



WORSHIP *for*  
SECOND SUNDAY OF LENT  
MARCH 8, 2020  
10:30 A.M.

*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*

*The Wilderness is a Place of Mystery & the Unknown*

It's only in the wilderness that you can see the stars.  
That's what city living has taught me.  
We can shine a light on the things we want to see—  
Fluorescent and bright, lighting up dark alleys.  
However, it's only in the wilderness that you can see the stars.

And it's only in the dark of night that the questions come.  
What is my purpose here? What does God have to say to me?  
What does God have to say to suffering?  
The sun falls and my doubt rises,  
For it's only in the dark that the questions come.

So like Nicodemus in the night,  
I will throw my big questions at the sky.  
And my voice will reverberate among the stars,  
And my questions will echo throughout the dark.  
For there in the night, my words form constellations.  
And there in the wilderness, my prayers form galaxies.  
So even there in the unknown, I trust that I am found.

A light shines in the darkness, friend.  
So if ever you're in the wilderness,  
Look up and find the stars.

-- Sarah Are, *Sanctified Art*

# Welcome *to* Morrisville Presbyterian Church

**WE WELCOME GUESTS AND VISITORS** to our service today. If you are not a member, we invite you to consider membership with us. If you would like more information about how we can serve you, please speak to a pastor.

**FRIENDSHIP PAD:** During the Words of Welcome, please pass the red Friendship Pad to the outside aisle and back again to the center. This allows worshipers to recognize people in their pew, and helps staff members identify those who may need attention.

**THE CHANCEL FLOWERS** are offered to the glory of God and are given in gratitude to the missions and ministries of our Presbyterian Women. Today is "Celebrate the Gifts of Women Sunday" in the PCUSA. This year we honor women of faith, those who may have felt their faith falter at times, and those who held fast to faith. We give thanks—for their persistence, their witness, their words, their actions. We know we stand on their shoulders. MPC is grateful for the many women of our church family whose faith-centered lives enrich us all.

**USHERING AT TODAY'S SERVICE:** Head Usher Alice Garcia, Joanne Broadbent, Lori Newman, Joy Rees, Tom Smith, and David Stoneburner. Junior Deacons are Catherine Moyer-Harrington and Madison Neiman.

**HYMNALS, BIBLES, & BULLETINS WITH LARGE PRINT** are available during worship each Sunday morning from a Deacon in the Narthex. Please return the Hymnal and/or Bible after the service.

**HEARING ASSISTANCE DEVICES** are available for use anywhere in the sanctuary during worship. These pocket-sized receivers are available from Deacons in either Narthex and are to be returned after the service.

**CHILDCARE** is provided in the Nursery/Pre-School room from 9:15 a.m. – 11:45 a.m. each Sunday. Children, aged 0-2, are welcome in the nursery during our education hour (9:30 a.m. - 10:15 a.m.). Children, aged 0-4, are welcome in the nursery during worship. Parents, please feel free to use our nursery, or keep your children with you in worship. If you need help locating the nursery, please don't hesitate to ask an usher.

## **WORSHIP NOTE**

*\*The asterisk indicates that those who are able may please stand.*

## **PUBLICATION DEADLINES**

*Please forward any announcements for weekly Bulletin by noon Tuesday of each week to **Bulletin@MPCusa.net**.*

*Articles for the April edition of "Currents" are due by March 10.*

*Send articles to **Currents@MPCusa.net**.*

## **CONTACT US**

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# SECOND SUNDAY OF LENT

## GATHERING

PRELUDE — *Italian Concerto, II. Andante* - Johann S. Bach Mark Shockey

WORDS of WELCOME Pastor Rhodes

CHORAL INTROIT — *Psalm 121* - Katie Austin Chancel Choir

\*CALL to WORSHIP Drew Hunger

One: All are welcome here—

**All: The young and old, those who have visions and those who dream dreams.**

One: All are welcome here—

**All: The sinner and saint, those who seek forgiveness and those who long for peace.**

One: All are welcome here—

**All: The hurt and the doubting, those who know the wilderness and those who feel lost.**

One: All are welcome here; for you are loved by God, and this is God's house.

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

\*HYMN 49 — *The God of Abraham Praise* LEONI

\*PRAYER of CONFESSION Pastor Lester-Abdalla

**God, we give you our hearts. They are brimming with doubt and are saturated with fear, but we give them to you anyway, for you promise to love us as we are. You promise to walk with us to the ends of the earth, so in this moment, we promise to tell the truth.**

**God, you ask us to be brave and bold, but we cower in fear. You ask us to love our neighbors as ourselves, but we hold tight to privilege and the status quo. And you ask us to risk it all to follow you, but we are content with the injustices at hand. Forgive us for our sin and lift our eyes to you. Lift our eyes to the hills.**

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

\*RESPONSE 601 — *Amen* (DANISH) Congregation

\*PROMISE *of* FORGIVENESS

One: Friends, God is for us and not against us! For that very reason, God sent the Son into the world not to condemn the world, but that the world might be saved through him. Believe the good news and let us proclaim it together:

**All: In Jesus Christ we are forgiven! Thanks be to God!**

\*RESPONSE *to* GOD'S PARDON (back cover of hymnal) — *Glory to the Father* GLORIA PATRI

\*THE PEACE

One: The Peace of Christ be with you.

**All: And also with you.**

One: Let us greet one another with the Peace of Christ.

*As a sign of their reconciliation in Christ, the people share the Peace of Christ, greeting one another with these or similar words: "The Peace of Christ be with you," "Peace be with you," or simply, "Peace."*

L I T U R G Y *of the* W O R D

PRAYER *for* ILLUMINATION

PSALTER READING — *Psalms 121* (Old Testament, page 539)

One: I lift up my eyes to the hills—from where will my help come?

**All: My help comes from the Lord, who made heaven and earth.**

One: He will not let your foot be moved; he who keeps you will not slumber.

**All: He who keeps Israel will neither slumber nor sleep.**

One: The Lord is your keeper; the Lord is your shade at your right hand. The sun shall not strike you by day, nor the moon by night.

**All: The Lord will keep you from all evil; he will keep your life.**

One: The Lord will keep you going out and your coming in,

**All: From this time on and for evermore.**

One: This is the Word of the Lord.

**All: Thanks be to God.**

ANTHEM — *Lord, Who Throughout These Forty Days* - Linda Cable Shute Chancel Choir

*Lord, who throughout these forty days, for us did fast and pray,  
Teach us with you to mourn our sins, and close by you to stay.*

*As you did hunger bear and thirst, so teach us, gracious Lord,  
To die to self, and always live by your most holy word.*

*And through these days of penitence, and through your Passiontide,  
Forevermore, in life and death, O Lord, with us abide.*

-- Claudia Frances Hernaman

TIME *for* YOUNG DISCIPLES

*Children in grades K-5 may leave for music time with Mr. Carpenter.*

GOSPEL READING — *John 3:1-17*

(New Testament, page 88)

One: This is the Gospel of the Lord.

All: **Thanks be to God.**

SERMON

*Questions in the Dark*

Pastor Rhodes

\*HYMN 215 — *What Wondrous Love Is This*

WONDROUS LOVE

\*AFFIRMATION *of* FAITH — from *A Brief Statement of Faith, PC (USA)*

Molly Ramsey

**We trust in Jesus Christ, fully human, fully God. Jesus proclaimed the reign of God: preaching good news to the poor and release to the captives, teaching by word and deed and blessing the children, healing the sick and binding up the brokenhearted, eating with outcasts, forgiving sinners, and calling all to repent and believe the gospel. Unjustly condemned for blasphemy and sedition, Jesus was crucified, suffering the depths of human pain and giving his life for the sins of the world. God raised this Jesus from the dead, vindicating his sinless life, breaking the power of sin and evil, delivering us from death to life eternal. With believers in every time and place, we rejoice that nothing in life or in death can separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord. Amen.**

PRAYERS *of* THANKSGIVING *and* SUPPLICATION

THE LORD'S PRAYER (page 35 in the hymnal, *debts and debtors*)

OFFERING

Invitation to Give

Presentation of Gifts

Offertory Music — *Victim Divine, Thy Grace We Claim* - Vulpius/Cassler

\*Doxology 606 — *Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow*

OLD HUNDREDTH

\*Prayer of Dedication

**S E N D I N G**

\*HYMN 618 — *O Love, How Deep, How Broad, How High*

DEO GRACIAS

\*CHARGE *and* BLESSING

\*CHORAL BENEDICTION

\*POSTLUDE — *Trio & Grand Jeu* - Louis Marchand

## BRINGING THE WILDERNESS IN

During the season of Lent, we're journeying together using the theme of "wilderness", for Lent begins in the wilderness. The Spirit guides Jesus into the wilderness where he comes face to face with temptation and struggle. Yet in his forty days of fasting, resisting, and wandering, Jesus is shaped and formed for his ministry. Similarly, through the wilderness of Lent, we are invited to surrender to the wild leadings of the Spirit. We rarely enter the wilderness willingly, but hopefully through our wandering we remember who we are and whose we are. As you can see on our windowsills, our sanctuary is adorned with elements of the wilderness. Instead of running away from the wilderness, we have brought the wilderness in—to face it, to confront it, and find our way through it. We pray that your Lenten journey in the wilderness will be one where faith is born, nurtured, challenged, and resurrected.

Liturgy by: Lisle Gwynn Garrity | sanctifiedart.org



## SUPPER SERIES

Wednesdays, through April 1

6:00 p.m. - Supper

6:30 p.m. - Worship Service

*Let us sing! Let us pray! Let us worship God together!*

# Announcements

## TODAY AT 1:00 P.M.!

### WEEKDAY NURSERY SCHOOL OPEN HOUSE

The Weekday Nursery School will host an Open House today, Sunday, March 8, from 1:00 to 2:30 p.m. in Room 123.

Mr. George Story Hour returns at 1:30 p.m. as part of the Open House for prospective families. All are welcome to join the fun in Rooms 220-222.

### MARCH'S ADULT EDUCATION

The theme for Adult Education in March is "Mental Health Part 2" and is led by Rev. Matt Rhodes. Classes range from a discussion on fears to examining the wisdom of our emotions. All adults are invited to come and take part in these powerful lessons and feel free to bring a friend. Adult Sunday School is held from 9:30 to 10:15 a.m. in the Conference Room.

### LENTEN DEVOTIONALS

Lenten devotionals selected for this season come from *Sanctified Art*, a collective of artists in ministry who put together worship materials. This year we will be using their art, poetry, and prompts to guide us on an interactive Lenten journey through the wilderness. Devotionals can be picked up after worship in both narthexes from the deacons.

### HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS NEEDED TO SERVE BREAKFAST

On Saturday, March 21, high school students will take part in the preparation and serving of breakfast at the First Presbyterian Church of Trenton. Everyone will meet at MPC's parking lot at 6:45 a.m. Please RSVP to Dawn Flook at [flookfamily5@gmail.com](mailto:flookfamily5@gmail.com) if you are interested in participating.

### VIDEO MINISTRY VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

The Video Ministry is looking for volunteers to help with the recording of the worship service on Sundays. Positions in the video room upstairs include operating cameras and switching between them, and operating the sound board. For those who wish to remain in the sanctuary, a volunteer is needed to operate the sanctuary sound remotely through the use of the ministry's iPad. Commitments are flexible to your availability and desire to serve. If you can operate a computer and/or an iPad, you can be a part of this important outreach ministry. Training is available for all positions. If you are interested, please contact Rich Drabb at rich-



April 5

**Palm Sunday**

10:30 Worship & Communion

April 9

**Maundy Thursday**

6:00 p.m. - Supper

6:30 p.m. - Worship Service & Communion

April 10

**Good Friday**

Noon - Worship Service

Episcopal Church

of the Incarnation

1505 Makefield Rd., Yardley, PA

April 12

**Easter Sunday**

10:30 a.m. - Worship Service



Podcasts of recent sermons  
are now available for downloading.

Visit <https://mpcusa.buzzsprout.com>  
or follow the link on the Sermons page  
of the MPC website at [www.mpcusa.org](http://www.mpcusa.org).

## MPC *Weekly Calendar*

### SUNDAY, March 8 - Second Sunday of Lent

8:30 a.m.	God's Thunder	Chapel
9:30	Sunday School for All Ages	
<b>10:30</b>	<b>Worship Service</b>	<b>Sanctuary</b>
11:30	Fellowship Time Reception	Lounge
	Host: Deacons	
11:45	Teen Choir	Music Room
11:45	Nominating Comm.	Conference Room
1:00 p.m.	Weekday Nursery School	Rooms 123 & 220-222
	Open House	

### MONDAY, March 9

9:00 a.m.	Clothing Center Set-up	Room 4
Noon	Deborah Circle	Lounge
6:00 p.m.	Cub Scout Pack 3	Rooms 220-222
7:00	Boy Scout Troop 3	Fellowship Hall
7:00	Food Center Bag Packing	Fellowship Hall
7:00	Rebecca Circle	Conference Room
7:00	Stewardship Comm.	Room 208
7:15	Boy Scout Troop 3	Chapel
	Parent Meeting	
7:30	Mostly Motets	Music Room
7:30	Evangelism & Communication Comm.	Room 200

### TUESDAY, March 10

9:00 a.m.	Food Center Setup	Fellowship Hall
10:00	Clothing Center	Room 4
10:30	Congregational Ministry Comm.	Lounge
12:30 p.m.	Staff Meeting	Conference Room
5:00	Sandra (Baz) Evans	Lounge
	Calling Hours	
6:30	Educational Ministry Comm.	Room 200
7:30	Alcoholics Anonymous	Room 220

### WEDNESDAY, March 11

9:00 a.m.	Food Center	Fellowship Hall
Noon	Brown Bag & Bible	Conference Room
1:00 p.m.	Weekly Prayer Group	Room 200
6:00	Cub Scout Pack 3	Rooms 220-222
6:00	Youth Club	Fellowship Hall
6:00	Lenten Supper & Worship	Fellowship Hall
7:00	Finance Comm.	Conference Room

### THURSDAY, March 12

Noon	Alcoholics Anonymous	Room 220
1:00 p.m.	Food Center Stocking	Room 4
6:00	Oakville Girl Scouts	Room 220
6:30	To Live Again	Fellowship Hall

### FRIDAY, March 13

11:00 a.m.	Food Center Stocking	Room 4
6:00 p.m.	Cub Scout Pack 3	Rooms 220-222
7:00	Alcoholics Anonymous	Lounge

### SATURDAY, March 14

### SUNDAY, March 15 - Third Sunday of Lent

8:30 a.m.	God's Thunder	Chapel
9:30	Sunday School for All Ages	
<b>10:30</b>	<b>Worship Service</b>	<b>Sanctuary</b>
11:30	Fellowship Time Reception	Lounge
	Host: Clothing Center	
11:45	Teen Choir	Music Room

To view upcoming events and meetings,  
please visit [www.mpcusa.org](http://www.mpcusa.org)  
and click on "Calendar" from the home page.

**MORRISVILLE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH**  
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# MORRISVILLE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

## 2020 *Easter Memorials* & *Honorariums*



Have you considered honoring, celebrating, or remembering a family member, friend, or loved one this Eastertide? Contributions to our Memorial Fund can be made, not just for remembering a loved one who has passed, but also for honoring someone in your life now. Once again this year, out of consideration for those who are allergic to lillies, our Easter Flowers will be beautiful, multicolored tulips.

### EASTER TULIPS

Members and friends of the church are reminded that the tulips, which beautify the church, may be given as memorials. Forms are available online and in the church office. **Please fill out a form and return it with your check in the amount of \$8.00 per plant ordered to the church office by Monday, March 23.**

### MUSIC FUND

Memorial contributions to this fund help to supplement the music ministry program. In the past these funds have been used to invest in ORFF instruments for enhancing the children's music program, hand bell equipment, guest clinicians, and additional musicians for special music offerings. Contributions of any amount are welcome. **To be listed in bulletin, please submit your form by Sunday, March 29.**

### DEACONS' FOOD BASKET PROGRAM

In addition to free-will donations received by the Deacons, you are welcome to contribute to the Food Basket Program as a gift or memorial to loved ones by using the form below. **To be listed in the bulletin, please submit by Sunday, March 29.**

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## *Easter Memorial & Honorarium Contributions*

*Please do not add the memorial contribution amount to your pledge payment!*  
*Make checks payable to MPC with the type of memorial noted on the memo line.*  
***Please print exactly as you wish it to appear in the bulletin***

I (we) wish to make the following contribution(s) to:

\_\_\_\_\_ **Easter Tulips** (\$8.00 each)      Number of Plants: \_\_\_\_\_      Amount attached \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ I will pick up the tulip following the 10:30 am Easter service.

\_\_\_\_\_ I wish to have the Deacons deliver the tulips to a shut-in.

\_\_\_\_\_ **Music Fund** Please find \$ \_\_\_\_\_ attached for this fund.

\_\_\_\_\_ **Deacons' Food Basket Program.** Please find \$ \_\_\_\_\_ attached for this fund.

Given by: \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_

“In loving memory of”    “In celebration of”    “To give thanks for” (circle one)

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***Please return completed form and payment to the Church Office by Sunday, March 29.***

***Tulip orders need to be submitted by Monday, March 23.***