



PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
of **MADISON**



February 23, 2025
Seventh Sunday after Epiphany

ORDER of WORSHIP

THE GATHERING OF GOD'S PEOPLE

Prelude

Welcome and Announcements

*Call to Worship

from Psalm 37

Leader: Do not be afraid of wicked people, or envious of wrongdoers. They will wither like grass and wilt like young plants.

People: Trust in God and do good. Live in the land and be at peace. Delight in the Lord who will give you the desires of your heart.

Leader: Commit your way to the Lord. Trust God to act on your behalf. Be still before God and wait patiently.

People: Let us worship God!

*Opening Hymn

Yours (Glory and Praise)

The Lord's Prayer (It's Yours)

Verse

Father let your kingdom come (holy holy)

Father let your will be done

On Earth as in Heaven (let it be done)

Right here in my heart

Chorus

*Give us this day our daily bread
Forgive us, forgive us
As we forgive the ones who sinned
Against us forgive them
And lead us not into temptation
But deliver us from the evil one
Let your kingdom come*

Bridge

*It's yours, it's yours
All yours, all yours
The kingdom, the power
The glory are yours*

*It's yours, it's yours
All yours, all yours
Forever and ever
The kingdom is yours*

Tag

*On Earth as in Heaven
Right here in my heart*

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.

Prayer of Confession

Loving God, forgive us for all of the times we judge our neighbors. We cling to petty resentments. We conjure up all of the ways people have harmed us. We replay humiliations in our minds. We imagine vengeance, rather than forgiveness. We envision retribution, rather than peace. Help us to be merciful to others, just as you have been merciful to us. Through Jesus Christ, we pray.

(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**

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 of grace, we do not live by bread alone, but by every word that comes from your mouth. Make us hungry for heavenly food, so it might nourish us in the ways of eternal life. Through Jesus Christ, the bread of heaven, we pray. Amen.

First Scripture Reading

Genesis 45:3-11, 15

3 Joseph said to his brothers, "I am Joseph. Is my father still alive?" But his brothers could not answer him, so dismayed were they at his presence. 4 Then Joseph said to his brothers, "Come closer to me." And they came closer. He said, "I am your brother, Joseph, whom you sold into Egypt. 5 And now do not be distressed or angry with yourselves because you sold me here, for God sent me before you to preserve life. 6 For the famine has been in the land these two years, and there are five more years in which there will be neither plowing nor harvest. 7 God sent me before you to preserve for you a remnant on earth and to keep alive for you many survivors. 8 So it was not you who sent me here but God; he has made me a father to Pharaoh and lord of all his house and ruler over all the land of Egypt. 9 Hurry and go up to my father and say to him, 'Thus says your son Joseph, God has made me lord of all Egypt; come down to me; do not delay. 10 You shall settle in the land of Goshen, and you shall be near me, you and your children and your children's children, as well as your flocks, your herds, and all that you have. 11 I will provide for you there, since there are five more years of famine to come, so that you and your household and all that you have will not come to poverty.' 15 And he kissed all his brothers and wept upon them, and after that his brothers talked with him.

Leader: This is the word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

Second Scripture Reading

Luke 6:27-38

27 "But I say to you who are listening: Love your enemies; do good to those who hate you; 28 bless those who curse you; pray for those who mistreat you. 29 If anyone strikes you on the cheek, offer the other also, and from anyone who takes away your coat do not withhold even your shirt. 30 Give to everyone who asks of you, and if anyone takes away what is yours, do not ask for it back again. 31 Do to others as you would have them do to you. 32 "If you love those who love you, what credit is that to you? For even sinners love those who love them. 33 If you do good to those who do good to you, what credit is that to you? For even sinners do the same. 34 If you lend to those from whom you expect to receive payment, what credit is that to you? Even sinners lend to sinners, to receive as much again.

35 Instead, love your enemies, do good, and lend, expecting nothing in return. Your reward will be great, and you will be children of the Most High, for he himself is kind to the ungrateful and the wicked. 36 Be merciful, just as your Father is merciful. 37 “Do not judge, and you will not be judged; do not condemn, and you will not be condemned. Forgive, and you will be forgiven; 38 give, and it will be given to you. A good measure, pressed down, shaken together, running over, will be put into your lap, for the measure you give will be the measure you get back.”

Leader: This is the word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

Sermon

Untethering Our Resentments

RESPONDING TO THE WORD

*Affirmation of Faith

from Romans 8

Who will separate us from the love of Christ? Will affliction or distress or persecution or famine or nakedness or peril or sword? No, in all these things we are more than victorious through him who loved us. For I am convinced 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**

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.

GOING FORTH TO LOVE AND SERVE THE LORD

***Closing Hymn**

Fearless

Verse 1

*Waking up from the longest night
Fixing my eyes on a new horizon
Joy before me leave the past behind
There's no turning back
There's no turning back*

Pre-Chorus

*Boldly I run into Your presence
Faith like a child known and protected
Here in Your arms my shame is unraveling
Unraveling*

Chorus

*(You make me) fearless fearless
You call my heart out of the dark
Fearless fearless
Finally free Your Spirit makes me
Fearless*

Verse 2

*I was living underneath gray skies
Now I'm dancing in the light of heaven
Grace has found me brought me back to life
There's no turning back
There's no turning back*

Bridge

*I'm alive to praise You
I was made to love You
I'm alive to praise You
There's no turning back
There's no turning (back)*

***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

Beth Henriques

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

ANNUAL MEETING

The annual meeting of the congregation of the Presbyterian Church of Madison will be held on Sunday, February 23, 2025 at 11:20 a.m. to:

- Elect officers
- Receive the budget for 2025
- Receive annual reports of the committees of session
- Take actions on other constitutionally appropriate matters brought before the meeting.

The clerk should be notified in advance of any items that are intended to be introduced or any nominations that are desired to be made from the floor.

Rebecca Moody, Clerk of Session and Secretary to the Board of Trustees

SOUPER BOWL OF CARING

The Souper Bowl of Caring has been uniting communities to tackle hunger for 35 years. All contributions of goods or cash are donated to local organizations that feed the hungry.

Keep the Souper Bowl fun going all month and donate cans of soup so we can deliver some warmth and goodness to our local families. Please bring your cans to the church and help fill Doris's Food Wagon this month. If you prefer, you may make a cash donation, just earmark it for our Souper drive and leave it in the collection plate on the table as you enter the church (checks accepted, make payable to the Presbyterian Church of Madison).



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.

LENTEN SINGING BOWL REFLECTION IN COMMUNITY

Please join us on March 11 (Tuesday) from 7-8 p.m. in the sanctuary for a spiritual and moving Lenten Reflection in Community. Our own Nichole Maldonado-Gorsak will lead us through light stretching (for all physical abilities) and a singing bowl “sound bath” while Pastor Carol offers Lenten reflections throughout. Bring a friend and a nonperishable food donation for the Interfaith Food Pantry! Write Kathleen Underwood at kathleenunderwood@verizon.net to sign up or for more information.

MARCH MADNESS PIZZA PARTY

Join us on Thursday, March 20th at 6:30pm at the Burnet’s downtown apartment, 60 1/2 Main Street, third floor, Madison (walk up, sorry no elevator). Free bracket with prizes! Please email jimburnet@gmail.com to reserve your spot and to let us know of any dietary restrictions.

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.

If you have an update for 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.

- Jo-Anna, for comfort and peace after the passing of her brother Nick after a long battle with cancer
- Roy, for strength and peace, as he works through his dad living with advanced dementia
- The Burnet family, grieving the passing of father and grandfather James Edgar Burnet, III
- Charles Courtney, recovering from recent surgery
- 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
- Vicky and all other women dealing with difficult pregnancies
- Pam Gillespie
- Victims of the California fires

NOTES

Cover photo: Historic Madison Masonic lodge building, also known as the Old Main Street Church

NOTES

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