



PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
of MADISON



October 4, 2026
World Communion Sunday

ORDER of WORSHIP

THE GATHERING OF GOD'S PEOPLE

Prelude

Welcome and Announcements

*Call to Worship

Leader: God loves justice and equity,

People: God calls us to support the weak,

Leader: to help those who suffer,

People: and to honor all people.

Leader: By the power of the Holy Spirit, we are God's beloved community.

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

*Opening Hymn

Halle, Halle, Hallelujah!

Prayer of Confession

Loving God, through Jesus Christ you taught us, "where your treasure is, there your heart will be also." Yet we continue to put our faith in earthly treasures, hoarding up possessions that moth and rust will destroy, clinging to power and privilege whenever we can. Set us free from greed and fear. Forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors. Teach us to trust in you alone; through Jesus Christ, our true redeemer.

(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

Children's Message

Prayer for Illumination

O Lord, your Word is a lamp to our feet and a light to our path. Give us grace to receive your truth in faith and love, and strength to follow on the path you set before us; through Jesus Christ, Amen.

First Scripture Reading

Philippians 3:4b-14

If anyone else has reason to be confident in the flesh, I have more: circumcised on the eighth day, a member of the people of Israel, of the tribe of Benjamin, a Hebrew born of Hebrews; as to the law, a Pharisee; as to zeal, a persecutor of the church; as to righteousness under the law, blameless.

Yet whatever gains I had, these I have come to regard as loss because of Christ. More than that, I regard everything as loss because of the surpassing value of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord. For his sake I have suffered the loss of all things, and I regard them as rubbish, in order that I may gain Christ and be found in him, not having a righteousness of my own that comes from the law but one that comes through faith in Christ, the righteousness from God based on faith. I want to know Christ and the power of his resurrection and the sharing of his sufferings by becoming like him in his death, if somehow I may attain the resurrection from the dead.

Not that I have already obtained this or have already reached the goal, but I press on to lay hold of that for which Christ has laid hold of me. Brothers and sisters, I do not consider that I have laid hold of it, but one thing I have laid hold of: forgetting what lies behind and straining forward to what lies ahead, I press on toward the goal, toward the prize of the heavenly call of God in Christ Jesus.

Leader: This is the word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

Second Scripture Reading

Matthew 21:33-46

“Listen to another parable. There was a landowner who planted a vineyard, put a fence around it, dug a winepress in it, and built a watchtower. Then he leased it to tenants and went away. When the harvest time had come, he sent his slaves to the tenants to collect his produce. But the tenants seized his slaves and beat one, killed another, and stoned another. Again he sent other slaves, more than the first, and they treated them in the same way. Then he sent his son to them, saying, ‘They will respect my son.’ But when the tenants saw the son, they said to themselves, ‘This is the heir; come, let us kill him and get his inheritance.’ So they seized him, threw him out of the vineyard, and killed him. Now when the owner of the vineyard comes, what will he do to those tenants?” They said to him, “He will put those wretches to a miserable death and lease the vineyard to other tenants who will give him the produce at the harvest time.”

Jesus said to them, “Have you never read in the scriptures:

‘The stone that the builders rejected
has become the cornerstone;
this was the Lord’s doing,
and it is amazing in our eyes’?

“Therefore I tell you, the kingdom of God will be taken away from you and given to a people that produces its fruits. The one who falls on this stone will be broken to pieces, and it will crush anyone on whom it falls.”

When the chief priests and the Pharisees heard his parables, they realized that he was speaking about them. They wanted to arrest him, but they feared the crowds, because they regarded him as a prophet.

Leader: This is the word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

Sermon

What is our calling?

RESPONDING TO THE WORD

*Affirmation of Faith

from I Corinthians 13

Love is patient, love is kind. It does not envy, it does not boast, it is not proud. It does not dishonor others, it is not self-seeking, it is not easily angered, it keeps no record of wrongs. Love does not delight in evil but rejoices with the truth. It always protects, always trusts, always hopes, always perseveres.

Love never fails.

The Gifts of Our Tithes and Offering

Invitation to Offering

Offertory

Umoja Tunaimba
(United We Sing)

Sanctuary Singers

*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!*

The Sacrament of the Lord’s Supper

Invitation to the Lord’s Table

The Great Prayer of Thanksgiving

One: The Lord be with you!

All: And also with you!

One: Lift up your hearts.

All: We lift them to the Lord.

One: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

All: It is right to give our thanks and praise.

Sanctus

*Holy, holy, holy! Lord God almighty!
Early in the morning our song shall rise to Thee;
Holy, holy, holy! Merciful and mighty!
God in three persons, blessed Trinity!*

*Communion Hymn

Bread of Life from Heaven

*Communion of the People

Prayers after Communion and the Lord's Prayer

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

Peace of God Be With You

*Charge and Blessing

*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

Bev Spagnola

ANNOUNCEMENTS

SANCTUARY SINGERS & RINGERS-REHEARSALS ON THURSDAY

Sanctuary Singers and Sanctuary Ringers are back this fall!
Rehearsals will be held regularly on **Thursdays at 6:30 pm for Singers and 7:30 pm for Ringers**. Please consider joining us and worshipping through music - no experience required!

WORLD COMMUNION OFFERING

"What does the Lord require of you?" ... "to do justice and to love kindness and walk humbly with your God." Micah 6:8

In the 8th century before Christ, the humble prophet Micah was deeply in touch with the plight of the people. He envisioned a world where everyone would be free to live into the fullness of the life God intended. Yet the society and the culture in Micah's day did not match his visions of God's reign – there was no justice, kindness or humble living. The World Communion Offering is a new way for Presbyterians to "love kindness" expressed in action, often involving mercy, faithfulness and steadfast commitment. Racial justice, gender justice, global witness, and ecumenical and interfaith engagement are the important causes supported by this offering.

There will be envelopes available on **October 4**, when we will celebrate World Communion Sunday, a time when Christians everywhere partake of the Lord's Supper. You may also give by texting GIVEWCO to 41444 or online by credit card at pcusa.org/give/wco.

BIBLE STUDY - RESUMES ON OCTOBER 19

Bible Study will resume in the Parlor on Mondays, at 6:30 pm, starting on October 19.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

MISSION SUNDAY - OCTOBER 25

October 25 is Mission Sunday, so please join us for a special mission-focused worship service and mission fair! Our mission partners - Interfaith Food Pantry, Homeless Solutions, nourish.NJ, and RAMP - will join us for worship and be available afterwards during our Mission Fair to inspire your volunteerism via curiosity and education about these local nonprofit organizations and their volunteer opportunities, both through our church and on your own. Mt. Pleasant Animal Shelter will also participate in our fair. Lunch will be provided! It's a great opportunity to volunteer, too, as the Mission Team needs help with setup and clean-up. See any Mission Team member or Pastor Carol with questions.

RAMP UPDATE

The quarter tube was overflowing last week, which means another \$80 to RAMP with the matching amount from the Mission budget. Since its founding in 2016, RAMP has supported 22 adults and 21 children from Syria, Afghanistan, and El Salvador. Thirteen are now U.S. citizens and two are serving in the military. Much more information can be found at rampnj.org – take a look!

ONLINE GIVING

Thank you for supporting the vision and ministry of the Presbyterian Church of Madison. Scan the following QR code to use our secure online giving form to make a one-time donation or conveniently schedule recurring gifts.



Each of you must give as you have made up your mind, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver.
2 Corinthians 9:7

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.

- Thanksgiving for the life of John, and peace for Louise as she mourns his passing
- Marietjie, caring for her sister, who's close to passing from cancer
- Noel, in need of a living kidney donor
- Honor the life of Mary Ann Peifly, mother to Jeff & Jen (his wife) and grandmother to Emma & Sydney
- Comfort, peace, and joy that heals sadness and heartbreak for the Peifly family
- Comfort, peace, and hope for the Kunzinger Family, whose brother and husband (to Gail) passed away unexpectedly
- Joe and his family on a hard journey with his elderly parents
- Brody for recovery
- Debbie and daughter Sara for a permanent solution to their homeless situation
- David's grandson for his faith-focused journey
- Laurie living with Parkinson's disease
- Jack living with Parkinson's and Melissa (his daughter) and Lynn (his wife) as they encourage and support him
- Lucy and family, after the recent passing of their father
- John in a Mayo Clinic clinical trial for a rare form of Parkinson's
- Jackie and her children, as they grieve their husband and father
- Doug, a friend of the Burnet family, who was recently diagnosed with a serious illness
- Immigrants
- Kathleen, caregiver for her parents
- Susan, sister of Bob Landrigan, as she battles Parkinson's disease

591 Halle, Halle, Hallelujah!

Refrain

Hal - le, hal - le, hal - le - lu - jah!

hal - le -

Hal - le, hal - le, hal - le - lu - jah!

Hal - le - lu - jah!

Hal - le, hal - le, hal - le - lu - jah! Hal - le -

hal - le -

lu - jah! Hal - le - lu - jah!

Fine

Leader/All (sung over or in alternation with refrain)

1 O God, to whom shall we go? You a - lone have the
2 My sheep hear my voice, says the Lord. When I call them they

words of life. Let your words be our prayer and the song we
fol - low me. I will lead them to rest by the peace - ful

to Refrain

sing: hal - le - lu - jah, hal - le - lu - jah!
streams: hal - le - lu - jah, hal - le - lu - jah!

582

Glory to God, Whose Goodness Shines on Me

Capo 3: (G) B^b (D) (G) (D) (G) (D) (Em) (D) 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.

497

Bread of Life from Heaven

Refrain C G Am Am7 F G7 C

Bread of life from heav - en, your blood and bod - y giv - en, we

F G7 C Am F G7 C Last time

eat this bread and drink this cup un - til you come a - gain.

G G7 C F

1 Break now the bread of Christ's sac - ri - fice; giv - ing thanks,
2 Seek not the food that will pass a - way; set your hearts
3 Love as the One who, in love for you, gave him - self
4 Dwell in the One who now dwells in you; make your home
5 Drink of this cup and de - clare his death; eat this bread

G C Bdim7 E7

hun - gry ones, gath - er round. Eat, all of you, and be
on the food that en - dures. Come, learn the true and the
for the life of the world. Come to the One who is
in the life - giv - ing Word. Know on - ly Christ, ho - ly
and be - lieve Eas - ter morn; trust his re - turn and, with

Am Am7 D D7 Gsus G7 to Refrain

sat - is - fied; in Christ's pres - ence the loaves will a - bound.
liv - ing way, that the full - ness of life may be yours.
food for you, that your hun - ger and thirst be no more.
One of God, and be - lieve in the truth you have heard.
ev - ery breath, praise the One in whom you are re - born.

448 Peace of God Be with You

As-salaamu lakum

Am G F Am G F C

Peace of God be with you. Peace of God be with you. Sa -
 As - sa - laa - mu la - kum. As - sa - laa - mu la - kum. Sa -

Dm F Am G F Am

laam, sa - laam, Peace of God be with you.
 laam, sa - laam, As - sa - laa - mu la - kum.

Cover Art: “El Racimo De Uvas” by Maruja Mallo

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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