

Community Presbyterian Church  
open hearted, open minded

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



# MATTHEW 25

**November 15, 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

Lift up your eyes to the Holy One—  
the One who is exalted, enthroned in the heavens.

Seeking compassion, seeking grace,  
**we look to God, the giver of mercy.**


Draw near to the One who crowns creation with love.

**We worship the Maker of heaven and earth!**


OPENING HYMN GTG 756

O God of Every Nation

*vs. 1 and 4*




1 O God of ev - ery na - tion, of ev - ery race and land,  
4 Keep bright in us the vi - sion of days when war shall cease,



re - deem the whole cre - a - tion with your al - might - y hand.  
when ha - tred and di - vi - sion give way to love and peace,



Where hate and fear di - vide us and bit - ter threats are hurled,  
till dawns the morn - ing glo - rious when truth and jus - tice reign



in love and mer - cy guide us and heal our strife - torn world.  
and Christ shall rule vic - to - rious o'er all the world's do - main.

## 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

Lord, you have made us stewards of your creation  
and commissioned us to carry out your work.

But we have not served as your partners in blessing,  
with energy, intelligence, imagination, and love.

We withhold our own gifts, or skimp in our giving.

We have even denied and suppressed the gifts of others.

**Have mercy upon us, we pray.**

**Make us bold to use our talents  
and encourage the talents of others  
until you come in glory.**

## 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

*Lord Have Mercy*  
composed by Pepper Choplin

Quava Vocal Group

## 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

1 Thessalonians 5:1-11

Now concerning the times and the seasons, brothers and sisters, you do not need to have  
anything written to you. For you yourselves know very well that the day of the Lord will  
come like a thief in the night. When they say, "There is peace and security," then sudden  
destruction will come upon them, as labor pains come upon a pregnant woman, and there  
will be no escape! But you, beloved, are not in darkness, for that day to surprise you like a  
thief; for you are all children of light and children of the day; we are not of the night or of  
darkness.

So then let us not fall asleep as others do, but let us keep awake and be sober; for those  
who sleep sleep at night, and those who are drunk get drunk at night. But since we belong

to the day, let us be sober, and put on the breastplate of faith and love, and for a helmet the hope of salvation. For God has destined us not for wrath but for obtaining salvation through our Lord Jesus Christ, who died for us, so that whether we are awake or asleep we may live with him.

Therefore encourage one another and build up each other, as indeed you are doing.

RESPONSIVE READING     adapted from Psalm 123 and Hebrews 6:18-20

To you we lift our eyes, you who are enthroned in the heavens!

**In you we take refuge; we seize the hope set before us.**

As the eyes of servants look to the hand of their master,  
as the eyes of a maid to the hand of her mistress,  
so our eyes look to the Beloved, who always has mercy;

**So in you we take refuge; we seize the hope set before us.**

Have mercy upon us, for we have had more than enough of contempt.  
Our soul has had more than its fill of the scorn  
of those who are at ease, of the contempt of the proud;

**But in you we take refuge; we seize the hope set before us.**

You are our hope, a sure and steadfast anchor of the soul,  
a hope that enters the inner shrine, the holiest of holy places,  
where Jesus, before us and for us, has entered to approach you.

**In you we take refuge; we seize the hope set before us.**

GOSPEL READING                     Matthew 25:14-30

“For it is as if a man, going on a journey, summoned his slaves and entrusted his property to them; to one he gave five talents, to another two, to another one, to each according to his ability. Then he went away. The one who had received the five talents went off at once and traded with them, and made five more talents. In the same way, the one who had the two talents made two more talents. But the one who had received the one talent went off and dug a hole in the ground and hid his master’s money. After a long time the master of those slaves came and settled accounts with them. Then the one who had received the five talents came forward, bringing five more talents, saying, ‘Master, you handed over to me five talents; see, I have made five more talents.’ His master said to him, ‘Well done, good and trustworthy slave; you have been trustworthy in a few things, I will put you in charge of many things; enter into the joy of your master.’ And the one with the two talents also came forward, saying, ‘Master, you handed over to me two talents; see, I have made two more talents.’ His master said to him, ‘Well done, good and trustworthy slave; you have been trustworthy in a few things, I will put you in charge of many things; enter into

the joy of your master.’ Then the one who had received the one talent also came forward, saying, ‘Master, I knew that you were a harsh man, reaping where you did not sow, and gathering where you did not scatter seed; so I was afraid, and I went and hid your talent in the ground. Here you have what is yours.’ But his master replied, ‘You wicked and lazy slave! You knew, did you, that I reap where I did not sow, and gather where I did not scatter? Then you ought to have invested my money with the bankers, and on my return I would have received what was my own with interest. So take the talent from him, and give it to the one with the ten talents. For to all those who have, more will be given, and they will have an abundance; but from those who have nothing, even what they have will be taken away. As for this worthless slave, throw him into the outer darkness, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.’

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

**Thanks be to God.**

SERMON

Seize the Hope

Pastor Jan

**RESPONDING TO GOD’S GRACE**

HYMN OF THE DAY GTG 694

Great God of Every Blessing

*vs. 1 and 3*



1 Great God of ev - ery bless - ing, of faith - ful, lov - ing care,  
3 Your Spir - it is our teach - er, the light that guides our search,



you are the fount of good - ness, the dai - ly bread we share.  
trans - form - ing bro - ken peo - ple in - to the ho - ly church.



How can we hope to thank you? Our praise is but a start:  
For feed - ing us with mer - cy, for wis - dom you im - part:



sin - cere - ly and com - plete - ly I of - fer you my heart.

## AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

from South Africa  
(adapted from *The Iona Abbey Worship Book*)

As a Matthew 25 church, we confess: In spite of divisions, inequities, and conflicting sources of information, we affirm the abiding truth of Jesus rather than the partial and short-lived truths we hear of in the world.

It is not true that this world and its inhabitants are doomed to die and be lost;

**This is true: For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son so that everyone who believes in him shall not perish, but have everlasting life.**

It is not true that we must accept inhumanity and discrimination, hunger and poverty, death and destruction;

**This is true: I have come that they may have life, and have it abundantly.**

It is not true that violence and hatred, war and destruction shall have the last word, and that one race shall forever claim supremacy over all others;

**This is true: For to us a child is born, to us a Son is given, in whom authority will rest, and whose name will be Prince of Peace.**

It is not true that we are simply victims of tyrannical leaders or dupes of the powers seeking to rule the world;

**This is true: to me is given all authority in heaven and on earth, and lo, I am with you always, to the end of the world.**

It is not true that we have to wait for those who are specially gifted, who are called prophets and leaders, before we can do anything;

**This is true: I will pour out my Spirit on all people, Your sons and daughters shall prophesy, your young people share visions, and your old folk shall dream dreams.**

It is not true that our dreams of the liberation of all, our dreams of justice, of human dignity, of peace, are not meant for this earth and its history;

**The hour comes and it is now, that true worshippers shall worship God in spirit and in truth.**

## JOYS AND CONCERNS/PRAVERS 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.**

SENDING INTO THE WORLD TO LOVE AND SERVE

CLOSING HYMN GTG 772

Live into Hope


*vs. 1 and 4*

BLESSING AND CHARGE


The God I AM, who was and is and is to come,  
is with us in Christ Jesus.  
The blessing of the triune God be with you all!  
Jesus says: Remember, I am with you always,  
To the end of the age.  
**Thanks be to God.**

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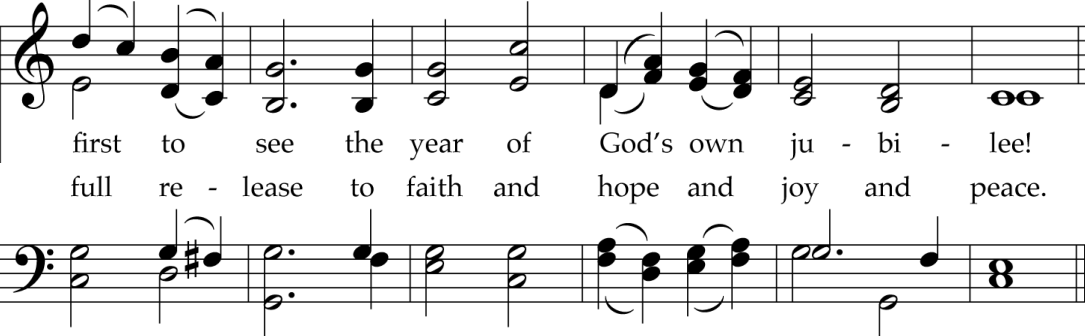
## Live into Hope



1 Live in - to hope of cap - tives freed, of sight re -  
4 Live in - to hope of cap - tives freed from chains of



gained, the end of greed. The op-pressed shall be the  
fear or want or greed. God now pro - claims our



first to see the year of God's own ju - bi - lee!  
full re - lease to faith and hope and joy and peace.

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## Matthew 25 Sermon Series

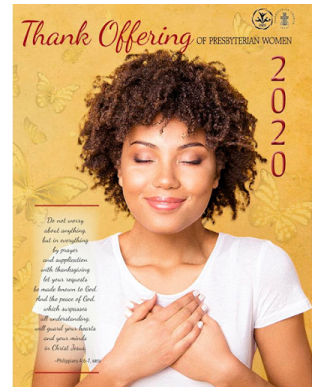
The church year comes to a stirring conclusion with three parables from Matthew 25. As we look forward to the end of 2020, we dig deeper into Jesus' stories and what they have to teach us about being in mission as a Matthew 25 church.

We continue this three week series with the parable of the talents, we'll offer our own talents and treasure on Stewardship Sunday (Today). But we'll also ponder how the talents of so many were denied and repressed through systemic racism - and how we can dismantle those structures.

Sneak preview for November 22: On Thank Offering Day, we'll hear from Pastor Dayo Dosumu, who, with her husband, has been instrumental in establishing Lifegate Services to aid people in need in our community. Thanks to our own grant from the Presbytery, we were able to make a donation to help them meet a matching grant to further their work this summer.



***Our first ever Thanksgiving Eve service (7:00 pm in the parking lot or online) is all about you. What are you thankful for this year? Say it in a word or two, like, "Family," or, "Thoughtful caregivers," or say it in a story of something that touched your heart and reminded you that you have more to be grateful for than to grieve this year. Share it with Stephanie at the office or with Pastor Jan, via email or snail mail. Please make sure we receive it by Sunday, November 22nd, to be included in our service. If you desire anonymity, that's fine. We'll tie your name to your "thanks giving" only if you wish to be mentioned that way. And thank you for sharing!***



CPC will celebrate PW's annual Thank Offering worship on Sunday, November 22nd. Offering can be mailed to the church with "Thank Offering" in the memo. PW looks forward to sharing this service with you!

# Community Presbyterian Church

open hearted, open minded

## TODAY AT CPC

### Sunday, November 15 Doughnut Sunday

9:30 am Online Worship Service

## THIS WEEK AT CPC

Tuesday, November 17

12:00 pm Conference Call \*

12:00 pm Bulletin Information Due

5:30 pm Finance & Stewardship Committee

Wednesday, November 18

6:30 am Prayer Group

6:30 pm Jubellation Handbell Rehearsal

Friday, November 20

12:00 pm Conference Call \*

12:00 pm Newsletter Articles Due

### Sunday, November 22 PW Thank Offering

8:45 am Jubellation Handbell Rehearsal

9:30 am Online Worship Service



Judy Leal

Jane, Ed, Jenny, Elissa and  
the Burgstaler grandchildren

Connie Holst

MariLynn Johnson

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@pcrochester.org](mailto:office@pcrochester.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	Sue Chipman
IT Support	Louis Bouchard