

## 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 Elinor Pippin by Jim and Edei Pippin.

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### 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](mailto: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.

**Young at Heart** will meet Thursday, May 9 at 11:30 am at Martha's Diner. Followed by canasta and dominos in the fellowship hall.

**Pentecost and Graduation Sunday** will be May 19. Join us for worship as we honor our amazing graduates and celebrate the birth of the church! We will be presenting quilts to our seniors as well as having Pentecost popsicles on the patio! (Be sure to wear RED!!!)

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### Opportunities for Outreach and Mission

**May Ministry Bags:** The emphasis for May will be Camp Twin Lakes. We will have a family workday at the Rutledge location on May 18 at 9:00 am. The workday is for families with children 6 years and older as well as adults. It is time to get the two camp campuses all spruced up. Volunteers will have a staff person to guide them. Arrive at 9:00 am and you will be done by noon. Please contact Susan McCullar at [srmac49@gmail.com](mailto:srmac49@gmail.com) or 678-907-0771. The Camp has an Amazon Wish List that members can check and choose items to donate. (Use this link to access the Amazon Wish List: [https://www.amazon.com/hz/wishlist/ls/11JPN3A9AUSNM?ref=w\\_l\\_share](https://www.amazon.com/hz/wishlist/ls/11JPN3A9AUSNM?ref=w_l_share).) Some of the items on the list include: watercolor paint kits with brushes; playing cards (standard and jumbo size); small elastic ponytail holders multicolored; small metal hairclips (multi color and designs); swimming pool diving toys; pipe cleaners multicolor; Crayola broad line markers.

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### Serving in Worship

Rev. Courtney Pittman—Senior Pastor

Karisa Seymour—Music Director

Meghan Shafer—Accompanist

Susan McCullar—Liturgist

Mason Hawk—Acolyte

Tommy Arthur—Communications Technologist

Sunday, May 5, 2024

11:00 AM

Sixth Sunday of Easter



Reconciliation Mural, Chicago, Illinois

382 South Main Street  
Madison GA 30650  
(706) 342-2813 phone  
(706) 342-4350 fax  
[www.madisonpresbyterian.church](http://www.madisonpresbyterian.church)

## Gathering as God's Beloved

### Gathering Music

### Chiming of the Hour

### Prelude

### Welcome

### Moment for Mission

Camp Twin Lakes

### \*Call to Worship

Bruce Prewer

Here today there is love: freely available to all. Not our human loving, fragile and intermittent, but God's supreme love.

**Make a joyful noise to the Lord! All the earth break forth into joyous songs of praise.**

Here today is love: higher than our loftiest hopes, deeper than the immensities of time and space, God's inclusive love.

**Let the seas roar their praise and everything in them. Let the rivers clap their hands and the hills sing together their happiness.**

The joy of the living Christ Jesus be with you all.

**And also with you.**

### \*Hymn 761

*Called as Partners in Christ's Service*

### \*Confessing Together

Hearing the Parables with the Early Church

**Loving and merciful One, we thank you for the community in which you have placed us, for the siblings in Christ with whom we walk this pilgrim journey. Yet we confess that we fail to love as you love. We push aside those whom we believe are the least in your Kingdom. We fail to see your Kingdom in parables because we fail to see your Kingdom in each other. Form in us a new vision of community in which there is neither east nor west, south nor north. We pray for the sake of your Kingdom that both is and is not yet....** *(We continue in silence...)* **Amen.**

### \*Assurance of God's Love

Jesus said: "You did not choose me, but I chose you." Friends, we have asked for forgiveness and correction. It has been truly done for us. It is being done for us. And it will be done for us. 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:** Deuteronomy 7:7-11

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

### Anthem

*Were We There*

Craig Courtney

**Second Reading:** John 15:9-17

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

### Sermon

## Responding to the Word

### \*Affirming our Faith

excerpts from Confession of 1967

**God's sovereign love is a mystery beyond the reach of the human mind. Human thought ascribes to God superlatives of power, wisdom, and goodness. But God reveals divine love in Jesus Christ by showing power in the form of a servant, wisdom in the folly of the cross, and goodness in receiving sinful men and women. The power of God's love in Christ to transform the world discloses that the Redeemer is the Lord and Creator who made all things to serve the purpose of God's love. God has created the world of space and time to be the sphere of God's dealings with humankind. In its beauty and vastness, sublimity and awfulness, order and disorder, the world reflects to the eye of faith the majesty and mystery of its Creator.**

### 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

## 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

### Prayer After Communion

## Being the Church in the World

### \*Hymn 465

*What a Friend We Have in Jesus*

### \*Charge and Blessing

### Postlude

\*Please stand in body or in spirit