

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 and in celebration of Pamela (Hughes) Schuyler and Cheyenne Hughes' birthdays by Bob and Rose Mary Hughes.

Coming Up in the Life of the Church

Please Note!! New flooring will be installed in the downstairs area (including the stairs) of the Education Building from Friday, February 16 (beginning at 1:00 pm) through Sunday, February 25. The downstairs area of the Education Building will be off-limits during this time—the upstairs rooms will still be available and can be accessed through the elevator in the fellowship hall.

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. Each Wednesday, **10:00 am—11:30 am in the church library**. Come and bring a friend.

Women's Coffee Morning Thursday, February 29, 8:30 am—10:00 am: We could all use a little more joy in our lives! Join us for coffee, pastries, fellowship and discussion in the Fellowship Hall to discuss “Finding Joy in Sticky Situations.” This is a casual get together, so come as you are and bring a friend if you'd like! Contact Lori Hume (404-432-0684 or LoriDHume@aol.com) if you've got suggestions for future women's events!

Women's Retreat March 8-10: *Finding Joy in Our Stories* This year's women's retreat asks the question, “What's Your Story?” Everyone has one. No matter what your story involves, we want you to feel connected to one another, to embrace one another's stories, to find joy in our story and explore the impact our story has on others. May this brief break from our daily schedule and responsibilities refresh your spirit and provide renewed energy to grow your faith in real and amazing ways. Cost \$250. Contact Lori Hume (404-432-0684 or LoriDHume@aol.com) for questions or to confirm attendance.

Opportunities for Outreach and Mission

Ministry Bags for February: 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. They are in need of toiletry items such as soap, toothbrush, toothpaste, shampoo for all ages and races. They are also in need of devotional books.

Each ministry of MPC now has their own email address. Please feel free to use these emails with any correspondence/questions you might have.

personnelmadisonpres@gmail.com
congregationallifemadisonpres@gmail.com
faithformationmadisonpres@gmail.com
outreachmadisonpres@gmail.com

communicationsmadisonpres@gmail.com
financemadisonpres@gmail.com
buildingmadisonpres@gmail.com
worshipmadisonpres@gmail.com

Sunday, February 18, 2024
11:00 AM
The First Sunday in Lent



“River of Grace” by Lisle Gwynn Garrity

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 *He Never Said a Mumbalin’ Word* arr. Arnold B. Sherman

Welcome

***Call to Worship** *Rev. Sarah A. Speed/ A Sanctified Art LLC/ sanctifiedart.org*

Come in.

Feel your feet on the floor.

Settle your worries.

Take a deep breath.

Dust the cobwebs from your ears. Relax the tension in your jaw,

for Christ is here.

God never stops seeking us.

We have been found.

Let us find God in return.

Let us worship the God of deep waters. Amen.

***Hymn 465** *What a Friend We Have in Jesus*

***Confessing Together** *Rev. Sarah A. Speed/ A Sanctified Art LLC/ sanctifiedart.org*

Loving God, you call us by name. You join us in the deep waters of life. You invite us to drop our nets and follow you, and yet, more often than we’d like to admit, we are like Peter. Over and over again, we stand slack jawed and surprised to find you in our midst. Forgive us for drowning out your voice with our own. Forgive us for assuming that we can tackle deep waters by ourselves. Forgive us for forgetting that you will never stop climbing into our boat. Turn our hearts, our minds, and our spirits toward you, for you are the Lord our God, and it is in your name that we pray. (We continue in silence....) Amen.

***Assurance of God’s Love** *Adapted from Rev. Sarah A. Speed/ A Sanctified Art LLC/ sanctifiedart.org*

Friends, Peter didn’t exactly make a good first impression when Jesus got into his boat. He questioned dropping his nets, as they hadn’t caught any fish all night. He was oblivious to who Christ was for quite some time, and once he realized the Divinity standing in his boat, he quickly deemed himself unworthy. And even still, Jesus called Peter a disciple and a friend. Church family, hear and believe this good news: You can make thousand bad impressions. You can make every mistake in the book, roll your eyes, and assume you know better. And *even still*, Christ will forgive you, claim you, and continue to seek your heart. That is the good news of the gospel. Rest, celebrate, and trust in that. Church, we are forgiven. **We are free to try again. Alleluia, Amen.**

***Response to God’s Grace** (Hymn 582, verse 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: Psalm 25:1-10
Holy wisdom, holy word. **Thanks be to God.**

Anthem *Lift Thine Eyes* Mendelssohn’s Elijah
Rae Merritt, Danielle Olivares, Katherine Webster

Second Reading: Luke 5:1-11
Holy wisdom, holy word. **Thanks be to God.**

Sermon *Wandering Heart: Jesus sought me*

Responding to the Word

***Hymn 819** *Be Still, My Soul*

***Affirming our Faith** *Rev. Sarah A. Speed/ A Sanctified Art LLC/ sanctifiedart.org*

I believe in a God of abundance—a God who sees possibilities where I cannot, and who holds onto hope when I am at the end of my rope. I believe in a God who comforts—a God who says, “Do not be afraid”; a God who joins me in life’s deep waters. I believe in a God who invites—a God who says, “Follow me,” and, “You will be fishers of people.” I believe in a God who seeks after me relentlessly and persistently—a God of second chances and boundless mercy; a God who calls us by name. We believe. Help our unbelief. In Christ’s name we pray. Amen.

Prayer 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 *There is a Fountain* arr. Linda R. Lamb

***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 775** *I Want Jesus to Walk with Me*

***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
Lorene Malanowski—Liturgist
Martha Kelly—Acolyte
Tommy Arthur—Communications Technologist