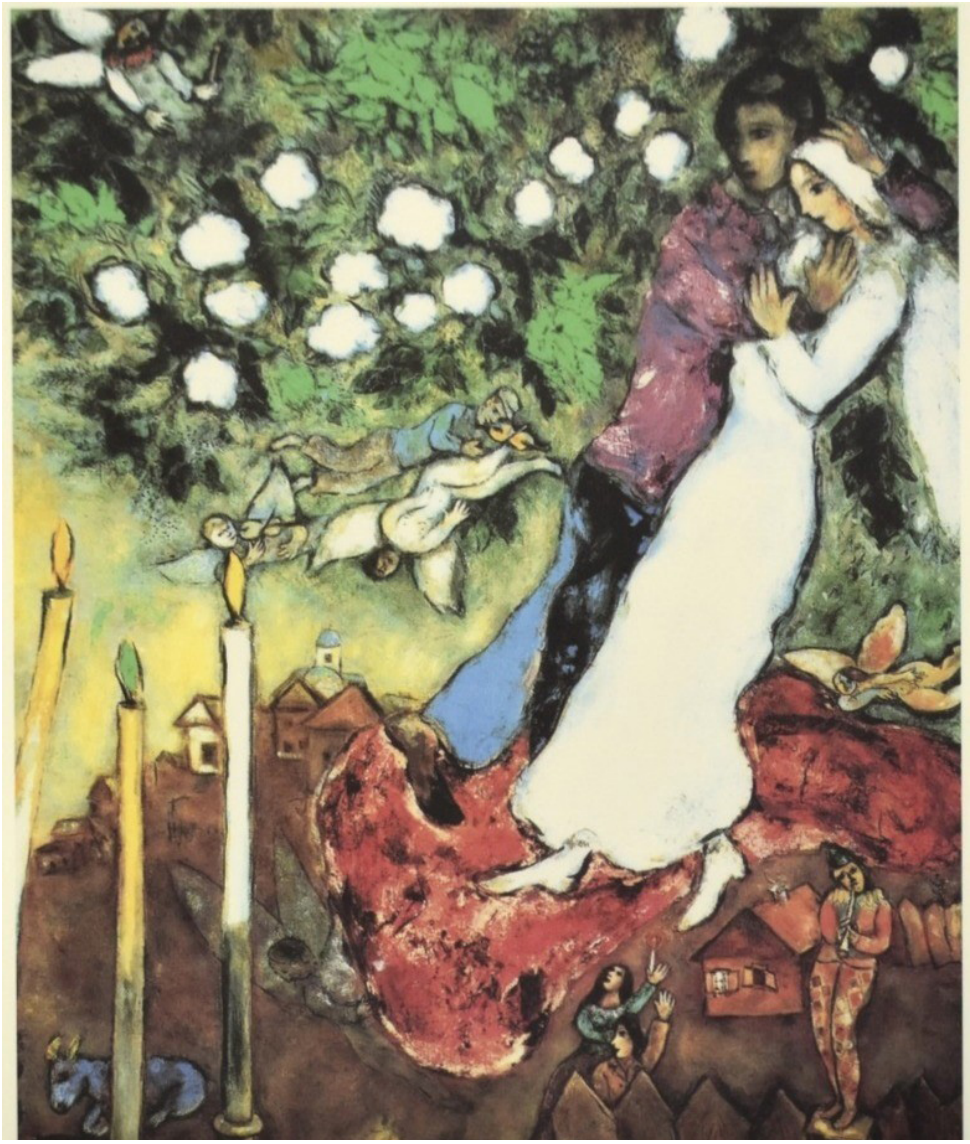
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
*of* MADISON



November 8, 2026

Twenty-Fourth Sunday after Pentecost

# ORDER of WORSHIP

## THE GATHERING OF GOD'S PEOPLE

**Prelude**

**Welcome and Announcements**

***Call to Worship**

Leader: What has God done for you?

**People: Wondrous works. Unforgettable deeds. Strength in the wilderness. Paths of liberation!**

Leader: We'll never stop telling our story.

**People: The next generation will hear it. Children not yet born will know it.**

Leader: Hope in God, whose story will never end.

**People: Forever we will praise our faithful helper and deliverer.**

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

***Opening Hymn** *All Who Hunger, Gather Gladly*

**Prayer of Confession**

**Loving God, Forgive us for our hypocrisy. Have mercy on us for the times when we use religion to feel superior, to judge, and to exert control over others. Help us to practice true faithfulness–to feed the hungry, welcome the stranger, and visit the sick.**

(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**

**Gracious God, let your word rule in our hearts and your Spirit govern our lives. Let us walk in your ways of justice and peace, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

**Scripture Reading** Amos 5:18-24

Woe to you who desire the day of the Lord!
Why do you want the day of the Lord?
It is darkness, not light,
as if someone fled from a lion
and was met by a bear
or went into the house and rested a hand against the wall
and was bitten by a snake.
Is not the day of the Lord darkness, not light,
and gloom with no brightness in it?

I hate, I despise your festivals,
and I take no delight in your solemn assemblies.

Even though you offer me your burnt offerings and grain offerings,
I will not accept them,
and the offerings of well-being of your fatted animals
I will not look upon.
Take away from me the noise of your songs;
I will not listen to the melody of your harps.
But let justice roll down like water
and righteousness like an ever-flowing stream.

Leader: This is the word of the Lord.

**People: Thanks be to God.**

**Scripture Reading** Matthew 25:1-13

"Then the kingdom of heaven will be like this. Ten young women took their lamps and went to meet the bridegroom. Five of them were foolish, and five were wise. When the foolish took their lamps, they took no oil with them, but the wise took flasks of oil with their lamps. As the bridegroom was delayed, all of them became drowsy and slept. But at midnight there was a shout, 'Look! Here is the bridegroom! Come out to meet him.' Then all those young women got up and trimmed their lamps. The foolish said to the wise, 'Give us some of your oil, for our lamps are going out.' But the wise replied, 'No! There will not be enough for you and for us; you had better go to the dealers and buy some for yourselves.' And while they went to buy it, the bridegroom came, and those who were ready went with him into the wedding banquet, and the door was shut. Later the other young women came also, saying, 'Lord, lord, open to us.' But he replied, 'Truly I tell you, I do not know you.' Keep awake, therefore, for you know neither the day nor the hour.

Leader: This is the word of the Lord.

**People: Thanks be to God.**

**Sermon** The Problem with Religion

## RESPONDING TO THE WORD

***Affirmation of Faith** Psalm 23

The Lord is my shepherd; I shall not want.
He makes me lie down in green pastures;

he leads me beside still waters;
he restores my soul.
He leads me in right paths
for his name's sake.

Even though I walk through the darkest valley,
I fear no evil,
for you are with me;
your rod and your staff,
they comfort me.

You prepare a table before me
in the presence of my enemies;
you anoint my head with oil;
my cup overflows.
Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me
all the days of my life,
and I shall dwell in the house of the Lord
my whole life long.

**The Gifts of Our Tithes and Offering**

**Minute for Stewardship** Beverly Spagnola

**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** *Today We All Are Called to Be Disciples*

***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.*

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## WORSHIP LEADER

Susan Mennella

# 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

## BIBLE STUDY - MONDAYS AT 6:30 PM

Please join us in the Parlor on Monday evenings at 6:30 pm.

## MISSION SUNDAY: GRATITUDE FOR ALL!

Seeing all of you on Mission Sunday was really wonderful! Our community was so alive and inspired with worship, learning, discussion, music, and food!! The Mission Team is grateful to all our nonprofit partners who participated: Interfaith Food Pantry Network, RAMP, Homeless Solutions, nourish.NJ, Mt. Pleasant Animal Shelter, & Jersey Cares. And, of course, we're grateful to you for joining in and participating!! Thank you!

Whenever you have ideas for mission projects for our church community, please talk to any Mission Team member: Sara Burnet, Louise Kacerek, Susan Mennella, Becky Moody, Marietjie Mostert, Julie Siciliano, Kathleen Underwood, or Pastor Carol.

## INTERFAITH FOOD PANTRY UPDATE

Our third quarter donations came to 299 pounds, which gives us 772 for the year through September. Thanks to everyone who donated on Mission Sunday we should be well on our way to one thousand pounds for the year. Although the pantry has begun giving Thanksgiving baskets to their clients, it's not too late to donate to that effort. We could also use another volunteer to deliver the donations to the pantry in Morris Plains. This can be done any Monday through Thursday between 9:30 and 4:30; speak with Becky Moody if you are interested in this aspect of our mission.

## 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.

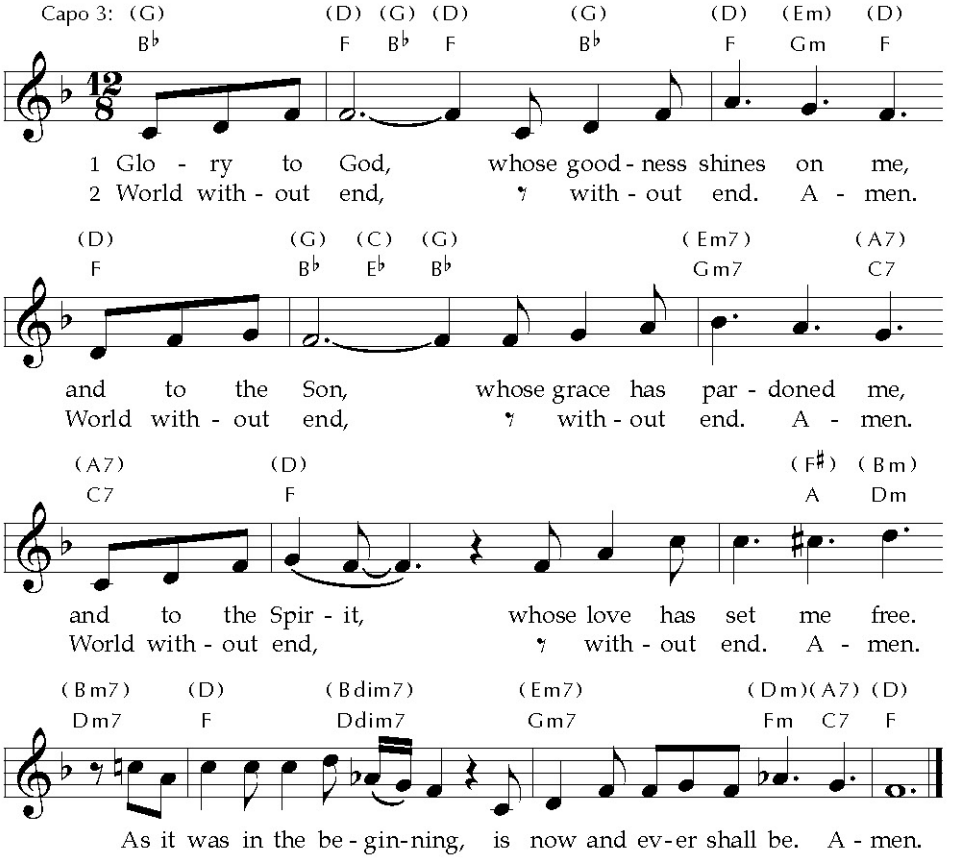
If you have an update for the prayer list, please email Rev. Carol Howard at carolhoward@pcmadison.org or call the church office at 973-377-1600. Thank you for helping us maintain a more current prayer list.

- Thanksgiving for the life of John, and peace for Louise as she mourns his passing
- Marietjie and family, after the recent passing of Marietjie's sister
- Noel, in need of a living kidney donor
- Grant for recovery
- Joe and his family on a hard journey with his elderly parents
- Brody for recovery
- 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
- 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

# All Who Hunger, Gather Gladly 509



# 582 Glory to God, Whose Goodness Shines on Me



# 757 Today We All Are Called to Be Disciples




thirst, make love and peace our fast, to serve the
proud; we sow not peace but strife. Our dis - cord
store an earth where con - flicts cease, a world that
we give thanks in one ac - cord to God who
poor and home - less first, our ease and com - fort last.
spreads a dead - ly cloud that threat - ens all of life.
was cre - at - ed for a har - mo - ny of peace.
calls us all to be dis - ci - ples of the Lord.

# MARK YOUR CALENDARS

**November 22**

It's Generosity Season, and we will be celebrating our gratitude

**November 29**

Advent begins with special music from our youth

**December 20**

Annual Christmas Pageant with kids, animals, and artwork

**December 24**

Candlelight Christmas Eve Cantata with a Chamber Ensemble

**December 27**

Lessons and Carols

# CREDITS

**Cover Art:** “Three Candles” by Marc Chagall

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

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