



**MECHANICSBURG PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH**  
300 East Simpson Street • Mechanicsburg, PA 17055-6596  
717-697-0351 • [www.mechpresby.org](http://www.mechpresby.org)  
March 3, 2024 • Third Sunday in Lent • 8:15 & 11:00am



"Communion/Eucharist" | from *Art in the Christian Tradition*  
| Cara B. Hochhalter | 2019 | A Project of Vanderbilt Divinity Library

### Gathering Around the Word

*We gather knowing God is with us.*

#### Quiet Meditation –

"Dignified or not, believable or not, ours is a God perpetually on bended knee, doing everything it takes to convince stubborn and petulant children that they are seen and loved. ~ Rachel Held Evans, *Inspired*.

#### Prelude

*Pensieri (Thoughts or Conceptions)*

Giovanni Marie Casini

#### Welcome

#### \*Introit #313, v. 3

*Lord Make Us More Holy*

African American Spiritual

***Lord, make us more patient; Lord, make us more patient; Lord, make us more patient,  
until we meet again: patient, patient, patient, until we meet again. (repeat 3x)***

#### \*Call to Worship

Psalm 19:7-10, Common English Bible

The Lord's instruction is perfect, reviving one's very being.

**The Lord's laws are faithful, making naive people wise.**

The Lord's regulations are right, gladdening the heart.

**The Lord's commands are pure, giving light to the eyes.**

Honoring the Lord is correct, lasting forever.

**The Lord's judgments are true. All of these are righteous!**

They are more desirable than gold - than tons of pure gold!

**And they are sweeter than honey — even dripping off the honeycomb!**

Let us worship the Lord!

**It is right to give the Lord our thanks and praise!**

\*Prayer of Confession

Why do we confess our sin?

**Because all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God.**

But why do we do this together?

**Because we are a community, a covenant people.**

Then, let us confess our sin.

**God of righteousness, we confess that we have not kept your commandments. We bow down before idols, declaring our allegiance to other powers and principalities. We take your name in vain, using it to justify our own prejudices and opinions. We do not make adequate time to rest and remember your goodness, nor to revel in the delight of family and friends. We look the other way in the face of violence and oppression. Our dishonesty and greed get the better of us. Yet you gave us commandments not for condemnation, but so that we might live in justice and joy. Purify us by your righteousness and enfold us in your grace. Sanctify our intentions and actions, that our lives may begin to reflect your Beloved Community... (time of silent confession).**

\*Assurance of Pardon

*We pour the water into the baptismal font to symbolize the faithfulness of God and the washing away of sin.*

\*Response

*Wade in the Water*

African American Spiritual

***Wade in the water, wade in the water Children, wade in the Water, God's gonna trouble the water. Who are these children dressed in red, God's gonna trouble the water. Must be the children Moses led. God's gonna trouble the water. Wade in the water...***

**Proclaiming the Word**

*We experience the Word of God.*

**Beloved Children of God Moment**

*We invite children to remain in worship. The nursery is available with parental supervision.*

**Response #753, v. 4**

*Prayer of St. Francis*

Prayer of St. Francis

***Make me a channel of your peace. It is in pardoning that we are pardoned, in giving of ourselves that we receive, and in dying that we're born to eternal life.***

**Prayer for Illumination**

**First Lesson**

John 2:13-16

NT pg. 93

The story of God for the people of God... **thanks be to God.**

**Anthem (11am)**

Follow Me to Jordan  
MPC Chancel Choir

Jay Althouse

**Second Lesson**

Exodus 20:1-17

OT pg. 66

The story of God for the people of God... **thanks be to God.**

**Communion Meditation**

*Promises & Precepts*

Rev. Kathryn Z. Johnston

**Selah: A Holy Pause for Silent Reflection**

*A chime will sound to mark the transition to the next element of worship.*

## Responding to the Word

*We affirm our faith and commitment to the Word of God.*

\*Hymn #14

*For the Beauty of the Earth*

Dix

Offering of Tithes & Gifts

Offertory

*If Thou but Trust in God to Guide You*

Michael Krentz

\*Doxology #609

*Praise God, From Whom All Blessings Flow*

Lasst Uns Erfreuen

***Praise God from whom all blessings flow. Praise God, all creatures high and low. Alleluia, alleluia!***

***Praise God, in Jesus fully known. Creator, Word, and Spirit one.***

***Alleluia, alleluia! Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!***

**The Lord's Supper – Please see insert**

*After the Words of Institution, you are invited to come forward using the center aisle to receive the gluten-free bread, then to the table on the side to receive the cup. There are also gluten-free individual packets in the back.*

## Bearing & Following the Word

*We declare the Word of God throughout the week.*

\*Hymn #307

*God of Grace and God of Glory*

Cwm Rhondda

\*Charge & Benediction

\*Response #209, v. 3

*My Song is Love Unknown*

Love Unknown

***Sometimes we strew his way, and his sweet praises sing, resounding all the day hosannas to our King.***

***Then "Crucify!" is all our breath, and for his death we thirst and cry.***

Postlude

*Tiento (touch or piece) on the 5<sup>th</sup> Tone*

Antonio de Cabezón

## Welcome to worship this morning!

**Bold print** indicates congregational reading or response.

**An asterisk \*** indicates when to stand in body or in spirit.

**Offerings are welcome!** Place in the plates at each of the entrances or give online.

**New here?** Check out our website: [mechpresby.org](http://mechpresby.org)

**The yellow rose** symbolizes the presence of the Holy Spirit in our midst.

Rev. Emily D. Sutphin will return to the office on March 5.

## THANK YOU MPC!!!

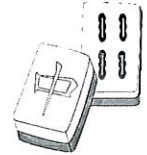
I don't have the words to express how deeply and greatly I appreciate last Sunday's festivities. I have learned so much and grown so much because 15 years ago this congregation took a chance on a divorced, female, 39-year-old to be their next Senior Pastor/Head of Staff. I love my job and I don't take one day for granted. Thank you Fellowship & Welcoming Committees for the reception, thank you staff, PW, and congregation for the gifts, thank you Katie Chase for doing so much of the coordination, and thanks to Will for making us all laugh and shake our heads at his video intro, "Hello... Mother." I am so looking forward to what God has in store for all of us together next! May it include profound ministry to our community beyond these walls and... a few more Root Beer Float Sundays! **THANK YOU!** – Pastor Kathryn

**JOIN US IN THE THOUGHTFUL CHRISTIAN CLASS**

**Today!** – The Thoughtful Christian class will continue its study and reflection on the Belhar Confession.

**TODAY! GAME NIGHT!**

Join us for Game Night this afternoon at 3:00pm in the Upper Fellowship Hall. Bring your favorite games and friends for an evening of fellowship, fun, and friendly competition! **If you are new to the world of Mah Jongg or want to sharpen your skills, come at 2:00pm to learn how to play.** We look forward to seeing you there!



**TUESDAY NIGHT EVENING PRAYER**

Join us on Tuesday, March 19 for a very special intergenerational Evening Prayer Service led by our Joyful Noise Choir. This is a part of our Tuesday Night @ MPC program with dinner served at 5:30pm. If you can't make it to dinner, Evening Prayer will begin around 6:15pm.

**FEATURED MISSION PARTNER: HEALTH MINISTRY CLINIC**

Thank you to everyone who joined us for our visit to the Health Ministry Clinic at Christ Lutheran Church. They have been one of MPC's mission partners since 2017. This clinic provides free holistic medical and dental care to people in the Allison Hill community of Harrisburg. They are in the process of expanding their dental clinics so financial donations are needed. If you would like to help, you can write a check to MPC with Health Ministry Dental Clinic on the memo line Thank you for being More People Caring.

**Our Worship Leaders**

Rev. Kathryn Z. Johnston – Pastor | Rev. Emily D. Sutphin – Associate Pastor  
Cathay L. Snyder – Christian Education Director | Mark G. McKeever – Director of Music  
Deb Williams (8:15), Pat Schaal (11:00)– Readers

**Ministers**

**All members of the congregation**

Senior Pastor/Head of Staff ..... Rev. Kathryn Z. Johnston (she/her)..... kjohnston@mechpresby.org  
Associate Pastor ..... Rev. Emily D. Sutphin (she/her) ..... esutphin@mechpresby.org  
Christian Education Director ..... Cathay L. Snyder (she/her) ..... csnyder@mechpresby.org  
Director of Music ..... Mark G. McKeever (he/him) ..... mmckeever@mechpresby.org  
Church Administrator ..... Angela J. Weir (she/her) ..... aweir@mechpresby.org  
Playful Beginnings Director..... Karen P. Taylor (she/her) .... playfulbeginnings.mpc@gmail.com

Easter Flowers Include Tulips & Daffodils - \$11 each – May be reclaimed after the 11am Easter service.

*Please make checks payable to MPC. # of plants: \_\_\_\_\_ = \$ \_\_\_\_\_*

Name(s) as it should appear in the bulletin:

In Honor of: \_\_\_\_\_

In Memory of: \_\_\_\_\_

# MECHANICSBURG PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

mechpresby.org



300 E. Simpson St.  
Mechanicsburg, PA 17055  
717-697-0351

## SESSION

Class of 2024

Dan Alex, Bob Bell, Katie Chase,  
Becky Giovagnoli, Lori Heenan

Class of 2025

Amy Berry, Ted Foor, Sue Karakantas,  
Larry Stoner, Rick Whitcomb

Class of 2026

Nils Hagen-Frederiksen, Kelli  
Scurfield, Ran Singiser, Jenn  
Thomson, Tim Wonder

## DEACONS

Class of 2024

Marybeth Hummel, Ken Kleinert, Rich  
Marlin, Cathy Petko, Kim Savidge,  
Jan Whitcomb

Class of 2025

Martie Bricker, Shannon Hammel,  
Grace House, Bill Klebe, Judy Klebe,  
Keni Melphis

Class of 2026

Heather Barto, Jan Burrows, Dave  
Donat, Lara Frymark, Debi Gross,  
Patti Hinkson

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## Church Office Hours

9-4:30 Monday-Thursday  
Closed Fridays

3/3/2024

# WELCOME TO MPC

## More People Caring

Whether you're a first time visitor, a long time member, or  
anywhere in between—

We're glad you're here!

## 3 WAYS TO GIVE



**IN SERVICE**  
Offering stands  
by doors



**TEXT**  
Text "MechPresby"  
to 73256



**ONLINE**  
MechPresby.org  
Click "Give"



## WEEKLY SERVICES & THINGS TO KNOW

**Sundays: 8:15 & 11am Worship; 9:35 Sunday School**

Children are welcome in worship and are invited to participate in Communion. Activity packets can be found in the back and there are children's tables in the front and back of the Sanctuary.

Restrooms with baby changing stations can be found through the middle Sanctuary door, to the left of the kitchen. Non-gendered restrooms are located through the front right Sanctuary door, down the hallway and on the right.

## SUNDAY SCHOOL CLASSES (9:35am)

Age 2—K | Center Room (Nursery Wing)  
**1st-5th grades** | Lower Fellowship Hall  
**6th-8th** | Confirmation Class | Mission & Student Center  
**9th-12th** | Chat & Chew | Mission & Student Center  
**Joyful Hearts** | P.W. Conference Room  
 Women's class, Lenten study  
**Dave Petko Class B** | Library  
 Bible study currently looking at the Book of Esther  
**Thoughtful Christian** | Upper Fellowship Hall  
 Short-term studies focused on current events & issues.

## UPCOMING EVENTS:

**Tuesday Nights @ MPC | UFH | 1st & 3rd Tuesdays**  
**Next one: Tuesday, March 5 | 5:30pm Dinner**  
 ALL ages are invited for dinner, fellowship, and activities. *CHILDREN'S CHOIR REHEARSAL AT 6PM.*

**Race & the Church | PWCR | 2nd Tuesdays 7 PM**  
**Continues on Tuesday, March 12**  
 We will be discussing Chapters 4-5 of *The Color of Compromise* covering the antebellum years after the American Revolution and the onset of the Civil War. Contact Cathay Snyder for more information.

**Ukrainian Easter Eggs | UFH | March 12 & 13 | 6:00-8:00pm**  
 Join the Fellowship Committee for an Easter craft event. This is a beginner class on decorative eggs. A sign-up sheet is available in the Gathering Area. Please note the class is limited to 25 participants. No art degree required!  
 Questions? Contact Pastor Emily.

**Courageous Conversations | March 17 | 6:30-8:00pm | Camp Hill Presbyterian**  
 Join us for our third Courageous Conversation. The topic will be "Justice in Gender & Sexuality." Questions? Contact Pastor Emily.

| March 3 - March 10, 2024 |           |                        |
|--------------------------|-----------|------------------------|
| Sunday                   | 8:15 AM   | Sunday Worship Service |
|                          | 9:20 AM   | Joyful Noise Choir     |
|                          | 9:35 AM   | Sunday School          |
|                          | 11:00 AM  | Sunday Worship Service |
| Monday                   | 3:00 PM   | Game Night             |
|                          | 7:00 PM   | Deacons, PWCR          |
| Tuesday                  | 8:30 PM   | Alcoholics Anon, LFH   |
|                          | 9:30/7:00 | PW Circles, PWCR       |
|                          | 5:30 PM   | Tuesday Nights @ MPC   |
| Wednesday                | 6:00 PM   | Girl Scouts, LFH       |
|                          | 2:00 PM   | Soul Journey, Library  |
|                          | 3:00 PM   | B.O.W., M&S Center     |
|                          | 5:30 PM   | Bells of Celebration   |
| Thursday                 | 7:00 PM   | Chancel Choir          |
|                          | 12:00 PM  | Pastors' Bible Study   |
| Friday                   | 6:15 AM   | Men's Fellowship, PWCR |
| Saturday                 |           |                        |
| Sunday                   | 8:15 AM   | Sunday Worship Service |
|                          | 9:20 AM   | Joyful Noise Choir     |
|                          | 9:35 AM   | Sunday School          |
|                          | 11:00 AM  | Sunday Worship Service |

## UPCOMING SERVING & LEARNING TRIP:

**Mission at the Eastward (M.A.T.E.)**  
 Serving and learning trip to Mission at the Eastward in western Maine **July 20-27**. Registration is due by April 30! This trip is for anyone 14 years old or older. **You can find the registration form on the resources page of the church website or in the back of the Sanctuary.** Questions? Contact Pastor Emily.

## 6th—12th Grade Events Friends Are Always Welcome!

~~3/10~~ | ~~Escape Room!~~ | Postponed to May

**3/24 | 4th @ 304 | SPECIAL TIME!!!**  
 Pizza & Stuffing Easter Eggs! | UFH

**4/14 | Rummage Sale | UFH**

**4/28 | 4th @ 304 | 6pm-7:30 | M&S Center**

## Holy Week & Easter Schedule

**3/24 | Palm Sunday | 8:15 & 11:00am**

**3/28 | Maundy Thursday | 5:30pm Dinner, & 6:30 Worship**

**3/29 | Good Friday | 7:30pm**

**3/31 | Easter | 9:30 & 11:00am**

**4/7 | 10:30am Worship & Baked Potato Brunch**

By entering an event or program on these premises, you are entering an area where photography, audio and video recording will occur. Your entry and presence constitute your consent to be photographed, filmed, and/or otherwise recorded and to the release, publication, exhibition, or reproduction of any and all recorded media of your appearance, voice, and name for any purpose whatsoever in connection with Mechanisburg Presbyterian Church and its initiatives, including, by way of example only, use on websites, in social media, and advertising.

## Communion Liturgy

### The Invitation to the Table

**One:** We have all fallen short of the glory of God. We have hurt and been hurt, broken and been broken, alienated and been alienated, wronged and been wronged, sinned and been sinned against.

This is not a Presbyterian table – it is for all members of the church universal. This is not a table only for adults – children may partake in the Sacrament with proper guidance from those around them. This is not a table for those who have not sinned – for no one would eat.

**All:** We come to this table, not because we must, but because we may. We come to testify not that we are righteous, but that we sincerely love our Lord Jesus Christ and desire to be his true disciples. We come, not because we are strong, but because we are weak. We come to this table, not because of any goodness of our own, but because we need God's mercy and help. We come to this table not to testify that we are righteous, but to sincerely declare that we love God.

**One:** Beloved Children of God, come to the table of our Lord. All are welcome here...

### The Great Thanksgiving and the Lord's Prayer

**One:** The Lord be with You

**All:** And also with you.

**One:** Lift up your hearts.

**All:** We lift them up to the Lord.

**One:** Let us give our thanks and praise!

**All:** It is right to give our thanks and praise!

**One:** It is truly right and our greatest joy to give thanks and praise, O God our creator and redeemer. In your wisdom, you made all things and sustain them by your power. You formed us in your image to love and serve you, but we forgot your promises and abandoned your commandments. In your mercy, you did not reject us but still claimed us as your own.

Therefore we lift our hearts in joyful praise, joining our voices with choirs of angels, and with all the faithful of every time and place, who forever sing to the glory of your name:

**All:**                    *Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might,  
                              heaven and earth are full of your glory.  
                              Hosanna in the highest.  
                              Blessed is He who comes in the name of the Lord.  
                              Hosanna in the highest, hosanna in the highest.*

**One:** Pour out your Holy Spirit upon us and upon these your gifts of bread and the cup, that the bread we break and the cup we bless may be the communion of the body and blood of Christ. As this bread is Christ's body for us, send us out to be the body of Christ in the world.

Lord in your mercy and righteousness hear our prayers for:

One: Through Christ, with Christ, in Christ, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, all glory and honor are yours almighty God. We pray these things in the name of your Son who taught us to pray together saying:

**All:** Our Father who art in heaven, hallowed be Thy name.  
Thy kingdom come, Thy will be done, On earth as it is in heaven.  
Give us this day our daily bread; And forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors; And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.  
For thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory, forever. Amen.

*After the Words of Institution you are invited to come forward using the center aisle to receive the gluten-free bread, then to the table on the side to receive the cup. There are individual Communion packets available in the back. If you cannot come forward, Communion will be brought to you.*

### **Prayer after Communion**

**All:** Gracious God, may we who have received this sacrament live in the unity of your Holy Spirit, that we may show forth your gifts to all the world. We ask this through Christ our Lord. Amen.