



*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
FIFTH SUNDAY of EASTER
APRIL 28, 2024

GATHERING

PRELUDE — *How Deep the Father's Love for Us* - Townend/Bettcher

Chancel Chimes

WORDS of WELCOME

Pastor Rachel Rhodes

MINUTE for MINISTRY

A Sign of Stewardship: Per Capita

Tom Smith

INTROIT — *Let All Things Now Living* - ASH GROVE

Chancel Choir

*Let all things now living a song of thanksgiving
to God our Creator triumphantly raise;
who fashioned and made us, protected and stayed us,
by guiding us on to the end of our days.
God's banners are o'er us; pure light goes before us,
a pillar of fire shining forth in the night:
till shadows have vanished, all fearfulness banished,
as forward we travel from light into light.*

CALL to WORSHIP

Adrienne Poissant

One: In the wilderness, water brings life.

All: **Seek us out, O God, and take us to the water.**

One: In the Word of God, the good news gives light.

All: **Seek us out, O God, and fill us with understanding.**

One: In the bread and the wine, the body of our Savior nourishes everyone.

All: **Seek us out, O God, and give us yourself.**

One: Here is the water of life, the word that feeds, the food of eternity. Come and praise the vine that gives all goodness.

All: **Let us worship God together!**

HYMN — *Like the Murmur of the Dove's Song*

BRIDEGROOM

*Like the murmur of the dove's song, like the challenge of her flight,
like the vigor of the wind's rush, like the new flame's eager might:
Come, Holy Spirit, come.*

*To the members of Christ's body, to the branches of the Vine,
to the church in faith assembled, to our midst as gift and sign:
Come, Holy Spirit, come.*

*With the healing of division, with the ceaseless voice of prayer,
with the power to love and witness, with the peace beyond compare
Come, Holy Spirit, come.*

PRAYER of CONFESSION

God of mercy, we confess that we have not borne the fruit of the Spirit. We have not loved others as you have loved us. We have denied the promises of baptism and cut ourselves off from you. Forgive us, restore us, that we may abide in your love and live out your mercy, for the sake of Jesus Christ.

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

PROMISE of FORGIVENESS

One: You have already been cleansed by the word that God has spoken to you. In baptism God claimed you and joined you to Christ, as branches to a vine. Believe the promise given to you and let us proclaim it together:

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

PRAYER for ILLUMINATION

FIRST SCRIPTURE READING — *Psalm 22:25-31*

One: From you comes my praise in the great congregation; my vows I will pay before those who fear him.

All: **The poor shall eat and be satisfied; those who seek him shall praise the Lord. May your hearts live forever!**

One: All the ends of the earth shall remember and turn to the Lord; and all the families of the nations shall worship before him. For dominion belongs to the Lord, and he rules over the nations.

All: **To him, indeed, shall all who sleep in the earth bow down; before him shall bow all who go down to the dust, and I shall live for him.**

One: Posterity will serve him; future generations will be told about the Lord,

All: **And proclaim his deliverance to a people yet unborn, saying that he has done it.**

One: This is the Word of the Lord.

All: **Thanks be to God.**

ANTHEM — *Draw Us In the Spirit's Tether* - Harold Friedell

*Draw us in the Spirit's tether, for when humbly in Thy name,
Two or three are met together Thou are in the midst of them;
Alleluia! Alleluia!
Touch we now Thy garment's hem.*

*As disciples used to gather in the name of Christ to sup,
Then with thanks to God the Father break the bread and bless the cup,
Alleluia! Alleluia!
So knit Thou our friendship up.*

*All our meals and all our living make as sacraments of Thee,
That by caring, helping, giving we may true disciples be.
Alleluia! Alleluia!
We will serve Thee faithfully.*

--Text by B. R. (unknown)

TIME for YOUNG DISCIPLES

SECOND SCRIPTURE READING — *John 15:1-8*

'I am the true vine, and my Father is the vine-grower. He removes every branch in me that bears no fruit. Every branch that bears fruit he prunes to make it bear more fruit. You have already been cleansed by the word that I have spoken to you. Abide in me as I abide in you. Just as the branch cannot bear fruit by itself unless it abides in the vine, neither can you unless you abide in me. I am the vine, you are the branches. Those who abide in me and I in them bear much fruit, because apart from me you can do nothing. Whoever does not abide in me is thrown away like a

branch and withers; such branches are gathered, thrown into the fire, and burned. If you abide in me, and my words abide in you, ask for whatever you wish, and it will be done for you. My Father is glorified by this, that you bear much fruit and become my disciples.

One: This is the Word of the Lord.

All: **Thanks be to God!**

SERMON

Gardening With God

Pastor Rhodes

HYMN — *Jesus, the Very Thought of Thee*

ST. AGNES

Jesus, the very thought of thee with sweetness fills my breast.

But sweeter far thy face to see, and in thy presence rest.

*Nor voice can sing, nor heart can frame, nor can the mind recall
a sweeter sound than thy blest name, O Savior of us all.*

*O hope of every contrite heart, O joy of all the meek,
to those who fall, how kind thou art! How good to those who seek!*

*But what to those who find? Ah, this nor tongue nor pen can show.
The love of Jesus, what it is none but his loved ones know.*

Jesus, our only joy be thou, as thou our prize wilt be.

Jesus, be thou our glory now, and through eternity.

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.

PRAYERS of the PEOPLE

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 — *Dance* - J. S. Bach, arr. Gerry Luethi

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 — *Be Thou My Vision*

SLANE

*Be thou my vision, O Lord of my heart;
naught be all else to me, save that thou art;
thou my best thought, by day or by night,
waking or sleeping, thy presence my light.*

*Be thou my wisdom, and thou my true Word;
I ever with thee and thou with me, Lord;
thou my soul's shelter, and thou my high tower;
raise thou me heavenward, O Power of my power.*

*Riches I heed not, nor vain, empty praise;
thou mine inheritance, now and always;
thou and thou only, first in my heart,
High King of Heaven, my treasure thou art.*

*High King of Heaven, my victory won,
may I reach heaven's joys, O bright heaven's Sun!*

*Heart of my own heart, whatever befall,
still be my vision, O Ruler of all.*

CHARGE and BLESSING

BENEDICTION RESPONSE — *Go Ye into the World* - Natalie Sleeth

*Go ye, go ye into the world and make disciples of all the nations.
Go ye, go ye into the world and I will be with you there!*

*Go ye, go ye into the world and take the Gospel to all the people.
Go ye, go ye into the world and I will be with you there!*

*I am the vine, you are the branches, ever the fruit to bear;
I am the light, you the reflection everywhere.*

--text by Natalie Sleeth

POSTLUDE — *Festival Postlude* - arr. George Blake

Yun Kang

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 by Chuck and Sue Jones, and their son Chuck, in loving memory of Cathleen Jones Haas, on occasion of her birthday: "Cathleen was a beautiful daughter and sister, as well as a loving wife and mother. We miss her but know she now rests in eternal peace in the loving arms of our Lord."

CONGREGATIONAL MEETING

A Congregational Meeting will be held on May 5, 2024 in the Sanctuary immediately following the worship service for the purpose of electing officers. Please plan to attend.

MPC SCHOLARSHIPS AVAILABLE - SUBMISSION DEADLINE IS THIS WEDNESDAY, MAY 1

Attention all high school senior and college students! MPC scholarship applications are now available online at the MPC website [clicking on "Youth Ministry"](#) in the "Congregational Life" dropdown menu. If you can't find the application or would like it emailed, or if you have any questions, please reach out to Dawn Flook at FlookFamily5@gmail.com or Pastor Alex at alexlester-abdalla@mpcusa.org. Scholarship applications are due back to the MPC office by Wednesday, May 1.

WHAT IN THE WORLD IS “PER CAPITA”?

It's a question we get asked a lot! “Per capita” is the primary source of funding for the PC(USA) Office of the General Assembly and is how Presbyterians mutually and equitably share the costs of coming together to discern the Spirit's leading for the future. These gifts are part of our call to be one church and one community, working together to build a beloved community. Through our gifts, we support the work of our congregation, our presbytery, our synod, our national church, and beyond. We kindly ask that each member considers covering their per capita apportionment for 2024 by writing a check to MPC or submitting an online gift through our giving portal (mpcusa.org/give), placing “per capita” in the memo line. The per capita apportionment for 2024 is \$32.00 per member. You are also welcome to give more than your individual apportionment to help cover the cost for someone who is not able to contribute at this time. This gift is one example of our individual and collective stewardship as we seek to support the connectional church! Please join us in giving generously!

MIDDLE EAST HUMANITARIAN RELIEF

As fighting continues to escalate in Israel and Gaza, Presbyterian Disaster Assistance (PDA) is providing humanitarian assistance through partners on the ground and through ACT Alliance to those civilians devastated by destruction of homes and lack of food and water. PDA's response efforts will encompass a wide array of vital humanitarian interventions, including but not limited to medical supplies, shelter, WASH (water, sanitation and hygiene), food and non-food items and delivering crucial psychosocial support to individuals. PDA is so grateful for the outpouring of prayers and calls from congregations and individuals 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 ongoing violence. 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 “Disaster Relief – Middle East” on the comment line. There will also be baskets in the sanctuary labeled “Disaster Relief” throughout the month of April. MPC has always been a most giving church.

NURSERY VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

Childcare at church is an amazing gift to young families, providing a safe, fun space for small children, and enabling parents to participate in worship in our sanctuary. We are reliant on volunteers to staff the nursery and we need your help. To volunteer, please add your name to the sign-up sheet outside the Nursery, or contact Cynde Jacobus at cyndej127@gmail.com or Patrick Gilbride at pgilbrid@estee.com. Thank you for considering this wonderful way to support young families and the mission of MPC.

ADULT SUNDAY SCHOOL APRIL AND MAY SERIES

For the rest of the Sunday School year, we will continue our theme of learning from the long history of church tradition through our PCUSA Confessions. Each week the pastors of the church will teach a class on a favorite confession. Next Sunday Rachel will take us to South Africa with the *Confession of Belhar*. We will not meet on May 12, due to Mother's Day, but we will culminate this year's gatherings on May 19 for a fun exercise about our own expressions of faith. Please join us every Sunday (except May 12) from 9:30 a.m. to 10:15 a.m. in the Conference Room!

STAMP OUT HUNGER FOOD DRIVE VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

The annual Stamp Out Hunger Food Drive, sponsored by the National Letter Carriers' Association, will be held on Saturday, May 11 at the Morrisville Methodist Church, located at 501 W. Maple Avenue in Morrisville. MPC and the Food Center have been involved for many years, and the Food Center benefits greatly from the large amount of food collected in the 19067 zip code. Help is needed from 11:00 a.m. thru 7:00 p.m. It's a fun day and a great community effort. Please join us and bring a friend! Sign up online at MPCusa.org/food-center. Email questions to MPCfoodcenter@gmail.com.

HABITAT FOR HUMANITY VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

Habitat for Humanity has designated Saturday, May 11 as a MPC Work Day! Six volunteers are needed to work that day. Please contact Ray Hendrickson at 215 495-3114 or hrh1453@gmail.com to sign up or for more information. You may also visit the Habitat for Humanity website at www.habitatbucks.org for information or <http://construction.habitatbucks.volunteerhub.com> to volunteer on this date! MPC has a history of supporting Habitat for Humanity, both financially and “hands on”, so let's continue that tradition! “How good and pleasant it is when God's people live together in unity!” - Psalm 133:1

APRIL & MAY'S FOOD CENTER REQUEST

Canned fruit is this month's food donation for the Food Center. In May, the requested food donation is shelf stable milk, including evaporated, in boxes or cans. A shopping cart has been put in the Welcome Center to receive your donations. Thank you for your continued generous help!

CALLING ALL YOUNG ADULTS - "SAVE THE DATE" FOR SATURDAY, MAY 18

The church is planning a local workday for high school grads and young 20-somethings. Details to follow in the coming weeks, but we hope you will put this date on the calendar to join in meaningful work and friendship. Stay tuned!

MPC Weekly Calendar

SUNDAY, April 28

8:30 a.m.	God's Thunder
9:30	Sunday School for all ages
10:30	Worship Service
11:30	Fellowship Hour
11:45	Teen Choir
Noon	Adonai Tabernacle

Chapel

**Sanctuary &
Livestream**
Lounge
Music Room
Room 220

MONDAY, April 29

9:30 a.m.	Ivins Outreach Center
5:30 p.m.	Food Packing
6:30	Mostly Motets
6:30	Girl Scout
	First Aid/CPR Class
7:00	Boy Scout Troop 3
7:00	Boy Scout Troop 3
	Parent & Board Meeting

Lounge
Food Center
Music Room
Room 220

Fellowship Hall

Lounge

TUESDAY, April 30

9:00 a.m.	Produce Prep
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Food Center

WEDNESDAY, May 1

9:00 a.m.	Food Center Distribution	Parking Lot
Noon	Brown Bag &	Conference Room
	Bible Study	
12:30 p.m.	Clothing Center Drop-off	Room 4
1:00	Prayer Meeting	Conference Room
2:30	Worship Committee	Zoom
6:00	Youth Club	Fellowship Hall
6:00	Cub Scout Pack 3	Room 220
7:00	Girl Scout Troop 2888	Room 220
7:15	Chancel Chimes	Chapel

Want to know when a future event is taking place or want to book a room for your committee or group? Check out the MPC calendar at mpcusa.org/calendar to see when events takes place and room availability.

THURSDAY, May 2

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

FRIDAY, May 3

6:30 p.m.	AA Meeting	Lounge
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SATURDAY, May 4

SUNDAY, May 5 - Confirmation Sunday

8:30 a.m.	God's Thunder	Chapel
9:30	Sunday School for all ages	
10:30	Worship Service & Confirmation	Sanctuary & Livestream
11:30	Congregational Meeting	Sanctuary
11:30	Fellowship Hour	Lounge
11:30	Boy Scout Troop 3	Parking Lot
	Car Wash	
11:45	Teen Choir	Music Room
Noon	Adonai Tabernacle	Room 220
4:00 p.m.	Cantus Novus Concert	Sanctuary

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!

iPhone



Need help?

Email to

Office@mpcusa.org

Android



CONTACT US

MORRISVILLE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH STAFF

771 North Pennsylvania Ave. | Morrisville, PA 19067 | 215.295.4191 | www.MPCusa.org | Office@MPCusa.org

Rachel A. Rhodes, <i>Senior Pastor & Head of Staff</i> (ext. 234).....	RachelRhodes@MPCusa.org
Alexander Lester-Abdalla, <i>Associate Pastor</i> (ext. 225).....	AlexLester-Abdalla@MPCusa.org
Brian Ballard, <i>Minister of Visitation</i> (ext. 232).....	BrianBallard@MPCusa.org
Timothy Carpenter, <i>Director of Music</i>	TimCarpenter@MPCusa.org
Adrienne Poissant, <i>Pastoral Intern</i>	AdriennePoissant@MPCusa.org
Yun Kang, <i>Principal Organist</i>	YunKang@MPCusa.org
David Sterling, <i>Property Manager</i> (ext. 231).....	DavidSterling@MPCusa.org
Rosie Sheahan, <i>Financial Secretary</i> (ext. 226).....	RosieSheahan@MPCusa.org
Damon Miller, <i>Communication Coordinator</i>	DamonMiller@MPCusa.org
Rachel Zobel, <i>Christian Education Coordinator</i>	Rachel Zobel@MPCusa.org
Nicole Brice, <i>Administrative Assistant</i> (ext. 0).....	Office@MPCusa.org