



*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 DECEMBER 24, 2022  
CHRISTMAS EVE  
7:00 P.M.

## GATHERING

**PRELUDE** — *Silent Night* - arr. Diane Bish

Yun Kang

**WORDS of WELCOME**

**LIGHTING of the ADVENT CANDLES**

MPC Clothing Center

**CHORAL INTROIT** — *Gesu Bambino* - Pietro Yon

Family Choir

*When blossoms flowered 'mid the snows upon a winter night  
Was born the Child, the Christmas Rose, the King of Love and Light.  
The angels sang, the shepherds sang, the grateful earth rejoiced  
And at His blessed birth, the stars their exultation voiced.*

*O come let us adore Him, O come let us adore Him  
O come let us adore Him, Christ the Lord.*

*Again the heart with rapture glows to greet the holy night  
That gave the world its Christmas Rose, its King of Love and Light.  
Let every voice acclaim His name, the grateful chorus swell;  
From paradise to earth He came, that we with Him might dwell.*

*O come let us adore him, O come let us adore Him  
O come let us adore Him, Christ the Lord.*

## CALL to WORSHIP

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!*

*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!*

# LITURGY of the WORD

## PRAYER for ILLUMINATION

### 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.

### ANTHEM — *Sussex Carol* - Ralph Vaughan Williams / arr. Dale Wood

*On Christmas night all Christians sing to hear the news the angels bring,  
News of great joy news of great mirth; News of our merciful King's birth.  
Then why should we on earth be so sad since our Redeemer made us glad?  
When from our sin he set us free, all for to gain our liberty?  
When sin departs before his grace then life and health come in its place  
Angels and all with joy may sing, all for to see the new born King.  
All out of darkness we have light, which made the angels sing this night  
Glory to God and peace on earth now and forever more, Amen.*

### SECOND LESSON — *Isaiah 11:1-9*

A shoot shall come out from the stock of Jesse,  
and a branch shall grow out of his roots.  
The spirit of the Lord shall rest on him,  
the spirit of wisdom and understanding,  
the spirit of counsel and might,  
the spirit of knowledge and the fear of the LORD.  
His delight shall be in the fear of the LORD.  
He shall not judge by what his eyes see,  
or decide by what his ears hear;  
but with righteousness he shall judge the poor,  
and decide with equity for the meek of the earth;

he shall strike the earth with the rod of his mouth,  
 and with the breath of his lips he shall kill the wicked.  
 Righteousness shall be the belt around his waist,  
 and faithfulness the belt around his loins.  
 The wolf shall live with the lamb,  
 the leopard shall lie down with the kid,  
 the calf and the lion and the fatling together,  
 and a little child shall lead them.  
 The cow and the bear shall graze,  
 their young shall lie down together;  
 and the lion shall eat straw like the ox.  
 The nursing child shall play over the hole of the asp,  
 and the weaned child shall put its hand on the adder's den.  
 They will not hurt or destroy  
 on all my holy mountain;  
 for the earth will be full of the knowledge of the LORD  
 as the waters cover the sea.

**HYMN** — *People, Look East*

BESANÇON

*People look east. The time is near of the crowning of the year.  
 Make your house fair as you are able; trim the hearth and set the table.  
 People, look east: Love, the Guest, is on the way.*  
*Stars, keep the watch. When night is dim one more light the bowl shall brim,  
 shining beyond the frosty weather, bright as sun and moon together.  
 People look east: Love, the Star, is on the way.*  
*Angels, announce with shouts of mirth Christ who brings new life to earth.  
 Set every peak and valley humming with the word, the Lord is coming.  
 People look east: Love, the Lord, is on the way.*

**THIRD 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** — *Away in a Manger* - William Kirkpatrick / arr. Mack Wilberg

*Away in a manger, no crib for His bed,  
 The little Lord Jesus laid down His sweet head.  
 The stars in the bright sky looked down where He lay,  
 The little Lord Jesus asleep on the hay*  
*The cattle are lowing; the poor Baby awakes,  
 But little Lord Jesus, no crying He makes.  
 I love Thee, Lord Jesus; look down from the sky,  
 And stay by my side till morning is nigh.*  
*Be near me, Lord Jesus; I ask Thee to stay  
 Close by me forever and love me, I pray.  
 Bless all the dear children in Thy tender care,  
 And fit us for Heaven to live with Thee there.*

#### FOURTH 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 — *Angels We Have Heard on High*

GLORIA

*Angels we have heard on high, sweetly singing o'er the plains,  
and the mountains in reply echoing their joyous strains.*

*Gloria in excelsis Deo!*

*Gloria in excelsis Deo!*

*Shepherds, why this jubilee? Why your joyous strains prolong?  
What the gladsome tidings be which inspire your heavenly song?*

*Gloria in excelsis Deo!*

*Gloria in excelsis Deo!*

*Come to Bethlehem and see him whose birth the angels sing:  
come, adore on bended knee Christ, the Lord, the newborn King.*

*Gloria in excelsis Deo!*

*Gloria in excelsis Deo!*

#### FIFTH 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.

#### ANTHEM — *Rise Up Shepherd* - Traditional Spiritual arranged by John Leavitt

*There's a star in the East on Christmas morn;*

*Rise up, shepherd, and follow;*

*It will lead to the place where the Savior's born;*

*Rise up, shepherd, and follow.*

Refrain:

*Follow, follow; Rise up, shepherd, and follow.*

*Follow the Star of Bethlehem; Rise up, shepherd, and follow.*

*Halle, Halle, Hallelujah, Singing glory, Hallelu!*

*If you take good heed to the angel's words;*

*Rise up, shepherd, and follow;*

*You'll forget your flocks, you'll forget your herds;*

*Rise up, shepherd, and follow.*

Refrain

#### CHRISTMAS MEDITATION

#### HYMN — *Of the Father's Love Begotten*

DIVINUM MYSTERIUM

*Of the Father's love begotten, ere the worlds began to be,  
he is Alpha and Omega; he the source, the ending he,  
of the things that are, that have been, and that future years shall see,  
evermore and evermore!*

*This is he whom seers in old time chanted of with one accord,  
whom the voices of the prophets promised in their faithful word.  
Now he shines, the long-expected. Let creation praise the Lord,  
evermore and evermore!*

*Christ, to thee with God the Father, and, O Holy Ghost, to thee,  
hymn and chant and high thanksgiving and unwearied praises be.  
Honor, glory, and dominion, and eternal victory,  
evermore and evermore! Amen.*

## OFFERING

Invitation to Give

Offertory Music — *In the Bleak Midwinter* - Harold Darke

*In the bleak midwinter, frosty wind made moan,  
Earth stood hard as iron, water like a stone;  
Snow had fallen, snow on snow, snow on snow,  
In the bleak midwinter, long ago.*

*Our God, Heaven cannot hold Him, nor earth sustain;  
Heaven and earth shall flee away when He comes to reign.  
In the bleak midwinter a stable place sufficed  
The Lord God Almighty, Jesus Christ.*

*Enough for Him, whom cherubim, worship night and day,  
A breastful of milk, and a mangerful of hay;  
Enough for Him, whom angels fall before,  
The ox and ass and camel which adore.*

*What can I give Him, poor as I am?  
If I were a shepherd, I would bring a lamb;  
If I were a Wise Man, I would do my part;  
Yet what I can I give Him: give my heart.*

## THE LIGHT of CHRIST

### SIXTH 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 <sup>4</sup>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

### SHARING *the* LIGHT of CHRIST

### HYMN — *Silent 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!  
Shepherds quake at the sight;  
glories stream from heaven afar,  
heavenly hosts sing "Alleluia:  
Christ the Savior is born; Christ the Savior is born!"*

*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.*

## CHARGE *and* BLESSING

POSTLUDE — *Lift Up Your Head* - David M. Cherwien

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

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***\*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.net](mailto:Bulletin@MPCusa.net).***

### **TONIGHT'S OFFERING**

Your offering tonight will support the ministry and mission of Morrisville Presbyterian Church. Thank you for your generosity and support.


### **TONIGHT'S FAMILY CHOIR**

We welcome the, now traditional, Christmas Family Choir to our service this evening. These are singers who may not have enough time in their schedules for regular choir rehearsals, are members of the Teen Choir, or are family members who are home for the holidays. Whatever the reason, we are delighted to welcome their voices as we rejoice in the good news of Christ's birth.

### **WINDOW CANDLES**


The new Advent window candles are in loving memory of Fran & Charles Burgess, given by their daughter, Betsy.

**iPhone**



# **Introducing mobile giving**

**Android**



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.

Need Help? email [Office@mpcusa.org](mailto:Office@mpcusa.org) and ask that your questions be forwarded to the stewardship committee.

## Join us for faith, fellowship and mission in the new year!

### PARTICIPATE IN MUSIC MINISTRY

If you would like to get involved in our Music Ministry, please feel free to contact our Music Director, Tim Carpenter, at [timcarpenter@mpcusa.net](mailto:timcarpenter@mpcusa.net). Our Music Ministry welcomes participation by all interested adults, youth, and children! Opportunities in choirs and handbells are available.

### CHRISTIAN EDUCATION FOR ALL AGES

To learn more about MPC's Christian Education programs, please contact our Associate Pastor for Lifelong Faith Formation & Mission, Alex Lester-Abdalla, at [alexlester-abdalla@mpcusa.net](mailto:alexlester-abdalla@mpcusa.net). Education for all ages (age 2 through adults) meets at 9:30 a.m. each Sunday.

### YOUTH CLUB & YOUTH MINISTRY

All area youth in grades 6-12 are invited to participate in Youth Club for food, fellowship, and faith. Meetings take place most Wednesday evenings from 6:00-7:30 p.m. and dinner is provided!

Youth in Mission will be returning to Pipestem, WV this summer to continue God's work spreading the Word and helping others. All current 8th grade students through high school seniors, along with their friends, are invited to join us for this great trip.

Please email Pastor Alex Lester-Abdalla at [alexlester-abdalla@mpcusa.net](mailto:alexlester-abdalla@mpcusa.net) to learn more about both of these youth programs..

### NEW MEMBERS ARE WELCOME

If you are not a member at MPC, we would love for you to consider joining us in ministry and mission. A three-week class, led by Pastor Rachel Rhodes and Pastor Alex Lester-Abdalla, provides an opportunity to explore church membership, whether you're ready to join or just curious about what that would mean. We will explore topics like: what do we believe as Presbyterians, how are we called to be the church in the world, what does ministry and mission look like at MPC, who is it that God is calling you to be and how can you seek to pursue God's call more fully through membership at MPC?

New Member classes are held two times a year. If you are interested in participating, please contact the church office at 215-295-4191 or [office@mpcusa.org](mailto:office@mpcusa.org) for more information.



### CONTACT US

#### MORRISVILLE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH STAFF

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