



*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 CHRISTMAS EVE
7:30 P.M.
DECEMBER 24, 2024

GATHERING

PRELUDE — *Silent Night* - arr. Wilbur Held Yun Kang

CHORAL INTROIT — *Festive Hodie* - Greg Gilpin Family Choir
Hodie! Hodie! Christus natus est! *Today! Today Christ is born!*

LIGHTING of the ADVENT & CHRIST CANDLE Clark & DeeAnn Martin

CALL to WORSHIP Rev. Dr. Tom Kurt

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

EVENING PRAYER Rev. Alex Lester-Abdalla

FIRST LESSON — *Isaiah 7:14*

HYMN — *Once in Royal David's City* IRBY

Once in royal David's city stood a lowly cattle shed,
where a mother laid her baby in a manger for his bed:
Mary was that mother mild;
Jesus Christ, her little child.

He came down to earth from heaven who is God and Lord of all,
and his shelter was a stable, and his cradle was a stall;
with the poor and meek and lowly,
lived on earth our Savior holy.

And our eyes at last shall see him, through his own redeeming love;
for that child so dear and gentle is our Lord in heaven above;
and he leads his children on
to the place where he is gone.

SECOND LESSON — *Luke 2:1-7*

ANTHEM — *Carol of the Holy Family* - Hal H. Hopson

*Jesus, may the arms of Mary now enfold you.
Does she know she holds the Holy Lamb of God?
Does she know you are the Promised One - The One to set the People free?*

Refrain

*Rejoice this holy night for to us a Son is given and his name is called Emmanuel.
Yes, God with us; Rejoice this holy night, for to us a son is given, born a babe in Bethlehem.*

*Jesus, may the watchful eye of Joseph guard you.
Does he know he guards the very Lord of Life?
Does he know you are the King of Kings, the Son of God, the Prince of Peace?*

Refrain

*Jesus, hear the choirs of earth and heaven singing.
Do they know it's God on earth to whom they sing?
Hear their voices singing Gloria, and peace, good will forevermore?*

Refrain

--Hal H. Hopson

THIRD LESSON — *Luke 2:8-14*

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!"
Christ, by highest heaven adored, Christ, the everlasting Lord,
late in time behold him come, offspring of the virgin's womb.
Veiled in flesh the Godhead see; hail the incarnate deity,
pleased in flesh with us to dwell, Jesus our Emmanuel.
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*

OFFERING

Invitation to Give

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

Chancel Choir

*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 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 heavenly bliss, a teasing test of what they miss:
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 above:
Sing love. Sing God is love.*

-- Jaroslav J. Vajda

CHRISTMAS MEDITATION

Christmas Grits and Grace

Rev. Dr. Kort

SACRAMENT of the LORD'S SUPPER

INVITATION

PRAYER of GREAT THANKSGIVING

One: The Lord be with you.

All: **And also with you.**

One: Lift up your hearts.

All: **We lift them up to the Lord.**

One: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

All: **It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

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.

THE BREAKING of the BREAD & SHARING of the CUP

COMMUNION of the PEOPLE

COMMUNION ANTHEM — *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, 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 mid-winter a stable-place sufficed

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 down 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 give a lamb

If I were a wise man, I would do my part

Yet what I can, I give Him: give my heart.

--Christina Rossetti

PRAYER after COMMUNION

Good and gracious God, on this holy night when all things in silence lay, you gave us your Son, Emmanuel, "God with us." By the light of your love, draw us into your divine mystery, so that among the straw and the stars we may find the one for whom we have waited and carry the light of your love into all the world. Amen

SHARING *the* LIGHT of CHRIST

ANTHEM — *What Child Is This?* - trad. English melody, arr. David Willcocks

*What Child is this who, laid to rest, on Mary's lap is sleeping?
Whom angels greet with anthems sweet, while shepherds watch are keeping?
This, this is Christ the King, whom shepherds guard and angels sing;
Haste, haste to bring Him laud, the Babe, the Son of Mary.*

*Why lies He in such mean estate, where ox and ass are feeding?
Good Christians, fear, for sinners here the silent Word is pleading.
Nails, spear shall pierce Him through, the cross be borne for me, for you;
Hail, hail the Word made flesh, the Babe, the Son of Mary.*

*So bring Him incense, gold, and myrrh, come peasant, king to own Him;
The King of kings salvation brings, let loving hearts enthrone Him.
Raise, raise a song on high, the virgin sings her lullaby;
Joy, joy for Christ is born, the Babe, the Son of Mary.*

--William C. Dix

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!
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 — *We Three Kings* - Rulon Christiansen

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

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 gathering is provided 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 for more information.

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION FOR ALL AGES

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

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.org. Our Music Ministry welcomes participation by all interested adults, youth, and children! Opportunities in choirs and handbells are available.

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 of love and help to 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.org to learn more about both of these youth programs.

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.*

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.

2025 OFFERING ENVELOPES

Offering envelopes are now available in the Welcome Center. If you would like them mailed, please contact MPC's Administrative Assistant, Kim Turner, in the church office at 215-295-4191 or at office@mpcusa.org and she will make arrangements to send them to you. Please note that envelopes will not be given to those who have signed up for online giving.

YEAR END GIVING

Thank you for your continued generosity and support throughout this year. To ensure that your gifts appear on your 2024 Giving Statement for tax purposes, please make sure all gifts are post-marked, delivered to MPC, or given online by December 31, 2024.

Mobile giving

iPhone



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.

Joy
to the
World



CONTACT US

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