

MAY 16, 2021
ASCENSION OF THE LORD SUNDAY

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

PRELUDE — *Praise the Lord! Ye Heavens Adore Him* - text by R.H. Pritchard

Handbell Ensemble

*Praise the Lord! ye heavens adore him;
Praise him angels, in the height;
Sun and moon, rejoice before him;
Praise him, all ye stars of light.
Praise the Lord! for he has spoken;
Worlds his mighty voice obeyed;
Laws which never shall be broken
For their guidance he has made.

Praise the Lord! for he is glorious;
Never shall his promise fail;
God has made his saints victorious;
Sin and death shall not prevail.
Praise the God of our salvation!
Hosts on high his power proclaim;
Heav'n, and earth, and all creation,
Laud and magnify his name.

Worship, honor, glory, blessing,
Lord, we offer unto thee;
Young and old, thy praise expressing,
In glad homage bend the knee.
All the saints in heaven adore thee,
We would bow before thy throne;
As thine angels serve before thee,
So on earth thy will be done.*

CALL to WORSHIP

Pastor Rachel Rhodes

One: The Lord is risen! Alleluia!
All: **Alleluia! The Lord is risen indeed!**
One: The Lord Jesus Christ has risen to reign;
All: **His is the name above all names. Let us worship God!**

PRAYER of CONFESSION

Pastor Alex Lester-Abdalla

Almighty and merciful God, you call us to work for a world where all will be fed and have dignity, but we find ourselves distracted by our own desires. You call us to seek justice and peace, but we are satisfied with injustice and discord. You call us to bring blessings and have a posture of abundance, but we remain silent and cling to scarcity. Forgive us, O God, turn us to your will, by the power of your Spirit, through Jesus Christ your Son, our Savior.

(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 — *Luke 24:44-53*

Then he said to them, "These are my words that I spoke to you while I was still with you—that everything written about me in the law of Moses, the prophets, and the psalms must be fulfilled." Then he opened their minds to understand the scriptures, and he said to them, "Thus it is written, that the Messiah is to suffer and to rise from the dead on the third day, and that repentance and forgiveness of sins is to be proclaimed in his name to all nations, beginning from Jerusalem. You are witnesses of these things. And see, I am sending upon you what my Father promised; so stay here in the city until you have been clothed with power from on high."

Then he led them out as far as Bethany, and, lifting up his hands, he blessed them. While he was blessing them, he withdrew from them and was carried up into heaven. And they worshiped him, and returned to Jerusalem with great joy; and they were continually in the temple blessing God.

One: This is the Gospel of the Lord.

All: Thanks be to God.

MEDITATION

Molly Ramsey

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 — *Let the Whole Creation Cry*

SALZBURG

*Let the whole creation cry, "Glory to the Lord on high."
Heaven and earth, awake and sing, "Praise to our almighty King."
Praise God, angel hosts above, ever bright and fair in love;
sun and moon, uplift your voice; night and stars, in God rejoice!*

*Men and women, young and old, raise the anthem loud and bold;
join with children's songs of praise; worship God through length of days.
From the north to southern pole let the mighty chorus roll:
"Holy, holy, holy One, glory be to God alone!"*

POSTLUDE — *At the Name of Jesus*

KING'S WESTON

*At the name of Jesus every knee shall bow,
every tongue confess him King of glory now;
'tis the Father's pleasure we should call him Lord,
who from the beginning was the mighty Word.*

*Humbled for a season to receive a name
from the lips of sinners unto whom he came,
faithfully he bore it spotless to the last,
brought it back victorious, when from death he passed;*

*Bore it up triumphant, with its human light,
through all ranks of creatures, to the central height,
to the throne of Godhead, to the Father's breast,
filled it with the glory of that perfect rest.*

*Christians, this Lord Jesus shall return again,
with his Father's glory o'er the earth to reign;
for all wreaths of empire meet upon his brow,
and our hearts confess him King of glory now.*

QUESTIONS for REFLECTION

- How have you understood "blessing"?
- How might the Spirit be present in your understanding of "blessing"?

OTHERS PARTICIPATING IN TODAY'S SERVICE

Tim Carpenter – Director of Music

Justin Hartz – Organist

Handbell Ensemble: Nancy Powers, Kristine Schmidt, Beth Curtiss,
Kathryn Jervis, Ann Rosenbaum, and Carol Carpenter

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.***

JOIN US!

Rich Drabb, MPC Property Manager, is retiring and we are planning a party worthy of all that he has given MPC over the years. Come celebrate Rich next Sunday, May 23, at 12:30 p.m., as we gather outside to share our gratitude and good wishes. For details, call Beth Curtiss at 215-321-7151.

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.