

# Community Presbyterian Church

open hearted, open minded

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

*Welcome to worship this morning!*

**March 14, 2021**

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



## GATHERING AROUND THE WORD OF GOD

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

PRELUDE

CALL TO WORSHIP

We gather again during Lent to examine our hearts and our lives and journey with Christ through the suffering of the world.

Let us watch for the coming sign of God's power, the Beloved Son, a humble servant, lifted up on a cross for our healing.

**God has marked us as beloved dust  
and called us together to worship.**

**What a friend we have in Jesus,  
all our sins and griefs to bear!**

**What a privilege to carry  
everything to God in prayer!  
O what peace we often forfeit;  
O what needless pain we bear,  
all because we do not carry  
everything to God in prayer!**

**Have we trials and temptations?  
Is there trouble anywhere?  
We should never be discouraged;  
take it to the Lord in prayer!  
Can we find a friend so faithful  
who will all our sorrows share?  
Jesus knows our every weakness;  
take it to the Lord in prayer!**

#### 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

By your gift of grace we are saved from all that separates us from you.

Still, we would rather believe that we can earn your love.

Still, we would rather believe that we are in ultimate control.

**Forgive us when we do not recognize the radical gift of your grace;  
have mercy when we fail or refuse to share that grace with another.**

**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

*It Is Well With My Soul*

Mark Neville, Judy Kereakos

Words: Horatio G. Spafford, Music: Based on Ville Du Havre by Phillip Bliss

Setting: John Ness Beck, Transcribed: Craig Courtney

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 Numbers 21:4-9

*On their 40-year journey from Egypt to the Promised Land of Canaan, the formerly enslaved Hebrew people found plenty to aggravate them. This strange story invites us into the mystery of the relationship between complaint and consequences, repentance and restoration, and God's part in both. It begs the question: how do humans influence God?*

From Mount Hor they set out by the way to the Red Sea, to go around the land of Edom; but the people became impatient on the way. The people spoke against God and against Moses, "Why have you brought us up out of Egypt to die in the wilderness? For there is no food and no water, and we detest this miserable food." Then the Lord sent poisonous serpents among the people, and they bit the people, so that many Israelites died. The people came to Moses and said, "We have sinned by speaking against the Lord and against you; pray to the Lord to take away the serpents from us." So Moses prayed for the people. And the Lord said to Moses, "Make a poisonous serpent, and set it on a pole; and everyone who is bitten shall look at it and live." So Moses made a serpent of bronze, and put it upon a pole; and whenever a serpent bit someone, that person would look at the serpent of bronze and live.

RESPONSIVE READING Psalm 107:1-3, 17-22

Give thanks to the Most High, for God is good;  
for the steadfast love of the Beloved endures forever:

**Let those redeemed by the Righteous One say so!**

Let those gathered in from the east and from the west,  
from the north and from the south,  
remember how they were saved from trouble:

**Let those redeemed by the Righteous One say so!**

Some were sick through their sinful ways,  
and afflicted because of their iniquities;  
they drew near to the gates of death.

**Let those redeemed by the Righteous One say so!**

Then they cried to the Almighty in their trouble,  
and God saved them from their distress;  
lifting up hope to heal and deliver them.

**Let those redeemed by the Righteous One say so!**

Let them give thanks for the Healer's steadfast love,  
and wonderful works to humankind.  
Let them sacrifice with thanksgiving  
and sound their praise in songs of joy.

**Let those redeemed by the Righteous One say so!**

SCRIPTURE READING      Ephesians 2:1-10

*The writer of this letter sees humankind as dead in spirit until sin is recognized and the tasks of repentance and restoration begun. Most important, though: we don't initiate our own spiritual resurrection. This is God's gift:*

By grace you have been saved through faith, and this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God— not the result of works, so that no one may boast. For we are what the Creator has made us, formed in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand to be our way of life.

GOSPEL READING      John 3:14-21

*Jesus' act of civil disobedience in the Temple drew the attention of a Jewish leader named Nicodemus, who approached him secretly for answers. This is part of Jesus' response, and contains one of the best-known passages in the Bible.*

And just as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, so must the Son of Man be lifted up, that whoever believes in him may have eternal life. "For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him may not perish but may have eternal life. Indeed, God did not send the Son into the world to condemn the world, but in order that the world might be saved through him. Those who believe in him are not condemned; but those who do not believe are condemned already, because they have not believed in the name of the only Son of God. And this is the judgment, that the light has come into the world, and people loved darkness rather than light because their deeds were evil. For all who do evil hate the light and do not come to the light, so that their deeds may

not be exposed. But those who do what is true come to the light, so that it may be clearly seen that their deeds have been done in God.”

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

SERMON

*Lifting Up the Gift*

Pastor Jan

### RESPONDING TO GOD’S GRACE

HYMN OF THE DAY GTG 792

There Is a Balm in Gilead (vs. 1 and 2)

*Refrain*



There is a balm in Gil-e-ad to make the wound-ed whole;

*Fine*



there is a balm in Gil-e-ad to heal the sin-sick soul.

1 Some-times I feel dis-cour-aged, and think my work’s in vain, but  
2 Don’t ev-er feel dis-cour-aged, for Je-sus is your friend, and



then the Ho-ly Spir - it re-vives my soul a - gain. There is a  
if you lack for knowl-edge, he’ll not re-fuse to lend. There is a

*to Refrain*



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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 795

Healer of Our Every Ill

vs. 1 and 2

*Refrain*



Heal - er of our ev - ery ill, light of each to - mor - row,



give us peace be - yond our fear, and hope be - yond our sor - row.



1 You who know our fears and sad - ness, grace us with your peace and  
2 In the pain and joy be - hold - ing how your grace is still un -



glad - ness; Spir - it of all com - fort, fill our hearts.  
fold - ing, give us all your vi - sion, God of love.

## 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**



**A Blue Sky Conversation** will happen again today, continuing the thoughts on: "What's in our spiritual DNA as a congregation? How does this work its way into the world?" Anyone affiliated with CPC is encouraged to attend, whether or not you've been present for past conversations. We'll try to end promptly at 11:15.

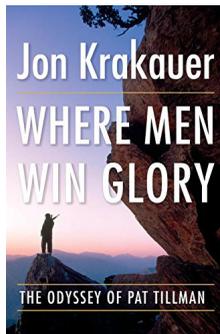


An **intergenerational outdoor activity** is tentatively being planned for Sunday afternoon, March 21, at Quarry Hill.

Final plans will depend on the weather, but if you might be interested in participating, please contact Amanda Ross, Sue Chipman, Pastor Jan or leave a message at the church office. This will assist planners in their preparations.



## BOOK DISCUSSION GROUP



The Book Discussion Group will meet on Sunday, March 28 at 10:30 am (after worship) to discuss **Where Men Win Glory** by Jon Krakauer. Read this interesting book and join in the discussion!

“A stunning account of a remarkable young man's [Pat Tillman's] heroic life and death, from the bestselling author of *Into the Wild*, *Into Thin Air*, and *Under the Banner of Heaven*.”

<https://www.amazon.com/Where-Men-Win-Glory-Odyssey-ebook/dp/B002L6HE3W>

# Community Presbyterian Church

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## TODAY AT CPC

**Sunday, March 14**

9:30 am Online Worship Service

## THIS WEEK AT CPC

Tuesday, March 16

10:00 am Online Bible Study

12:00 pm Conference Call \*

12:00 pm Bulletin Items due

5:30 pm Finance & Stewardship Meeting

Wednesday, March 17

6:30 am Prayer Group

6:30 pm Jubellation Handbells Rehearsal

Friday, March 19

12:00 pm Conference Call\*

Saturday, March 20

12:00 pm Newsletter Items Due

**Sunday, March 21**

9:30 am Online Worship Service



Judy Leal

Jane, Ed, Jenny, Elissa and  
the Burgstaler grandchildren

Connie Holst

MariLynn Johnson

Glenna Muir and her mother

Susie Olson

Sue Chipman

*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	Sue Chipman
IT Support	Louis Bouchard
Special Music	Mark Neville, Judy Kereakos