

Community Presbyterian Church

open hearted, open minded

3705 Fairway Place NW, Rochester, MN • www.cpcrochester.org • 507-280-9291



August 23, 2020

Welcome to worship this morning!

*Bulletin Cue: **Bold** indicates congregational response.*

GATHERING AROUND THE WORD OF GOD

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

PRELUDE

CALL TO WORSHIP

As one body we have many members, each uniquely gifted for a particular purpose.

We, who are many, are one body in Christ.

Prophets and poets, thinkers and teachers, artists and advocates, consolers and caregivers.

We, who are many, are one body in Christ.

With thanksgiving we offer our varied gifts in service to Christ, who makes us one.

Let us glorify God!

OPENING HYMN GTG 761

Called as Partners in Christ's Service *vs. 1 and 2*



1 Called as part-ners in Christ's ser-vice, called to min-is-tries of grace,
2 Christ's ex-am-ple, Christ's in-spir-ing, Christ's clear call to work and worth,



we re-spond with deep com-mit-ment fresh new lines of faith to trace.
let us fol-low, nev-er fal-tering, rec-on-cil-ing folk on earth.



May we learn the art of shar-ing, side by side and friend with friend,
Men and wom-en, rich-er, poor-er, all God's peo-ple, young and old,



e - qual part-ners in our car-ing to ful-fill God's cho-sen end.
blend-ing hu-man skills to- geth-er gra-cious gifts from God un-fold.

CALL TO CONFESSION

It is only by the power of God that we are able to stand against evil.

Trusting in God's grace, let us examine our lives.

CONFESSION

Jesus asks, "Who do you say that I am?"

We call you the Son of the Living God.

But we do not trust you to be at work in our world here and now.

Jesus asks, "Who do you say that I am?"

You are the Messiah, who delivers us from death to life.

But we doubt your power to transform our lives.

Jesus asks, "Who do you say that I am?"

We profess you are the Christ, the guardian of our lives.

But our attention often wanders and our loyalty is tested.

Forgive us.

Help us not only to proclaim you, but to follow your way of justice and peace.

ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS

Now stand firm in your faith, covered by the saving grace of God and ready to proclaim the gospel of peace. In the name of Jesus Christ, you are forgiven!

Thanks be to God.

LISTENING FOR GOD'S WORD

SPECIAL MUSIC

How Can I Keep From Singing

virtual choir from NY

Text: Traditional / Music: Robert Lowry

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

Mighty and merciful God, lover of justice and equity, you call us to support the weak, to help those who suffer, and to honor all people. By the power of your Holy Spirit, make us advocates for your justice and instruments of your peace, so that all may be reconciled in your beloved community; through Jesus Christ our Savior.

Amen.

SCRIPTURE READING

adapted from Exodus chapters 1 and 2

Through the trials and triumphs of Joseph, God brought Abraham's descendants to Egypt to escape famine. With Pharaoh's aid, they prospered. But after many years, a new king arose, who didn't remember Joseph. Fearing that the Hebrew people would become stronger than the Egyptians, this new ruler set out to oppress and enslave them. But the more they were oppressed, the more they multiplied and grew strong. Then the Egyptians became more and more ruthless in their demands.

Pharaoh the king said to the Hebrew midwives, named Shiphrah and Puah, "When the Hebrews' babies are born, kill the boys, but let the girls live." But the midwives feared God, and they let the boys live. And the people grew even stronger. Then Pharaoh commanded all his people, "Throw the male babies of the Hebrews into the Nile."

Now a Levite woman gave birth to a son; and when she saw that he was a fine baby, she hid him for three months. Then she placed him in a basket and put him among the reeds of the river. His sister stood at a distance, watching to see what would happen.

The daughter of Pharaoh came down to the river and found the basket among the reeds. She saw the baby crying and said, "This must be one of the Hebrews' children." Then his sister asked her, "Shall I get one of the Hebrew women to nurse him for you?" Pharaoh's daughter agreed. So the boy's mother raised him for a time. Then she brought him back to Pharaoh's daughter, who named him Moses and raised him as her own son.

When Moses grew to adulthood, he learned of his people's oppression. When he saw an Egyptian beating a Hebrew, he killed and buried the Egyptian, believing he was not observed. But later, when he tried to separate two Hebrew people fighting, one of them taunted him with that murder. Fearing that word of his crime would spread, he fled for his life and lived for a time in the land of Midian. There he married a daughter of a priest of the land, and started his own family.

After a long time the king of Egypt died. The Israelites groaned under their slavery, and cried out. Out of the slavery their cry for help rose up to God. God heard their groaning, and God remembered his covenant with Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob. God looked upon the Israelites, and God took notice of them.

1 When Is - rael was in E - gypt's land, let my peo - ple go;

op - pressed so hard they could not stand, let my peo - ple go!

Refrain

Go down, Mo - ses, way down in E - gypt's

land; tell old Pha - raoh: let my peo - ple go!

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RESPONSIVE READING Psalm 124

If God had not been on our side, let Israel now say—
 If God had not been on our side, when our enemies attacked,
 then they would have swallowed us up alive in their anger;

Our help is in the name of our God, who made heaven and earth.

The flood would have swept us away,
 the torrent would have gone over us;
 then over us would have gone the raging waters.

Our help is in the name of our God, who made heaven and earth.

Blessed be our deliverer, who has not given us as prey.
 We have escaped like a bird from the snare;
 the snare is broken, and we have escaped.

Our help is in the name of our God, who made heaven and earth.

GOSPEL READING

Matthew 16:13-20

Now when Jesus came into the district of Caesarea Philippi, he asked his disciples, “Who do people say that the Son of Man is?” And they said, “Some say John the Baptist, but others Elijah, and still others Jeremiah or one of the prophets.” He said to them, “But who do you say that I am?” Simon Peter answered, “You are the Messiah, the Son of the living God.” And Jesus answered him, “Blessed are you, Simon son of Jonah! For flesh and blood has not revealed this to you, but my Father in heaven. And I tell you, you are Peter, and on this rock I will build my church, and the gates of Hades will not prevail against it. I will give you the keys of the kingdom of heaven, and whatever you bind on earth will be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth will be loosed in heaven.” Then he sternly ordered the disciples not to tell anyone that he was the Messiah.

Keep these words in your heart. The Lord is our God, the Lord alone.

Thanks be to God.

SERMON

Whose Side?

Pastor Jan

RESPONDING TO GOD’S GRACE

HYMN OF THE DAY GTG 750

Goodness Is Stronger than Evil

Good-ness is stron-ger than e - vil; love is stron-ger than hate;

light is stron-ger than dark - ness; life is stron-ger than death.

Vic - tory is ours; vic - tory is ours

through God who loves us. us.

JOYS AND CONCERNS/PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

God, our Savior,

hear our prayer.

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.

OFFERING GIFTS OF GRATITUDE

(In lieu of a time of offering, people are invited to unmute one by one and share something that has inspired gratitude or given them hope in this past week; when all who desire to do so have spoken, we will collectively pray in response.)

PRAYER

God of life, of all life and of each life, we lay our own lives before you; we give our lives to you. In this time of global crisis, we give thanks for all your continued care, not for us alone, but for your whole suffering and precious world. We are yours, today and eternally.

SENDING INTO THE WORLD TO LOVE AND SERVE

CLOSING HYMN GTG 761

Called as Partners in Christ's Service

vs. 3 and 4

CHARGE AND BLESSING

Go now to live to the glory of God,

As inhabitants of earth,

and citizens of the commonwealth of heaven.

Thanks be to God.

Now may the God of hope bring you such joy and peace in believing that you overflow with hope in the power of the Holy Spirit.

Amen

Called as Partners in Christ's Service 761



3 Thus new pat-terns for Christ's mis-sion, in a small or glob-al sense,
4 So God grant us for to - mor-row ways to or - der hu - man life



help us bear each oth - er's bur-dens, break-ing down each wall or fence.
that sur-round each per - son's sor-row with a calm that con-que-rs strife.



Words of com - fort, words of vi - sion, words of chal-lenge, said with care,
Make us part-ners in our liv - ing, our com-pas-sion to in - crease,



bring new power and strength for ac - tion, make us col-leagues, free and fair.
mes - sen-gers of faith, thus giv - ing hope and con - fi - dence and peace.

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TODAY AT CPC

Sunday, August 23, 2020

9:30 am Online Worship Service

THIS WEEK AT CPC

Tuesday, August 25

12:00 pm Bulletin Information Due

12:00 pm Conference Call *

6:00 pm Session Meeting

Wednesday, August 26

6:30 am Prayer Group

Friday, August 28

12:00 pm NO Conference Call *

Sunday, August 30

Confirmation Sunday

9:30 am Online Worship Service

Pastor Jan will be on retreat August 26-28. If there is an emergency, call the church number and leave a message. Stephanie will be monitoring the phone and will connect you with the appropriate person.

Online Worship

Sundays 9:30 – 10:30am

<https://meet.google.com/vao-wjef-cbe>

+1 575-305-4527 PIN: 652 821 468 #

* **Tuesday/Friday Conference Call**

<https://meet.google.com/kee-rcys-sdh>

+1 413-889-2244 PIN: 433 818 991#



Judy Leal

Jane, Ed, Jenny, Elissa and

the Burgstaler grandchildren

Connie Holst

MariLynn Johnson

Vera Atkinson's great-grandson,

Kaiden Nelson

*To be added to the prayer list,
please contact the church office at*

507-280-9291 or

email office@cpcrochester.org.

*For emergency pastoral care,
call Pastor Jan at 763-219-2927.*

Pastor

Rev. Jan Wiersma

Choir Director

Meg Cain

Handbell Director

Judy Kereakos

Pianist

Glenna Muir

Custodian

Nancy Sanford

Office Manager

Stephanie Pasch

Serving in Worship Today

Liturgist

Dave Copeland

IT Support

Ronda and Bill Marshall



Presbytery of the Twin Cities Area

Are you called to a spiritual pilgrimage against racism?

The Presbytery of the Twin Cities Area invites you to a Presbytery-wide journey of deepening our engagement with the racial history of Minnesota and Western Wisconsin; using personal reflection and small groups (unique to either people of color or white people) to practice spiritual skills for anti-racist living; and taking action in solidarity with Black, Indigenous and other People of Color who are our neighbors in the community.

You can find more information and instructions for registration on the Spiritual Pilgrimage website, <https://anti-racism-ptca.weebly.com/>.



On Aug. 28, 2020, the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) will be joining #Give828, a national day of giving focused specifically on supporting Black-benefiting organizations. #Give828 isn't like other fundraising campaigns. This day takes

place during Black Philanthropy Month and commemorates multiple important historical landmarks in Black Americans' march toward freedom. Did you know that on:

- Aug. 28, 1955: 14-year-old Emmett Till was brutally murdered by three white men, which became a "flashpoint in the civil rights movement"?
- Aug. 28, 1963: The Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. delivered his iconic "I Have a Dream" speech during the landmark March on Washington in Washington, D.C.?
- Aug. 28, 2005: Hurricane Katrina made landfall in Louisiana? The storm, which devastated New Orleans, inordinately impacted many of the city's Black residents.
- Aug. 28, 2008: Then-Sen. Barack Obama accepted the Democratic nomination for president, becoming the first Black man to ever win the nomination and bid for the presidency?

Your gifts to #Give828 will go to support leadership development for leaders of color by funding the Katie Geneva Cannon Scholarship and the Conference for Seminarians of Color. Donating to the campaign is one of the action steps you can take as a part of the Presbyterian Week of Action, Aug. 24–30.

Go to pcusa.org/weekofaction for more information on the Presbyterian Week of Action.