

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>.

The flowers are placed in the sanctuary to the glory of God and in celebration of Jim Malanowski's birthday by Lorene Malanowski.

Coming Up in the Life of the Church

Lessons and Carols Adult Choir Rehearsals each Wednesday, 7:00—7:45 pm in the choir room. If you are interested in participating, contact Karisa Seymour at kseymourmpc@gmail.com

The Brotherhood Ministry will meet Monday, November 20, 7:00 pm in the fellowship hall. For more information contact Stan Ashley at stanonrebel@gmail.com.

There will be a Called Congregational meeting immediately following the worship service on Sunday, November 19 for the purpose of announcing the slate and voting on the new class of Elders.

Commitment Sunday is December 3. Please bring your pledge card as we continue to "Gather and Grow" together.

Pastoral Transition

The Pastor Nominating Committee to make the next months easier for both our new Pastor and all of us in the congregation has formed a **Transition Team**.

Those on the team are Robert Trulock, Sydney McWhirter, Jan Wilbanks, and Susan McCullar.

We all want to get to know all of us. There will be many opportunities in the next weeks. She will be meeting in small groups with the Elders, Bible Study groups, Sunday School classes, Circle groups, etc. Look for opportunities soon to sign up for informal meet and greet and question meetings in members' homes and at the church. An email address has been set p for anyone who has questions or comments. The team may be reached at mpctransition@gmail.com.

Opportunities for Outreach and Mission

Ministry Bags for November we will be collecting items for Circle of Love. This is a ministry for women and their children who are victims of domestic violence. Five counties are served by this ministry which is located in a private location to protect these families. Many women and their children arrive searching for safety from an abusive spouse or partner with only the clothes on their backs. At this shelter they find security and safety as well as love and counseling. They are helped to find a new location to live and a new job to get them on the road to a new life. Because they arrive with nothing, they have many needs including clothing, shoes, and toiletries such as soap, toothbrush, toothpaste, shampoo for all ages and races.

Madison Presbyterian Church will be participating in the Christmas Tour of Homes on Friday, December 1 and Saturday, December 2. Volunteers are needed to docent from 10:00 am—4:00 pm each day. If you are interested in volunteering contact Johnnie Sue Moore at 706-318-9204.

This Week's Events

- **Sunday, November 12** 10:00 am Sunday School; 11:00 am Worship Service; 3:30 pm WH Ashburn Memorial Service
- **Monday, November 13** 12:30 pm Prayer Ministry; 6:00 pm Session Meeting
- **Tuesday, November 14** 7:30 am Men's Breakfast/Bible Study
- **Wednesday, November 15** 7:00 am Youth Breakfast Club; 10:30 am Morning Bible Study; 5:15 pm JAM (Children's Ministry Program); 6:00 pm Evening Bible Study; 7:00 pm Adult Choir Rehearsal

Sunday, November 12, 2023

11:00 AM

32nd Sunday in Ordinary Time



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

Gathering as God's Beloved

Gathering Music

Chiming of the Hour

Prelude

Welcome

*Call to Worship

We gather together by the power of the Holy Spirit—

Members of God's family, and siblings to one another.

There are no outsiders here among us; we all belong here.

For we have been brought together by the redeeming love of Jesus Christ.

Praise be to God!

*Hymn 636

Let All the World in Every Corner Sing

*Confessing Together

Moira Laidlaw

Merciful God, we celebrate the way that you chose to bring unity and peace to people—through the gift of your Son, our Lord, Jesus Christ. He broke down longstanding walls of prejudice and hostility between Jew and Gentile, male and female, slave and free. He abolished rules that restricted life and replaced them with the new commandment to love as he did. Where have we gone astray? Walls of prejudice still exist and barriers of racism still hold people back from reaching their true potential. We hear the great message of Jesus reconciling people to you, O God, and to one another, and yet we still hesitate to reach out to people when they are different in some way from us.

Forgive us when we create barriers rather than tear them down.

Jesus has made us members of the household of God and he holds us together through the power of his Spirit. Maybe it is because we like to do things the way that we've always done them that creates barriers and excludes strangers, preventing them from ever having the opportunity to experience the reconciling power of Jesus in their lives

Forgive us when we fail to take risks for the gospel's sake.

We remember with gratitude how people shared their faith with us so that we are no longer strangers and aliens. So, we pray that the Holy Spirit will continue to bind us together in love and peace, building us up as a witnessing, welcoming and forgiving church of grace. (*We continue in silence*)

In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.

*Assurance of God's Love

Ephesians 2:13, 10

"In Jesus you who were once far off have been brought near by the blood of Christ. In Him we have been reconciled to God through the cross, made citizens with the saints and members of the household of God." Hear then, the good news that in Jesus Christ we are forgiven.

We are free to try again! Thanks be to God.

Response to God's Grace (Hymn 582, vs.1)

Glory to God, whose goodness shines on me,
and to the Son, whose grace has pardoned me,
and to the Spirit, whose love has set me free.

As it was in the beginning,
is now and ever shall be. 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: Exodus 29:38-46

Anthem

O How Good It Is

arr. David Hamilton

Second Reading: Ephesians 2:11-22

Sermon

The Unicorn Church

Responding to the Word

*Hymn 361

Oh Christ the Great Foundation

*Affirming our Faith

Rex A E Hunt

We are a cloth of diverse colors made from many gifts and graces. We are the people flowing forth from Creator God, surprising ourselves with the things which can be done. We are raw material for rewarding relationships as our lives interweave, contributing one to the other, holding each other firm when one is weak or breaking. We are each worthy of being respected and cared for essential to the pattern, skilled in our appointed tasks, sources of laughter and sharers of tears. We commit ourselves to work together, that one day, this world may be a place where all people live in justice, freedom and peace.

Prayers of the People and Lord's Prayer

Our Creator 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.

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 771

What is the World Like

*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

Christine Smith—Liturgist

Mason Hawk—Acolyte

Tommy Arthur—Communications Technologist