

Our Lenten Focus: Prayer

Throughout the 2024-25 program year, we have been exploring what it means to deepen our connectedness to God, to one another, and to the world. We have done this in a variety of ways - focusing for a season on one of five traditional discipleship practices. We began the year focusing on worship and education. We recently concluded our focus on generosity. After Easter, we will conclude the program year with a focus on service.

During Lent, our focus is on prayer. It is particularly appropriate to focus on prayer during Lent, as Lent is a season where we seek to deepen our connectedness to God in a variety of ways. How might you become more connected to God through prayer in this season?

We are encouraging everyone to participate in our congregational devotional reading of the book *Pause: Spending Lent with the Psalms*, by Elizabeth F. Caldwell. The psalms have long been a source of prayer for God's people. Caldwell's book walks us through several of the psalms in her devotionals. Each week concludes with a simple, but deep, spiritual practice that invites us into a deeper connection with our Triune God.



Massanutten PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

A Service of Worship
March 16, 2025
Second Sunday in Lent
Scout Sunday



We Gather at God's Call

Introit *More Love to Thee, O Christ (v. 1)* - Donne

Greeting

Pouring of the Water

Prelude *Good Christian Friends, Rejoice and Sing* - Manz

*Call to Worship (*responsively*)

The Lord is my light and my salvation;

Whom shall I fear?

The Lord is the stronghold of my life;

Of whom shall I be afraid?

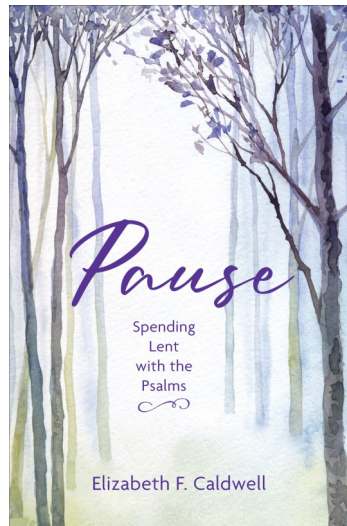
Come, seek God in this time of worship.

*Hymn *Jesus, Light of Joy* 673

*Jesus, light of joy, surround us; let your splendid glory shine:
source of every earthly blessing, heaven's everlasting sign.
Alleluia, alleluia, We adore you, light divine.*

*Now the shadows fall around us; now the evening has begun:
still your gracious light is with us, brighter than the morning sun.
Alleluia, alleluia, God of glory, Three-in-One.*

*With the saints we lift our voices, God of power, God of might.
All creation shines with glory, singing praises day and night:
alleluia, alleluia, holy, holy, holy light.*



During Lent, the congregation is encouraged to read the book *Pause: Spending Lent with the Psalms*, by Elizabeth F. Caldwell. This book includes readings from the Psalms for all Sundays and other holy days of Lent. It also includes recommended spiritual practices that we can include in our lives that encourage us to slow down and rest in God's presence. Both Adult Sunday School classes will be discussing the book.

*Call to Confession

*Prayer of Confession (*unison*)

**Eternal God, as enemies circle and fear grows large,
the distance between us feels like absence
and we come to believe you are hidden and concealed.**

Forgive our doubt.

**Forgive our lack of spiritual seeking.
Forgive us when we make our faith
all about what you might do for us,
rather than how we might serve you
and work in the right relationship with you. Amen.**

*Assurance of Forgiveness (*responsively*)

God does not forsake us in times of trial.

Our God is a gracious God, abounding in steadfast love.

Know that in Jesus Christ, you are forgiven and be at peace.

Amen.

*Response of Praise *Joyful, Joyful, We Adore Thee (v. 1)*

611

*Joyful, joyful, we adore thee, God of glory, Lord of love!
Hearts unfold like flowers before thee, opening to the sun above.
Melt the clouds of sin and sadness; drive the dark of doubt away.
Giver of immortal gladness, fill us with the light of day.*

*Sharing the Peace of Christ (*responsively*)

The peace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you all.

And also with you.

We Gather around God's Word

*Sung Prayer for Illumination *O Word of God Incarnate (v.1)*

459

*O Word of God incarnate, O Wisdom from on high,
O Truth unchanged, unchanging, O Light of our dark sky:
we praise you for the radiance that from the hallowed page,
a lantern to our footsteps, shines on from age to age.*

Life at Massanutten

- **This Sunday, we welcome Rev. Dr. Teri McDowell Ott as our guest preacher.** Teri is Editor / Publisher of *The Presbyterian Outlook*, the only independent publisher of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.). She has been an ordained PC(USA) minister for over twenty years, and previously served ten years as chaplain and Dean of the Chapel of Monmouth College.
- **Third Wednesday Dinners return this Wednesday, March 19th at 5:30 p.m.** Join us for great table fellowship - and a night off from cooking! Come and eat - stay as long as you'd like, and enjoy the rest of your evening (without dishes). Help us plan: let us know you'll be there (but if you find you're available after all - come on along!).
- **Chordially Yours of the Shenandoah Valley**, a 30-member professional choir under the direction of artistic director Scott Zane Smith, presents their spring concert, "It's a Lovely Day" on Mother's Day weekend, May 10-11, at Linville Creek Church of the Brethren in Broadway. Our one-hour concert consists of sacred and secular music, with many familiar tunes. We will also be featuring guest artist Leslie Bradley Alger. Celebrate Mother's Day with us! Saturday, May 10 at 7 p.m. and Sunday, May 11 at 3 p.m. For more information, find us on Facebook, @Chordially Yours of the Shenandoah Valley.
- The Open Doors kitchen is now opened! We are collecting spices for the kitchen during the month of March. Stop by the table in the Narthex and pick a spice to purchase.
- If you've been unable to turn in an **Estimate of Giving card**, please do so as soon as possible. Estimate of Giving cards are available from the church office, or you can complete one at massanuttenchurch.org.
- **Inclement Weather Policy for MPC**—In case of inclement weather, check church closings on WHSV (Harrisonburg television station) or massanuttenchurch.org.

MPC Safety Messages

- **Intersection danger**—The light at Rt. 33 is notorious for running on red. Always pause and check that traffic is stopped before entering the intersection.
- **Know your exits** - Take a moment to note your quickest evacuation route in case of an emergency.

This Week At MPC

Sunday, March 16 - Scout Sunday

9:00am Adult Sunday School (117, 119)
 9:30am Faith Village Parent Fellowship
 HS Breakfast
 10:30am Worship
 Godly Play
 11:45am Baja Meeting (HS Room)
 1:00pm Recorder Rehearsal (200)
 2:00pm Cub Scouts (108, 117)
 5:00pm Fun with Handbells
 6:00pm Youth Group

Monday, March 17

6:00pm Cub Scouts (108, 117)
 6:00pm Brass Quintet (210)
 7:00pm Mass. Ringers (HBR)

Tuesday, March 18

Wednesday, March 19

7:30am Men's Prayer Group (FH)
 5:30pm Third Wednesday (FH)
 7:00pm Choir Rehearsal (CR)

Thursday, March 20

4:30pm Mosaic (HBR)
 6:00pm Cub Scouts (108, 119)

Friday, March 21

Church Office Closed

Saturday, March 22 - Youth Lock-In

Church Office Closed
 2:00pm Scouts Banquet (FH)
 6:30pm Youth Group Lock-In

Sunday, March 23 - Youth Lock-In

9:00am Adult Sunday School (117, 119)
 9:30am Faith Village Parent Fellowship
 HS Breakfast
 10:30am Worship
 Godly Play
 1:00pm Recorder Rehearsal (200)
 2:00pm Cub Scouts (108, 117)
No Fun with Handbells
No Evening Youth Group

Serving March 16 - Scout Sunday

Door Monitor: Harvey Mast

Greeters: Dexter & Cyndi Taylor

Ushers & Water Pourers:
 Karen Mast & Patti Hobbie

Faith Village: Jennifer & Emily Coffelt

Godly Play: Jack & Sarah Rimer

Nursery: Katie Rodgers & Sharon Lam

Youth Group: Sarah Rimer, Gus Scheidt, & Chris Hamilton

Serving March 23

Door Monitor: Jack Rimer

Greeters: TBD

Ushers & Water Pourers:
 Larry & Pam French

Faith Village: Jennifer & Emily Coffelt

Godly Play: TBD

Nursery: Katie Rodgers & Katie Gray

Youth Group: Sarah Rimer, Gus Scheidt, & Hannah Altman

Time with the Children

Pastor Keith Phillips

Anthem

Draw Me Nearer

- Larson

Scripture

Psalm 27

Sermon

Rev. Dr. Teri McDowell Ott

We Respond to God's Word

*Affirmation of Faith

From *A Brief Statement of Faith*

We trust in Jesus Christ, fully human, fully God.

Jesus proclaimed the reign of God:

**preaching good news to the poor and release to the captives,
 teaching by word and deed and blessing the children,
 healing the sick and binding up the brokenhearted,
 eating with outcasts, forgiving sinners,
 and calling all to repent and believe the gospel.**

Unjustly condemned for blasphemy and sedition,

**Jesus was crucified, suffering the depths of human pain
 and giving his life for the sins of the world.**

God raised this Jesus from the dead,

**vindicating his sinless life, breaking the power of sin and evil,
 delivering us from death to life eternal.**

Sharing Our Faith

Scout Sunday

Dave Lenderking

Invitation to the Offering

Song of Thanksgiving

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

645

*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!*

Concerns of the Congregation

Prayers of the People and 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.**

Song of Prayer *Lord, Listen to Your Children Praying* 469

*Lord, listen to your children praying.
Lord, send your Spirit in this place.
Lord, listen to your children praying.
Send us love; send us power; send us grace.*

We Are Sent to the World

*Hymn *Be Still My Soul* 819

*Be still, my soul: the Lord is on thy side.
Bear patiently the cross of grief or pain.
Leave to thy God to order and provide,
who through all changes faithful will remain.
Be still, my soul: thy best, thy heavenly Friend
through thorny ways leads to a joyful end.*

*Be still, my soul: thy God doth undertake
to guide the future surely as the past.
Thy hope, thy confidence let nothing shake;
all now mysterious shall be bright at last.
Be still, my soul: the waves and winds still know
his voice who ruled them while he dwelt below.*

*Be still, my soul: the hour is hastening on
when we shall be forever with the Lord;
when disappointment, grief, and fear are gone,
sorrow forgot, love's purest joys restored.
Be still, my soul: when change and tears are past,
all safe and blessed we shall meet at last.*

*Benediction

*Benediction Response *Go My Children, with My Blessing (v. 2)*

547

*“Go, my children, sins forgiven, at peace and pure.
Here you learned how much I love you, what I can cure.
Here you heard my dear Son's story;
here you touched him, saw his glory.
Go, my children, sins forgiven, at peace and pure.”*

Massanutten Presbyterian Church Session

Class of 2025	Class of 2026	Class of 2027
Jan Arnold	Erin Basgier	David Allen
Ben Craig	Jennifer Coffelt	Kathy Frakes
Bill Frazier	Ashley Gordon-Becker	Pam French
Chris Hamilton	Deidre Lenderking	Lindsey Harvell-Bowman
Julia Sensabaugh	Beth Smith	Ric Leobold

Clerk: Ron Matthews, Moderator: Rev. Keith Phillips

Massanutten Presbyterian Church Staff

Rev. Keith Phillips, Pastor (kphillips@massanuttenchurch.org)
Bob Jerome, Director of Music (bjerome@massanuttenchurch.org)
Carol Lown, Organist (clown@massanuttenchurch.org)
Hannah Altman, Children and Youth Program Director (haltman@massanuttenchurch.org)
Ashlea Liptrap, Administrative Assistant (office@massanuttenchurch.org)
Logan Davis, Digital Worship Coordinator (media@massanuttenchurch.org)
Karen Leecy, Office Manager (kleecy@massanuttenchurch.org)
Danielle Cunningham, Digital Media Communications Coord.
(dcunningham@massanuttenchurch.org)
Greg Trobaugh, Treasurer (gtrobaugh@comcast.net),
Katie Rodgers, Nursery Caregiver; **Dick Leecy and Cindy Grimes**, Custodians

CONTACT US:

50 Indian Trail Road
Penn Laird, Virginia 22846
540-434-6194
massanuttenchurch.org

USE THIS QR CODE
TO SHARE YOUR
OFFERING ONLINE

