

Community Presbyterian Church

open hearted, open minded

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



March 7, 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

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

Let us listen for the commandments of our loving God and align our lives with God's vision for peace.

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

OPENING HYMN GTG 61

Your Law, O Lord, Is Perfect

based on Psalm 19



1 Your law, O Lord, is per - fect, the sim - ple mak - ing wise;
2 More to be sought than rich - es, your words are my soul's wealth;
3 My strength and my re - deem - er, law - giv - er and true light,



how pure are your com - mand - ments, en - light - en - ing my eyes!
their taste is sweet like hon - ey, im - part - ing life and health.
my words and med - i - ta - tions make wor - thy in your sight.

Celebrating God's law in this paraphrase of the second half of Psalm 19 may seem odd if "law" is thought of simply as a list of things not to do. But in Jewish understanding, the law is seen as a gift, because it provides the signposts that show how to live as the people of God.

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 Christ who chased the money changers from the temple,
chase the greed from our lives and our hearts.

As you overturned the tables, overturn the systems in our world
that contribute to cycles of poverty and oppression.

**Forgive us, O God, of the ways we contribute
to the world's brokenness.**

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

Maya's Prayer for Peace

by Tom Trenney

Olathe East Chorale, a high school group from Olathe, Kansas

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 Exodus 20:1-17

The covenant of the law: God gives Moses and the newly freed Hebrew people the Ten Commandments at Mount Sinai. These are not, as we sometimes think, rules prohibiting the immoral behavior of individuals, but a comprehensive program for life in community.

Then God spoke all these words: I am the Lord your God, who brought you out of the land of Egypt, out of the house of slavery; you shall have no other gods before me. You shall not make for yourself an idol, whether in the form of anything that is in heaven above, or that is on the earth beneath, or that is in the water under the earth. You shall not bow down to them or worship them; for I the Lord your God am a jealous God, punishing children for the iniquity of parents, to the third and the fourth generation of those who reject me, but showing steadfast love to the thousandth generation of those who love me and keep my commandments. You shall not make wrongful use of the name of the Lord your God, for the Lord will not acquit anyone who misuses his name. Remember the sabbath day, and keep it holy. Six days you shall labor and do all your work. But the seventh day is a sabbath to the Lord your God; you shall not do any work—you, your son or your daughter, your male or female slave, your livestock, or the alien resident in your towns. For in six days the Lord made heaven and earth, the sea, and all that is in them, but rested the seventh day; therefore the Lord blessed the sabbath day and consecrated it.

Honor your father and your mother, so that your days may be long in the land that the Lord your God is giving you. You shall not murder. You shall not commit adultery. You shall not steal. You shall not bear false witness against your neighbor. You shall not covet your neighbor's house; you shall not covet your neighbor's wife, or male or female slave, or ox, or donkey, or anything that belongs to your neighbor.

SCRIPTURE READING 1 Corinthians 1:18-25

Who is wise in your eyes? And why?

For the message about the cross is foolishness to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God. For it is written, "I will destroy the wisdom of the wise, and the discernment of the discerning I will thwart." Where is the one who is wise? Where is the scribe? Where is the debater of this age? Has not God made foolish the wisdom of the world? For since, in the wisdom of God, the world did not know God through wisdom, God decided, through the foolishness of our proclamation, to save those who believe. For Jews demand signs and Greeks desire wisdom, but we proclaim Christ crucified, a stumbling block to Jews and foolishness to Gentiles, but to those who are called, both Jews and Greeks, Christ the power of God and the wisdom of God. For God's foolishness is wiser than human wisdom, and God's weakness is stronger than human strength.

GOSPEL READING John 2:13-22

Today we make a quick shift from Mark's Gospel to John's. Here we are given a rare glimpse of Jesus' anger. This is one of the few stories common to all four Gospels.

The Passover of the Jews was near, and Jesus went up to Jerusalem. In the temple he found people selling cattle, sheep, and doves, and the money changers seated at their tables. Making a whip of cords, he drove all of them out of the temple, both the sheep and the cattle. He also poured out the coins of the money changers and overturned their tables. He told those who were selling the doves, "Take these things out of here! Stop making my Father's house a marketplace!" His disciples remembered that it was written, "Zeal for your house will consume me." The Jews then said to him, "What sign can you show us for doing this?" Jesus answered them, "Destroy this temple, and in three days I will raise it up." The Jews then said, "This temple has been under construction for forty-six years, and will you raise it up in three days?" But he was speaking of the temple of his body. After he was raised from the dead, his disciples remembered that he had said this; and they believed the scripture and the word that Jesus had spoken.

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

SERMON

Love Written in Stone and Anger

Pastor Jan

RESPONDING TO GOD'S GRACE

HYMN OF THE DAY GTG 213

In the Cross of Christ I Glory

vs. 1 and 4

1 In the cross of Christ I glo - ry, tower - ing
4 Bane and bless - ing, pain and plea - sure, by the
o'er the wrecks of time; all the light of sa - cred
cross are sanc - ti - fied; peace is there that knows no
sto - ry gath - ers round its head sub - lime.
mea - sure, joys that through all time a - bide.

RESPONSIVE PRAYER

O Christ, you are within each of us.

You are not just within the beloved walls of our church:
it is our own inner being you have renewed.

We are your temple not made with hands.

We are your body.

If every wall should crumble, and every church decay,
we are still your habitation.

**You are nearer to us than breathing,
closer than hands and feet.**

Ours are the eyes with which you, in the mystery,
look out with compassion on the world.

**We bless you for your directing of us,
your redeeming of us, and your indwelling.**

Take us outside, O Christ, outside holiness,
out to where soldiers curse and nations clash
at the crossroads of the world.

**So shall our church, our beloved space,
be justified. We ask it for your name's sake. Amen**

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 Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

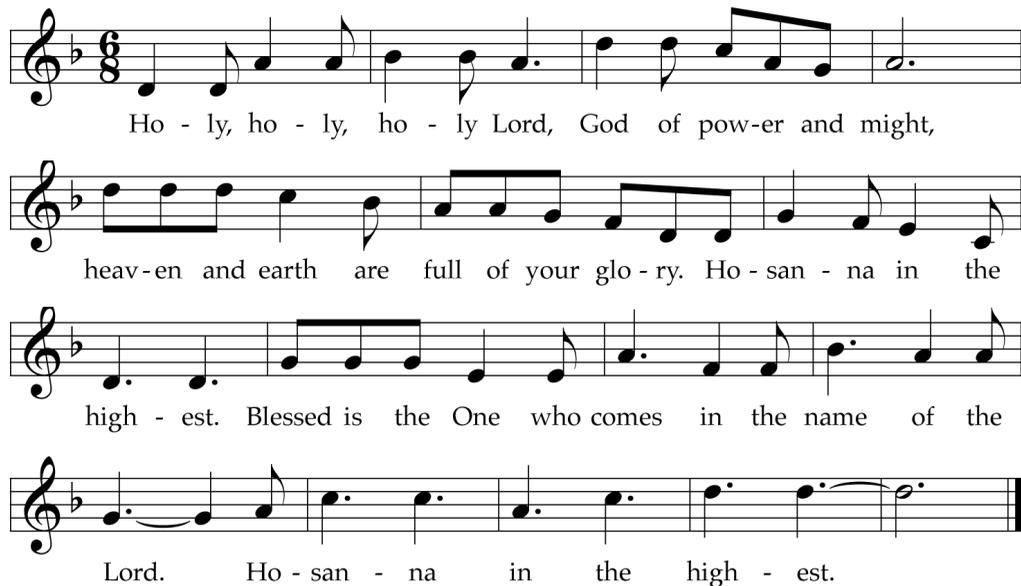
We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise

It is truly right and our great joy to give you thanks and praise, O Lord our God, creator and ruler of the universe... Therefore we praise you, joining the song of the universal church and the heavenly choir:

SANCTUS GTG 569 Holy, Holy, Holy



Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow-er and might,
heav-en and earth are full of your glo - ry. Ho - san - na in the
high - est. Blessed is the One who comes in the name of the
Lord. Ho - san - na in the high - est.

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

Thank you, gracious God, for giving us bread for the journey of these forty days. As we travel on through the wilderness, help us to share your grace with others and draw us ever closer to you; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen

SENDING INTO THE WORLD TO LOVE AND SERVE

CLOSING HYMN GTG 450 Be Thou My Vision

vs. 1 and 2

**Be thou my vision, O Lord of my heart;
naught be all else to me, save that thou art;
thou my best thought, by day or by night,
waking or sleeping, thy presence my light.**

**Be thou my wisdom, and thou my true Word;
I ever with thee and thou with me, Lord;
thou my soul's shelter, and thou my high tower;
raise thou me heavenward, O Power of my power.**

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**

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TODAY AT CPC

Sunday, March 7

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

THIS WEEK AT CPC

Tuesday, March 9

- 10:00 am Online Bible Study
- 12:00 pm Conference Call *
- 12:00 pm Items for the bulletin due
- 6:30 pm Building & Grounds Meeting

Wednesday, March 10

- 6:30 am Prayer Group
- 6:30 pm Jubellation Handbells Rehearsal

Friday, March 12

- 12:00 pm Conference Call*

Sunday, March 14

- 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
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	Sherrie Wilson
IT Support	Louis Bouchard