



*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 15, 2023  
SECOND SUNDAY  
after the EPIPHANY

## GATHERING

**PRELUDE** — *Morning Has Broken* - Mark Hayes

Yun Kang

**CHORAL INTROIT** — *God Welcomes All*

Chancel Choir

*God welcomes all, strangers and friends;  
God's love is strong and it never ends.*

**CALL to WORSHIP**

Pastor Rachel Rhodes

One: In the morning, O Lord, you hear our prayers.

**All: In the light of this day we praise your name.**

One: Through the abundance of your steadfast love you have gathered us into your house.

**All: In the holiness of your presence, we bow down to worship and adore you.**

**HYMN** — *I Greet Thee, Who My Sure Redeemer Art* (verses 1, 4, & 5)

TOULON

*I greet thee, who my sure Redeemer art,  
my only trust and Savior of my heart,  
who pain didst undergo for my poor sake;  
I pray thee from our hearts all cares to take.*

*Thou hast the true and perfect gentleness;  
no harshness hast thou and no bitterness.*

*O grant to us the grace we find in thee,  
that we may dwell in perfect unity.*

*Our hope is in no other save in thee;  
our faith is built upon thy promise free;  
Lord, give us peace, and make us calm and sure,  
that in thy strength we evermore endure.*

**PRAYER of CONFESSION** -

Pastor Alex Lester-Abdalla

**God of justice and mercy, we confess that we disobey your will. We show neither justice nor mercy to others. Christ our Savior, love incarnate, we confess that we take your love for granted. We do not give of ourselves, nor do we rejoice in all the blessings we receive. Holy Spirit, power and breath, we confess that we block your movement. We do not live holy lives of sacrificial love. Gracious God, forgive us and grant us your peace. Help us to turn from our sins so that we may love you by joyfully caring for your people.**

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

**PROMISE of FORGIVENESS**

One: Jesus said to the one who had sinned much, "Your sins are forgiven." The cross of Christ stands as the sign that the love of God lives in us through faith in the grace of God. Friends, in the power of Christ's Spirit, together let us proclaim the good news of the gospel:

**All: In Jesus Christ we are forgiven! Thanks be to God! Alleluia! Amen!**

*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 — *Psalms 32*

One: Happy are those whose transgression is forgiven, whose sin is covered.

All: **Happy are those to whom the Lord imputes no iniquity, and in whose spirit there is no deceit.**

One: While I kept silence, my body wasted away through my groaning all day long. For day and night your hand was heavy upon me; my strength was dried up as by the heat of summer.

All: **Then I acknowledged my sin to you, and I did not hide my iniquity; I said, 'I will confess my transgressions to the Lord and you forgave the guilt of my sin.'**

One: Therefore let all who are faithful offer prayer to you; at a time of distress, the rush of mighty waters shall not reach them.

All: **You are a hiding-place for me; you preserve me from trouble; you surround me with glad cries of deliverance.**

One: I will instruct you and teach you the way you should go; I will counsel you with my eye upon you. Do not be like a horse or a mule, without understanding, whose temper must be curbed with bit and bridle, else it will not stay near you.

All: **Many are the torments of the wicked, but steadfast love surrounds those who trust in the Lord. Be glad in the Lord and rejoice, O righteous, and shout for joy, all you upright in heart.**

One: This is the Word of the Lord.

All: **Thanks be to God.**

ANTHEM — *Grant Thy Grace to Me, O God* - Giovanni Pergolesi

*Grant Thy grace to me, O God, for Thou art gracious!  
Forgive my errors because of Thy great kindness:  
O God, be gracious, be merciful.  
Blot out my transgressions because of Thy great kindness  
--from the Latin*

TIME for YOUNG DISCIPLES

GOSPEL READING — *Luke 7:36-50*

One of the Pharisees asked Jesus to eat with him, and he went into the Pharisee's house and took his place at the table. And a woman in the city, who was a sinner, having learned that he was eating in the Pharisee's house, brought an alabaster jar of ointment. She stood behind him at his feet, weeping, and began to bathe his feet with her tears and to dry them with her hair. Then she continued kissing his feet and anointing them with the ointment. Now when the Pharisee who had invited him saw it, he said to himself, 'If this man were a prophet, he would have known who and what kind of woman this is who is touching him—that she is a sinner.' Jesus spoke up and said to him, 'Simon, I have something to say to you.' 'Teacher,' he replied, 'speak.' A certain creditor had two debtors; one owed five hundred denarii, and the other fifty. When they could not pay, he cancelled the debts for both of them. Now which of them will love him more?' Simon answered, 'I suppose the one for whom he cancelled the greater debt.' And Jesus said to him, 'You have judged rightly.' Then turning towards the woman, he said to Simon, 'Do you see this woman? I entered your house; you gave me no water for my feet, but she has bathed my feet with her tears and dried them with her hair. You gave me no kiss, but from the time I came in she has not

stopped kissing my feet. You did not anoint my head with oil, but she has anointed my feet with ointment. Therefore, I tell you, her sins, which were many, have been forgiven; hence she has shown great love. But the one to whom little is forgiven, loves little.' Then he said to her, 'Your sins are forgiven.' But those who were at the table with him began to say among themselves, 'Who is this who even forgives sins?' And he said to the woman, 'Your faith has saved you; go in peace.'

One: This is the Gospel of the Lord.

All: **Thanks be to God.**

## SERMON

*Irresponsible Grace: But Our Hearts Tell a Different Story*

Pastor Rachel Rhodes

## HYMN — *A Prophet-Woman Broke a Jar*

HOW CAN I KEEP FROM SINGING

*A prophet-woman broke a jar, by Love's divine appointing,  
With rare perfume she filled the room, presiding and anointing.  
A prophet-woman broke a jar, the sneers of scorn defying,  
With rare perfume she filled the room, preparing Christ for dying.  
A faithful woman left a tomb by Love's divine commission .  
She saw; she heard; she preached the Word, arising from submission.  
A faithful woman left a tomb, with resurrection gospel.  
She saw; she heard; she preached the Word, apostle to apostles.  
Though woman-wisdom, woman-truth, for centuries were hidden,  
unsung, unwritten, and unheard, derided and forbidden,  
the Spirit's breath, the Spirit's fire, on free and slave descending,  
can tumble our dividing walls, our shame and sadness mending.  
The Spirit knows; the Spirit calls, by Love's divine ordaining,  
the friends we need, to serve and lead, their powers and gifts unchaining.  
The Spirit knows; the Spirit calls, from women, men, and children,  
the friends we need, to serve and lead. Rejoice, and make them welcome!*

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

**We trust in Jesus Christ, fully human, fully God. Jesus proclaimed the reign of God: preaching good news to the poor and release to the captives, teaching by word and deed and blessing the children, healing the sick and binding up the brokenhearted, eating with outcasts, forgiving sinners, and calling all to repent and believe the gospel. Unjustly condemned for blasphemy and sedition, Jesus was crucified, suffering the depths of human pain and giving his life for the sins of the world. God raised Jesus from the dead, vindicating his sinless life, breaking the power of sin and evil, delivering us from death to life eternal. With believers in every time and place, we rejoice that nothing in life or in death can separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus, our Lord. Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit. Amen.**

## PRAYERS of THANKSGIVING and SUPPLICATION

### 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 — *Come, Thou Fount of Every Blessing* - John Wyeth

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** — *Jesus, Thy Boundless Love to Me*

ST. CATHERINE

*Jesus, thy boundless love to me  
no thought can reach, no tongue declare;*

*O knit my thankful heart to thee,  
and reign without a rival there!*

*Thine wholly, thine alone, I'd live;  
myself to thee entirely give.*

*O grant that nothing in my soul  
may dwell, but thy pure love alone;*

*O may thy love possess me whole,  
my joy, my treasure, and my crown!*

*All coldness from my heart remove;  
may every act, word, thought be love.*

*O Love, how gracious is thy way!*

*All fear before thy presence flies;  
can anguish, sorrow melt away  
where're thy healing beams arise.*

*O Jesus, nothing may I see,  
nothing desire, or seek, but thee.*

**CHARGE and BLESSING**

**CHORAL RESPONSE** — *Amen*

**POSTLUDE** — *Gavotte* - Samuel Wesley

## QUESTIONS *for* REFLECTION

- When have you felt wholly accepted through the hospitality of someone else?
  - Do you offer that same hospitality to friends and strangers alike?

## 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).***

### **NEW SERMON SERIES: IRRESPONSIBLE GRACE**

In the thick of New Year's resolutions and a society that is always pushing us toward competition and self-improvement, Jesus calls us to reorient our hearts and minds and remember the astounding grace of God, a grace that we do not earn or deserve, but rather a grace offered freely and in great abundance. Join us in the new year as we dive into the parables of Jesus, and through them explore the unbelievable, unparalleled, and perhaps even irresponsible grace of God.

During Sunday School, join Adult Education as we dive into the parables of Jesus during our *Irresponsible Grace* series. Pastor Alex will lead us in a four-week study on the texts that will be preached that day. We hope you will come for Spirit-filled conversation from 9:30 a.m. to 10:15 a.m. in the conference room.

### **TODAY'S CHANCEL FLOWERS**

The chancel flowers are offered to the glory of God and are given by Howard and Joan Barley "in celebration of our birthdays and in gratitude for our supportive church family."

### **CONGREGATIONAL MEETING - JANUARY 22**

There will be a Congregational & Corporation meeting on Sunday, January 22, 2023 following the 10:30 a.m. worship service in the Sanctuary for the purpose of presenting the budget and approving the Terms of Call of the Pastoral Staff. Please plan to attend.

### **2023 OFFERING ENVELOPES**

Offering envelopes are available in the Communication Center. If you would like them mailed, please contact Laurie Jacobson at [lauriejacobson@mpcusa.net](mailto:lauriejacobson@mpcusa.net) or through the church office at 215-295-4191 extension 226, and she will send them to you. Please note that envelopes will not be given to those who have signed up for online giving.

### **HABITAT FOR HUMANITY NEEDS VOLUNTEERS**

MPC is signed up to help Habitat for Humanity of Bucks County on Saturday January, 28. Habitat is working on Hillcrest Avenue in Morrisville. Do you want to volunteer? Please contact Ray Hendrickson at 215 495-3114 or at [hrh1453@gmail.com](mailto:hrh1453@gmail.com) to obtain information. Yes, we will be working outside so dress appropriately. A link will be sent to you to create an account and register as a volunteer. There is room for five volunteers.

### **NEW YEAR, NEW BIBLE STUDY!**

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 18 at noon, **we'll be taking the plunge into the book of Revelation**, 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. over Zoom so that anyone can join us—from home, from work, from across the country! 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!

### **THANK YOU FOR MAKING ANGEL TREE A SUCCESS!**

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! Included in the Ziploc bag was the list of products collected, an angel blessing letting our clients know God loves them along with MPC's address, phone number and website. The Food Center will start distributing these care bags to our clients starting in January. Again, thanks so much for the wonderful outpouring of generosity!

## DICTIONARY DONATIONS UPDATE

To date, the Book Distribution has collected 76 hardcover and 15 paperback adult dictionaries for the Jefferson Intermediate School in Trenton. We will continue our Reference Book Drive until we have donated 400 adult dictionaries to the families whose children attend Jefferson. We are over 20% of the way to our goal.

We are also collecting other reference books including children's dictionaries, and thesauruses for adults and children, and have collected another 125 of these reference books. We appreciate MPC's generosity in donating reference books. Please consider asking your friends if they have extra reference books and if they would put a notice in their church's bulletin requesting dictionaries. For more information, please contact Susan Light at 215 801 8185. Thank you.

## SUPPORT THE TRENTON AREA SOUP KITCHEN

MPC has supported the Trenton Area Soup Kitchen (TASK) substantially for years. TASK's mission is to feed those who are hungry in the Trenton area and to offer programs that encourage self-sufficiency and improve the quality of life. TASK is so much more than a soup kitchen! They serve nutritious meals, free of charge, no questions asked to anyone who comes seeking nourishment. They also provide education, job training and workforce development that empowers people to pursue their hopes and dreams; and provide case management, access to community resources, and assistance to help neighbors in need. Not only has MPC supported this organization financially, but prior to the pandemic, MPC volunteers travelled to Trenton to prepare meals and support for those in attendance. Might we continue this outreach, both financially and "hands-on"? Contact Ray Hendrickson at [hrh1453@gmail.com](mailto:hrh1453@gmail.com) for additional information or for volunteer opportunities. Visit [trentonsoupkitchen.org](http://trentonsoupkitchen.org) for more information on TASK.

## ONLINE FELLOWSHIP

Did you know that each Sunday afternoon starting at 12:30 p.m., several church members meet via Zoom to check in, share ideas and have a few laughs? We meet for about forty minutes, and you can log on when you are available. If you attend church remotely, are a snowbird and go to a warmer climate during the winter season, or want to share some fellowship time with welcoming and caring church members, please email Karla Jones at [kmdjones@verizon.net](mailto:kmdjones@verizon.net) of your interest. She will add you to the email listing to receive the Zoom link.

## *Upcoming Worship Services*



February 12



10:30 a.m.



February 19

### **Introducing mobile giving**

iPhone



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 15

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	Fellowship Hour -	Lounge
	Hosted by: Worship Committee	

### MONDAY, January 16

#### Church office closed

11:00 a.m.	Day of Service Project	Williamson Park
6:00 p.m.	Cub Scout Pack 3	Room 220
7:00	Boy Scout Troop 3	Fellowship Hall
7:00	Boy Scout Troop 3	Lounge
	Parent & Board Meeting	
7:00	Personnel Committee	Zoom

### TUESDAY, January 17

12:30 p.m.	Staff Meeting	Conference Room
6:00	Cub Scout Pack 3	Fellowship Hall

### WEDNESDAY, January 18

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
7:00	Girl Scout Troop 2888	Room 220
7:00	Ivins Outreach Center	Lounge
	Board Meeting	
7:15	Chancel Chimes	Chapel

### THURSDAY, January 19

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

### FRIDAY, January 20

7:00 p.m.	AA Meeting	Lounge
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### SATURDAY, January 21

### SUNDAY, January 22

8:30 a.m.	God's Thunder Rehearsal	Chapel
9:30	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
11:30	Fellowship Hour -	Lounge
	Hosted by: Chancel Choir	
11:45	Teen Choir Rehearsal	Music Room

To view upcoming events and meetings,  
please visit [www.mpcusa.org](http://www.mpcusa.org) and click on  
"Calendar" from the home page.

## CONTACT US

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