

Community Presbyterian Church

open hearted, open minded

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

April 11, 2021

*Welcome to worship
this morning!*

Bulletin Cues:

Bold indicates
congregational
response.



GATHERING AROUND THE WORD OF GOD

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

PRELUDE

CALL TO WORSHIP

We worship in the Easter light:

The shadow of death is no match for God's love.

We join our voices with the disciple Thomas:


“My Lord and my God!”

Easter people, Christ is risen!

Christ is risen indeed! Alleluia!



1 The day of res - ur - rec - tion! Earth, tell it out a - broad,
3 Now let the heavens be joy - ful; let earth its song be - gin;



the Pass - o - ver of glad - ness, the Pass - o - ver of God.
the round world keep high tri - umph and all that is there - in.



From death to life e - ter - nal, from sin's do - min - ion free,
Let all things seen and un - seen their notes of glad - ness blend,



our Christ has brought us o - ver with hymns of vic - to - ry.
for Christ the Lord has ris - en, our joy that has no end.

LISTENING FOR GOD'S WORD

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

Living God, with joy we celebrate the presence of your risen Word. Enliven our hearts by your Holy Spirit so that we may proclaim the good news of eternal and abundant life; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen**

SCRIPTURE READING

Acts 4:32-35

Luke, the author of Acts, describes the ideal community adopted by the first Christians. Their style of life reinforced their verbal message of Jesus' resurrection.

Now the whole group of those who believed were of one heart and soul, and no one claimed private ownership of any possessions, but everything they owned was held in common. With great power the apostles gave their testimony to the resurrection of the Lord Jesus, and great grace was upon them all. There was not a needy person among them, for as many as owned lands or houses sold them and brought the proceeds of what was sold. They laid it at the apostles' feet, and it was distributed to each as any had need.

RESPONSIVE READING

Psalm 133

How good and pleasant it is when kindred live together in unity!
It is like the precious oil on the head, on the beard of Aaron,
running down over the collar of his robes.

Let us be united in our love for God and one another.

It is like the dew of Hermon falling on the mountains of Zion.
For there our God commended to us the blessing,
life together, life forevermore.

Let us be united in our love for God and one another.

SPECIAL MUSIC

Because He Lives (Amen)

by Bill & Gloria Gaither

West Coast Choir from Lancaster, California

SCRIPTURE READING 1 John 1:1-7

John, the author of three brief letters toward the end of the Bible, was probably not the gospel writer, though both emphasize the physical revelation of love and life in Jesus. Notice, too, how often in these brief verses he uses the word “fellowship,” referring to the community of faith.

We declare to you what was from the beginning, what we have heard, what we have seen with our eyes, what we have looked at and touched with our hands, concerning the word of life— this life was revealed, and we have seen it and testify to it, and declare to you the eternal life that was with the Father and was revealed to us— we declare to you what we have seen and heard so that you also may have fellowship with us; and truly our fellowship is with the Father and with his Son Jesus Christ. We are writing these things so that our joy may be complete.

This is the message we have heard from him and proclaim to you, that God is light and in him there is no darkness at all. If we say that we have fellowship with him while we are walking in darkness, we lie and do not do what is true; but if we walk in the light as he himself is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus his Son cleanses us from all sin.

GOSPEL READING

John 20:19-31

This is one small piece of John’s lengthy version of post-resurrection events. For us, a week has passed since Easter Sunday; for the disciples, only a few hours.

When it was evening on that day, the first day of the week, and the doors of the house where the disciples had met were locked for fear of the Jews, Jesus came and stood among

them and said, "Peace be with you." After he said this, he showed them his hands and his side. Then the disciples rejoiced when they saw the Lord. Jesus said to them again, "Peace be with you. As the Father has sent me, so I send you." When he had said this, he breathed on them and said to them, "Receive the Holy Spirit. If you forgive the sins of any, they are forgiven them; if you retain the sins of any, they are retained." But Thomas (who was called the Twin), one of the twelve, was not with them when Jesus came. So the other disciples told him, "We have seen the Lord." But he said to them, "Unless I see the mark of the nails in his hands, and put my finger in the mark of the nails and my hand in his side, I will not believe."

A week later his disciples were again in the house, and Thomas was with them. Although the doors were shut, Jesus came and stood among them and said, "Peace be with you." Then he said to Thomas, "Put your finger here and see my hands. Reach out your hand and put it in my side. Do not doubt but believe." Thomas answered him, "My Lord and my God!" Jesus said to him, "Have you believed because you have seen me? Blessed are those who have not seen and yet have come to believe." Now Jesus did many other signs in the presence of his disciples, which are not written in this book. But these are written so that you may come to believe that Jesus is the Messiah, the Son of God, and that through believing you may have life in his name.

This is the good news which we have received, in which we stand, and by which we are saved. **Thanks be to God.**

SERMON

Breathing Together

Pastor Jan

RESPONDING TO GOD'S GRACE

HYMN OF THE DAY GTG 235

O Sons and Daughters, Let Us Sing

vs. 1 and 4

Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia! Al -

le - lu - ia! 1 O sons and daugh - ters, let us sing with
4 That night the a - pos - tles met in fear; a -

heaven-ly hosts to Christ our King; to - day the grave has
mong them came their Lord most dear, and said, "My peace be
lost with its sting! Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia! Fine

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AN EASTER AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

by Andreas Wagner

**I believe in the God of Easter morning
who awakens us from our darkest dreams
and leads us into the light of a new day,
who meets our pessimism
with stunning hope of angelic proclamation.**

**I believe in the God of Easter day,
who beats us to the obstacles in our lives
and empties the dark tomb for us;
who appears in surprising ways when we least expect it;
walking with us on our detours.**

**I believe in the God of Easter evening
who breaks into our closets and prisons,
bringing peace and crushing our fear.
I believe in the risen Christ who meets us
with wounds on his hands and feet;
who grants us his Spirit, sending us out
to bring Shalom to the world. Amen.**

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 254

That Easter Day with Joy Was Bright



1 That Eas - ter day with joy was bright; the sun shone
2 He bade them see his hands, his side, where yet the
3 From ev - ery weap - on death can wield, your own re -
out with fair - er light when, to their long - ing
glo - rious wounds a - bide, the to - kens true which
deemed for - ev - er shield; O Lord of all, with
eyes re - stored, the a - pos - tles saw their ris - en Lord.
made it plain their Lord in - deed was risen a - gain.
us a - bide in this our joy - ful Eas - ter - tide.

CHARGE AND BLESSING

Bear the light of God the Creator as you travel through life's mystery;
Hear the voice of the risen Christ calling you to the places you need to be;
Share the presence of the Holy Spirit with everyone you meet;
Carry the warm fellowship of faith to all in need of peace and comfort.

May the truth of Easter
The joy of Easter
And the blessings of Easter
Be with you this day and all days.
Amen

Worship Note: During Easter season, we will be omitting the congregational confession and assurance of forgiveness and adding a congregational affirmation of faith. From now until Pentecost, we will share a different creed each week. Why alter worship in this way?

The weeks of Lent are generally considered a time to ponder the need for God in our lives. Confession and forgiveness are central to faith at this time. Easter rings in the great resurrection story, the silent explosion of renewed life that propelled Jesus' followers far and wide to proclaim the mystery of faith to a mostly hostile world.

The early creeds of the church, like the Apostle's and the Nicene Creeds, developed out of controversy as the fledgling faith tried to steer a straight course in this pre-Christian world. These hard-won summaries set the boundaries of faith, much as buoys mark safe swimming areas in a lake.

We live now in a different world. What was once considered essential for faith is now often dismissed as irrelevant. Some cultures have come to faith relatively recently, like Indigenous people of North America, or of Africa and Asia. Other cultures, like many "Christian" countries of Europe and even the United States, have seen a marked deterioration in faith and practice. Other Christian subcultures, like feminist, Base Christian Communities, and African American, have found it helpful to define the faith in their own terms and with their own music rather than uncritically adopting the language of an oppressor class.

Various new creeds are emerging that express new approaches to the faith of our mothers and fathers. Pastor Andreas Wagner explains, "Their aim is to speak to culture rather than drawing a separation line away from culture.... Could it be that the Holy Spirit, in a matter of many centuries, has moved us ever so slowly beyond the battle stage towards a culture of dialogue and inclusion?" (<http://modernliturgist.org/wp-content/uploads/2016/10/SH-Paper-Alternative-Creeds-in-Liturgical-Worship.pdf>)

In proclaiming our faith through new words, we do not in any way devalue the creeds upon which the church was built; rather, we hope to open our eyes and hearts to new ways of hearing their truth. To God be the glory.

Book Discussion Group
No Ocean Too Wide
by Carrie Turansky
Sunday, April 25 at 10:30
(just stay online after worship!)
All are welcome!

No Ocean Too Wide, by Carrie Turansky, is the selection for April 25 discussion. Young Laura McCallister learned that her three younger siblings were among a group of more than 100,000 British children that were taken to Canada as British Home Children. Laura works with Andrew Frasier to find her siblings and reunite her family. Join us for this interesting discussion!

Community Presbyterian Church

open hearted, open minded

TODAY AT CPC

Sunday, April 11

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

THIS WEEK AT CPC

Tuesday, April 13

10:00 am Online Bible Study
12:00 pm Conference Call *
12:00 pm Bulletin Items due
6:30 pm Building & Grounds Committee

Wednesday, April 14

6:30 am Prayer Group

Friday, April 16

12:00 pm Conference Call*

Sunday, April 18

9:30 am Online Worship Service
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
Jane Burgstaler's friend, Sara
Carol and Frank Jones's goddaughter
Becky and family

***To be added to the prayer list,
please contact the church office at
507-280-9291 or
email office@cpcrochester.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