

MAY 2, 2021
FIFTH 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 — *We Know That Christ Is Raised*

ENGELBERG

*We know the Christ is raised and dies no more.
Embraced by death he broke its tearful hold,
and our despair he turned to blazing joy.
Alleluia! Alleluia!*

*We share by water in his saving death.
Reborn we share with him an Easter life
as living members of a living Christ.
Alleluia! Alleluia!*

*The Father's splendor clothes the Son with life.
The Spirit's power shakes the church of God.
Baptized we live with God the Three in One.
Alleluia! Alleluia!*

*A new creation comes to life and grows
as Christ's new body takes on flesh and blood.
The universe, restored and whole, will sing:
Alleluia! Alleluia!*

CALL to WORSHIP

Molly Ramsey

One: Praise the Lord, O my soul!

All: And all that is within me, praise God's holy name!

One: Praise the Lord, O my soul!

All: And forget not all God's benefits.

One: For this is the day that the Lord has made.

All: Let us rejoice and be glad in it!

PRAYER of CONFESSION

Pastor Alex Lester-Abdalla

God of mercy, we confess that we have not borne the fruit of the Spirit. We have not loved others as you have loved us. We have failed to see one another as you see us. Over and over again we have denied the promises of baptism and cut ourselves off from you. Forgive us, restore us, that we may abide in your love and live out your mercy, 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 8:26-40*

Then an angel of the Lord said to Philip, 'Get up and go towards the south to the road that goes down from Jerusalem to Gaza.' (This is a wilderness road.) So he got up and went. Now there was an Ethiopian eunuch, a court official of the Candace, queen of the Ethiopians, in charge of her entire treasury. He had come to Jerusalem to worship and was returning home; seated in his chariot, he was reading the prophet Isaiah. Then the Spirit said to Philip, 'Go over to this chariot and join it.' So Philip ran up to it and heard him reading the prophet Isaiah. He asked, 'Do you understand what you are reading?' He replied, 'How can I, unless someone guides me?' And he invited Philip to get in and sit beside him. Now the passage of the scripture that he was reading was this: 'Like a sheep he was led to the slaughter, and like a lamb silent before its shearer, so he does not open his mouth. In his humiliation justice was denied him. Who can describe his generation? For his life is taken away from the earth.' The eunuch asked Philip, 'About whom, may I ask you, does the prophet say this, about himself or about someone else?' Then Philip began to speak, and starting with this scripture, he proclaimed to him the good news about Jesus. As they were going along the road, they came to some water; and the eunuch said, 'Look, here is water! What is to prevent me from being baptized?' He commanded the chariot to stop, and both of them, Philip and the eunuch, went down into the water, and Philip baptized him. When they came up out of the water, the Spirit of the Lord snatched Philip away; the eunuch saw him no more, and went on his way rejoicing. But Philip found himself at Azotus, and as he was passing through the region, he proclaimed the good news to all the towns until he came to Caesarea.

One: This is the Word of the Lord.

All: **Thanks be to God.**

MEDITATION

Pastor Rachel Rhodes

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 — *Will You Come and Follow Me*

KELVINGROVE

*Will you come and follow me if I but call your name?
Will you go where you don't know and never be the same?
Will you let my love be shown? Will you let my name be known,
will you let my life be grown in you and you in me?*

*Will you leave yourself behind if I but call your name?
Will you care for cruel and kind and never be the same?
Will you risk the hostile stare should your life attract or scare?
Will you let me answer prayer in you and you in me?*

*Will you let the blinded see if I but call your name?
Will you set the prisoners free and never be the same?
Will you kiss the leper clean and do such as this unseen,
and admit to what I mean in you and you in me?*

*Will you love the "you" you hide if I but call your name?
Will you quell the fear inside and never be the same?
Will you use the faith you've found to reshape the world around,
through my sight and touch and sound in you and you in me?
Lord your summons echoes true when you but call my name.
Let me turn and follow you and never be the same.
In Your company I'll go where Your love and footsteps show.
Thus I'll move and live and grow in you and you in me.*

HYMN — *Where Charity and Love Prevail*

TWENTY-FOURTH

*Where charity and love prevail, there God is ever found;
brought here together by Christ's love, by love we thus are bound.
Let us recall that in our midst dwells Christ, God's holy Son.
As members of each body joined, in him we are made one.
Let strife among us be unknown; let all contentions cease.
Be God's the glory that we seek; be his our only peace.
Let us forgive each other's faults as we our own confess,
that we may love each other well in Christian gentleness.
Love can exclude no race or creed if honored be God's name,
our common life embraces all whose Maker is the same.*

QUESTIONS *for* REFLECTION *at* HOME

- Where might God be leading you to love and serve?
- What's getting in the way of your willingness to follow?

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.***

PERSONNEL ANNOUNCEMENT

With joy and thanks for the work of the Holy Spirit, the MPC Personnel Committee is pleased to announce that we have a new Property Manager, David Sterling, who will be starting on Monday, May 3. David replaces Rich Drabb, who is retiring on June 1, after many wonderful years of service to our church.

David is a talented, generous and faithful man, eager to learn more about our community of faith and serve the Lord in this way. David proclaims, “Jesus saved my life, so I will live for Him!” David has a wife Jenn, a daughter Madison (19), a son VJ (16) and a granddaughter Arabella (18 mos). David is very active in his church, serving as a minister since 2016. When not working or serving at church, David enjoys music, reading, watching TV with Jenn and hanging outside with his family (especially Arabella).

Please join us in welcoming David to MPC!

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.