

APRIL 25, 2021
FOURTH SUNDAY OF EASTER

**Please maintain social distance of at least 6 feet and
keep your mask on at all times while on MPC property.*

PRELUDE — *My Hope Is Built on Nothing Less*

SOLID ROCK

*My hope is built on nothing less
than Jesus' blood and righteousness;
I dare not trust the sweetest frame,
but wholly lean on Jesus' name.*

Refrain:

*On Christ, the solid Rock, I stand;
all other ground is sinking sand;
all other ground is sinking sand.*

*When darkness seems to hide his face,
I rest on his unchanging grace;
in every high and stormy gale,
my anchor holds within the veil.*

Refrain

*His oath, his covenant, his blood
support me in the whelming flood;
when all around my soul gives way,
he then is all my hope and stay.*

Refrain

*When he shall come with trumpet sound,
O may I then in him be found,
dressed in his righteousness alone,
faultless to stand before the throne.*

Refrain

CALL to WORSHIP

Pastor Rachel Rhodes

One: We gather to worship the Christ, our Lord.

All: Who sacrificed so that we may live.

One: We gather to worship Jesus, our friend and teacher.

All: Who calls us to greater peace and wholeness.

One: Easter people, Christ is risen!

All: Christ is risen indeed! Let us worship God together!

PRAYER of CONFESSION

Molly Ramsey

O God, you have called us to love in speech, in truth, and in action. Though you were rejected we now know your love and grace. Still, O Lord, we offer empty thoughts and prayers when the world needs our hands and our feet. We fail to share our lives with the world, hiding behind the myth of independence. Forgive us, we pray, and by your forgiveness, raise us to new life in you.

(Time for silent prayer and confession.)

PROMISE *of* FORGIVENESS

One: Beloved church, the mercy of the risen Lord is from everlasting to everlasting. 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.*

SCRIPTURE READING — *Acts 4:5-12*

The next day their rulers, elders, and scribes assembled in Jerusalem, with Annas the high priest, Caiaphas, John, and Alexander, and all who were of the high-priestly family. When they had made the prisoners stand in their midst, they inquired, "By what power or by what name did you do this?" Then Peter, filled with the Holy Spirit, said to them, "Rulers of the people and elders, if we are questioned today because of a good deed done to someone who was sick and are asked how this man has been healed, let it be known to all of you, and to all the people of Israel, that this man is standing before you in good health by the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth, whom you crucified, whom God raised from the dead. This Jesus is 'the stone that was rejected by you, the builders; it has become the cornerstone.' There is salvation in no one else, for there is no other name under heaven given among mortals by which we must be saved."

One: This is the Word of the Lord.

All: Thanks be to God.

MEDITATION

Pastor Alex Lester-Abdalla

AFFIRMATION *of* FAITH — *Apostles' Creed*

I believe in God the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth, and in Jesus Christ his only Son our Lord; who was conceived by the Holy Ghost, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, dead, and buried; he descended into hell; the third day he rose again from the dead; he ascended into heaven, and sitteth on the right hand of God the Father Almighty; from thence he shall come to judge the quick and the dead. I believe in the Holy Ghost; the holy catholic Church; the communion of saints; the forgiveness of sins; the resurrection of the body; and the life everlasting. Amen.

HYMN — *Christ Is Made the Sure Foundation*

WESTMINSTER ABBEY

*Christ is made the sure foundation, Christ the head and cornerstone,
chosen of the Lord and precious, binding all the church in one;
holy Zion's help forever, and our confidence alone.*

*To this temple, where we call you, come, O Lord of hosts, and stay;
come, with all your loving kindness; bear your people as we pray,
and your fullest benediction shed within these walls today.*

*Here bestow on all your servants what they seek from you to gain;
what they gain from you, forever with the blessed to retain;
and hereafter in your glory evermore with you to reign.*

*Laud and honor to the Father, laud and honor to the Son,
laud and honor to the Spirit, ever three and ever one:
one in might and one in glory while unending ages run!*

*I greet thee, who my sure Redeemer art,
my only trust and Savior of my heart,
who pain didst undergo for my poor sake;
I pray thee from our hearts all cares to take.*

*Thou art the King of mercy and of grace,
reigning omnipotent in every place:
so come, O King and our whole being sway;
shine on us with the light of thy pure day.*

*Thou art the life, by which alone we live,
and all our substance and our strength receive;
sustain us by thy faith and by thy power,
and give us strength in every trying hour.*

*Thou hast the true and perfect gentleness;
no harshness hast thou and no bitterness.
O grant to us the grace we find in thee,
that we may dwell in perfect unity.*

*Our hope is in no other save in thee;
our faith is built upon thy promise free;
Lord, give us peace, and make us calm and sure,
that in thy strength we evermore endure.*

QUESTIONS *for* REFLECTION *at* HOME

- What are the “cornerstones” in your life you rely on?
- What does Christ's justice look like to you?

OTHERS PARTICIPATING IN TODAY'S SERVICE

Tim Carpenter – Director of Music

Patricia Guth – Organist

Video Ministry Volunteers

Photos may be found on unsplash.com

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.net.*

MPC'S APRIL ADULT EDUCATION

Our friend, the Apostle Paul, said “Let the same mind be in you that was in Christ Jesus.” But what exactly does that mean!?! Thinking Christian is an ideal we all strive towards, but is hard to figure out on our own. So we invite you to join us in Adult Sunday School for the month of April as we discern this topic together. Drew Hunger is leading us in a course on Christian thinking on Sundays through April 25. MPC Adult Sunday School is currently being held every Sunday morning over Zoom from 9:00 to 10:00 a.m. If you are interested in joining any Sunday morning classes, please contact Pastor Alex at alexlester-abdalla@mpcusa.net and you will be added to the email chain which includes the Zoom link for each session.

MPC SCHOLARSHIPS - DEADLINE EXTENDED

Calling all high school seniors and college students – did you know MPC provides six scholarships to high school seniors and college students? Scholarship information and applications are now available on the MPC website. Scholarship application deadline has now been extended to Friday, April 30, 2021. If you have any questions, please contact Pastor Alex.

NEW DEADLINE FOR SUBMISSIONS FOR MAY—JULY EDITION OF *CURRENTS*

To allow time for future plans to be established for MPC during the summer months, the deadline for the next edition of *Currents* will be Friday, May 14. This edition will cover any announcements and information for the months of May, June and July as well as highlight events and news from the previous months. Any information previously submitted regarding events that occur prior to the publication will be posted in the bulletin. Please submit all information, or any questions, to Damon Miller at damonmiller@mpcusa.net. Thank you!

MPC CLOTHING CENTER

The MPC Clothing Center is pleased to announce that we will be joining in the Cub Scout Flea Market on Saturday, May 8 (rain date, Saturday May 15) from 9:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.. This is the perfect opportunity for everyone to come to the shop and see what we are offering. We have lots to offer.

HABITAT FOR HUMANITY NEEDS VOLUNTEERS

Habitat for Humanity needs MPC volunteers in Bristol, Chalfont and Warminster. MPC has a history of supporting Habitat for Humanity, both financially and “hands on” and they need our continued support!

Faith Build 2021 is a project of Habitat for Humanity and has designated Bristol Borough as one of its locations. This is an opportunity for faith groups and congregations based in Bucks County to come together and put their faith into action. Let’s make MPC one of those congregations!

There are many ways and levels in which MPC (that’s you!) can get involved:

1. Join a painting crew for the day in Bristol (through May) or provide a prayer or lunch for the day.
2. Assist at the Restore location in Warminster to unload trailers of furniture and/or put the furniture together.
3. Assist at the Restore location in Chalfont in preparation for its move to Warminster.

If you have questions, please contact Ray Hendrickson at 215 495-3114 or hrh1453@gmail.com.