



# Celebration of Worship on the Lord's Day

18th Sunday after Pentecost  
October 8, 2017

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## PRAISE

### Prelude

*"Prelude on 'Slane'"*

by Gilbert Martin

### Westminster Peal

### Choral Call to Worship

*"God is Calling through the Whisper"*

by Mary Louise Bringle and Wilbur Lee

*God is calling through the whisper of the Spirit's deepest sighs, through the thrill of sudden beauties that can catch us by surprise. Flash of lightning, crash of thunder; hush of stillness, rush of wonder: God is calling—can you hear? God is calling—can you hear?*

### Gathering as the Children of God

Elder Ann Addison

Leader: When all we have hoped for and trusted in has let us down;

**People: *There is Christ who reaches out to us.***

Leader: When the world seems dark and despair threatens to close in upon us;

**People: *There is Christ, reaching out for us.***

Leader: Come and let us worship the Lord who is always ready to reach out to us.

**People: *We humbly come before the Lord in hope and faith.***

### † Opening Hymn No. 412

*"Eternal God, Whose Power Upholds"*

### Prayer of Confession (unison)

Elder Addison

***Holy Source of New Life, you promise to set us free from paths of fear, doubt, and denial. Yet we resist your invitation, seeing only what we must give up if we are to follow the path of Jesus. You call us to have faith in your sustaining presence and power, but your call takes us beyond anything we can see or touch. We fear placing our trust in things beyond our control. We doubt that you can bring water to the dry places of our lives or replace our suffering with joy. Forgive us when we turn away from your promise of abundant life. Heal us and lead us home. Amen.***

### Assurance of Pardon

Elder Addison

Leader: Friends, believe the Good News.

**People: *In Jesus Christ, we are forgiven.***

† **Response**

*“Glory be to the Father”*

(Hymnal pg. 579)

***Glory be 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.***

**LISTEN**

**Prayer for Illumination**

Elizabeth Small

**Scripture Lesson** (pg. 187 NT)

Philippians 3:4b-14

Dr. Joe B. Martin

Leader: This is the word of the Lord.

**People:** *Thanks be to God.*

**Children’s Time**

Rev. Jodi Martin

*See children’s options on back page.*

**Anthem**

*“Forth in thy Name”*

by Eugene Butler

*Forth in thy name, O Lord, I go, my daily labor to pursue,  
Thee, only thee, resolved to know in all I think, or speak, or do.  
The task, the wisdom hath assigned, o let me cheerfully fulfill;  
In all my works thy presence find, and prove thy good and perfect will.  
Give me to bear thy easy yoke, and every moment watch and pray;  
And still to things eternal look, and hasten to thy glorious day.  
Forth in thy name, O Lord, I go.*

**Sermon**

Christian Priorities, Focus, and Drive

Dr. Martin

† **Affirmation of Faith**

The Nicene Creed

***We believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty, maker of heaven and earth, of all that is, seen and unseen. We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only Son of God, eternally begotten of the Father, God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God, begotten, not made, of one Being with the Father; through him all things were made. For us and for our salvation he came down from heaven, was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the Virgin Mary and became truly human. For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate; he suffered death and was buried. On the third day he rose again in accordance with the Scriptures; he ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead, and his kingdom will have no end. We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son, who with the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified, who has spoken through the prophets. We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic Church. We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins. We look for the resurrection of the dead, and the life of the world to come. Amen.***

## LOVE

- † **Passing of the Peace** Dr. Martin  
Leader: The peace of Christ be with you.  
**People:** *And also with you.*  
*Please exchange greetings of peace and welcome with your neighbor.*

- † **Hymn No. 400** *"When We are Living"* (Text in English)

- Church Family Life** Dr. Martin  
*Please take this time to pass the attendance notebooks located at the end of the pew row. If you are a visitor, we invite you to visit our information center located in the Narthex.*

- Prayers of the People** Elizabeth Small

## SERVE

- Moved by the Spirit** Zambia Scholarships

- Offering**  
**Offertory** *"Morning Interlude"* David Paxton

- † **Response** The Doxology  
*Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;  
Praise Christ, all people here below;  
Praise Holy Spirit evermore;  
Praise Triune God, whom we adore. Amen.*

- † **Prayer of Thanksgiving with The Lord's Prayer**  
*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.*

- † **Closing Hymn No. 536** *"Lord, Make Us More Holy"*

- † **Benediction** Dr. Martin

- † **Congregational Response** *"Amen"* (hymn 583)  
Organist will play through melody before Amen is sung.

- † **Postlude** *Improvisation on "I Danced in the Morning"* by Nick Johns-Cooper

**Worship Enrichment.** Worship Enrichment is led by Rev. Jodi Martin at the 11:00 service after the Children's time. Children, kindergarten - 2nd grade, are invited to join Jodi in the chapel for worship enrichment activities. The children will return to their parents during the Hymn following the "Passing of the Peace." Children 4 years and younger who opt to attend 11:00 worship until the children's time, will depart for childcare to room 120 for the remainder of the service.



## MVPC Mission Statement



### Blessed to Be a Blessing

We are a Presbyterian church filled with love and energy – an inclusive congregation committed to spiritual growth through *worship, study, fellowship, and service.*

- As **children of God**, we seek to *praise* God in worship and in all that we say and do
- As **disciples of Jesus Christ**, we *listen* to scripture, tradition, one another, and the world in order to understand God's will for us as individuals and as a community
- As **members of a family of faith**, we strive to *love* one another unconditionally, sharing our joys and standing beside one another in our struggles
- **Moved by the Spirit**, we *serve* our gracious God by taking that with which we have been blessed and turning it into blessings for others



Giving to MVPC is easy online  
<http://mvpchurch.org/index.php/donate/>

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#### Ministers

All the members of the church

#### Staff

Dr. Joe B. Martin, IV, Pastor  
TJ Shirley, Minister of Worship & Arts  
Elizabeth Small, Dir. of Youth Ministry  
Rev. Jodi Martin, Dir. of Children's Ministry  
Rev. Ricardo Green, Pastor of Spanish Ministries

Nick Johns-Cooper, Organist  
Lillianette Cook, Handbell Choir Director  
Steve Ray, Business Administrator  
Jill Thompson, Administrative Assistant  
Yvonne White, Financial Secretary

Lauren McClintock, Communications Coordinator