



PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH  
*of* MADISON



March 30, 2025  
Fourth Sunday in Lent

# ORDER of WORSHIP

## THE GATHERING OF GOD'S PEOPLE

### Prelude

### Welcome and Announcements

#### \*Call to Worship

Leader: When we struggle to live as you teach us, and we fail to answer your call,

**People: Your steadfast love surrounds us.**

Leader: When the truth clogs up our throat, and we fear what will happen if we speak or if we keep silent,

**People: Your steadfast love surrounds us.**

Leader: When we open our hearts and let our sorrows, joys, and doubts flow freely,

**People: Your steadfast love surrounds us.**

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

#### \*Opening Hymn

*The King of Love My Shepherd Is*

#### Prayer of Confession

Loving God, help us to wake up to ourselves, and to you. Set us free from the illusion of trying to be perfect, so that we might be more fully human. Help us to stop chasing after an imaginary life, and to find satisfaction in our real lives. And turn us away from our self-rejection, so that we might notice your arms open in welcome. Amen.

(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**

**Loving God, as we hear these words, may we be aware of your grace that goes ahead of us, trails behind us, and encircles us in every moment. Amen.**

### **First Scripture Reading**

2 Corinthians 5:16-21

From now on, therefore, we regard no one from a human point of view; even though we once knew Christ from a human point of view, we no longer know him in that way. So if anyone is in Christ, there is a new creation: everything old has passed away; look, new things have come into being! All this is from God, who reconciled us to himself through Christ and has given us the ministry of reconciliation; that is, in Christ God was reconciling the world to himself, not counting their trespasses against them, and entrusting the message of reconciliation to us.

So we are ambassadors for Christ, since God is making his appeal through us; we entreat you on behalf of Christ: be reconciled to God. For our sake God made the one who knew no sin to be sin, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God.

Leader: This is the word of the Lord.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

## **Second Scripture Reading**

Luke 15:1-3, 11b-32

Now all the tax collectors and sinners were coming near to listen to him. And the Pharisees and the scribes were grumbling and saying, “This fellow welcomes sinners and eats with them.” So he told them this parable:

Then Jesus said, “There was a man who had two sons. The younger of them said to his father, ‘Father, give me the share of the wealth that will belong to me.’ So he divided his assets between them. A few days later the younger son gathered all he had and traveled to a distant region, and there he squandered his wealth in dissolute living. When he had spent everything, a severe famine took place throughout that region, and he began to be in need. So he went and hired himself out to one of the citizens of that region, who sent him to his fields to feed the pigs. He would gladly have filled his stomach with the pods that the pigs were eating, and no one gave him anything. But when he came to his senses he said, ‘How many of my father’s hired hands have bread enough and to spare, but here I am dying of hunger! I will get up and go to my father, and I will say to him, “Father, I have sinned against heaven and before you; I am no longer worthy to be called your son; treat me like one of your hired hands.” ’ So he set off and went to his father. But while he was still far off, his father saw him and was filled with compassion; he ran and put his arms around him and kissed him. Then the son said to him, ‘Father, I have sinned against heaven and before you; I am no longer worthy to be called your son.’ But the father said to his slaves, ‘Quickly, bring out a robe—the best one—and put it on him; put a ring on his finger and sandals on his feet. And get the fatted calf and kill it, and let us eat and celebrate, for this son of mine was dead and is alive again; he was lost and is found!’ And they began to celebrate. “Now his elder son was in the field, and as he came and approached the house, he heard music and dancing. He called one of the slaves and asked what was going on. He replied, ‘Your brother has come, and your father has killed the fatted calf because he has got him back safe and sound.’ Then he became angry and refused to go in. His father came out and began to plead with him.

But he answered his father, 'Listen! For all these years I have been working like a slave for you, and I have never disobeyed your command, yet you have never given me even a young goat so that I might celebrate with my friends. But when this son of yours came back, who has devoured your assets with prostitutes, you killed the fatted calf for him!' Then the father said to him, 'Son, you are always with me, and all that is mine is yours. But we had to celebrate and rejoice, because this brother of yours was dead and has come to life; he was lost and has been found.'"

Leader: This is the word of the Lord.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

Sermon

*Coming Home*

## **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

*God of the Sparrow  
(v1, v4, and v6)*

### \*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**

Susan Mennella

# 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](https://www.facebook.com/ThePresbyterianChurchofMadison).

# ANNOUNCEMENTS

## COFFEE HOUR VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

Would you be willing to help with Coffee Hour? Volunteers are needed for this simple job that only requires a few minutes before and after church on an occasional Sunday. Make coffee, set out food and supplies, clean up afterwards. All food and supplies are provided, but you are also welcome to make something too! Please see or email Sara Burnet for more information if you think you could help! Thank you. Email: saraburnet@hotmail.com

## DINNER AND DISCUSSION - APRIL 2

Please join us on Wednesday, April 2 at 6:30 pm for a “Dinner and Discussion.” Pastor Carol will lead the group in a short Bible study as we gather for dinner in the Parlor. If you’re interested, please contact Jim Burnet (jimburnet@gmail.com) so we know how much dinner to order!

## 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 and has space for 12 participants. 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

Register for the class using one of the following:

1. Call / e-mail the church office to add your name to the class list
2. Click on the “Cooking Class” link in the bulletin e-mail
3. Scan the QR code:





## **ONE GREAT HOUR OF SHARING**

One Great Hour of Sharing (OGHS) is the single, largest way that Presbyterians come together every year to work for a better world. In a world of disaster, hunger, and oppression millions of people lack access to sustainable food sources, clean water, sanitation, education, and opportunity.

The three programs supported by One Great Hour of Sharing - Presbyterian Disaster Assistance, the Presbyterian Hunger Program, and Self-Development of People - all work in different ways to serve individuals and communities in need. From initial disaster response to ongoing community development, their work fits together to provide people with safety, sustenance, and hope.

Presbyterian Disaster Assistance (PDA) is the emergency and refugee program of the PC(USA). It has supported humanitarian response to war and conflict, earthquakes, drought and famine, and hurricanes and storms around the world and natural disasters around the country. PDA's Migration Accompaniment Ministry has ministered to refugees from Ukraine and South Sudan and provided legal services and advocacy for Afghan refugees in the United States.

The Presbyterian Hunger Program (PHP) works to alleviate hunger and eliminate its root causes, which include gender and racial injustice, systemic poverty, climate change and environmental racism, violent conflict, lack of affordable housing, and more. In 2024 PHP provided grants to 44 presbyteries around the US, from Northern New England to San Diego, and 24 countries around the world, mostly in Africa and Central and South America.

And Self-Development of People works with low-income communities to overcome oppression and injustice. Projects focus on advocacy, youth-led initiatives, skills development, farming, refugee issues, and capacity building, including the Newark Water Coalition here in New Jersey, farmers' cooperatives in South Carolina and Georgia, and on the Crow Indian Reservation in southeastern Montana.

OGHS envelopes will be available in worship on Palm Sunday and Easter Sunday. You may also give directly via the PC(USA) website at [pcusa.org/give-oghs](https://pcusa.org/give-oghs), or by texting OGHS to 91999.

# ANNOUNCEMENTS

## 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 at 10:15 am
- Palm Sunday, April 13 at 10:15 am
- Maundy Thursday, April 17 at 7:00 pm  
(service in the Parlor - soup will be served)
- Good Friday Tenebrae, April 18 at 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.

- The Courtney family, grieving the passing of Charles Courtney
- 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
- 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

## 802 The King of Love My Shepherd Is

(Psalm 23)

1 The King of love my shep-herd is, whose good-ness  
 2 Where streams of liv-ing wa-ter flow my ran-somed  
 3 Per-verse and fool-ish oft I strayed, but yet in  
 4 In death's dark vale I fear no ill with thee, dear

fail-eth nev-er; I noth-ing lack if  
 soul he lead-eth, and where the ver-dant  
 love he sought me, and on his shoul-der  
 Lord, be-side me; thy rod and staff my

I am his and he is mine for-ev-er.  
 pas-tures grow, with food ce-les-tial feed-eth.  
 gent-ly laid, and home, re-joic-ing, brought me.  
 com-fort still, thy cross be-fore to guide me.

5 Thou spread'st a table in my sight;  
 thy unction grace bestoweth;  
 and O what transport of delight  
 from thy pure chalice floweth!

6 And so through all the length of days  
 thy goodness faileth never;  
 Good Shepherd, may I sing thy praise  
 within thy house forever.

# 22

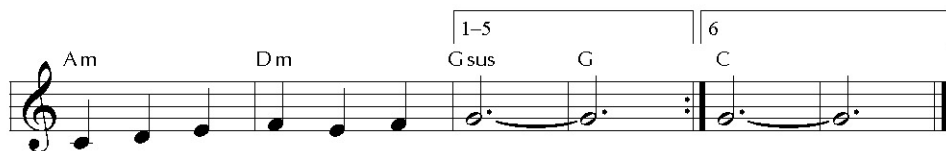
## God of the Sparrow



1	God of the spar - row	God of the whale	God of the
2	God of the earth - quake	God of the storm	God of the
3	God of the rain - bow	God of the cross	God of the
4	God of the hun - gry	God of the sick	God of the
5	God of the neigh - bor	God of the foe	God of the
6	God of the a - ges	God near at hand	God of the



swirl - ing stars	How does the crea - ture say	Awe
trum - pet blast	How does the crea - ture cry	Woe
emp - ty grave	How does the crea - ture say	Grace
prod - i - gal	How does the crea - ture say	Care
prun - ing hook	How does the crea - ture say	Love
lov - ing heart	How do your chil - dren say	Joy



How does the crea - ture say	Praise	
How does the crea - ture cry	Save	
How does the crea - ture say	Thanks	
How does the crea - ture say	Life	
How does the crea - ture say	Peace	
How do your chil - dren say		Home

*Guitar chords do not correspond with keyboard harmony.*

# NOTES

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Cover Art: Desert Day 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](http://ThePresbyterianChurchofMadison)

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