

Community Presbyterian Church

open hearted, open minded

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



January 3, 2021

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 star has risen in the east.

Star of wonder, star of night!

A child is born in Bethlehem.

Hark! The herald angels sing!

Let us follow the star to Bethlehem;

Let us bring our gifts to the newborn Christ.

OPENING HYMN GTG 152 What Star Is This, with Beams so Bright *verses 1 and 3*



1 What star is this, with beams so bright, more
3 While out - ward signs the star dis - plays, an



love - ly than the noon - day light? 'Tis
in - ward light the Lord con - veys and



sent to an - nounce a new - born king, glad
urg - es us, with ten - der might, to



ti - dings of our God to bring.
seek the giv - er of the light.

CALL TO CONFESSION

Like a great light in a land of deep darkness,
the mercy of the Beloved shines upon us.
Trusting in God's grace, let us confess our sin.

CONFESSION

**God of wonder, God of night,
you are holy light in dark places;
you are holy darkness when all is too bright.
Forgive us, O God, when we turn away from your light:
when we follow our own ambitions instead of your call,
when we respond to your presence with fear rather than joy.
Forgive us for the sins of our own lives
and the sins of the systems we fail to disrupt;
and by your forgiveness,
empower us to follow the star once more.**

ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS

Hear the promise of the prophet: See, your salvation has come!
You are a holy people, redeemed by God, sought out, not forsaken.
In the name of Jesus Christ, you are forgiven!

Thanks be to God!

LISTENING FOR GOD'S WORD

SPECIAL MUSIC

In the Bleak Midwinter
by Gustav Holst

Meg Cain, Mark Neville

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

Holy One, giver of all light, lift up our hearts and minds to Christ, the morning star that never fades. By the light of your Holy Spirit, reveal to us your saving Word and lead us to offer our lives to you in service and in love; through Jesus Christ our Savior. **Amen.**

SCRIPTURE READING

Isaiah 60:1-6

Arise, shine; for your light has come, and the glory of the Lord has risen upon you. For darkness shall cover the earth, and thick darkness the peoples; but the Lord will arise upon you, and his glory will appear over you. Nations shall come to your light, and kings to the brightness of your dawn. Lift up your eyes and look around; they all gather together, they come to you; your sons shall come from far away, and your daughters shall be carried on their nurses' arms. Then you shall see and be radiant; your heart shall thrill and rejoice, because the abundance of the sea shall be brought to you, the wealth of the nations shall

come to you. A multitude of camels shall cover you, the young camels of Midian and Ephah; all those from Sheba shall come. They shall bring gold and frankincense, and shall proclaim the praise of the Lord.

PSALM 72 (GTG 149) All Hail to God's Anointed

verses 1 and 4



1 All hail to God's a - nointed, great Da - vid's great-er Son!
4 All rul - ers bow be - fore you, and gold and in - cense bring.



All hail, in time ap - point - ed, your reign on earth be - gun!
All na - tions shall a - dore you; your praise all peo - ple sing.



You come to break op - pres - sion, to set the cap - tive free,
To you shall prayer un - ceas - ing and dai - ly vows as - cend.



to take a - way trans - gres - sion and rule in eq - ui - ty.
Your rule is still in - creas - ing; your rule is with - out end.

SCRIPTURE READING

Ephesians 3:5-12

In former generations the mystery of Christ was not made known to humankind, as it has now been revealed to the holy apostles and prophets by the Spirit: that is, the Gentiles have become fellow heirs, members of the same body, and sharers in the promise in Christ Jesus through the gospel. Of this gospel I have become a servant according to the gift of God's grace that was given me by the working of his power. Although I am the very least of all the saints, this grace was given to me to bring to the Gentiles the news of the boundless riches of Christ, and to make everyone see what is the plan of the mystery hidden for ages in God who created all things; so that through the church the wisdom of God in its rich variety might now be made known to the rulers and authorities in the heavenly places. This was in accordance with the eternal purpose that he has carried out in Christ Jesus our Lord, in whom we have access to God in boldness and confidence through faith in him.

GOSPEL READING

Matthew 2:1-12

In the time of King Herod, after Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea, wise men from the East came to Jerusalem, asking, "Where is the child who has been born king of the Jews? For we observed his star at its rising, and have come to pay him homage." When King Herod heard this, he was frightened, and all Jerusalem with him; and calling together all the chief priests and scribes of the people, he inquired of them where the Messiah was to be born. They told him, "In Bethlehem of Judea; for so it has been written by the prophet: 'And you, Bethlehem, in the land of Judah, are by no means least among the rulers of Judah; for from you shall come a ruler who is to shepherd my people Israel.'" Then Herod secretly called for the wise men and learned from them the exact time when the star had appeared. Then he sent them to Bethlehem, saying, "Go and search diligently for the child; and when you have found him, bring me word so that I may also go and pay him homage."

When they had heard the king, they set out; and there, ahead of them, went the star that they had seen at its rising, until it stopped over the place where the child was. When they saw that the star had stopped, they were overwhelmed with joy. On entering the house, they saw the child with Mary, his mother; and they knelt down and paid him homage. Then, opening their treasure chests, they offered him gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh. And having been warned in a dream not to return to Herod, they left for their own country by another road.

And the Word became flesh and lived among us. **Thanks be to God.**

SERMON

Secret Stars

Pastor Jan

RESPONDING TO GOD'S GRACE

HYMN OF THE DAY GTG 142

'Twas in the Moon of Wintertime

vs. 1 and 3



1 'Twas in the moon of win-ter-time, when all the birds had fled,
3 The ear-liest moon of win-ter-time is not so round and fair



Great Spir - it, Lord of all the earth sent an - gel choirs in - stead.
as was the ring of glo - ry on the help - less in - fant there.



Be - fore their light the stars grew dim and wan-dering
The chiefs from far be - fore him knelt with gifts of



hunt - ers heard the hymn: Je - sus, your king, is born;
fox and bea - ver pelt.



Je - sus is born. In ex - cel - sis glo - ri - a.

This English text preserves the earliest known Canadian hymn, originally written in the Huron language by a missionary, later translated into French, and eventually paraphrased in English. It is set to a French Noël tune old enough to have been used for the original version.

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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

We give you thanks, O God, for the gifts of this table—precious, prayerful, and poignant—like gold, frankincense, and myrrh. Lead us forth by your light to share the gifts of your grace with all people everywhere, giving glory, honor, and praise to Jesus Christ our Savior. **Amen**

SENDING INTO THE WORLD TO LOVE AND SERVE

CLOSING HYMN GTG 127

Jesus, the Light of the World

refrain only, sing twice



We'll walk in the light, beau - ti - ful light.



Come where the dew - drops of mer - cy shine bright.



O, shine all a - round us by day and by



night. Je - sus, the light of the world.

BLESSING AND CHARGE

The loving kindness of our God,
the grace of Jesus Christ our Savior,
and the renewing power of the Holy Spirit
be with you all.

Alleluia!

Go and tell this good news of great joy:
to us a Savior is born.

Amen

Community Presbyterian Church

open hearted, open minded

TODAY AT CPC

Sunday, January 3

9:30 am Online Worship Service
with Communion

THIS WEEK AT CPC

Tuesday, January 5

12:00 pm Conference Call *

6:00 pm Christian Education Committee

Wednesday, January 6

6:30 am Prayer Group

Friday, January 8

12:00 pm Conference Call *

Sunday, January 10

9:30 am Online Worship Service



Judy Leal
Jane, Ed, Jenny, Elissa and
the Burgstaler grandchildren
Connie Holst
MariLynn Johnson

*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	Sherrie Wilson
IT Support	

