

MAY 9, 2021
SIXTH 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 — *Come, Thou Fount of Every Blessing*

NETTLETON

*Come, thou Fount of every blessing; tune my heart to sing thy grace;
streams of mercy, never ceasing, call for songs of loudest praise.
Teach me some melodious sonnet, sung by flaming tongues above;
praise the mount! I'm fixed upon it, mount of God's unchanging love!*

*Here I raise my Ebenezer; hither by thy help I'm come;
and I hope, by thy good pleasure, safely to arrive at home.
Jesus sought me when a stranger, wandering from the fold of God;
he, to rescue me from danger, interposed his precious blood.*

*O to grace how great a debtor daily I'm constrained to be!
Let that grace now, like a fetter, bind my wandering heart to thee.
Prone to wander, Lord, I feel it, prone to leave the God I love;
here's my heart; O take and seal it; seal it for thy courts above.*

CALL to WORSHIP

Pastor Alex Lester-Abdalla

One: Sing to our God a new song.

All: God has done marvelous things!

One: Make a joyful noise to the Lord!

All: Break forth into joyous songs and sing praises.

One: Let the sea roar and all that fills it.

All: Let the world and its people sing together for joy! Let us worship God together!

PRAYER of CONFESSION

Molly Ramsey

Holy God, too often we fail to see one another as you see us. With our mouths we proclaim, “tear down the walls that divide.” But with our actions we keep building walls of separation. We prefer the privilege and protection of similarity and shared experience, rather than opening our lives to your Spirit and your leading. Forgive us, O God, when we say one thing and do another. Forgive us when we deny the promises of our baptism, and thus cut ourselves off from you. Forgive us and restore us, that we may abide in your love and live out your grace, for the sake of Jesus Christ.

(Time for silent prayer and confession.)

PROMISE of FORGIVENESS

One: Beloved church, God's mercy is from everlasting to everlasting. We have been redeemed from the clutches of sin and death and marked as Christ's own forever. In thanksgiving, 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 10:44-48*

While Peter was still speaking, the Holy Spirit fell upon all who heard the word. The circumcised believers who had come with Peter were astounded that the gift of the Holy Spirit had been poured out even on the Gentiles, for they heard them speaking in tongues and extolling God. Then Peter said, ‘Can anyone withhold the water for baptizing these people who have received the Holy Spirit just as we have?’ So he ordered them to be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ. Then they invited him to stay for several days.

One: This is the Word of the Lord.

All: **Thanks be to God.**

MEDITATION

Pastor Rachel Rhodes

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

We trust in God the Holy Spirit, everywhere the giver and renewer of life. The Spirit justifies us by grace through faith, sets us free to accept ourselves and to love God and neighbor, and binds us together with all believers in the one body of Christ, the church. The same Spirit who inspired the prophets and apostles rules our faith and life in Christ through Scripture, engages us through the Word proclaimed, claims us in the waters of baptism, feeds us with the bread of life and the cup of salvation, and calls women and men to all ministries of the church. In a broken and fearful world the Spirit gives us courage to pray without ceasing, to witness among all peoples to Christ as Lord and Savior, to unmask idolatries in church and culture, to hear the voices of peoples long silenced, and to work with others for justice, freedom, and peace. In gratitude to God, empowered by the Spirit, we strive to serve Christ in our daily tasks and to live holy and joyful lives, even as we watch for God’s new heaven and new earth, praying, Come, Lord Jesus!

HYMN — *For Everyone Born*

FOR EVERYONE BORN

*For everyone born, a place at the table,
for everyone born, clean water and bread,
a shelter, a space, a safe place for growing,
for everyone born, a star overhead,*

Refrain:

*and God will delight when we are creators of justice and joy, compassion and peace:
yes, God will delight when we are creators of justice, justice and joy!*

*For young and for old, a place at the table,
a voice to be heard, a part in the song,
the hands of a child in hands that are wrinkled,
for young and for old, the right to belong,*

Refrain

*For sinner and saint, a place at the table,
the just and unjust, the need to forgive,
in anger, in hurt, a mindset of mercy,
for just and unjust, a new way to live,*

Refrain

*For everyone born, a place at the table,
to live without fear, and simply to be,
to work, to speak out, to witness and worship,
for everyone born, the right to be free*

Refrain

*For everyone born, a place at the table,
a covenant shared, a welcoming space,
a rainbow of race and gender and colour,
for everyone born, the chalice of grace,*

Refrain

- Some lyrics adapted from original by Shirley Erena Murray

POSTLUDE — *Baptized in Water*

BUNESSAN

*Baptized in water, sealed by the Spirit,
cleansed by the blood of Christ our King;
heirs of salvation, trusting the promise,
faithfully now God's praises we sing.*

*Baptized in water, sealed by the Spirit,
dead in the tomb with Christ our King;
one with his rising, freed and forgiven,
thankfully now God's praises we sing.*

*Baptized in water, sealed by the Spirit,
marked with the sign of Christ our King;
born of the Spirit, we are God's children;
joyfully now God's praises we sing.*

QUESTIONS for REFLECTION at HOME

- In what way might the Spirit be knocking on the door of your heart?
- What's standing in the way of your willingness to trust the Spirit's leading?

OTHERS PARTICIPATING IN TODAY'S SERVICE

Tim Carpenter – Director of Music

Justin Hartz – 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.***

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!