

Community Presbyterian Church

open hearted, open minded

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



April 25, 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 gather to worship the Good Shepherd,
who is ever-present, abiding in all creation,
who lays down his life for his own,
who calls us to lay down our lives for others.
Easter people, Christ is risen!

Christ is risen indeed! Alleluia!

OPENING HYMN GTG 240

Alleluia! Alleluia! Give Thanks

vs. 1 and 4

Descant



Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia,

Refrain



Al-le - lu - ia, al-le - lu - ia! Give thanks to the ris-en Lord. Al-le -

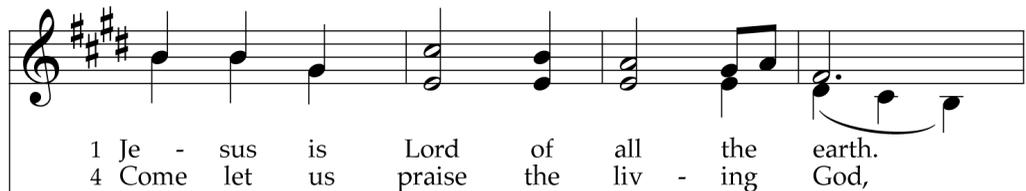
Fine



al - le - lu - ia! Praise to his name.



lu - ia, al-le - lu - ia! Give praise to his name.



1 Je - sus is Lord of all the earth.
4 Come let us praise the liv - ing God,



He is the King of cre - a - tion.
joy - ful - ly sing to our Sav - ior.

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 4:5-12

Peter and John healed a man born disabled. Having captured the crowd's interest and amazement, they credited Jesus as the source of healing and proclaimed his resurrection. This annoyed the authorities, who arrested the disciples.

The next day their rulers, elders, and scribes assembled in Jerusalem, with Annas the high priest, Caiaphas, John, and Alexander, and all who were of the high-priestly family. When they had made the prisoners stand in their midst, they inquired, "By what power or by what name did you do this?" Then Peter, filled with the Holy Spirit, said to them, "Rulers of the people and elders, if we are questioned today because of a good deed done to someone who was sick and are asked how this man has been healed, let it be known to all of you, and to all the people of Israel, that this man is standing before you in good health by the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth, whom you crucified, whom God raised from the dead. This Jesus is 'the stone that was rejected by you, the builders; it has become the cornerstone.' There is salvation in no one else, for there is no other name under heaven given among mortals by which we must be saved."

SCRIPTURE READING

Psalm 23

read in unison

**The Lord is my shepherd, I shall not want.
He makes me lie down in green pastures;
he leads me beside still waters;
he restores my soul.
He leads me in right paths for his name's sake.**

**Even though I walk through the darkest valley,
I fear no evil; for you are with me;
your rod and your staff— they comfort me.**

**You prepare a table before me in the presence of my enemies;
you anoint my head with oil; my cup overflows.
Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life,
and I shall dwell in the house of the Lord my whole life long.**

SCRIPTURE READING 1 John 3:16–24

John emphasizes the physical nature of the resurrection. Our love, too, must take tangible form.

We know love by this, that he laid down his life for us—and we ought to lay down our lives for one another. How does God’s love abide in anyone who has the world’s goods and sees a brother or sister in need and yet refuses help? Little children, let us love, not in word or speech, but in truth and action. And by this we will know that we are from the truth and will reassure our hearts before him whenever our hearts condemn us; for God is greater than our hearts, and he knows everything. Beloved, if our hearts do not condemn us, we have boldness before God; and we receive from him whatever we ask, because we obey his commandments and do what pleases him. And this is his commandment, that we should believe in the name of his Son Jesus Christ and love one another, just as he has commanded us. All who obey his commandments abide in him, and he abides in them. And by this we know that he abides in us, by the Spirit that he has given us.

SPECIAL MUSIC

GOSPEL READING John 10:11-18

This beautiful chapter recalls the beloved Psalm 23. John the gospel writer positions Jesus’ words about the shepherd and the sheep between two miracles: the healing of a man born blind, and raising Lazarus from death.

“I am the good shepherd. The good shepherd lays down his life for the sheep. The hired hand, who is not the shepherd and does not own the sheep, sees the wolf coming and leaves the sheep and runs away—and the wolf snatches them and scatters them. The hired hand runs away because a hired hand does not care for the sheep. I am the good shepherd. I know my own and my own know me, just as the Father knows me and I know the Father. And I lay down my life for the sheep. I have other sheep that do not belong to this fold. I must bring them also, and they will listen to my voice. So there will be one flock, one shepherd. For this reason the Father loves me, because I lay down my life in order to take it up again. No one takes it from me, but I lay it down of my own accord. I have power to lay it down, and I have power to take it up again. I have received this command from my Father.”

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

SERMON

Always and Everywhere

Pastor Jan

RESPONDING TO GOD'S GRACE

HYMN OF THE DAY GTG 250

In the Bulb There Is a Flower

vs. 1 and 2



1 In the bulb there is a flow - er; in the seed, an ap - ple tree;
2 There's a song in ev - ery si - lence, seek - ing word and mel - o - dy;



in co - coons, a hid - den prom - ise: but - ter - flies will soon be free!
there's a dawn in ev - ery dark - ness, bring - ing hope to you and me.



In the cold and snow of win - ter there's a spring that waits to be,
From the past will come the fu - ture; what it holds, a mys - ter - y,



un - re - vealed un - til its sea - son, some - thing God a - lone can see.

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AFFIRMATION OF FAITH for Earth Day

**We believe in God above us,
Creator of all things, sustainer of all life.**

**We believe in Christ beside us,
Companion and friend,
redeemer of all the broken pieces of our universe.**

**We believe in Spirit deep within us,
Advocate and guide, who lives with us eternally.**

**We believe in God's resurrection-created world,
Where all broken things are fixed,
and all creation fits together in vibrant harmonies.**

**We believe in God above, beside, within,
God yesterday, today and forever,
the three in one, the one in three,**

We believe in God.

— from the Lenten series *Journey into Wholeness* written by Christine Sine. Published in 2009 by Mustard Seed Associates. The entire series is available on the Godspace website, <https://godspacelight.com/creation-spirituality/>

JOYS AND CONCERNS/PRAVERS 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 625

How Great Thou Art

vs. 1 and 2

**O Lord my God, when I in awesome wonder
consider all the worlds thy hands have made,
I see the stars, I hear the rolling thunder,
thy power throughout the universe displayed:**

Refrain:

**Then sings my soul, my Savior God, to thee:
How great thou art! How great thou art!
Then sings my soul, my Savior God, to thee:
How great thou art! How great thou art!**

**When through the woods and forest glades I wander
and hear the birds sing sweetly in the trees,
when I look down from lofty mountain grandeur
and hear the brook and feel the gentle breeze: [Refrain]**

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



Poet Artist Collaboration Virtual Reception

Friday, April 30, 2021 from 6:00pm - 8:00 pm
Join us for an evening of poetry reading and art in celebration of the opening of this 20th Annual Poet-Artist Collaboration Event. Join us on Zoom!

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85378855878>

Exhibit dates: April 30-June 21, 2021

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

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TODAY AT CPC

Sunday, April 25

9:30 am Online Worship Service

10:30 am Book Discussion Group

THIS WEEK AT CPC

Tuesday, April 27

10:00 am Online Bible Study

12:00 pm Conference Call *

12:00 pm Bulletin Items due

6:30 pm Session Meeting

Wednesday, April 28

6:30 am Prayer Group

Sunday, May 2

9:30 am Online Worship Service
with Communion



Judy Leal

Jane, Ed, Jenny, Elissa and
the Burgstaler grandchildren

Connie Holst

MariLynn Johnson

Glenna Muir and her mother

*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's 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