



PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH  
*of* MADISON



December 21, 2025  
Fourth Sunday of Advent & Christmas Pageant

# ORDER of WORSHIP

## THE GATHERING OF GOD'S PEOPLE

“But the angel said to them, “Do not be afraid; for see—  
I am bringing you good news of great joy for all the people: to you  
is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is the Messiah,  
the Lord.”

### Prelude

### Welcome and Announcements

\* *O Come, O Come, Emmanuel*

O come, O come, Emmanuel,  
and ransom captive Israel,  
that mourns in lonely exile here  
until the Son of God appear.  
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel  
shall come to thee, O Israel.

O come, thou Dayspring, come and cheer  
our spirits by thine advent here;  
disperse the gloomy clouds of night,  
and death's dark shadows put to flight.  
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel  
shall come to thee, O Israel.

# RESPONDING TO GOD'S BLESSING

## 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**

Prayers of the People

Joys and Concerns

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.**

## CHRISTMAS PAGEANT

### **CAROL**      *O Little of Town of Bethlehem*

O little town of Bethlehem, how still we see thee lie!  
Above thy deep and dreamless sleep the silent stars go by.  
Yet in thy dark streets shineth the everlasting light;  
The hopes and fears of all the years are met in thee tonight.

### **CAROL**      *Away in a Manger*

Away in a manger, no crib for His bed  
The little Lord Jesus laid down his sweet head  
The stars in the sky looked down where he lay,  
The little Lord Jesus, asleep on the hay

### **CAROL**      *Hark the Herald Angels Sing*

Hark the herald angels sing, "Glory to the newborn king!"  
Peace on earth and mercy mild; God and sinner reconciled  
Joyful all ye nations rise; join the triumph of the skies  
With the angelic host proclaim, "Christ is born in Bethlehem"  
Hark the herald angels sing, "Glory to the newborn king!"

### **CAROL**      *Go Tell it on the Mountain*

Chorus

Go, tell it on the mountain over the hills and everywhere  
Go, tell it on the mountain that Jesus Christ is born

Verse

While shepherds kept their watching o'er silent flocks by night,  
Behold throughout the heavens there shone a holy light

(Repeat Chorus)

**CAROL**        *We Three Kings*

We three kings of orient are, bearing gifts we traverse afar,  
Field and fountain, moor and mountain, following yonder star.

Refrain

O star of wonder, star of night, star with royal beauty bright;  
Westward leading, still proceeding, guide us to thy perfect light!

**CAROL**        *Joy to the World*

Joy to the world, the Lord is come  
Let Earth receive her King  
Let every heart prepare Him room  
And Heaven and nature sing  
And Heaven and nature sing  
And Heaven, and Heaven, and nature sing

# GOING FORTH TO LOVE AND SERVE THE LORD

## \* Charge and 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.*

\* \* \* \* \*

Advent means “coming”. During the season of Advent, we watch and wait for Christ’s coming among us again. The four weeks of Advent give the opportunity for discernment – communal and individual – as the church prepares to celebrate the birth of our Lord Jesus Christ and look with hope for Christ’s return.

**Thank you to the following families for taking part in the pageant and living nativity - the Callahan family, the Currie family, the Haedrich family, the Boyar/ Kakalettris family, the Vlamis family, the Fleming family, and the Wood family.**

**Thank you to Anna D’Achille for always helping with the music.  
Thank you to Michael Callahan for his direction and good cheer!**

# ANNOUNCEMENTS

## WELCOME TO THE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF MADISON!

We'd love for you to join us in our activities, so please fill in the Welcome Card, which can be found in your pew, to give us contact information.

## WHILE YOU WORSHIP WITH US:

- **PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE** - Please write your request for prayers to be included in the service in the book on the podium found at the center entrance of the sanctuary. You'll also have a chance to share them during the service.
- **THE LORD'S SUPPER** is celebrated on the first Sunday of the month.
- **FOR YOUNG ONES** - Although children are always welcome in worship, nursery care for children from six months through three years of age is provided in our playroom in the Parish House. Please ask an usher to direct you.
- **JOINING OUR CONGREGATION** - Classes are offered for those who would like to become members of our congregation. Please call the church office or speak with Pastor Carol for additional information.
- **GET OUR ENEWS** - Keep current with our news and activities through email. If you are not currently getting it, you can sign up by putting your email on the Welcome Card, or you can contact the church office.

LEARN MORE ABOUT US by visiting our website at [www.pcmadison.org](http://www.pcmadison.org) and on Facebook at [www.facebook.com/ThePresbyterianChurchofMadison](https://www.facebook.com/ThePresbyterianChurchofMadison).

# ANNOUNCEMENTS

## MADISON EAGLE CHRISTMAS FUND BRIGHTENS THE HOLIDAYS

The Presbyterian Church of Madison has a longstanding tradition of supporting the Madison Eagle Christmas Fund. This year we as a congregation have an opportunity again to help our neighbors in need. The MECF will support more than 500 residents, including more than 240 children. The rise in numbers is driven by seniors living on fixed incomes and families dealing with higher costs of living. The changes in state SNAP income thresholds are closely tied to the 15% rise in families applying for assistance.

The MECF raises more than \$75,000 each year, mostly from small donations from residents. Those funds are used to purchase grocery, clothing, and local merchant gift cards. The recipients have the dignity of choice rather than receiving pre-selected donated items. The gift cards are purchased from Madison merchants, helping the business neighbors as well.

Take a paper ornament from the Christmas tree in the narthex to remind you to make a donation to the MECF. *Checks should be made out to the Presbyterian Church of Madison with MECF in the memo line. Donations are accepted through December 31.*

## CHRISTMAS JOY OFFERING

Through the Christmas Joy Offering, one of the four Special Offerings of the PC(USA), we reflect God's perfect gift to us, with generous support of church leaders among us – past, present, and future – who point us to God. 50% of our gifts are used to honor the faithfulness of current and retired church workers and their families in need. The remaining 50% are used to provide much-needed assistance to future church leaders of color at one of three Presbyterian-related schools and colleges in Alabama, New Mexico, and Texas. Envelopes will be available on December 21 and December 24. You may also give online at [pcusa.org/give/Christmasjoy](https://pcusa.org/give/Christmasjoy) or by texting CHRISTMASJOY to 91999.

## OUTDOOR SERVICE AND NATIVITY STORY - DECEMBER 21

There will be a Nativity story with live animals on Sunday, December 21 at 10:15 am. 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!



## **CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICE - DECEMBER 24**

Please join us at 4:30 pm on December 24 for Christmas Eve Candlelight Lessons and Carols.

## **WHITE DRIVE 2025: DECEMBER 7 - DECEMBER 24**

### **Diaper & Incontinence Product Collection**

For many years, the PCM mission team has organized a holiday drive to collect diapers for babies and children, supporting families in need through donations to the Interfaith Food Pantry. In recent years, we've expanded our efforts to include adult incontinence products, recognizing the growing need among seniors in our community.

#### ***Why Donate Diapers for Babies & Young Children?***

Diaper need is a widespread issue in the United States. According to the National Diaper Bank Network nearly half of all families with young children struggle to afford enough diapers. This challenge has grown in recent years, forcing parents to make difficult choices between essentials like diapers, food, and rent. The consequences are serious: lack of diapers can lead to increased illness in children, sleep disruptions for infants, and even maternal depression.

#### ***Why Donate Adult Incontinence Products?***

Products such as Depends are medically necessary for individuals managing bladder and bowel incontinence. Many seniors live on fixed incomes, and with rising inflation, it's increasingly difficult for them to afford these essential products. Providing adult incontinence supplies helps older adults maintain dignity and independence.

***Collection Dates:*** Donations will be accepted from **December 7 to December 24, 2025**. You may leave your contributions under the tree in the sanctuary and they will be delivered to the food pantry after Christmas.

## **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

### **WOULD YOU LIKE TO MAKE A DIFFERENCE BY DONATING YOUR SPARE CHANGE TO HELP FIGHT FOOD INSECURITY?**

The Mission Team has created an easy way for you to put those extra pennies, nickels, and dimes to good use. Every Sunday, you'll find a container where you can drop off your coins. Quarters designated for RAMP should continue to go in the tube and will be matched by an amount from the mission budget. All coins collected (except quarters) will be counted at the CoinStar machine at Stop and Shop, and every cent will go directly to Feeding America, which is a nationwide network of 200 food banks and 60,000 food pantries and programs, providing food and support to people facing hunger. According to their website, every dollar donated helps provide at least 10 meals. Families can get involved by having children sort coins into two piles—quarters for RAMP and all other change for Feeding America.

## PRAYER LIST

During the week, each one of us can make it a part of our daily spiritual practice to pray. You are invited to participate, as you are able, offering prayer in light of God's healing love.

If you have an update for the prayer list, please email Rev. Carol Howard at [carolhoward@pcmadison.org](mailto:carolhoward@pcmadison.org) or call the church office at 973-377-1600. Thank you for helping us maintain a more current prayer list.

- Greg, a missionary in Uganda but back in North Carolina for treatment and rehabilitation
- Ryan, a friend of the Burnets, who had major surgery on December 10th
- Jackie and her children, as they grieve their husband and father
- Mike for healing and return to good health
- Joe for healing and return to good health
- Doug, a friend of the Burnet family, who was recently diagnosed with a serious illness
- Unity and peace in our country
- Anonymous
- Phil and Nancy as they manage her very serious health issues
- Thomas, as he recovers following hospitalization
- Debby & Graham who lost their home in the Texas flash flood
- Immigrants
- Kathleen, caregiver for her parents
- Joe and his family for comfort and support during a very stressful time
- Cristin for strength, rest, and peace as her father's caregiver
- Susan, sister of Bob Landrigan, as she battles Parkinson's disease
- Jeanne, to regain strength after a stroke, and for Mari, her caregiver
- John, who is in a clinical study for treatment of a rare disease, that he received the treatment (not the placebo), and his wife and caregiver, Cathy

## **ADVENT FLOWER DEDICATIONS**

- In memory of Andy Moody; requested by Becky Moody
- In celebration of the birth of Christ; requested by the Vlamis family
- In celebration of the lives of family members passed - Schermerhorn & Siciliano families; requested by Stephen and Julie Siciliano
- In celebration of the birth of Christ; requested by Jennifer Kakalettris Boyar
- In celebration of the birth of Christ; requested by John and Louise Kacerek

## NOTES



# ADVENT & CHRISTMAS EVENTS

DEC  
16

SOUND HEALING  
7:00 Sanctuary

DEC  
20

COOKIES & CAROLING  
3:30 Downtown

DEC  
21

NATIVITY STORY  
Animals on the Lawn

DEC  
24

CHRISTMAS EVE  
4:30 Lessons & Carols

## CREDITS

**Cover Art:** “The Blue Madonna” by Frank Wesley

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

The Presbyterian Church of Madison is part of the PC(USA) Denomination  
[pcusa.org](http://pcusa.org)



ThePresbyterianChurchofMadison

| [info@pcmadison.org](mailto:info@pcmadison.org)

| 973- 377-1600

[pcmadison.org](http://pcmadison.org)