

Community Presbyterian Church

open hearted, open minded

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

September 6, 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

Jesus says, “When two or three are gathered in my name, I am there.”

Christ is with us.

Calling us to the water, beckoning us to the feast,

Christ is with us.

Speaking to our souls, listening to our prayers,

Christ is with us.

Binding us as one body, sending us out in service,

Christ is with us. Let’s worship the God of life!



1 I come with joy, a child of God, for - giv - en, loved, and
 2 I come with Chris-tians far and near to find, as all are



free, the life of Je - sus to re - call, in
 fed, the new com - mu - ni - ty of love in



love laid down for me, in love laid down for me.
 Christ's com-mu - nion bread, in Christ's com-mu - nion bread.

Printed with Permission CCLI #2748883

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

God of healing, you teach us to speak our truth
 to those who have wronged us;

you urge us to listen to those we have wronged,
 for, above all else, we are to love one another.

But resentments held too long and anger left unheard
 erupt in rage and violence. Still, we blame others and refuse to repent.

Forgive us. Grant us grace, we pray.

**Make space in our wounded hearts for the possibility of reconciliation,
 and teach us to turn toward others in love as you have turned toward us.**

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 *Praise His Holy Name* composed by Keith Hampton
performed by North Crowley Mixed Varsity Choir Fort Worth, TX

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 Matthew 18:15-20

Jesus has three times warned his disciples of the suffering in store for him, and for them; still, they don't understand. Still, they look for power and glory as his followers. He surprises them when they ask him, "Who will be the greatest in the kingdom of heaven?" He tells them, "Whoever is as humble as a little child will be the greatest; whoever welcomes a little one in my name, welcomes me.... The one lost sheep is more precious than the 99 that never strayed.... It is not the will of your Father in heaven that one of these little ones should be lost." Then he gives them a lesson in listening, for the healing of community:

"If another member of the church sins against you, go and point out the fault when the two of you are alone. If the member listens to you, you have regained that one. But if you are not listened to, take one or two others along with you, so that every word may be confirmed by the evidence of two or three witnesses. If the member refuses to listen to them, tell it to the church; and if the offender refuses to listen even to the church, let such a one be to you as a Gentile and a tax collector. Truly I tell you, whatever you bind on earth will be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth will be loosed in heaven. Again, truly I tell you, if two of you agree on earth about anything you ask, it will be done for you by my Father in heaven. For where two or three are gathered in my name, I am there among them."

RESPONSIVE READING Psalm 149 (adapted from Nan Merrill, Psalms for Praying)
Sing a song of joy to the Blessed One, sing a new song of praise together.
Be glad in our Maker; rejoice in Love Divine.

Praise the Divine Lover with dancing, instruments, and voice.

For the Beloved cherishes all people; and adorns the humble with victory.
Let the faithful exult in glory; let them sing for joy day and night,

Sing in harmony with all creation, hand in hand with all peoples.

With God's praise in our mouths and the sword of truth in our hands,
The chains of oppression are broken, the fetters of injustice unbound.

The realm of peace and liberating love shall reign.

Glory abides with the faithful. Praise the Divine Lover of humankind!

SCRIPTURE READING adapted from Exodus 12

The Lord said to Moses and Aaron in the land of Egypt: “Tell the whole congregation of Israel that on the tenth of this month they are to take a lamb for each family, a lamb for each household. Your lamb shall be without blemish, from the sheep or the goats.... The whole assembled congregation of Israel shall slaughter them at twilight. They shall take some of the blood and put it on the two doorposts and the lintel of the houses in which they eat it. Eat it roasted whole, with unleavened bread and bitter herbs. Eat it with your loins girded, your sandals on your feet, and your staff in your hand; and you shall eat it hurriedly. It is the passover of the Lord.

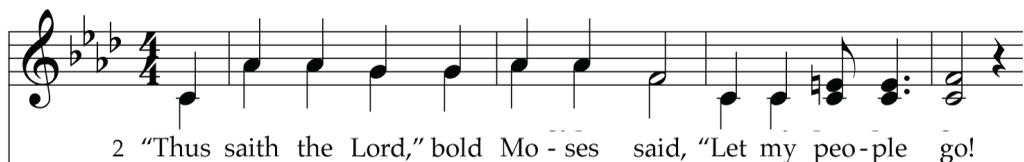
“For I will pass through the land of Egypt that night, and I will strike down every firstborn in the land of Egypt, both human beings and animals; on all the gods of Egypt I will execute judgments: I am the Lord. The blood shall be a sign for you on the houses where you live: when I see the blood, I will pass over you, and no plague shall destroy you when I strike the land of Egypt. This day shall be a day of remembrance for you.... You shall observe this rite as a perpetual ordinance for you and your children. When you come to the land that the Lord has promised to give you, and when your children ask you, ‘What do you mean by this observance?’ you shall say, ‘It is the passover sacrifice to the Lord, for he passed over the houses of the Israelites in Egypt, when he struck down the Egyptians but spared our houses.’”

Pharaoh arose in the night, he and all his officials and all the Egyptians; and there was a loud cry in Egypt, for there was not a house without someone dead. Then he summoned Moses and Aaron in the night, and said, “Rise up, go away from my people, both you and the Israelites! Go, worship the Lord, as you said. Take your flocks and your herds, as you said, and be gone. And bring a blessing on me too!” The Egyptians urged the people to hasten their departure from the land, for they said, “We shall all be dead.” So the people took their dough before it was leavened, with their kneading bowls wrapped up in their cloaks on their shoulders. The Israelites had done as Moses told them; they had asked the Egyptians for jewelry of silver and gold, and for clothing, and the Lord had given the people favor in the sight of the Egyptians, so that they let them have what they asked. And so they plundered the Egyptians. At the end of four hundred thirty years, on that very day, all the companies of the Lord went out from the land of Egypt.

CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE GTG 52

Go Down, Moses

verse 2



2 "Thus saith the Lord," bold Mo - ses said, "Let my peo - ple go!

If not, I'll smite your first-born dead. Let my people go!"

Refrain

Go down, Mo-ses, way down in E-gypt's
land; tell old Pha-raoh: let my people go!

SERMON

Liberating Love: Challenging Empire

Pastor Jan

RESPONDING TO GOD'S GRACE

HYMN OF THE DAY GTG 525

Let Us Break Bread Together

vs. 1 and 2

1 Let us break bread to-gether on our knees; (on our knees)
2 Let us drink wine to-gether on our knees; (on our knees)

let us break bread to-gether on our knees. (on our knees)
let us drink wine to-gether on our knees. (on our knees)

Refrain

When I fall on my knees, with my face to the ris-ing sun,
O Lord, have mer-cy on me. (on me)

JOYS AND CONCERNS/PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

God, our Savior,

hear our prayer.

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.

THE SACRAMENT OF THE LORD'S SUPPER

INVITATION TO THE LORD'S TABLE AND GREAT THANKSGIVING

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise

It is truly right and our great joy to give you thanks and praise, O Lord our God, creator and ruler of the universe... Therefore we praise you, joining the song of the universal church and the heavenly choir:

CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE (GTG 593)

Holy, Holy

The musical notation is written on two staves in a 12/8 time signature with a key signature of one flat (B-flat). The melody consists of eighth and quarter notes. The lyrics are: Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly, God of pow - er, God of might, heav-en and earth are full of your

glo-ry. Ho - san-na in the high - est! Blessed is the
 One, blessed is the One, blessed is the One who
 comes in the name of the Lord. Ho - san-na! Ho -
 san-na! Ho - san - na in the high - est!

WORDS OF INSTITUTION/ BREAKING OF THE BREAD

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.**

THE BREAD AND CUP ARE SHARED

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

In deep gratitude for this moment, this meal, these people, we give ourselves to you. Take us out to live as changed people because we have shared the Living Bread and cannot remain the same. Ask much of us, expect much from us, enable much by us, encourage many through us. **Amen.**

SENDING INTO THE WORLD TO LOVE AND SERVE

CLOSING HYMN GTG 515

I Come with Joy

vs. 3 and 5



3 As Christ breaks bread and bids us share, each proud di - vi - sion
5 To - geth - er met, to - geth - er bound by all that God has



ends. The love that made us, makes us one, and
done, we'll go with joy, to give the world the



strang - ers now are friends, and strang - ers now are friends.
love that makes us one, the love that makes us one.

CHARGE AND BLESSING

Christ's food in our souls; **our food shared like his.**

Christ's life in our hands; **our lives shaped by his.**

Christ's love in our hearts; **our love warmed through his.**

Christ's peace on our path, **our path following his.**

May the everlasting God shield you, east and west and wherever you go.

And the blessing of the God of life, the blessing of the Christ of love,

and the blessing of the Spirit of grace be upon you now and forever. **Amen**

Community Presbyterian Church

open hearted, open minded

TODAY AT CPC

Sunday, September 6

9:30 am Online Worship Service
with Communion

THIS WEEK AT CPC

Monday, September 7 Labor Day
Office Closed

Tuesday, September 8

12:00 pm Bulletin Information Due

12:00 pm Conference Call *

Wednesday, September 9

6:30 am Prayer Group

6:30 pm Building and Grounds Committee

Friday, September 11

12:00 pm Conference Call *

Sunday, September 13

9:30 am Outdoor and Online
Worship Service

10:30 am Congregational Meeting



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.*

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	Sherrie Wilson
IT Support	Ronda and Bill Marshall

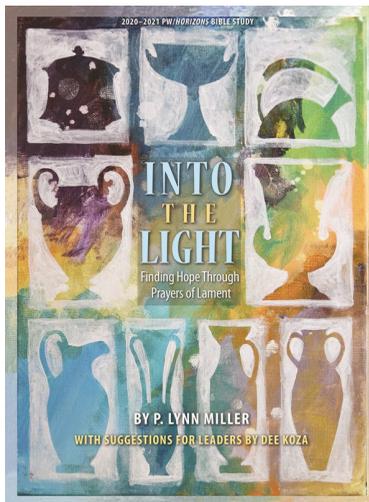


Community Presbyterian Church is planning for an in-person, outdoor worship on Sunday, September 13. Watch for more information in September!



Please note: Children's Place Nursery School will be opening for the fall classes on September 8. Because of the ongoing pandemic, there are many changes this year! 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.



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!

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. School situations where their different lifestyle makes it difficult for Tara.