



Main Street Congregational Church, United Church of Christ

No matter who you are or where you are on life's journey,

Come, experience God's love.

Go, serve God's world.

The Congregation
The Reverend Joan MacPherson
Danny Smith

Ministers
Pastor and Teacher
Music Minister

First Sunday in Lent

10:00 AM

February 18th, 2024

Prelude Here I am to worship, Here I am to bow down, Here I am to say that you're my God.
You're altogether lovely, Altogether worthy, Altogether wonderful to me
For your love so broad and welcoming can heal the world's deep suffering

Congregational Introit Glory, glory hallelujah, since I laid my burdens down
Glory, glory hallelujah, since I laid my burdens down

Feel like shouting Hallelujah! since I laid my burdens down
Feel like shouting Hallelujah! since I laid my burdens down

Words of Welcome

Call to Worship

adapted from Rev. Daniel Mayes

One: We come to journey with Jesus, the author of a new and different way.

Many: We confess that he is not the Messiah we want:

One: Not a CEO, not a General, not a Senator,

Many: not a genie, not a fairy godmother, not Santa Claus.

One: We come to journey with Jesus, who leads us in the way of the cross:

Many: It's a path we hesitate to walk,

One: for we are unsure about letting go,

Many: reluctant to abandon our possessions and become vulnerable.

One: We journey with Jesus, who is not the Messiah we want.

Many: We journey with Jesus because he is the Messiah we need.

*Hymn

Come With Me For the Journey in Long

One license #707872

Come with me for the journey is long,
Come with me for the journey is long,
Come with me for the journey is long,
Come with me for the journey is long.

The journey, the journey, the journey is long,
The journey, the journey, the journey is long,
The journey, the journey, the journey is long,
The journey, the journey, the journey is long,

Lean on me for the journey is long...

Opening Prayer

God, this morning our journey begins. We reach out our hands to connect with you and we grasp on to our things. We yearn for you. We cling to what we have. In this reality you invite us to walk with you toward Jerusalem. You invite us into the fullness of life and the cost of discipleship. Help us let go of what gets in the way on our Lenten journey. Help us find our place following the one who taught us to pray...

Lord's Prayer

**please use the address to God that feels right for you*

Our Father/Mother/Creator*, 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 trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us. And lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power and the glory forever. Amen.

*Gloria

Gloria, Gloria, in excelsis Deo
Gloria, Gloria, alleluia, alleluia

One license #707872

Story for All Ages

Anthem

Joys, Concerns, Prayers for the World

Our prayer list: family and friends of Bob Spellman (Bonnie Wilson's father), Betty Currier, Bill Morse, Glen McRae, Barbara Taylor, Andrea, Joel, Bruce Stephens, those with empty cupboards, Rachel Monroe and all living with chronic disease, Molly Brennan; Judy Smith, Dave Simoneau, Jesse Snyder, Paul Monroe, Kevin McCauley, Jess Morse, Cindy Foster, Mel, Diane Legg, Anna Bell Lucas, Jeri Therise, Carol Sullivan, Bill Pretty, Cindy Hoyt and all living with cancer; Ukraine, Russia, Palestine, Israel, Haiti...

*Hymn

I Have Decided to Follow Jesus

public domain

I have decided to follow Jesus,
I have decided to follow Jesus,
I have decided to follow Jesus,
No turning back, no turning back

Though none go with me, I still will follow...
Will you decide now, to follow Jesus?...

Reading from our Sacred Story

Mark 10:17-31

Al Mackie

Sermon

The Shell Game Where Everyone Can Win

Rev. Joan MacPherson

Offering

Baskets are passed to all in worship. Your offering can be a prayer, a financial gift, a drawing, etc. Other options for financial gifts include mailing a check to the church, using your financial institution's online bill pay, and the Venmo mobile app (Venmo ID @mainstreetchurch). Donations go to the general ministry of the church, unless specified otherwise by donor(s).

*Doxology

Praise God from whom all blessings flow
Praise God all creatures here below
Praise God above ye heav'nly host
Creator, Christ and Holy Ghost. Amen.

*Hymn Today We Are All Called to Be Disciples
please see the back page

Commissioning and Benediction

*Benediction Response Carry your candle, run to the darkness
Seek out the hopeless, confused and torn
Hold out your candle, for all to see it
Take your candle, go light your world
Take your candle, go light your world.

****All who are able please stand***

Participating in Worship Today: Deacon Shirley Maynard Technology Anne Bourbeau

Announcements

The Communion Offering this February will be given to the Saturday Night Meal program which has been providing and delivering hot meals to families in need from our neighboring communities for 26 years. The families are identified through the Pettengill House food pantry program. This year the need is so great that the number of meals being served has increased from 350 to 400, which has a huge impact on their budget. Your financial contribution would be greatly appreciated!

Java with Jesus aka *Joan's Coffee Office Hour* continues this Tuesday, 11am - noon at Ovedia Chocolate Shop

Have you made your pledge to MSCC? A quick email to church collector, Kay, at kaynweiner@gmail.com will do the job. Thank you so much to all those who have already made your pledge!

Pi Day Potluck Party on March 14th, 5:30-7pm ~ Celebrate Pi Day (3.14)! Geek out with good food and great company. Bring plates/utensils and some kind of pie to share (savory, sweet, pizza, meat, egg, so many kinds of pie). All are welcome!

Easter Flowers: On Easter Sunday the sanctuary is filled with blooming tulips, daffodils and lilies. A listing is published in the bulletin with your dedications to loved ones. The suggested donation is \$10 per pot of flowers dedicated. **Please email the following info to the church office by March 13th:**

- Your name or the name you want printed in the listing
- The amount and type of flower(s)
- Name(s) of person(s) you want to honor or remember

Options to make your donation for Easter flowers: 1. Send a check to the church, or place a check in the offering plate, with "Easter Flowers" written in the memo line. 2. Venmo @mainstreetchurch and note your gift is for "Easter Flowers"

Fuller Center for Housing ~ When: *April 21-27* Who: *You?* Where: *Americus, Georgia*
What: *A building team open for all experience levels* Why: *Because we go to serve God's world*
Questions? Interested? Speak with Laurie Irwin or email her irwinljb@gmail.com

Main Street Church
Venmo Mobile App ID
@mainstreetchurch QR Code:



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Church Office Hours: M.W.F. 10:30-3:30

757

Today We All Are Called to Be Disciples

1 To - day we all are called to be dis - ci - ples of the
 2 God made the world and at its birth or - dained our hu - man
 3 Pray jus - tice may come roll - ing down as in a might - y
 4 May we in ser - vice to our God act out the liv - ing

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

Lord, to help to set the cap - tive free, make
 race to live as stew - ards of the earth, re -
 stream, with righ - teous - ness in field and town
 word, and walk the road the saints have trod till

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.

plow - share out of sword, to feed the hun - gry, quench their
 spond - ing to God's grace. But we are vain and sad - ly
 cleanse us and re - deem. For God is long - ing to re -
 all have seen and heard. As stew - ards of the earth may

This text placing stewardship in the context of faithful witness was written by a retired Presbyterian minister to be part of the 1986 stewardship campaign titled "Called to Be Disciples." The tune name recalls the Sussex village where the arranger first heard the melody.

TEXT: H. Kenn Carmichael, 1985
 MUSIC: English County Songs, 1893; harm. Ralph Vaughan Williams, 1906
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