

Notes about Worship at MPC

Welcome! We are so glad you are here. For those who are visiting MPC, please stop by and introduce yourself to our pastor, Courtney Pittman, or to one of the ushers. We want to celebrate your presence! We know there are a lot of demands on your time, so we are thrilled that you have chosen to spend your Sunday morning at MPC!

Children's Church—Children age 3 and up are invited to join our leaders for fun and faith in Children's Church located in the fellowship building following Let the Children Come. Pick up is immediately following the service in the fellowship hall.

Stewardship—Should you feel called to give today, ushers will be passing around the offering plates during the Invitation to Generosity. Giving is also available online at <https://madisonpresbyterian.church/generosity>.

Language—The words we use are important! So often we go into "autopilot" during worship and we miss the meaning of the words we say each Sunday. In an effort to be more conscious of the language we use during worship, some words in our liturgy will change monthly; but please know that you may pray in whatever way you feel comfortable. We are family here!

The flowers are placed in the sanctuary to the glory of God by Christopher and Christie Jones and in celebration of their wedding anniversary.

Coming Up in the Life of the Church

Adult Choir Rehearsals have resumed each Wednesday from 7:00—8:15 pm. All are welcome!!

Save the Date! The Women's Retreat will be held March 8-10 with facilitator Kim Ness. Watch upcoming bulletins for more information.

New Member Sunday will be January 21st. The Session will welcome our new members immediately following worship.

There will be an Annual Congregational Meeting immediately following worship on Sunday, January 28. The purpose of this meeting will be to receive the 2023 Annual Report, the 2024 Ministry Plan and elect a Trustee.

The 2024 Flower Calendar is now available on the bulletin board by the stairway in the education building. Sign up to place flowers in the sanctuary in memory or in honor of a loved one or in celebration of a special event.

If you are interested in helping plan the upcoming Women's Retreat please contact Lori Hume at loridhume@aol.com.

Please Note: The Cultural Center parking lot will not be available from January 19-27. It will be fully occupied with oversized rigs while filming is happening nearby. Please be sure to find alternative parking on these days.

The Church Office will be closed Monday, January 15 in observance of Martin Luther King, Jr. holiday.

Opportunities for Outreach and Mission

Ministry Bags for January: The Caring Place is a food pantry established in Madison to help families who struggle to have enough food for their families. A food box is provided to each family which includes non-perishable food items such as cereal, bread, cans of soups, vegetables, fruits, tuna, macaroni and cheese, peanut butter, and packages of hot dogs. The food items come from sources such as the Atlanta Food Bank, donations from local stores, and donations from individuals like yourself. Located next to the Highway Patrol office on Hwy. 83, the boxes are given out on Friday mornings. Staffed totally by volunteers, this ministry serves those with food insecurity which is a very real issue in Morgan County. Items to fill your bag include healthy cereal, soups, can vegetables, can fruits, cans of tuna, packages of macaroni and cheese, and peanut butter. Thank you for sharing your love!

The Week Ahead

- **Monday, January 15** Martin Luther King, Jr. Day (Church Office Closed)
- **Tuesday, January 16** 7:30 am Men's Breakfast/Bible Study
- **Wednesday, January 17** 7:15 am Youth Breakfast Club (Chick-fil-a); 5:15 pm JAM Children's Ministry; 6:00 pm Bible Study; 7:00 pm Adult Choir Rehearsal
- **Thursday, January 18** 6:15 pm Finance Ministry Meeting

Sunday, January 14, 2024

11:00 AM

Second Sunday in Ordinary Time



“Civilization is a method of living, an attitude of equal respect for all men.”

— Jane Addams, Speech, Honolulu, 1933.

From the series Great Ideas of Western Man, artist Georgia Giusti

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Gathering as God’s Beloved

Gathering Music

Chiming of the Hour

Prelude

Welcome

*Call to Worship

We gather to worship God,

Who creates us and loves us;

Who gifts us with diversity and makes us for community;

Who gives Jesus Christ to show us how to live;

Who inspires children, youth, young adults, and people of all ages

To seek justice, share power, and live together in love and equality;

Who gifts us the Church that leads the struggle for wholeness and wellbeing for all;

and whose presence, grace, and love sustain us in our living.

We gather to worship God.

To God be all glory, honor, and praise!

*Hymn 223

When I Survey the Wonderous Cross

*Confessing Together

adapted from The Presbyterian Peacemaking Program

Most holy and merciful God: we acknowledge and confess our slowness to do good, our blindness to injustice, and our complicity in deferring the dreams and hopes of the oppressed. We have refused to heed your call to do justly, to love mercy, and to walk humbly with you, our God. Help us to name our sin, to claim responsibility for our actions, and to change our behavior. In accordance with the commands of Jesus Christ our savior, shake us from our sleep with your imperative to do justice; move us to action with the compassion of your grace; and give us courage to pay the price, however painful or costly, that the justice you will may be done on earth as in heaven.

(We continue in silence....) **Amen.**

*Assurance of God’s Love

Church, have heart. Our God of justice and of selfless love hears our prayers. Our Lord of mercy always forgives and with ever-flowing grace says time and time again, “You are my beloved.” Friends, we are forgiven. We are free to try again. **Alleluia, Amen.**

*Response to God’s Grace (Hymn 581)

Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost; as it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, world without end, Amen, Amen.

*Passing of the Peace

May the peace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you all!

And also with you!

Proclaiming the Word

Let the Children Come!

Prayer for God’s Wisdom

First Reading: Romans 12:1-2, 9-13

Holy wisdom, holy word. **Thanks be to God.**

Anthem

God of Grace

arr. Lloyd Larson

Second Reading: Micah 6:8

Holy wisdom, holy word. **Thanks be to God.**

Sermon

Martin, Mission, Madison, and You

Responding to the Word

*Hymn 286

Breathe on Me, Breath of God

*Affirming our Faith

adapted from Confession of Belbar, PCUSA

We believe that God has revealed himself as the one who wishes to bring about justice and true peace among people; that God, in a world full of injustice and enmity, is in a special way the God of the destitute, the poor and the wronged; that God calls the church to follow him in this; for God brings justice to the oppressed and gives bread to the hungry; that God supports the downtrodden, protects the stranger, helps orphans and widows and blocks the path of the ungodly; that God wishes to teach the church to do what is good and to seek the right; that the church must therefore stand by people in any form of suffering and need, which implies, that the church must witness against and strive against any form of injustice, so that justice may roll down like waters, and righteousness like an ever-flowing stream.

Prayers of the People and the Lord’s Prayer

Our Redeemer who are 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.

Invitation to Generosity

Offertory

*Response (Hymn 606)

Praise God, from all blessings flow;

Praise God, all creatures here below;

Praise God, above ye heavenly host;

Praise Father, Son and Holy Ghost. Amen.

*Prayer of Gratitude

Being the Church in the World

*Hymn 733

We Are All One in Mission

*Charge and Blessing

Postlude

*Please stand in body or in spirit

Serving in Worship

Courtney Pittman—Senior Pastor

Karisa Seymour—Music Director

Meghan Shafer—Accompanist

Lorene Malanowski—Liturgist

Brooks Berry—Acolyte

Tommy Arthur—Communications Technologist