

Community Presbyterian Church

open hearted, open minded

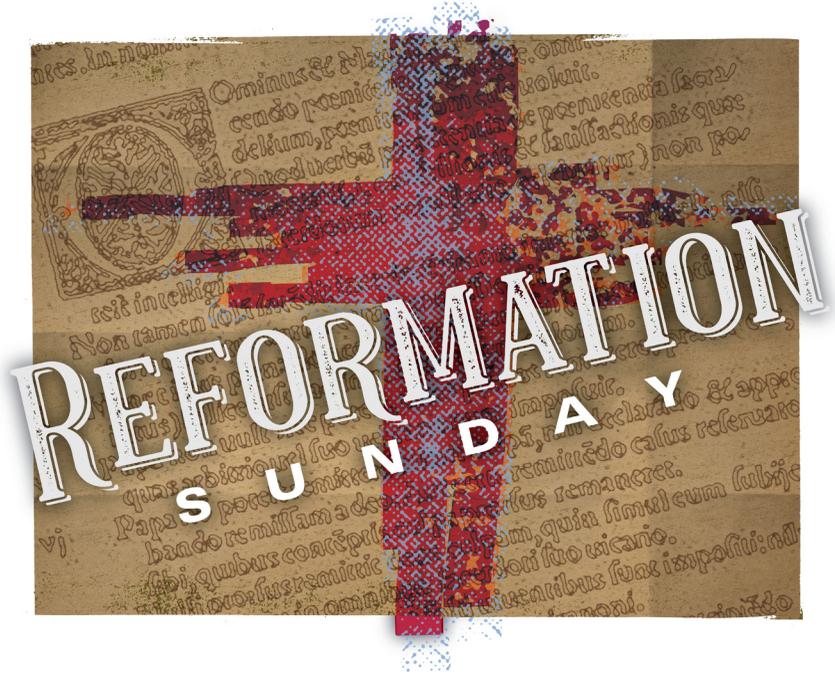
3705 Fairway Place NW, Rochester, MN • www.cprochester.org • 507-280-9291

October 25, 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

God is our refuge and strength, a very present help in trouble.
Therefore, we will not fear, though the earth should change,
though the mountains crumble into the heart of the sea,
though its waters roar and rage, and the mountains tremble with its tumult.

**The God of hosts is with us;
the God of our ancestors is our refuge.
Praise the Lord!**

1 A might - y for - tress is our God, a bul - wark nev - er
 2 Did we in our own strength con - fide, our striv - ing would be

fail - ing. Our help - er he, a - mid the flood of
 los - ing, were not the right man on our side, the

mor - tal ills pre - vail - ing. For still our an - cient foe doth
 man of God's own choos - ing. Dost ask who that may be? Christ

seek to work us woe. His craft and power are great, and
 Je - sus, it is he. Lord Sab - a - oth his name, from

armed with cru - el hate, on earth is not his e - qual.
 age to age the same, and he must win the bat - tle.

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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

Jesus, you have revealed the truth to us
and set us free to love you and one another.
But we live as if we are still slaves to sin.
We are shackled by our own self interest;
we deprive the vulnerable of resources
that you have given us to share.
We are bound by prejudice;
we deprive your children of the dignity you have given them.
We are held captive to fear;
we refuse opportunities to participate in your reign of grace.

**Speak to us and write your word upon our hearts
until the truth we proclaim
sets us free to follow you faithfully.**

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

Precious Lord
by Thomas Dorsey

presented by Elevation Church

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 Jeremiah 31:31-34

“The days are surely coming,” says God I AM WHO I WILL BE, “when I will make a new covenant with the house of Israel and the house of Judah. It will not be like the covenant that I made with their ancestors when I took them by the hand to bring them out of the land of Egypt—a covenant that they broke, though I was their betrothed. But this is the covenant that I will make with the house of Israel after those days: I will put my law within them, and I will write it on their hearts; and I will be their God, and they shall be my people. No longer shall they teach one another, or say to each other, ‘Know the Lord,’ for they shall all know me, from the least of them to the greatest, says I AM WHO I WILL BE; for I will forgive their iniquity, and remember their sin no more.”

RESPONSIVE READING Psalm 46 adapted from Nan Merrill, *Psalms for Praying*

The Beloved is our refuge and strength, a tender presence in trouble.

Therefore we will not fear, though the earth should change,

though the mountains shake in the heart of the sea;

though its waters roar and foam, and mountains tremble with its tumult.

Blessed One, you know all hearts.

You are always with us; may Love guide our lives.

There is a river whose streams make glad the Holy City,
the holy habitation of the Most High.

The Beloved is in the midst of the city; it shall not be moved;

our loving Creator is an ever-present help.

Blessed One, you know all hearts.

You are always with us; may Love guide our lives.

Though nations are at war, economies laid low by pandemic;

Yet the voice of the Almighty is heard, breaking through hearts of stone.

Come, behold the works of the Beloved;

how Love reigns even in humanity's desolation.

Blessed One, you know all hearts.

You are always with us; may Love guide our lives.

For the Beloved yearns for wars and anguish to cease,

shining light into fearful hearts, loving even those who resist reform.

“Be still and know that I am Love.”

Wake up; befriend justice and mercy.

Blessed One, you know all hearts.

You are always with us; may Love guide our lives.

SCRIPTURE READING John 8:31-36

Then Jesus said to the Jews who had believed in him, “If you continue in my word, you are truly my disciples; and you will know the truth, and the truth will make you free.” They

answered him, “We are descendants of Abraham and have never been slaves to anyone.

What do you mean by saying, ‘You will be made free?’” Jesus answered them, “Very truly,

I tell you, everyone who commits sin is a slave to sin. The slave does not have a permanent place in the household; the son has a place there forever. So if the Son makes you free, you will be free indeed.”

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

Thanks be to God.

RESPONDING TO GOD'S GRACE

HYMN OF THE DAY GTG 692

Spirit, Open My Heart

vs. 1 and 2

Refrain



Spir - it, o - pen my heart to the joy and pain of



liv - ing. As you love may I love, in re - ceiv - ing



and in giv - ing. Spir - it, o - pen my heart.



1 God, re - place my ston - y heart with a heart that's

2 Write your love up - on my heart as my law, my



kind and ten - der. All my cold - ness and
goal, my sto - ry. In each thought, word, and



fear to your grace I now sur - ren - der.
deed, may my liv - ing bring you glo - ry.

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STEWARDSHIP MINUTE

Margaret Nelson

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 821

My Life Flows On

vs. 1 and 2

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.

821

My Life Flows On

How Can I Keep from Singing?



1 My life flows on in end-less song, a-bove earth's lam-en - ta - tion.
2 Through all the tu - mult and the strife, I hear that mu - sic ring - ing.



I hear the clear, though far-off hymn that hails a new cre - a - tion.
It finds an ech - o in my soul. How can I keep from sing-ing?

Refrain



No storm can shake my in-most calm while to that Rock I'm cling-ing.



Since Christ is Lord of heaven and earth, how can I keep from sing-ing?

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BOOK DISCUSSION GROUP



BRINKLEY'S
BEAT



People, Places, and Events
That Shaped My Time

DAVID BRINKLEY

Online Book Discussion Group
Today, October 25, 10:30 am
Brinkley's Beat by David Brinkley

TODAY we will discuss David Brinkley's interesting experiences and then we begin our book about the retired schoolteacher in Maine. Good Book.



DONUTS?

The theme for this year's Stewardship Drive is *Christ is Our Anchor*. Watch for a Stewardship Packet in the coming weeks and more information in the November Newsletter!

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TODAY AT CPC

Sunday, October 25

9:30 am Online Worship Service
10:30 am Online Book Discussion Group

THIS WEEK AT CPC

Monday, October 26

10:00 am PW Bible Study

Tuesday, October 27

12:00 pm Conference Call *
12:00 pm Bulletin Information Due
6:30 pm Session Meeting

Wednesday, October 28

6:30 am Prayer Group

Friday, October 30

12:00 pm Conference Call *

Sunday, November 1

9:30 am Online Worship Service
With Communion



Judy Leal
Jane, Ed, Jenny, Elissa and
the Burgstaler grandchildren
Connie Holst
MariLynn Johnson
Vera Atkinson's great-grandson, Kaiden
Jennifer Hall's mother, Karen
Sue Chipman
Ann Siverling
Glenna's mother and sister,
Murilla and Annie

*To be added to the prayer list,
please contact the church office at
507-280-9291 or
email office@cpchester.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	Mark Neville
IT Support	Ronda and Bill Marshall