



PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
of MADISON



September 27, 2026
Eighteenth Sunday after Pentecost

ORDER of WORSHIP

THE GATHERING OF GOD'S PEOPLE

Prelude

Welcome and Announcements

*Call to Worship

Leader: Listen, people of God!
People: **Hear the wonders of our Creator!**
Leader: God split the sea;
People: **walls of water towered above.**
Leader: God guided our ancestors in faith:
People: **clouds by day, lightning by night.**
Leader: God split open the rock;
People: **water flowed like rivers.**
Leader: God split open the heavens and met earth.
People: **God meets us still.**

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

*Opening Hymn

Jesu, Jesu, Fill Us with Your Love

Prayer of Confession

Holy God, we confess that we are not always of the same mind. We act with selfish ambition. We do not regard others as better than ourselves. We have not looked to the interests of others instead of ourselves. We do not embrace the humility of Jesus Christ.

Forgive us. Continue to be at work in us, that we might serve each other as you served us, and reflect your glory in this world.

(Silent confession)

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 #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

Faithful God, we know that those who hunger and thirst for your wisdom are blessed. By your Spirit, help us to hear your word and walk in your ways. Amen.

First Scripture Reading

Philippians 2:1-13

If, then, there is any comfort in Christ, any consolation from love, any partnership in the Spirit, any tender affection and sympathy, make my joy complete: be of the same mind, having the same love, being in full accord and of one mind. Do nothing from selfish ambition or empty conceit, but in humility regard others as better than yourselves. Let each of you look not to your own interests but to the interests of others. Let the same mind be in you that was in Christ Jesus,

who, though he existed in the form of God,
did not regard equality with God
as something to be grasped,

but emptied himself,
taking the form of a slave,
assuming human likeness.
And being found in appearance as a human,
he humbled himself
and became obedient to the point of death—
even death on a cross.

Therefore God exalted him even more highly
and gave him the name
that is above every other name,
so that at the name given to Jesus
every knee should bend,
in heaven and on earth and under the earth,
and every tongue should confess
that Jesus Christ is Lord,
to the glory of God the Father.

Therefore, my beloved, just as you have always obeyed me, not only in my presence but much more now in my absence, work on your own salvation with fear and trembling, for it is God who is at work in you, enabling you both to will and to work for his good pleasure.”

Leader: This is the word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

Second Scripture Reading

Matthew 21:23-32

When he entered the temple, the chief priests and the elders of the people came to him as he was teaching and said, “By what authority are you doing these things, and who gave you this authority?” Jesus said to them, “I will also ask you one question; if you tell me the answer, then I will also tell you by what authority I do these things. Did the baptism of John come from heaven, or was it of human origin?” And they argued with one another, “If we say, ‘From heaven,’ he will say to us, ‘Why, then, did you not believe him?’ But if we say, ‘Of human origin,’ we are afraid of the crowd, for all regard John as a prophet.” So they answered Jesus, “We do not know.” And he said to them, “Neither will I tell you by what authority I am doing these things.

“What do you think? A man had two sons; he went to the first and said, ‘Son, go and work in the vineyard today.’ He answered, ‘I will not,’ but later he changed his mind and went. The father went to the second and said the same, and he answered, ‘I go, sir,’ but he did not go. Which of the two did the will of his father?” They said, “The first.” Jesus said to them, “Truly I tell you, the tax collectors and the prostitutes are going into the kingdom of God ahead of you. For John came to you in the way of righteousness, and you did not believe him, but the tax collectors and the prostitutes believed him, and even after you saw it you did not change your minds and believe him.

Leader: This is the word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

Sermon

The Law of Love

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

***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** *What Does the Lord Require of 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

Becky Moody

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.

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

203 Jesu, Jesu, Fill Us with Your Love

Capo 3: (D) (A7) C7

Refrain

Je - su, Je - su, fill us with your love; show

us how to serve the neigh-bors we have from you. *Fine*

1 Kneels at the feet of his friends, si - lent - ly wash-es their
 2 Neigh-bors are wealth-y and poor, var - ied in col - or and
 3 These are the ones we should serve; these are the ones we should
 4 Lov - ing puts us on our knees, will - ing to wash oth - ers'

feet, Mas - ter who acts as a slave to them.
 race; neigh-bors are near us and far a - way.
 love; all these are neigh-bors to us and you.
 feet; this is the way we should live like you.

to Refrain

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.

What Does the Lord Require of You? 70

Capo 3: (G) (D) (Em) (Bm)
B $\flat$ F Gm Dm

*1.
What does the Lord re - quire of you?

2.
Jus - tice, kind - ness,

3.
To seek jus - tice and love kind - ness

(C) (G) (Am) (D) (G)
E $\flat$ B $\flat$ Cm F B $\flat$ Repeat as desired

What does the Lord re - quire of you?

walk hum - bly with your God.

and walk hum - bly with your God.

**The three melodic phrases may be sung consecutively, as a canon, or in any combination.*

NOTES

CREDITS

Cover Art: “Grapes in Capri” by Konstantinos Gorbatov

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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