

# 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: Changing Direction*

**October 11, 2020**

*Welcome to worship this morning!*

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

*We hope to see you again soon!*

## **GATHERING AROUND THE WORD OF GOD**

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

PRELUDE

CALL TO WORSHIP

Welcome, all who hunger for good news,

All who thirst for words of hope and healing.

Welcome, from your living room, kitchen, or office.

Virtually and truly, join hearts and spirits at the Beloved's invitation--

**Let us worship the Lord!**



1 God of great and God of small, God of one and God of all,  
 3 God of si - lence, God of sound, God by whom the lost are found,



God of weak and God of strong, God to whom all things be - long,  
 God of day and dark-est night, God whose love turns wrong to right,

*Refrain*



al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, praise be to your name.

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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

Extravagant God, you invite us to your banquet table,

But we do not take our place at the feast.

We say, "We have more important things to do,"

and turn back to labors that threaten to consume us.

Beckon us again, we pray, that we may respond with gratitude.

and feast with all those you welcome as friends.

**Change our minds; turn them toward you,  
 so we may taste the abundance of your grace. Amen.**

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 the Day We Are Together Again*

CBH Chorus

Words and Music by Humbird and Arranged by Will Robertson

### 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 32:1-14, 33, *adapted*

*While Moses remained on the mountain, receiving the Words of love--laws for healing their relationship to God and one another--the people grew restless. Forgetting God and Moses, they begged Moses' brother Aaron to make them new gods to follow. He took their jewelry and made the image of a golden calf. And the people sacrificed to this image, and celebrated.*

Then I AM said to Moses, "Go down at once! Your people, whom you brought up out of the land of Egypt, have acted perversely; they have been quick to turn aside from the way that I commanded them; they have cast for themselves an image of a calf, and have worshiped it and sacrificed to it, and said, "These are your gods, O Israel, who brought you up out of the land of Egypt!" I have seen this people, how stiff-necked they are. Now let me alone, so that my wrath may burn hot against them and I may consume them; and of you I will make a great nation."

But Moses implored the Lord, and said, "Why does your wrath burn hot against your people, whom you brought out of the land of Egypt with great power and with a mighty hand? Why should the Egyptians say, 'It was with evil intent that he brought them out to kill them in the mountains, and to consume them from the face of the earth'? Turn from your fierce wrath; change your mind and do not bring disaster on your people. Remember Abraham, Isaac, and Israel, your servants, how you swore to them by your own self, saying to them, 'I will multiply your descendants like the stars of heaven, and all this land that I have promised I will give to your descendants, and they shall inherit it forever.'" And God changed his mind about the disaster that he planned to bring on his people.

*Then God told Moses that an angel would lead the people into the Promised Land, saying, "I will not go with you, for my wrath would consume this stiff-necked people." But again Moses interceded, and again God relented, and said, "My presence will go with you, and I will give you rest." And Moses said, "Show me your glory, I pray." And God said, "I will make all my goodness pass before you, and will proclaim to you the name, 'I AM WHO I WILL BE.' I will be gracious to whom I will be gracious, and will show mercy on whom I will show mercy. But you cannot see my face, for no one shall see me and live." And God covered Moses in the cleft of a rock while the glory passed by; for God said, "You shall see my back, but my face shall not be seen."*

SCRIPTURE READING

Philippians 4:4-9

Rejoice in the Lord always; again I will say, Rejoice. Let your gentleness be known to everyone. The Lord is near. Do not worry about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus. Finally, beloved, whatever is true, whatever is honorable, whatever is just, whatever is pure, whatever is pleasing, whatever is commendable, if there is any excellence and if there is anything worthy of praise, think about these things. Keep on doing the things that you have learned and received and heard and seen in me, and the God of peace will be with you.

SCRIPTURE READING

Matthew 22:1-14

Once more Jesus spoke to them in parables, saying: “The kingdom of heaven may be compared to a king who gave a wedding banquet for his son. He sent his slaves to call those who had been invited to the wedding banquet, but they would not come. Again he sent other slaves, saying, ‘Tell those who have been invited: Look, I have prepared my dinner, my oxen and my fat calves have been slaughtered, and everything is ready; come to the wedding banquet.’ But they made light of it and went away, one to his farm, another to his business, while the rest seized his slaves, mistreated them, and killed them. The king was enraged. He sent his troops, destroyed those murderers, and burned their city. Then he said to his slaves, ‘The wedding is ready, but those invited were not worthy. Go therefore into the main streets, and invite everyone you find to the wedding banquet.’ Those slaves went out into the streets and gathered all whom they found, both good and bad; so the wedding hall was filled with guests.

“But when the king came in to see the guests, he noticed a man there who was not wearing a wedding robe, and he said to him, ‘Friend, how did you get in here without a wedding robe?’ And he was speechless. Then the king said to the attendants, ‘Bind him hand and foot, and throw him into the outer darkness, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.’ For many are called, but few are chosen.”

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

**Thanks be to God.**

SERMON

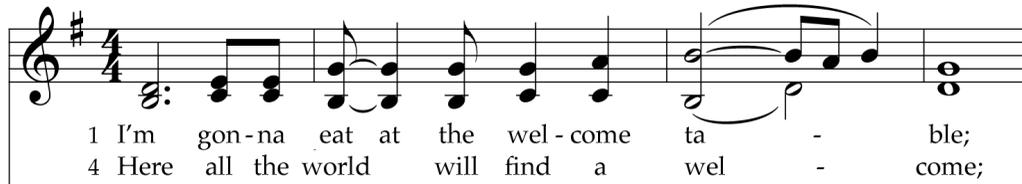
*Liberating Love: Changing Direction*

Pastor Jan

## RESPONDING TO GOD'S GRACE

HYMN OF THE DAY GTG 770 I'm Gonna Eat at the Welcome Table

*vs. 1 and 4*



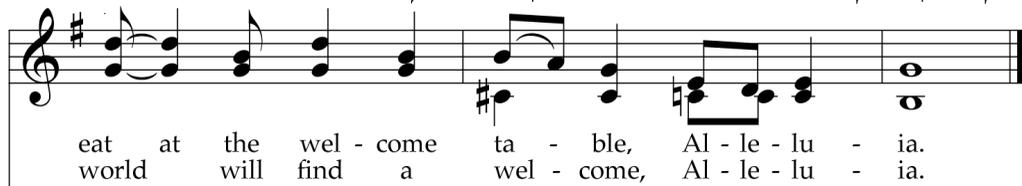
1 I'm gon-na eat at the wel - come ta - ble;  
4 Here all the world will find a wel - come;



I'm gon-na eat at the wel - come ta - ble, Al - le - lu - ia.  
here all the world will find a wel - come, Al - le - lu - ia.



I'm gon-na eat at the wel - come ta - ble; I'm gon - na  
Here all the world will find a wel - come; here all the



eat at the wel - come ta - ble, Al - le - lu - ia.  
world will find a wel - come, Al - le - lu - ia.

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### 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

Beloved, you have set your blessing upon us and we are grateful. Confirm in us the truth by which we live; confront us with the truth from which we turn away. We ask not for what we want but for what you know we need, as we offer this day and ourselves to you.  
**Amen.**

## SENDING INTO THE WORLD TO LOVE AND SERVE

CLOSING HYMN 63

The Lord Is God

*vs. 1 and 2*



1 The Lord is God, the Lord a - lone! Give hon - or, thanks, and praise  
2 With all your heart, with all your soul, with all your mind and might,



to God, the mak - er of all things and giv - er of our days.  
O peo - ple, love the Lord your God, the source of truth and light.

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## CLOSING BLESSING

O God, lead us from death to life, from falsehood to truth.  
Lead us from despair to hope, from fear to trust.  
Lead us from hate to love, from war to peace.  
Let peace fill our hearts, our world, our universe.

Now may God's blessing of peace be to the nations, east and west;  
Peace to our neighbors, black and white;  
Peace to all women, peace to all men,  
The peace and presence of Christ above all be with you.

**Thanks be to God.**

# Community Presbyterian Church

open hearted, open minded

## TODAY AT CPC

**Sunday, October 11**

9:30 am Online Worship Service

## THIS WEEK AT CPC

Monday, October 12

10:00 am PW Bible Study

6:30 pm Building & Grounds Committee

Tuesday, October 13

12:00 pm Conference Call \*

12:00 pm Bulletin Information Due

Wednesday, October 14

6:30 am Prayer Group

Thursday, October 15

No School or Preschool

Friday, October 16

No School or Preschool

Stephanie - Vacation

12:00 pm Conference Call \*

**Sunday, October 18**

9:30 am Online Worship Service

### 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

Bruce Felger

IT Support

Ronda and Bill Marshall

Special Music

Congregation Bet Haverim