



**PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH**  
*of* **MADISON**



**March 16, 2025**  
**Second Sunday in Lent**

# ORDER of WORSHIP

## THE GATHERING OF GOD'S PEOPLE

### Prelude

### Welcome and Announcements

### \*Call to Worship

**Leader:** For forty days and nights, the rain fell, and the waters covered the face of the earth.

**People:** For forty years, the people wandered, seeking the land of God's promise.

**Leader:** For forty days, Moses stayed on the mountain, learning the commandments of God.

**People:** For forty days, Elijah traveled in the wilderness to hear the voice of God in the silence.

**Leader:** For forty days, Jesus fasted, prayed, and felt tempted.

**People:** And for these forty days of Lent, we open ourselves to wander, learn, listen, and pray.

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

### \*Opening Hymn

*The Glory of These Forty Days*  
(v1, v2, and v4)

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**

**God of mercy, we confess that we have strayed from your way. We are misled by pride. We have failed in love. We neglected justice and ignored your truth. Have mercy, O God, and forgive us. Return us to right paths, through Jesus Christ.**

*(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**

**Artist of souls, you sculpt us out of the rocks of the wilderness. Sharpen our hunger for your presence and make us thirsty for your living water. Through Jesus Christ, we pray. Amen.**

## **First Scripture Reading**

Genesis 15:1-12

1 After these things the word of the Lord came to Abram in a vision, "Do not be afraid, Abram, I am your shield; your reward shall be very great." 2 But Abram said, "O Lord God, what will you give me, for I continue childless, and the heir of my house is Eliezer of Damascus?" 3 And Abram said, "You have given me no offspring, so a slave born in my house is to be my heir." 4 But the word of the Lord came to him, "This man shall not be your heir; no one but your very own issue shall be your heir." 5 He brought him outside and said, "Look toward heaven and count the stars, if you are able to count them." Then he said to him, "So shall your descendants be." 6 And he believed the Lord, and the Lord reckoned it to him as righteousness. 7 Then he said to him, "I am the Lord who brought you from Ur of the Chaldeans, to give you this land to possess." 8 But he said, "O Lord God, how am I to know that I shall possess it?" 9 He said to him, "Bring me a heifer three years old, a female goat three years old, a ram three years old, a turtledove, and a young pigeon." 10 He brought him all these and cut them in two, laying each half over against the other, but he did not cut the birds in two. 11 And when birds of prey came down on the carcasses, Abram drove them away. 12 As the sun was going down, a deep sleep fell upon Abram, and a deep and terrifying darkness descended upon him.

**Leader:** This is the word of the Lord.

**People:** Thanks be to God.

## **Second Scripture Reading**

Luke 13:31-35

31 At that very hour some Pharisees came and said to him, "Get away from here, for Herod wants to kill you." 32 He said to them, "Go and tell that fox for me, 'Listen, I am casting out demons and performing cures today and tomorrow, and on the third day I finish my work. 33 Yet today, tomorrow, and the next day I must be on my way, because it is impossible for a prophet to be killed outside of Jerusalem.' 34 Jerusalem, Jerusalem, the city that kills the prophets and stones those who are sent to it! How often have I desired to gather your children together as a hen gathers her brood under her wings, and you were not willing! 35 See, your house is left to you. And I tell you, you will not see me until the time comes when you say, 'Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord.' "

**Leader:** This is the word of the Lord.

**People:** Thanks be to God.

**Sermon**

*Covenant*

## **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**

**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**

*Jesus, Lover of My Soul*  
(v1 and v2)

**\*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.*

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## 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](http://www.pcmadison.org) and on Facebook at [www.facebook.com/ThePresbyterianChurchofMadison](http://www.facebook.com/ThePresbyterianChurchofMadison).

# ANNOUNCEMENTS

## MARCH MADNESS PIZZA PARTY - MARCH 20

Join us on Thursday, March 20th at 6:30 pm 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](mailto:jimburnet@gmail.com) to reserve your spot and to let us know of any dietary restrictions.

## COOKING CLASS - APRIL 15

Meal Prep Empire (a Madison meal prep and catering business) is hosting a free cooking class on Tuesday, April 15, at 6:30 pm in the Fellowship Hall kitchen. The class will run for approximately 2 - 2 1/2 hours. Professional chefs Lenis and Erik will teach the following skills to participants while creating a delicious butternut squash soup:

- knife skills (chopping and peeling)
- sauteing
- blending techniques
- layering flavors
- plating

Class registration will open soon via SignUp Genius.

## UPDATE FROM RAMP

Despite the upheaval in the Resettlement and Placement Program in the last weeks, RAMP is actively working with two families, a family of four from Afghanistan and a mother and daughter from El Salvador, providing them with a safe place to live and the opportunity to build a new life here, away from the dangers of their homelands. Organizations like RAMP are now a primary resource for the families who have arrived in the U.S. in recent months. Federal funding for all the Resettlement Agencies, like International Rescue Committee (IRC) and Church World Service (CWS), has stopped, forcing them to cut staff by as much as two-thirds, and severely limit the services they are able to provide. More information, including a letter from the RAMP president and details of these two families, can be found at [ranpnj.org](http://ranpnj.org). Select "News & Stories" on the home page. You may also sign up to receive the RAMP newsletter directly. Please continue to save your quarters and drop them in the tube on Sundays so we can continue our support for this local organization.



# **PREPARING OUR HEARTS FOR EASTER DURING LENT**

## **Help Others**

Participate in church and community outreach that help others. Look for ways to help your neighbors, such as running errands for someone ill or housebound. Give gently used toys and clothing to those in need. Help alleviate hunger by participating in food collections and monetary donations.

## **Make Special Time for Prayer and Reflection**

Make prayer a daily habit. Set aside part of your day for quiet time when interruptions are at a minimum. Pray the psalms, use a devotional guide to choose daily prayers. Think about things in your life that you need to change and pray for help in changing them.

## **Attend Lenten and Easter Worship Services**

- Each Sunday during Lent @ 10:15 am
- Palm Sunday, April 13 @ 10:15 am
- Maundy Thursday, April 17 @ 7:00 pm
- Good Friday Tenebrae, April 18 @ 7:00 pm
- Easter Sunday, April 20
  - 6:30 am at Hillside Cemetery
  - 10:15 am in the sanctuary - annual Easter Egg Hunt and coffee hour fellowship immediately following worship

## 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](mailto: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.***

- Holy Father, Pope Francis, leader of the Catholic Church
- Kaitlynn, for recovery from injuries after a serious car accident
- 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
- 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
- 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
- Brian and all the victims of the California fires

## 165 The Glory of These Forty Days

1 The glo - ry of these for - ty days we  
 2 A - lone and fast - ing Mo - ses saw the  
 3 So Dan - iel trained his mys - tic sight, de -  
 4 Then grant that we like them be true, con -

cel - e - brate with songs of praise; for Christ, by whom all  
 lov - ing God who gave the law; and to E - li - jah,  
 liv - ered from the li - ons' might; and John, the Bride-groom's  
 sumed in fast and prayer with you; our spir - its strength-en

things were made, him - self has fast - ed and has prayed.  
 fast - ing, came the steeds and char - i - ots of flame.  
 friend, be - came the her - ald of Mes - si - ah's name.  
 with your grace, and give us joy to see your face.

## 440 Jesus, Lover of My Soul

1 Je - sus, lov - er of my soul, let me to thy bos - om fly,  
 2 Oth - er ref - uge have I none; hangs my help - less soul on thee.  
 3 Thou, O Christ, art all I want; more than all in thee I find.  
 4 Plen - teous grace with thee is found, grace to cov - er all my sin.

while the near - er wa - ters roll, while the temp - est still is high.  
 Leave, ah! leave me not a - lone; still sup - port and com - fort me.  
 Raise the fall - en, cheer the faint, heal the sick, and lead the blind.  
 Let the heal - ing streams a - bound; make and keep me pure with - in.

Hide me, O my Sav - ior, hide, till the storm of life is past.  
 All my trust on thee is stayed; all my help from thee I bring.  
 Just and ho - ly is thy name; I am all un - righ - teous - ness.  
 Thou of life the foun - tain art; free - ly let me take of thee.

Safe in - to the ha - ven guide. O re - ceive my soul at last!  
 Cov - er my de - fense - less head with the shad - ow of thy wing.  
 False and full of sin I am; thou art full of truth and grace.  
 Spring thou up with - in my heart. Rise to all e - ter - ni - ty.

# NOTES

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Cover Art: Mesa and Road East II by Georgia O'Keeffe

**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](http://pcusa.org)



ThePresbyterianChurchofMadison

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