

# WELCOME TO THE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH of MADISON

Relax. We're glad to have you, just as you are. We believe Jesus Christ teaches us that, so we really mean it. You're a child of God and you're safe here, no matter what.

Each one of us is in a different place on this life journey. The person next to you may be here for the first time, or they may have been born into a family in our church for generations. We're all continually learning, growing, and evolving as we connect in the Spirit with the rest of the world.

Children in church make squirmy joyful noises to the Lord! Babies cry! Relax about all that, too. If you wish, safe childcare is available for 4 and under. Your greeter will be happy to show you the way.

Please stick around after church for a few minutes if you have the time. We have refreshments and fellowship time in the lobby area. It's a great way to get acquainted!

Check out the box below for how it all works. We're all different, together, and God isn't finished with us. Come and see!

Scott Foster, Pastor

\*Stand in body or spirit. **Bold - Everything is said in unison.** *Italics - We all sing.* 

After children's message, K-5 escape to Sunday School.
Please share your info with us using the card in the pew.
Write prayer requests in the book at the back of the church.

# ORDER of WORSHIP

# Transfiguration of the Lord

Suddenly a bright cloud overshadowed them, and from the cloud a voice said, "This is my Son, the Beloved; with him I am well pleased; listen to him!" — Matthew 17:5 (NRSV)

# THE GATHERING

**Praise Music** (A time of centering and preparation for worship. Please silence all electronic devices.)

Introit

#### Welcome

"Let us prepare our hearts to worship God..."

\* Immortal, Invisible, God Only Wise (v.1,2,3)

(The tune for the hymn is at the back of this booklet.)

#### VERSE 1:

Immortal, invisible, God only wise, in light inaccessible hid from our eyes, most blessed, most glorious, the Ancient of Days, almighty, victorious, thy great name we praise.

# VERSE 2:

Unresting, unhasting, and silent as light, nor wanting, nor wasting, thou rulest in might: thy justice, like mountains high soaring above; thy clouds, which are fountains of goodness and love.

# VERSE 3:

To all, life thou givest, to both great and small. In all life thou livest, the true life of all. We blossom and flourish like leaves on the tree, then wither and perish; but naught changeth thee.

# *Jesus, Take Us to the Mountain* (v.1,2,3)

(The tune for the hymn is at the back of this booklet.)

#### VERSE 1:

Jesus, take us to the mountain, where, with Peter, James, and John, we are dazzled by your glory, light as blinding as the sun.
There prepare us for the night by the vision of that sight.

#### VERSE 2:

What do you want us to see there, that your close companions saw? Your divinity revealed there fills us with the selfsame awe. Clothed in flesh like ours you go, matched to meet our deadliest foe.

#### VERSE 3:

What do you want us to hear there, that your dear disciples heard?
Once again the voice from heaven says of the Incarnate Word,
"Listen, listen, everyone:
this is my beloved Son."

# **Opening Prayer**

God of majesty and might, you have blessed us with revelations of your glory. Give us the gift of faith, that we may hear your voice for ourselves and see Jesus Christ revealed to us that we may stand on our own without fear. Amen.

# Call to Confession

The proof of God's amazing love is this: While we were sinners, Christ died for us. Because we have faith in him, we dare to approach God with confidence. In faith and

penitence, let us confess our sin before God and one another.

# **Prayer of Confession**

God of all compassion, grant us mercy. When we look in the mirror, we tend see what we want to see. You see us just as we are—made in your image. We pray corporately for forgiveness, but touch us individually, Holy God. Forgive us and help us to manage our self-expectations. You became flesh to show us the way through Jesus, in whose name we pray...

Response You Alone Can Rescue Redman/Myrin
Who O Lord could save themselves
Their own soul could heal
Our shame was deeper than the sea
Your grace is deeper still

(Silence is kept for our personal prayers of confession.)

One: Amen.

# **Assurance of Pardon**

Hear the good news! Who is in a position to condemn? Only Christ, and Christ died for us, Christ rose for us, Christ reigns in power for us, Christ prays for us. Anyone who is in Christ is a new creation. The old life has gone; a new life has begun. Know that you are forgiven and be at peace.

All: In Jesus Christ, we are forgiven, renewed and restored!

Response You Alone Can Rescue

Redman/Myrin

You alone can rescue

You alone can save

You alone can lift us from the grave

You came down to find us led us out of death

To You alone belongs the highest praise. Amen.

# PROCLAIMING THE WORD

# **Prayer for Illumination**

Amazing God, open the farthest and darkest corners of our hearts and minds with the light of your Word. Let the word of your Holy Scripture penetrate our souls—Come Holy Spirit, enlighten us! Amen.

# Reading from the Torah

Exodus 24:12-18

(O.T. pg. 70)

12The LORD said to Moses, "Come up to me on the mountain, and wait there; and I will give you the tablets of stone, with the law and the commandment, which I have written for their instruction."

<sup>13</sup>So Moses set out with his assistant Joshua, and Moses went up into the mountain of God.

<sup>14</sup>To the elders he had said, "Wait here for us, until we come to you again; for Aaron and Hur (her) are with you; whoever has a dispute may go to them."

15Then Moses went up on the mountain, and the cloud covered the mountain. 16The glory of the LORD settled on Mount Sinai, and the cloud covered it for six days; on the seventh day he called to Moses out of the cloud.

<sup>17</sup>Now the appearance of the glory of the LORD was like a devouring fire on the top of the mountain in the sight of the people of Israel.

<sup>18</sup>Moses entered the cloud, and went up on the mountain. Moses was on the mountain for forty days and forty nights.

# Epistle Reading 2 Peter 1:16-21

(N.T. pg. 236)

The For we did not follow cleverly devised myths when we made known to you the power and coming of our Lord Jesus Christ, but we had been eyewitnesses of his majesty. The received honor and glory from God the Father when that voice was conveyed to him by the Majestic Glory, saying, "This is my Son, my Beloved, with whom I am well pleased."

18We ourselves heard this voice come from heaven, while we were with him on the holy mountain. 19So we have

the prophetic message more fully confirmed. You will do well to be attentive to this as to a lamp shining in a dark place, until the day dawns and the morning star rises in your hearts. <sup>20</sup>First of all you must understand this, that no prophecy of scripture is a matter of one's own interpretation, <sup>21</sup>because no prophecy ever came by human will, but men and women moved by the Holy Spirit spoke from God.

One: This is the word of the Lord.

All: Thanks be to God.

# **Special Music**

# Young People's Message

# Gospel Reading Matthew 17:1-9

(N.T. pg. 18)

<sup>1</sup>Six days later, Jesus took with him Peter and James and his brother John and led them up a high mountain, by themselves. 2And he was transfigured before them, and his face shone like the sun, and his clothes became dazzling white. 3Suddenly there appeared to them Moses and Elijah, talking with him. 4Then Peter said to Jesus, "Lord, it is good for us to be here; if you wish, I will make three dwellings here, one for you, one for Moses, and one for Elijah." 5While he was still speaking, suddenly a bright cloud overshadowed them, and from the cloud a voice said, "This is my Son, the Beloved; with him I am well pleased; listen to him!" When the disciples heard this, they fell to the ground and were overcome by fear. 7But Jesus came and touched them, saying, "Get up and do not be afraid." «And when they looked up, they saw no one except Jesus himself alone.

<sup>9</sup>As they were coming down the mountain, Jesus ordered them, "Tell no one about the vision until after the Son of Man has been raised from the dead."

Sermon "Voices"

# RESPONDING TO THE WORD

#### \* What A Beautiful Name

Fielding/Ligertwood

VERSE 1:

You were the Word at the beginning
One with God the Lord Most High
Your hidden glory in creation
Now revealed in You our Christ

**CHORUS 1:** 

What a beautiful Name it is
What a beautiful Name it is
The Name of Jesus Christ my King
What a beautiful Name it is
Nothing compares to this
What a beautiful Name it is
The Name of Jesus

VERSE 2:

You didn't want heaven without us So Jesus You brought heaven down My sin was great Your love was greater What could separate us now CHORUS 2:

What a wonderful Name it is
What a wonderful Name it is
The Name of Jesus Christ my King
What a wonderful Name it is
Nothing compares to this
What a wonderful Name it is
The Name of Jesus
What a wonderful Name it is

The Name of Jesus

#### **BRIDGE 1:**

Death could not hold You

The veil tore before You

You silence the boast of sin and grave

The heavens are roaring

The praise of Your glory

For You are raised to life again

#### **BRIDGE 2:**

You have no rival

You have no equal

Now and forever God You reign

Yours is the kingdom

Yours is the glory

Yours is the Name above all names

#### CHORUS 3:

What a powerful Name it is

What a powerful Name it is

The Name of Jesus Christ my King

What a powerful Name it is

Nothing can stand against

What a powerful Name it is

The Name of Jesus

# **ENDING:**

What a powerful Name it is

The Name of Jesus

What a powerful Name it is

The Name of Jesus

\* **Affirmation of Faith** Apostles' Creed (Traditional)

I believe in God the Father Almighty, Maker of heaven and earth,

And in Jesus Christ his only Son our Lord; who was conceived by the Holy Ghost, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, dead, and buried; he descended into hell; the third day he rose again from the dead; he ascended into heaven, and sitteth on the right hand of God the Father Almighty; from thence he shall come to judge the quick and the dead. I believe in the Holy Ghost; the holy \*catholic Church; the communion of saints; the forgiveness of sins; the resurrection of the body; and the life everlasting. Amen. (\*catholic in lower case means "universal.")

# 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.

**Announcements** 

**Invitation to Discipleship** 

Offering

Offertory

\* Doxology

(The tune for the Doxology is at the back of this booklet.)

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! Amen!

\* Prayer of Dedication

Amazing God of all, bless our time, talent, and resources to see lives transformed, families strengthened, and our community renewed through intentional relationship with Jesus Christ, Amen.

#### GOING FORTH TO LOVE AND SERVE THE LORD

\* Immortal, Invisible, God Only Wise (Reprise)

(The tune for the hymn is at the back of this booklet.)

#### VFRSF 1:

Immortal, invisible, God only wise, in light inaccessible hid from our eyes, most blessed, most glorious, the Ancient of Days, almighty, victorious, thy great name we praise.

- \* Charge and Benediction (Please join hands.)
- \* Passing of the Peace and Postlude

# **WORSHIP NOTES**

Melissa Dewhurst, thank you for reading today.

What gifts do you bring? Share with us! Joyful worship comes from the soul of our collective Spirit. Come find your voice or vision here! Come play, sing, ring bells, read, lead, serve communion. If you have a gift of the arts such as music, drama, dance, poetry, prose, painting, or sculpting for examples, please give some thought to sharing it in worship. What a great blessing!

# **About Today's Worship**

We are developing a more blended style of worship with new contemporary worship songs and music as well as traditional hymns and pieces. All of our hymns are from the new Presbyterian hymnal *Glory to God* printed for you in the bulletin. We have singers. We have organ music. The bell choir rings. We hear our students. We hear soloists. We hear the band. It's a mix, and we don't have everything in the same day—unless you want to skip lunch. We hope it touches you.

# **About the Christ Candle**

We continue to burn the Christ Candle from Christmas and through Lent until Good Friday to recognize the light of Christ in the world connecting Christmas to Holy Week.

# **About Transfiguration Sunday**

"Transfiguration Sunday celebrates the glorious revelation of God in Jesus Christ and Christ's manifestation as the fulfillment of the law and the prophets. Jesus' radiant appearance on the mountaintop evokes the devouring fire of the glory of the LORD at Mount Sinai (Exodus 24.17). Here, as at Jesus' baptism, God claims him as a beloved child, in whom God is well pleased.

"In their account of this event, the synoptic gospels offer an enlightening *tableau vivant*, with Christ flanked by Moses, representing the law, and Elijah, representing the prophetic tradition. With this vivid image, the gospel writers demonstrate the relationship of the human Word of God to the tradition of Israel and set forth the hermeneutic by which they read the Hebrew Scriptures." -- presbyterianmission.org

# **About Today's Readings**

We print the scripture readings in the bulletin so you can follow along more easily. We also include the page numbers if you want to read from your pew Bible. Most Sundays our readings are from that same New Revised Standard Version translation. Exceptions are noted.

#### About Exodus 24:12-18

Forty is a common number in the Bible. It rains on the ark of Noah's family for 40 days and 40 nights. Moses leads the Israelites into the wilderness for 40 years. Obviously, Moses stays on the mountain for 40 days and 40 nights. Jesus is tempted in the desert for 40 days and 40 nights. We celebrate the 40 days of Lent (Sundays don't count) in fasting, prayer, charitable giving, doing penance and repentance. Scholars think forty is often a "guestimation" in the Bible—forty means "a very long time."

#### About 2 Peter 1:16-21

This reads like a farewell testament from a patriarch of the church and it may be, but those testaments were most often in third person. This one is obviously in first person and what's mainly in doubt is whether the Apostle Simon Peter, one of Jesus' first called, is actually the author of this letter. It's more likely written by his followers or students and published pseudonymously to give the text more credibility in the apostolic tradition of the church.

# **About Matthew 17:1-9**

Peter, James, and John are often in the "bullseye" circle of Jesus' apostles. Certainly, today's texts are running parallel tracks. Even God echoes from Jesus' baptism and the ancient stories of great prophetic leaders like Moses, Elijah, and Joshua. Holy power radiates on all of them and their colossal stories. The glory of God is mighty and very bright!

#### About the Affirmation of Faith

The later disproved legend was that the Apostles, under the inspiration of the Holy Spirit, wrote this creed on the tenth day after the Ascension. It originated in Rome ca. 100 and became the common creed of Western Christendom when it took its present form ca. 700. Often used at baptism, the three articles were put to the candidate in the form of a question: "Do you believe?" After each affirmative answer, the candidate was immersed. Note that this bare-bones creed does not mention the ministry or teachings of Jesus. It's just the "facts." (Research by Charles Courtney)

# Questions to go

How is getting out and getting out of our heads helpful to listening for God?

When have I heard God or felt God's presence?

What do I do about it?

#### **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

# **Annual Meeting Today**

The Annual Meeting of the Congregation of Presbyterian Church of Madison is called for today immediately following worship in the Sanctuary. All voting members are encouraged to attend. On the docket: election of officers, approval of the pastor's terms of call, and receiving the session's annual report including the church budget for 2020.

# Shrove Tuesday Pancakes Feb 25th, 6pm

Let's kick-off Lent a day early with our annual Family Pancake Races in Fellowship Hall! It's a piled-high pancake dinner followed by pancake races. How do pancakes race? Guess you're gonna have to come and see! Think Mardi Gras with pancakes—kids love to come in costume!

# Ash Wednesday, Feb 26th, 7pm

Join us in Webb Chapel for a short worship to start the season of Lent. Ash Wednesday is the first day of the 40-day season commemorating Jesus' time of fasting in the wilderness. This is when we "give up" something for Lent. There are actually 46 days in Lent and each of the 6 Sundays in Lent is a "mini Easter" so you're free from whatever you've been fasting from. You could also "start something" for Lent—a new spiritual discipline like journaling, or daily prayer. So, get your ashes here on Ash Wednesday and to dust you shall return...

# **Reusable Bag Drive**

PCM supports the Madison Environmental Commission ban on single use plastic bags! We're a collection point for your gently used reusable shopping bags. Bring them to church on Sundays or by the church office (use Doris's Wagon) and drop them off! The goal is to collect 1000 bags by March 1st—the day the ban goes into effect. Other dropoff locations: Hartley Dodge, Grace Church, and the United Methodist Church.

#### ReThink Plastic March 1st

Besides the islands of plastic bottles in the Pacific as big as Texas, there are personal health issues with plastic! Be a part of the solution and come learn about the impact of plastic on the lives of our families. Sunday, Mar 1st at 1pm in Fellowship Hall. Sponsored by Wind of the Spirit. Check your eNews to locate the flyer.

# **End Hunger 3.6**

PCM supports the Madison Rotary End Hunger 3.6 project! Join the 5th annual End Hunger 3.6 and pack your share of 250,000 meals for individuals and families here in Morris County. When and where—Saturday, March 7th in the Simon Forum at Drew University from 8:30-3:30. This can be a family project with jobs for all ages. There are several ways and levels to help. Click on the link in eNews to register.

# **Community Soup Kitchen**

So far, PCM has served 343 total meals! Come join the team! We're serving at the CSK (now called NourishNJ.org) Sundays from 11:15am to 1:30pm—next time is March 8th! We need between 2-5 volunteers. Must be 12 or older and all must wear hats (provided). Carpooling leaves PCM at 10:45 to be at CSK—36 South St. by 11:15. Parking is on the street or at the DeHart Street garage. And, March 18th from 3:00-4:45pm is their free Farmers Market—come help sort the market goods to prepare and/or serve the market. 4 people needed. Even if you can't serve, but you want a PCM hat—we can get you one for \$20. Email kathleenunderwood@verizon.net to sign up or order a hat.

# **New Testament Study**

It's not too late! Lent is a wonderful season to study New Testament. Pastor Scott began today at 8:45am in the parlor. Join us as we do a deep dive look at the canon of the New Testament (this is a similar study to the OT that we did in the fall). It's an 8-week concentrated study through the Biblical text delving into the culture, lives, and times of Jesus and the disciples. This is an amazing study! Workbooks are \$10. Call Cathy at 973.377.1600 to RSVP. Check the eNews for a link to the complete schedule.

# Per Capita 2020

Each year congregations in our Presbytery pay a per member fee that provides support for Newton Presbytery (Morris, Sussex, Warren and portions of Hunterdon and Passaic counties), the Synod of the Northeast (New Jersey, New York and all of New England), and the General Assembly.

We ask all those who are able to consider covering your 2020 per capita fee of \$39 per member. This includes youth who have been confirmed. For example, for a couple the per capita amount is \$78. For a family with one youth who is also a member, the per capita is \$117.

Paying your per capita allows us to allocate all of your pledges and offerings to the operations and missions of this church. When paying your fee please note "per capita" on your check or envelope.

#### Harmonium Concerts Feb. 29th and March 1st

Join New Jersey's renowned Harmonium Choral Society for the "Open Minds" cantata Saturday, Feb 29th at 8pm or Sunday, Mar 1st at 3pm at the Presbyterian Church in Morristown. The concert features the major new cantata Open Minds, a 10-movement choral piece that gives voice to people with mental health challenges and the people who love and care about them; visit https://openmindssavelives.org for more information. The program is balanced with other works that turn states of despair into beauty or bring comfort and hope. Click on the link in eNews for tickets and use discount code OPEN2020 to save \$10.

# **Rising Stars in Madison**

The Rising Stars in Madison concert series returns to the PCM sanctuary, Sunday, Mar 8th at 3pm. The Center for Music Excellence presents Chelsea Guo, piano and voice, and Terrance Tran Gia, piano. Excellence says it all! Admission is free. Click on the link in eNews to get the flyer.

#### **AAUW Mature Woman Grants**

The nonprofit AAUW Madison Branch is offering Mature Woman Grants. To apply for consideration and to see the criteria visit http://aauwmadisonnj.org and download the application. If submitting the completed application electronically please use the Word version of the application. All applicants must meet all stated criteria and the completed application must be received by March 31, 2020 to be considered for a grant.

#### Coffee with Scott

Stop by and have coffee with Scott on Thursday mornings, 9am @ Drip on Main St. Come get a shot of caffeine. Let's solve world problems and see if you can melt an entire biscotti in a cup of tea—we actually get around to talking about Jesus. Crazy, right?

# Mid-Week Prayers/Communion

Join us in the Parlor every Wednesday morning at 7:10am for a come-and-go round of prayers and the Lord's Supper. It's a great mid-week touchstone, and you'll be on your way in 15 minutes. No kidding! Commuters, you'll easily make the 7:32. Pastor Scott leads.

# **PCM Wants You!**

Come join the worship team! Make a joyful noise with us. Oh yes, you can! No experience necessary—we'll teach you everything. Whether you like to sing, play an instrument, or want to learn how to ring bells, we want you! Come let your music flag fly and join our worship team. Everybody's welcome—no judging allowed! Contact Anna D'Achille or Michael Callahan for more details!

# **RAMP Refugee Help**

RAMP announces the birth of a child to one of our latest refugee families! PCM supports families moving to escape unrest in their home countries through Refugee Assistance Morris Partners (RAMP). There are a variety of ways to volunteer to help. Contact Gerry Gannon at mgannon@webtv.net for more information.

# Serve on Sunday

All are welcome, all who come in the name of the Lord! Teach Sunday School—It's easy, really! Contact Michael Callahan.

And if you'd like to serve on our worship team on Sundays as a reader, communion server, singer, musician, bell-ringer, or greeter please do! Contact the church office for more information and we'll plug you in—973.377.1600.

# **Interfaith Food Pantry**

PCM supports the IFP year-round with hundreds of pounds of food to serve eligible Morris County residents. Aging people on fixed incomes, low-income working families—the need is great! Doris's Care Wagon will be inside the back door of the parish house. Named for long-time member and IFP advocate Doris Weber, the wagon has served our food collection for years!

Our food focus in February is breakfast food. Low sugar high fiber cereal, oatmeal, pancake mix and pancake syrup are all welcome.

#### Quarters for RAMP

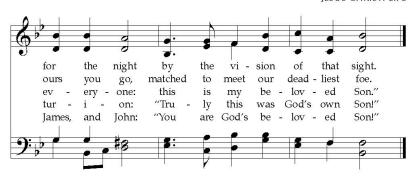
The tube has been filled twice already this year! Every quarter helps the refugee families who are making new lives for themselves here in Morris County. Please continue to save your quarters and look for the tube in the refreshment area each Sunday. RAMP plans to continue to work with the International Rescue Committee to sponsor additional families in 2020.

# 193 Jesus, Take Us to the Mountain



Some version of the Transfiguration (Matthew 17:1-9/Mark 9:2-9/Luke 9:28-36) is always read on the last Sunday after the Epiphany. In this text that foretaste of Christ's glorification helps to prepare Peter, James, and John for their roles as proclaimers of "God's beloved Son."

Text © 1991 Concordia Publishing House



# Immortal, Invisible, God Only Wise 12



The opening line of this hymn was inspired by the three divine attributes listed in 1 Timothy 1:17 (King James Version), and it continues by considering how God's life exceeds our own finite existence. The text is well set to a Welsh melody shaped by many three-note units.

# Doxology



# **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**

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# Worship

10:15 AM Sunday Service

# Session

Bob Baisch Sara Burnet
Cheryl Bolton David DePaul
Bill Bowen Suzanne Flynn

Brian Peterson Barbara Schuszler

Becky Moody, Clerk
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The Presbyterian Church of Madison is part of the PC(USA) Denomination pcusa.org

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