

Community Presbyterian Church
open hearted, open minded

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



Teach our hearts
to welcome...
Peace

December 6, 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

A voice cries out in the wilderness, "Prepare the way of the Lord!"

Let us line the road with beauty and pave it with acts of justice.

For the Holy One is coming our way,

the giver of life and the source of living water.

OPENING HYMN GTG 107 Awake! Awake, and Greet the New Morn *vs. 1 and 2*



1 A - wake! A - wake, and greet the new morn, for an - gels
2 To us, to all in sor - row and fear, Em - man - u -



her - ald its dawn - ing. Sing out your joy, for soon he is
el comes a - sing - ing; his hum - ble song is qui - et and



born, be - hold! the Child of our long - ing. Come as a ba - by
near, yet fills the earth with its ring - ing; mu - sic to heal the



weak and poor, to bring all hearts to - geth - er, he o - pens
bro - ken soul and hymns of lov - ing - kind - ness. The thun - der



wide the heaven - ly door and lives now in - side us for - ev - er.
of his an - thems rolls to shat - ter all ha - tred and vio - lence.

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

**"Prepare the way of the Lord," your prophet says to us.
Forgive us when we have failed to prepare your way.
Forgive us when we have stood in your way, instead:
when we let the challenges of your prophets roll off our lives,
instead of letting them spark change;
when we walk around a neighbor in need,
rather than encounter a chance for compassion.
Forgive us, O Lord, and grant us assurance
that the glory of your coming does not depend on us.
Forgive us, O Lord, and free us to try again. Amen**

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.

Musical Meditation

Peggy Pillers

LIGHTING OF THE FIRST ADVENT CANDLE: HOPE

A voice cries out in the wilderness:

"Prepare the way of the Lord."

A choir sings in the silence,

"Come, Emmanuel."

Every valley shall be filled.

Every heart shall be made whole,

for peace is stronger than turmoil,

and love is louder than hate.

As we light our second Advent candle,

we pray for the holy peace of God.

Come now, O Child of Mary.

Come now, O Prince of Peace.

LISTENING FOR GOD'S WORD

SPECIAL MUSIC *Handel's Messiah | Recitative No. 2 Comfort Ye*
New Saint Andrews College choir, Soloist: Ross Hauck

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 Isaiah 40:1-11

Comfort, O comfort my people, says your God. Speak tenderly to Jerusalem, and cry to her that she has served her term, that her penalty is paid, that she has received from the Lord's hand double for all her sins.

A voice cries out: "In the wilderness prepare the way of the Lord, make straight in the desert a highway for our God. Every valley shall be lifted up, and every mountain and hill be made low; the uneven ground shall become level, and the rough places a plain. Then the glory of the Lord shall be revealed, and all people shall see it together, for the mouth of the Lord has spoken." A voice says, "Cry out!" And I said, "What shall I cry?" All people are grass, their constancy is like the flower of the field. The grass withers, the flower fades, when the breath of the Lord blows upon it; surely the people are grass. The grass withers, the flower fades; but the word of our God will stand forever.

Get you up to a high mountain, O Zion, herald of good tidings; lift up your voice with strength, O Jerusalem, herald of good tidings, lift it up, do not fear; say to the cities of Judah, "Here is your God!" See, the Lord God comes with might, and his arm rules for him; his reward is with him, and his recompense before him. He will feed his flock like a shepherd; he will gather the lambs in his arms, and carry them in his bosom, and gently lead the mother sheep.

RESPONSIVE READING Psalm 85

Lord, you were favorable to your land;
you restored the fortunes of Jacob.
You forgave the iniquity of your people;
you pardoned all their sin.

**Let us hear what God the Comforter will say:
for the Blessed One speaks peace to all who desire it.**

Surely God's salvation is at hand for those who believe,
that glory may dwell in our land.

Steadfast love and faithfulness will meet;
righteousness and peace will kiss each other.

**Let us hear what God the Comforter will say:
for the Blessed One speaks peace to all who desire it.**

Faithfulness will spring up from the ground,
and righteousness will look down from the sky.
The Lord will give what is good, and our land shall prosper.
Righteousness will go before him and prepare a path for his steps.

**Let us hear what God the Comforter will say:
for the Blessed One will speak peace to all nations.**

YOUTH PRESENTATION Advent Peace

SCRIPTURE READING 2 Peter 3:8–15a

But do not ignore this one fact, beloved, that with the Lord one day is like a thousand years, and a thousand years are like one day.

The Lord is not slow about his promise, as some think of slowness, but is patient with you, not wanting any to perish, but all to come to repentance. But the day of the Lord will come like a thief, and then the heavens will pass away with a loud noise, and the elements will be dissolved with fire, and the earth and everything that is done on it will be disclosed.

Since all these things are to be dissolved in this way, what sort of persons ought you to be in leading lives of holiness and godliness, waiting for and hastening the coming of the day of God, because of which the heavens will be set ablaze and dissolved, and the elements will melt with fire? But, in accordance with his promise, we wait for new heavens and a new earth, where righteousness is at home. Therefore, beloved, while you are waiting for these things, strive to be found by him at peace, without spot or blemish; and regard the patience of our Lord as salvation. So also our beloved brother Paul wrote to you according to the wisdom given him,

GOSPEL READING Mark 1:1–8

The beginning of the good news of Jesus Christ, the Son of God.
As it is written in the prophet Isaiah,

“See, I am sending my messenger ahead of you, who will prepare your way;
the voice of one crying out in the wilderness:
‘Prepare the way of the Lord, make his paths straight,’”

John the baptizer appeared in the wilderness, proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins. And people from the whole Judean countryside and all the people of Jerusalem were going out to him, and were baptized by him in the river Jordan, confessing their sins. Now John was clothed with camel's hair, with a leather belt around his waist, and he ate locusts and wild honey. He proclaimed, "The one who is more powerful than I is coming after me; I am not worthy to stoop down and untie the thong of his sandals. I have baptized you with water; but he will baptize you with the Holy Spirit."

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

Thanks be to God.

SERMON

Teach Our Hearts to Welcome Peace

Pastor Jan

RESPONDING TO GOD'S GRACE

HYMN OF THE DAY GTG 103

Come Now, O Prince of Peace

vs. 1 and 4

1 Come now, O Prince of Peace; make us one bod - y.
2 Come now, O God of love; make us one bod - y.
3 Come now and set us free, O God, our Sav - ior.
4 Come, hope of u - ni - ty; make us one bod - y.

Come, O Lord Je - sus; rec - on - cile all peo - ple.

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 SACRAMENT OF THE LORD'S SUPPER

INVITATION TO THE LORD'S TABLE AND GREAT THANKSGIVING

The Spirit of Peace be with you;

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts;

We lift them to our God;

Let us give thanks to the One who speaks peace to all people

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

It is surely a good and joyful thing to offer thanks and praise to the Prince of Peace, our Comforter and Guide...therefore we praise you with the heavenly choir and all the saints in glory:

CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE

Tune: refrain of "O Come, All Ye Faithful"

Sing, holy, holy, holy;

Sing, holy, holy, holy;

Fill earth and heaven with glory,

Holy is our God.

WORDS OF INSTITUTION/ BREAKING OF THE BREAD

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.

THE BREAD AND CUP ARE SHARED

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

God our Comforter, we give you thanks that you have given us this foretaste of the justice, righteousness, and peace of your promised new creation. Strengthen us with this heavenly food as we seek to serve your holy realm, until Jesus comes again. **Amen**

SENDING INTO THE WORLD TO LOVE AND SERVE

CLOSING HYMN GTG 107 Awake! Awake, and Greet the New Morn *vs. 3 and 4*



3 In dark - est night his com - ing shall be, when all the
4 Re - jice, re - jice, take heart in the night. Though dark the



world is de - spair - ing, as morn - ing light so qui - et and
win - ter and cheer - less, the ris - ing sun shall crown you with



free, so warm and gen - tle and car - ing. Then shall the mute break
light; be strong and lov - ing and fear - less. Love be our song and



forth in song, the lame shall leap in won - der, the weak be
love our prayer and love our end - less sto - ry; may God fill



raised a - bove the strong, and weap - ons be bro - ken a - sun - der.
ev - ery day we share and bring us at last in - to glo - ry.

BLESSING AND CHARGE

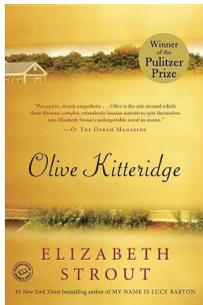
May the God of peace make you holy,
and the power of the Spirit sustain you,
until the coming of Jesus Christ, most blessed. **Alleluia!**

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



*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!*

BOOK DISCUSSION GROUP



*The Book Discussion Group
will meet TODAY,
immediately following
worship - just stay online!
We will be discussing Olive
Kitteridge. All are welcome!*

Adopt-a-Family



*Adopt-A-Family donations this year
are only gift cards to be as COVID safe
as possible. The church will be purchas-
ing \$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 men-
tion Adopt-A-Family on the donation.
Thanks in advance.
Mission Committee*

Community Presbyterian Church

open hearted, open minded

TODAY AT CPC

Sunday, December 6 Advent 2

9:30 am Online Worship Service
with Communion

10:30 am Book Discussion Group

THIS WEEK AT CPC

Tuesday, December 7

12:00 pm Conference Call *

12:00 pm Bulletin Information Due

6:30 pm Building & Grounds Committee

Wednesday, December 8

6:30 am Prayer Group

Friday, December 10

12:00 pm Conference Call *

Sunday, December 13 Advent 3

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

Brenda Parshall, Children's Place
Director

*To be added to the prayer list,
please contact the church office at
507-280-9291 or
email office@cpcrochester.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
Candle Lighter	Ron Murray