



MADISON FIRST UMC
296 South Main Street
P.O. Box 350
Madison, GA 30650
www.madisonfumc.com
Rev. Grady Mosley, Senior Pastor

November 1, 2020

A SERVICE OF HOLY COMMUNION PRIOR TO THE 2020 ELECTION

PRAYER OVER THE ELECTION

God of justice and compassion, God of Republicans and Democrats and Independents and Libertarians, God of the poor and the 1% and the middle class, in the heat of this election year **we pray for our nation, our churches, and ourselves.**

In the midst of meanness and deception **may our words be kind and true.**

In the midst of loud speeches and harsh accusations, **may we listen well and try to understand.**

May those who follow Jesus do the work of Jesus – breaking down the dividing walls speaking the truth in love meeting together in the face of disagreements.

Holy, loving God, have mercy on Your children. **Amen.**

INVITATION TO THE TABLE

The world calls you to the voting booth to decide which candidate should run the country.

We are calling you to the bread and the wine, to decide once more who will run your life.

So let us put away our swords and our sound bites. Let us drop our rocks and our nets. Let us come to the table that is for the rich and poor, for the powerful and the broken.

Come and receive the body of Christ broken for you, the blood of Christ shed for you.

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Based on Isaiah 2:4-5

Eternal God, before You nations rise and fall. Help us to repent of our country's wrong, and to choose Your way of reunion and renewal. **Great God, renew this nation.**

Give us a glimpse of the kingdom You are bringing to earth, where death and violence and hunger will be no more, and where all nations gather in the light of Your presence. **Great God, renew this nation.**

Talk sense to us, so that we may wisely end all prejudices, and may put a stop to injustice and cruelty, which divides or wounds the human family. **Great God, renew this nation.**

Draw us together as one people who do Your will, so that we may be a light to our nation, leading the way to Your promised kingdom, which is even now coming among us. **Great God, renew this nation.**

Great God, eternal Lord, show us there is no law or liberty apart from You; **and let us serve you whole-heartedly, as Your devoted followers, through Christ our Lord. Amen.**

COMMUNION LITURGY

Brothers and sisters,

If you will to love God before, in, and above all things,
In the power of God's holy and living Word, then let each say: **I will.**

If you will to love your neighbors,
And to serve your neighbors with deeds of love
Then let each say: **I will**

If you will to practice mutual admonition toward your brothers and sisters,
To reconcile yourselves with those whom you have offended,
To abandon all envy, hate, and evil will toward everyone,
And also to love your enemies, and do good to them,
Then let each say: **I will.**

If you desire publicly to confirm before the church this pledge of love
By eating bread and drinking wine,
The living memorial of the suffering and death of Jesus our Lord,
Then let each say: **I desire it in the power of God.**

(silent reflection)

Let us eat and drink with one another in the name of God the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit.
May God give to all of us the strength to carry out our pledge. **Amen.**

We praise and thank You, Lord God, Creator of the heavens and the earth, for Your goodness towards us. Especially You have loved us so much that You sent Your beloved son to us, so that all who believe in Him may not be lost, but have eternal life. Based on His example, we walk the way of love and peace, and we also pray:

***Our Father in Heaven, hallowed be Your name.
Your kingdom come, Your will be done, on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread. And forgive our trespasses
as we forgive those who have trespassed 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.***

"For I received from the Lord what I also handed on to you, that the Lord Jesus on the night when He was betrayed took a loaf of bread, and when He had given thanks, He broke it and said, 'This is My body that is for you. Do this in remembrance of Me.'"

"In the same way He took the cup also after supper, saying, 'This cup is the new covenant in My blood. Do this as often as you drink it in remembrance of Me.'"

"For as often as you eat this bread and drink the cup, you proclaim the Lord's death until He comes."

Pour out Your Holy Spirit on us gathered here, and on these gifts of bread and wine. Make them be for us the body and blood of Christ, that we may be for the world the body of Christ redeemed by His blood.

By Your Spirit make us one with Christ, one with each other, and one in ministry to all the world, until Christ comes in final victory, and we feast at His heavenly banquet.

*Through Your Son Jesus Christ, with the Holy spirit in Your holy church, all honor and glory is Yours, almighty Father, now and forever. **Amen.***

GIVING OF THE BREAD AND CUP ~ BENEDICTION

*Now is the time for us all to make our votes clear. Through the power of the Holy Spirit,
may God take your shoes, and fill them with feet that follow the way of Jesus;*

may God take your lips and make them proclaim the good news for Jesus;

may God take your hands, and make them touch the world's wounds with the healing and compassion of Jesus; and may God take your hearts, and set them on fire for Jesus!

*For this is the year of the Lord's favor: **Blessed be the name of the Lord!***