

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. There is a nursery available for children under 4.

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 this morning to the glory of God and in celebration of Callie Moore's birthday by John and Johnnie Sue Moore.

Coming Up in the Life of the Church

Tuesday Morning Bible Study: Join us on Tuesday mornings from 11:00 am—12:00 pm as we study Sarah Bessey's new book, *Field Notes for the Wilderness: Practices for an Evolving Faith*. Our first meeting will be on Tuesday, April 16 and will continue each Tuesday until our last meeting on May 14 (One exception—we will not meet on May 7, but will meet on Thursday, May 9 instead). There is a guided journal that accompanies the book but it is totally **OPTIONAL!** (Just make sure you are ordering the book and not the journal!) Email Courtney if you have any questions: courtneypittmanmpc@gmail.com

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.

Opportunities for Outreach and Mission

April Ministry Bags will support the Morgan County Humane Society. The focus for The Humane Society is to rescue dogs and cats who have been neglected, abused, or lost. After getting the animals healthy and neutered, the goal is to find each dog and cat, no matter the kind, size, age or color, a wonderful new home where they will be loved and cared for in a healthy and safe environment. The following items are needed: kitten food (dry or wet), puppy food (dry or wet), dog toys (large/small, soft/hard), cat toys (all kinds) and dog treats.

Sunday, April 28, 2024
11:00 AM
Fifth Sunday of Easter



"Philip and the Ethiopian Eunuch" by Herbert Boeckl

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

Open My Eyes

arr. Karen Thompson

Welcome

Moment for Mission

Jonathan Jones, Presbyterian Student Center (The Table @UGA)

*Call to Worship

We come like Phillip:

following the angels, waiting for a word from the Spirit.

So, breathe your Word into us, O God, that we might have boldness to speak to the stranger on the road, to proclaim the good news about Jesus, to love one another.

Let us dwell within your deep love for us.

Let us live within the truth of Scripture:

Perfect love casts out all fear. Amen.

Lancaster Theological Seminary

*Hymn 611

Joyful, Joyful We Adore Thee

*Confessing Together

Holy and gracious God, we ask for your help. We ask for your power, for your Spirit, so that we may amend our lives and grow each day into the image of Christ. We confess that we fear what is different. We confess that we have not lived out your call to share in abundant life and unconditional love. We believe that you have the power to turn us around to a more inclusive way of living so that we may truly love all. We ask you to give us the courage to change. We ask that you give us energy, intelligence, imagination, and compassion. We ask for your help, O God.

(We continue in silence...) **Amen.**

*Assurance of God's Love

God is gracious and merciful and knows our deeds even before they reach our lips. But also know this: that the God in whom we serve has everlasting mercy. I remind you of God's surpassing grace. Church, we are forgiven. **We are free to try again. Alleluia. Amen.**

*Response to God's Grace (Hymn 648)

Thankful hearts and voices raise; tell everyone what God has done. Let everyone who seeks the Lord rejoice and bear the name of Christ. Send us with your promises and lead your people forth in joy with shouts of thanksgiving. 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: 1 John 4:7-21

Holy Wisdom, Holy Word. **Thanks be to God.**

Anthem (with congregation and handbells)

Lift High the Cross

Hal Hopson

Second Reading: Acts 8:26-40

Holy Wisdom, Holy Word. **Thanks be to God.**

Sermon

Responding to the Word

*Hymn 284

Holy Spirit, Come to Us

*Affirming our Faith

excerpts from Confession of Belhar (PCUSA)

We believe in one holy, universal Christian church, the communion of saints called from the entire human family. We believe that this unity of the people of God must be manifested and be active in a variety of ways: in that we love one another; that we experience, practice and pursue community with one another; that we are obligated to give ourselves willingly and joyfully to be of benefit and blessing to one another;; that we share one faith, have one calling, are of one soul and one mind; that we need one another and upbuild one another, admonishing and comforting one another. Amen.

Prayers of the People and the 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

Praise Unfolding

Sandra Eihun

*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

Being the Church in the World

*Hymn 450

Be Thou My Vision

*Charge and Blessing

Postlude

*Please stand in body or in spirit

Serving in Worship

Rev. Courtney Pittman—Senior Pastor

Rev. Will Norman—Guest Preacher; Executive Campus Minister, Presbyterian Student Center (The Table@UGA)

Karisa Seymour—Music Director

Meghan Shafer—Accompanist

David Boardman—Handbell Choir Director

Martha Kelly—Acolyte

Tommy Arthur—Communications Technologist