

Community Presbyterian Church

open hearted, open minded

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



February 28, 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

In the season of Lent we pause to examine our hearts and our lives
and journey with Christ through the suffering of the world.
Let us pick up our crosses and follow Christ
on a path defined by God's love.

**God has marked us as beloved dust,
renewed the promise of faithful care,
and called us together to worship.**

OPENING HYMN GTG 39

sing refrain only once, after second verse

**Great is thy faithfulness, O God, Creator;
There is no shadow of turning with thee.
Thou changest not, thy compassions they fail not.
As thou hast been thou forever wilt be.**

**Summer and winter and springtime and harvest,
sun, moon, and stars in their courses above
join with all nature in manifold witness
to thy great faithfulness, mercy and love.**

Refrain:

**Great is thy faithfulness, great is thy faithfulness,
morning by morning new mercies I see.
All I have needed thy hand hath provided.
Great is thy faithfulness, Lord, unto me.**

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

O God, you have made us your covenant people,
marked us as your own, and opened doors of service.

Forgive us when we live as if success were the worthiest aim
or independence the highest virtue,

or when we fall on our faces in our rush to claim righteousness.

**Call us once more to take up our crosses,
and show us how to follow you.**

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

Be Still My Soul

arranged by Christine Anderson

Ron Bellamy, Solo Handbell Artist, and Linda Lorgus, piano, from Lancaster, PA

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 17:1-7, 15-17

Last week, we learned about God's first covenant with humankind, the promise made to Noah and to all living things on earth never again to destroy the world with a flood. Here is the second great covenant.

When Abram was ninety-nine years old, the Lord appeared to Abram, and said to him, "I am God Almighty; walk before me, and be blameless. And I will make my covenant between me and you, and will make you exceedingly numerous." Then Abram fell on his face; and God said to him, "As for me, this is my covenant with you: You shall be the ancestor of a multitude of nations. No longer shall your name be Abram, but your name

shall be Abraham; for I have made you the ancestor of a multitude of nations. I will make you exceedingly fruitful; and I will make nations of you, and kings shall come from you. I will establish my covenant between me and you, and your offspring after you throughout their generations, for an everlasting covenant, to be God to you and to your offspring after you.

God said to Abraham, "As for Sarai your wife, you shall not call her Sarai, but Sarah shall be her name. I will bless her, and moreover I will give you a son by her. I will bless her, and she shall give rise to nations; kings of peoples shall come from her." Then Abraham fell on his face and laughed, and said to himself, "Can a child be born to a man who is a hundred years old? Can Sarah, who is ninety years old, bear a child?"

RESPONSIVE READING

Psalm 22:23-31

adapted from Nan Merrill, Psalms for Praying

You who are in wonder of the Mystery, give praise!

Our loving Creator does not turn from those in trouble,
and does not hide from them; their cries are heard.

Our prayers rise up to heaven, for you, O God, will listen.

We lift our hearts to you; we lift our voices,
for your promise to remain with us stands forever.

The hungry shall eat and be satisfied;

We your servants sing praise to you forever.

All families of the earth shall remember your covenant
and turn their hearts to love, bowing down in gratitude;
for power and authority belong to you, O Most High.

You rule in our midst, and we shall live for you.

The proud of the earth will be humbled;
those who live in fear and illusion do not know your peace.

But you abide with those who rely on your covenant love.

**We will make your deliverance known to generations still to come,
so people yet unborn will know that the Most High dwells among us.**

SCRIPTURE READING

Romans 4:13, 18-22

Paul, the author of the letter to the Romans, frequently referred back to early days of biblical history to prove his point. Here, he points to Abraham, who is regarded historically as the originator of three faith traditions known as Abrahamic: Judaism, Christianity, and Islam.

For the promise that he would inherit the world did not come to Abraham or to his descendants through the law but through the righteousness of faith.... Hoping against hope, he believed that he would become “the father of many nations,” according to what was said, “So numerous shall your descendants be.” He did not weaken in faith when he considered his own body, which was already as good as dead (for he was about a hundred years old), or when he considered the barrenness of Sarah’s womb. No distrust made him waver concerning the promise of God, but he grew strong in his faith as he gave glory to God, being fully convinced that God was able to do what he had promised. Therefore his faith “was reckoned to him as righteousness.”

GOSPEL READING

Mark 8:31-38

Peter has just made a giant leap of faith and identified Jesus, his teacher and friend, as the long-expected Messiah. Then Peter proceeds to ... fall on his face.

Then he began to teach them that the Son of Man must undergo great suffering, and be rejected by the elders, the chief priests, and the scribes, and be killed, and after three days rise again. He said all this quite openly. And Peter took him aside and began to rebuke him. But turning and looking at his disciples, he rebuked Peter and said, “Get behind me, Satan! For you are setting your mind not on divine things but on human things.”

He called the crowd with his disciples, and said to them, “If any want to become my followers, let them deny themselves and take up their cross and follow me. For those who want to save their life will lose it, and those who lose their life for my sake, and for the sake of the gospel, will save it. For what will it profit them to gain the whole world and forfeit their life? Indeed, what can they give in return for their life? Those who are ashamed of me and of my words in this adulterous and sinful generation, of them the Son of Man will also be ashamed when he comes in the glory of his Father with the holy angels.”

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

SERMON

Blundering Our Way to Peace

Pastor Jan

RESPONDING TO GOD'S GRACE

HYMN OF THE DAY GTG 684

Faith Begins by Letting Go

vs. 1 and 2



1 Faith be - gins by let - ting go, giv - ing up what
2 Faith en - dures by hold - ing on, keep - ing mem - ory's

had seemed sure, tak - ing risks and press - ing on,
roots a - live so that hope may bear its fruit;

though the way feels less se - cure: pil - grim - age both
prom - ise - fed, our souls will thrive, not through mer - it

right and odd, trust - ing all our life to God.
we pos - sess but by God's great faith - ful - ness.

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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 838

Standing on the Promises

vs 2 and 4, refrain

**Standing on the promises that cannot fail,
when the howling storms of doubt and fear assail,
by the living Word of God I shall prevail,
standing on the promises of God.**

**Standing on the promises I cannot fall,
listening every moment to the Spirit's call,
resting in my Savior as my all in all,
standing on the promises of God.**

Refrain:

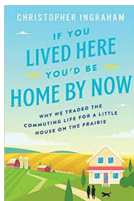
**Standing, standing,
standing on the promises of God my Savior;
standing, standing,
I'm standing on the promises of God.**

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**



Today, we will discuss *If You Lived Here, You'd be Home by Now*, by Christopher Ingraham. Our author lived in Washington D.C. Despite hearing that a town in Minnesota was the worst place to live in the U.S., he and his wife 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 (just stay online).

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TODAY AT CPC

Sunday, February 28

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

THIS WEEK AT CPC

Tuesday, March 2

- 10:00 am Online Bible Study
12:00 pm Conference Call *
7:00 pm Christian Education Meeting

Wednesday, March 3

- 6:30 am Prayer Group

Friday, March 5

- 12:00 pm Conference Call*

Sunday, March 7

- 9:30 am Online Worship Service
with Communion
10:30 am Blue Sky Conversation



Judy Leal
Jane, Ed, Jenny, Elissa and
the Burgstaler grandchildren
Connie Holst
MariLynn Johnson
Glenna Muir and her mother
Susie Olson
Joanne Powell

*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 /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	Dave Copeland
IT Support	Louis Bouchard