



*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 FEBRUARY 20, 2022  
SEVENTH SUNDAY  
after EPIPHANY

## GATHERING

**PRELUDE** — *Air*— Gordon Young

Yun Kang

**CALL to WORSHIP**

Dan Jones

One: We gather to give thanks to you, O Lord, with all our heart!

**All: We will sing your praises before all creation, and rejoice in your steadfast love!**

One: You have created us, O Lord, and made us for yourself.

**All: In you we become everything you have made us to be! Let us worship God together!**

**HYMN** — *Come, Thou Fount of Every Blessing*

NETTLETON

*Come, thou Fount of every blessing; tune my heart to sing thy grace;  
streams of mercy, never ceasing, call for songs of loudest praise.  
Teach me some melodious sonnet, sung by flaming tongues above;  
praise the mount! I'm fixed upon it, mount of God's unchanging love!*

*Here I raise my Ebenezer; hither by thy help I'm come;  
and I hope, by thy good pleasure, safely to arrive at home.  
Jesus sought me when a stranger, wandering from the fold of God;  
he, to rescue me from danger, interposed his precious blood.*

*O to grace how great a debtor daily I'm constrained to be!  
Let that grace now, like a fetter, bind my wandering heart to thee.  
Prone to wander, Lord, I feel it, prone to leave the God I love;  
here's my heart; O take and seal it; seal it for thy courts above.*

**PRAYER of CONFESSION**

O God of compassion, if you kept a record of our sins, who could stand? We come before you with our brokenness and our wounds for all to see. We bring our anger, our bitterness, our deceitfulness, and every word we hurl at one another with the intent to cause harm. We bring the sin of our action and inaction and all that we would otherwise hide in the shadows. We try to do good, but sometimes fail. We choose to do evil, and sometimes succeed. Forgive us, God of grace. Restore us and renew us that we might be yours alone. Keep your promise to forgive us, for without you we have no hope.

**SILENT PRAYERS of CONFESSION**

*Here each worshiper may offer silent prayers of confession.*

**PROMISE of FORGIVENESS**

One: To all who turn from sin and sorrow, to all who turn to God in hope, this is God's Word of grace: We are accepted, we are forgiven, we are loved. This is the gift that never ceases to be given from our loving God. And so, 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.*

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

**PSALTER READING** — *Psalms 138*

One: I give you thanks, O Lord, with my whole heart; before the gods I sing your praise;

**All: I bow down towards your holy temple and give thanks to your name for your steadfast love and your faithfulness;**

One: For you have exalted your name and your word above everything.

**All: On the day I called, you answered me, you increased my strength of soul.**

One: All the kings of the earth shall praise you, O Lord, for they have heard the words of your mouth.

**All: They shall sing of the ways of the Lord, for great is the glory of the Lord.**

One: For though the Lord is high, he regards the lowly; but the haughty he perceives from far away.

**All: Though I walk in the midst of trouble, you preserve me against the wrath of my enemies; you stretch out your hand, and your right hand delivers me.**

One: The Lord will fulfil his purpose for me;

**All: Your steadfast love, O Lord, endures forever. Do not forsake the work of your hands.**

One: This is the Word of the Lord.

**All: Thanks be to God**

**NEW TESTAMENT READING** — *2 Corinthians 4:14-5:1*

because we know that the one who raised the Lord Jesus will raise us also with Jesus, and will bring us with you into his presence. Yes, everything is for your sake, so that grace, as it extends to more and more people, may increase thanksgiving, to the glory of God.

So we do not lose heart. Even though our outer nature is wasting away, our inner nature is being renewed day by day. For this slight momentary affliction is preparing us for an eternal weight of glory beyond all measure, because we look not at what can be seen but at what cannot be seen; for what can be seen is temporary, but what cannot be seen is eternal.

For we know that if the earthly tent we live in is destroyed, we have a building from God, a house not made with hands, eternal in the heavens.

The grass withers, the flower fades, but the word of the Lord will stand forever.

One: This is the Word of the Lord.

**All: Thanks be to God.**

**SERMON**

*Am I Doing it Right?*

Paster Rachel Rhodes

**HYMN** — *God is Calling through the Whisper*

W ŻŁOBIE LEŻY

*God is calling through the whisper of the Spirit's deepest sighs,  
through the thrill of sudden beauties that can catch us by surprise.  
Flash of lightning, crash of thunder; hush of stillness, rush of wonder:  
God is calling—can you hear?  
God is calling—can you hear?*

*God is calling through the voices of our neighbors' urgent prayers,  
through their longing for redemption and for rescue from despair.*

*Place of hurt or face of needing; strident cry or silent pleading;  
God is calling—can you hear?  
God is calling—can you hear?*

*God is calling through the music of sublime and human arts,  
through the hymns of earth and angels, and the carols of our hearts.  
Lift of joy and gift of singing; days and nights our praises bringing;  
God is calling—can we hear?  
God is calling—can we hear?*

#### **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.**

#### **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 — *I Know Not What the Future Hath* - Luigi Zaninelli

Chancel Choir

*I know not what the future hath of marvel or surprise,  
But this I know, that life and death God's mercy underlies.*

*No offering of my own I have, nor works my faith to prove;  
I can but give the gifts He gave, and plead His love for love.*

*I know not where His islands lift their fronded palms in air;  
I only know I cannot drift beyond His love and care.*

--John Greenleaf Whittier (adapted)

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 — *I Was There to Hear Your Borne Cry***

WATERLIFE

*"I was there to hear your borne cry; I'll be there when you are old.  
I rejoiced the day you were baptized to see your life unfold.  
I was there when you were but a child with a faith to suit you well;  
in a blaze of light you wandered off to find where demons dwell."*

*"When you heard the wonder of the Word, I was there to cheer you on.  
You were raised to praise the living Lord to whom you now belong.  
If you find someone to share your time and join your hearts as one,  
I'll be there to make your verses rhyme from dusk till rising sun."*

*"In the middle ages of your life, not too old, no longer young,  
I'll be there to guide you through the night, complete what I've begun.  
When the evening gently closes in and you shut your weary eyes,  
I'll be there as I have always been with just one more surprise."*

*"I was there to hear your borning cry; I'll be there when you are old.  
I rejoiced the day you were baptized to see your life unfold."*

**POSTLUDE** — *Grand Triumphal Chorus in A major* - Alexandre Guilmant

### **QUESTIONS for REFLECTION**

- What are you living for and in what are you placing your hope?
- How might God be seeking to move your heart in a new direction?

## **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).***

### **IN-PERSON EDUCATION AND MUSIC RETURNS**

As we have returned to in-person worship, plans are in place to return to in-person education and music programs. Below you will also find specific updates for each activity.

#### **EDUCATION**

- Pre-K through High School Sunday School classes has returned to in-person sessions from 9:30 a.m. to 10:15 a.m.
- Confirmation Class is meeting in-person from 9:00 a.m. to 10:00 a.m.
- For the time being, Adult Sunday School will continue to meet over Zoom from 9:00 a.m. to 10:00 a.m.

If you would like to be added to the Adult Education email distribution list or if you have any questions about Children's Sunday School or Confirmation Class, please contact Pastor Alex at [alexlester-abdalla@mpcusa.net](mailto:alexlester-abdalla@mpcusa.net).

#### **MUSIC**

- Chancel Choir (Adult Choir) has returned to in-person rehearsals.
- Teen Choir rehearsal has returned after worship beginning today, **February 20**.
- Children's Music has returned during worship today, **February 20**.
- God's Thunder (Youth Handbell Choir) will return for in-person rehearsals starting **February 23**.

If you would like more information about any of our choir programs, please be in touch with Music Director Tim Carpenter, at [timcarpenter@mpcusa.net](mailto:timcarpenter@mpcusa.net).

### **LENTEN BAGS**

The season of Lent is approaching and your Worship, Education, and Congregational Ministry Committees assembled bags which include activities to do throughout the 40-day journey. Lenten bags will be available for pick up (one per family, please) in the Communication Center on February 27 and March 6. If you are unable to pick one up during these times, please contact the church office to make arrangements to get one.

### **CLOTHING CENTER DONATIONS**

The MPC Clothing Center will begin accepting clean, gently used spring and summer clothes in March. No fall or winter clothing will be accepted at that time as space does not allow for storage of off-season wear. As a reminder, all donated items (housewares, linens, glass, china, etc.) must be washed and clean, and no donations should be left outside the church doors. Donations may be dropped off at any time when the church is open. Please place all donations in the bin downstairs by the elevator.

Open each Thursday from 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m., the Clothing Center volunteers are committed to providing a pleasant shopping experience for our valued customers while maintaining a safe and healthy environment. Therefore, we will continue to follow these protocols:

1. Masks must be worn
2. Practice social distancing
3. Fitting rooms will be CLOSED

Profits from the Clothing Center are given to charitable agencies and organizations, both local and global, determined by the MPC Outreach Committee. Your continued support and cooperation are greatly appreciated. Thank you!

### **BOOK DISTRIBUTION UPDATED NEEDS AND REQUESTS:**

Cold weather is bringing changes, but we are still finding ways to continue to distribute books. We have depleted the reserves of dictionaries and Bibles so if you have copies of either item, we can distribute them immediately. Currently, 90% of the books taken are those read by children under the age of 5. Almost no books (except Harry Potter and Lemony Snicket) for children above the third grade are taken. We have great interest in children's books on dinosaurs, trucks, "Disney Princesses" (including Pinkalicious, Dora, etc.). New coloring books are always welcome. Adults take current best sellers (published within the past couple of years), cookbooks, religious books, and Civil War books.

If you have books that fall outside of the above categories, you will find Good Stuff on Route 1 will usually take them. The Salvation Army and Good Will, a short distance away from Good Stuff, also take books.

For the time being, please do not drop off large used toys. There is no place to store them while we wait for the weather to warm up and the handling of them is too time consuming for the current volunteers. If we decide to add toys we will need a separate volunteer to handle this category. If you are interested in working with donated toys, please contact Susan Light at [susanklight@gmail.com](mailto:susanklight@gmail.com). Thank you for your generous and cheerful support.

### **2022 OFFERING ENVELOPES**

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



**Join us during worship for our Lenten Sermon Series** which will be led by our Pastors based on the hymn, "Take My Life." We will

begin on Sunday, March 6, leading up to Palm Sunday discovering what it means to give to God our moments & days, hands & feet, voice & lips, will & heart and our love & whole self.



**In-person service**

**7:00 p.m. ~ Wednesday, March 2**

**Sanctuary.**

## **MPC Nominating Committee Needs Your Help**

Each year the MPC Nominating Committee is tasked with selecting individuals from our church membership to serve with energy, intelligence, imagination, and love, as Deacons, Elders, and Trustees.

### ***What does it mean to be a Deacon?***

The ministry of deacon as set forth in Scripture is one of compassion, witness, and service, sharing in the redeeming love of Jesus Christ for the poor, the hungry, the sick, the lost, the friendless, the oppressed, those burdened by unjust policies or structures, or anyone in distress. Persons of spiritual character, honest repute, exemplary lives, brotherly and sisterly love, sincere compassion, and sound judgment should be chosen for this ministry. (PCUSA *Book of Order*, G-2.0201)

### ***What does it mean to be an Elder?***

As there were in Old Testament times elders for the government of the people, so the New Testament church provided persons with particular gifts to share in discernment of God's Spirit and governance of God's people. Accordingly, congregations should elect persons of wisdom and maturity of faith, having demonstrated skills in leadership and being compassionate in spirit. Ruling elders are so named not because they "lord it over" the congregation (Matthew 20:25), but because they are chosen by the congregation to discern and measure its fidelity to the Word of God, and to strengthen and nurture its faith and life. Ruling elders, together with teaching elders (pastors), exercise leadership, government, spiritual discernment, and discipline and have responsibilities for the life of a congregation as well as the whole church, including ecumenical relationships. When elected by the congregation, they shall serve faithfully as members of the session. (PCUSA *Book of Order*, G-2.0301)

### ***What does it mean to be a Trustee?***

In very technical terms, "the corporation so formed, or the individual trustees, shall have the following powers: to receive, hold, encumber, manage, and transfer property, real or personal, for the congregation, provided that in buying, selling, and mortgaging real property, the trustees shall act only after the approval of the congregation, granted in a duly constituted meeting; to accept and execute deeds of title to such property; to hold and defend title to such property; to manage any permanent special funds for the furtherance of the purposes of the congregation, all subject to the authority of the session and under the provisions of the Constitution of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A)." (PCUSA *Book of Order*, G-4.0101) In more layman's terms, the Trustees work to maintain, protect, and preserve the church's property, as well as oversee the church's finances and investments. Trustees should be individuals of honesty, integrity, and deep faith, knowing that above all they are called to serve the mission of the church, and that unless the Lord builds the house, those who work so hard labor in vain.

***See reverse for how you can help!***

## ***MPC CURRENT CHURCH OFFICERS***

### **Deacons, Class of 2022**

Jim Gaston  
Luisa Herrera  
Helen Hill  
Beth Keys  
Cindy Moskow  
Tom Smith  
Tim Stover  
Tony Zazzu

### **Deacons, Class of 2023**

Fran Akelewicz  
Andy Beidler  
Alice Garcia  
Tracy Massey  
Lori Newman  
Joy Rees  
Patti Sheffer  
Tim Yost

### **Deacons, Class of 2024**

Donna Damiani  
John Damiani  
Heidi Dous  
Karl Helland  
Karen Hill  
Kathy Larkin  
Jim Levan  
Ruth Levan

### **Elders, Class of 2022**

Beth Becker  
Dawn Flook  
Bill Hughes  
Jill Monroe-Dillon  
Lisa Zazzu

### **Elders, Class of 2023**

Ray Hendrickson  
Dan Jones  
Greg Neiman  
Caroline Thompson

### **Elders, Class of 2024**

Elizabeth Dugan  
Wes Gardner  
Patrick Gilbride  
Travis Keys  
Mark Schnurr

### **Trustees, Class of 2022**

Erin Aronson  
Laurel Leonard  
Seth McHenry

### **Trustees, Class of 2023**

David Austin  
Suzanne Barletto  
Tom Evans

### **Trustees, Class of 2024**

Matt Bausher  
Clark Martin  
Gary Ward

**As we discern God's will for the next chapter of leadership in the life of our church, the MPC Nominating Committee would love to hear from you!**

**If you would like to nominate someone who may be particularly gifted to serve as an Elder, Deacon, or Trustee in the life of our church, please send his or her name(s) to the Nominating Committee Chairperson, Dan Jones, at [djones@fresnelpartners.com](mailto:djones@fresnelpartners.com). We can't wait to see where the Spirit will lead us next!**

## MPC *Weekly Calendar*

### SUNDAY, February 20

9:00 a.m.	Adult Sunday School	via Zoom
9:00	Confirmation Class	Room 200
9:30	Pre-K - High School Sunday School	
<b>10:30</b>	<b>Worship Service</b>	<b>Sanctuary</b>
<b>10:30</b>	<b>Worship Service</b>	<b>Livestream</b>
11:30	Teen Choir	Music Room

### MONDAY, February 21

6:30 p.m.	Mostly Motets	Sanctuary
7:00	Boy Scout Troop 3	Fellowship Hall

### TUESDAY, February 22

6:00 p.m.	Cub Scout Pack 3	Fellowship Hall
6:00	Pack 3 - Webelos	Room 104
6:30	Alcoholics Anonymous	Room 220

### WEDNESDAY, February 23

9:00 a.m.	Food Center	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	Sanctuary

### THURSDAY, February 24

10:00 a.m.	Clothing Center	Room 4
Noon	Alcoholics Anonymous	Room 220
6:30 p.m.	Oakville Girl Scouts	Room 220
7:00	Chancel Choir	Sanctuary

### FRIDAY, February 25

6:00 p.m.	Pack 3 - Wolf Den	Fellowship Hall
6:30	Pack 3 Meeting	Fellowship Hall
7:00	AA Meeting	Room 220

### SATURDAY, February 26

Noon	Youth Club	Fellowship Hall
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### SUNDAY, February 27

9:00 a.m.	Adult Sunday School	via Zoom
9:00	Confirmation Class	Room 200
9:30	Pre-K - High School Sunday School	
<b>10:30</b>	<b>Worship Service</b>	<b>Sanctuary</b>
<b>10:30</b>	<b>Worship Service</b>	<b>Livestream</b>
11:30	Teen Choir	Music Room

## CONTACT US

### MORRISVILLE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH STAFF

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