

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 by Hiram and Babs Johnston and in loving memory of their mothers, Sylvia Kalvelage and Lillian Johnston.

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.

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!!!)

VBS REGISTRATION NOW OPEN!! VBS will be held June 10—14. All children ages rising PreK through rising 5th grade are welcome! See this week's Weekly Word to register. Planning is well underway, and we're seeking volunteers.—both adults and youth (rising 6th grade and older)! VBS isn't possible without our volunteers, and we thank you in advance for the gift of your time. We are also requesting decorating items: blue fabric, blue and green streamers, blue plastic tablecloths; any scuba/snorkeling gear (labeled with name); any fishing gear/nets, fishing line; clear trash bags/can liners; brown craft paper; any color spray paint; cardboard boxes of any size; cans of spray foam; pool noodles. Questions? Contact Mary Ann Orr—maryannorr3@gmail.com.

Theology on Tap: Mark your calendars for Thursday, May 30 for our first Young Adult “Theology on Tap” event. Childcare (and kid's dinner) provided at MPC! We'll gather at 6:30 pm at the church to settle the kids in for dinner, a movie and some fun. Adults will walk to Amici to enjoy an evening of fellowship together and walk back to MPC to end the evening by 8:30 pm. RSVP by 5/25 is required for childcare. Be on the lookout for an official evite, and reach out to maryannorr3@gmail.com with any questions. Hope to see you there!!

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 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_=wl_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.

Sunday, May 12, 2024

11:00 AM

Seventh Sunday of Easter



The Rev'd Sarah West | visiolectio.com

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Gathering as God's Beloved

Gathering Music

Chiming of the Hour

Prelude

Welcome

*Call to Worship

Give thanks for all the wonderful works of God.

Praise the Lord!

Sing a new song of praise to the God of all peoples.

Praise the Lord!

Proclaim God's name to all the world.

Praise the Lord!

We are God's chosen people; God is with us always.

Praise the Lord!

Let our hearts rejoice, for God holds us as a mother holds her child.

Praise the Lord!

*Hymn 401

Here in this Place

*Confessing Together

adapted from The Abington Worship Manual

God of mystery, we are constantly amazed by the depth and breadth of your love. Over and over again, you turn our expectations inside out and upside down. You say *I AM WHO I AM*, and yet we still don't know. We still don't understand the radical nature of your grace. We play by our own rules of justice, even when it means excluding those we are called to love and defend. In our darkest moments, we doubt if we are worthy of your trust. God, help us remember that you give us all the tools we need; that through the solid foundation of your love, we find strength to follow your call as true disciples of Jesus Christ. Surprise us again, O God. Surprise us again..... *(We continue in silence...)* **Amen.**

*Assurance of God's Love

The mercy of the Lord is from everlasting to everlasting. May the God of mercy, who forgive us all our sins and wraps us in God's loving arms, strengthen us in all goodness, and by the power of the Holy Spirit keep us in eternal life. 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: Hosea 11:1-4; Matthew 23:37

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

Anthem

Goodness of God

arr. Jay Rouse

Second Reading: Genesis 1:26-27; Exodus 3:13-14

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

Sermon

Responding to the Word

*Hymn 44

Like a Mother Who Borne Us

*Affirming our Faith

excerpts from A Brief Statement of Faith

In sovereign love God created the world good and makes everyone equally in God's image, male and female, of every race and people, to live as one community. But we rebel against God; we hide from our Creator. Ignoring God's commandments, we violate the image of God in others and ourselves, accept lies as truth, exploit neighbor and nature, and threaten death to the planet entrusted to our care. We deserve God's condemnation. Yet God acts with justice and mercy to redeem creation. In everlasting love, the God of Abraham and Sarah chose a covenant people to bless all families of the earth. Hearing their cry, God delivered the children of Israel from the house of bondage. Loving us still, God makes us heirs with Christ of the covenant. Like a mother who will not forsake her nursing child, like a father who runs to welcome the prodigal home, God is faithful still.

Prayers of the People

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

*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 15 (vs. 1,3,4,6)

All Creatures of Our God and King

*Charge and Blessing

Postlude

*Please stand in body or in spirit

Serving in Worship

Rev. Courtney Pittman—Senior Pastor

Karisa Seymour—Music Director

Amanda Stover—Accompanist

Ryan Rutherford—Special Musician

Jake Carlson—Special Musician

Christie Jones—Liturgist

Tripp Pittman—Acolyte

Tommy Arthur—Communications Technologist