

# Community Presbyterian Church

open hearted, open minded

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



## MATTHEW 25

**November 8, 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

Creator Spirit, wellspring of our lives,  
as your rain falls on the just and unjust alike,

**refresh us all now with your mercy.**

As streams flow steadily on, defying the odds of stone and water,  
flowing over every boundary and border;

**let justice flow down over every barrier that still divides us.**

As we once were held in the waters of our mother's womb,  
welcomed and held in the waters of baptism,

**hold us now in the power and peace of your abiding presence.**

1 Judge E - ter - nal, throned in splen - dor, Lord of lords and  
3 Crown, O God, your own en - deav - or; cleave our dark - ness

King of kings, with your liv - ing fire of judg - ment  
with your sword; feed the faith - less and the hun - gry

purge this land of bit - ter things; so - lace all its  
with the rich - ness of your word; cleanse the bod - y

wide do - min - ion with the heal - ing of your wings.  
of this na - tion through the glo - ry of the Lord.

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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**

“Keep awake,” you tell us, urging us to watch with hope,  
But we grow tired of looking for signs of your presence among us.  
We grow weary from a steady diet of distressing news  
and neglect the tasks you entrust to us;  
and so, we are not ready to meet you where you are,  
on the margins of our comfort zones.

**Forgive us for losing heart and losing hope.**

**Forgive us for failing to see you in our neighbors in need.**

**Sustain us in faith and keep us always watchful,  
ready even today to greet you with joy.**

## 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

*Keep Your Lamps!*

arranged by Stacy V. Gibbs

the Winston-Salem State University Singin' Divas

## 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 Amos 5:18-24

Alas for you who desire the day of the Lord! Why do you want the day of the Lord? It is darkness, not light; as if someone fled from a lion, and was met by a bear; or went into the house and rested a hand against the wall, and was bitten by a snake. Is not the day of the Lord darkness, not light, and gloom with no brightness in it?

I hate, I despise your festivals, and I take no delight in your solemn assemblies. Even though you offer me your burnt offerings and grain offerings, I will not accept them; and the offerings of well-being of your fatted animals I will not look upon. Take away from me the noise of your songs; I will not listen to the melody of your harps. But let justice roll down like waters, and righteousness like an everflowing stream.

RESPONSIVE READING Psalm 70

**Come swiftly, O God, and renew me. My joy, make haste to help me!**

Let me face my weaknesses and all that confuses me;  
help me understand all that keeps me from you.

**Come swiftly, O God, and renew me. My joy, make haste to help me!**

Let all who seek you rejoice and be glad in you.

Let those who love your salvation say evermore, "God is great!"

**Come swiftly, O God, and renew me. My joy, make haste to help me!**

When I am low in spirit, and filled with fears, be near me, O God!

You are my help and my deliverer; my hope, do not delay!

**Come swiftly, O God, and renew me. My joy, make haste to help me!**

GOSPEL READING

Matthew 25:1-13

“Then the kingdom of heaven will be like this. Ten bridesmaids took their lamps and went to meet the bridegroom. Five of them were foolish, and five were wise. When the foolish took their lamps, they took no oil with them; but the wise took flasks of oil with their lamps. As the bridegroom was delayed, all of them became drowsy and slept. But at midnight there was a shout, ‘Look! Here is the bridegroom! Come out to meet him.’ Then all those bridesmaids got up and trimmed their lamps. The foolish said to the wise, ‘Give us some of your oil, for our lamps are going out.’ But the wise replied, ‘No! there will not be enough for you and for us; you had better go to the dealers and buy some for yourselves.’ And while they went to buy it, the bridegroom came, and those who were ready went with him into the wedding banquet; and the door was shut. Later the other bridesmaids came also, saying, ‘Lord, lord, open to us.’ But he replied, ‘Truly I tell you, I do not know you.’ Keep awake therefore, for you know neither the day nor the hour.

SERMON

*Standing in the Gap*

Pastor Jan

RESPONDING TO GOD’S GRACE

HYMN OF THE DAY GTG 362 Rejoice! Rejoice, Believers

vs. 1 and 3



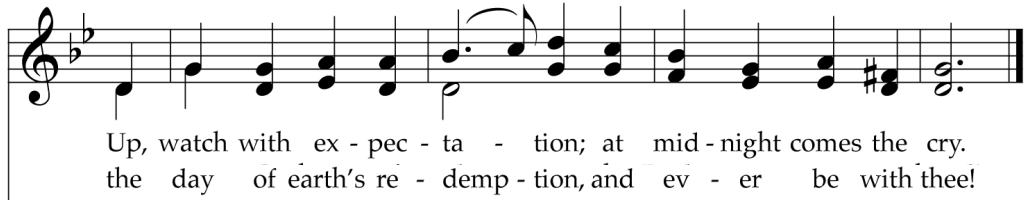
1 Re - joice! Re - joice, be - liev - ers, and let your lights ap - pear;  
3 Our hope and ex - pec - ta - tion, O Je - sus, now ap - pear;



the eve - ning is ad - vanc - ing and dark - er night is near.  
a - rise, thou Sun so longed for, a - bove this shad - owed sphere!



The Bride - groom is a - ris - ing and soon he will draw nigh.  
With hearts and hands up - lift - ed, we plead, O Lord, to see



## STEWARDSHIP MINUTE

CPC Youth

**AFFIRMATION OF FAITH:** Toward the eradication of systemic poverty

- A: We believe that God hopes and works for a world  
where all shall be included in the feast of life,  
and that in Christ we see how costly it is to bring that world about.
- B: We believe that God's strategy for a new world is to put the poorest first,  
and that nothing is more important for God's people  
than to eradicate systems and structures designed to perpetuate poverty.
- A: We believe that rich and poor alike can be generous, wise, and creative,  
because all are made in the image of God;  
and that all are made poorer when any are left out.
- B: We believe that loving our neighbors means working for justice,  
so that all have a voice in the great chorus of humanity,  
and a say in what happens to them and to their children.
- A: We believe that the God of all the earth is at work everywhere,  
beyond the churches as well as within them;
- B: And we believe that, despite the persistence of evil,  
*now* is always the time when we can make a difference.

## 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.**

## SENDING INTO THE WORLD TO LOVE AND SERVE

CLOSING HYMN 761

Called as Partners in Christ's Service

vs. 1 and 4



1 Called as part-ners in Christ's ser-vice, called to min-is-tries of grace,  
4 So God grant us for to - mor-row ways to or-der hu - man life



we re-spond with deep com-mit-ment fresh new lines of faith to trace.  
that sur-round each per - son's sor-row with a calm that con-que-rs strife.



May we learn the art of shar-ing, side by side and friend with friend,  
Make us part-ners in our liv-ing, our com-pas-sion to in - crease,



e - qual part-ners in our car-ing to ful - fill God's cho - sen end.  
mes - sen-gers of faith, thus giv-ing hope and con - fi - dence and peace.

### 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.**

*Parts of today's service were adapted from the Iona Abbey Worship Book.*

## 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.

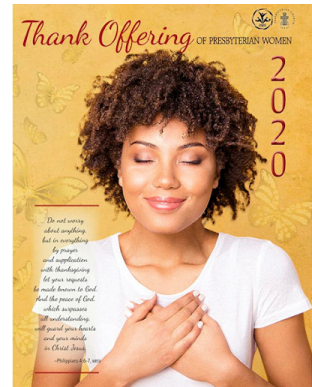
We begin this three week series with the commission to eradicate systemic poverty - poverty of body and soul. Next week, in the parable of the talents, we'll offer our own talents and treasure on Stewardship Sunday. But we'll also ponder how the talents of so many were denied and repressed through systemic 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.



### STEWARDSHIP and DOUGHNUTS!!

**Sunday November 15<sup>th</sup> is DOUGHNUT SUNDAY!!** Also known as the annual Stewardship Drive. This year we challenge you to see how many “DOUGH”NUT\$ you can add to your 2021 pledge. If a traditional DOUGHNUT cannot be added to your pledge, let the traditional Long John “DOUGH”NUT guide you. We know that decisions should not be made on an empty stomach, so come and join us on the COVID edition of Stewardship Sunday, drive-by style!! In addition to the normal operating pledging, we also have an opportunity for Mission directed pledging available on your pledge card. Our tradition of DOUGHNUTS from OTT’s Bakery in Byron continues!! Pull up to the front doors of the church to drop off your pledge and be greeted by a cheerful finance committee member AND a DOUGHNUT between 11:00 and 12:00 Sunday November 15th!! Deliveries can also be arranged, contact Kim Nickander at [kkn3163@gmail.com](mailto:kkn3163@gmail.com) or Mark Pillers at 507-289-6494 (home) to arrange details.



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. Watch for more details coming soon.

# Community Presbyterian Church

open hearted, open minded

## TODAY AT CPC

**Sunday, November 8**

9:30 am Online Worship Service

## THIS WEEK AT CPC

**Monday, November 9**

10:00 am PW Bible Study

**Tuesday, November 10**

12:00 pm Conference Call \*

12:00 pm Bulletin Information Due

6:30 pm Building & Grounds Committee

**Wednesday, November 11**

6:30 am Prayer Group

6:30 pm Jubellation Handbell Rehearsal

**Friday, November 13**

12:00 pm Conference Call \*

**Sunday, November 15**

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@cpchester.org](mailto: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	Sherrie Wilson
IT Support	Louis Bouchard