

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>.

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

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

Opportunities for Outreach and Mission

Ministry Bags for December: Can you imagine being a child who is in foster care at Christmas or when your birthday is coming up?? Will I get any gifts? Will anyone remember to get me a gift? This month we are going to try to make sure each child in foster care in Morgan County ages birth to teenager will get gifts for Christmas or their birthday this year! Fill up your ministry bag with small toys, art supplies, school supplies, books, fun t-shirts, winter wear like caps, gloves, muffins!! Please don't wrap any of the gifts!



Christmas/Advent Schedule

Sunday, December 17—11:00 am Lessons and Carols with adult and children's choirs.

Monday, December 18—Christmas Caroling: Gather at the church at 5:15 pm, soup and sandwich potluck begins at 5:30 pm then load the church bus to begin caroling at 6:15 pm.

Thursday, December 21—6:00 pm Service of the Longest Night (service of lament and hope)

Sunday, December 24—11:00 am Family and Children's Service; 4:00 pm Christmas Eve Candlelight Service with guest instrumentalists; 6:00 pm Christmas Eve Candlelight Service with adult choir.



THE WEEK AHEAD

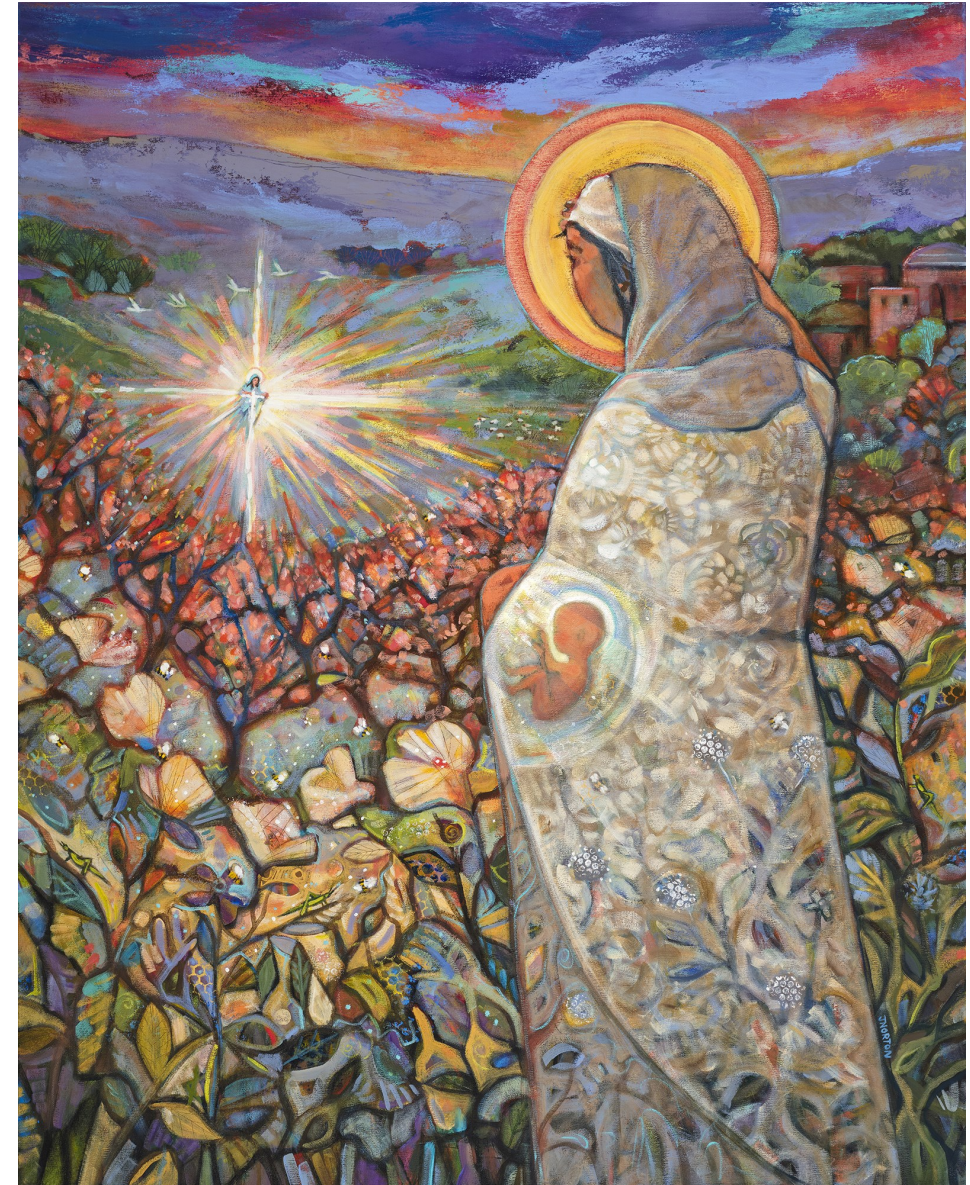
- **Sunday, December 10** 10:00 am Sunday School; 11:00 am Worship Service; 4:00 pm Handbell Choir Rehearsal
- **Monday, December 11** 12:30 pm Prayer Ministry
- **Tuesday, December 12** 7:30 am Men's Breakfast/Bible Study
- **Wednesday, December 13** 7:15 am Youth Breakfast Club; 10:30 am Bible Study; 5:15 pm JAM Children's Program; 6:00 pm Bible Study
- **Thursday, December 14** 11:30 am Young at Heart (meet at Cracker Barrel)

Sunday, December 10, 2023

11:00 AM

Second Sunday in Advent

How Does a Weary World Rejoice?



"The Visitation" by Jen Norton

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 *Sing We Now of Christmas* arr. Alan Lohr

Welcome

***Call to Worship** *A Sanctified Art—Rev. Sarah Speed*
In response to the theme of connection, this call to worship invites us to connect by facing toward each other and repeating the phrases spoken first by the liturgist.

Welcome to worship.

Welcome to worship.

I am glad you’re here.

I am glad you’re here.

Surely God is in this space.

Surely God is in this space.

I see God in your face.

I see God in your face.

Let us worship together.

Let us worship together.

Lighting of the Advent Candles

How does a weary world practice peace?

By listening before we speak and saying sorry when we need to. By advocating for justice and caring for our neighbor. By practicing Sabbath and forgiving seventy times seven. By choosing grace over hate and opening the door for each other.

There are a million ways to practice peace. So today we light the candle of peace as a reminder and a charge.

With God’s help, may we bring peace into a weary world. Amen.

***Hymn 611** *Joyful, Joyful, We Adore Thee*

***Confessing Together** *A Sanctified Art—Rev. Sarah Speed*

God of laughter, God of open front doors, and family reunions, we confess that we often doubt good news. We move through this world, waiting for the other shoe to drop, waiting for life to fall apart, waiting for our humanity to get the best of us. Instead of leaning into joy, we lean into scarcity. We lean into fear. We lean into isolation. Forgive us for forgetting that joy is amplified when shared. Heal the wounds we have from past hurts, and teach us how to throw open our doors like Elizabeth. Show us how to find joy in connection. *(We continue in silence....)* **Amen.**

***Assurance of God’s Love** *A Sanctified Art—Rev. Sarah Speed*

Faith family, I imagine that when we come before God with the truth of our lives, God meets us like Elizabeth meets Mary in our scripture today. The door is thrown open. There is laughter. There is joy. There is embracing—and it is holy. So let us say this together: **You are claimed. You are loved. You are forgiven. And you are sent to serve. Find joy in that. Amen!**

***Response to God’s Grace** (Hymn 583)

Glory to God, glory to God, glory in the highest!

Glory to God, glory to God, alleluia, alleluia!

***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: Isaiah 40:1-11

Anthem *Peace Came to Earth* K. Lee Scott

Second Reading: Luke 1:24-45

Sermon We Find Joy in Connection

Responding to the Word

***Hymn 129** *Lo, How a Rose E’er Blooming*

***Affirming our Faith** *A Sanctified Art—Rev. Sarah Speed*

We believe that joy is a sacred gift, existing on a plane deeper than happiness, stemming from the truth that we belong to God. We believe that joy is not meant for isolation. Joy is meant to be shared, weaving us together in laughter and in hope. And when joy feels impossibly out of reach, we believe that part of being a sacred community is leaning on one another. So together we say: I will share joy when yours runs out. You will share your joy when mine runs out. And in doing so, we will both see God. Amen.

Prayers of the People and 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.

Invitation to Generosity

Offertory *Still, Still, Still* arr. Jason W. Krug

***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 (insert)** *Let There Be Peace on Earth*

*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
Handbell Choir—directed by David Boardman
Harrison Cribbs—French Horn
Haviley Weaver—Violin
Anne Trulock—Liturgist
Fisher Webster—Acolyte
The Berry Family—Advent Candle
Tommy Arthur—Communications Technologist