



*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 DECEMBER 4, 2022
SECOND SUNDAY
OF ADVENT

Our liturgy today has been written by the Rev. Dr. Andy Morgan, Pastor of Fountain City Presbyterian Church in Knoxville, TN.

GATHERING

PRELUDE — *Adeste, Fideles* - David Blackwell

Yun Kang

CALL to WORSHIP

The Levan Family

One: We are a people who walk in darkness.

All: We long for Christ's light.

One: We are a people who are weary.

All: We long for a world filled with peace.

One: We are a people whose hearts break under the weight of a hurting and unjust world.

All: Comfort us. Awaken us. Help us watch for the coming of Christ.

HYMN — *Prepare the Way, O Zion*

BEREDEN VÄG FÖR HERRAN

Prepare the way, O Zion, your Christ is drawing near!

Let every hill and valley a level way appear.

Greet One who comes in glory, foretold in sacred story.

O blest is Christ who came in God's most holy name.

He brings God's rule, O Zion; he comes from heaven above.

His rule is peace and freedom, and justice, truth, and love.

Lift high your praise resounding, for grace and joy abounding.

O blest is Christ who came in God's most holy name.

Fling wide your gates, O Zion; your Savior's rule embrace,

And tidings of salvation proclaim in every place.

All lands will bow rejoicing, their adoration voicing.

O blest is Christ who came in God's most holy name.

PRAYER of CONFESSION -

Tori Paquette

God of Peace, we are a weary people who long for your peace, but are unwilling to let your peace disrupt the placid waters of our lives. We have become complacent to injustice in our world, hunger and pain in our communities, brokenness in our families. We dare not speak up for the voiceless because a word of justice might startle. We hide our gaze from those who are hungry and hurting as their plight might cause us discomfort. We bite our tongue and repress dysfunction in our families because we do not want to cause conflict. We have misunderstood the peace you promise; peace that is not the absence of conflict, but the presence of justice and righteousness. Our energies are spent keeping our waters calm, rather than working as your called and equipped peacemakers. Trouble our waters, O God, and help us to recognize the good news of your peace, as we work for justice and joy in all areas of our lives.

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

PROMISE of FORGIVENESS

One: People of God, may God's forgiveness trouble our waters of shame, disrupt the pools of guilt in our lives, and unsettle our acceptance of lives devoid of conflict over the peace God calls us to accept and embody. Together let us proclaim 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.*

LITURGY of the WORD

PRAYER for ILLUMINATION

OLD TESTAMENT READING — *Isaiah 11:1-10*

One: A shoot shall come out from the stock of Jesse, and a branch shall grow out of his roots.

All: The spirit of the Lord shall rest on him, the spirit of wisdom and understanding, the spirit of counsel and might, the spirit of knowledge and the fear of the Lord.

One: His delight shall be in the fear of the Lord. He shall not judge by what his eyes see, or decide by what his ears hear; but with righteousness he shall judge the poor, and decide with equity for the meek of the earth; he shall strike the earth with the rod of his mouth, and with the breath of his lips he shall kill the wicked.

All: Righteousness shall be the belt around his waist, and faithfulness the belt around his loins. The wolf shall live with the lamb, the leopard shall lie down with the kid, the calf and the lion and the fatling together, and a little child shall lead them.

One: The cow and the bear shall graze, their young shall lie down together; and the lion shall eat straw like the ox. The nursing child shall play over the hole of the asp, and the weaned child shall put its hand on the adder's den.

All: They will not hurt or destroy on all my holy mountain; for the earth will be full of the knowledge of the Lord as the waters cover the sea. On that day the root of Jesse shall stand as a signal to the peoples; the nations shall inquire of him, and his dwelling shall be glorious.

One: This is the Word of the Lord.

All: Thanks be to God.

ANTHEM — *Wade in the Water* -Traditional spiritual

Chancel Choir

*Wade in the water, children. God's gonna trouble the water.
See that band all dressed in white. The leader looks like an Israelite.*

*Wade in the water, children. God's gonna trouble the water.
See that host all dressed in red. Well, it looks like the band that Moses led.*

Wade in the water, children. God's gonna trouble the water.

TIME for YOUNG DISCIPLES

Pastor Alex Lester-Abdalla

GOSPEL READING — *Luke 3:1-6*

In the fifteenth year of the reign of Emperor Tiberius, when Pontius Pilate was governor of Judea, and Herod was ruler of Galilee, and his brother Philip ruler of the region of Ituraea and Trachonitis, and Lysanias ruler of Abilene, during the high-priesthood of Annas and Caiaphas, the word of God came to John son of Zechariah in the wilderness. He went into all the region around the Jordan, proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins, as it is written in the book of the words of the prophet Isaiah,

“The voice of one crying out in the wilderness:

“Prepare the way of the Lord,
make his paths straight.

Every valley shall be filled,
and every mountain and hill shall be made low,
and the crooked shall be made straight,
and the rough ways made smooth;
and all flesh shall see the salvation of God.”’

One: This is the Gospel of the Lord.

All: Thanks be to God.

SACRAMENT of the LORD'S SUPPER

INVITATION

PRAYER of GREAT THANKSGIVING — adapted by Bruce Prewer

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

MUSIC during COMMUNION — *O Come, O Come, Emmanuel*

VENI EMMANUEL

*O come, O come, Emmanuel, and ransom captive Israel,
the mourns in lonely exile here until the Son of God appear.
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel.*

*O come, thou Wisdom from on high, who orderest all things mightily;
to us the path of knowledge show; teach us in her ways to go.
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel.*

*O come, O come, thou Lord of might, who to thy tribes on Sinai's height
in ancient times didst give the law in cloud and majesty and awe.
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel.*

*O come, thou Root of Jesse, free thine own from Satan's tyranny;
from depths of hell thy people save and give them victory o'er the grave
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel.*

*O come, thou Key of David, come, and open wide our heavenly home;
make safe the way that leads on high, and close the path to misery.
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel.*

*O come, thou Dayspring, come and cheer our spirits by thine advent here;
disperse the gloomy clouds of night, and death's dark shadows put to flight.
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel.*

*O come, Desire of nations, bind all peoples in one heart and mind;
bid eny, strife, and discord cease; fill the whole world with heaven's peace.
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel.*

PRAYER after COMMUNION

OFFERING

Invitation to Give

Offertory Music — *Jesus, the Very Thought of Thee* - John Dykes

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

SENDING

HYMN — *Comfort, Comfort Now My People*

GENEVAN 42

*"Comfort, comfort now my people; tell of peace!" So says our God.
"Comfort those who sit in darkness mourning under sorrow's load.
To my people now proclaim that my pardon waits for them!
Tell them that their sins I cover, and their warfare now is over."*

*For the herald's voice is crying in the desert far and near,
calling us to true repentance, since the reign of God is here.*

O, that warning cry obey! Now prepare for God a way.

Let the valleys rise in meeting and the hills bow down in greeting.

Straight shall be what long was crooked, and the rougher places plain.

Let your hearts be true and humble, as befits God's holy reign.

*For the glory of the Lord now on earth is shed abroad,
and all flesh shall see the token that God's word is never broken.*

CHARGE and BLESSING

CHORAL BENEDICTION — *Keep Your Lamps Trimmed and Burnin' for the Day is Drawing Nigh*

Traditional spiritual arranged by Kirby Shaw

Children, don't get weary till your work is done.

Keep your lamps trimmed and burnin' for the day is drawing nigh.

POSTLUDE — *Come, Let Us Sing to the Lord* - Robert Lau

QUESTION for REFLECTION

- Where do you see God troubling the waters in our world today?

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.

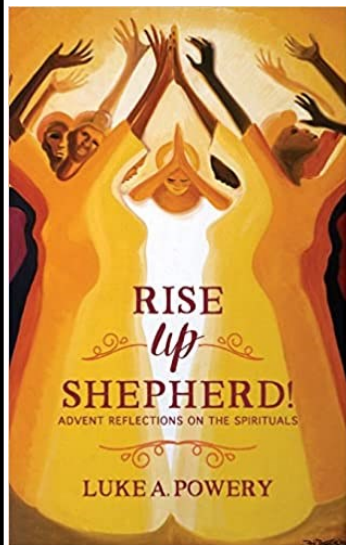
Worshippers prepare themselves to celebrate the Lord's Supper by putting their trust in Christ, confessing their sin, and seeking reconciliation with God and one another. Even those who doubt may come to the table in order to be assured of God's love and grace in Jesus Christ."

-Book of Order W-3.0409

New Sermon Series for Advent

Rise Up Shepherd!

We have a unique opportunity this Advent! As part of the Zick Preaching Scholars, Rachel has joined with pastors from five other Presbyterian congregations to put together an Advent series for 2022. These pastors serve congregations in California, Pennsylvania, Tennessee, Virginia, and Wisconsin. Each of the pastors will be sharing in the planning and writing of liturgy for the Sundays, and the group has contracted the Rev. Dr. Luke Powery, Dean of the Chapel at Duke University, to provide a series of study videos that we will be incorporating into our Advent Adult Education Series. Additionally, we will be using Dr. Powery's Advent Devotional, *Rise Up Shepherd!: Advent Reflections on the Spirituals*, as a guide for personal spiritual reflection. Copies will be available in the Communication Center.



The Zick Preaching Scholars is a program sponsored by George and Cathy Manning in memory of her parents John and Mary Zick, longtime members of the Fifth Avenue Presbyterian Church in New York City. The group is facilitated by former Fifth Avenue senior pastor, the Rev. Dr. Tom Tewell.

Members of this cohort include:

- The Rev. Dr. Jay Howell, Sequoyah Hills Presbyterian Church, Knoxville, Tennessee
- The Rev. Dr. Andy Morgan, Fountain City Presbyterian Church, Knoxville, Tennessee
- The Rev. Dr. Jessica Patchett, Christ Presbyterian Church, Madison, Wisconsin
- The Rev. Rachel Achtemeier Rhodes, Morrisville Presbyterian Church, Morrisville, Pennsylvania
- The Rev. Jessica Vaughan-Lower, San Marino Community Church, San Marino, California
- The Rev. Andrew Whaley, Raleigh Court Presbyterian Church, Roanoke, Virginia

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 in loving memory of Charles T. Burgess by his children, Betsy and Bill. The second arrangement is given by Howard and Joan Barley in loving memory of Howard's father, Russell Barley.

SUNDAY SCHOOL HOLIDAY SCHEDULE

There will be no Sunday School for all groups on December 25 and January 1, 2023.

TODAY! YOU'RE INVITED TO MPC'S ADVENT CELEBRATION & LUNCH

O Come, O Come, Emmanuel! Join us in Fellowship Hall today, Sunday, December 4, after worship as we gather together to prepare for Jesus' arrival! All ages are welcome to join us for fellowship, a simple meal, and Advent & Christmas crafts, which will be used to decorate our own homes this season, as well as share the joy of Christ's coming with our neighbors and community. Everyone is welcome at this intergenerational event.

FELLOWSHIP HOUR

Fellowship Hour will return on December 11, and be hosted by the Deacons. Please come, visit, enjoy a light snack, and stop by to hear and learn more about our host group.



MPC Clothing Center Open House

Saturday, December 10, 2022

9:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.

Room 4, near Fellowship Hall

Come and do some shopping.

See you there!

CHRISTMAS ANGEL TREE

The Deacons are happy to announce we will be bringing back the Church Angel Tree for the Christmas Holiday! We are once again working with the Food Center to prepare toiletry bags for the many individuals we serve each week from the Lower Bucks County and greater Trenton area. We are asking anyone interested in taking an Angel from the tree, to fill a one-gallon Ziplock bag with the following items:

- 2 Toothpastes (regular size)
- 2 Bars of Wrapped Soap (neutral scent)
- 2 Toothbrushes
- 2 Deodorants (neutral scent)

A "blessing" from MPC is printed on one side of each Angel, the item list printed on the other side. Please include the Angel in each Ziplock bag with the items. We know how generous our congregation is, and ask that you not include extra items; instead, perhaps fill another bag.

Bags can be dropped off Monday nights from 7:00 p.m. - 8:00 p.m., Tuesday mornings from 9:00 a.m. - 11:00 a.m. or before/after the Sunday worship service in the box marked "Angel Tree" in the Communication Center. We ask that all bags be delivered no later than December 27, for distribution to our Food Center clients beginning in the New Year! We are so grateful and thankful to all of you, and for all you do each year to make our Christmas Angel Tree such a success!

If you have any questions, please email Patti Sheffer at patricia.sheffer@yahoo.com.

REHEARSALS START TODAY, SING WITH THE FAMILY CHOIR ON CHRISTMAS EVE!

The yearly Family Choir, composed of the Chancel Choir, Teen Choir, their families and everyone who likes to sing is invited to be part of this choir. We will rehearse for 30 minutes in the sanctuary immediately after worship today and on December 11, 18, and prior to the 7:00 p.m. Christmas Eve service. Make a joyful noise to the Lord!

BOY SCOUT TROOP 3 CHRISTMAS TREE SALES, THE TRADITION CONTINUES!

Troop 3's annual Christmas Tree sale has opened! We are thankful for each of you that has let our Scouts be part of your family's Christmas tradition, and look forward to welcoming you back this year. Sale hours are: weekdays 6:00 p.m. - 9:00 p.m., Saturdays 9:00 a.m. - 9:00 p.m., Sundays 10:00 a.m. - 9:00 p.m.

BOOK DISCUSSION GROUP MEETS TUESDAY

The Small Group Book Discussions will meet on Tuesday, December 6, at 7:00 p.m. in the Lounge to discuss *The Book of Lost Names* by Kristin Harmel. The next book will be *Putin's World: Russia Against the West and the Rest*, by Angela Stent (2019, 448 pgs) The book deals with foreign policy and current events, Russian history, and foundation of current international relationships. Meetings to discuss the book will be on January 10 (second Tuesday) and February 7. Contact Shellie Stoddard at stoddard.shellie@gmail.com or 215-510-5717 with questions or to confirm your attendance.



THANK YOU COVID-19 TASK FORCE!

Since the Spring of 2020, the COVID-19 Task Force has served faithfully at the pleasure of the Session, keeping a watchful eye on the ever-changing landscape of the pandemic, and making recommendations to Session to ensure the health and safety of our church and community. However, given the current state of the virus, combined with continued advancements in vaccination efficacy and availability, the Session unanimously agreed at their November meeting that it is the appropriate time to disband the group as an official Task Force of Session. This task has required inordinate amounts of patience, flexibility, resilience, and time, and we owe a deep debt to every person who has served faithfully on this Task Force in the course of the last two and a half years. When you're able, please take the time to extend a heartfelt "thank you" to the individuals who have dedicated their time and energy to this task on behalf of our church: Elizabeth Dugan, Patrick Gilbride, Drew Hunger (Chair), AK Rosenbaum, Mark Schnurr (Chair), Nancy Stoner, Ron Workman, and Pastors Rachel & Alex.

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 of your interest. She will add you to the email listing to receive the Zoom link.

DICTIONARIES AND THESAURUSES WANTED

So far the Book Distribution has collected forty-nine hardcover and thirteen paperback adult dictionaries for the Jefferson Elementary 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 also collecting children's dictionaries and thesauruses for adults and children and have collected another sixty-six 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. Please contact Susan Light at 215 801 8185 for further information. 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 to 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 for additional information or for volunteer opportunities. Visit trentonsoupkitchen.org for more information on TASK.




Christmas Joy Offering: Supporting Past, Present, and Future Leaders

Each year during the Advent and Christmas season, we turn our eyes to Bethlehem and celebrate the wondrous gift of Jesus Christ, our Savior. By giving to the [Christmas Joy Offering](#), you honor this gift by providing assistance to current and retired church workers in their time of need and developing our future leaders at Presbyterian-related schools and colleges equipping communities of color. Specifically,

- 50% of your gifts provide assistance for current and retired church workers and their families with critical financial need.
- 50% of your gifts make it possible for students to learn and grow in faith at Presbyterian-related schools and colleges equipping communities of color.

This offering will be collected by December 18 through a check with "Christmas Joy Offering" written on the memo line, or through our [Online Giving Portal](#) on the MPC website with "Christmas Joy Offering" written in the Notes section. As always, thank you for your generous support to this special offering and others of the [PCUSA](#)!

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, December 4 - 2nd Sunday of Advent

8:30 a.m.	God's Thunder	Chapel
9:30	Sunday School for all ages	
10:00	Boy Scout Troop 3	Parking Lot
	Christmas Tree Sales	
10:30	Worship Service	Sanctuary
10:30	Worship Service	Livestream
11:30	Advent Celebration & Lunch	Fellowship Hall
11:45	Family Choir	Music Room
Noon	Deacon Meeting	Conference Room
4:00 p.m.	Cantus Novus Concert	Sanctuary

MONDAY, December 5

6:00 p.m.	Boy Scout Troop 3	Parking Lot
	Christmas Tree Sales	
6:00	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 Meetings	
7:00	Personnel Committee	Zoom
7:30	Youth Ministry	Conference Room

TUESDAY, December 6

1:00 p.m.	Congregational Ministry	Zoom
6:00	Boy Scout Troop 3	Parking Lot
	Christmas Tree Sales	
6:00	Cub Scout Pack 3	Fellowship Hall
6:30	Butterfly Essential	Room 220
	Wellness Class	
7:00	Food Center	Parking Lot
7:00	<i>The Book of Lost Names</i>	Lounge
	Discussion Group	

WEDNESDAY, December 7

9:00 a.m.	Food Center	Parking Lot
Noon	Brown Bag & Bible Study	Zoom
1:00 p.m.	Prayer Meeting	Zoom
2:30	Worship Committee	Zoom
6:00	Boy Scout Troop 3	Parking Lot
	Christmas Tree Sales	
6:00	Cub Scout Pack 3	Room 220

WEDNESDAY, December 7 (continued)

6:00 p.m.	Youth Club	Fellowship Hall
7:00	Finance Committee	Zoom
7:00	Girl Scout Troop 2888	Room 220
7:15	Chancel Chimes	Chapel

THURSDAY, December 8

10:00 a.m.	Clothing Center	Room 4
6:00 p.m.	Boy Scout Troop 3	Parking Lot
	Christmas Tree Sales	
6:00	Oakville Girl Scouts	Fellowship Hall
7:00	Chancel Choir	

FRIDAY, December 9

6:00 p.m.	Boy Scout Troop 3	Parking Lot
	Christmas Tree Sales	
7:00	AA Meeting	Lounge

SATURDAY, December 10

9:00 a.m.	Boy Scout Troop 3	Parking Lot
	Christmas Tree Sale	
10:00	Clothing Center Open House	Room 4

SUNDAY, December 11 - 3rd Sunday of Advent

8:30 a.m.	God's Thunder	Chapel
9:30	Sunday School for all ages	
10:00	Boy Scout Troop 3	Parking Lot
	Christmas Tree Sales	
10:30	Worship Service	Sanctuary
10:30	Worship Service	Livestream
11:30	Fellowship Hour	Lounge
	Host: Deacons	
11:45	Family Choir Rehearsal	Music Room
1:00 p.m.	Friends & Family	Sanctuary
	Holiday Concert	

To view upcoming events and meetings, please visit www.mpcusa.org and click on "Calendar" from the home page.

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