

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

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!

Donations Needed! We will be collecting donations for the Nurses Clinic at the Primary and Elementary Schools. They are in need of girl's leggings, sweatpants, and underwear for children ages 4 through 10. Donations will be accepted on Sunday, December 24 during the Christmas Eve Services.



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 adult choir; 6:00 pm Christmas Eve Candlelight Service with adult choir.



THE WEEK AHEAD

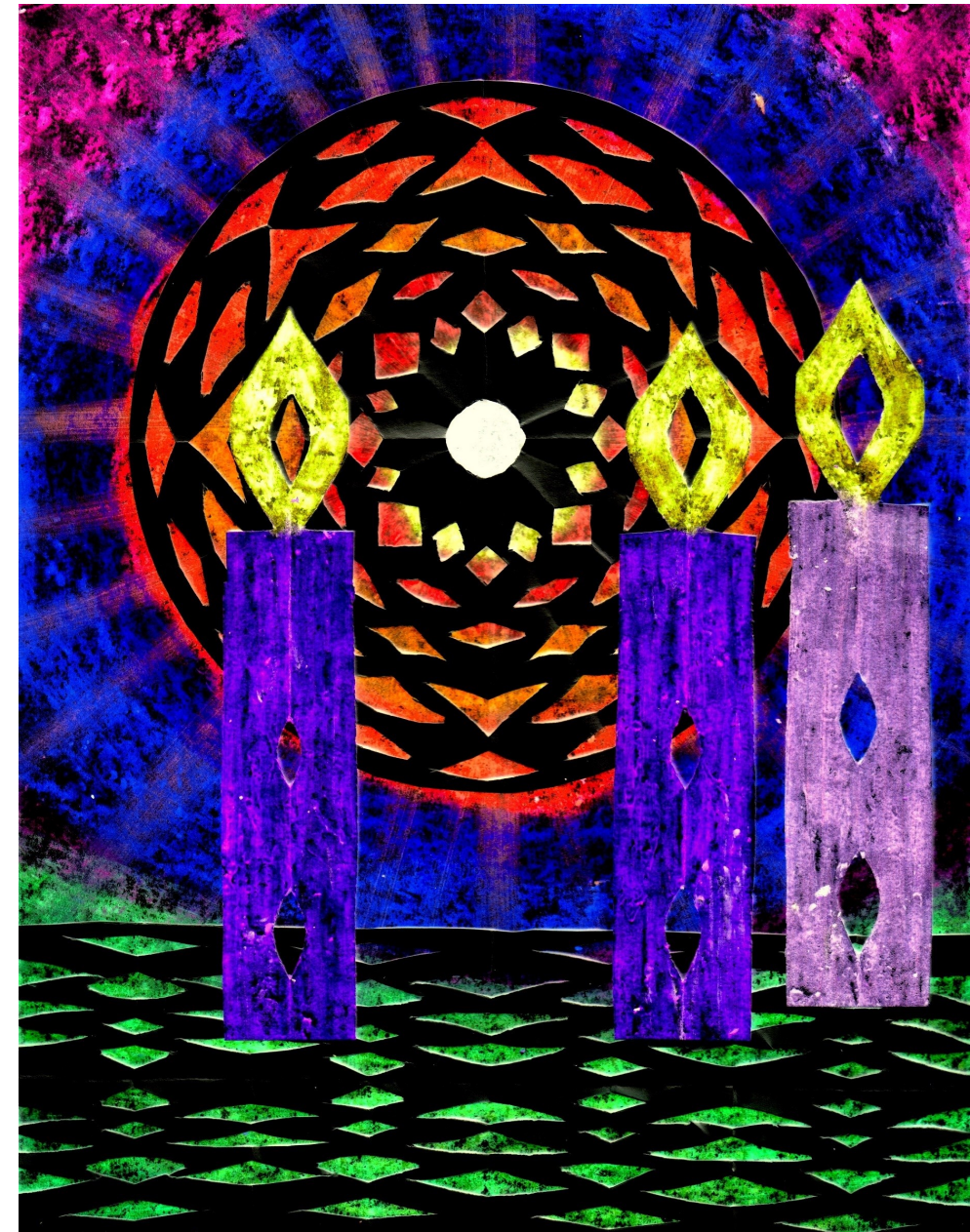
- **Sunday, December 17** 9:15 am Adult Choir Rehearsal; 10:00 am Sunday School; 11:00 am Worship Service (Lessons and Carols)
- **Monday, December 18** 12:30 pm Prayer Ministry; 5:15 pm Christmas Caroling (with potluck soup/sandwiches)
- **Tuesday, December 19** 7:30 am Men's Breakfast/Bible Study
- **Wednesday, December 20** No Wednesday Activities
- **Thursday, December 21** 6:00 pm Service of the Longest Night

Sunday, December 17, 2023

11:00 AM

Third Sunday in Advent

How Does a Weary World Rejoice?



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

Opening Voluntary

O Come All Ye Faithful John F. Wade
(v. 1 all, v. 2 choir, v.3 children, v.4 all)

Verse 1 (Congregation seated)

O come, all ye faithful, joyful and triumphant;
O come ye; O come ye to Bethlehem!
Come and behold him, born the King of angels!

(Chorus)

O come, let us adore him;
O come let us adore him;
O come, let us adore him,
Christ, the Lord!

Verse 4 (Congregation standing)

Yea, Lord, we greet thee, born this happy morning;
Jesus, to thee be all glory given;
Word of the Father, now in flesh appearing!
(Chorus)

Welcome

Lighting of the Advent Candles

How does a weary world practice joy?

By dancing, and throwing birthday parties. By hanging Christmas lights, and holding sleepy babies. By singing loudly, and looking for good news. By telling the story of Jesus, and showing up for our community.

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

With God's help, may we bring joy into a weary world. Amen.

Lesson I

Genesis 3:8-15, 17-19

Carol *In the Bleak Midwinter* arr. Keith Christopher
(Adult and Children's Choir)
Alexis Boylan, violin; Molly Schneider, violin; Bryan Johnson, viola; Zach Helms, cello

Lesson II

Genesis 22:15-18

Hymn *O Come, O Come Emmanuel #88*
(Congregational)

Lesson III

Isaiah 9:2, 6-7

Carol *It Came Upon a Midnight Clear* arr. John Leavitt
Carey Moore, flute; Alexis Boylan, violin; Molly Schneider, violin; Bryan Johnson, viola; Zach Helms, cello

Lesson IV

Isaiah 11:1-4a, 6-9

Carol *The Holly and the Ivy* Vaughan Jones
Alexis Boylan, violin; Molly Schneider, violin; Bryan Johnson, viola; Zach Helms, cello

Lesson V

Luke 1:26-35, 38

Hymn *The First Noel #147 (v. 1, vs. 2, v.4)*
(Congregational)

Lesson VI

Luke 2:1-7

Carol *Angels Carol* John Rutter
Carey Moore, flute; Alexis Boylan, violin; Molly Schneider, violin; Bryan Johnson, viola; Zach Helms, cello

Lesson VII

Matthew 2:1-11

Hymn *What Child is This? #145*
(Congregational)

Lesson VIII

Luke 2:8-15

Carol *Run to the Manger* Victor C. Johnson

Invitation to Generosity

Offertory *Joy to the World*
Rob Seymour, trumpet; Ramon Zamudio, trumpet; Duncan Lord, trombone;
Dalton Hooper, trombone; Andrew Duggins, French Horn; Will Halloran, tuba

***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**

Lesson IX

John 1:1-14

Closing Voluntary *All is Well* arr. John Leavitt
(congregation joins in on last verse)
Carey Moore, flute; Alexis Boylan, violin; Molly Schneider, violin; Bryan Johnson, viola; Zach Helms, cello

Blessing and Charge

May the Christ, who, by his incarnation gathered into one the things of heaven and earth, fill you with the sweetness of inward peace and goodwill, and the blessing of God Almighty, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, be upon you and remain with you always. **Alleluia.**

Postlude

*Please stand in body or in spirit

Serving in Worship

Courtney Pittman—Senior Pastor
Karisa Seymour—Music Director
Meghan Shafer—Accompanist
Coleman Jackson—Acolyte
The Boulder Family—Advent Candle
Tommy Arthur—Communications Technologist