

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 loving memory of Anne Marie Gary by Stan and Valle Ashley.

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

Young at Heart will meet Thursday, April 11 at 11:30 for lunch at Captain D's then join us for canasta and dominoes in the fellowship hall. For more information contact June Jones at cjwjones0@gmail.com.

MPC Preschool Sunday: Join us for worship on Sunday, April 21 as we celebrate Madison Presbyterian Church Preschool. We will have special music, pocket-sized guest choir members, liturgists, and ushers. :) There will also be a picnic following worship at Hill Park (more details to follow). We hope to see you there!

MPC Preschool is taking orders for flats of beautiful begonias and mixed master arrangement hanging baskets which would make a great Mother's Day gift. The cost is \$25.00 per flat or basket. Sign up on the church bulletin board or email Ashley Brown preschoolmpc@gmail.com to place your order. Checks can be made out to MPCP and placed in the envelope on the bulletin or left in the preschool office. The flowers will be ready for pick-up on Friday, May 10, 8:00 am—12:00 pm. just in time for Mother's Day. Deadline for orders is April 22. Thank you in advance for supporting our preschool with this fundraiser.

Madison Presbyterian Church will be on the tour of homes Friday, April 19 and Saturday, April 20. If you would like to volunteer as a docent please contact Johnnie Sue Moore at 706-318-9204 or jsmoore@jasper.k12.ga.us.

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.

Serving in Worship

Rev. Dale Chapin—Guest Pastor
Karisa Seymour—Music Director
Meghan Shafer—Accompanist
Dan Jones—Liturgist
Daphne McWhirter—Acolyte
Tommy Arthur—Communications Technologist

Sunday, April 7, 2024
11:00 AM
Second Sunday of Easter



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Gathering as God's Beloved

Gathering Music

Chiming of the Hour

Prelude

Welcome

*Call to Worship

Jesus said,

“Follow me.”

Jesus said,

“Take heart, it is I; do not be afraid.”

Jesus said,

“Forgive seventy times seven.”

Jesus said,

“Feed my sheep.”

In response, we say:

“Here's my heart. Take and seal it. Seal it for they courts above.”

Let us worship God with all our hearts.

*Hymn 246

Christ Is Alive

*Confessing Together

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

Gracious God, like Peter, we crawl out of the boat only to sink. You tell us your truth and we push it away. We ask about forgiveness and are surprised by abundance. We profess our faith and deny it three times. We run to the empty tomb and leave in silence. Over and over again, we find ourselves wandering along the journey of faith. Tether us to your heart. Forgive our surprise, our denial, and our limited imagination Call us out of the boat once more. We are eager to return to you....*(We continue in silence....)* **Amen.**

*Assurance of God's Love

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

Friends, the first time that Peter saw Jesus after the crucifixion, Jesus asked him three time, “Do you love me?” this repetition was not because Jesus doubted Peter's word. This repetition was Jesus offering Peter grace. You see, the last time Jesus and Peter were together, Peter said three times, “I do not know that man.” So when Jesus returned, he asked Peter, “Do you love me?” And in that moment, he allowed Peter to turn his denials into love. Friends, the grace of our God knows no end. When we stumble, when we fall, when we deny God or cause harm, Jesus meets us where we are and offers us a second chance. So rest in this good news. Does God love you? Yes, yes, yes. God loves you. We are forgiven. Thanks be to God for a love that never ends. **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!

Baptism of Alessia Marie Chapin Bardales

*Congregation's Profession of Faith—The Apostle's Creed

I believe in God the Father Almighty, Maker of heaven and earth, and in Jesus Christ his only Son our Lord; who was conceived by the Holy Ghost, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, dead, and buried; he descended into hell; the third day he rose again from the dead; he ascended into heaven, and sitteth on the right hand of God the Father Almighty; from thence he shall come to judge the quick and the dead. I believe in the Holy Ghost; the holy catholic Church; the communion of saints; the forgiveness of sins; the resurrection of the body; and the life everlasting. Amen.

Baptismal Response (Hymn 188)

Jesus loves me! This I know for the Bible tells me so. Little ones to him belong. They are weak, but he is strong. Yes, Jesus loves me! Yes, Jesus loves me! Yes, Jesus loves me! The Bible tells me so.

Prayer for God's Wisdom

First Reading: John 21:1-8

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

Anthem

Holy, Holy, Holy

B. Holcome

Second Reading: John 21:9-19

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

Sermon

The First Breakfast

Responding to the Word

Invitation to Generosity

Offertory

*Response (Hymn 609)

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

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 Redeemer 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

Prayer After Communion

Being the Church in the World

*Hymn 726

Will You Come and Follow Me

*Charge and Blessing

Postlude

*Please stand in body or in spirit