



*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 25, 2022  
CHRISTMAS DAY

## GATHERING

PRELUDE — *The First Nowell* - Ashley Grote

Yun Kang

### CALL to WORSHIP

One: Christ has come!  
**All: Let heaven and nature sing!**  
One: Christ has come!  
**All: A light in the darkness!**  
One: Love has come!  
**All: And never will leave us!**  
One: Love has come!  
**All: Let us share in the wonder, and worship God together!**

HYMN — *O Come, All Ye Faithful*

ADESTE FIDELES

*O come, all ye faithful, joyful and triumphant;  
O come ye; O come ye to Bethlehem!  
Come, and behold him, born the King of angels!  
O come, let us adore him; O come, let us adore him;  
O come let us adore him, Christ the Lord!*

*True God from true God, Light from light eternal,  
born of a virgin, a mortal he comes;  
very God, begotten, not created!  
O come, let us adore him; O come, let us adore him;  
O come let us adore him, Christ the Lord!*

*Sing, choirs of angels; sing in exultation;  
sing, all ye citizens of heaven above!  
Glory to God, all glory in the highest!  
O come, let us adore him; O come, let us adore him;  
O come let us adore him, Christ the Lord!*

*Yea, Lord, we greet thee, born this happy morning;  
Jesus, to thee be all glory given;  
Word of the Father, now in flesh appearing!  
O come, let us adore him; O come, let us adore him;  
O come let us adore him, Christ the Lord!*

### PRAYER of CONFESSION -

One: O God, we need Christ to renew our commitment.  
**All: We confess that our lack of faith has made us fearful.**  
One: May your angels sing again to us of peace for body and soul.  
**All: We acknowledge that we have foolishly let our desires lead us astray.**  
One: May your star once more set our course firmly in your direction.  
**All: We have turned our faith into a lifeless ritual.**  
One: May your manger call us again to expressions of love and devotion.  
**All: We have carefully kept our gifts and have not freely given our goods and our hearts to you.**  
One: May the Magi show us the spirit of giving.  
**All: Lord, may your Spirit linger in our hearts and bring renewal in our lives.**

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

## PROMISE of FORGIVENESS

One: People of God, through the coming of Jesus Christ, whose birth we celebrate, the Lord has comforted and redeemed us too! In Christ we receive the salvation of our God. Glory to God in the highest! With Christmas joy, let us rest in the assurance of God's grace and together 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.*

## HYMN — *Good Christian Friends, Rejoice*

IN DULCI JUBILO

*Good Christian friends, rejoice with heart and soul and voice;  
Now ye heed to what we say: Jesus Christ is born today;  
Ox and ass before him bow, and he is in the manger now.  
Christ is born today! Christ is born today!*

*Good Christian friends, rejoice with heart and soul and voice;  
Now ye hear of endless bliss: Jesus Christ was born for this!  
He has opened heaven's door, and we are blest forevermore.  
Christ was born for this! Christ was born for this!*

*Good Christian friends, rejoice with heart and soul and voice;  
Now ye need not fear the grave: Jesus Christ was born to save!  
Calls you one and calls you all to gain the everlasting ball.  
Christ was born to save! Christ was born to save!*

## LITURGY of the WORD

### CHRISTMAS MORNING TRADITION

#### PRAYER for ILLUMINATION

#### FIRST READING — *Luke 2:1-7*

In those days a decree went out from Emperor Augustus that all the world should be registered. This was the first registration and was taken while Quirinius was governor of Syria. All went to their own towns to be registered. Joseph also went from the town of Nazareth in Galilee to Judea, to the city of David called Bethlehem, because he was descended from the house and family of David. He went to be registered with Mary, to whom he was engaged and who was expecting a child. While they were there, the time came for her to deliver her child. And she gave birth to her firstborn son and wrapped him in bands of cloth, and laid him in a manger, because there was no place for them in the inn.

#### HYMN — *What Child Is This*

GREENSLEEVES

*What child is this, who, laid to rest, on Mary's lap is sleeping?  
Whom angels greet with anthems sweet while shepherds watch are keeping?  
This, this is Christ the King, whom shepherds guard and angels sing;  
haste, haste to bring him laud, the babe, the son of Mary!*

*So bring him incense, gold, myrrh; come, one and all, to own him.  
The King of kings salvation brings; let loving hearts enthrone him.  
Raise, raise the song on high. The virgin sings her lullaby.  
Joy, joy, for Christ is born, the babe, the son of Mary!*

## SECOND READING — *Luke 2:8-20*

In that region there were shepherds living in the fields, keeping watch over their flock by night. Then an angel of the Lord stood before them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. But the angel said to them, ‘Do not be afraid; for see—I am bringing you good news of great joy for all the people: to you is born this day in the city of David a Saviour, who is the Messiah, the Lord. This will be a sign for you: you will find a child wrapped in bands of cloth and lying in a manger.’ And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host, praising God and saying, ‘Glory to God in the highest heaven, and on earth peace among those whom he favours!’

When the angels had left them and gone into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, ‘Let us go now to Bethlehem and see this thing that has taken place, which the Lord has made known to us.’ So they went with haste and found Mary and Joseph, and the child lying in the manger. When they saw this, they made known what had been told them about this child; and all who heard it were amazed at what the shepherds told them. But Mary treasured all these words and pondered them in her heart. The shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen, as it had been told them.

## HYMN — *Hark! The Herald Angels Sing*

MENDELSSOHN

*Hark! The herald angels sing, "Glory to the new-born king,  
Peace on earth and mercy mild, God and sinners reconciled!"*

*Joyful, all ye nations, rise; join the triumph of the skies;  
with the angelic host proclaim, "Christ is born in Bethlehem!"*

*Hark! The herald angels sing, "Glory to the new-born king!"*

*Christ, by highest heaven adored, Christ, the everlasting Lord,  
late in time behold him come, offspring of the virgin's womb.*

*Veiled in flesh the Godhead see; hail the incarnate deity,  
pleased in flesh with us to dwell, Jesus our Emmanuel.*

*Hark! The herald angels sing, "Glory to the new-born king!"*

*Hail the heaven-born Prince of Peace! Hail the sun of righteousness!*

*Light and life to all he brings, risen with healing in his wings.*

*Mild he lays his glory by, born that we no more may die,  
born to raise us from the earth, born to give us second birth.*

*Hark! The herald angels sing, "Glory to the new-born king!"*

## THIRD READING — *Matthew 2:1-12*

In the time of King Herod, after Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea, wise men from the East came to Jerusalem, asking, “Where is the child who has been born king of the Jews? For we observed his star at its rising, and have come to pay him homage.” When King Herod heard this, he was frightened, and all Jerusalem with him; and calling together all the chief priests and scribes of the people, he inquired of them where the Messiah was to be born. They told him, “In Bethlehem of Judea; for so it has been written by the prophet: ‘And you, Bethlehem, in the land of Judah, are by no means least among the rulers of Judah; for from you shall come a ruler who is to shepherd my people Israel.’” Then Herod secretly called for the wise men and learned from them the exact time when the star had appeared. Then he sent them to Bethlehem, saying, “Go and search diligently for the child; and when you have found him, bring me word so that I may also go and pay him homage.”

When they had heard the king, they set out; and there, ahead of them, went the star that they had seen at its rising, until it stopped over the place where the child was. When they saw that the star had stopped, they were overwhelmed with joy. On entering the house, they saw the child with Mary his mother; and they knelt down and paid him homage. Then, opening their treasure chests, they offered him gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh. And having been warned in a dream not to return to Herod, they left for their own country by another road.

## HYMN — *We Three Kings of Orient Are*

KINGS OF ORIENT

*We three kings of Orient are; bearing gifts we traverse afar,  
Field and fountain, moor and mountain, following yonder star.  
O star of wonder, star of night, star with royal beauty bright,  
Westward leading, still proceeding, guide us to thy perfect light!*

*Born a King on Bethlehem's plain, gold I bring to crown him again,  
King forever, ceasing never over us all to reign  
O star of wonder, star of night, star with royal beauty bright,  
Westward leading, still proceeding, guide us to thy perfect light!  
Glorious now behold him arise, King and God and Sacrifice:  
Alleluia! Alleluia! sounds through the earth and skies.  
O star of wonder, star of night, star with royal beauty bright,  
Westward leading, still proceeding, guide us to thy perfect light!*

#### **FOURTH READING** — *John 1:1-14*

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was in the beginning with God. All things came into being through him, and without him not one thing came into being. What has come into being in him was life, and the life was the light of all people. The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overcome it.

There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. He came as a witness to testify to the light, so that all might believe through him. He himself was not the light, but he came to testify to the light. The true light, which enlightens everyone, was coming into the world

He was in the world, and the world came into being through him; yet the world did not know him. He came to what was his own, and his own people did not accept him. But to all who received him, who believed in his name, he gave power to become children of God, who were born, not of blood or of the will of the flesh or of the will of man, but of God.

And the Word became flesh and lived among us, and we have seen his glory, the glory as of a father's only son, full of grace and truth.

#### **CHRISTMAS RESPONSE** — from poem *Light Looked Down* by John Bell

One: Light looked down and saw darkness.

**All: 'I will go there,' said light.**

One: Peace looked down and saw war.

**All: 'I will go there,' said peace.**

One: Love looked down and saw hatred.

**All: 'I will go there,' said love.**

One: So he, the Lord of Light, the Prince of Peace, the King of Love, came down and crept in beside us.

#### **HYMN** — *He Came Down*

HE CAME DOWN

*He came down that we may have love;  
he came down that we may have love;  
he came down that we may have love;  
hallelujah forevermore.*

*He came down that we may have light;  
he came down that we may have light;  
he came down that we may have light;  
hallelujah forevermore.*

*He came down that we may have peace;  
he came down that we may have peace;  
he came down that we may have peace;  
hallelujah forevermore.*

*He came down that we may have joy;  
he came down that we may have joy;  
he came down that we may have joy;  
hallelujah forevermore.*

## FIFTH READING — *Colossians 2:6-7, 3:12-15*

As you therefore have received Christ Jesus the Lord, continue to live your lives in him, rooted and built up in him and established in the faith, just as you were taught, abounding in thanksgiving.

As God's chosen ones, holy and beloved, clothe yourselves with compassion, kindness, humility, meekness, and patience. Bear with one another and, if anyone has a complaint against another, forgive each other; just as the Lord has forgiven you, so you also must forgive. Above all, clothe yourselves with love, which binds everything together in perfect harmony. And let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, to which indeed you were called in the one body. And be thankful.

## AFFIRMATION of FAITH — from *Our World Belongs to God*, st. 1, 4, 24, 28, & 45

One: As followers of Jesus Christ, living in this world—which some seek to control, but which others view with despair—we declare with joy and trust:

**All: Our world belongs to God!**

One: Our world has fallen into sin;

**All: But rebellion and sin can never dethrone God.**

One: God promised a Savior;

**All: Now the whole creation groans in the birth pangs of a new creation.**

One: God remembered God's promise to reconcile the world to God's self; God has come among us in Jesus Christ, the eternal Word made flesh.

**All: He is the long-awaited Savior, fully human, fully divine, conceived by the Spirit of God and born of the virgin Mary.**

One: Being both God and man, Jesus is the only mediator between God and God's people.

**All: He alone paid the debt of our sin. There is no other Savior!**

One: The rule of Jesus Christ covers the whole world. To follow the Lord is to serve him everywhere,

**All: Without fitting in, as light in the darkness, as salt in a spoiling world. Thanks be to God, our Savior has come! Amen**

## HYMN — *Joy to the World*

ANTIOCH

*Joy to the world, the Lord is come! Let earth receive her king;  
let every heart, prepare him room,  
and heaven and nature sing, and heaven and nature sing,  
and heaven, and heaven and nature sing.*

*Joy to the earth, the Savior reigns! Let all their songs employ,  
while fields and floods, rocks, hills, and plains  
repeat the sounding joy, repeat the sounding joy,  
repeat, repeat the sound joy.*

*No more let sins and sorrows grow, nor thorns infest the ground;  
he comes to make his blessings flow  
far as the curse is found, far as the curse is found,  
far as, far as the curse is found.*

*He rules the world with truth and grace, and makes the nations prove  
the glories of his righteousness  
and wonders of his love, and wonders of his love,  
and wonders, and wonders of his love.*

## 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 — *Christmas Joy Medley* - arr. Gary Lanier

Doxology — *Praise God From Whom All Blessings Flow*

*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.*

Song Trio  
OLD HUNDREDTH

Prayer of Dedication

## S E N D I N G

**HYMN** — *Go, Tell It on the Mountain*

GO TELL IT

Refrain:

*Go, tell it on the mountain, over the hills and everywhere;  
Go, tell it on the mountain that Jesus Christ is born!  
While shepherds kept their watching o'er silent flocks by night,  
Behold, throughout the heavens there shone a holy light.*

Refrain

*The shepherds feared and trembled when lo! above the earth  
Rang out the angel chorus that hailed our Savior's birth.*

Refrain

*Down in a lowly manger our humble Christ was born,  
And God sent us salvation that blessed Christmas morn.*

Refrain

## CHARGE *and* BLESSING

**POSTLUDE** — *Jot to the World* - Don Hustad

## QUESTION *for* REFLECTION

- Where do you see God's love today?

## 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).***

### **SUNDAY SCHOOL & CHILDCARE HOLIDAY SCHEDULE**

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

The Nursery will be open on New Years Day for parents to utilize if needed. No childcare staff will be provided.

### **YEAR-END GIVING**

Thank you for your continued generosity and support throughout this year. To ensure that your gifts appear on your 2022 giving statement for tax purposes, please make sure all gifts are post-marked, delivered to MPC, or given online by December 31, 2022.

### **2023 OFFERING ENVELOPES**

Offering envelopes will be available in the Communication Center starting today, Sunday, December 18. 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.

### **LAST DAYS FOR 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 Toothbrushes
- 2 Bars of Wrapped Soap (neutral scent)
- 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](mailto:patricia.sheffer@yahoo.com).

### **REGISTER NOW FOR WOMEN'S RETREAT**

The Women's Retreat is taking place on February 24-26, and will be held at the [Pendle Hill Quaker Retreat Center](#) in Wallingford, PA. The presenter is Pastor Diane Jamison Fitch who will lead us in study on the topic *Transitions: Invitations to New Beginnings*, based on Isaiah 43:18-19. Look for the pink brochures to register or call the church office at 215-295-4191.

### **CLOTHING CENTER REQUEST**

The Clothing Center is requesting that until further notice, please hold any future donations until mid-January.

### **DICTIONARY DONATIONS UPDATE**

So far the Book Distribution has collected 74 hardcover and 14 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 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 115 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 more information on how you can help achieve our goal. 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](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.

### **IN-PERSON FELLOWSHIP HOUR RETURNS JANUARY 8**

Fellowship Hour will resume on January 8. The host will be the Ivins Outreach Center. Please come, visit, enjoy a light snack, and stop by to hear and learn more about our host group.

# Worship Schedule

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## **January 1, 2023**

10:30 a.m. ~ Worship Service

10:30 a.m. ~ Livestream Worship Service

## **January 8, 2023 - Epiphany Sunday**

10:30 a.m. ~ Worship Service

10:30 a.m. ~ Livestream Worship Service

### CONTACT US

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