

## 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!

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### Coming Up in the Life of the Church

**Save the Date!** The Women's Retreat will be held March 8-10. Watch upcoming bulletins for more information. **If you are interested** in helping plan the upcoming Women's Retreat please contact Lori Hume at [lorldhume@aol.com](mailto:lorldhume@aol.com).

**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.

**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.

**We Are Hiring!** Madison Presbyterian Church is Seeking a Part-Time Director of Children's Ministries. This individual will plan and lead children's Sunday School, worship, Wednesday night programming, and special events for children ages 3-11. Applicants should have experience leading children in a Christian environment and be able to pass a criminal background screening. Formal Christian Education training preferred. 10 – 12 hours per week. Annual Salary of \$15,000. Full job description available at <https://madisonpresbyterian.church/kids-online>. Applicants may send their resume to Jenny Arthur at [jenny.arthur@trustmineral.com](mailto:jenny.arthur@trustmineral.com).

**Wednesday Morning Bible Study:** The Bible—it's one of the most influential books in human history. It explores the big questions of why we exist. It's inspired many people to do amazing things...and it has confused many others. And you've probably got at least one Bible sitting around somewhere. Many of us have read the Bible or heard parts of the Bible read all of our lives...but what is it exactly and where did it come from? Join the Wednesday morning Bible Study as we learn about the Bible—the different literary styles, the plot, the characters, and how it all fits together to tell one big unified story. This is for everyone who wants to know more about how to read the Bible and get the most out of it. Beginners and more experienced readers will find a deeper level of appreciation and understanding of this most powerful and life-changing book. We begin Wednesday, January 24, 10:30 am—12:00 pm in the church library. Come and bring a friend.

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### 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!

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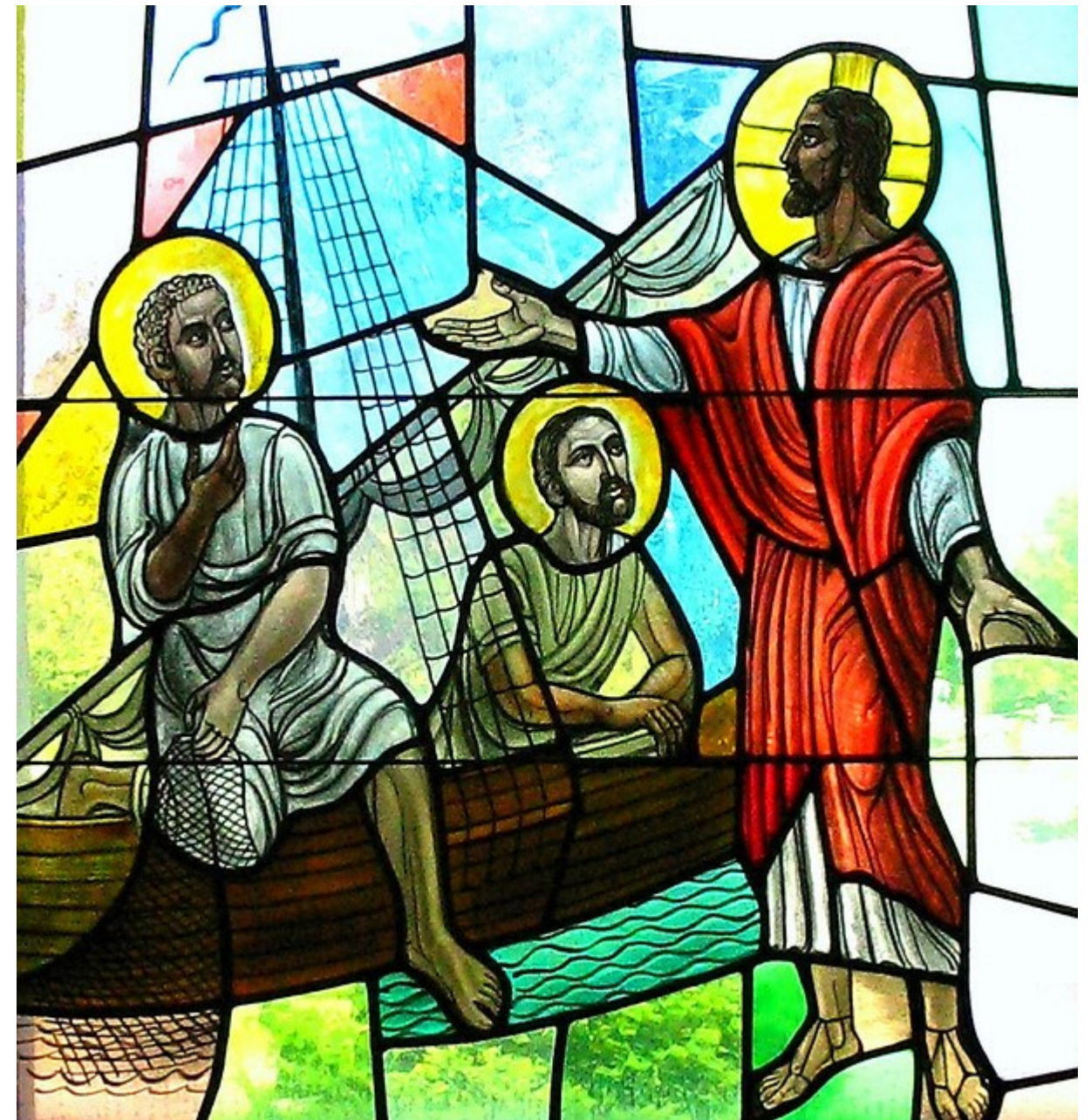
### The Week Ahead

- **Monday, January 22** 12:30 pm Prayer Ministry (Church Library)
- **Tuesday, January 23** 7:30 am Men's Breakfast/Bible Study; 6:30 pm Worship Ministry Meeting (church library)
- **Wednesday, January 24** 7:15 am Youth Breakfast Club (Chick-fil-a); 10:30 am Wednesday Morning Bible Study (church library); 6:00 pm Bible Study; 7:00 pm Adult Choir Rehearsal

Sunday, January 21, 2024

11:00 AM

Third Sunday in Ordinary Time



382 South Main Street  
Madison GA 30650  
(706) 342-2813 phone  
(706) 342-4350 fax  
[www.madisonpresbyterian.church](http://www.madisonpresbyterian.church)

## Gathering as God’s Beloved

### Gathering Music

### Chiming of the Hour

### Prelude

### Welcome

#### \*Call to Worship

It is time to become focused, not on our wants or complaints but on God.

**In the silent places of my soul, I turn to God for God alone is our rock and salvation.**

Jesus came into Galilee, preaching the good news of God, saying the time has come, the realm of God is at hand.

**The realm of God is not very far from any one of us, for God we live and move and have our being.**

Jesus said, “Repent and believe the good news.”

**The time has come. In the silent places of my soul, I turn to God, for God alone is our rock and salvation.**

*Bruce Prever*

#### \*Hymn 721

*Lord, You Have Come to the Lakeshore*

#### \*Confessing Together

*Moira Laidlaw*

Hear us now, O God, as we gather to worship and to praise you. Forgive us when we are reluctant disciples, and renew our desire to follow you even if, like those first disciples, it means having the direction of our lives completely changed. Forgive us when we forget that we do not have to do everything in our own power when challenged to take risks of faith. Holy Spirit, breathe new life into us now, as we offer true worship and provide faithful discipleship empowered by you. In your name we pray.

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

#### \*Assurance of God’s Love

Hear the good news: If anyone is in Christ, there is a new creation: everything old has passed away; see, everything has become new! All this is from God, with whom we are reconciled through Christ. **Church, 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:** Psalm 62:5-12

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

### Anthem

*Lord of the Dance*

arr. John Ferguson

**Second Reading:** Mark 1:14-20

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

### Sermon

FOMO

## Responding to the Word

#### \*Hymn 410

*God is Calling through the Whisper*

#### \*Affirming our Faith

*adapted from Bruce Prever*

I believe in an innovative God who does not wait for us to find ourselves but comes seeking the lost and calling us into a new way. I believe in Jesus of Nazareth as God’s crucial initiative, that when he calls us to follow, Christ also gives us the power to live, both in creed and deed, as the children of the living God. I believe in the Spirit by whom Jesus still comes to us, calling us to follow him into an obedience, which is true liberty, and to a humble service, which is the fruit of holy friendship. I believe in the Church as the fellowship of Christ’s people—called to respect and support one another through joys and tribulations as we travel the road towards the “promised land” of God’s future. Because Christ has called me in this I truly believe. Amen.

#### 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 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 Gratitude

## Being the Church in the World

#### \*Hymn 726

*Will You Come and Follow Me*

#### \*Charge and Blessing

#### Postlude

\*Please stand in body or in spirit

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### Serving in Worship

Courtney Pittman—Senior Pastor

Karisa Seymour—Music Director

Meghan Shafer—Accompanist

Susan McCullar—Liturgist

Coleman Jackson—Acolyte

Tommy Arthur—Communications Technologist