



PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
of MADISON



September 19, 2021

ORDER of WORSHIP

18th Sunday after Pentecost

THE GATHERING OF GOD'S PEOPLE

Prelude

Welcome/Announcements

* Call to Worship

L: How good it is to gather and sing praises to our God.

P: **God welcomes us, lifts us up, and gives us strength.**

L: God calls us to worship and serve, that all may be made whole.

P: **Sing with joy to the living God, who fills our lives with steadfast love.**

* Opening Hymn No. 319 *Spirit, Spirit of Gentleness* (v.1)

REFRAIN:

Spirit, spirit of gentleness,
blow through the wilderness, calling and free.

Spirit, spirit of restlessness,
stir me from placidness,
wind, wind on the sea.

VERSE 1:

You moved on the waters;
you called to the deep;
then you coaxed up the mountains
from the valleys of sleep;
and over the eons
you called to each thing,
"Awake from your slumbers
and rise on your wings."

REFRAIN:

Spirit, spirit of gentleness,
blow through the wilderness, calling and free.

Spirit, spirit of restlessness,
stir me from placidness,
wind, wind on the sea.

Prayer of Confession

Gracious God, we admit at times we don't understand. We fear the risk of asking questions so we make our own truth and declare it good. We measure ourselves by the world's standards. We desire to be the best. We take pride in getting ahead and being successful. But at times we allow our concern over status to rule over the compassion of our hearts. Forgive us, O God. Draw near to us this day with the wisdom of your Word. Give us humble hearts as we seek to follow and to serve you through Jesus Christ our Lord.

(A moment of silence is observed.)

Assurance of Pardon

...Friends, believe the good news of the gospel.
In Jesus Christ, we are forgiven.

* Response *Now Thank We All Our God*

All praise and thanks to God,
who reigns in highest heaven,
to Father and to Son
and Spirit now be given:
the one eternal God,
whom heaven and earth adore,
the God who was, and is,
and shall be evermore.

PROCLAMATION OF THE WORD

Children's Moment

Prayer for Illumination

Holy God, as your Spirit draws us into a community of love, bind us together in your word. Speak to us, enliven us, stretch us that we may trust and follow you. Amen.

First Reading Psalm 1

¹ Happy are those
 who do not follow the advice of the wicked,
or take the path that sinners tread,
 or sit in the seat of scoffers;
² but their delight is in the law of the Lord,
 and on his law they meditate day and night.
³ They are like trees
 planted by streams of water,
which yield their fruit in its season,
 and their leaves do not wither.
In all that they do, they prosper.
⁴ The wicked are not so,
 but are like chaff that the wind drives away.
⁵ Therefore the wicked will not stand in the judgment,
 nor sinners in the congregation of the righteous;
⁶ for the Lord watches over the way of the righteous,
 but the way of the wicked will perish.

Second Reading Mark 9:30-37

³⁰ They went on from there and passed through Galilee. He did not want anyone to know it; ³¹ for he was teaching his disciples, saying to them, "The Son of Man is to be betrayed into human hands, and they will kill him, and three days after being killed, he will rise again." ³² But they did not understand what he was saying and were afraid to ask him.
³³ Then they came to Capernaum; and when he was in the house he asked them, "What were you arguing about on the way?" ³⁴ But they were silent, for on the way they had argued with one another who was the greatest. ³⁵ He sat down, called the twelve, and said to them, "Whoever wants to be first must be last of all and servant of all." ³⁶ Then he took a little child and put it among them; and taking it in his arms, he said to them, ³⁷ "Whoever welcomes one such

child in my name welcomes me, and whoever welcomes me welcomes not me but the one who sent me.”

Sermon “Who’s the Greatest?”

RESPONDING TO THE WORD

* Affirmation of Faith (from *The Confession of Belhar*)

We believe in one holy, universal Christian church, the unity of the communion of saints of the entire human family, and we believe that this unity of the people of God must be manifest and active, in that we love one another; that we give ourselves willingly and joyfully to one another, that we share one baptism together, that we eat of one bread and drink of one cup together, that we confess one name, one Lord, for one cause, with one hope, which is the height and the breadth and the depth and the love of Christ, forever and ever. Amen.

The Gifts of Our Tithes and Offerings

* 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

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 No. 483

Sing Praise to God Who Reigns Above (v.1,2)

VERSE 1:

Sing praise to God who reigns above,
the God of all creation,
the God of power, the God of love,
the God of our salvation.

With healing balm my soul is filled,
and every faithless murmur stilled:
to God all praise and glory!

VERSE 2:

What God's almighty power has made
God's gracious mercy keepeth;
by morning glow or evening shade
God's watchful eye ne'er sleepeth.

Within the kingdom of God's might,
lo! all is just and all is right:
to God all praise and glory!

* Benediction

Postlude

* * * * *

The flowers today are given to the glory of God and in honor of the 100th birthday of Jane Wenneis.

* * * * *

As our time of worship comes to an end, our time of service begins.

We are the church whether we are gathered or scattered.

*We are the church, sent out in Jesus' name,
to be Christ's body in the world*

*Stand in body or spirit.

Bold - Everything is said in unison.

Where possible hymn numbers are given to follow along with the tune.

PRAYER LIST

Suzanne Flynn and her family on the death of her mother, Barbara Farmer, last Sunday.

Fernando Dovalina (friend of Mary-Anna Holden) undergoing double heart ablations.

Rollie Wussow (friend of Mary-Anna Holden) recently hospitalized for heart and breathing issues.

Jeanne Radak, Highlands Presbytery leader, out-of-hospital, recovering from surgery.

Sarah (colleague of Kathleen Underwood) as she deals with her father's Alzheimer's and a difficult home situation.

Ben Ostrom, former member recovering at home.

Sue Lincoln, continued healing from a break and awaiting surgery this fall.

Prisca Bolton, continuing recovery from a broken tibia.

All those looking for new homes and the stress incurred from a competitive housing market, especially for Edith.

Asher (brother of Melissa Dewhurst) and his continued healing from a skateboarding accident.

Johnny, a 12 year-old boy (on Brody Fleming's football team); continued strength and mobility during continuing outpatient PT after lengthy chemo treatments for cancer.

Sue Murr, mission co-partner, (sister of Becky Moody) as she continues a difficult transition back to her work and ministry in Uganda.

Eric (neighbor of Melissa Dewhurst) continued strength for his return to work and life.

Anne Matlack, continued strength after ending chemo treatments.

Isabella, a young girl and for her family, for continued strength after end of chemotherapy.

Nick and his family as he receives treatment for bladder cancer.

Arlene, (friend of Louise Kacerek) who is living with leukemia.

Carol and her family (cousin of Kathleen Underwood) as she lives with stage 4 brain cancer.

All those dealing with the devastation from natural disasters, here and around the world, including the floods and hurricanes, wildfires, and earthquakes.

All those continuing to deal with COVID, here and around the world, especially given the latest variant strains and the rise in positive cases.

For adult children having to make difficult decisions for aging parents.

The families of crime victims dealing with court systems in the ongoing pandemic.

All those dealing with the ongoing and ever increasing hatred, prejudice and racism in this country and around the world.

Peace and stability for people and nations around the world, especially for the Afghan people.

THANKSGIVING FOR:

Jane Wenneis as she celebrates her 100th birthday on Saturday, September 18th.

FALL HAPPENINGS! - Mark Your Calendars

Ring Them Bells!

Joyful Noise Bell Choir

Sanctuary Ringers

Thursdays @ 6:30pm-7:15pm

If you like to make music, come join this wonderful, intergenerational community of ringers. No prior experience necessary -- just a joyful heart and a willingness to ring.

Sanctuary Singers

Thursdays @ 7:15pm-8:00pm

Looking to join your voice with others? Looking to raise the roof (figuratively, of course) in praise? Then look no further than Thursday evenings. Come join this gathering of those who love to sing. No prior experience necessary.

Confirmation - Beginning September 26th

Sundays 11:15am-12:15pm, immediately following worship

For 8th grade and above. You're invited to join this year's Confirmation Class. Twelve sessions from September through May, with opportunities for service and worship leadership. Come explore what it means to be a follower of Jesus and part of a community of faith.

Fall Adult Bible Study - Beginning September 29th

Wednesdays at 7:30pm

Join us as we study Galatians, Paul's letter to the church communities in Galatia, probably one of the first written books in the New Testament (yes, even before the Gospels).

Youth Group - 4th Sunday of the Month

**Sundays, beginning September 26th at 12:15pm,
immediately following Confirmation**

Never has it been more important for youth to have a safe fun place to gather. On the fourth Sunday of each month, the youth group enjoys social time (and lunch!) following confirmation class. Join us at 12:15pm in the Sanctuary for an afternoon of music, lessons, and activities!

VISION

To see lives transformed, families strengthened, and our community renewed through intentional relationship with Jesus Christ.

OUR VALUES

*Renewed Lives | Community Positive | Intergenerational Family
Joyful Service | Presbyterian Roots*

Staff

Jacqui Van Vliet
Pastor

Cathy Baillie
Office Assistant

Mike Callahan
Student Ministries & Outreach

Anna D'Achille
Director of Musical Arts

Worship

10:15AM Sunday Service

Session

Bob Baisch
Melissa Dewhurst
Kathleen Underwood

Corinne Bowen
Jennifer Groller
Becky Moody, Clerk

Jim Burnet
Brian Peterson

session@pcmadison.org

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