

Community Presbyterian Church  
open hearted, open minded

3705 Fairway Place NW, Rochester, MN • [www.cpcrochester.org](http://www.cpcrochester.org) • 507-280-9291



# Confirmation

August 30, 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

From whirlwind and burning bush,  
in still of night and in sheer silence—  
God calls the faithful to sacred work.  
Beckoning us to turn aside,  
inviting us to stand on holy ground—  
God welcomes us into sacred space.  
Come, God is calling.

**Let us worship the Lord!**



1 Be thou my vi - sion, O Lord of my heart;  
 2 Be thou my wis - dom, and thou my true Word;



naught be all else to me, save that thou art;  
 I ev - er with thee and thou with me, Lord;



thou my best thought, by day or by night,  
 thou my soul's shel - ter, and thou my high tower;



wak - ing or sleep - ing, thy pres - ence my light.  
 raise thou me heaven - ward, O Power of my power.

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**CALL TO CONFESSION**

Compassionate God, you hear the cries of the oppressed.  
 You call us to resist evil and hold fast to what is good,  
 to take up the cross and commit our lives to the cause of love.  
 But we are afraid to confront powers  
 that privilege some and diminish others;  
 we do not want to lose the security we enjoy.

**Forgive us.**

**Open our ears to hear your voice,  
 our eyes to look upon neighbors in need,  
 and our hearts to respond with compassion,  
 that we might follow the way of Christ.**

**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

*Set Me as a Seal*  
by Rene Clausen

The Concordia Choir  
Moorhead, Minnesota

### PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

Let the fire of your Spirit open our hearts and minds to your word, O God. Help us to hear your voice and follow your paths all the days of our lives. **Amen**

### SCRIPTURE READING

Exodus 3:1-15

Moses was keeping the flock of his father-in-law Jethro, the priest of Midian; he led his flock beyond the wilderness, and came to Horeb, the mountain of God. There the angel of the Lord appeared to him in a flame of fire out of a bush; he looked, and the bush was blazing, yet it was not consumed. Then Moses said, "I must turn aside and look at this great sight, and see why the bush is not burned up." When the Lord saw that he had turned aside to see, God called to him out of the bush, "Moses, Moses!" And he said, "Here I am." Then he said, "Come no closer! Remove the sandals from your feet, for the place on which you are standing is holy ground." He said further, "I am the God of your father, the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob." And Moses hid his face, for he was afraid to look at God.

Then the Lord said, "I have observed the misery of my people who are in Egypt; I have heard their cry on account of their taskmasters. Indeed, I know their sufferings, and I have come down to deliver them from the Egyptians, and to bring them up out of that land to a good and broad land, a land flowing with milk and honey, to the country of the Canaanites, the Hittites, the Amorites, the Perizzites, the Hivites, and the Jebusites. The cry of the Israelites has now come to me; I have also seen how the Egyptians oppress them. So come, I will send you to Pharaoh to bring my people, the Israelites, out of Egypt."

But Moses said to God, "Who am I that I should go to Pharaoh, and bring the Israelites out of Egypt?" He said, "I will be with you; and this shall be the sign for you that it is I who sent you: when you have brought the people out of Egypt, you shall worship God on this mountain." But Moses said to God, "If I come to the Israelites and say to them, 'The God of your ancestors has sent me to you,' and they ask me, 'What is his name?' what shall I say to them?" God said to Moses, "I AM WHO I AM." He said further, "Thus you shall say to the Israelites, 'I AM has sent me to you.'" God also said to Moses, "Thus you shall say to the Israelites, 'The Lord, the God of your ancestors, the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob, has sent me to you': This is my name forever, and this my title for all generations.

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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GOSPEL READING

Matthew 16:21-28

From that time on, Jesus began to show his disciples that he must go to Jerusalem and undergo great suffering at the hands of the elders and chief priests and scribes, and be killed, and on the third day be raised. And Peter took him aside and began to rebuke him, saying, “God forbid it, Lord! This must never happen to you.” But he turned and said to Peter, “Get behind me, Satan! You are a stumbling block to me; for you are setting your mind not on divine things but on human things.”

Then Jesus told his disciples, “If any want to become my followers, let them deny themselves and take up their cross and follow me. For those who want to save their life will lose it, and those who lose their life for my sake will find it. For what will it profit them if they gain the whole world but forfeit their life? Or what will they give in return for their life? “For the Son of Man is to come with his angels in the glory of his Father, and then he will repay everyone for what has been done. Truly I tell you, there are some standing here who will not taste death before they see the Son of Man coming in his kingdom.”

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

**Thanks be to God.**

SERMON

*Holy Ground*

Pastor Jan

**RESPONDING TO GOD'S GRACE**

HYMN OF THE DAY GTG 700 I'm Gonna Live So God Can Use Me



1 I'm gon-na live so (live so)  
2 I'm gon-na work so (work so) God can use me an - y -  
3 I'm gon-na pray so (pray so)  
4 I'm gon-na sing so (sing so)



where, Lord, an - y - time! (an - y - time!) I'm gon-na  
I'm gon-na  
I'm gon-na  
I'm gon-na



live so (live so)  
work so (work so) God can use me an - y -  
pray so (pray so)  
sing so (sing so)



where, Lord, an - y - time! (an - y - time!)  
(my Lord,) (an - y - time!)

**Bold** – Congregation, along with Confirmands,

### **CONFIRMATION/AFFIRMATION OF BAPTISM 2020**

Let us pray. Gracious God, by water and the Spirit you claimed us as your own, cleansing us from sin, and giving us new life. Renew Alayna, Nathan, Heather, Connor, and Katherine and remember the covenant you made in their baptism. Continue the good work you have begun in them. Send them forth in the power of your Spirit to love and serve you with joy, and to strive for justice and peace in all the earth, in the name of Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

*Clerk of Session:* The following are presented by the session, for the reaffirming of the baptismal covenant into which they were baptized: Alayna Kopecky, Nathan Kopecky, Heather Marshall, Connor Meyer, and Katherine Ross. They now desire to profess publicly their faith and to assume greater responsibility in the life of the church, and God's mission in the world.

*Pastor:* We rejoice that you now desire to declare your faith and to share with us in our common ministry. In baptism you were joined to Christ, and made members of his church. In the community of the people of God, you have learned of God's purpose for you and for all creation. You have been nurtured at the table of our Lord, and called to witness to the gospel of Jesus Christ.

Hear these words from Holy Scripture: 2 Ephesians 2:10

“We are what God has made us, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand to be our way of life.”

### **RENUNCIATIONS**

Trusting in the gracious mercy of God, do you turn from the ways of sin and renounce evil and its power in the world? *Confirmand: I do.*

Do you turn to Jesus Christ and accept him as your Lord and Savior, trusting in his grace and love? *Confirmand: I do.*

Will you be Christ's faithful disciple, obeying his Word and showing his love?

*Confirmand: I will with God's help.*

With the whole church, let us confess our faith.

**I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth. I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried; he descended to the dead. On the third day he rose again; he ascended into heaven, he is seated at the right hand of the Father, and he will come to judge the living and the dead. I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.**

You have publicly professed your faith. Will you be a faithful member of this congregation, share in its worship and ministry through your prayers and gifts, your study and service, and so fulfill your calling to be a disciple of Jesus Christ?

*Confirmand: I will with God's help.*

#### LAYING ON OF HANDS

*Online congregation may extend your hands virtually toward candidates.*

O Lord, uphold (*insert name*) by your Holy Spirit.

*Isa. 11:2*

Daily increase in *his/her* your gifts of grace:

the spirit of wisdom and understanding,

the spirit of counsel and might,

the spirit of knowledge and the fear of the Lord,

the spirit of joy in your presence,

both now and forever. **Amen.**

*Pastor:* Remember your baptism and be thankful,  
and know that the Holy Spirit is at work within you.

*Each candidate may answer:*

*Thanks be to God.*

#### WELCOME

Alayna, Nathan, Heather, Connor, and Katherine by publicly professing their faith, have expressed their intention to continue in the covenant God made with them in their baptism. Let us welcome them as they join with us in the worship and mission of the church.

All unmute: The people respond, saying: **With joy and thanksgiving we welcome you to share with us in the ministry of Christ, for we are all one in him.**

#### THE PEACE

The Peace of Christ be with you.

**And also with you.**

## 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 702

Christ Be Beside Me

## CHARGE AND BLESSING

May the God who provides for all fill your emptiness with her fullness;

May the Spirit of Love stir your hearts to tenderness;

May the Breath of Life move within you, and through you, to the world

May the Spirit of Boldness send us out to be the change we seek.

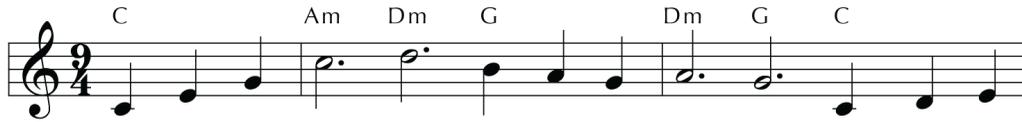
**Thanks be to God.**

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**

# Christ Be Beside Me

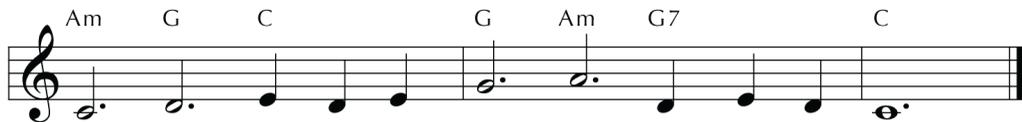
702



1 Christ be be - side me; Christ be be - fore me; Christ be be -  
2 Christ on my right hand, Christ on my left hand, Christ all a -  
3 Christ be in all hearts think - ing a - bout me; Christ be on



hind me, King of my heart. Christ be with - in me; Christ be be -  
round me, shield in the strife. Christ in my sleep - ing, Christ in my  
all tongues tell - ing of me. Christ be the vi - sion in eyes that



low me; Christ be a - bove me, nev - er to part.  
sit - ting, Christ in my ris - ing, Light of my life.  
see me; in ears that hear me Christ ev - er be.

# Community Presbyterian Church

open hearted, open minded

## TODAY AT CPC

**Sunday, August 30**

**Confirmation Sunday**

9:30 am Online Worship Service

## THIS WEEK AT CPC

Monday, August 31

Office Closed

Tuesday, September 1

12:00 pm Bulletin Information Due

12:00 pm Conference Call \*

6:00 pm Brain Injury Support Group

7:00 pm Christian Education Committee

Wednesday, September 2

6:30 am Prayer Group

Friday, September 4

12:00 pm Conference Call \*

**Sunday, September 6**

9:30 am Online Worship Service



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](mailto:office@cpcrochester.org).*

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

### 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#

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

Mary Meyer

IT Support

Ronda and Bill Marshall



Community Presbyterian Church is planning for an in-person, outdoor worship on Sunday, September 13. Watch for more information in September!



Please note:

Children's Place Nursery School will be opening for the fall on September 1 with teacher training. The first day of school for the kids will be September 8.

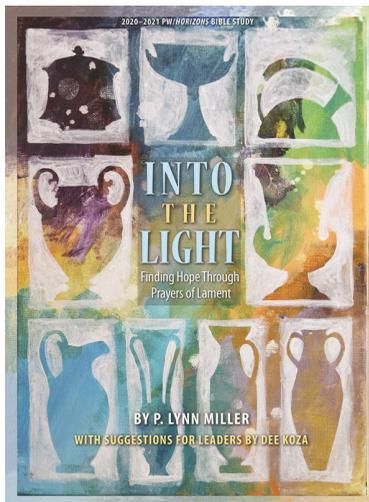
Because of the ongoing pandemic, there are many changes this year! Children's Place classrooms will each have 10 people (including the teacher!). Children's Place will be screening the kids at the door and parents will not be allowed in the building. The drinking fountain will also be turned off.

Because of Covid, if you are stopping by the church, please come when Stephanie or Pastor Jan are there to let you in or use your own key for the church front door (door number 1). As easy as it is, we cannot enter through the Children's Place door and we need to stay on our side of the building.

Session has called a special congregational meeting for September 13, immediately following the outdoor worship service. We will vote on amending the by-laws to include a "pandemic provision" for conducting church business when we are unable to meet in person.



CONGREGATIONAL MEETING



Presbyterian Women will have their 2020-2021 Bible Study, "Into the Light", on Mondays at 10 am beginning on September 14. This will be online, using the same link as we use for worship. Invite your friends to join in!

