



PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
of MADISON



September 20, 2026

Seventeenth Sunday after Pentecost

ORDER of WORSHIP

THE GATHERING OF GOD'S PEOPLE

Prelude

Welcome and Announcements

*Call to Worship

Leader: We gather to journey together.

People: Through parted waters, may God set us free.

Leader: With cloud and fire, may the Holy One guide us.

People: With gushing waters, may the Spirit quench our thirst.

Leader: With food from heaven, may Christ feed us.

People: We gather with joy and singing, so that we might know God's ways.

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

*Opening Hymn

The Summons

Prayer of Confession

Loving God, we long to be first. We struggle to climb every ladder, frame every achievement, get every promotion, and obtain every glory. We dread being last. Forgive us, O humble Christ, and in your mercy, teach us. Teach us to reframe our priorities. Teach us to be servants first, and to let our lives flow from a heart of faith.

(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

Prayer for Illumination

God of wisdom, reveal your ways to us. With every step we take, show us what to do and where to go. Through your Spirit, Amen.

First Scripture Reading

Philippians 1:21-30

For to me, living is Christ and dying is gain. If I am to live in the flesh, that means fruitful labor for me, yet I cannot say which I will choose. I am hard pressed between the two: my desire is to depart and be with Christ, for that is far better, but to remain in the flesh is more necessary for you. Since I am convinced of this, I know that I will remain and continue with all of you for your progress and joy in faith, so that, by my presence again with you, your boast might abound in Christ Jesus because of me.

Only, live your life in a manner worthy of the gospel of Christ, so that, whether I come and see you or am absent and hear about you, I will know that you are standing firm in one spirit, striving side by side with one mind for the faith of the gospel and in no way frightened by those opposing you. For them, this is evidence of their destruction but of your salvation. And this is God's doing. For he has graciously granted you the privilege not only of believing in Christ but of suffering for him as well, since you are having the same struggle that you saw I had and now hear that I still have.

Leader: This is the word of the Lord.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

Second Scripture Reading

Matthew 20:1-16

“For the kingdom of heaven is like a landowner who went out early in the morning to hire laborers for his vineyard. After agreeing with the laborers for a denarius for the day, he sent them into his vineyard. When he went out about nine o’clock, he saw others standing idle in the marketplace, and he said to them, ‘You also go into the vineyard, and I will pay you whatever is right.’ So they went. When he went out again about noon and about three o’clock, he did the same. And about five o’clock he went out and found others standing around, and he said to them, ‘Why are you standing here idle all day?’ They said to him, ‘Because no one has hired us.’ He said to them, ‘You also go into the vineyard.’ When evening came, the owner of the vineyard said to his manager, ‘Call the laborers and give them their pay, beginning with the last and then going to the first.’ When those hired about five o’clock came, each of them received a denarius. Now when the first came, they thought they would receive more; but each of them also received a denarius. And when they received it, they grumbled against the landowner, saying, ‘These last worked only one hour, and you have made them equal to us who have borne the burden of the day and the scorching heat.’ But he replied to one of them, ‘Friend, I am doing you no wrong; did you not agree with me for a denarius? Take what belongs to you and go; I choose to give to this last the same as I give to you. Am I not allowed to do what I choose with what belongs to me? Or are you envious because I am generous?’ So the last will be first, and the first will be last.”

Leader: This is the word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

Sermon

What Motivates Us?

RESPONDING TO THE WORD

***Affirmation of Faith**

Adapted from the Confession of 1967

**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 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**

Farewell, Good Friends

***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

Mary-Anna Holden

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 rack.

WHILE YOU WORSHIP WITH US:

- **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** - Please speak with Pastor Carol for additional information.
- **GET OUR ENEWS** - Keep current with our news and activities through email. Place your email address in the offering plate.

LEARN MORE ABOUT US by visiting our website at www.pcmadison.org and on Facebook at www.facebook.com/ThePresbyterianChurchofMadison.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

SANCTUARY SINGERS & RINGERS - REHEARSALS ON THURSDAYS

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!

SOUND HEALING - SEPTEMBER 29 at 6:30 PM IN THE PARLOR

Please join us for Sound Healing on September 29 (Tuesday) from 6:30-7:30 pm in the parlor. We'll welcome back Christine Luu, who joined us in August, as she leads us through gentle stretching accessible to all fitness levels and then a relaxing sound bath. Ahh ... it will be the best daylight hour-of-rest in your week! Contact Kathleen (kathleenunderwood@verizon.net) with any questions.

BOTTLE HILL DAY - OCTOBER 3

This year, for Bottle Hill Day, we are creating a Rest and Recharge Station for anyone who needs a chance to unwind from the chaos. If you'd like to be involved, please let Carol or Michael know.

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.

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

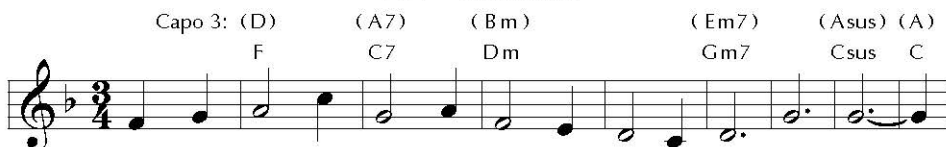
During the week, each one of us can make it a part of our daily spiritual practice to pray. You are invited to participate, as you are able, offering prayer in light of God's healing love.

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.

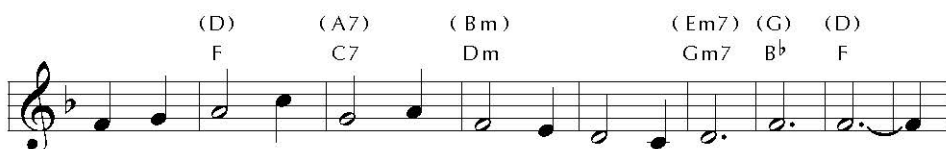
- Thanksgiving for the life of John, and peace for Louise as she mourns his passing
- Marietjie, caring for her sister, who's close to passing from cancer
- Noel, in need of a living kidney donor
- Honor the life of Mary Ann Peifly, mother to Jeff & Jen (his wife) and grandmother to Emma & Sydney
- Comfort, 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

726 Will You Come and Follow Me

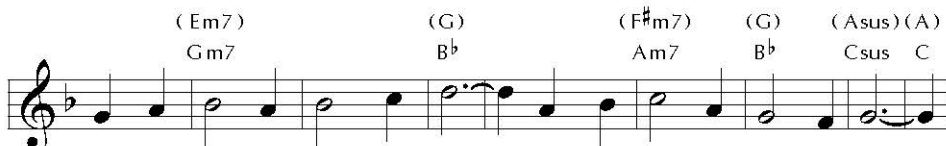
The Summons



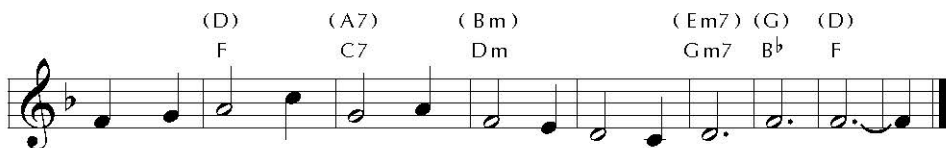
- 1 "Will you come and fol - low me if I but call your name?
 2 "Will you leave your-self be-hind if I but call your name?
 3 "Will you let the blind - ed see if I but call your name?
 4 "Will you love the 'you' you hide if I but call your name?
 5 Lord, your sum-mons ech - oes true when you but call my name.



Will you go where you don't know and nev - er be the same?
 Will you care for cruel and kind and nev - er be the same?
 Will you set the pris-on-ers free and nev - er be the same?
 Will you quell the fear in - side and nev - er be the same?
 Let me turn and fol - low you and nev - er be the same.



Will you let my love be shown; will you let my name be known;
 Will you risk the hos - tile stare should your life at-tract or scare?
 Will you kiss the lep - er clean, and do such as this un - seen,
 Will you use the faith you've found to re-shape the world a - round,
 In your com - pa - ny I'll go where your love and foot-steps show.



will you let my life be grown in you and you in me?"
 Will you let me an - swer prayer in you and you in me?"
 and ad - mit to what I mean in you and you in me?"
 through my sight and touch and sound in you and you in me?"
 Thus I'll move and live and grow in you and you in me.

582

Glory to God, Whose Goodness Shines on Me

Capo 3: (G) B $\flat$ (D) (G) (D) (G) (D) (Em) (D)

F B $\flat$ F B $\flat$ F F Gm F

1 Glo - ry to God, whose good - ness shines on me,
2 World with - out end, 7 with - out end. A - men.

(D) (G) (C) (G) (Em7) (A7)
F B $\flat$ E $\flat$ B $\flat$ Gm7 C7

and to the Son, whose grace has par - doned me,
World with - out end, 7 with - out end. A - men.

(A7) (D) (F $\sharp$) (Bm)
C7 F A Dm

and to the Spir - it, whose love has set me free.
World with - out end, 7 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.

Farewell, Good Friends!

Shalom, chaverim!

The musical score is written in 4/4 time with a key signature of one flat (B-flat). It consists of three staves of music. The first staff has a treble clef and a key signature of one flat. The second staff has a treble clef and a key signature of one flat. The third staff has a treble clef and a key signature of one flat. The lyrics are written below the notes.

** Dm*

Fare - well, good friends! Fare - well, good friends! Sha -
 Sha - lom, cha - ve - rim! Sha - lom, cha - ve - rot! Sha -

Gm C7 Dm

lom, sha - lom! Till we meet a - gain, till we
 lom, sha - lom! Le - hit - ra - ot, le -

Gm A7 Dm

meet a - gain, sha - lom, sha - lom.
 hit - ra - ot, sha - lom, sha - lom.

**May be sung as a canon.*

NOTES

CREDITS

Cover Art: “Peasant Woman Binding Sheaves” by
Vincent Van Gogh

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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