

OCTOBER 18, 2020
TWENTIETH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

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

PRELUDE

Patricia Guth

CALL to WORSHIP — written by Shari Miller Wagner

Pastor Alex Lester-Abdalla

One: Who is this who enters the doors of our temple, who overturns the tables, strews silver and gold on the floor, frees the sacrificial doves from gilded cages? Listen, as they rise, the beating of their wings is a song of loud hosanna.

All: **It is Jesus of Galilee, the Son of God, who comes to cleanse the great temple, to restore its subverted chambers to a house of hallowed prayer.**

One: Then let us open the doors of our hearts even wider, so he can cast out the thieves who would take what is sacred and tender and turn it hard as gold in a fist.

All: **May the temple within us be a refuge where doves of peace roost in the rafters.**

One: May it be a garden that bears the fruits of a generous spirit.

All: **Oh Lord, take what is corrupt and withered and let it break forth in beauty. For thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever. Let us worship God together!**

PRAYER of CONFESSION

Molly Ramsey

With hearts of sorrow, we come before you, O God, to confess what you already know—we have failed to keep your laws. Again and again, we have followed our own selfish will, rather than your holy and life-giving will for our lives. We have twisted your decrees and institutions to suit our preconceptions and interests rather than your own. Forgive us, O God, and cleanse us from hidden faults, that the words of our mouths, and the meditations of all our hearts, may be acceptable to you, our Rock and our Redeemer.

(Time for silent prayer and confession.)

PROMISE of FORGIVENESS

One: Friends of Jesus, we are made clean by the words he has spoken to us. There is room in our lives and in our community for the Holy One to dwell. Thanks be to God. Let us proclaim this good news:

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 — John 2:13-22

The Passover of the Jews was near, and Jesus went up to Jerusalem. In the temple he found people selling cattle, sheep, and doves, and the money-changers seated at their tables. Making a whip of cords, he drove all of them out of the temple, both the sheep and the cattle. He also poured out the coins of the money-changers and overturned their tables. He told those who were selling the doves, 'Take these things out of here! Stop making my Father's house a market-place!' His disciples remembered that it was written, 'Zeal for your house will consume me.' The Jews then said to him, 'What sign can you show us for doing this?' Jesus answered them, 'Destroy this temple, and in three days I will raise it up.' The Jews then said, 'This temple has been under construction for forty-six years, and will you raise it up in three days?' But he was speaking of the temple of his

body. After he was raised from the dead, his disciples remembered that he had said this; and they believed the scripture and the word that Jesus had spoken.

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 Jesus Christ, fully human, fully God. Jesus proclaimed the reign of God: preaching good news to the poor and release to the captives, teaching by word and deed and blessing the children, healing the sick and binding up the brokenhearted, eating with outcasts, forgiving sinners, and calling all to repent and believe the gospel. Unjustly condemned for blasphemy and sedition, Jesus was crucified, suffering the depths of human pain and giving his life for the sins of the world. God raised this Jesus from the dead, vindicating his sinless life, breaking the power of sin and evil, delivering us from death to life eternal. With believers in every time and place, we rejoice that nothing in life or in death can separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord. Amen.

MUSICAL MEDITATION — *O Christ, the Great Foundation*

AURELIA

*O Christ, the great foundation on which your people stand
to preach your true salvation in every age and land:
Pour out your Holy Spirit to make us strong and pure,
to keep the faith unbroken as long as worlds endure.*

*Baptized in one confession, one church in all the earth,
we bear our Lord's impression, the sign of second birth:
one holy people gathered in love beyond our own,
by grace we were invited; by grace we make you known.*

*Where tyrants' hold is tightened, where strong devour the weak,
where innocents are frightened, the righteous fear to speak,
there let your church awaking attack the powers of sin
and, all their ramparts breaking, with you the victory win.*

*This is the moment glorious when he who once was dead
shall lead his church victorious, the champion and their head.
The Lord of all creation his heavenly kingdom brings:
the final consummation, the glory of all things.*

POSTLUDE

QUESTION *for REFLECTION at HOME*

Where might God need to overturn things in your life?

ALL SAINT'S DAY - NOVEMBER 1

During the morning worship service on Sunday, November 1, we will observe All Saints' Day at Morrisville Presbyterian Church. The service will include a Litany of Remembrance and a Prayer of Thanksgiving, enabling us to give thanks to God for members and family members who have died in the previous year. If you would like a family member's name to be included in the prayer, please notify the church office by Monday, October 26.

OTHERS PARTICIPATING IN TODAY'S SERVICE

Tim Carpenter – Director of Music

Photos provided by: Roger Anderson, Luisa Herrera-Gonzalez, Nancy Kernan,
Damon Miller & Rachel Rhodes