



PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
of **MADISON**



February 22, 2026
First Sunday in Lent

ORDER of WORSHIP

THE GATHERING OF GOD'S PEOPLE

Prelude

Welcome and Announcements

*Call to Worship

Leader: As we enter these forty days of Lent, we remember that we are the body of Christ, and we depend on God's grace.

People: **In times of distress, we are preserved from trouble, and steadfast love surrounds us. Let us worship God!**

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

*Opening Hymn

Lord, Who throughout These Forty Days
(v1, v3, v5)

Prayer of Confession

Merciful God, we are so easily tempted. We turn away from you. We seek anything that claims to save us from discomfort, inconvenience, pain, fear, and emptiness. But these things do not comfort us.

You are our true hope and salvation, our hiding place, our guide, our guardian. We confess our wrongs to you. Please forgive our sins.

(Silent confession)

Assurance of Pardon

Leader: Friends, believe the good news!

People: **In Jesus Christ, we are forgiven.**

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.

Congregational Response #582

Glory to God

*Glory to God, whose goodness shines on me,
And to the Son, whose grace has pardoned me,
And to the Spirit, whose love has set me free,
As it was in the beginning,
Is now and ever shall be. Amen.*

*Passing of the Peace

Leader: May the peace of Christ be with you all.

People: **And also with you.**

(You may pass the peace to one another.)

PROCLAMATION OF THE WORD

Anthem

Sanctuary Singers

Here I Am

Children's Message

Prayer for Illumination

Gracious God, guide us through these forty days, and minister to us with your Holy Spirit, so that we may be reformed, restored, and renewed, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

First Scripture Reading

Genesis 2:15–17; 3:1–7

The Lord God took the man and put him in the garden of Eden to till it and keep it. And the Lord God commanded the man, “You may freely eat of every tree of the garden, but of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil you shall not eat, for in the day that you eat of it you shall die.”

Now the serpent was more crafty than any other wild animal that the Lord God had made. He said to the woman, “Did God say, ‘You shall not eat from any tree in the garden?’” The woman said to the serpent, “We may eat of the fruit of the trees in the garden, but God said, ‘You shall not eat of the fruit of the tree that is in the middle of the garden, nor shall you touch it, or you shall die.’” But the serpent said to the woman, “You will not die, for God knows that when you eat of it your eyes will be opened, and you will be like God, knowing good and evil.”

So when the woman saw that the tree was good for food and that it was a delight to the eyes and that the tree was to be desired to make one wise, she took of its fruit and ate, and she also gave some to her husband, who was with her, and he ate. Then the eyes of both were opened, and they knew that they were naked, and they sewed fig leaves together and made loincloths for themselves.

Leader: This is the word of the Lord.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

Second Scripture Reading

Matthew 4:1–11

Then Jesus was led up by the Spirit into the wilderness to be tested by the devil. He fasted forty days and forty nights, and afterward he was famished. The tempter came and said to him, “If you are the Son of God, command these stones to become loaves of bread.” But he answered, “It is written,

‘One does not live by bread alone,
but by every word that comes from the mouth of God.’ ”

Then the devil took him to the holy city and placed him on the pinnacle of the temple, saying to him, “If you are the Son of God, throw yourself down, for it is written,

‘He will command his angels concerning you,
and ‘On their hands they will bear you up,
so that you will not dash your foot against a stone.’ ”

Jesus said to him, “Again it is written, ‘Do not put the Lord your God to the test.’ ”

Again, the devil took him to a very high mountain and showed him all the kingdoms of the world and their glory, and he said to him, “All these I will give you, if you will fall down and worship me.” Then Jesus said to him, “Away with you, Satan! for it is written,

‘Worship the Lord your God,
and serve only him.’ ”

Then the devil left him, and suddenly angels came and waited on him.

Leader: This is the word of the Lord.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

RESPONDING TO THE WORD

The Ordination and Installation of Ethan Gorsak and Julie Siciliano

*Affirmation of Faith

Adapted from the Confession of 1967

The reconciling work of Jesus
was the supreme crisis in the life of humankind.
His cross and resurrection become personal crisis
and present hope for women and men
when the gospel is proclaimed and believed.
In this experience,
the Spirit brings God's forgiveness to all,
moves people to respond in faith,
repentance, and obedience,
and initiates the new life in Christ.

The Gifts of Our Tithes and Offering

Invitation to Offering

Offertory

Great Are You Lord (praise band)

*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

Be Still, My Soul

*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

2026 ANNUAL PER CAPITA CONTRIBUTION

What is Per Capita?

The main purpose of the Presbytery and Synod is to help congregations and the Church as a whole in their work of mission, ministry and transformation of the world. Highlands Presbytery is a community of congregations in Morris, Somerset, Hunterdon, Warren, Sussex and Passaic counties, and the Synod of the Northeast includes all of New England, New York, and New Jersey. Per Capita is the financial expression of our mutual support for each congregation's work in transforming the world. Per Capita is assessed based on the membership of each church; for 2026 the amount is \$44 per member. We ask all who are able to contribute this amount, in addition to any other giving. If paying by check, please note "Per Capita" on the memo line. If paying online, select "Give to Per Capita Payment". We thank you for your generosity.

TACKLE HUNGER: SOUPER BOWL OF CARING - FEBRUARY 8 - 22

Hunger and food insecurity in our communities continue to rise, so let's be the team that tackles this problem and offers hope to our neighbors! On February 8, Super Bowl Sunday, our youth will seek your \$\$\$ donations so we can go grocery shopping for delicious and nutritious food. And, our Mission Committee will MATCH the total \$\$\$ we collect! Please support us as it fits your budget, and stay tuned for the organization who will receive our contribution. Thank you!

SOUND HEALING - FEBRUARY 24 & MARCH 24

Give yourself the best gift - a whole hour of peace and rest just for you. Join us in the sanctuary on February 24 and March 24 (Tuesdays) from 7-8 pm as Nichole Maldonado-Gorsak leads us through gentle stretching suitable for all levels and then a soothing, restful sound bath. Bring a non-perishable food donation for the Interfaith Food Pantry. For more information, write Kathleen Underwood at kathleenunderwood@verizon.net.

LENTEN BIBLE STUDY - BEGINNING ON FEBRUARY 23

Please join us in the Parlor for a Bible Study on Mondays at 6:30 pm, beginning on February 23.

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.

INTERFAITH FOOD PANTRY UPDATE

Thanks to everyone who helped us reach 1,503 pounds of food donated to the pantry in 2025. From their most recent quarterly thank-you letter: "Together we have accomplished a great deal over the course of 2025. We accommodated a record number – more than 42,000 visits to our food pantries and our network partners. We distributed 2.4 million pounds of food. Additionally, we helped people improve their overall health with nutrition education, and helped our guests with referrals to wrap-around services to achieve greater levels of self-sufficiency." Thanks also to Cooky Dowling, Becky Moody, Peter Teshima, and Robin Vlamis for handling the weekly deliveries to the pantry, and to Bill Wagner for delivering the White Offering after Christmas Eve. Visit mcifp.org for more information, including lists of most-needed items.

OTHER MISSION UPDATES

Thanks for generous donations to both the Madison Eagle Christmas Fund and the Christmas Joy Offering. The total amounts collected were \$700 for the MECF and \$1,320 for Christmas Joy.

PC(USA) Special Offerings are changing in 2026 - watch for further details. The next one is One Great Hour of Sharing, which we will receive on both Palm Sunday and Easter.

RAMP UPDATE

The quarter tube was filled to overflowing last week, which means our first donation this year is \$100 - \$50 from the tube and \$50 from the mission budget. Please continue to save your quarters and help us fill the tube again.

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 or call the church office at 973-377-1600. Thank you for helping us maintain a more current prayer list.

- A dear friend concerned about job security
- Jordan for healing and relief from pain
- Wisdom and caring for a friend making a big decision
- Family and friends of Connie, as they mourn her passing
- Loretta for health and wellness through her weight loss journey
- Greg, a missionary in Uganda but back in North Carolina for treatment and rehabilitation
- 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
- Immigrants
- Kathleen, caregiver for her parents
- Joe and his family for comfort and support during a very stressful time
- Susan, sister of Bob Landrigan, as she battles Parkinson's disease
- 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

Lord, Who throughout These 166 Forty Days

1 Lord, who through-out these for - ty days for us did fast and
 2 As you with Sa - tan did con - tend and did the vic - tory
 3 And through these days of pen - i - tence, and through this Pas - sion -
 4 A - bide with us, till when this life of suf - fering shall be

pray, teach us with you to mourn our sins and close by you to stay.
 win, O give us strength to per - se - vere, in you to con - quer sin.
 tide, yes, ev - er - more, in life and death, O Lord, with us a - bide.
 past, an Eas - ter of un - end - ing joy we may at - tain at last.

582

Glory to God, Whose Goodness Shines on Me

Capo 3: (G) (D) (G) (D) (G) (D) (Em) (D)
 B^b F B^b F B^b F Gm F



1 Glo - ry to God, whose good - ness shines on me,
 2 World with - out end, with - out end. A - men.

(D) (G) (C) (G) (Em7) (A7)
 F B^b E^b B^b Gm7 C7



and to the Son, whose grace has par - doned me,
 World with - out end, with - out end. A - men.

(A7) (D) (F#) (Bm)
 C7 F A Dm



and to the Spir - it, whose love has set me free.
 World with - out end, with - out end. A - men.

(Bm7) (D) (Bdim7) (Em7) (Dm)(A7) (D)
 Dm7 F Ddim7 Gm7 Fm C7 F



As it was in the be - gin - ning, is now and ev - er shall be. A - men.

819

Be Still, My Soul

1 Be still, my soul: the Lord is on thy side.
 2 Be still, my soul: thy God doth un - der - take
 3 Be still, my soul: the hour is has - tening on

Bear pa - tient - ly the cross of grief or pain.
 to guide the fu - ture sure - ly as the past.
 when we shall be for - ev - er with the Lord;

Leave to thy God to or - der and pro - vide,
 Thy hope, thy con - fi - dence let noth - ing shake;
 when dis - ap - point - ment, grief, and fear are gone,

who through all chang - es faith - ful will re - main.
 all now mys - te - rious shall be bright at last.
 sor - row for - got, love's pur - est joys re - stored.

LIVING AND DYING IN CHRIST

Be still, my soul: thy best, thy heaven - ly Friend
Be still, my soul: the waves and winds still know
Be still, my soul: when change and tears are past

through thorn - y ways leads to a joy - ful end.
his voice who ruled them while he dwelt be - low.
all safe and bless - ed we shall meet at last.

NOTES

CREDITS

Cover Art: “Desert Landscape” by John Singer Sargent

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

Rachel Currie	Susana Fonticoba
Ethan Gorsak	Stephanie Haedrich
Becky Moody - Clerk	John Schanck
Julie Siciliano	Giorgios Vlamis

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



ThePresbyterianChurchofMadison

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