



*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*
TWELFTH SUNDAY
after PENTECOST
AUGUST 16, 2026 ~ 10:30 A.M.

GATHERING

WORDS *of* WELCOME

Rev. Alex Lester-Abdalla

PRELUDE — *Prelude in E flat Major* - written & arranged by Greg Neiman

Greg Neiman

CALL *to* WORSHIP

Julie Kroon, Liturgist

One: The world belongs to God,
All: The earth and all its people.
One: How good it is, how wonderful,
All: To live together in unity.
One: Love and faith come together,
All: Justice and peace join hands.
One: If Christ's disciples keep silent,
All: These stones would shout aloud.
One: Open our lips, O God,
All: And our mouths shall proclaim your praise.

HYMN — *How Firm a Foundation*

FOUNDATION

*How firm a foundation, ye saints of the Lord,
is laid for your faith in God's excellent Word!
What more can be said than to you God hath said,
to you who for refuge to Jesus have fled?*
*"Fear not, I am with thee, O be not dismayed,
for I am thy God, and will still give thee aid;
I'll strengthen thee, help thee, and cause thee to stand,
upheld by my righteous, omnipotent hand.*
*"When through the deep waters I call thee to go,
the rivers of sorrow shall not overflow;
for I will be near thee, thy troubles to bless,
and sanctify to thee thy deepest distress.*
*"When through fiery trials thy pathway shall lie,
my grace, all sufficient, shall be thy supply;
the flame shall not hurt thee; I only design
thy dross to consume, and thy gold to refine.*
*"The soul that only Jesus hath leaned for repose,
I will not, I will not desert to its foes;
that soul, though all hell should endeavor to shake,
I'll never, no, never, no, never forsake."*

PRAYER *of* CONFESSION

Rev. Dr. Tom Kort

Move among us God; give us life and let your people rejoice in you. Give us again the joy of your help and with your spirit of freedom sustain us. Make our hearts clean and renew us in body, mind, and spirit. Before God, with the people of God, we confess to turning away from God in the ways we wound our lives, the lives of others, and the life of the world.

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

PROMISE *of* FORGIVENESS

One: May God forgive you, Christ renew you, and the Spirit enable you to grow in love.
Together 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.*

L I T U R G Y *o f* t h e W O R D

PRAYER *for* ILLUMINATION

RESPONSIVE 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; then it was said among the nations, "The Lord has done great things for them."

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

All: Restore our fortunes, O Lord, like the watercourses in the Negeb.

One: May those who sow in tears reap with shouts of joy.

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

One: This is the Word of the Lord.

All: Thanks be to God.

ANTHEM — *Amazing Grace* - written by John Newton,
arranged for four-part harmony by Andrew Neiman

Neiman Family

TIME *for* YOUNG DISCIPLES

SCRIPTURE READING — *John 12:1-8*

One: This is the Word of the Lord.

All: Thanks be to God!

SERMON

The House Was Filled with the Fragrance

Rev. Lester-Abdalla

HYMN — *Take My Life* (verses 1, 3, 5, & 6)

HENDON

*Take my life and let it be
consecrated, Lord, to thee;
take my moments and my days;
let them flow in ceaseless praise;
let them flow in ceaseless praise.*

*Take my voice and let me sing
always, only, for my King;
take my lips and let them be
filled with messages from thee,
filled with messages from thee.*

*Take my will and make it thine;
it shall be no longer mine.
Take my heart, it is thine own;
it shall be thy royal throne,
it shall be my royal throne.*

*Take my love; my Lord, I pour
at thy feet its treasure store;
take myself and I will be
ever, only, all for thee,
ever, only, all for thee.*

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

We trust in God the Holy Spirit everywhere the giver and renewer of life. The Spirit justifies us by grace through faith, sets us free to accept ourselves and to love God and neighbor, and binds us together with all believers in the one body of Christ, the Church. In a broken and fearful world the Spirit gives us courage to pray without ceasing, to witness among all peoples to Christ as Lord and Savior, to unmask idolatries in Church and culture, to hear the voices of peoples long silenced, and to work with others for justice, freedom, and peace.

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

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.*

Prayer of Dedication

Kyle St. Sauveur
OLD HUNDREDTH

S E N D I N G

HYMN — *Go, My Children, with My Blessing*

AR HYD Y NOS

*“Go, my children, with my blessing, never alone.
Waking, sleeping, I am with you, you are my own.
In my love's baptismal river
I have made you mine forever.
Go, my children, with my blessing, you are my own.”*
*“Go, my children, sins forgiven, at peace and pure.
Here you learned how much I love you, what I can cure.
Here you heard my dear Son's story;
here you touched him, saw his glory.
Go, my children, sins forgiven, at peace and pure.”*
*“Go, my children, fed and nourished, closer to me.
Grow in love and love by serving, joyful and free.
Here my Spirit's power filled you;
here my tender comfort stilled you.
Go, my children, fed and nourished, joyful and free.”*

CHARGE and BLESSING

POSTLUDE

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'S CHANCEL FLOWERS

The chancel flowers are offered to the glory of God and are given by Bill and Melonie Burgess and family in memory of Bill's mother, Frances Burgess: "We love and miss you." The second arrangement is given by Jim and Charlotte Harrington in celebration of their 50th Wedding Anniversary (August 21, 1976).

TODAY'S LITURGY

Today's "Call to Worship", "Prayer of Confession", and "Promise of Forgiveness" have been adapted from the Iona Abbey Morning Service, a daily worship service of the Iona Community. The Iona Community is an international, ecumenical Christian movement working for justice and peace, the rebuilding of community and the renewal of worship. Alex took a pilgrimage to the Iona Community during his sabbatical.

REGARDING TODAY'S SERVICE

Yun Kang, our faithful organist and pianist, is in South Korea visiting her family. In her stead we welcome our multitalented bass section leader, Kyle St. Sauveur, as our pianist of today's service.

NO FELLOWSHIP HOUR TODAY

During the summer months, fellowship hour after worship will be held on a limited basis. The next Fellowship Hour will be August 23, 2026.

TODAY! LUNCH AND LISTEN—ADULT SUNDAY SCHOOL

Are you interested in learning more about faith and life? Have you wanted to connect with other people in the church? If so, we hope you will join us after worship today in the conference room for a lunch and listening session. The Faith Formation committee is discerning new opportunities for parents of young children, young adults, men, and other adult groups in the church.

TODAY! LUNCH AND LISTEN—YOUTH CLUB

Are you passionate about the care and support of youth ministry? Are you a youth, parent, or interested in volunteering? If so, we hope you will join us after worship today in the conference room for a lunch and listening session. The Faith Formation committee is discerning new opportunities for youth in preparation for the new program year. We would love to include you in our discernment.

CELEBRATING SCOUTING AMERICA TROOP 3

Troop 3 would like to invite members of MPC, our Charter Organization, to the troop's 115th year celebration picnic. It will be held on Saturday, August 22, outside (weather permitting) by the Education Building lawn. The picnic runs from noon to 2:00 p.m. Any and all are invited. Please come and enjoy a hot dog or two. We hope to see you there!

Yours in Scouting, Bill Burgess COR, Tr3

PHISHING AND SCAM EMAILS

On occasion you may receive an email from a pastor or staff member requesting you to contact them through email only. The email usually states the subject they wish to discuss with you is "sensitive" or "personal" and you can't call them because they are in a "prayer meeting." Should you receive an email of this kind, DO NOT RESPOND TO IT. DELETE IT. These emails are not from the church. Should you be unsure if the email you received is valid, please call the church or person directly or write a NEW email to the person.

DISPOSABLE FLATWARE PACKETS FOR TASK

Trenton Area Soup Kitchen (TASK) routinely needs to purchase more than 10,000 packets of plastic flatware to distribute with their food. If you have a supply of unopened packets at home from takeout food purchases, we will gladly take them off your hands. A basket for your donations will be on the cabinet in the narthex as you exit the sanctuary.

FOOD CENTER'S SUMMER REQUEST

Over the next few summer months, the requested food donation is whatever you may wish to donate. Items should be shelf-stable and non-perishable. Donated items should not be in glass containers. A marked shopping bin has been put in the Welcome Center to receive your donations. Thank you for your continued generosity!

YOUTH IN MISSION TRIP 2027 - SAVE THE DATE!

If you know of any youth interested in going on a meaningful trip of service and fun, please save the date for our trip next year: July 10 to July 17, 2027. Please contact Heidi Dous at heididous@gmail.com or Pastor Alex Lester-Abdalla at alexlester-abdalla@mpcusa.org for more information or questions.

ON-LINE MEMBER DIRECTORY

MPC rolled out Realm to the congregation back in September 2025. One of the features of Realm is an on-line Member Directory that is only accessible to active members of MPC who have created a Realm log-in. At this time, all active members will be added to the directory whether you have created a log-in or not. If you do not wish to be in the directory, please contact the church office by emailing office@mpcusa.org or calling 215-295-4191. Please note that printed copies of the directory will no longer be available. If you want to access the member directory, you will need to create a Realm log-in.



MPC Weekly Calendar

SUNDAY, August 16

10:30 a.m. Worship Service
(Backpack Blessing)
Noon Adonai Tabernacle

Sanctuary &
Livestream
Chapel

MONDAY, August 17

6:30 p.m. Mostly Motets
7:00 Food Center Food Packing

Music Room
Room 4

TUESDAY, August 18

9:00 a.m. Food Center Produce Prep

Room 4

WEDNESDAY, August 19

9:00 a.m. Food Center Distribution

Parking Lot

THURSDAY, August 20

FRIDAY, August 21

SATURDAY, August 22

Noon Scouting America Troop 3 Side Lawn
Celebration Picnic

SUNDAY, August 23

10:30 a.m. Worship Service

Sanctuary &
Livestream

11:30 Fellowship Hour Memorial Garden/
Lounge

Noon Adonai Tabernacle

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 take place and room availability.

CONTACT US MORRISVILLE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH STAFF

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