

# Community Presbyterian Church

open hearted, open minded

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



**February 21, 2021**

*Welcome to worship this morning!*

*Bulletin Cue: **Bold** indicates congregational response.*

# GATHERING AROUND THE WORD OF GOD

## WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

### PRELUDE

### CALL TO WORSHIP

Here and now, in this season of Lent,  
we examine our hearts and our lives  
and journey with Christ through the suffering of the world.

**We ponder again what it means to be your followers,  
we seek again ways to manifest your love in our lives.**

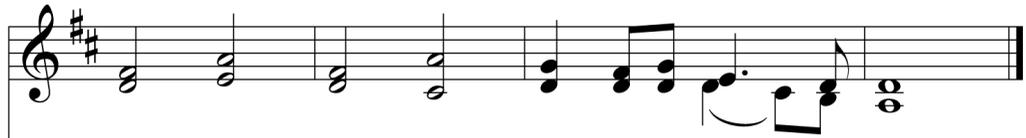
OPENING HYMN GTG 468

In My Life, Lord, Be Glorified

*verses 1, 3, and 4*



1 In my life, Lord, be glo-ri - fied; be glo-ri - fied.  
3 In your church, Lord, be glo-ri - fied; be glo-ri - fied.  
4 In your world, Lord, be glo-ri - fied; be glo-ri - fied.



In my life, Lord, be glo-ri - fied to - day.  
In your church, Lord, be glo-ri - fied to - day.  
In your world, Lord, be glo-ri - fied to - day.

### CALL TO CONFESSION

In the name of Christ, I urge you:

Be reconciled to God. Trusting in God's grace, let us confess our sin.

### CONFESSION

God, you know our hearts, you know our sincere desire  
to live in line with your life-giving commands,  
to journey with you to the cross,  
while sharing our abundance with others.

**Forgive us when we mistake giving of our wealth  
for giving of ourselves,  
or when we take our assumptions about others for their truth.**

Help us to relax into relationships that faze us at first;  
help us to love unconditionally, as you love us.

**Forgive us, O God, and wash us in your mercy.**

**Forgive us, O God, and free us to try again.**

#### ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS

Listen, the time has come at last. Look, now is the day of salvation! In the name of Jesus Christ, we are forgiven!

**Thanks be to God.**

#### LISTENING FOR GOD'S WORD

SPECIAL MUSIC

*Ah, Holy Jesus*

arranged by John Ferguson

First-Plymouth Church, Lincoln, Nebraska, with Jonah Sirota, Viola

#### PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

Merciful God, your Word is our way of truth and life. Create in us hearts that are clean and put your Holy Spirit within us, so that we may receive your grace and declare your praise forever; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen**

SCRIPTURE READING

Genesis 9:8-17

*Is the flood narrative really a tale for children? When God unleashes the rains from heaven and the waters of the earth, almost everyone and everything dies, a horrifying story. In the aftermath of the disaster, when the waters have receded, God makes a promise, a covenant, with Noah. God swears by the sign of the rainbow never again to punish the earth with a flood; in this covenant, God signs and seals a treaty of peace with humankind.*

Then God said to Noah and to his sons with him, "As for me, I am establishing my covenant with you and your descendants after you, and with every living creature that is with you, the birds, the domestic animals, and every animal of the earth with you, as many as came out of the ark. I establish my covenant with you, that never again shall all flesh be cut off by the waters of a flood, and never again shall there be a flood to destroy the earth."

God said, "This is the sign of the covenant that I make between me and you and every living creature that is with you, for all future generations: I have set my bow in the clouds, and it shall be a sign of the covenant between me and the earth. When I bring clouds over the earth and the bow is seen in the clouds, I will remember my covenant that is between me and you and every living creature of all flesh; and the waters shall never again become a flood to destroy all flesh. When the bow is in the clouds, I will see it and remember the everlasting covenant between God and every living creature of all flesh that is on the earth." God said to Noah, "This is the sign of the covenant that I have established between me and all flesh that is on the earth."

RESPONSIVE READING Psalm 25:1-10

(adapted from Nan Merrill, *Psalms for Praying*)

To you, Beloved, I lift up my soul;  
you are the Heart within my heart.  
In you I trust; do not let me feel unworthy;  
and do not let fear rule over me.

**Those who open their hearts to you bring blessing to earth.**

Instruct me in your paths, lead me in your truth;  
in you I am made whole; may my life reflect you.  
I know your unconditional love has been with me from the beginning,  
even when I willfully went my own way.

**I seek your guidance; I long to know your peace.**

You are gracious and just; your Spirit is Truth.  
You delight in guiding those who miss their way.  
Your paths are loving and sure for all who learn from you,  
who choose to live in truth, who open themselves to you.

**Those who witness to you with their lives  
are blessed beyond measure.**

GOSPEL READING

Mark 1:9-15

*Once more, we're back in the first chapter of Mark. We hear God's words identifying Jesus as "Beloved Son," the same name we heard from the cloud on the mountain, when Jesus was transfigured with glory. But does God speak only to show approval to the listeners, or also to prepare Jesus for what is to come? In both cases, a time of testing quickly follows.*

In those days Jesus came from Nazareth of Galilee and was baptized by John in the Jordan. And just as he was coming up out of the water, he saw the heavens torn apart and the Spirit descending like a dove on him. And a voice came from heaven, "You are my Son, the Beloved; with you I am well pleased." And the Spirit immediately drove him out into the wilderness. He was in the wilderness forty days, tempted by Satan; and he was with the wild beasts; and the angels waited on him.

Now after John was arrested, Jesus came to Galilee, proclaiming the good news of God, and saying, "The time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God has come near; repent, and believe in the good news."

We proclaim Christ crucified - the wisdom and the power of God. **Thanks be to God.**

**RESPONDING TO GOD'S GRACE**

HYMN OF THE DAY GTG 775

I Want Jesus to Walk with Me

*vs. 1 and 2*

1 I want Je - sus to walk with me;  
 2 In my tri - als, Lord, walk with me;

I want Je - sus to walk with me;  
 in my tri - als, Lord, walk with me;

all a - long my pil - grim jour - ney,  
 when my heart is al - most break - ing,

Lord, I want Je - sus to walk with me.  
 Lord, I want Je - sus to walk with me.

**JOYS AND CONCERNS/PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE**

God, our Savior,

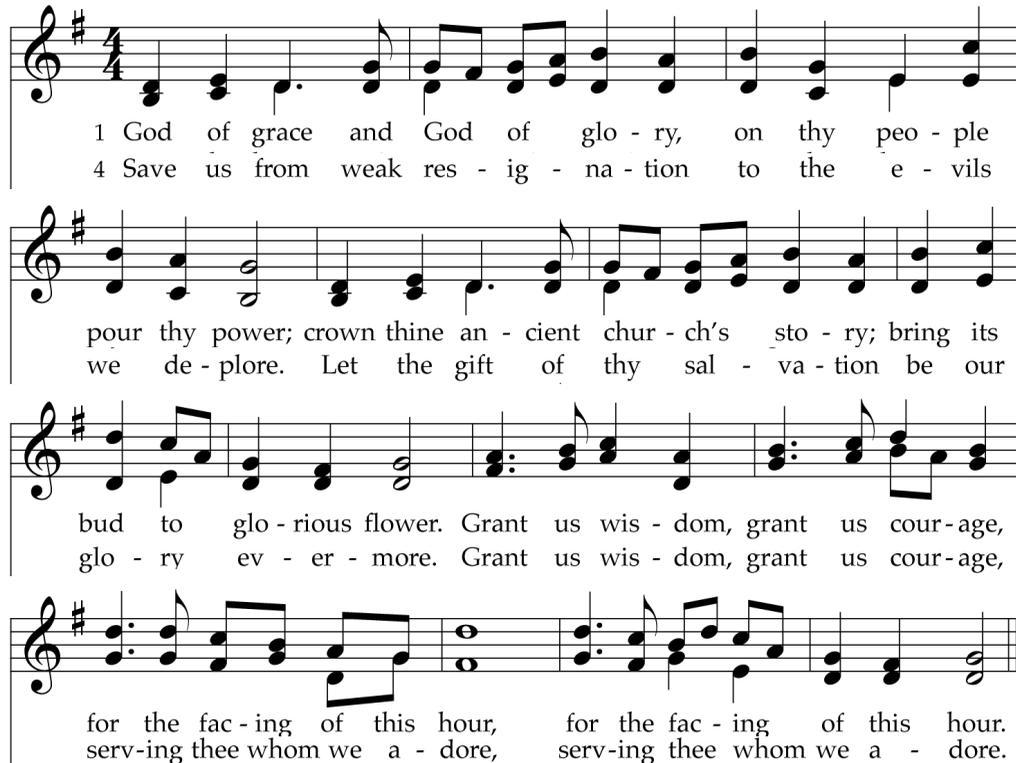
**hear our prayer.****THE LORD'S PRAYER****Our Father who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name.****Thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven.****Give us this day our daily bread;****and forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors;****and lead us not into temptation, but deliver 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 307

God of Grace and God of Glory

*vs.1 and 4*



1 God of grace and God of glo - ry, on thy peo - ple  
4 Save us from weak res - ig - na - tion to the e - vils

pour thy power; crown thine an - cient chur - ch's sto - ry; bring its  
we de - plore. Let the gift of thy sal - va - tion be our

bud to glo - rious flower. Grant us wis - dom, grant us cour - age,  
glo - ry ev - er - more. Grant us wis - dom, grant us cour - age,

for the fac - ing of this hour, for the fac - ing of this hour.  
serv - ing thee whom we a - dore, serv - ing thee whom we a - dore.

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### CHARGE AND BLESSING

May the God of peace lead us now from death to life,  
from falsehood to truth, from despair to hope, from fear to trust.  
May Christ who came to reconcile us to God and each other  
lead us from hate to love, and from war to peace.  
May the Spirit of restoration bring peace to fill our hearts,  
peace to fill our world, peace to fill our universe. **Amen**

### DISMISSAL

Go in peace to live and love in peace. **Amen**

**Brighter days are coming!** The pandemic and economic downturn are a burden to many, so now is great time to discuss what we can do when the world turns right-side-up again. Our *Blue Sky* conversations today, following worship, and ending promptly by 11:15 and again on March 7th..

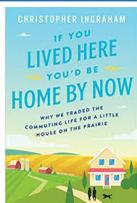


CPC has a strong tradition of mission to answer God's call now. How can we build on that tradition? What is your dream for the future of CPC? What's God's dream for CPC? For the world? Where is God already at work in our midst? How can we be part of it?

Your voice, your prayers, your spirit are important! All are welcome to chime in as the Spirit moves you.



*At our first Blue Sky conversation last Sunday, people wondered how being a Matthew 25 church can enhance our conversation. Here's a good link to get the basics in writing. You will also find links to a 40-second, a 3-minute, or an 8-minute introductory video to learn more.*  
<https://www.presbyterianmission.org/ministries/matthew-25/>



Next Sunday, we will discuss *If You Lived Here, You'd be Home by Now*, by Christopher Ingraham. Our author lived in Washington D.C. He heard that worst place to live in the U.S. was a town in Minnesota. He and his wife wondered how any place could be so bad and decided to look it over. It must have looked okay to them, as they decided to move from Washington to "A little town on the prairie." Join in on this interesting discussion after worship next week!



*Questions about addressing systemic racism were also raised last week. One good spiritual practice is paying attention. Tune in to a worship service Wednesday, February 24, at 8 am Central Time sponsored by the PC(USA) in celebration of Black History Month (February). The service will be live streamed on the PC(USA) Facebook page (<https://www.facebook.com/pcusa/>).*

# Community Presbyterian Church

open hearted, open minded

## TODAY AT CPC

### Sunday, February 21

9:30 am Online Worship Service  
10:30 am Blue Sky Conversation

## THIS WEEK AT CPC

### Tuesday, February 23

10:00 am Online Bible Study  
12:00 pm Conference Call \*  
6:30 pm Session Meeting

### Wednesday, February 24

6:30 am Prayer Group

### Friday, February 26

12:00 pm Conference Call\*

### Sunday, February 28

9:30 am Online Worship Service  
10:30 am Book Discussion Group



Judy Leal  
Jane, Ed, Jenny, Elissa and  
the Burgstaler grandchildren  
Connie Holst  
MariLynn Johnson  
Sherrie Wilson and family,  
on the death of her aunt  
Glenna Muir and her mother  
Susie Olson

*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 /Bible Study

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	Peggy McCarty
IT Support	Louis Bouchard