



*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  
TWENTIETH SUNDAY  
after PENTECOST  
OCTOBER 6, 2024

## GATHERING

**PRELUDE** — *All the Way My Savior Leads Me* - Adam Mason

Yun Kang

**WORDS of WELCOME**

Pastor Alex Lester-Abdalla

**INTROIT** — *Grant Me True Courage, Lord* - J. S. Bach

Chancel Choir

*Grant me true courage, Lord, to front each new endeavor;  
Confiding in Thy word that Thou wilt leave me never.  
Alike in gloom or joy each duty to fulfill,  
My faithful heart employ to do Thy perfect will.*

**CALL to WORSHIP**

Wendy Yazujian, Liturgist

One: As we gather around the Word, font, and table,  
**All: We welcome all from every place and land.**  
One: We pray for the revelation of our God,  
**All: In bread broken and word spoken.**  
One: Let God's people be united in love and faith,  
**All: Let us worship God together.**

**HYMN** — *Blessed Jesus, at Your Word*

LIEBSTER JESU

*Blessed Jesus, at your word we have come again to hear you;  
let our thoughts and hearts be stirred and in glowing faith be near you.  
By your gospel true and holy, teach us, Lord, to love you solely.  
All our knowledge, sense, and sight lie in deepest darkness shrouded,  
till your Spirit breaks our night, filling us with light unclouded.  
All good thoughts and all good living come but by your gracious giving.  
Glorious Lord, yourself impart, Light of Light, from God proceeding.  
Touch our lips and ears and heart; help us by your Spirit's pleading.  
Hear the cry your church now raises; hear, and bless our prayers and praises.*

**PRAYER of CONFESSION**

United in your love, O God, we are one body across the globe. We are branches of one family whose roots run in the waters of grace. Still, O Lord, we do not act like one body. We find ways to distance ourselves with more than miles. We find ways to divide ourselves into endless groups of "us" and "them." Again and again, you call us back to your welcoming table. Forgive us, uniting God, and by your forgiveness challenge us to tend to each other's wounds.

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

**PROMISE of FORGIVENESS**

One: God is merciful and gracious, slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love. As far as the east is from the west, so too does God remove our transgressions from us. 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** — *Psalm 34: 1-4, 7-8*

One: I will bless the Lord at all times; his praise shall continually be in my mouth.

**All: My soul makes its boast in the Lord; let the humble hear and be glad.**

One: O magnify the Lord with me; and let us exalt his name together.

**All: I sought the Lord, and he answered me; he delivered me from all my fears.**

One: The angel of the Lord encamps around those who fear him, and he delivers them.

**All: O taste and see that the Lord is good; happy are those who takes refuge in him.**

One: This is the Word of the Lord.

**All: Thanks be to God.**

**ANTHEM** — *Sometimes a Light Surprises* - Craig Courtney

*Sometimes a light surprises the Christian while she sings;  
It is the Lord who rises with healing in His wings;  
When comforts are declining, he grants the soul again  
A season of clear shining, to cheer it after rain.*

*In holy contemplation we sweetly then pursue  
The theme of God's salvation, and find it ever new;  
Set free from present sorrow, we cheerfully can say—  
Let the unknown tomorrow bring with it what it may.*

*It can bring with it nothing, but He will bear us through;  
Who gives the lilies clothing, will clothe His people too:  
Beneath the spreading heavens no creature but is fed;  
And He, who feeds the ravens, will give His children bread.*

*Though vine nor fig tree neither their wonted fruit shall bear;  
Though all the fields should wither nor flocks nor herds be there;  
Yet God the same abiding, His praise shall tune my voice,  
For, while in Him confiding, I cannot but rejoice.*

--William Cowper, alt.

**TIME for YOUNG DISCIPLES**

**SECOND SCRIPTURE READING** — *Acts 9:1-19*

Meanwhile Saul, still breathing threats and murder against the disciples of the Lord, went to the high priest and asked him for letters to the synagogues at Damascus, so that if he found any who belonged to the Way, men or women, he might bring them bound to Jerusalem. Now as he was going along and approaching Damascus, suddenly a light from heaven flashed around him. He fell to the ground and heard a voice saying to him, "Saul, Saul, why do you persecute me?" He asked, "Who are you, Lord?" The reply came, "I am Jesus, whom you are persecuting. 6But get up and enter the city, and you will be told what you are to do." The men who were traveling with him stood speechless because they heard the voice but saw no one. Saul got up from the ground, and though his eyes were open, he could see nothing; so they led him by the hand and brought him into Damascus. For three days he was without sight and neither ate nor drank.

Now there was a disciple in Damascus named Ananias. The Lord said to him in a vision, “Ananias.” He answered, “Here I am, Lord.” The Lord said to him, “Get up and go to the street called Straight, and at the house of Judas look for a man of Tarsus named Saul. At this moment he is praying, and he has seen in a vision a man named Ananias come in and lay his hands on him so that he might regain his sight.” But Ananias answered, “Lord, I have heard from many about this man, how much evil he has done to your saints in Jerusalem, and here he has authority from the chief priests to bind all who invoke your name.” But the Lord said to him, “Go, for he is an instrument whom I have chosen to bring my name before gentiles and kings and before the people of Israel; I myself will show him how much he must suffer for the sake of my name.” So Ananias went and entered the house. He laid his hands on Saul and said, “Brother Saul, the Lord Jesus, who appeared to you on your way here, has sent me so that you may regain your sight and be filled with the Holy Spirit.” And immediately something like scales fell from his eyes, and his sight was restored. Then he got up and was baptized, and after taking some food, he regained his strength.

One: This is the Word of the Lord.

All: **Thanks be to God!**

## SERMON

*Desire and Disruption*

Reverend Shannon Smythe

## HYMN — *Christ, Whose Glory Fills the Skies*

RATISBON

*Christ, whose glory fills the skies; Christ, the true, the only light;  
Sun of Righteousness, arise; triumph o'er the shades of night;  
Dayspring from on high, be near; Daystar, in my heart appear.*

*Dark and cheerless is the morn unaccompanied by thee;  
joyless is the day's return till thy mercy's beams I see;  
till they inward light impart, cheer my eyes and warm my heart.*

*Visit then this soul of mine; pierce the gloom of sin and grief;  
fill me, radiance divine; scatter all my unbelief;  
more and more thyself display, shing to the perfect day.*

## 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.**

## OFFERING

Invitation to Give

Offertory Music — *I Surrender All* - Judson W. Van DeVenter

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

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

COMMUNION *of the* PEOPLE

MUSIC *during* COMMUNION — *In Remembrance of Me* - Buryl Red

PRAYER *after* COMMUNION

S E N D I N G

HYMN — *O God of Every Nation*

LLANGLOFFAN

*O God of every nation, of every race and land,  
redeem the whole creation with your almighty hand.  
Where hate and fear divide us and bitter threats are hurled,  
in love and mercy guide us and heal our strife-torn world.  
From search for wealth and power and scorn of truth and right,  
from trust in bombs that shower destruction through the night,  
from pride of race and station and blindness to your way,  
deliver every nation, eternal God, we pray.  
Lord, strengthen those who labor that all may find release  
from fear of rattling saber, from dread of war's increase;  
when hope and courage falter, your still small voice be heard;  
with faith that none can alter, your servants undergird.  
Keep bright in us the vision of days when war shall cease,  
when hatred and division give way to love and peace,  
till dawns the morning glorious when truth and justice reign  
and Christ shall rule victorious o'er all the world's domain.*

CHARGE *and* BLESSING

CHORAL BENEDICTION — *Amen*

POSTLUDE — *A Joyous Song of Praise* - Samuel Wesley

## 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.org](mailto:Bulletin@MPCusa.org).*

### **TODAY WE WELCOME REVEREND SHANNON SMYTHE TO THE PULPIT**

Today we welcome Reverend Shannon Smythe, Ph.D. as our guest preacher. Shannon is a scholar, professor, pastor, and the current Director of Field Education at Princeton Theological Seminary. Her career has brought her to schools and churches in the Pacific Northwest, New York, New Jersey, Delaware, and now back to this area. Shannon lives in Morrisville with her husband Kevin and son Micah (who is a participant in our youth group!).

### **TODAY! PEACE AND GLOBAL WITNESS OFFERING**

The Peace and Global Witness Offering, one of four special offerings of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.), enables the church to promote the Peace of Christ by addressing systems of injustice across the world. By supporting this offering, you are promoting ministries of reconciliation and peace within cultures of violence and conflict – including those near Morrisville, PA! The offering will be collected today, during worship. You are welcome to use the special offering envelope, writing “Peace and Global Offering” in the memo line of your check, or typing the same in the “notes” portion of your online gift. Thank you for participating in this global effort.

### **CPR CLASS OFFERED**

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](mailto:jlevan4@verizon.net) or 267-808-0945, or Nancy Stoner at [nancy.stoner@pennmedicine.upenn.edu](mailto:nancy.stoner@pennmedicine.upenn.edu) or 215-559-4703 if interested.

### **FINANCIAL SECRETARY UPDATE**

Your church leadership has been working diligently to find a permanent solution to the financial secretary position currently held on an interim basis by Laurie Jacobson. After much research and discernment, the Finance Committee has recommended to hire The Quantify Group (<https://thequantifygroup.com/>) to fulfill these responsibilities. Session has voted to agree with this recommendation. Laurie’s last day with us will be October 7, and we are eternally grateful for her generous offer to help us in this interim time. After October 7, a combination of The Quantify Group and current staff will fulfill these responsibilities. We ask for your continued prayers and patience as we update our new systems and navigate this new season. If you have any questions please feel free to reach out to Pastor Alex. We give great thanks to the Personnel Committee, the Trustees, the Session, and members of the Finance Committee for working together to find this solution.

### **FOOD CENTER REQUEST FOR OCTOBER**

The requested food donation for the month of October is canned beans (except green beans). A shopping cart has been put in the Welcome Center to receive your donations. Your generosity is greatly appreciated!

### **ADULT EDUCATION’S CURRENT CLASS**

On October 13, we welcome Rev. Dr. Shannon Smythe leading the second part of the current Adult Education class titled “Wide Open Hearts: A Message from Our Palestinian Siblings in Faith” as she will also be the guest pastor that Sunday. Come hear stories and messages from our Palestinian Christian siblings in East Jerusalem and the West Bank. Through a review of Palestinian history, grounding in scripture, and personal photos and videos, Rev. Smythe will share about her recent solidarity pilgrimage to Israel-Palestine, which was entitled “Come and See, Go and Tell” and sponsored by the Israel-Palestine Mission Network of the PC(USA) and the Sabeel Center for Ecumenical and Liberation Theology. Through a time of discussion together, we will consider ways we might respond faithfully to what our Palestinian Christian siblings are asking of us. Adult Education classes are held each Sunday, starting at 9:30 a.m., in the Conference Room, located on the second floor.

### **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](mailto:agarcia28@verizon.net), Susan Light at [susanklight@gmail.com](mailto:susanklight@gmail.com), or Joy Rees at [reesfam5@yahoo.com](mailto:reesfam5@yahoo.com). We appreciate the ongoing support from this generous congregation.

**BE A PART OF REBECCA CIRCLE**

Looking for a way to share faith, fun and fellowship? Come give Rebecca Circle a try! We meet in the Lounge, September through May, on the second Monday of each month at 7:00 p.m. Experience different programs each month ranging from spiritual, informative, hands on to just plain fun. Come as you are. No experience necessary. All women of MPC are welcome. For information call or text Jen Jones at 215 962-3655.

**MPC Weekly Calendar**

**SUNDAY, October 6 - World Communion**

**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 Fellowship Hour Lounge  
 11:45 Teen Choir Music Room  
 11:45 Budget Committee Room 200  
 Noon Adonai Tabernacle Room 220

**MONDAY, October 7**

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  
 7:30 Personnel Committee Zoom  
 7:30 Youth Ministry Conference Room

**TUESDAY, October 8**

9:00 a.m. Produce Prep Food Center  
 1:00 p.m. Cub Scout Pack 3 Fellowship Hall  
 6:30 Educational Ministry Zoom  
 7:30 Evangelism & Zoom  
 Communication Committee

**WEDNESDAY, October 9**

9:00 a.m. Food Center Distribution Parking Lot  
 9:00 Ivin's Outreach Center Meeting Lounge

**WEDNESDAY, October 9**

6:00 p.m. Youth Club Fellowship Hall  
 7:00 Girl Scout Troop 2888 Room 220  
 7:15 Chancel Chimes Room 121

**THURSDAY, October 10**

10:00 a.m. Clothing Center Room 4  
 7:00 p.m. Chancel Choir Music Room  
 7:00 Weekday Nursery School Room 225  
 Board Meeting

**FRIDAY, October 11**

10:45 a.m. Weekday Nursery School Room 220  
 11:00 Ivins Outreach Center Lounge  
 6:30 p.m. Women's AA Meeting Lounge

**SATURDAY, October 12**

9:00 a.m. Boy Scout Troop 3 Parking Lot  
 Clothing Drive  
 10:00 Newtown Quilters Conference Room  
 Guild

**SUNDAY, October 13 - Dedication 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 Fellowship Hour Lounge  
 11:45 Teen Choir Music Room  
 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](http://mpcusa.org/calendar) to see when events takes place and room availability.

**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!

Need help? Email [Office@mpcusa.org](mailto:Office@mpcusa.org) and ask that your questions be forwarded to the Stewardship Committee.

**CONTACT US**

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