

Community Presbyterian Church

open hearted, open minded

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

September 27, 2020

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

Bulletin Cue:

Bold indicates
congregational
response.

*We hope to see you
again soon!*



Liberating Love: Practicing the Presence of God

GATHERING AROUND THE WORD OF GOD

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

PRELUDE

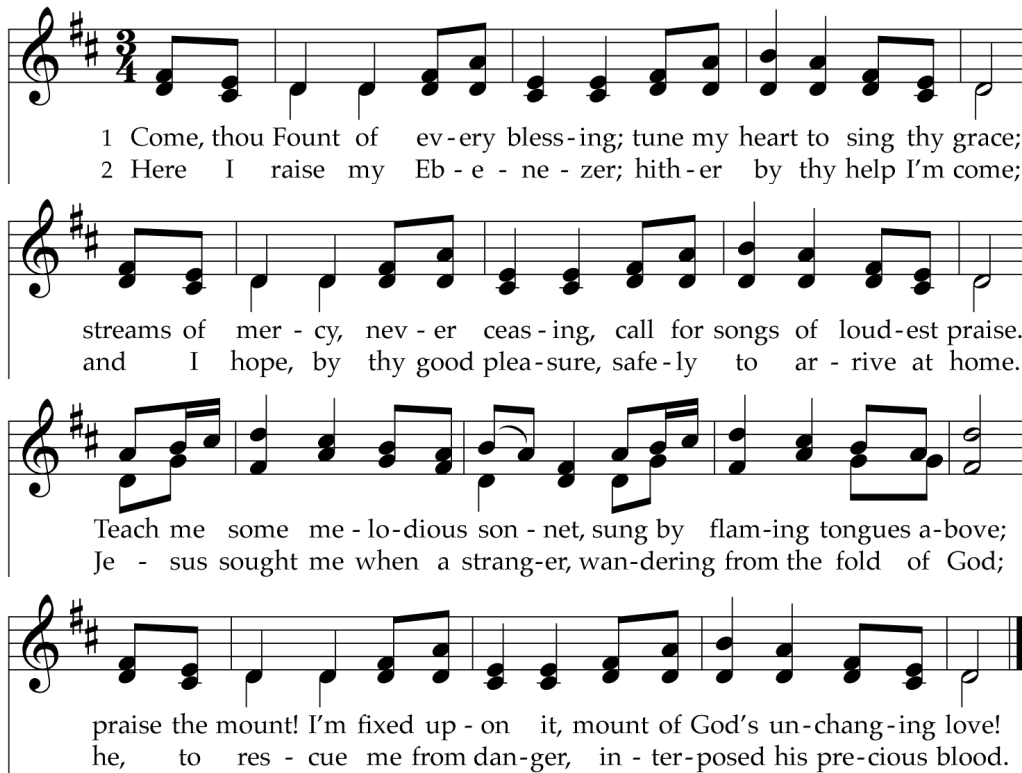
CALL TO WORSHIP

People of God, open yourselves to holy wonder;
tune your ears to hear God's word.

Remember and repeat the sacred story;
tell of God's mercy and grace.

People of God, enter this holy time,
and worship our Sustainer and Guide.

Let us turn to God in prayer and praise.



1 Come, thou Fount of ev-ery bless-ing; tune my heart to sing thy grace;
 2 Here I raise my Eb - e - ne - zer; hith-er by thy help I'm come;
 streams of mer - cy, nev - er ceas - ing, call for songs of loud-est praise.
 and I hope, by thy good plea-sure, safe - ly to ar - rive at home.
 Teach me some me - lo-dious son - net, sung by flam-ing tongues a-bove;
 Je - sus sought me when a strang-er, wan-dering from the fold of God;
 praise the mount! I'm fixed up - on it, mount of God's un-chang-ing love!
 he, to res - cue me from dan-ger, in - ter-posed his pre-cious blood.

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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

Loving Lord, you desire us to have the same mind as Christ
 and imitate his compassionate service,

But worries distract us and draw us away from you.

We forget to consider how our small selves can bless the world.

We look to a favored few to guide our thoughts and ideals,
 and overlook the lowly rather than affirming the dignity of all.

Transform us, we pray.

**By your grace, work within us until our lives
 bear witness to the faith our words proclaim.**

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

On a Hymnsong of Philip Bliss

Minnesota band directors

by David Holsinger

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 17:1-7

From the wilderness of Sin the whole congregation of the Israelites journeyed by stages, as the Lord commanded. They camped at Rephidim, but there was no water for the people to drink. The people quarreled with Moses, and said, "Give us water to drink." Moses said to them, "Why do you quarrel with me? Why do you test the Lord?" But the people thirsted there for water; and the people complained against Moses and said, "Why did you bring us out of Egypt, to kill us and our children and livestock with thirst?" So Moses cried out to the Lord, "What shall I do with this people? They are almost ready to stone me." The Lord said to Moses, "Go on ahead of the people, and take some of the elders of Israel with you; take in your hand the staff with which you struck the Nile, and go. I will be standing there in front of you on the rock at Horeb. Strike the rock, and water will come out of it, so that the people may drink." Moses did so, in the sight of the elders of Israel. He called the place Massah and Meribah, because the Israelites quarreled and tested the Lord, saying, "Is the Lord among us or not?"

RESPONSIVE READING

Psalm 78

Give ear, O people, to my teaching; incline your ears to my words.

I will open my mouth in a parable; I will utter dark sayings from of old,

We have heard and known these things, passed down from our ancestors.

God is still present among us, holding our souls in life.

We will not hide God's actions; we will tell the coming generation of the glorious deeds of I AM, whose power worked wonders for the people.

God worked marvels in the sight of the ancestors, in the land of Egypt.

God is still present among us, holding our souls in life.

I AM divided the sea and let them pass through it,
I AM led them with a cloud by day, and all night long with a fiery light.
I AM split rocks open in the wilderness,
and gave them water in abundance, as from the deep.
I AM brought streams out of rock, and made waters flow down like rivers.

**God is still present among us, holding our souls in life;
Quenching our thirst, freeing our hearts to love.**

CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE GTG 48 Rain Down *sing twice*

The musical notation is written on three staves in a 3/4 time signature with a key signature of one flat (Bb). The lyrics are: Rain down; rain down; rain down your love on your peo - ple. Rain down; rain down; rain down your love, God of life.

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SCRIPTURE READING

Philippians 2:1-11

If then there is any encouragement in Christ, any consolation from love, any sharing in the Spirit, any compassion and sympathy, make my joy complete: be of the same mind, having the same love, being in full accord and of one mind. Do nothing from selfish ambition or conceit, but in humility regard others as better than yourselves. Let each of you look not to your own interests, but to the interests of others. Let the same mind be in you that was in Christ Jesus, who, though he was in the form of God, did not regard equality with God as something to be exploited, but emptied himself, taking the form of a slave, being born in human likeness. And being found in human form, he humbled himself and became obedient to the point of death— even death on a cross. Therefore God also highly exalted him and gave him the name that is above every name, so that at the name of Jesus every knee should bend, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, and every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.

SCRIPTURE READING

Matthew 21:28-32

Jesus knows he is nearing the end of his earthly journey. He has again predicted his death at the hands of the powers that be. He enters Jerusalem to cheers from the common folk, and, in righteous indignation, drives from the temple unscrupulous merchants who prey on poor people. At the same time, he continues his ministry of healing. When the temple elite leaders question his authority to do all these things, he doesn't answer directly but poses this parable:

“What do you think? A man had two sons; he went to the first and said, ‘Son, go and work in the vineyard today.’ He answered, ‘I will not’; but later he changed his mind and went. The father went to the second and said the same; and he answered, ‘I go, sir’; but he did not go. Which of the two did the will of his father?” They said, “The first.” Jesus said to them, “Truly I tell you, the tax collectors and the prostitutes are going into the kingdom of God ahead of you. For John came to you in the way of righteousness and you did not believe him, but the tax collectors and the prostitutes believed him; and even after you saw it, you did not change your minds and believe him.”

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

Thanks be to God.

SERMON


Liberating Love: Practicing the Presence of God

Pastor Jan

RESPONDING TO GOD'S GRACE

HYMN OF THE DAY GTG 293 Loving Spirit

(vs. 1 and 4)



1 Lov - ing Spir - it, lov - ing Spir - it, you have cho - sen me to be,
4 Friend and lov - er, in your close - ness I am known and held and blessed:
you have drawn me to your won - der, you have set your sign on me.
in your prom - ise is my com - fort, in your pres - ence I may rest.

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 623

Peace Like a River

all verses

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

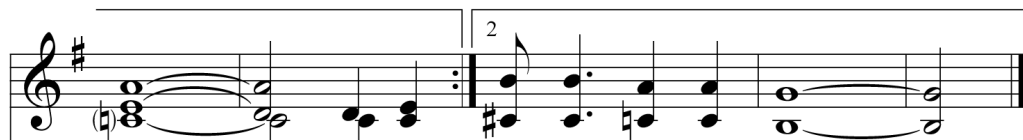
623 I've Got Peace like a River



1 I've got peace like a riv - er; I've got peace like a
 2 I've got joy like a foun-tain; I've got joy like a
 3 I've got love like an o - cean; I've got love like an



riv - er; I've got peace like a riv - er, in my
 foun-tain; I've got joy like a foun-tain, in my
 o - cean; I've got love like an o - cean, in my



soul. I've got riv - er, in my soul.
 soul. I've got foun-tain, in my soul.
 soul. I've got o - cean, in my soul.

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BOOK DISCUSSION GROUP



Stay tuned TODAY for our discussion of Educated on your computer, following church. I wonder as you read of Tara's early life, if you felt as I did. "How could this child with her deprived home life actually have grown up to be the one who wrote this excellent book?" Visitors are welcome to our discussion, whether you have read Educated or not.

Then it's on to our next book, Brinkley's Beat: People, Places, and Events That Shaped My Time, by David Brinkley. Some of these people, places and events may be familiar to you, as we have lived during much of Brinkley's 'time' (1920-1993).


 DEMOCRACY
sundays
claiming our voices this election season
Sunday, September 27
at 1:30 pm

We will gather, virtually, to discuss the voting process (in person and absentee) as well as other topics! This is more about the process than the politics. Use the same credentials as we use for Sunday mornings!

See you there!

Community Presbyterian Church

open hearted, open minded

TODAY AT CPC

Sunday, September 27

- 9:30 am Online Worship Service
10:30 am Book Discussion Group
1:30 pm Democracy Discussion Gathering

THIS WEEK AT CPC

Monday, September 28

- 10:00 am PW Bible Study

Tuesday, September 29

- 12:00 pm Bulletin Information Due
12:00 pm Conference Call *

Wednesday, September 30

- 6:30 am Prayer Group

Friday, October 2

- 12:00 pm Conference Call *
4:00 pm Presbytery Meeting Part 1

Saturday, October 3

- 10:00 am Presbytery Meeting Part 2

Sunday, October 4

- 9:30 am Online Worship Service
with Communion

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