

APRIL 18, 2021
THIRD 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 — *Jesus Christ Is Risen Today* - arr. Bill Ingram

Handbell Ensemble

*Jesus Christ is risen today, Alleluia!
our triumphant holy day, Alleluia!
who did once upon the cross, Alleluia!
suffer to redeem our loss. Alleluia!*

*Hymns of praise then let us sing, Alleluia!
unto Christ, our heavenly King, Alleluia!
who endured the cross and grave, Alleluia!
sinners to redeem and save. Alleluia!*

*But the pains which he endured, Alleluia!
our salvation have procured. Alleluia!
Now above the sky he's King, Alleluia!
where the angels ever sing. Alleluia!*

*Sing we to our God above, Alleluia!
Praise eternal as God's love. Alleluia!
Praise our God, ye heavenly host, Alleluia!
Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Alleluia!*

CALL to WORSHIP

Pastor Alex Lester-Abdalla

One: Peace be with you.

All: And also with you.

One: Come and see the love God has given to us.

All: Come and see what it means to be children of God.

One: Come with this hope, that Christ's presence is real.

All: With joy, we come to see the Lord. Let us worship God together!

PRAYER of CONFESSION

Molly Ramsey

Wondrous God, we confess that at times our doubts and fears override our hope and faith. Forgive us when we lose sight of the joy of your love and instead fall into despair and gloom. Lift up our spirits, Lord, and help us to remember the promise of new life here and now, not just the hope of resurrection for the future. We give thanks for your Son, Jesus the Christ, who continues to offer us new life, who continues to turn us around and upside down, who continues to break down the walls of death in our own life. Forgive us, restore us and renew us. In the name of our risen Savior, Jesus the Christ, we pray.

(Time for silent prayer and confession.)

MUSICAL MEDITATION — *What Wondrous Love Is This?* - Southern Harmony/Jason Krug

*What wondrous love is this, O my soul, O my soul,
what wondrous love is this, O my soul!*

*What wondrous love is this that caused the Lord of bliss
to bear the dreadful curse for my soul, for my soul,
to bear the dreadful curse for my soul!*

*When I was sinking down, sinking down, sinking down,
when I was sinking down, sinking down,
when I was sinking down beneath God's righteous frown,
Christ laid aside this crown for my soul, for my soul,
Christ laid aside his crown for my soul!*

*To God and to the Lamb, I will sing, I will sing,
to God and to the Lamb, I will sing;
to God and to the Lamb who is the great I AM,
while millions join the throne, I will sing, I will sing;
while millions join the throne, I will sing!*

PROMISE of FORGIVENESS

One: The tomb is empty. The stone is rolled away. There is no darkness now, only light. God continues to renew us and restore us. We are forgiven, loved and restored, receiving the gift and promise of new life and resurrection now. Go and share the wondrous news of God's love:

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 24:36b-48*

Jesus himself stood among them and said to them, 'Peace be with you.' They were startled and terrified, and thought that they were seeing a ghost. He said to them, 'Why are you frightened, and why do doubts arise in your hearts? Look at my hands and my feet; see that it is I myself. Touch me and see; for a ghost does not have flesh and bones as you see that I have.' And when he had said this, he showed them his hands and his feet. While in their joy they were disbelieving and still wondering, he said to them, 'Have you anything here to eat?' They gave him a piece of broiled fish, and he took it and ate in their presence.

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.

One: This is the Gospel 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.

*A hymn of glory let us sing!
New songs throughout the world shall ring:
Christ, by a road before untrod,
ascends unto the throne of God.*

*The holy apostolic band
upon the Mount of Olives stand,
and with his followers they see
their Lord ascend in majesty.*

*To all, the shing angels cry,
"Why stand and gaze upon the sky?
This is the Savior!" thus they say;
"This is his glorious triumph-day."*

*"You see him now, ascending high
up to the portals of the sky.
Hereafter you shall Jesus see
returning in great majesty."*

*O risen Christ, ascended Lord,
all praise to you let earth accord.
You are, while endless ages run,
with Father and with Spirit one.*

POSTLUDE — *Go to the World!*

*Go to the world! Go into all the earth.
Go preach the cross where Christ renews life's worth,
baptizing as the sign of our rebirth.
Alleluia. Alleluia.*

*Go to the world! Go into every place.
Go live the word of God's redeeming grace.
Go seek God's presence in each time and space.
Alleluia. Alleluia.*

*Go to the world! Go struggle, bless, and pray;
the nights of tears give way to joyous day.
As servant church, you follow Christ's own way.
Alleluia. Alleluia.*

*Go to the world! Go as the ones I send,
for I am with you till the age shall end,
when all the hosts of glory cry "Amen!"
Alleluia. Alleluia.*

QUESTIONS for REFLECTION at HOME

- Where or how have you encountered the risen Christ?
- How can you be a witness of that encounter out in the world?

OTHERS PARTICIPATING IN TODAY'S SERVICE

Tim Carpenter – Director of Music

Patricia Guth – Organist

Handbell Ensemble – Carol Carpenter, Beth Curtiss, Kathryn Jervis,

Nancy Powers, AK Rosenbaum, Kristine Schmidt

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 will be 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.

SUBMISSIONS FOR MAY—JULY EDITION OF *CURRENTS*

Please submit any news and announcements for the next edition of *Currents* at your earliest convenience. 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. 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.