



PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
of MADISON



October 26, 2025
Season of Pentecost

ORDER of WORSHIP

THE GATHERING OF GOD'S PEOPLE

Prelude

Welcome and Announcements

*Call to Worship

from Psalm 65

Leader: O God who saves us, you are the hope of all the ends of the earth and of the farthest seas.

People: **By your strength you established the mountains, power encircles you.**

Leader: You silence the roaring seas, the rush of their waves, and the commotion of the people.

People: **We are awed by your signs, for you make the gateways of the morning and the evening shout for joy.**

Leader: You visit the earth and water it. The river of God is full of water. You enrich the soil and provide the people with grain.

People: **The pastures of the wilderness overflow. The hills gird themselves with joy. The meadows and valleys shout and sing together for joy.**

*Opening Hymn

Alive in You

Verse 1

*From beginning to the end
All my life is in Your hands
This whole world may hold me down
But it can never drown You out
I'm not merely flesh and bone
I was made for something more*

Chorus
You are God
You're the Great I AM
Breath of life I breathe You in
Even in the fire I'm alive in You
You are strong in my brokenness
Sovereign over ev'ry step
Even in the fire
I'm alive (I'm alive) in You

Verse 2
Through the dark I hear Your voice
Rising up I will rejoice
For I was lost but now I'm found
'Cause even death can't hold You down

Bridge
It's no longer I who live
But Christ who lives within me
Christ who lives within me
From beginning to the end
You deserve the glory
You deserve the glory

Prayer of Confession

God, forgive us for our hypocrisy. We use religion when it's convenient, to gain status or power. Then we neglect the difficult work of nurturing our spiritual lives. Lead us into those humble disciplines of prayer and service. Help us to tend to our souls and awaken to the mysteries of your presence. Through your Holy Spirit, we pray.

(A moment of silence is observed.)

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**

*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 pass the peace to one another.)

PROCLAMATION OF THE WORD

Children's Message

Prayer for Illumination

God, help us to stop and listen to the still small voice that is stirring within us. Open us to your way and show us what you would have us do. Through Jesus Christ, we pray. Amen

First Scripture Reading

Joel 2:23-32

O children of Zion, be glad,
and rejoice in the Lord your God,
for he has given the early rain for your vindication;
he has poured down for you abundant rain,
the early and the later rain, as before.
The threshing floors shall be full of grain;
the vats shall overflow with wine and oil.

I will repay you for the years
that the swarming locust has eaten,
the hopper, the destroyer, and the cutter,
my great army that I sent against you.

You shall eat in plenty and be satisfied
and praise the name of the Lord your God,
who has dealt wondrously with you.
And my people shall never again be put to shame.
You shall know that I am in the midst of Israel
and that I, the Lord, am your God and there is no other.
And my people shall never again be put to shame.

Then afterward
I will pour out my spirit on all flesh;
your sons and your daughters shall prophesy,
your old men shall dream dreams,
and your young men shall see visions.
Even on the male and female slaves,
in those days I will pour out my spirit.

I will show portents in the heavens and on the earth, blood and fire
and columns of smoke. The sun shall be turned to darkness and
the moon to blood, before the great and terrible day of the Lord
comes. Then everyone who calls on the name of the Lord shall be
saved, for in Mount Zion and in Jerusalem there shall be those who
escape, as the Lord has said, and among the survivors shall be
those whom the Lord calls.

Leader: This is the word of the Lord.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

Second Scripture Reading

Luke 18:9-14

He also told this parable to some who trusted in themselves that they were righteous and regarded others with contempt: "Two men went up to the temple to pray, one a Pharisee and the other a tax collector. The Pharisee, standing by himself, was praying thus, 'God, I thank you that I am not like other people: thieves, rogues, adulterers, or even like this tax collector. I fast twice a week; I give a tenth of all my income.' But the tax collector, standing far off, would not even lift up his eyes to heaven but was beating his breast and saying, 'God, be merciful to me, a sinner!' I tell you, this man went down to his home justified rather than the other, for all who exalt themselves will be humbled, but all who humble themselves will be exalted."

Leader: This is the word of the Lord.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

RESPONDING TO THE WORD

*Profession of Faith

from the Brief Statement of Faith

We trust in God the Holy Spirit, everywhere the giver and renewer of life. The Spirit justifies us by grace through faith, sets us free to accept ourselves and to love God and neighbor, and binds us together with all believers in the one body of Christ, the Church. The same Spirit who inspired the prophets and apostles rules our faith and life in Christ through Scripture, engages us through the Word proclaimed, claims us in the waters of baptism, feeds us with the bread of life and the cup of salvation, and calls women and men to all ministries of the church.

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.

The Gifts of Our Tithes and Offerings

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

Let Everything (Praise the Lord)

Chorus

Let everything that has breath praise the Lord

Let everything that has breath praise the Lord

Praise the Lord

With all of my heart

With all of my strength

With all that I have

I will sing

Let everything that has breath praise the Lord

Verse 1

There is a river

That flows unrestrained from Your heart

Canyons of mercy

So deep I could never depart

Pre-Chorus

Father Your wonders are endless

Open my eyes to believe

Awake my soul

Verse 2

Morning by morning

Your faithfulness shines like the sun

Heaven's on fire

Alive with the brilliance of love

Bridge
With thanksgiving on our lips
We enter Your courts today
All our lives we freely give
Awaken my soul to praise

***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

Peter Teshima

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.

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 ENEWS** - 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

PARISH HOUSE CONSTRUCTION - ONGOING

The Parish House (and restrooms) are not directly accessible from the sanctuary due to construction near the breezeway. To access the Parish House from the sanctuary, please exit via the breezeway glass doors and re-enter Parish House via the parking lot back door.

WORSHIP HELPERS NEEDED

Pastor Carol has requested that we return to the old (pre-pandemic) way of receiving the offering, which requires people to pass the plates during the time of the offertory. We are also in need of additional worship readers, especially men. If you feel called to help in either of these ways, please contact Becky Moody at rmood9856@gmail.com. With enough volunteers your commitment would be every six weeks to two months.

THANKSGIVING DRIVE FOR THE INTERFAITH FOOD PANTRY

Once again PCM is supporting the Interfaith Food Pantry's Thanksgiving program. The pantry begins providing Thanksgiving baskets to their clients at the beginning of November. During October we will be collecting needed Thanksgiving dinner sides, including but not limited to: stuffing, instant potatoes, cranberry sauce, canned fruit and vegetables and gravy. Note: gravy should be in cans or cartons, not glass jars. Please bring your donations to the church and leave them in Doris's Wagon in the Parish House or the basket in the Narthex. Thank you in advance for helping to make Thanksgiving for some of our neediest neighbors.

DEAD OF NIGHT CEMETERY TOUR - NOVEMBER 1

Join us for a free and fun tour of Hillside Cemetery in Madison (across from MJS). "Dead of Night" cemetery tour is on November 1. Famous ghosts from Madison's past rise to tell their story! There are 5 tour times: 6:20 pm (mobility-limited tour), 6:45 pm, 7:00 pm, 7:15 pm, and 7:30 pm.

Email HillsideCemeteryNJ@gmail.com with your requested tour time and total number of guests. Contact Jim Burnet if interested in volunteering at jimburnet@gmail.com.

BREAKFAST AT NAUTILUS DINER - NOVEMBER 5

Join us for an enjoyable morning of fun and fellowship at the Nautilus Diner in Madison on Wednesday, November 5 at 7:15 am. Contact Jim Burnet with any questions at jimburnet@gmail.com.

FALL PICNIC - RESCHEDULED TO NOVEMBER 9

We'd love for you to join us at Lewis Morris Park for a picnic on Sunday, November 9, at 3:00 pm. The park is located at 270 Mendham Road in Morris Township. Please feel free to bring food, a frisbee, or a football! We'll sing around the campfire, and there will be s'mores. For more information, contact Michael Callahan at mikefcallahan@gmail.com or 973-722-4103.

SOUND HEALING - NOVEMBER 11

Give yourself the best gift - a whole hour of peace and rest just for you. Join us in the sanctuary on November 11 (Tuesday) 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.

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.

- 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
- Mosese, on the list for a kidney transplant
- Debby & Graham who lost their home in the Texas flash flood
- Immigrants
- Kathleen, caregiver for her parents
- Joe and his family for comfort and support during a very stressful time
- Cristin for strength, rest, and peace as her father's caregiver
- Susan, sister of Bob Landrigan, as she battles Parkinson's disease
- Jeanne, to regain strength after a stroke, and for Mari, her caregiver
- Marques and his family, grieving his father's passing
- 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

NOTES



FALL EVENTS



**SAT
NOV 1**

DEAD OF NIGHT CEMETERY TOUR @ 6 PM

Ghosts from our cemetery rise to tell their stories. Tour guides & welcome staff needed.

**WED
NOV 5**

NAUTILUS DINER BREAKFAST @ 7:15 AM

**SUN
NOV 9**

FALL PICNIC @ 3 PM

Join us at Lewis Park for a picnic. Please feel free to bring food. Gather around the campfire, and there will be s'mores!

**TUES
NOV 11**

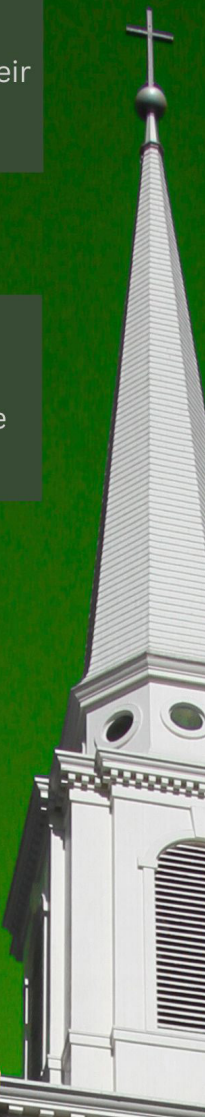
SINGING BOWL REFLECTION @ 7 PM

Sound healing and reflections in the sanctuary. Please bring a non-perishable food donation.

SAVE THE DATES!

SAT DEC 20 Downtown Christmas Caroling

**SUN DEC 21 Christmas Pageant with live
animals!**



CREDITS

COVER ART: Among the Waves by Ivan Aivazovsky

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

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pcmadison.org