

March 4, 2018	WORSHIP CELEBRATION Third Sunday in Lent	10:15 a.m.
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† Identifies time to stand, as you are able.

PRELUDE *Andante with Variation* Felix Mendelssohn
Jennifer Yang

† INTROIT *O Christ, the Healer* Sarah A Michal
O Christ, the healer, we have come to pray for health, to plead for friends. No. 265
How can we fail to be restored when reached by love that never ends?
(Sing twice)

† CALL TO WORSHIP *Rev. Dr. Brandon Cho*
Leader: O God, you are my God, earnestly I seek you;
People: My soul thirsts for you,
Leader: My body longs for you, in a dry and weary land where there is no water.
People: I have seen you in the sanctuary
Leader: and beheld your power
People: and your glory.
Leader: Because your love is better than life, my lips will glorify you.
People: I will praise you as long as I live. Amen.

† OPENING HYMN *If Thou But Suffer God to Guide Thee* No. 142

† OPENING PRAYER (in unison) *Sue Puma*
God of light and God of night, creator of seed and mountain, raindrop and fountain, we bring our offering of praise this day. God of right and God of might, lover of child and childless, rich and homeless, we bring our offering of praise to you this day and for evermore. Amen.
(Please be seated.)

CALL TO CONFESSION *Kevin Vance*
PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Creator God, forgive our moments of ingratitude, the spiritual blindness that prevents us from appreciating the wonder that is this world, the endless cycle of nature, of life and death and rebirth. Forgive us for taking without giving, reaping without sowing. Forgive us for not accepting ourselves and for not accepting the other. Open our eyes to see, our lips to praise, our hands to share. May our feet touch lightly on the path we tread, and our footsteps be worthy of following, for they lead to you. Amen.

SILENT REFLECTION
WORDS OF ASSURANCE *Kevin Vance*

Leader: Hear the good news: Christ died for our sins and rose again that God may free us from the tyranny of judging others to live fully in the power of God’s grace. In the name of Jesus Christ, God forgives your sins and offers you a transformed future. Live fully into God’s grace. Amen.
People: In his grace, we are forgiven. Thanks be to God.

ANTHEM *I Choose Love* Mark Miller
Wesleyan Choir

CHILDREN’S STORYTIME *Sue Puma*

A TIME OF COMMUNITY IN PRAYER *Dr. Cho*
PASTORAL PRAYER AND LORD’S PRAYER *Dr. Cho*
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 trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, the power, and the glory forever. Amen.

† HYMN *Lord, I Want to be a Christian* No. 402

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION (in unison) *Jack Scharf*
Faithful God, as your word is proclaimed, we pray for purity of heart, mind, and action. Through the gift of your message, breathe your Spirit within our lives, in the name of the one who came to embody your word. Amen.

SCRIPTURE READINGS *John 8:1-11* *Jack Scharf*
But Jesus went to the Mount of Olives. At dawn he appeared again in the temple courts, where all the people gathered around him, and he sat down to teach them. **The teachers of the law and the Pharisees brought in a woman caught in adultery. They made her stand before the group and said to Jesus, “Teacher, this woman was caught in the act of adultery. In the Law Moses commanded us to stone such women. Now what do you say?”** They were using this question as a trap, in order to have a basis for accusing him.

But Jesus bent down and started to write on the ground with his finger. When they kept on questioning him, he straightened up and said to them, “Let any one of you who is without sin be the first to throw a stone at her.” Again he stooped down and wrote on the ground. At this, those who heard began to go away one at a time, the older ones first, until only Jesus was left, with the woman still standing there. **Jesus straightened up and asked her, “Woman, where are they? Has no one condemned you?”** “No one, sir,” she said. “Then neither do I condemn you,” Jesus declared. “Go now and leave your life of sin.”

ANTHEM *Bread and Wine* Gene Grier and Lowell Everson
Chancel Choir

SERMON **“Am I Accepted?”** *Kevin Vance*

† PASSING THE PEACE
(During this active flu season, we invite you to warmly greet each other verbally, and without physical touch such as hugging or handshaking. Thank you.)

HOLY COMMUNION See insert

ANNOUNCEMENTS *Dr. Cho*
• Friendship Pads
• Abendmusik—Echoing Air on March 17; MUMC Chancel Choir “Messiah” on April 21

INVITATION TO TITHES AND OFFERINGS *Dr. Cho*
OFFERTORY *Offertorium* Charles Gounod

† DOXOLOGY No. 95
Praise God, from whom all blessings flow; Praise God, all creatures here below; Praise God above, ye heavenly host; Praise Father, Son and Holy Ghost. Amen.

† PRAYER OF DEDICATION (in unison)

Jack Scharf

Loving God, you are never far from us, you are as close as our breathing. We recognize you as the authoritative one who heals the wounded spirit and gives new life to the broken-hearted. We offer these gifts to you, O God, as a sign of our commitment to your grace and authority. Take us and use us and all that we have, so that the Kingdom of Heaven will be realized on earth; through Christ our Lord. Amen.

† HYMN

Praise to the Lord, the Almighty

No. 139

† BENEDICTION

Dr. Cho

† POSTLUDE

Processional March op. 41, no. 5

Alexandre Guilmant

Please feel free to sit and enjoy the postlude, or leave the sanctuary to greet the pastor and other church friends at the door. All are welcome to join for a time of fellowship over refreshments in Fellowship Hall.



THE FLOWERS THAT GRACE THE CHANCEL are given by Andrew Cattano to the glory of God, and in honor and with thanks, to the many people who put in countless hours of picking up, setting up, and shopping to make the Rummage Sale a huge success.

THE FLOWER CALENDAR FOR 2018 IS IN PLACE. PLEASE NOTE THAT THE CALENDAR HAS BEEN MOVED TO THE BULLETIN BOARD NEAR THE COURTYARD. Please consider honoring a loved one on any Sunday. The cost for the two arrangements is \$70.00, and any given Sunday may be shared with the agreement of both donors.

MUMC Church Staff

Senior Pastor	Rev. Dr. Brandon Cho
Associate Pastor	Pastor Charles Perez
Certified Lay Minister/Administrative Director	Jack Scharf
Manager, Finance	Mike Laba
Director of Music Ministries	Sarah A Michal
Youth Ministry Coordinators	Maria & Vince Cattano
Organist	Jennifer Yang
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WORSHIP CELEBRATION

MARCH 4, 2018

10:15 A.M.



The United Methodist Church of Morristown

Christ Centered † Spirit Led

The mission of our church is to engage all people in knowing, loving, and serving God to transform lives, communities, and the world.