

*Community* Presbyterian Church  
open hearted, open minded

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



Teach our hearts  
to welcome...  
Joy

December 13, 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

*Sing We Now of Christmas*

Abby Hall, belltree

14th Century French Melody, arranged by Linda R. Lamb

### CALL TO WORSHIP

We gather, each in the holiness of our own homes, to bear witness to the Light.

**The love of God shines upon us and reveals the truth of God's mercy.**

We gather in these familiar and blessed places to bear witness to the Truth.

**The truth of our gospel is joy to the world, and balm for the brokenhearted.**

OPENING HYMN GTG 82

Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus



1 Come, thou long - ex - pect-ed Je - sus, born to set thy peo-ple free;  
2 Born thy peo - ple to de - liv - er, born a child and yet a king,



from our fears and sins re - lease us; let us find our rest in thee.  
born to reign in us for - ev - er, now thy gra-cious king-dom bring.



Is-rael's strength and con-so - la - tion, hope of all the earth thou art;  
By thine own e - ter - nal Spir - it rule in all our hearts a - lone;



dear de - sire of ev - ery na - tion, joy of ev - ery long-ing heart.  
by thine all - suf-fi - cient mer - it raise us to thy glo-rious throne.

## CALL TO CONFESSION

All we, like sheep, have gone astray;  
we have followed our own hearts rather than God's good will.

But there is mercy for those who call on the name of the Beloved.  
Trusting in God's grace, let us confess our sin.

## CONFESSION

**God our Savior, your love is good news for the oppressed,  
and you bind up the brokenhearted.**

**Forgive us when we think that your good news is only for us.**

**Forgive us when we twist your gospel  
into something comfortable for our own lives only.**

**By your light, let us see you leading us beyond ourselves  
and into the world you love.**

**By your grace, forgive us, and free us to try again**

## ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS

Every valley is lifted up; every mountain made low.

Now the glory of the Truth is revealed,

For the mouth of the Merciful has spoken.

In the name of Jesus Christ, we are forgiven.

**Thanks be to God.**

## LIGHTING OF THE THIRD ADVENT CANDLE: JOY

“Rejoice in the Lord always; again I will say, Rejoice.”

The world says, “Worry,”

and we say, “Rejoice.”

The news says, “Fear,”

and we say, “Rejoice.”

The world says, “Be happy,”

and the church says, “Be faithful.”

## Musical Meditation

Peggy Pillers

As we light our third Advent candle,

**We pray for hope, peace, and joy.**

Come now, O child of Mary.

**Come now, O Prince of Joy.**

## LISTENING FOR GOD'S WORD

SPECIAL MUSIC

*Christmas Tree-O*

Abby Hall, belltree

Traditional Carols, arranged by Barbara Brocker and Rob Pearson

### PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

Holy God, our hope and strength, by the power of your Spirit, prepare the way in our hearts for the coming of your Word, so that we may see the glorious signs of your promise fulfilled; through Jesus Christ our Savior. **Amen**

### SCRIPTURE READING

from Isaiah 61

The spirit of the Lord God is upon me, because the Lord has anointed me; he has sent me to bring good news to the oppressed, to bind up the brokenhearted, to proclaim liberty to the captives, and release to the prisoners; to proclaim the year of the Lord's favor, and the day of vengeance of our God; to comfort all who mourn; to provide for those who mourn in Zion— to give them a garland instead of ashes, the oil of gladness instead of mourning, the mantle of praise instead of a faint spirit. They will be called oaks of righteousness, the planting of the Lord, to display his glory.

They shall build up the ancient ruins, they shall raise up the former devastations; they shall repair the ruined cities, the devastations of many generations. For I the Lord love justice, I hate robbery and wrongdoing; I will faithfully give them their recompense, and I will make an everlasting covenant with them. Their descendants shall be known among the nations, and their offspring among the peoples; all who see them shall acknowledge that they are a people whom the Lord has blessed.

I will greatly rejoice in the Lord, my whole being shall exult in my God; for he has clothed me with the garments of salvation, he has covered me with the robe of righteousness, as a bridegroom decks himself with a garland, and as a bride adorns herself with her jewels. For as the earth brings forth its shoots, and as a garden causes what is sown in it to spring up, so the Lord God will cause righteousness and praise to spring up before all the nations.

### RESPONSIVE READING

Psalm 126

When the Lord restored the earth, we felt like dreamers;  
Our mouths were filled with laughter and shouts of joy;  
then it was said among the nations,  
“The Lord has done great things for them.”

**May those who sow in tears reap with shouts of joy.**

The Lord has done great things for us, and we rejoiced.  
Restore our fortunes, O Lord, like streams in the desert.

Those who go out weeping, bearing the seed for sowing,  
shall come home with shouts of joy, carrying their sheaves.

**May those who sow in tears reap with shouts of joy.**

YOUTH PRESENTATION

Advent Joy

HYMN GTG 134

Joy to the World

*vs. 1 and 2*

**Joy to the world, the Lord is come!  
Let earth receive her king;  
let every heart prepare him room,  
and heaven and nature sing,  
and heaven and nature sing,  
and heaven, and heaven and nature sing.**

**Joy to the earth, the Savior reigns!  
Let all their songs employ,  
while fields and floods, rocks, hills, and plains  
repeat the sounding joy,  
repeat the sounding joy,  
repeat, repeat the sounding joy.**

GOSPEL READING

John 1:6-8, 19-28

There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. He came as a witness to testify to the light, so that all might believe through him. He himself was not the light, but he came to testify to the light.

This is the testimony given by John when the Jews sent priests and Levites from Jerusalem to ask him, "Who are you?" He confessed and did not deny it, but confessed, "I am not the Messiah." And they asked him, "What then? Are you Elijah?" He said, "I am not." "Are you the prophet?" He answered, "No." Then they said to him, "Who are you? Let us have an answer for those who sent us. What do you say about yourself?" He said, "I am the voice of one crying out in the wilderness, 'Make straight the way of the Lord,'" as the prophet Isaiah said. Now they had been sent from the Pharisees. They asked him, "Why then are you baptizing if you are neither the Messiah, nor Elijah, nor the prophet?" John answered them, "I baptize with water. Among you stands one whom you do not know, the one who is coming after me; I am not worthy to untie the thong of his sandal." This took place in Bethany across the Jordan where John was baptizing.

Heaven and earth will pass away, but the word of our God stands forever.

**Thanks be to God.**

## RESPONDING TO GOD'S GRACE

HYMN OF THE DAY GTG 94

Now the Heavens Start to Whisper

vs. 1 and 3



1 Now the heav - ens start to whis - per, as the veil is  
3 Christ, e - ter - nal Sun of jus - tice, Christ, the rose of



grow - ing thin. Earth from slum - ber wakes to lis - ten  
wis - dom's seed, come to bless with fire and fra - grance



to the stir - ring, faint with - in: seed of prom - ise, deep - ly  
hours of yearn - ing, hurt, and need. In the lone - ly, in the



plant - ed, child to spring from Jes - se's stem! Like the soil be -  
strang - er, in the out - cast, hid from view: child who comes to



neath the frost - line, hearts grow soft to wel - come him.  
grace the man - ger, teach our hearts to wel - come you.

AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

**Out of Israel, God in due time raised up Jesus,  
whose faith and obedience were the response of the perfect child of God.  
As the Christ, he was chosen to be the fulfillment of God's promise to Israel,  
the beginning of a new creation, and the pioneer of a new humanity.  
God in Christ gave history new meaning and direction  
and called the church into a ministry of reconciliation for the world.**

*Adapted from the Confession of 1967, 9.19*

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 GTG 384

Soon and Very Soon

*vs. 1 and 2*

BLESSING AND CHARGE

May the God of peace make you holy,  
and the power of the Spirit sustain you,  
until the coming of Jesus Christ, most blessed. **Alleluia!**

Prepare the way of the Lord! **Amen**

384

## Soon and Very Soon



1 Soon and ver - y soon we are going to see the King.  
 2 No more cry - ing there: we are going to see the King.



Soon and ver - y soon we are going to see the King.  
 No more cry - ing there: we are going to see the King.



Soon and ver - y soon we are going to see the King.  
 No more cry - ing there: we are going to see the King.



Hal - le - lu - jah, hal - le - lu - jah, we're going to see the King!

*Abby Hall will be ringing the handbell tree, accompanied by Judy Kereakos, and featured at the Charter House Christmas Eve Vespers virtual services at 4 p.m. on Dec. 24 and on Christmas Day, Dec. 25. These services are viewed by Charter House residents and their families can access the services as well. Check out the Virtual Vespers on Youtube! <https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PL8nR5-F7-KuW-W3bB0vvNiFU65HTj43Hmc>*

## Adopt-a-Family



*Adopt-A-Family donations this year are only gift cards to be as COVID safe as possible. The church will be purchasing \$75 gift cards for the 6 people we were assigned. If you are able to donate towards the \$450 needed to help these families, please send the donation into the church and just be sure to mention Adopt-A-Family on the donation. Thanks in advance. - Mission Committee*

# Community Presbyterian Church

open hearted, open minded

## TODAY AT CPC

**Sunday, December 13 Advent 3**

9:30 am Online Worship Service

## THIS WEEK AT CPC

Tuesday, December 15

12:00 pm Conference Call \*

12:00 pm Bulletin Information Due

Wednesday, December 16

6:30 am Prayer Group

Friday, December 18

12:00 pm Conference Call \*

**Sunday, December 20 Advent 4**

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#



*From the Finance & Stewardship Committee: Reminder to pay your Per Capita (\$36.50) and please submit your 2021 pledge soon to assist in preparing the 2021 budget. Thank you!*



Judy Leal

Jane, Ed, Jenny, Elissa and

the Burgstaler grandchildren

Connie Holst

MariLynn Johnson

Jennifer Hall's mother, Karen

Sue Chipman

Brenda Parshall, Children's Place

Director

Mark and Ivy Pillers and family

*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

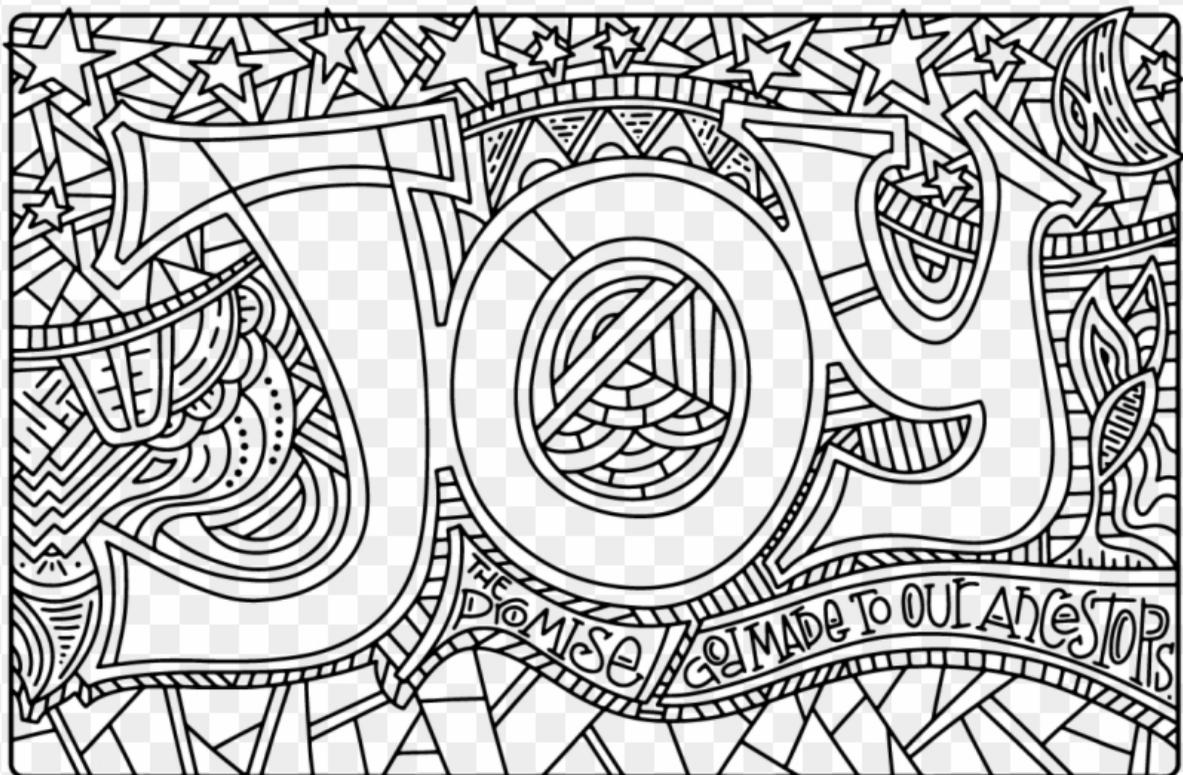
Mary Meyer

IT Support

Dave Copeland

Candle Lighter

The Ross Family



illustratedchildrensstory.com

S	E	Y	H	A	J	I	L	E	A	JOHN	WITNESS	LIGHT
E	L	W	N	O	H	I	L	S	T	LEVITES	ELIJAH	PROPHET
S	E	N	H	A	G	R	E	I	S	ISAIAH	PHARISEES	BAPTISE
S	V	N	A	H	H	E	W	T	S	WATER	BETHANY	JORDAN
T	I	O	T	R	S	T	O	P	E			
S	T	J	C	I	E	A	E	A	N			
E	E	T	R	E	S	W	E	B	T			
I	S	A	I	A	H	A	S	E	I			
R	H	T	J	O	R	D	A	N	W			
P	R	O	P	H	E	T	I	H	A			