



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

DECEMBER 24, 2021
A Service of Worship
for Christmas Eve

GATHERING

PRELUDE — *One Holy Night* - Michael Shea

Yun Kang

CHORAL INTROIT — *On This Day Earth Shall Ring* - arr. Gustav Holst

Christmas Choir

*On this day earth shall ring
with the song children sing
to the Lord, Christ our King,
born on earth to save us;
him the Father gave us.*

Ideo-o-o, ideo-o-o, ideo gloria in excelsis Deo!

*His the doom. ours the mirth,
when he came down to earth
Bethlehem saw his birth;
ox and ass beside him
from the cold would hide him.*

Ideo-o-o, ideo-o-o, ideo gloria in excelsis Deo!

*God's bright star, o'er his head,
wise men three to him led,
kneel they low by his bed,
lay their gifts before him,
praise him and adore him.*

Ideo-o-o, ideo-o-o, ideo gloria in excelsis Deo!

*On this day angels sing;
with their song earth shall ring,
praising Christ, heaven's King,
born on earth to save us;
peace and love he gave us.*

Ideo-o-o, ideo-o-o, ideo gloria in excelsis Deo!

CALL to WORSHIP

Pastor Alex Lester-Abdalla

One: Behold, I bring you good news of great joy for all the people!

All: **The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light; those who lived in a land of deep darkness, on them light has shined!**

One: Behold, I bring you good news of great joy for all the people!

All: **For a child has been born for us, a son given to us; authority rests upon his shoulders and he will be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace!**

One: Behold, I bring you good news of great joy for all the people!

All: **The light shines in the darkness and the darkness did not overcome it. On this holy night, let us 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!*

LITURGY of the WORD

FIRST LESSON — *Isaiah 9:2-7*

The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light; those who lived in a land of deep darkness— on them light has shined. You have multiplied the nation, you have increased its joy; they rejoice before you as with joy at the harvest, as people exult when dividing plunder. For the yoke of their burden, and the bar across their shoulders, the rod of their oppressor, you have broken as on the day of Midian. For all the boots of the tramping warriors and all the garments rolled in blood shall be burned as fuel for the fire. For a child has been born for us, a son given to us; authority rests upon his shoulders; and he is named Wonderful Counsellor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace. His authority shall grow continually, and there shall be endless peace for the throne of David and his kingdom. He will establish and uphold it with justice and with righteousness from this time onwards and for evermore. The zeal of the Lord of hosts will do this.

HYMN — *O Come, O Come, Emmanuel*

VENI EMMANUEL

*O come, O come, Emmanuel, and ransom captive Israel,
the mourns in lonely exile here until the Son of God appear.
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel.*

*O come, Desire of nations, bind all peoples in one heart and mind
bid envy, strife, and discord cease; fill the whole world with heaven's peace.
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel.*

SECOND LESSON — *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.

ANTHEM — *Lo, How a Rose E'er Blooming* - arr. by Timothy Carpenter

*Lo, how a rose e'er blooming from tender stem hath sprung,
of Jesse's lineage coming, by faithful prophets sung.*

*It came, a floweret bright,
amid the cold of winter,
when half spent was the night.*

*Isaiah 'twas foretold it, the rose I have in mind;
with Mary we behold it, the virgin mother kind.*

*To show God's love aright
she bore for us a Savior,
when half spent was the night*

*This flower, whose fragrance tender and sweetness fills the air,
dispels with glorious splendor the darkness everywhere.*

*Enfleshed, yet very God,
from sin and death he saves us
and lightens every load.*

THIRD LESSON — *Luke 2:8-14*

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!'

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!"*

*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!"*

FOURTH LESSON — *Luke 2:15-20*

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.

MEDITATION

Pastor Rachel Rhodes

HYMN — *O Come, All Ye Faithful*

ADESTE FIDELES

*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!*

OFFERING

Invitation to Give

Invitation to Give

Offertory Music — *Before the Marvel of this Night* - Carl Schalk

*Before the marvel of this night, adoring, fold your wings and bow,
Then tear the sky apart with light, and with your news the world endow.
Proclaim the birth of Christ and peace, that fear and death and sorrow cease:
Sing peace, sing peace, sing gift of peace, sing peace, sing gift of peace!*

*Awake the sleeping world with song, this is the day the Lord has made.
Assemble here, celestial throng, in royal splendor come arrayed.
Give earth a glimpse of heav'nly bliss, a teasing taste of what they miss:
Sing bliss, sing bliss, sing endless bliss, sing bliss, sing endless bliss!*

*The love that we have always known, our constant joy and endless light,
Now to the loveless world be shown, now break upon its deathly night.
Into one song compress the love that rules our universe above:
Sing love, sing love, sing God is love, sing love, sing God is love!*

--Jaroslav Vajda

THE LIGHT of CHRIST

FIFTH LESSON — *John 1:1-5*

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.

LIGHTING *of the* CHRIST CANDLE

HYMN — *Silent Night, Holy Night!*

STILLE NACHT

*Silent night, holy night!
All is calm, all is bright
'round yon virgin mother and child!
Holy Infant, so tender and mild,
sleep in heavenly peace,
sleep in heavenly peace.*

*Silent night, holy night!
Son of God, love's pure light
radiant beams from thy holy face,
with the dawn of redeeming grace,
Jesus, Lord, at thy birth,
Jesus, Lord, at thy birth.*

*Silent night, holy night!
Wondrous star, lend thy light;
with the angels let us sing
Alleluia to our King:
Christ the Savior is born;
Christ the Savior is born.*

POSTLUDE — *We Three Kings*— Rulon Christiansen

ANNOUNCEMENTS

WELCOME TO OUR CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICE

Whether you are a first time visitor tonight or a long time member, welcome home! No matter who you are or where you are on life's journey, you are welcome here at MPC. As we prepare to welcome the Christ child together, it is our prayer that you might know the fullness of God's love for you both tonight and in the year to come. MPC is open to everyone—if you have no church home, we invite you to begin the new year with us in worship, service, study, and fellowship. We gather for worship each Sunday at 10:30 a.m. and we would love to welcome you. May God's hope, peace, joy, and love fill your heart this night and every night. Welcome to worship, and welcome home.

TONIGHT'S OFFERING

Your offering tonight will support the ministry and mission of Morrisville Presbyterian Church. In addition, you may designate a gift for the Christmas Joy Offering, which provides critical financial assistance to church leaders in need and supports scholarships for future leaders at Presbyterian schools that equip communities of color. Please visit www.mpcusa.org/give and click "Online Giving Portal" to make a donation, and write "Christmas Joy" in the Notes section. Thank you for your generosity and support.

PARTICIPATE IN MUSIC MINISTRY AND CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

If you would like to get involved in our Music Ministry or Christian Education programs at MPC, please feel free to contact our Music Director, Tim Carpenter at timcarpenter@mpcusa.net or our Associate Pastor for Lifelong Faith Formation & Mission, Alex Lester-Abdalla at alexlester-abdalla@mpcusa.net. Our Music Ministry program is available to adults and children alike (age 5 and up)! Education for all ages (age 2 through adults) meets at 9:30 a.m. each Sunday. We hope you will join us in the new year!

CONTACT US

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