

# Community Presbyterian Church

open hearted, open minded

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



*Liberating  
Love*

**September 13, 2020**

***Welcome to worship this morning!***

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

*Asterisk\* indicates "Please stand if you are able."*

*The bathrooms are located down the hall, then left.*

*We hope to see you again soon!*

## GATHERING AROUND THE WORD OF GOD

### WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

#### PRELUDE

*March of the Mimes*  
by Micah Johnson

Brass, Etc.

#### \*CALL TO WORSHIP

Our God is majestic in holiness, awesome in splendor,  
and worthy of our highest praise.

**Who is like the great I AM?**

Our God blew back the waters, prepared a path through the sea,  
and appeared as a pillar of fire to light the pilgrim way.

**Who is like I WILL BE WHO I WILL BE?**

Our God is our strength and our salvation,  
the God who triumphs in liberating love.

**Let us sing to the GOD WHO IS FOR US.**

We've come this far by faith, lean-ing on the Lord,  
 trust-ing in the ho-ly Word; God's nev-er failed us yet.  
 O, can't turn a-round, we've come this  
 far by faith. We've come this far by faith.

## 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

Merciful God, we are quick to ask for grace when we have fallen short,  
 for patience when we have turned away from you.

Why are we slow to show the same mercy to others?

We keep track of wrongs and cling to old hurts,  
 rather than offering the forgiveness that could free others and ourselves.

We strive to be more faithful; we want to be more loving.

**Transform us, we pray. Pour out your mercy upon us,  
 until it flows forth from us through acts of love.**

## 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

*Just a Closer Walk with Thee,*  
arr. By Don Gillis

Brass, Etc.

### 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

adapted from Exodus 13-15

*Throughout the Exodus narrative, God is known by the name told to Moses when God called him to lead the Israelites out of slavery: "I AM," or "I WILL BE WHO I WILL BE," often rendered as "THE LORD," "Jehovah," or "Yahweh."*

When Pharaoh let the people go, I AM led the people by way of the wilderness toward the Red Sea. And I AM went in front of them in a pillar of cloud by day, to lead them along the way, and in a pillar of fire by night, to give them light, so that they might travel by day and by night.

Then I AM said to Moses: "I will harden Pharaoh's heart, and he will pursue them, so that I will gain glory for myself, and the Egyptians shall know that I AM WHO I AM FOR MY PEOPLE." When the king of Egypt was told that the people had fled, he said, "What have we done, letting Israel leave our service?" So he took all the chariots of Egypt and pursued the Israelites, and overtook them where they were camped by the sea.

In great fear the Israelites cried out to their God I AM. They said to Moses, "Was it because there were no graves in Egypt that you have taken us away to die in the wilderness? What have you done to us, bringing us out of Egypt? For it would have been better for us to serve the Egyptians than to die in the wilderness." But Moses said to the people, "Do not be afraid, stand firm, and see the deliverance that the great God I AM will work for you today. I AM WHO I AM will fight for you, and you have only to keep still." Then Moses stretched out his hand over the sea, and I AM drove the sea back by a strong east wind all night, and turned the sea into dry land; and the waters were divided. The Israelites went into the sea on dry ground, the waters forming a wall for them on their right and on their left. The Egyptians pursued them, and went into the sea after them." Then I AM said to Moses, "Stretch out your hand over the sea, so that the water may come back upon the Egyptians and their chariots." So Moses stretched out his hand over the sea, and at dawn the sea returned to its normal depth. As the Egyptians fled before it, they were tossed into the sea; not one of them remained. But the Israelites walked on dry ground through the sea. Thus I AM saved Israel that day, and Israel saw the great work

done for them. So the people feared the God I AM WHO I WILL BE FOR MY PEOPLE and believed in God's servant Moses.

Then the prophet Miriam, Moses and Aaron's sister, took a tambourine and all the women went out after her with tambourines and with dancing, and sang, "Sing to I AM, who has triumphed gloriously; horse and rider are thrown into the sea."

RESPONSIVE READING based on Psalm 114 and Exodus 15

When Israel went out from Egypt, from a people of strange language,  
Judah became God's sanctuary, Israel his dominion.

**Sing to I AM, who has triumphed; horse and rider are thrown into the sea.**

The sea looked and fled; Jordan turned back.  
Why is it, O sea, that you flee? O Jordan, that you turn back?  
O mountains, that you skip like rams? O hills, like lambs?

**Sing to I AM, who has triumphed; horse and rider are thrown into the sea.**

Tremble, O earth, at the presence of the Lord, at the presence of the God of Jacob,  
who turns the rock into a pool of water, the flint into a spring of water.

**Sing to I AM, who has triumphed; horse and rider are thrown into the sea.**

CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE GTG 52

Go Down, Moses

verse 4

4 O let us all from bond-age flee; let my peo-ple go!

And let us all in Christ be free: 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!

SCRIPTURE READING

Matthew 18:21-35

Then Peter came and said to Jesus, “Teacher, if another member of the church sins against me, how often should I forgive? As many as seven times?” Jesus said to him, “Not seven times, but, I tell you, seventy-seven times. For this reason the kingdom of heaven may be compared to a king who wished to settle accounts with his slaves. When he began the reckoning, one who owed him ten thousand talents was brought to him; and, as he could not pay, his lord ordered him to be sold, together with his wife and children and all his possessions, and payment to be made. So the slave fell on his knees before him, saying, ‘Have patience with me, and I will pay you everything.’ And out of pity for him, the lord of that slave released him and forgave him the debt. But that same slave, as he went out, came upon one of his fellow slaves who owed him a hundred denarii; and seizing him by the throat, he said, ‘Pay what you owe.’ Then his fellow slave fell down and pleaded with him, ‘Have patience with me, and I will pay you.’ But he refused; then he went and threw him into prison until he would pay the debt. When his fellow slaves saw what had happened, they were greatly distressed, and they went and reported to their lord all that had taken place. Then his lord summoned him and said to him, ‘You wicked slave! I forgave you all that debt because you pleaded with me. Should you not have had mercy on your fellow slave, as I had mercy on you?’ And in anger his lord handed him over to be tortured until he would pay his entire debt. So my heavenly Father will also do to every one of you, if you do not forgive your brother or sister from your heart.”

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

**Thanks be to God.**

SERMON

*Liberating Love: Remembering Mercy*

Pastor Jan

**RESPONDING TO GOD’S GRACE**

\*HYMN OF THE DAY

Down by the Riverside

*Leader* *Response*

1. Gon - na lay down my sword and shield,  
 2. Gon - na lay down my bur - den,      down by the riv - er - side,

*Leader*

down by the riv - er - side,      down by the riv - er - side; gon - na  
 gon - na

*Response*

lay down my sword and shield,  
 lay down my bur - den,      down by the riv - er - side, gon - na

stud - y      war no more.      I ain't gon - na stud - y war no

more, ain't gon-na stud-y war no more, ain't gon-na stud-y

war no more, ain't gon-na stud-y war no more, ain't gon-na stud-y war no more, I ain't gon-na

stud-y war no more, ain't gon-na stud-y war no more.

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WELCOME TO NEWLY CONFIRMED MEMBERS

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.**

## INVITATION TO OFFERING

I appeal to you, brothers and sisters, to present yourselves as a living sacrifice, holy and acceptable to God.

**Let us offer our lives to the Lord.**

## OFFERTORY

*O Perfect Love*

Brass, Etc.

by Joseph Barnby arr. Bill Holcombe

## \*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 65

Guide Me, O Thou Great Jehovah

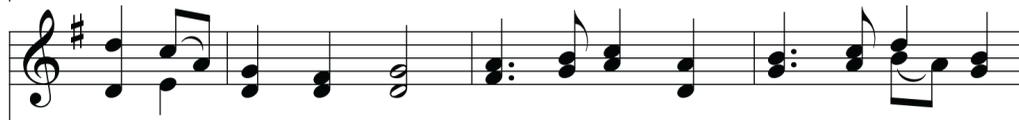
*all verses*



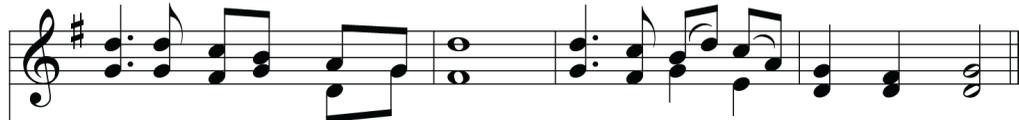
1 Guide me, O thou great Je - ho - vah, pil - grim through this  
2 O - pen now the crys - tal foun - tain, whence the heal - ing  
3 When I tread the verge of Jor - dan, bid my anx - ious



bar - ren land. I am weak, but thou art might - y. Hold me  
stream doth flow. Let the fire and cloud - y pil - lar lead me  
fears sub - side. Death of death, and hell's de - struc - tion, land me



with thy power - ful hand. Bread of heav - en, bread of heav - en,  
all my jour - ney through. Strong de - liv - erer, strong de - liv - erer,  
safe on Ca - naan's side. Songs of prais - es, songs of prais - es



feed me till I want no more; feed me till I want no more.  
be thou still my strength and shield; be thou still my strength and shield.  
I will ev - er give to thee; I will ev - er give to thee.

\*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**

POSTLUDE

*The Circus Bee*  
by Henry Fillmore arr. Jari Villanueva

Brass, Etc.



# Community Presbyterian Church

open hearted, open minded

## TODAY AT CPC

### Sunday, September 13

- 9:30 am Outdoor and Online  
Worship Service
- 10:30 am Congregational Meeting

## THIS WEEK AT CPC

### Monday, September 14

- 10:00 am PW Bible Study

### Tuesday, September 15

- 12:00 pm Bulletin Information Due
- 12:00 pm Conference Call \*
- 5:30 pm Finance & Stewardship Committee

### Wednesday, September 16

- 6:30 am Prayer Group
- 6:30 pm Building and Grounds Committee

### Friday, September 18

- 12:00 pm Conference Call \*

### Sunday, September 20

- 9:30 am Online Worship Service
- 12:00 pm Newsletter Articles Due

### 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](mailto: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	Sue Chipman
Special Music	Brass, Etc.
IT Support	Ronda and Bill Marshall

**Special Thank You to our musical guests, Brass Etc., today!**

Rich Zeller, trumpet  
Micah Johnson, trumpet  
Amanda Kaus, French horn

John Sievers, trombone  
Mitch Stevenson, tuba

Session has called a special congregational meeting for TODAY, 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 begin their 2020-2021 Bible Study, “Into the Light”, tomorrow, Monday, at 10 am. This will be online, using the same link as we use for worship. Invite your friends to join in! Talk to Mary Alice or Pastor Jan if you need a book!



**Coming September 27!**

This fall’s election will be like none other in our lifetimes. To ensure that all have the opportunity to vote in safety and with confidence that their vote will be counted, we will offer an informational session on Sunday, September 27 in the afternoon (time tbd). Watch for details!

BOOK DISCUSSION GROUP



The Book Discussion Group is beginning on September 27 at 10:30 am after worship. Just stay on the call after worship! The group will be discussing Educated by Tara Westover. Each chapter of the book shows her life involving various members of her family and friends. Accidents cause severe problems, but they will not see a doctor. Erratic homeschooling make further learning difficult for Tara, yet she succeeds, despite the odds.

Please note: Children’s Place Nursery School began last week. 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 during nursery school hours.

