



*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*
EIGHTEENTH SUNDAY
after PENTECOST
SEPTEMBER 27, 2026 ~ 10:30 A.M.

GATHERING

PRELUDE — *Prayer* - Caleb Simper

Yun Kang

WORDS of WELCOME

Rev. Alex Lester-Abdalla

MINUTE for MINISTRY

Usbering Opportunity

Robin Evans

INTROIT — *Let All Things Now Living* - ASH GROVE

Chancel Choir

*Let all things now living a song of thanksgiving
to God our Creator triumphantly raise;
who fashioned and made us, protected and stayed us,
by guiding us on to the end o our days.
God's banners are o'er us: pure light goes before us,
a pillar of fire shining forth in the night:
till shadows have vanished, all fearfulness banished,
as forward we travel from light into light.*

CALL to WORSHIP

Kathleen Foster, Liturgist

One: Come, O people, to hear God's word.

All: We gather to listen and tell our sacred story.

One: Come, O people, to be present in holy space.

All: We worship God in the presence of one another.

One: Come, O people, to turn and follow.

All: We open ourselves to the one who leads us to abundant life.

HYMN — *Glorious Things of Thee Are Spoken*

AUSTRIAN HYMN

*Glorious things of thee are spoken, Zion, city of our God.
God, whose word cannot be broken, formed thee for a blest abode.
On the rock of ages founded, what can shake thy sure repose?
With salvation's walls surrounded, thou may'st smile at all thy foes.

Round each habitation hovering, see the cloud and fire appear
for a glory and a covering, showing that the Lord is near.
This deriving from their banner light by night and shade by day,
safe they feed upon the manna which God gives them when they pray.

See, the streams of living waters, springing from eternal love,
well supply thy sons and daughters and all fear of want remove.
Who can faint while such a river ever flows, their thirst to assuage?
Grace, so like the Lord the giver, never fails from age to age.*

PRAYER of CONFESSION

Rev. Kyle Anderson

Trusting God, we confess to you that we are not of the same mind. We do not often share the same love. We can act in selfish ambition and do not regard others as better than ourselves. We tend to squeeze life so tightly we are unwilling to change, even as we seek to embrace the humility of Jesus. Forgive us. Continue to be at work in us, that we might serve each other as you served us, and reflect your kingdom in this world.

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

PROMISE of FORGIVENESS

One: Hear the good news of the gospel: When we lift up our souls to God, God does not put us to shame. God forgives us and leads us in the truth.

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

RESPONSIVE READING — *Psalms 114:1-8*

One: To you, O Lord, I lift up my soul. O my God, in you I trust; do not let me be put to shame; do not let my enemies exult over me.

All: **Do not let those who wait for you be put to shame; let them be ashamed who are wantonly treacherous.**

One: Make me to know your ways, O Lord; teach me your paths.

All: **Lead me in your truth and teach me, for you are the God of my salvation; for you I wait all day long.**

One: Be mindful of your mercy, O Lord, and of your steadfast love, for they have been from of old.

All: **Do not remember the sins of my youth or my transgressions; according to your steadfast love remember me, for the sake of your goodness, O Lord!**

One: Good and upright is the Lord; therefore God instructs sinners in the way.

All: **God leads the humble in what is right and teaches the humble God's way.**

One: This is the Word of the Lord.

All: **Thanks be to God.**

ANTHEM — *Creation Hymn* - Craig Courtney

*His praise appears in all I see, The stars declare his hands to be;
Creation speaks in sky and sea and shore, Proclaiming forth their sovereign Maker, "Lord".
High mountains rising to the sky, Bow down before their Author's eye;
Sea depths now echoing the land's refrain, Their vast expanse too small to hold his name;
He is Lord.
But though I see, my heart cries out, "So great a God, cares He for me?"
Yes, He who rules the hosts above, Surrendered, yet, His life in Love,
Embraced me on a mountain full of pain, Released me from an ocean's debt of shame;
He is Lord.
Yes, now I see, my heart cries out, "So great a God, He cares for me!"
And, thus, a new creation made, I see him more and more each day;
With all the wonders that His hands have Laid, I rise to glory in the Son, and say,
"He's my Lord!"*

—Brian Chapell, based on Psalm 19:1-6
and 2 Corinthians 5:17

TIME for YOUNG DISCIPLES

SCRIPTURE READING — *Matthew 21:23, 28-32*

One: This is the Word of the Lord.

All: **Thanks be to God!**

SERMON

Change

Rev. Alex Lester-Abdalla

HYMN — *If Thou but Trust in God to Guide Thee*

WER NUR DEN LIEBEN GOTT

*If thou but trust in God to guide thee, with hopeful heart through all thy ways,
God will give strength, whate'er betide thee, to bear through the evil days.
Who trusts in God's unchanging love builds on the rock that nought can move.
Only be still, and wait God's leisure in cheerful hope, with heart content
to take whate'er thy Keeper's pleasure and all-discerning love hath sent.
No doubt our inmost wants are clear to One who holds us always dear.
Sing, pray, and swerve not from God's ways, but do thine own part faithfully.
Trust the rich promises of grace; so shall they be fulfilled in thee.
God never yet forsook at need the soul secured by trust indeed.*

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

We trust in God, whom Jesus called Abba, Father. In sovereign love God created the world good and makes everyone equally in God's image, but we rebel against God; we hide from our Creator. Loving us still, God makes us heirs with Christ of the covenant. Like a mother who will not forsake her nursing child, like a father who runs to welcome the prodigal home, God is faithful still.

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 — *How Great Thou Art* - Stuart K. Hine

Elijah Song, cello

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 — *For the Fruit of All Creation*

AR HYD Y NOS

*For the fruit of all creation, thanks be to God.
For the gifts to every nation, thanks be to God.
For the plowing, sowing, reaping, silent growth while we are sleeping,
future needs in earth's safekeeping, thanks be to God.
In the just reward of labor, God's will be done.
In the help we give our neighbor, God's will be done.
In our worldwide task of caring for the hungry and despairing,
in the harvests we are sharing, God's will be done.
For the harvests of the Spirit, thank be to God.
For the good we all inherit, thanks be to God.
For the wonders that astound us, for the truths that still confound us,
most of all that love has found us, thanks be to God.*

CHARGE *and* BLESSING

BENEDICTION RESPONSE — *Amen*

POSTLUDE — *Glorious Things of Thee Are Spoken* - Robert Hughes

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.*



**Cancelled today due to
scheduled inclement weather.**

**Stay tuned for
rescheduled date**

TODAY'S CHANCEL FLOWERS

The chancel flowers are offered to the glory of God and are given by Lisa and David Kutch “in loving celebration of our 30th Wedding Anniversary.” The second arrangement is given by David and Tracy Massey who are celebrating their 29th Wedding Anniversary today.

NEW! CONTEMPLATION INFORMATION SESSION TODAY

Looking to deepen your relationship with God? If you are curious about how daily scripture reading, prayer, meditation, and contemplative spiritual practices can transform your daily devotions, join Pastor Alex for an informational session about opportunities to gather in contemplation where he will share some of the learnings from his sabbatical. Together, these simple practices help us access our inner wisdom and discern God’s invitation to a fuller and richer spiritual life. Join us in the conference room today, after worship to learn more!

TODAY! PRAYER SHAWL GATHERING

We have had wonderful turnouts for our handmade prayer shawl gatherings supporting our Code Blue guests. The next gathering will be today, immediately after service in room 220. All supplies will be provided. No experience needed as many will confirm it is very easy to learn. Bring a friend and join in the fun by gathering together to serve in this new way.

NEXT SUNDAY, OCTOBER 4 - WORLD COMMUNION OFFERING

The World Communion Offering is a way for Presbyterians to “love kindness” expressed in action, often involving mercy, faithfulness and steadfast commitment. Racial justice, gender justice, global witness, and ecumenical and interfaith engagement are the important causes supported by this offering. The offering will be collected on Sunday, October 4, during worship. You are welcome to use the special offering envelopes provided, writing “World Communion Offering” in the memo line of your check or give online at mpcusa.org/give. Thank you for participating in this global effort.

COMING SOON TO A PEW POCKET NEAR YOU!

The Worship Committee will be preparing prayer request cards to be placed in the pew pockets in the sanctuary. Persons who wish to share a concern or joy may fill out the card and place it in the offering plate or bring it to the church office. In the interest of privacy, these cards will replace the open notebook in the Welcome Center. The pastors will follow up on prayer requests and share them with the congregation if permission is granted.

USHERS NEEDED

We need you for a new opportunity. Come join our Volunteer Ushering Team! Ushering at church is a simple, fun and meaningful way to serve. It's about showing up on a Sunday with a welcoming spirit, and lending a hand wherever needed. Would you like to try it out at MPC? No pressure, no long-term commitment -- just volunteers willing to give a little of their time, working side-by-side with deacons, to help create a warm and inviting experience for everyone who walks through our doors. Please see Robin Evans after the service, or contact her at robinevans310@gmail.com for more information. You must be at least twelve years of age and a church member.

HELP DONATE A CARE PACKAGE TO YOUTH CLUB ALUMNI

Every year our youth put together care packages for recent high school graduates. These items are shipped out to young adults with the love and support of our congregation. If you would like to donate a care package this year, you can leave any or all of these items in the bag outside of Alex's office: small pack of pens, protein/granola bar, gum, individual bag of chips, candy bar. Also if you have a young adult in your family who graduated within the last four years, please send their updated address to Alex at alexlester-abdalla@mpcusa.org.

BOOK DISCUSSIONS STARTS AGAIN

MPC's Monday evening Book/Study Group will start up again on Monday, October 19. Join us at 5:30 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. in the conference room and via Zoom. Our first read this year will be *Theo of Golden* by Allen Levi--perhaps you've already read it? The book is hard to find in the library, but the best seller is out in paperback now. Please purchase wherever you buy books/ebooks/audio. Used books are available online at thriftbooks.com and searching for the title. Contact Shellie Stoddard at stoddard.shellie@gmail.com or at 215-510-5717 with questions. You are welcome whether you have read it or not! Please RSVP if you would like to join remotely.

UPCOMING WOMEN'S RETREAT

The Women's Retreat will be held November 6-8 at the Sisters of St. Joseph Center for Spirituality in Ocean Grove, NJ. MPC women are blessed to have retreats subsidized by a fund established in memory of Dorothea Scheidemantel, by her daughter Sally. Not only does this fund greatly reduce the cost to attend the retreat, but it also offers two scholarships that can be used to offset expenses related to retreat participation, such as child care, registration fee, or transportation. Brochures with retreat details and registration forms are available in the Welcome Center. We are limited to twenty-five attendees. If you have any questions, or would like to submit your name to hold a place, please contact Nancy Kernan at nankernan@gmail.com.

COFFEE AND CONNECTION

Do you enjoy drinking coffee on a Sunday morning with casual conversation? Are you looking to connect with other folks in the church? The Faith Formation committee would like to invite you to a new offering for adults during the Sunday School Hour. Each Sunday, at 9:30 a.m., we will gather in the lounge for coffee and casual conversation. Due to this change, Adult Sunday School will not take place in the morning, but instead more information will be provided about classes that will be offered after future worship services. We hope you will join us for coffee and connection on Sunday mornings.

MPC CLOTHING CENTER - NEW SEASON, NEW NAME, MORE HOURS

The MPC Clothing Center will now be known as the MPC Thrift Store. Why change the name? Changing the name better depicts who we are, a store which sells all sorts of merchandise at reduced prices.

We will be opening the Thrift Store the first Saturday of each month from 9:00 a.m. to noon beginning Saturday, November 7. We would love to have volunteers who would be willing to work at the Thrift Store on a Saturday morning. This would be a great opportunity for students who need community service hours. Ideally, three volunteers are needed to assist shoppers, take payments and bag purchases, and put away merchandise at closing. If we have enough volunteers that could be rotated, it would be quite feasible for everyone to work only one to two Saturdays a year. A volunteer or two to have on the Thursday roster would also be great. If you are interested in any of these volunteer opportunities, please contact Kathy Foster at kathleenf949@gmail.com.

We are now accepting clean, fall/winter clothing & shoes, seasonal home décor (fall/autumn, Halloween, Thanksgiving and Christmas) on September 8, 2026. **Please do not leave off-season clothing and items, we do not have the space to store them.**

Come and see us on Thursdays from 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. and on Saturday, November 7 from 9:00 a.m. to noon! All profits are donated to other community non-profit agencies and organizations through the MPC Outreach Committee

MPC Weekly Calendar

SUNDAY, September 27

8:30 a.m.	God's Thunder Rehearsal	Room 121
9:30	Sunday School for Children & Youth	
9:30	Coffee & Connection	Lounge
10:30	Worship Service	Sanctuary & Livestream
11:30	Fellowship Time	Lounge
11:30	Contemplation	Conference Room
	Information Session	
11:30	Prayer Shawl Gathering	Room 220
Noon	Adonai Tabernacle	Chapel
3:00 p.m.	Apple Picking Festival	Styer Orchard

MONDAY, September 28

6:30 p.m.	Mostly Motets	Music Room
6:30	Scout Troop 3	Fellowship Hall
6:45	Cub Scout Pack 3	Rooms 122 & 220
7:00	Food Center Food Packing	Room 4
7:30	Session Meeting	Conference Room/ Zoom
8:00	Scout Troop 3	Lounge
	Parent Meeting	

TUESDAY, September 29

9:00 a.m.	Food Center Produce Prep	Room 4
10:00	Welcoming the Stranger	Room 208
4:00 p.m.	Community Meal	Fellowship Hall
	Prep & Serve	

WEDNESDAY, September 30

9:00 a.m.	Food Center Distribution	Parking Lot
Noon	Brown Bag	Conference Room
	Bible Study	& Zoom
7:15 p.m.	Chancel Chimes Rehearsal	Room 121

THURSDAY, October 1

10:00 a.m.	Thrift Store Open	Room 4
7:00 p.m.	Chancel Choir Rehearsal	Music Room

FRIDAY, October 2

SATURDAY, October 3

9:00 a.m.	Newtown Quilters Guild	Conference Room
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SUNDAY, October 4

8:30 a.m.	God's Thunder Rehearsal	Room 121
9:30	Sunday School for Children & Youth	
9:30	Coffee & Connection	Lounge
10:30	Worship Service	Sanctuary & Livestream
11:30	Fellowship Time	Lounge
Noon	Deacon Meeting	Conference Room
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.

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