



PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
of **MADISON**



November 26, 2023

Twenty-Sixth Sunday After Pentecost

ORDER of WORSHIP

THE GATHERING OF GOD'S PEOPLE

Prelude

Welcome/Announcements

*** Call to Worship**

L: The Lord is the first and the last, our beginning and our end.

P: Holy, holy, holy is the Lord our God, who was and is, and is to come.

L: Blessing, honor, and glory be to our God, now and evermore.

P: Let us worship the living, loving God.

*** Opening Hymn**

Here I Am to Worship

Verse 1

Light of the world

You stepped down into darkness

Opened my eyes let me see

Beauty that made

This heart adore You

Hope of a life spent with You

Chorus

So here I am to worship

Here I am to bow down

Here I am to say that You're my God

And You're altogether lovely

Altogether worthy

Altogether wonderful to me

Verse 2
*King of all days
Oh so highly exalted
Glorious in heaven above
Humbly You came
To the earth You created
All for love's sake became poor*

Bridge
*And I'll never know how much it cost
To see my sin upon that cross
And I'll never know how much it cost
To see my sin upon that cross*

Prayer of Confession

God most merciful, we confess that we have failed to love fully or forgive wholly. You offer us freedom but we settle for the familiar. You offer us hope but we prefer knowing what will happen next. Guide us by your Spirit to give up cautious faithfulness, so that we can offer you our whole lives, and commit to following Jesus into the future you are creating through Jesus Christ our Lord.

(A moment of silence is observed.)

Assurance of Pardon

L: Friends, believe the good news of the gospel.

P: In Jesus Christ we are forgiven.

*** Congregational Response**

In the Lord I'll be ever thankful; In the Lord I will rejoice!

*Look to God: do not be afraid. Lift up your voices;
the Lord is near.*

Lift up your voices; the Lord is near.

Passing of the Peace

PROCLAMATION OF THE WORD

Children's Message

Prayer for Illumination

God of mystery and majesty, your thoughts are not our thoughts; your ways are not our ways. Send us your Holy Spirit, speaking through the Scriptures, so that our thoughts and ways may be transformed as we encounter your Living Word, in Christ, our Lord. Amen.

First Scripture Reading

Psalm 95: 1-7a

1 O come, let us sing to the Lord; let us make a joyful noise to the rock of our salvation! 2 Let us come into his presence with thanksgiving; let us make a joyful noise to him with songs of praise! 3 For the Lord is a great God and a great King above all gods. 4 In his hand are the depths of the earth; the heights of the mountains are his also. 5 The sea is his, for he made it, and the dry land, which his hands have formed. 6 O come, let us worship and bow down; let us kneel before the Lord, our Maker! 7 For he is our God, and we are the people of his pasture and the sheep of his hand.

Second Scripture Reading

Matthew 25: 31-46

31 "When the Son of Man comes in his glory and all the angels with him, then he will sit on the throne of his glory. 32 All the nations will be gathered before him, and he will separate people one from another as a shepherd separates the sheep from the goats, 33 and he will put the sheep at his right hand and the goats at the left. 34 Then the king will say to those at his right hand, 'Come, you who are blessed by my Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world, 35 for I was hungry and you gave me food, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink, I was a stranger and you welcomed me, 36 I was naked and you gave me clothing, I was sick and you took care of me, I was in prison and you visited me.' 37 Then the righteous will answer him, 'Lord, when was it that we saw you hungry and gave you food or thirsty and gave you something to drink? 38 And when was it that we saw you a stranger and welcomed you or naked and gave you clothing? 39 And when was it that we saw you sick or in prison and visited you?' 40 And the king will answer them, 'Truly I tell you, just as you did it to one of the least of these brothers and sisters of mine, you did it to me.'

41 Then he will say to those at his left hand, 'You who are accursed, depart from me into the eternal fire prepared for the devil and his angels, 42 for I was hungry and you gave me no food, I was thirsty and you gave me nothing to drink, 43 I was a stranger and you did not welcome me, naked and you did not give me clothing, sick and in prison and you did not visit me.' 44 Then they also will answer, 'Lord, when was it that we saw you hungry or thirsty or a stranger or naked or sick or in prison and did not take care of you?' 45 Then he will answer them, 'Truly I tell you, just as you did not do it to one of the least of these, you did not do it to me.' 46 And these will go away into eternal punishment but the righteous into eternal life."

Sermon

Being Church, Doing Faith

RESPONDING TO THE WORD

***Affirmation of Faith**

In a broken and fearful world, the Spirit gives us courage to pray without ceasing, to witness among all peoples to Christ as Lord and Savior, to unmask idolatries in Church and culture, to hear the voices of peoples long silenced, and to work with others for justice, freedom, and peace. In gratitude to God, empowered by the Spirit, we strive to serve Christ in our daily tasks and to live holy and joyful lives, even as we watch for God's new heaven and new earth, praying, "Come, Lord Jesus!"

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**

May these gifts bring light to those who walk through deep shadows, hope to those who live in despair, and justice to those who are oppressed. As we give with gratitude and generosity, grant to each one of us a sense of participation in the most important opportunity of all time: to share one's love with the world. To this end we dedicate our offerings and ourselves. Amen.

Prayers of the People

...Your Kingdom come

Your will be done.

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**

Cornerstone

Verse 1

*My hope is built on nothing less
Than Jesus' blood and righteousness
I dare not trust the sweetest frame
But wholly trust in Jesus' Name
(REPEAT)*

Chorus

*Christ alone cornerstone
Weak made strong in the Saviour's love
Through the storm He is Lord
Lord of all*

Verse 2

*When darkness seems to hide His face
I rest on His unchanging grace
In every high and stormy gale
My anchor holds within the veil
My anchor holds within the veil*

Interlude

He is Lord Lord of all

Verse 3

*When He shall come with trumpet sound
Oh may I then in Him be found
Dressed in His righteousness alone
Faultless stand before the throne*

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

Becky Moody

ANNOUNCEMENTS

VISIONING AND DISCERNMENT-SHARING OUR STORIES

We continue the church's discernment process with another opportunity to participate. This next step provides the occasion to gather together in the after-worship coffee hour, in committees or groups, or by filling out a survey to share your stories -- your experiences and memories of the past -- as well your hopes for the future. This is a chance to gain insight into where we would like our church to be in mission and ministry as we look ahead to welcoming a new pastor. Please visit this link: <https://forms.gle/cKGJCuL5SFocFe4m9>.

CHRISTMAS IN NOVEMBER

Thank you to everyone who has taken an ornament from the tree in the narthex to provide gifts for children at the Homeless Solutions shelter. As a reminder, those are due back to the office or the narthex by Sunday, December 3, wrapped and with the ornament attached. Donations to the Madison Eagle Christmas Fund may be made through December 4, via cash or check made payable to Presbyterian Church of Madison with a note for MECF. The amounts on the ornaments are just suggestions - all amounts are welcome.

JOIN US FOR THE FOLLOWING ADVENT SERVICES

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 3

- 10:15 am - Stewardship/Consecration Sunday
 - 4:30 pm - Christmas Tree Lighting and Carol Sing
- All are welcome to join us as we gather outside the sanctuary for a joyous time of carol singing. Hot chocolate, coffee, and treats will be provided after the singing as the Christmas lights of the trees outside the church are turned on. Anna D'Achille, PCM's Director of Music, and Michael Callahan, PCM's Director of Handbell Choir, will lead us in singing. Come, bring a friend, and join us as we celebrate this season of love and light, hope and joy, and our prayers for peace in the world.

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 10 - 10:15 am

- Join us as we celebrate the baptisms of two children in our community.

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 17 - 10:15 am

- Outdoor Christmas Pageant with Live Animals

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 20 - 6:00 pm

- Join us for Madison's Interfaith Winter Solstice-Longest Night-at the Christmas Tree.

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 24 - Christmas Eve

- 10:15 am - Fourth Sunday of Advent Worship Service
- 4:30 pm - Christmas Eve Candlelight Service of Lessons and Carols

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 31 - 10:15 am

- Informal Worship of Carols and Singing

QUARTERS FOR RAMP

Keep stacking the quarters in our RAMP collection tube! Just like a single food item has positive impact so does a single QUARTER. Can we get to \$420 by the end of the year?

PRAYER LIST

- Kathleen, mother of Jen Kakalettris Boyar, recovering at home after a successful surgery to remove a brain tumor
- Bill, father of Sara Burnet, recovering after a recent hospitalization
- Zoelle, recently diagnosed with a serious form of breast cancer
- Philip, who recently moved to Sunrise Assisted Living, and his wife Ruth
- Peter and Judy who give thanks for a good recovery after Peter's heart surgery
- Hector, recovering from surgery, and his wife, Liv
- All those for whom this holiday season brings reminders of loss and sadness
- Safe travel for all those on the roads, rails, seas, and air in the upcoming days of holiday celebrations
- The escalation of war in Israel and Gaza, the increasing loss of lives, and for families waiting for word of the hostages being held; all who are mourning
- All those dealing with division, hatred, prejudice and racism here and around the world
- William Christopher, for a full recovery from hip surgery
- Eduard Mostert, recovering after a serious bike accident
- Deborah, for successful back surgery
- Kiarnan and all those struggling with mental health issues
- Larry and Martie, undergoing treatment for colon cancer
- Brian and continued success with migraine treatment
- Deven who is undergoing cancer treatment
- Karen, who is living with many serious health issues, and her son, Ryan, her caregiver
- Steve Genzer for continued success with his eye and ribs
- Liv for overall strong, good health
- Len battling cancer
- Kara who is continuing with chemo treatments
- Ed facing a long recovery after a broken leg
- Ben, now back in school after treatment for cancer
- The people of the Ukraine in this ongoing time of war

NOTES

WELCOMING ALL
AS A LOVING COMMUNITY
CENTERED IN CHRIST,
GROWING IN FAITH,
SERVING IN JOY, AND
LIVING IN GRATITUDE

Staff

Jacqui Van Vliet
Pastor

Alexandra Argiris
Office Assistant

Anna D'Achille
Director of Musical Arts

Christine Antico
Bookkeeper

Michael Callahan
Student Ministries & Outreach

Eddie Ramirez
Custodian

Worship
Sunday Service 10:15 am

Session

Becky Moody, Clerk

Jim Burnet

Mary-Anna Holden

Corinne Bowen
Stephanie Haedrich

Jennifer Groller
Megan Peterson

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



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