you do not understand these things?

'Very truly, I tell you, we speak of what we know and testify to what we have seen; yet you do not receive our testimony. If I have told you about earthly things and you do not believe, how can you believe if I tell you about heavenly things? No one has ascended into heaven except the one who descended from heaven, the Son of Man. And just as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, so must the Son of Man be lifted up, that whoever believes in him may have eternal life.

'For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him may not perish but may have eternal life. Indeed, God did not send the Son into the world to condemn the world, but in order that the world might be saved through him.

One: This is the Word of the Lord.

All: Thanks be to God.

SERMON

A People Under Construction: Nicodemus

Pastor Rhodes

HYMN — *In a Deep, Unbounded Darkness*

DIVINUM MYSTERIUM

*In a deep, unbounded darkness, long before the first light shone,
you, O God, beyond all merit worked a wonder faith makes known:
in your mercy, in your mercy, you embraced us as your own,
evermore and evermore.*

*Though our world is everchanging, you are constant, firm, and sure,
faithful to your covenant promise. Trusting you, we live, secure;
singing praises, singing praises, long as heart and breath endure,
evermore and evermore.*

*Joy transforms our lips to boasting only in your matchless grace,
sending Christ to dwell among us, Word made flesh in time and space:
Friend and Savior, Friend and Savior, in whose life we glimpse your face,
evermore and evermore.*

*God of Hagar, God of Sarah, God of nomad Abraham;
God of Miryam, God of Moses, Fiery Pillar, great I Am:
lead us homeward, leads us homeward, to the love-feast of the Lamb,
evermore and evermore.*

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.

OFFERING

Invitation to Give

Offertory Music — *Amazing Grace with Bach* - arr. Sun Ahn

Song Trio

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.*

SACRAMENT of the LORD'S SUPPER

INVITATION

PRAYER of GREAT THANKSGIVING

One: The Lord be with you.

All: **And also with you.**

One: Lift up your hearts.

All: **We lift them up to the Lord.**

One: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

All: **It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

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.

THE BREAKING *of the* BREAD

COMMUNION *of the* PEOPLE

COMMUNION ANTHEM — *We Gather at Your Table, Lord* - Walter Ehret

*We gather at your table, Lord, grant peace and unity;
In keeping with your will and word, may we one body be.*

*Now let us take the sacred bread, our souls and bodies feed;
In heart and soul we shall be fed, your holy will to heed.*

*Now let us take the wine of heaven, for Christ whose blood was shed;
That here we meet with sins forgiven, and by his grace are led.*

*To you, O Lord, we sing our song, may we be one in love
For we by faith to you belong, one with your church above.*

--text by Wade Alexander Masur

PRAYER *after* COMMUNION

S E N D I N G

HYMN — *O God, Who Gives Us Life*

NOEL

*O God, who gives us life and breath, who shapes us in the womb,
who guards our lives from birth to death, then leads us from the tomb:
deliver us from fears that kill the life we have from you.
Help us to know your Spirit still is making all things new.*

*O God, who calls your people out to venture and to dare,
to plumb the bleak abyss of doubt and find you even there:
when we despair in wandering through wastes of empty lies,
refresh us with the living spring of hope that never dies.*

*O God of covenant and law; revealed in cloud and flame,
your mighty deeds evoke our awe; we dare not speak your name.
Yet we by faith are drawn to you and will your people prove,
as on our hearts you write anew the covenant of love.*

CHARGE *and* BLESSING

CHORAL BENEDICTION — *Dresden Amen*

POSTLUDE — *Processional in C* - Hal Hopson

THOUGHTS *for* REFLECTION

"God, you have formed us for Yourself, and our hearts are restless till they find rest in You."

--Augustine

WHO MAY RECEIVE COMMUNION IN THE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH?

“The opportunity to eat and drink with Christ is not a right bestowed upon the worthy, but a privilege given to the undeserving who come in faith, repentance, and love. All who come to the table are offered the bread and cup, regardless of their age or understanding.

Worshippers prepare themselves to celebrate the Lord’s Supper by putting their trust in Christ, confessing their sin, and seeking reconciliation with God and one another. Even those who doubt may come to the table in order to be assured of God’s love and grace in Jesus Christ.”

-Book of Order W-3.0409

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.***

LENT 2023 SERMON SERIES: A PEOPLE UNDER CONSTRUCTION

If you know anything about home renovation, you know that you often have to deconstruct the space you’re working on before you ever have the chance to reconstruct it into something new. You have to tear out the kitchen cabinets, and the sink, and the carpet, and the bathroom tiles before anything new and exciting can take shape. And sometimes beneath that carpet is a beautiful hardwood floor, yet to be discovered. But other times beneath those tiles or behind those cabinets are even more issues you didn’t see coming. There’s too much water damage or someone sought for a cheap fix years ago that’s going to take even more time to remedy now.

Well, Lent is a time when we are called to be God’s people under construction. A time when we bring before the Lord all the things that separate us from God; all the things that we’d like to renovate in our lives. And that work can be messy and hard! But it is also work that can be exciting, life-giving, and freeing as God partners with us along the way. Because out of the ashes of any destruction, we are digging and finding what’s valuable and discarding what’s not, and trusting that all the while, God is making things new. So join us this Lent as we seek to be God’s people under construction!

TODAY’S CHANCEL FLOWERS

The chancel flowers are offered to the glory of God and are given by Ron and Ruth Workman in loving memory of Ron’s father, William R. Workman. The second arrangement is given by Nancy Ackerman in celebration of the March 3 birthday of her daughter-in-law, Kristin Ackerman.

CODE BLUE IS NOW A PART OF MPC!

We have partnered with Advocates for the Homeless and Those in Need (AHTN) for this March to provide a hot meal and a cot for the night when weather conditions become dangerous for unsheltered individuals. We are for asking for volunteers to help us grocery shop, prepare meals, and on the nights that we host, serve meals. For more information or to volunteer, contact Fran Akelewicz at 908-419-4908 or fakelewicz@gmail.com.

DEACON’S HOLIDAY FOOD BASKETS

A trip to the grocery store has us all feeling “the pinch.” As food costs have risen considerably, so has the need. We would ask that you prayerfully consider making a donation to the Deacons fund so that we can continue our outreach to our surrounding community, especially this Easter. While funds are adequate at the moment, it is projected that we may be in a deficit in the near future without your help.

For your convenience, the online giving app has been modified to indicate a place where you can specify donations to the Deacons for this purpose. Additionally, envelopes will be provided on the information table found in our narthex, as well as in the pews and bulletins.

We know that this is a struggling time for many, but especially for those who are hungry. We are extremely grateful for all the ways you continually support the Deacons and thank you for your generosity.

MPC VOLUNTEER DAY FOR HABITAT FOR HUMANITY

Friday, March 10, has been designated as “MPC Volunteer Day” at the Habitat for Humanity’s Hillcrest Avenue building site in Morrisville. We will be working outside, so you will need to dress appropriately. If you wish to volunteer, please contact Ray Hendrickson at 215-495-3114 or at hrh1453@gmail.com to obtain information. A link will be sent to you to create an account and register as a volunteer.

SYRIA/TURKEY RELIEF FUND

A 7.8 magnitude earthquake near the Turkey-Syria border struck in the early hours of February 6, 2023. This earthquake is estimated to affect more than 23 million people and to date, it is estimated that 36,000 have perished! The [Presbyterian Disaster Assistance](#) (PDA Presbyterian Disaster Assistance) is working to aid those impacted by this earthquake and is so grateful for the outpouring of prayers and calls from congregations (MPC!) and individuals (You!) asking how they can help! MPC has assisted the PDA for years and now is a most important time to reach out to our brothers and sisters in Christ being affected by this awful disaster! The MPC Outreach Committee has already made the commitment to assist the PDA with this disaster, so might you also help? You may use a check made out to MPC and place "Syria/Turkey Relief" on the comment line. There will also be baskets in the sanctuary labelled "Disaster Relief". MPC has always been a most giving church.

IVINS OUTREACH CENTER NEEDS VOLUNTEERS:

We encourage you to give the precious gift of time to those in need in your community. The Ivins Outreach Center urgently needs volunteers to assist with our *Staying Put in Lower Bucks* program. *Staying Put* is driven by volunteers who provide services to give homebound seniors the practical means and social support to live their lives to the fullest, safely, and confidently in their own community with familiar connections. Volunteers provide transportation to medical appointments, grocery shopping, pharmacy, and hair salon appointments. If you have a few hours to spare, we welcome your assistance.

For more information concerning our program, please check our website: ivinsoutreach.org. Or for additional information, please contact Frank Walter at (215) 428-0500 x101 or frank@ivinsoutreach.org.

WEEKDAY NURSERY SCHOOL OPEN HOUSES

MPC Weekday Nursery School is enrolling for the 2023-2024 school year now. The nursery school serves children aged 2.7-4 years old. Please join us at one of our Open Houses to learn what we are all about on March 16 from 6:00 p.m.-7:30 p.m.; and April 1 from 1:00-3:00 p.m. Visit Weekdaynursery.org for more information!

REBECCA CIRCLE MEETS MONDAY, MARCH 13

All women of MPC are invited to become part of Rebecca Circle. Gather with friends, new and old, once each month for fellowship and a program. Topics include religion, spirituality, self-help, information, local trips and fun. Join this active, supportive and joyous group of sisters in Christ on the second Mondays through May, at 7:00 p.m. in the Lounge. For information, contact Jen Jones 215 962-3655.

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 5 - Second Sunday in Lent

| | | |
|--------------|-------------------------------|----------------------|
| 8:30 a.m. | God's Thunder Rehearsal | Chapel |
| 9:30 | Sunday School for all ages | |
| 10:30 | Worship Service | Sanctuary |
| 10:30 | Worship Service | Livestream |
| 11:30 | Fellowship Hour - | Lounge |
| | Hosted by: Presbyterian Women | |
| 11:30 | Girl Scout Cookie Sale | Communication Center |
| 11:45 | Nominating Comm. | Conference Room |
| 11:45 | Teen Choir | Music Room |
| Noon | Deacon Meeting | Conference Room |

MONDAY, March 6

| | | |
|------------|----------------------------|-----------------|
| 10:30 a.m. | Lenten Small Group Meeting | Lounge |
| 6:00 p.m. | Cub Scout Pack 3 | Room 220 |
| 6:30 | Mostly Motets | Music Room |
| 7:00 | Boy Scout Troop 3 | Fellowship Hall |
| 7:00 | Boy Scout Troop 3 | Lounge |
| | Parent & Board Meeting | |
| 7:00 | Personnel Committee | Zoom |
| 7:30 | Youth Ministry | Conference Room |

TUESDAY, March 7

| | | |
|------------|--------------------------------|-----------------|
| 11:45 a.m. | Ivins Outreach Center Training | Lounge |
| Noon | Congregational Ministry | Zoom |
| 12:30 p.m. | Staff Meeting | Conference Room |
| 6:00 | Cub Scout Pack 3 | Fellowship Hall |
| 7:00 | Food Center | Parking Lot |
| 7:00 | Book Club | Lounge |

WEDNESDAY, March 8

| | | |
|-----------|-------------------------|-------------|
| 9:00 a.m. | Food Center | Parking Lot |
| Noon | Brown Bag & Bible Study | Zoom |
| 1:00 p.m. | Prayer Meeting | Zoom |
| 6:00 | Cub Scout Pack 3 | Room 220 |
| 6:00 | Youth Club | Offsite |
| 7:00 | Finance Meeting | Zoom |
| 7:00 | Girl Scout Troop 2888 | Room 220 |
| 7:15 | Chancel Chimes | Chapel |

THURSDAY, March 9

| | | |
|------------|--------------------------------|-----------------|
| 10:00 a.m. | Clothing Center | Room 4 |
| 11:45 | Ivins Outreach Center Training | Lounge |
| 6:00 p.m. | Oakville Girl Scouts | Fellowship Hall |
| 7:00 | Chancel Choir | Music Room |

FRIDAY, March 10

| | | |
|------------|-------------------------------|--------|
| 11:00 a.m. | Janet Walker Memorial Service | Chapel |
| 6:30 p.m. | AA Meeting | Lounge |

SATURDAY, March 11

SUNDAY, March 12 - Third Sunday in Lent

| | | |
|--------------|-------------------------------|-------------------|
| 8:30 a.m. | God's Thunder Rehearsal | Chapel |
| 9:30 | Sunday School for all ages | |
| 10:30 | Worship Service | Sanctuary |
| 10:30 | Worship Service | Livestream |
| 11:30 | Fellowship Hour - | Lounge |
| | Hosted by: Presbyterian Women | |
| 11:45 | Nominating Comm. | Conference Room |
| 11:45 | Teen Choir | Music Room |

[Visit here to view upcoming events and meetings.](#)

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