

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 4 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!

Coming Up in the Life of the Church

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 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.

Red Cross Blood Drive Tuesday, March 5, 1:00—6:00 pm in the fellowship hall. To make an appointment please visit redcrossblood.org. Donors will receive a \$10 gift card to Pet Merchant of choice.

The Ladies Coffee Circle will meet Tuesday, March 10 at 10:00 am in the fellowship hall. For more information contact Susan McCullar at smac49@gmail.com.

Young at Heart will meet Thursday, March 14, 11:30 am at Cracker Barrel followed by dominoes and canasta in the fellowship hall. For more information contact June Jones at cjwjones0@gmail.com.

Opportunities for Outreach and Mission

Ministry Bags for March: We will be collecting items for Pup Packs. Pup Packs began as a ministry of the Episcopal Church of the Advent in 2009. In an effort to combat childhood hunger and improve school performance, this ministry provides supplemental food over the weekends for children who might not have the food they need at home. For over 50% of the children in Morgan County Primary and Elementary Schools, school meals may be the only food they have. Pup Packs is run entirely by volunteers and has no overhead other than the cost of food. Donations of money and food enable the program to run. Volunteers shop for the food and then groups of volunteers meet on Fridays to pack the bags and deliver them to the primary and elementary schools. Once delivered, school counselors discreetly distribute them to the children who have been identified as needing the extra help provided by Pup Packs. Siblings who do not attend the elementary or primary schools are included and so many of the participants carry home two or more bags each weekend. Currently and overage of 160 children are served each week. Please choose from the following list to put in your Ministry Bag: pop-top chicken noodle soup or ravioli, instant oatmeal packs, small boxes of raisins, small containers of applesauce, cereal bars or peanut butter crackers.

Serving in Worship

Courtney Pittman—Senior Pastor

Karisa Seymour—Music Director

Meghan Shafer—Accompanist

Susan McCullar—Liturgist

Tripp Pittman—Acolyte

Tommy Arthur—Communications Technologist

Sunday, March 3, 2024

11:00 AM

The Third Sunday in Lent



“Who Say Ye That I Am” by Sarah Hawkes

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

Rev. Sarah A. Speed/A Sanctified Art LLC/sanctifiedart.org

If you ask the sky who God is,
the sky will tell you of God’s reach.

If you ask the day who God is,
the sun will tell you of God’s warmth.

If you ask the night who God is,
the moon will tell you of God’s comfort.

“The heavens are telling the glory of God.” Are you listening?

We are listening! We will sing of God’s glory. Let us worship Holy God.

*Hymn 157

I Danced in the Morning

*Confessing Together

Rev. Sarah A. Speed/A Sanctified Art LLC/sanctifiedart.org

Holy God, some days, we are quick to declare your goodness. Like Peter, we see you in our midst and we are confident in our faith. Other days, we are distracted and uncertain, desperate for answers. Forgive us for losing sight of you. Some days we are quick to trust your blessings—trusting that we are called, that we can make a difference. Other days, our praise falls silent and doubt creeps in. Forgive us for losing sight of ourselves. We know that fear and doubt are part of the journey of faith. But for the days when we are far from you and far from ourselves, we ask for your tender grace. Pull us closer toward you. Remind us of the mountaintop moments of our faith. ... *(We continue in silence....)* Amen.

*Assurance of God’s Love

Adapted from Rev. Sarah A. Speed/A Sanctified Art LLC/sanctifiedart.org

Friends, whether you speak to God in a whisper or with clear conviction, with questions or with answers, with hope in your heart or with doubt in your throat—God will *always* listen with love and mercy. So rest in this good news: regardless of how loudly you live your faith—you belong to God. You are loved. You are claimed. Speak *that* good news with confidence. Church, we are forgiven. **We are free to try again. Alleluia, Amen.**

*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: Psalm 19

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

Anthem

Lord Be With Us

Second Reading: Matthew 16:13-20

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

Sermon

Wandering Heart: Praise the mount

Responding to the Word

*Affirming our Faith

Rev. Sarah A. Speed/A Sanctified Art LLC/sanctifiedart.org

Jesus asked the disciple, “But what about you: Who do you say that I am?” Church, what do you say?

Jesus is a hand reaching out in the storm, the voice of truth spoken over us, and love without walls. Jesus is justice for the weary, healing for the hurt, and welcome for the stranger. Jesus is the teacher, Messiah, and friend—with me on the mountain and beside me in the valley. Jesus is a star in the night, and the love that knows my name.

Jesus asked, “Who do you say that I am?”

Like Peter, we say, “Jesus, you are the Messiah, son of the Living God.”

Invitation to Generosity

Offertory

*Response (Hymn 609)

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow.

Praise God, all creatures high and low.

Alleluia, alleluia!

Praise God, in Jesus fully known: Creator, Word, and Spirit one.

Alleluia, alleluia!

Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!

*Prayer of Gratitude

The Eucharist

Invitation to the Table

Great Prayer of Thanksgiving

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

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.

Words of Institution

Anthem

Create in Me a Clean Heart

Prayer After Communion

Being the Church in the World

*Hymn 307

God of Grace and God of Glory

*Charge and Blessing

Postlude

*Please stand in body or in spirit