



PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
of MADISON



February 2, 2025

Candlemas

ORDER of WORSHIP

THE GATHERING OF GOD'S PEOPLE

Prelude Sanctuary Ringers *Be Thou My Vision*

Welcome and Announcements

*Call to Worship

Leader: Open the gates of goodness,

People: **We will enter and give thanks.**

Leader: We recall the day on which Mary and Joseph presented Jesus in the Temple. In their old age, Simeon and Anna saw God in him. Today we give thanks to God and we seek God's blessing as we set apart our sanctuary lamps and candles for our homes as a sign of Christ's liberating love.

People: **Let us worship God!**

(Music for the hymns is in the back of the bulletin.)

*Opening Hymn

This Is My Father's World

Prayer of Confession

God, giver of grace, forgive us for the times when we have sinned against you and against our neighbor, in what we have thought, in what we have said, in what we have done, and in what we have left undone. Have mercy on us for all the times when we have become consumed by greed, anger, or envy. Help us to open our arms to your mercy, through Jesus Christ.

(A moment of silence is observed.)

An asterisk(*) indicates that those who are able are invited to stand. Bold letters denote that we say the words in unison. Italic fonts direct us to sing.

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**

Leader: May the peace of Christ be with you.

People: And also with you.

(You may stand and pass the peace to one another.)

PROCLAMATION OF THE WORD

Children's Message

Prayer for Illumination

God, as you revealed the truth to Simeon and Anna, help us to sense your love surrounding us this morning. Help us to hear your word, through your Spirit, Amen.

First Scripture Reading

Hebrews 2:14-18

14 Since, therefore, the children share flesh and blood, he himself likewise shared the same things, so that through death he might destroy the one who has the power of death, that is, the devil, **15** and free those who all their lives were held in slavery by the fear of death. **16** For it is clear that he did not come to help angels but the descendants of Abraham. **17** Therefore he had to become like his brothers and sisters in every respect, so that he might become a merciful and faithful high priest in the service of God, to make a sacrifice of atonement for the sins of the people.

18 Because he himself was tested by what he suffered, he is able to help those who are being tested.

Leader: This is the word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

Second Scripture Reading

Luke 2:22-40

22 When the time came for their purification according to the law of Moses, they brought him up to Jerusalem to present him to the Lord **23** (as it is written in the law of the Lord, “Every firstborn male shall be designated as holy to the Lord”), **24** and they offered a sacrifice according to what is stated in the law of the Lord, “a pair of turtledoves or two young pigeons.” **25** Now there was a man in Jerusalem whose name was Simeon; this man was righteous and devout, looking forward to the consolation of Israel, and the Holy Spirit rested on him. **26** It had been revealed to him by the Holy Spirit that he would not see death before he had seen the Lord’s Messiah. **27** Guided by the Spirit, Simeon came into the temple, and when the parents brought in the child Jesus to do for him what was customary under the law, **28** Simeon took him in his arms and praised God, saying,

29 “Master, now you are dismissing your servant in peace, according to your word,

30 for my eyes have seen your salvation,

31 which you have prepared in the presence of all peoples,

32 a light for revelation to the gentiles and for glory to your people Israel.”

33 And the child’s father and mother were amazed at what was being said about him. **34** Then Simeon blessed them and said to his mother Mary, “This child is destined for the falling and the rising of many in Israel and to be a sign that will be opposed **35** so that the inner thoughts of many will be revealed—and a sword will pierce your own soul, too.” **36** There was also a prophet, Anna the daughter of Phanuel, of the tribe of Asher. She was of a great age, having lived with her husband seven years after her marriage, **37** then as a widow to the age of eighty-four. She never left the temple but worshiped there with fasting and prayer night and day. **38** At that moment she came and began to praise God and to speak about the child to all who were looking for the redemption of Jerusalem.

39 When they had finished everything required by the law of the Lord, they returned to Galilee, to their own town of Nazareth. 40 The child grew and became strong, filled with wisdom, and the favor of God was upon him.

Leader: This is the word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

Sermon

Revelation

RESPONDING TO THE WORD

***Affirmation of Faith** from the Brief Statement of Faith

We trust in Jesus Christ, fully human, fully God. Jesus proclaimed the reign of God: preaching good news to the poor and release to the captives, teaching by word and deed and blessing the children, healing the sick and binding up the brokenhearted, eating with outcasts, forgiving sinners, and calling all to repent and believe the gospel.

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!

***Communion Hymn**

O Love That Wilt Not Let Me Go

***Communion of the People**

Prayer After Communion, Blessing of the Candles, and the Lord's Prayer

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.

GOING FORTH TO LOVE AND SERVE THE LORD

***Closing Hymn** *Lord, Bid Your Servant Go in Peace*

***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

Sara Burnet

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. Please stay after the service today for fellowship time and refreshments in the Narthex. It's a great way to get to know one another!

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 NEWSLETTER** - 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 and on Facebook at www.facebook.com/ThePresbyterianChurchofMadison.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

NIGHT OF PINOT AND POTTERY AT MADISON MUD

We are looking to have a night of “Pinot and Pottery” at the Madison Mud one Thursday evening. Interested? The cost is \$95 per person for 2+ hours of instruction, time on the wheel and your chance to make a piece of pottery! Once your piece is complete, choose your glaze and then come back 5 weeks later to pickup your finished piece. Nibbles and drinks will be provided. Please let Jim Burnet know if you are interested at jimburnet@gmail.com.

RAMP UPDATE

The quarter tube was overflowing last week, so we are starting the year well. The Mission Team is matching each \$40 collected for a total of \$80 to RAMP. Last year we filled the tube four times - can we match or beat that in 2025? Also, RAMP is currently collecting household items for their 13th family. If you are interested in helping, visit rampnj.org and click on the bar at the top of the page.

INTERFAITH FOOD PANTRY UPDATE

Doris’s Wagon in the Parish House and the bin in the narthex are our collection points for donations of non-perishable food for the Interfaith Food Pantry. We have a team of three who deliver the food to the pantry in Morris Plains each week, but we welcome new volunteers to join us. Deliveries can be made Monday through Thursday of each week, between 9:30 AM and 4:30 PM; it generally takes about an hour. If interested, contact Becky Moody at rmoody9856@gmail.com and she will be happy to show you the ropes. If you are able to donate food, the latest needs can be found at <https://www.mcifp.org/donate/donate-food/>. The pantry distributed a total of 2.3 million pounds of food to our neighbors in need in 2024.

PRAYER LIST

One of the spiritual practices that our community embodies in our life together is holding one another's concerns, joys, sorrows, and thanksgivings before God in prayer. As a people of God, we offer prayers for those of the church, the community, and the world.

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

We would like to update the prayer list. Please email Reverend Carol Howard at carolhoward@pcmadison.org or call the church office at 973-377-1600 if you would like to add anyone to the prayer list. Thank you for helping us maintain a more current prayer list.

- 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
- Misty for health issues
- Jim for comfort and peace after his father's passing
- Brian, who lost his home in the California fire
- Jordan recovering from surgery and facing one more, and Cathy, his wife and caregiver
- John to gain physical strength, and Louise who turns over every stone in caring for him
- Vicky and all other women dealing with difficult pregnancies
- Pam Gillespie
- Victims of the California fires

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Be Thou My Vision

Capo 1: (D) E^b (G) A^b (D/F#) E^b/G (A7) B^b7 (D) E^b



1 Be thou my vi - sion, O Lord of my heart;
 2 Be thou my wis - dom, and thou my true Word;
 3 Rich - es I heed not, nor vain, emp - ty praise;
 4 High King of Heav - en, my vic - to - ry won,

(A) B^b (D) E^b (G) A^b (A) B^b



naught be all else to me, save that thou art;
 I ev - er with thee and thou with me, Lord;
 thou mine in - her - i - tance, now and al - ways;
 may I reach heav - en's joys, O bright heaven's Sun!

(G) A^b (D) E^b (F#m7) Gm7 (G) A^b (A) B^b



thou my best thought, by day or by night,
 thou my soul's shel - ter, and thou my high tower;
 thou and thou on - ly, first in my heart,
 Heart of my own heart, what - ev - er be - fall,

(Bm) Cm (D/F#) E^b/G (G) A^b (D) E^b



wak - ing or sleep - ing, thy pres - ence my light.
 raise thou me heav - en - ward, O Power of my power.
 High King of Heav - en, my trea - sure thou art.
 still be my vi - sion, O Rul - er of all.

Guitar chords do not correspond with keyboard harmony.

This Is My Father's World 370



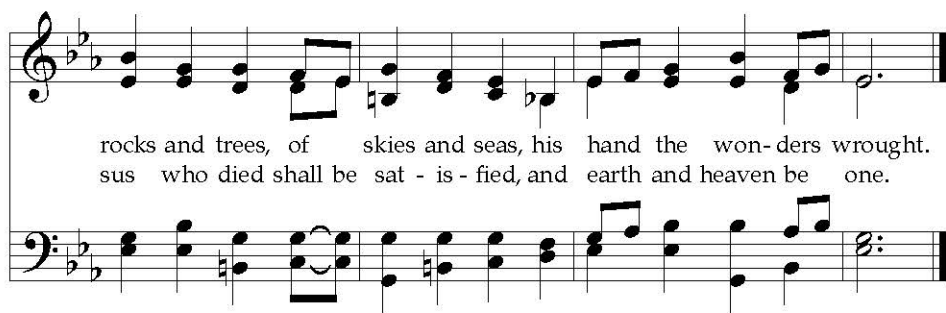
1 This is my Fa-ther's world, and to my lis - tening ears all
 2 This is my Fa-ther's world. O, let me ne'er for - get that



na - ture sings, and round me rings the mu - sic of the spheres.
 though the wrong seems oft so strong, God is the rul - er yet.



This is my Fa-ther's world; I rest me in the thought of
 This is my Fa-ther's world. The bat - tle is not done: Je -



rocks and trees, of skies and seas, his hand the won - ders wrought.
 sus who died shall be sat - is - fied, and earth and heaven be one.

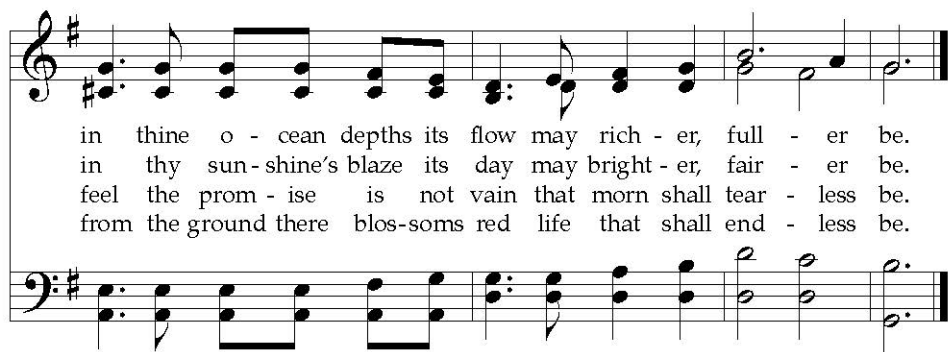
O Love That Wilt Not Let Me Go 833



1 O Love that wilt not let me go, I rest my
 2 O Light that fol-lowest all my way, I yield my
 3 O Joy that seek - est me through pain, I can - not
 4 O Cross that lift - est up my head, I dare not



wea - ry soul in thee; I give thee back the life I owe, that
 flick-ering torch to thee; my heart re-stores its bor-rowed ray, that
 close my heart to thee; I trace the rain-bow through the rain, and
 ask to fly from thee; I lay in dust life's glo - ry dead, and



in thine o - cean depths its flow may rich - er, full - er be.
 in thy sun-shine's blaze its day may bright - er, fair - er be.
 feel the prom - ise is not vain that morn shall tear - less be.
 from the ground there blos-soms red life that shall end - less be.

Lord, Bid Your Servant Go in Peace 545

Song of Simeon

1 Lord, bid your ser - vant go in peace; your
 2 This is the Sav - ior of the world, the

The first system of musical notation is in G major (one sharp) and 4/4 time. It consists of a treble and bass staff. The melody is primarily in the treble staff, with the bass staff providing harmonic support. The lyrics are written below the staves, with two verses of text aligned with the notes.

word is now ful - filled. These eyes have seen sal -
 Gen - tiles' prom - ised light, God's glo - ry dwell - ing

The second system continues the melody and accompaniment. The lyrics continue across the staves, maintaining the same musical structure and time signature.

va - tion's dawn, this child so long fore - told.
 in our midst, the joy of Is - ra - el.

The third system concludes the piece. The melody and accompaniment lead to a final cadence. The lyrics conclude with the words 'Is - ra - el.' The piece ends with a double bar line.

NOTES

**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



ThePresbyterianChurchofMadison

| info@pcmadison.org

| 973- 377-1600

pcmadison.org