



PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
of **MADISON**



December 1, 2024
First Sunday of Advent

ORDER of WORSHIP

THE GATHERING OF GOD'S PEOPLE

Prelude

Welcome and Announcements

* Lighting of the Advent Candles

Leader: We light this candle as a sign of the coming light of Christ. As God has promised, in the days to come, the nations shall beat their swords into plowshares, and their spears into pruning hooks.

People: Nation shall not lift up sword against nation, neither shall they learn war any more.

Leader: Let us walk in the light of the Lord.

People: Amen.

*Opening Hymn

O Come, O Come, Emmanuel

Prayer of Confession

God of the future, we confess that we accept lies as truth, exploit neighbors, abuse the earth, and refuse your justice and peace. In your mercy, forgive us. Grant us wisdom to welcome your way, and to seek things that will endure.

(A moment of silence is observed.)

Assurance of Pardon

Leader: Friends, believe the good news!

People: In Jesus Christ we are forgiven.

***Congregational Response**

*You alone can rescue,
You alone can save,
You alone can lift us from the grave;
You came down to find us, led us out of death,
To You alone belongs the highest praise,
Amen.*

***Passing of the Peace**

PROCLAMATION OF THE WORD

Children's Message

Prayer for Illumination

Holy God, you are our hope and strength. By the power of your Spirit, prepare the way in our hearts for your presence. Through Jesus Christ, we pray, Amen.

First Scripture Reading

1 Thessalonians 3:9-13

9 How can we thank God enough for you in return for all the joy that we feel before our God because of you? 10 Night and day we pray most earnestly that we may see you face to face and restore whatever is lacking in your faith. 11 Now may our God and Father himself and our Lord Jesus direct our way to you. 12 And may the Lord make you increase and abound in love for one another and for all, just as we abound in love for you. 13 And may he so strengthen your hearts in holiness that you may be blameless before our God and Father at the coming of our Lord Jesus with all his saints.

Second Scripture Reading

Luke 3:1-6

3 In the fifteenth year of the reign of Tiberius Caesar, when Pontius Pilate was governor of Judea, and Herod was ruler of Galilee, and his brother Philip ruler of the region of Ituraea and Trachonitis, and Lysanias ruler of Abilene, 2 during the high priesthood of Annas and Caiaphas, the word of God came to John son of Zechariah in the wilderness. 3 He went into all the region around the Jordan, proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins, 4 as it is written in the book of the words of the prophet Isaiah, "The voice of one crying out in the wilderness: 'Prepare the way of the Lord; make his paths straight. 5 Every valley shall be filled, and every mountain and hill shall be made low, and the crooked shall be made straight, and the rough ways made smooth, 6 and all flesh shall see the salvation of God.' "

Sermon

How Do We Prepare?

RESPONDING TO THE WORD

***Affirmation of Faith**

from Romans 8

If God is for us, who can be against us? Who will separate us from the love of Christ? Will affliction or distress or persecution or famine or nakedness or peril or sword?

No. We believe that in all these things we are more than victorious through Jesus who loved us. For I believe that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor rulers, nor things present, nor things to come, nor powers, nor height, nor depth, nor anything else in all creation will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord.

The Gifts of Our Tithes and Offering

Invitation to Offering

Offertory

***Doxology**

*Praise God from whom all blessings flow;
Praise Christ all people here below;
Alleluia, Alleluia!
Praise Holy Spirit evermore;
Praise Triune God whom we adore.
Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!
Amen!*

***Prayer of Dedication and Thanksgiving**

The Sacrament of the Lord's Supper

Invitation to the Lord's Table

The Great Prayer of Thanksgiving

One: The Lord be with you!

All: **And also with you!**

One: Lift up your hearts.

All: **We lift them to the Lord.**

One: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

All: **It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

Sanctus

*Holy, holy, holy! Lord God almighty!
Early in the morning our song shall rise to Thee;
Holy, holy, holy! Merciful and mighty!
God in three persons, blessed Trinity!*

The Lord's Prayer

Our Father, 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.

*Communion of the People

Prayer After Communion

GOING FORTH TO LOVE AND SERVE THE LORD

*Closing Hymn

Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus

Benediction

*Postlude

*As our time of worship comes to an end, our time of service begins.
We are the church, sent out in Jesus' name,
to be Christ's body in the world.*

WORSHIP LEADER

Mary-Anna Holden

ANNOUNCEMENTS

MADISON EAGLE CHRISTMAS FUND BRIGHTENS THE HOLIDAYS FOR HUNDREDS

As in decades past, PCM is lending its support to the Madison Eagle Christmas Fund (MECF). The MECF has served Madison families and seniors in financial need for over 50 years. In 2023, the charity provided assistance to close to 500 of our Madison neighbors, including 200 children. The Fund provides gift cards for essentials such as groceries, gas, and warm clothing, but then gives the recipients the unique ability to select gift cards from a list of over 30 Madison shops and food establishments. The Fund's unique approach gives parents the joy and dignity of shopping for gifts they know their children will most enjoy, and gives seniors the independence to choose a place for a special meal or a gift for themselves.

Look for the small Christmas tree in the narthex with paper ornaments displaying various suggested dollar donations for MECF.

You can support this outreach by selecting an ornament and submitting a check for the chosen amount by Sunday, December 8.

Make the check out to the Presbyterian Church of Madison with MECF noted in the memo area, and place it in the offering plate or drop it off at the church office.

OPERATION HOLIDAY - GIFTS FOR CHILDREN

This year we have chosen to provide gifts for four children currently in one of the programs of Homeless Solutions - a 6-year-old girl and her 4-year-old brother and an 8-year-old girl and her 2-year-old brother. The tree in the narthex also has ornaments with the items from their wish lists. Please take one or more and sign up on the sheet so we can follow up, if necessary. The wrapped gifts, with the ornament attached, should be returned to the narthex by December 8 or the church office by December 10.

WHITE OFFERING

A long standing PCM mission project has been the collection of diapers for babies and children at Christmas time, to be donated to the Interfaith Food Pantry. Two years ago we also started collecting and donating adult incontinence products.

Why Donate Diapers for Babies & Young Children

According to the National Diaper Bank Network's June 2023 report, diaper need has increased sharply in recent years. In their recent study, approximately 47% of families reported a need. In the first diaper need investigation in 2010 and in several subsequent studies, approximately 33% of families reported diaper need. Families who experience food insecurity are also usually unable to purchase diapers, and if they don't have diapers to provide to day care centers, they miss work days. Diapers are an essential need for the health and hygiene of babies and toddlers. An inadequate supply of diapers increases a child's risk for diaper rash and other infections.

Why Donate Adult Incontinence Products

Products such as Depends are medically necessary for those managing bladder and bowel incontinence. Many seniors are living on fixed incomes. With the rate of inflation being high it is difficult for older adults to afford these products that are necessary for them to lead a full and active life. These items are also not funded by public assistance programs.

Your offerings can be placed under the Christmas tree in the sanctuary or in the bin outside the office in the Parish House.

RAMP

The quarter tube has been full three times this year, which means \$240 to RAMP (with the matching amount from discretionary mission funds). Can we make it to \$320 by the end of the year? Please continue to save your quarters and drop them in the tube each Sunday.

JOIN US FOR THE FOLLOWING ADVENT SERVICES

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 21

- 6:00 pm - Join us for Madison's interfaith 'Longest Night at the Christmas Tree' in downtown Madison.

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 22

- 10:15 am - Outdoor Christmas Pageant and Nativity Scene. Our children will lead the worship and retell the Christmas story complete with carols, angels, manger, goats, sheep and a donkey!
- The service will be held outside on the front lawn so dress accordingly. Please invite friends. There will be time after the service to get your photo taken in the manger with the animals! Go tell it on the mountain! All are welcome!

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 24 - Christmas Eve

- 4:30 pm - Christmas Eve Candlelight Service of Lessons and Carols

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 29

- 10:15 am - Informal Worship of Scripture and Song

88 O Come, O Come, Emmanuel



1 O come, O come, Em - man - u - el, and ran - som
 2 O come, thou Wis - dom from on high, who or - derest
 3 O come, O come, thou Lord of might, who to thy
 4 O come, thou Root of Jes - se, free thine own from



cap - tive Is - ra - el, that mourns in lone - ly ex - ile
 all things might - i - ly: to us the path of knowl - edge
 tribes on Si - nai's height in an - cient times didst give the
 Sa - tan's tyr - an - ny; from depths of hell thy peo - ple



here un - til the Son of God ap - pear.
 show; and teach us in her ways to go. Re-joyce! Re-joyce!
 law in cloud and maj - es - ty and awe.
 save and give them vic - tory o'er the grave.



Em - man - u - el shall come to thee, O Is - ra - el.

Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus 82

1 Come, thou long - ex - pect - ed Je - sus, born to set thy peo - ple free;
2 Born thy peo - ple to de - liv - er, born a child and yet a king,

from our fears and sins re - lease us; let us find our rest in thee.
born to reign in us for - ev - er, now thy gra - cious king - dom bring.

Is - rael's strength and con - so - la - tion, hope of all the earth thou art;
By thine own e - ter - nal Spir - it rule in all our hearts a - lone;

dear de - sire of ev - ery na - tion, joy of ev - ery long - ing heart.
by thine all - suf - fi - cient mer - it raise us to thy glo - rious throne.

WELCOMING ALL
AS A LOVING COMMUNITY
CENTERED IN CHRIST,
GROWING IN FAITH,
SERVING IN JOY, AND
LIVING IN GRATITUDE

STAFF

Reverend Carol Howard
Pastor

Christine Antico
Bookkeeper

Eileen Koppi
Administrative Assistant

Michael Callahan
Student Ministries & Outreach

Anna D'Achille
Director of Music

WORSHIP
Sunday Service 10:15 am

SESSION

Jim Burnet
Becky Moody, Clerk

Stephanie Haedrich
Giorgios Vlamis

Mary-Anna Holden

The Presbyterian Church of Madison is part of the PC(USA) Denomination
pcusa.org



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