



*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
TWENTY-THIRD SUNDAY
after PENTECOST
OCTOBER 27, 2024

GATHERING

PRELUDE — *How Lovely Is Your Dwelling Place* - Robert Lau

Yun Kang

WORDS of WELCOME

Pastor Alex Lester-Abdalla

INTROIT — *Brethren We Have Met for Worship* - HOLY MANNA

Lower voices of Chancel Choir

*Brethren, we have met to worship and adore the Lord our God.
Will you pray with all your power while we try to preach the word?
All is vain unless the Spirit of the holy One comes down.
Brethren, pray, and holy manna will be showered all around.*

CALL to WORSHIP

Seth McHenry, Liturgist

One: Come, you who are weary.

All: Lay down your burdens, for God can carry them.

One: Come, you who are joyful.

All: Join in God's praise with the choir of the saints.

One: Come, you who are doubting.

All: Behold the one who brings knowledge and understanding. Let us worship God together!

HYMN — *All People That on Earth Do Dwell*

OLD HUNDRETH

*All people that on earth do dwell,
sing to the Lord with cheerful voice;
him serve with mirth, his praise forth tell.
Come ye before him and rejoice.*

*Know that the Lord is God indeed;
without our aid he did us make;
we are his folk; he doth us feed,
and for his sheep he doth us take.*

*O enter then his gates with praise;
approach with joy his courts unto;
praise, laud, and bless his name always,
for it is seemly so to do.*

*For why? The Lord our God is good;
his mercy is forever sure;
his truth at all times firmly stood,
and shall from age to age endure.*

PRAYER of CONFESSION

Jesus, Son of God, have mercy on us. Heal us for what we fail to acknowledge and what we chose to ignore. We close our eyes when faced with suffering of the world, turn our gaze away from the needs of our neighbors, and blur our faces in the mirror lest we recognize your image. Jesus, Son of God, have mercy on us. Heal us of our faults and open us to the beauty of your grace.

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

PROMISE of FORGIVENESS

One: The promise of Jesus Christ is that before we even utter the words, God has already forgiven us—freeing us from what keeps us from love and peace. Trusting this truth, 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

FIRST SCRIPTURE READING — *Psalms 126*

One: When the Lord restored the fortunes of Zion, we were like those who dream.

All: Then our mouth was filled with laughter, and our tongue with shouts of joy;

One: Then it was said among the nations, “The Lord has done great things for them.”

All: The Lord has done great things for us, and we rejoiced.”

One: Restore our fortunes, O Lord, like the watercourses in the Negeb. May those who sow in tears reap with shouts of joy.

All: Those who go out weeping, bearing the seed for sowing, shall come with shouts of joy, carrying their sheaves.

One: This is the Word of the Lord.

All: Thanks be to God.

ANTHEM — *Shall We Gather at the River* - Robert Lowery, arr. Mark Rippe

*Shall we gather at the river, where bright angel feet have trod,
with its crystal tide forever flowing by the throne of God?*

Refrain:

*Yes, we'll gather at the river, the beautiful, the beautiful river;
gather with the saints at the river that flows by the throne of God.*

*On the margin of the river, washing up its silver spray,
we will walk and worship ever, all the happy golden day.*

Refrain

*Ere we reach the shining river, lay we every burden down;
grace our spirits will deliver, and provide a robe and crown.*

Refrain

*Soon we'll reach the shining river; soon our pilgrimage will cease;
soon our happy hearts will quiver with the melody of peace.*

Refrain

TIME for YOUNG DISCIPLES

SECOND SCRIPTURE READING — *Mark 10:46-52*

They came to Jericho. As he and his disciples and a large crowd were leaving Jericho, Bartimaeus son of Timaeus, a blind beggar, was sitting by the roadside. When he heard that it was Jesus of Nazareth, he began to shout out and say, “Jesus, Son of David, have mercy on me!” Many sternly ordered him to be quiet, but he cried out even more loudly, “Son of David, have mercy on me!” Jesus stood still and said, “Call him here.” And they called the blind man, saying to him, “Take heart; get up, he is calling you.” So throwing off his cloak, he sprang up and came to Jesus.

Then Jesus said to him, "What do you want me to do for you?" The blind man said to him, "My teacher, let me see again." Jesus said to him, "Go; your faith has made you well." Immediately he regained his sight and followed him on the way.

One: This is the Word of the Lord.

All: **Thanks be to God!**

SERMON

When Jesus Stood Still

Reverend Dr. Betty Tom

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.*

AFFIRMATION of FAITH — from *A Brief Statement of Faith*

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.

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 — *As the Deer* - Martin Nystrom

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 — *When the Lord Redeems the Very Least*

I'LL FLY AWAY

When the Lord redeems the very least, we will rejoice.

When the hungry gather for the feast, we will rejoice.

We will rejoice with gladness. We will rejoice.

All our days we'll sing to God in praise. We will rejoice!

When the Lord restores the sick and weak, we will rejoice.

When the earth is given to the meek, we will rejoice.

We will rejoice with gladness. We will rejoice.

All our days we'll sing to God in praise. We will rejoice!

When the Lord revives the world from death, we will rejoice.

When the word of God fills every breath, we will rejoice.

We will rejoice with gladness. We will rejoice.

All our days we'll sing to God in praise. We will rejoice!

When the Lord returns in victory, we will rejoice.

When we live in glorious liberty, we will rejoice.

We will rejoice with gladness. We will rejoice.

All our days we'll sing to God in praise. We will rejoice!

CHARGE *and* BLESSING

CHORAL BENEDICTION — *Amen*

POSTLUDE — *The Heavens Are Telling* - arr. Dorothy Wells

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.org.***

TODAY WE WELCOME REVEREND DR. BETTY TOM TO THE PULPIT

The Reverend Dr. Betty Tom was a former teacher and school counselor for 22 years, holds a Doctor of Ministry from McCormick Theological Seminary, Chicago, IL along with several other degrees in education. Rev. Tom has served churches in Indianapolis, IN, Mt Vernon, NY, and Newark, NJ. After 21 years of full-time ministry, Rev. Tom is honorably retired. She is a lifelong learner, social justice advocate, and spiritual leader. Rev. Tom is a philanthropist, an avid sports fan; she enjoys reading, writing, good jazz music, collecting books on prayer, water aerobics and swimming. Betty Tom is married to the Rev. Phil Tom and their blended family includes six children and three grandchildren.

TODAY'S CHANCEL FLOWERS

The Chancel Flowers are offered to the glory of God and are given by Carol Carpenter in loving memory of her mother, Ruth Wismar. The second arrangement is given by Sally Sue Sheidemantel "in memory of and with gratitude for her mother, Dorothea E. Sheidemantel, who gave birth to her".

COLLECTION BASKETS FOR HURRICANE RELIEF

In view of the catastrophic effects of Hurricanes Helene and Milton on the residents of North Carolina and Florida, the Outreach Committee will be sending a donation to Presbyterian Disaster Assistance (PDA), providing aid to residents devastated by destruction of homes and lack of basic services. PDA is grateful for the outpouring of prayers and calls from congregations and individuals asking how they can help. Collection baskets in the narthex labeled "Disaster Relief" will be available beginning this Sunday, October 20 for contributions to the relief efforts. Checks may be made out to MPC with the memo "Hurricane Disaster Relief" or donations may be made through our online portal: mpcusa.org/give under the heading Presbyterian Disaster Assistance.

SUBMISSIONS FOR ALL SAINTS' DAY DUE TOMORROW!

During the morning worship service on Sunday, November 3, we will observe All Saints' Day at Morrisville Presbyterian Church. The service will include a Litany of Remembrance and a Prayer of Thanksgiving, enabling us to give thanks to God for members and family members who have died in the previous year. Please notify the church office at 215-295-4191 or office@mpcusa.org by tomorrow, Monday, October 28, if you would like a family member's name to be included in the prayer.

ANNIVERSARY SUNDAY - RSVP NOW!

Join us on November 3 for our Anniversary Sunday luncheon in Fellowship Hall, immediately following worship. This special day is a time to celebrate the membership of all who are part of MPC. To RSVP, please visit the Welcome Center or contact the church office at 215-295-4191 or office@mpcusa.org.

CPR CLASS OFFERED - REGISTRATION ENDS TODAY!

A CPR/AED and First Aid certification class will be sponsored by the Board of Deacons and offered to anyone interested on Saturday, November 9, at 9:00 a.m. It will run approximately three hours and the cost is \$70.00, payable by cash or check on the day of class. Preregistration is required by Sunday, October 27. Sign up in the Welcome Center or contact Ruth Levan at jlevan4@verizon.net or 267-808-0945, or Nancy Stoner at nancy.stoner@pennmedicine.upenn.edu or 215-559-4703 if interested.

NURSERY VOLUNTEERS ARE STILL NEEDED - CAN YOU HELP?

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 you may contact Cynde Jacobus at cyndej127@gmail.com or Erin Aronson at ekernan@gmail.com or 267-210-7966. Thank you for considering this wonderful way to support young families and the mission of MPC.

FOOD CENTER REQUESTS

The requested food donation for the month of October is canned beans (except green beans). For the month of November the requested donation is shelf stable or canned evaporated milk. A shopping cart has been put in the Welcome Center to receive your donations. Thank you for your continued generosity!

ADULT EDUCATION'S NEXT CLASS - *A DICKENS OF A CHRISTMAS*

The writings of Charles Dickens have had a major influence on how Christmas is viewed and how it has come to be celebrated, particularly as a time of family gatherings and giving gifts. Using Dickens' *A Christmas Carol* as a focus, Rev. Jack McAnlis will lead this three-week class (November 3, 10, and 17) examining the activities of our modern Christmas festival and assessing them in light of Christian faith and tradition. Participants are asked to read *A Christmas Carol* or view a video based on the book, as preparation for the class.

UPDATE FROM BOOK DISTRIBUTION COMMITTEE

After taking a break this summer, the Book Distribution committee is back sharing the gift of books with our Food Center clients and some local schools. Although we are grateful for the donation of all types of books, we are specifically in need of children's books, bibles, and dictionaries. Please leave your donations in the book collection box in the Welcome Center, next to the Food Center donation cart. If you have any questions, please contact Alice Garcia at agarcia28@verizon.net, Susan Light at susanklight@gmail.com, or Joy Rees at reesfam5@yahoo.com. We appreciate the ongoing support from this generous congregation.

CLOTHING CENTER VOLUNTEERS URGENTLY NEEDED!!!

The MPC Clothing Center has been operating out of our church basement for 41 years and is a vibrant mission of our church. One hundred percent of the proceeds are distributed to both local and global non-profit agencies and organizations by our Outreach Committee. But it is a mission which requires the time and dedication of volunteers to run smoothly. Though the Clothing Center is currently only open on Thursday, from 10:00 a.m.–2:00 p.m., the prep work and set-up is done on Wednesday afternoon from noon–2:30 p.m. We need help as currently we only have four regular volunteers and three intermittent volunteers who may only work 1 day/wk or 2 days/month. We need strong backs, for there is a lot of lifting, and more helping hands during the following:

- Wednesdays: noon–2:30 p.m. to price incoming clothing and merchandise, change merchandise seasonally, straighten the racks/shelves and set-up for Thursday
- Thursdays: 9:30 a.m.–2:15 p.m.
 - 9:30 a.m.–10:00 a.m. to complete set-up & displays
 - 10:00 a.m.–2:00 p.m. to assist shoppers, check-out customers, accept and price donations, and straighten racks/shelves
 - 1:45 p.m.–2:15 p.m. to put everything away. This is the day where we really need volunteers – to operate efficiently we need 4 volunteers. We have made it work with 3, but it can get busy and we have to put away all the merchandise at the end of the day. Right now, there are days when we only have 2 volunteers, and that just doesn't work well at all.
- Biannual Open House: Open Houses are held on a Saturday in early December and Spring from 9:00 a.m.–noon. On those occasions, we need support in set-up, assisting shoppers and cleaning up afterwards.

Please consider helping out, and fitting us into your schedule, even if it is only one day a week or month or be “on-call” when needed. That would give our regular volunteers a much-needed break or a backup when other commitments create a conflict, thus insuring that the Clothing Center remains open to our community. For further information or to volunteer, please contact Kathleen Foster at 215-801-9012.

iPhone



Introducing 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.

Android



Need Help? email Office@mpcusa.org and ask that your questions be forwarded to the stewardship committee.

MPC Weekly Calendar

SUNDAY, October 27

8:30 a.m.	God's Thunder	Room 121
9:30	Sunday School for all ages	
10:30	Worship Service	Sanctuary & Livestream
11:30	Fellowship Hour	Lounge
11:45	Teen Choir	Music Room
Noon	Adonai Tabernacle	Room 220

MONDAY, October 28

5:30 p.m.	Food Packing	Food Center
6:30	Mostly Motets	Music Room
7:00	Boy Scout Troop 3	Fellowship Hall
7:00	Boy Scout Troop 3	Lounge
	Parent Meeting	
7:00	Cub Scout Pack 3	Room 220
7:00	Session Meeting	Conference Room

TUESDAY, October 29

9:00 a.m.	Produce Prep	Food Center
4:00 p.m.	Community Meal Prep	Fellowship Hall
6:00	Community Meal	Fellowship Hall

WEDNESDAY, October 30

9:00 a.m.	Food Center Distribution	Parking Lot
9:00	Ivins Outreach Center Meeting	Lounge
6:00 p.m.	Youth Club	Fellowship Hall
7:00	Girl Scout Troop 2888	Room 220
7:15	Chancel Chimes	Room 121

THURSDAY, October 31

10:00 a.m.	Clothing Center	Room 4
7:00 p.m.	Chancel Choir	Music Room

FRIDAY, November 1

10:30 a.m.	Anniversary Luncheon Set-up	Fellowship Hall
10:45	Weekday Nursery School	Room 220
11:00	Ivins Outreach Center	Lounge
6:30 p.m.	Women's AA Meeting	Lounge

SATURDAY, November 2

SUNDAY, November 3 - All Saints Sunday & Anniversary Sunday

8:30 a.m.	God's Thunder	Room 121
9:30	Sunday School for all ages	
10:30	Worship Service	Sanctuary & Livestream
11:30	Anniversary Sunday Luncheon	Fellowship Hall
Noon	Adonai Tabernacle	Room 220

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 take place and room availability.

CONTACT US

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