

Community Presbyterian Church

open hearted, open minded

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



May 2, 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 praise and worship God,
the one who created us for love.

We gather to worship the true vine,
the one in whose love we abide.

Easter people, Christ is risen!

Christ is risen indeed! Alleluia

OPENING HYMN GTG 307

God of Grace and God of Glory

vs. 1 and 3



1 God of grace and God of glo - ry, on thy peo - ple
3 Cure thy chil - dren's war - ring mad - ness; bend our pride to



pour thy power; crown thine an - cient chur - ch's sto - ry; bring its
thy con - trol; shame our wan - ton, self - ish glad - ness, rich in



bud to glo - rious flower. Grant us wis - dom, grant us cour - age,
things and poor in soul. Grant us wis - dom, grant us cour - age,



for the fac - ing of this hour, for the fac - ing of this hour.
lest we miss thy king - dom's goal, lest we miss thy king - dom's goal.

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 8:26–40

The author, Luke, relates a colorful and almost magical story of the early church. Notice how the Spirit works through Philip, who has fled to Samaria to escape persecution in Jerusalem.

Then an angel of the Lord said to Philip, “Get up and go toward the south to the road that goes down from Jerusalem to Gaza.” (This is a wilderness road.) So he got up and went. Now there was an Ethiopian eunuch, a court official of the Candace, queen of the Ethiopians, in charge of her entire treasury. He had come to Jerusalem to worship and was returning home; seated in his chariot, he was reading the prophet Isaiah. Then the Spirit said to Philip, “Go over to this chariot and join it.” So Philip ran up to it and heard him reading the prophet Isaiah. He asked, “Do you understand what you are reading?” He replied, “How can I, unless someone guides me?” And he invited Philip to get in and sit beside him. Now the passage of the scripture that he was reading was this: “Like a sheep he was led to the slaughter, and like a lamb silent before its shearer, so he does not open his mouth. In his humiliation justice was denied him. Who can describe his generation? For his life is taken away from the earth.” The eunuch asked Philip, “About whom, may I ask you, does the prophet say this, about himself or about someone else?” Then Philip began to speak, and starting with this scripture, he proclaimed to him the good news about Jesus. As they were going along the road, they came to some water; and the eunuch said, “Look, here is water! What is to prevent me from being baptized?” He commanded the chariot to stop, and both of them, Philip and the eunuch, went down into the water, and Philip baptized him. When they came up out of the water, the Spirit of the Lord snatched Philip away; the eunuch saw him no more, and went on his way rejoicing. But Philip found himself at Azotus, and as he was passing through the region, he proclaimed the good news to all the towns until he came to Caesarea.

RESPONSIVE READING

Psalm 22:25-31

To you, Beloved, I lift my voice in the great congregation;

I fulfill my promises to you in the presence of your people.

The hungry shall eat and be satisfied;

those who seek you shall sing your praises.

You have become our dwelling place forever.

All the ends of the earth shall remember and turn to Love's way;

all families and the nations will worship before you.

For power and authority are yours; you rule over all.

The proud of the earth shall be humbled,

those who live in fear and illusions separate themselves from you;

But those who abide in you have peace within.

Posterity will know and walk in the way of Love;

And tell future generations of the One who abides in all.

A people yet unborn will proclaim

that the Most High dwells among us.

SCRIPTURE READING

1 John 4:7-21

Once again, John reminds us that God's love lies at the heart of all faith, and at the heart of all life.

Beloved, let us love one another, because love is from God; everyone who loves is born of God and knows God. Whoever does not love does not know God, for God is love.... God is love, and those who abide in love abide in God, and God abides in them. Love has been perfected among us in this: that we may have boldness on the day of judgment, because as he is, so are we in this world. There is no fear in love, but perfect love casts out fear; for fear has to do with punishment, and whoever fears has not reached perfection in love. We love because he first loved us.

SPECIAL MUSIC

Agnus Dei

by Samuel Barber

performed by Santa Clara Vanguard from Santa Clara, California

GOSPEL READING

John 15:1-8

We hear this text a full month after Easter. According to John, Jesus spoke these words to his disciples the night before he died. Does timing affect how you hear them?

”I am the true vine, and my Father is the vinegrower. He removes every branch in me that bears no fruit. Every branch that bears fruit he prunes to make it bear more fruit. You have already been cleansed by the word that I have spoken to you. Abide in me as I abide in you. Just as the branch cannot bear fruit by itself unless it abides in the vine, neither can you unless you abide in me. I am the vine, you are the branches. Those who abide in me and I in them bear much fruit, because apart from me you can do nothing. Whoever does not abide in me is thrown away like a branch and withers; such branches are gathered, thrown into the fire, and burned. If you abide in me, and my words abide in you, ask for whatever you wish, and it will be done for you. My Father is glorified by this, that you bear much fruit and become my disciples.”

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

SERMON

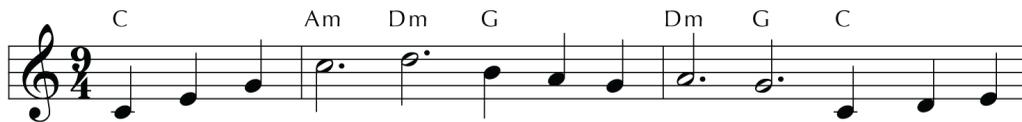
Pastor Jan

RESPONDING TO GOD’S GRACE

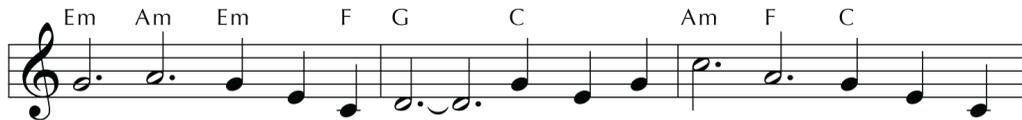
HYMN OF THE DAY GTG 702

Christ Be Beside Me

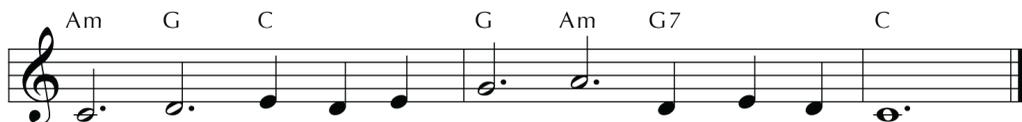
all verses



1 Christ be be - side me; Christ be be - fore me; Christ be be -
 2 Christ on my right hand, Christ on my left hand, Christ all a -
 3 Christ be in all hearts think - ing a - bout me; Christ be on



hind me, King of my heart. Christ be with - in me; Christ be be -
 round me, shield in the strife. Christ in my sleep - ing, Christ in my
 all tongues tell - ing of me. Christ be the vi - sion in eyes that



low me; Christ be a - bove me, nev - er to part.
 sit - ting, Christ in my ris - ing, Light of my life.
 see me; in ears that hear me Christ ev - er be.

AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

We are not alone, we live in God's world.

**We believe in God: who has created and is creating,
who has come in Jesus, the Word made flesh,
to reconcile and make new,
who works in us and others by the Spirit.**

We trust in God.

**We are called to be the Church:
to celebrate God's presence,
to live with respect in Creation,
to love and serve others,
to seek justice and resist evil,
to proclaim Jesus, crucified and risen,
our judge and our hope.**

**In life, in death, in life beyond death,
God is with us.**

We are not alone.

Thanks be to God. Amen.

~ From The United Church of Canada, <http://www.united-church.ca/beliefs/creed>

JOYS AND CONCERNS/PRAVERS 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

May God be with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them up in love.

Give thanks to the Beloved, who is Spirit and truth.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

We do thank and praise you, our Creator, our Savior, and our Friend,...and sing your grace and glory with all creatures of earth and sea and sky, and all the company of heaven:

SANCTUS GTG 552

Holy, Holy, Holy

Holy, Holy, Holy

552



1 Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of
2 Bless - ed is he who comes in the



pow - er and might, heav - en and earth are
name of the Lord. Ho - san - na in the



full of your glo - ry. Ho - san - na in the high - est.
high - est, ho - san - na in the high - est.

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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, O God, for giving us communion with our risen and glorious Lord. Now send us out to be a sign of the new life that has come into the world; through Jesus Christ our Savior. **Amen**

SENDING INTO THE WORLD TO LOVE AND SERVE

CLOSING HYMN GTG 295

Go to the World

vs. 1 and 3



1 Go to the world! Go in - to all the earth.
3 Go to the world! Go strug - gle, bless, and pray;
Go preach the cross where Christ re - news life's worth,
the nights of tears give way to joy - ous day.
bap - tiz - ing as the sign of our re - birth.
As ser - vant church, you fol - low Christ's own way.
Al - le - lu - ia. Al - le - lu - ia.

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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

Community Presbyterian Church

open hearted, open minded

TODAY AT CPC

Sunday, May 2

9:30 am Online Worship Service
with Communion

THIS WEEK AT CPC

Tuesday, May 4

10:00 am Online Bible Study
12:00 pm Conference Call *
12:00 pm Bulletin Items due
6:00 pm Brain Injury Support Group
7:00 pm Christian Education Committee

Wednesday, May 5

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

Friday, May 7

1:00 pm PW: White Savior Video

Sunday, May 9

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

*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'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	Sue Chipman
IT Support	Louis Bouchard