



*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  
EPIPHANY SUNDAY  
JANUARY 7, 2024

## GATHERING

**PRELUDE** — *Christians, We Have Met to Worship* - arr. Douglas Wagner

Yun Kang

**WORDS of WELCOME**

Pastor Rachel Rhodes

**INTROIT** — *Grant Me True Courage, Lord* — J. S. Bach

Chancel Choir

*Grant me true courage, Lord, to start each new endeavor  
Confiding in your word that you will leave me never;  
Alike in gloom or joy, each duty to fulfill,  
My faithful heart employ to do your perfect will.*

Henry W. Foot, alt.

## CALL to WORSHIP

One: The light of the world goes before us,

**All: Many people journey and follow in faith.**

One: The light hovers over wide oceans, vast deserts, high mountains, and grassy plains.

**All: The light ascends to the corners of the universe,**

One: And yet, it rests in the depth of our hearts.

**All: The glory of God, the Savior is revealed.**

One: The glory of God and Peace on Earth!

**All: Awaken us. Let us give homage to the Christ.**

**HYMN** — *Come Sing, O Church, in Joy!*

DARWALL'S 148TH

*Come sing, O church, in joy! Come join, O church, in song!  
For Christ the Lord had led us through the ages long!  
In bold accord, come celebrate the journey now and praise the Lord!  
Long years have come and gone, and still God reigns supreme,  
empowering us to catch the vision, dream the dream!  
In bold accord, come celebrate the journey now and praise the Lord!  
Let courage be our friend; let wisdom be our guide,  
as we in mission magnify the Crucified!  
In bold accord, come celebrate the journey now and praise the Lord!  
Come sing, O church, in joy! Come join, O church, in song!  
For Christ the Lord has triumphed o'er the ages long!  
In bold accord, come celebrate the journey now and praise the Lord!*

## PRAYER of CONFESSION

Pastor Alex Lester-Abdalla

Creative God, you make all things new and you hold out a new day and a new year for us. Yet how often we squander the opportunities, letting our doubts overwhelm us, letting our sins bind us, letting our fears stop us. You offer us new dreams, new journeys, and we succumb to old weaknesses. You offer us hope, in the face of a baby, but we choose the comfortable. Forgive us, O God. We have touched the joy of Christmas. Help us to come again to you and be renewed with the joy of living in your grace, through Jesus, Amen.

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

## PROMISE of FORGIVENESS

One: Trust in the good news of God that we celebrate this season as the gift of Jesus Christ: even now, God is with us! 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 — *Psalm 111: 1, 7-10*

One: Praise the Lord!

**All: I will give thanks to the Lord with all my heart, in the company of the upright, in the congregation.**

One: The works of God's hands are powerful and just; and all God's precepts are trustworthy.

**All: They are established forever and ever, to be performed with faithfulness and uprightness,**

One: God sent redemption to God's people; God has commanded God's covenant forever. Holy and awesome is God's name.

**All: The fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom; all those who practice it have a good understanding. God's praise endures forever.**

One: This is the Word of the Lord.

**All: Thanks be to God!**

### ANTHEM — *Come To the Table* - Valerie Showers Crescenz

*Come and eat, come to the table, come and taste the bread of life,  
the bread of truth, sacrifice of love, come and nourish your spirit, and remember Me.*

*Come and drink, come and taste the cup of life, the cup of truth,  
sacrifice of love, come refresh your spirit, and remember Me.*

*This table holds more than a royal feast. Meant not just for the great, but the very least,  
you freely will receive if only you believe.*

*Celebrate! Come to the table, celebrate the gift of life, My body and Blood, the sacrifice of love.  
Come and taste, come and taste your redemption, and remember Me.*

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Valerie Showers Crescenz

### TIME for YOUNG DISCIPLES

Reverend Jack McAnlis

### NEW TESTAMENT READING — *Mark 14:22-25*

While they were eating, he took a loaf of bread, and after blessing it he broke it, gave it to them, and said, "Take; this is my body." Then he took a cup, and after giving thanks he gave it to them, and all of them drank from it. He said to them, "This is my blood of the covenant, which is poured out for many. Truly I tell you, I will never again drink of the fruit of the vine until that day when I drink it new in the kingdom of God."

One: This is the Gospel of the Lord.

**All: Thanks be to God!**

### SERMON

*The Last Supper: An Epiphany*

Reverend McAnlis

*As with gladness men of old did the guiding star behold;  
as with joy they hailed its light, leading onward, beaming bright;  
so, most gracious Lord, may we evermore be led to thee.*

*As with joyful steps they sped, Savior, to thy lowly bed,  
there to bend the knee before thee, whom heaven and earth adore;  
so may we with willing feet ever seek thy mercy seat.*

*As they offered gifts most rare at thy manger, rude and bare,  
so may we with holy joy, pure and free from sin's alloy,  
all our costliest treasures bring, Christ, to thee, our heavenly king.*

*Holy Jesus, every day keep us in the narrow way;  
and when earthly things are past, bring our ransomed souls at last  
where they need no star to guide, where no clouds thy glory hide.*

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 — *Softly and Tenderly Jesus Is Calling* - W. L. Thompson

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.*

## 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 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** — *Seed, Scattered and Sown* - Dan Feiten

**PRAYER *after* COMMUNION**

## **S E N D I N G**

**HYMN** — *For the Bread Which You Have Broken*

KINGDOM

*For the bread which you have broken,  
for the wine which you have poured,  
for the words which you have spoken,  
now we give you thanks, O Lord.*

*By this promise that you love us,  
by your gift of peace restored,  
by your call to heaven above us,  
hallow all our lives, O Lord.*

*With the saints who now adore you  
seated at the heavenly board,  
may the church still waiting for you  
keep love's tie unbroken, Lord.*

*In your service, Lord, defend us;  
in our hearts keep watch and ward;  
in the world to which you send us  
let your kingdom come, O Lord.*

**CHARGE *and* BLESSING**

**\*BENEDICTION RESPONSE** — *Amen*

**POSTLUDE** — *Trumpet Air* - Henry Purcell

### **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**

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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).***

### **SPECIAL FELLOWSHIP TODAY HONORING PASTOR JACK MCANLIS' RETIREMENT**

Today we will have a special fellowship hour to congratulate Pastor Jack McAnlis on his re-retirement and thank him for his years of ministry at MPC. While he and Karin will continue to be a part of our worshipping community, Jack will be stepping down from his role as Minister of Visitation. Jack has been such a blessing to our church and his contributions go well beyond his visitation role. We hope you will join us for light refreshments in the Lounge, immediately after worship. Cards for Jack can be sent to the church office.

### **JANUARY'S FOOD CENTER REQUEST**

Our Food Center is asking for peanut butter as this month's food donation. For safety reasons, peanut butter packaged in plastic jars is preferred. A shopping cart has been put in the Welcome Center to receive your donations. Thank you for your generous help!

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

The Chancel Flowers are offered to the glory of God and are given in loving memory of Patricia Kolle (Patsy) by her family. The second arrangement is given in gratitude for Jack McAnlis who has served as our Minister of Visitation for the past eight years. Jack has been a blessing not only to those he has visited, offering a calming and caring presence, but also to our entire congregation as he shared the gifts of a pastor deeply committed to the ministry he felt he was called to serve.

### **FLOWERS NEEDED FOR JANUARY 21 & 28**

If you would like to give flowers on one of these Sundays, please contact DeeAnn Martin at [deemar918@aol.com](mailto:deemar918@aol.com) or 215-493-3865. An arrangement is \$35 and may be given in memory of a loved one, to celebrate a special occasion, or in gratitude for a special person or ministry. These flowers not only add beauty to our Sunday worship but they also serve as an outreach to our church family.

### **CONGREGATIONAL MEETING**

A Congregational and Corporation meeting will be held on January 21, 2024 in the Sanctuary immediately following the worship service for the purpose of providing an overview of the 2024 budget and approving the Terms of Call of the Pastors.

### **2024 OFFERING ENVELOPES**

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

### **ADULT EDUCATION FOR JANUARY**

Jerusalem is the most religious city in the world for Judaism and Christianity. It is mentioned 667 times in the Old Testament and 139 times in the New. It is also significant in Islam. Come and learn the reasons for the city's religious significance and why it is considered to have been, and still is, one of the most controversial cities in the world. The three-Sunday course continues on January 14 and concludes on January 21. They will consist of stand-alone sessions on: "The City During the Time of Jesus" and "The City Since Jesus." Classes meet in the Conference Room located on the second floor. Please contact Associate Pastor for Lifelong Faith Formation & Mission, Alex Lester-Abdalla, at [alexlester-abdalla@mpcusa.org](mailto:alexlester-abdalla@mpcusa.org) to learn more about MPC's Christian Education programs for all ages.

### **BOOK DISTRIBUTION - BOOKSHELVES NEEDED (34 DOWN, 66 TO GO)**

Thanks for the bookshelves already donated for Trenton classrooms and students. Book Distribution is doing well with books, but always needs more preschool board books, books in Spanish for children, and books for the early school grades. Alice Garcia and Joy Rees are distributing bibles and dictionaries to Food Center clients, and there is a need for a steady supply again. Small items (coloring books for all ages, bible stories, puzzles, battery-free toys, board games, puzzles, etc.) are also very welcome. Thank you to folks who are finding unneeded shelves, crates and office supplies in their places of work and passing them on. Please contact Alice Garcia at 609-230-1786 about helping with the book circulation during Food Center distribution, and Susan Light at 215-801-8185 about helping with obtaining/processing books.

### **NEW MEMBERS ARE WELCOME**

If you are not a member at MPC, we would love for you to consider joining us in ministry and mission. A three-week class, led by Pastor Rachel Rhodes and Pastor Alex Lester-Abdalla, provides an opportunity to explore church membership, whether you're ready to join or just curious about what that would mean. We will explore topics like: what do we believe as Presbyterians, how are we called to be the church in the world, what does ministry and mission look like at MPC, who is it that God is calling you to be and how can you seek to pursue God's call more fully through membership at MPC?

New Member classes are held two times a year. If you are interested in participating, please contact the church office at 215-295-4191 or [office@mpcusa.org](mailto:office@mpcusa.org) for more information.

### **PARTICIPATE IN MUSIC MINISTRY**

If you would like to get involved in our Music Ministry, please feel free to contact our Music Director, Tim Carpenter, at [timcarpenter@mpcusa.org](mailto:timcarpenter@mpcusa.org). Our Music Ministry welcomes participation by all interested adults, youth, and children! Opportunities in choirs and handbells are available.

## MPC Weekly Calendar

### SUNDAY, January 7

#### Epiphany Sunday

9:30 a.m.	Sunday School for all ages	
<b>10:30</b>	<b>Worship Service &amp; Communion</b>	<b>Sanctuary &amp; Livestream</b>
11:30	Fellowship Time	Lounge
	Host: Ivins Outreach Center	
11:45	Teen Choir	Music Room
1:00 p.m.	Cub Scout Pack 3	Fellowship Hall
	Derby Setup	

### MONDAY, January 8

9:30 a.m.	Ivins Outreach Center	Lounge
Noon	Deborah Circle	Lounge
5:00 p.m.	Cub Scout Pack 3	Fellowship Hall
	Pinewood Derby	
6:30	Mostly Motets	Music Room
7:00	Boy Scout Troop 3	Room 220
7:00	Boy Scout Troop 3	Chapel
	Parent & Board Meeting	
7:00	Rebecca Circle	Lounge
7:00	Trustees Meeting	Conference Room
7:30	Youth Ministry	Conference Room

### TUESDAY, January 9

9:00 a.m.	Produce Prep	Food Center
7:30 p.m.	Evangelism & Communication	Zoom

### WEDNESDAY, January 10

9:00 a.m.	Food Center Distribution	Parking Lot
Noon	Brown Bag & Bible Study	Conference Room
12:30 p.m.	Clothing Center Drop-off	Room 4
1:00	Prayer Meeting	Conference Room
6:00	Cub Scout Pack 3	Room 220
6:00	Youth Club	Fellowship Hall
7:00	Girl Scout Troop 2888	Room 220
7:00	Finance Committee	Zoom

### THURSDAY, January 11

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 12

6:30 p.m.	AA Meeting	Lounge
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### SATURDAY, January 13

### SUNDAY, January 14

8:30 a.m.	God's Thunder	Chapel
9:30	Sunday School for all ages	
<b>10:30</b>	<b>Worship Service &amp; Baptism</b>	<b>Sanctuary &amp; Livestream</b>
11:30	Fellowship Time	Lounge
	Host: Choir	
11:45	Teen Choir	Music Room

## 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.

### CONTACT US

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