



**MADISON  
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH**

# Madison Presbyterian Church

December 13, 2020 — 10:00 A.M.

## 3rd Sunday of Advent—Joy

### GATHERING GOD'S PEOPLE

**PRELUDE**                      Lo, How a Rose E'er Blooming                      Brahms

**WELCOME**

**INVOCATION**

L: Come, Lord Jesus, come. Come into our worship. Come into our hearts. We want to welcome you everywhere. We're making room for you; we're preparing for your arrival with joy and reverence.

**R: Lord, we are ready this third Sunday of Advent, so shine your light in those nooks and crannies we keep in the shadows. Sweep the cobwebs from our long-hidden doubt and fear. Repair our torn and wounded places. We long for your arrival. Come, Lord Jesus, come! Amen.**

**ANNOUNCEMENTS**                      (Please introduce yourself before speaking.)

**THE LIGHTING OF THE 3RD ADVENT CANDLE**

The first candle of Advent symbolized "hope." The second Advent candle symbolized "peace." This third candle will encourage us to be filled with "joy" at the Advent of our Lord.

(The candles are now lit.)

**Luke 2: 9 - 10**

*"Then the angel of the Lord stood before them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. But the angel said to them, 'Do not be afraid; for see, I am bringing you good news of great joy for all the people.'"*

Let us pray:

Dear God, this third candle reminds us to rejoice that the celebration of your Son's birth is near. We pray that the happy glow of Christ's presence surrounds us as we worship and adore you. In His name, we pray. Amen.

**HYMN**                      Joy to the World                      (See text following.)

## THE CALL TO WORSHIP

L: Advent calls us to joyful anticipation of the Messiah, but sometimes joy is lacking.

**R: Restore us, O God.**

L: When our delight is overshadowed by worry and fear, when problems loom large and solutions are few,

**R: restore us, O God.**

L: When relationships are painful, when busyness and activity crowd out what is meaningful and important,

**R: restore us, O God.**

L: When life feels tedious, and the waiting drags on, when disappointments mount and we become disillusioned,

**R: restore us, O God.**

**Joy to the world! The Light of the world has come!**

## THE CALL TO CONFESSION

L: As we prepare to confess our sins, we need to trust God's promise to forgive us. We need to believe that if we confess and repent and change, we will be forgiven. Let us pray.

## THE PRAYER OF CONFESSION

L: Gracious God, we confess that we fail when we rely on our own strength and knowledge.

**R: We turn to you, seeking your forgiveness. We long for your promised renewal through the work of Jesus Christ, our Redeemer.**

(A moment of silence is observed.)

L: Lord, hear our plea for forgiveness.

**R: Our joy returns as we remember that when we confess, we are forgiven and still loved by our Creator. In the name of Jesus, we pray. Amen.**

## THE ASSURANCE OF PARDON

L: In Jesus Christ, God forgives us and grants us mercy and grace. Believe the Good News of the Gospel. Everyone who calls on the name of the Lord shall be saved.

**R: In Jesus Christ, we are forgiven. Thanks be to God.**

**\*RESPONSE OF PRAISE**

Gloria Patri

581

## HEARING GOD'S WORD

**SCRIPTURE** I Thessalonians 5:16-24 (See text following.)

L: This is the Word of the Lord.

**R: Thanks be to God.**

**THE MESSAGE** It's So Simple

## RESPONDING IN FAITH

**\*THE APOSTLES' CREED**

**\*DOXOLOGY**

## **THE PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE**

Silent Prayer

Pastoral Prayer

The Lord's Prayer *(using "debts" and "debtors")* 35

**\*HYMN** Good Christian Friends, Rejoice (See text following.)

**\*BENEDICTION**

**POSTLUDE** Fugue on the Magnificat Pachelbel

Liturgist—Gregg Mayberry

## Joy to the World

Joy to the world, the Lord is come!  
Let earth receive her king;  
let every heart prepare him room,  
and heaven and nature sing,  
and heaven and nature sing,  
and heaven, and heaven and nature sing.

## 1 Thessalonians 5:16-24

<sup>16</sup>Rejoice always, <sup>17</sup>pray without ceasing, <sup>18</sup>give thanks in all circumstances; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you. <sup>19</sup>Do not quench the Spirit. <sup>20</sup>Do not despise the words of prophets, <sup>21</sup>but test everything; hold fast to what is good; <sup>22</sup>abstain from every form of evil.

<sup>23</sup>May the God of peace himself sanctify you entirely; and may your spirit and soul and body be kept sound and blameless at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ. <sup>24</sup>The one who calls you is faithful, and he will do this.

### Good Christian Friends, Rejoice

Good Christian friends, rejoice with heart and soul and voice;  
give ye heed to what we say: Jesus Christ is born today;  
ox and ass before him bow, and he is in the manger now.  
Christ is born today! Christ is born today!

## **PRAYER LIST**

**Congregation:** Mark Andreasen, Sharon Auxier, Larry and Valecia Crisafulli, Dennis and Karen Bessenecker, Shannon Glass, Sandy Gold, Mary Louise Grimes, Bob and Pat Hughes, Al Huntington, Betty King, Joan Knowland, Susan Ohlendorf, Beth Orrill, Desna Ratcliff, Alicia Ricketts, Jennifer Saroka, Ted Skrypak, Staci Torres, Sondie Williams, Greg Zieseemer.

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**Family and Friends:** Mark Ashbrook, Karen Ault, Steve Baker, Michelle Barlow, Michael Busching, James Callahan, Becky Chase, children separated from their parents, Marie Cross, Jeff Dagher, Andrew Damm, Angel Dart, Jordan Davis, Phillip Eades, Steve Facemire, Shirley Griffith, Chuck Hale, Milly Harness, Sarah Hull, Curtis Jacobs, Heidi Kendall and family, Joni Lanham, Jeff Lineburg (Janet Castor's twin brother), James Lutes, Madison Correctional Facility, Madison State Hospital, Shane Mason, Yolanda Modley, Margie and Frank Moller (Connie Huntington's sister and brother-in-law), Bob Rouse, Jeff, Janna and Rachel Schmidt, Dan Shearer, Laryssa Smith, Jody Sullivan, Trey Taylor, Kenneth Thompson (Harriette Parton's grandson), Rodney Thompson, Jean Trillet (Jim Grant's sister), Warren (friend of Bob and Judith Glass), Dawson Whitaker, Laurel Lyn Wiest, Kyle Wilson.

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## **MPC Rotating Prayer Calendar for the Week of December 13**

Jonathan Stanley

Pam Sandoz

Stephen Goldsmith and Becky Chase

# The Madison Presbyterian Church

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“We are part of the Family of God! As a Christian family, we seek to practice the generous hospitality of Jesus Christ, who welcomes all. As a worshipping family, we seek to enhance and expand our experience of God in worship.

As a family of Christ’s disciples, we seek to grow in our understanding of God’s grace and God’s claim upon our lives. As a mission-oriented family,

we express our faith in action. As an historic Presbyterian family in a contemporary setting, we are rooted and grounded in the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) as we strive to remain relevant to the needs of our community.

As the joyful children of God, we live in faith, hope and love!”

## THE SESSION

<u>2020</u>	<u>2021</u>	<u>2022</u>
Don Wiest Christian Education	Natalie Willis Buildings and Grounds	Rick laCour Fellowship
Dianna Terry Fellowship	Mike Dorsey Personnel	Jim Bartlett Membership
Shari Vaughn Worship	Connie Huntington Finance	Heather Owsley-Smith Mission

## BOARD OF DEACONS

Crystal Bayne	Ken Brunner	Amanda Corbin
Don Clapham	Janet Castor	Bill Ohlendorf, Moderator
Carole Hanson	Gregg Mayberry	Dan Smith

## THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES

Larry Crisafulli	Al Huntington	Mary Davee
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**PASTOR**—Sandy Fox

**DIRECTOR OF MUSIC MINISTRY**—Jonathan Stanley

**CLERK OF THE SESSION**—Susan Ohlendorf

**YOUTH MINISTRIES DIRECTOR**—Dave Adams

**FINANCIAL SECRETARY**—Shannon Glass

**CO-TREASURERS**—Dan Smith, Sara Stetson

**OFFICE MANAGER**—Jonathan Stanley

**SEXTON**—Natalie Willis