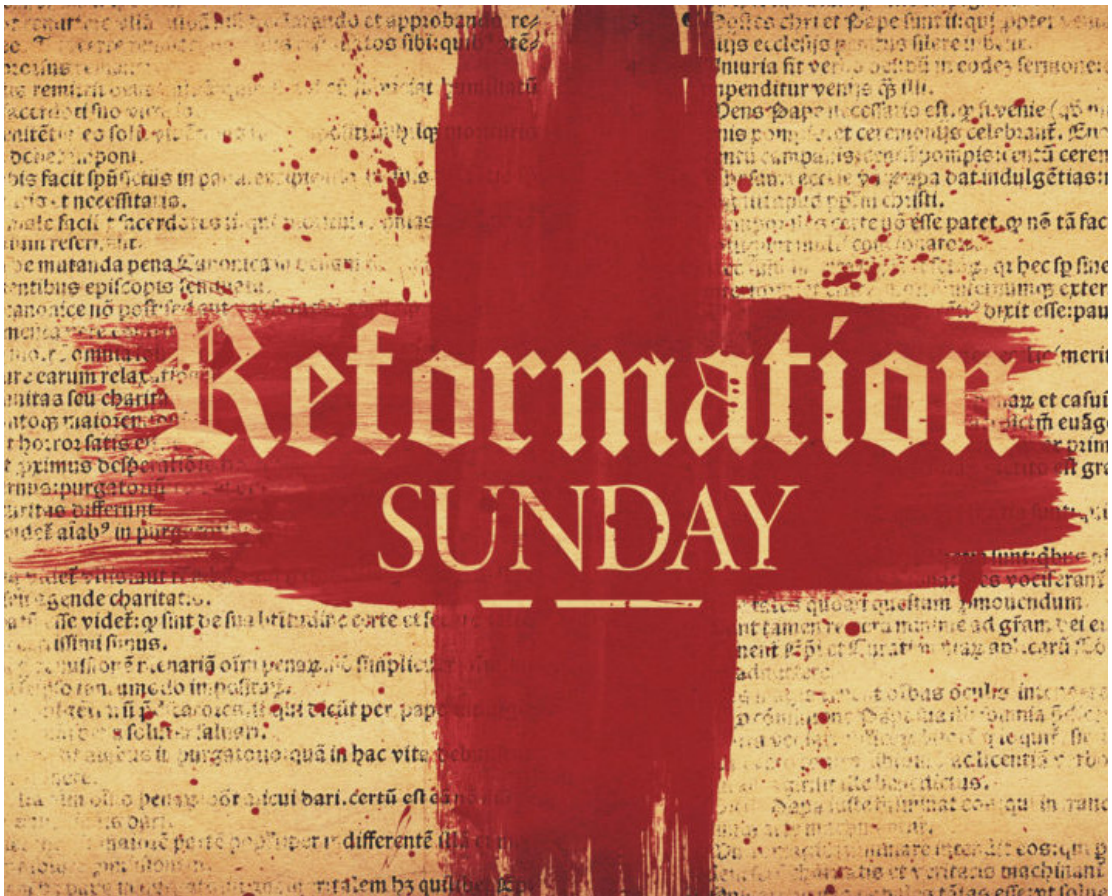


# Community Presbyterian Church

open hearted, open minded

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



**October 31, 2021**

**Welcome to worship this morning!**

**Bulletin Cues:** **Bold** indicates congregational response. \* indicates please stand, if able

# GATHERING AROUND THE WORD OF GOD

## WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

### PRELUDE

#### \*CALL TO WORSHIP

We gather to worship God alone,

**To God alone be the glory!**

We gather as people reformed and reforming,  
proclaiming the cornerstones of our faith:

**Scripture alone, Christ alone, faith alone,  
grace alone, glory always, to God alone.**

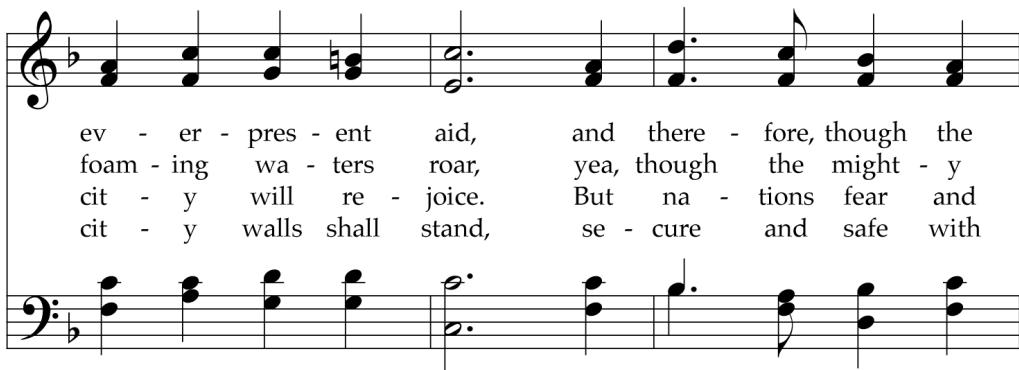
#### \*OPENING HYMN GTG 329

God Is Our Refuge and Our Strength

*all verses*



1 God is our refuge and our strength, our  
2 Though hills amid the seas be cast, though  
3 Where God abides a river flows; that  
4 Since God is in the midst of it, the



ev - er - pres - ent aid, and there - fore, though the  
foam - ing wa - ters roar, yea, though the might - y  
cit - y will re - joice. But na - tions fear and  
cit - y walls shall stand, se - cure and safe with



earth be moved, we will not be a - fraid;  
 bil - lows shake the moun - tains on the shore.  
 king - doms shake be - fore God's thun - dering voice.  
 God's sure help, when trou - ble is at hand.

### CONFESSION AND PARDON

Holy God, our Maker; Jesus Christ, our teacher;  
 Holy Spirit, breath of life, have mercy on us.  
 In silence, let us remember our faults and failings.

*Silence before the prayer of confession.*

O God, you have never stopped moving in the world  
 and calling your church to follow your lead.

**Forgive us, O God, when we think of ourselves  
 as reformed only in the past tense.**

Forgive us, O God, when we fail to follow  
 the winds of your Spirit leading us to change.

**Forgive us, O God, and grant us assurance  
 that you are still reforming your church.  
 For you are the one who makes all things new.**

May God forgive you, Christ befriend you,  
 and the Spirit renew and change your life.

**We believe that God forgives and sets us free,  
 and we commit ourselves to following where Christ calls  
 and to loving one another.**

### LISTENING FOR GOD'S WORD

#### PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

Faithful God, we are blessed when we seek your righteousness. Make us whole and holy people by your Spirit alive in us. May we receive your word and your world as blessing, in your name, most Beloved. **Amen**

SCRIPTURE READING

Jeremiah 31:31-34

*God's truth is written on our hearts; God's promise lives within us.*

The days are surely coming, says the Lord, when I will make a new covenant with the house of Israel and the house of Judah. It will not be like the covenant that I made with their ancestors when I took them by the hand to bring them out of the land of Egypt—a covenant that they broke, though I was their husband, says the Lord. But this is the covenant that I will make with the house of Israel after those days, says the Lord: I will put my law within them, and I will write it on their hearts; and I will be their God, and they shall be my people. No longer shall they teach one another, or say to each other, “Know the Lord,” for they shall all know me, from the least of them to the greatest, says the Lord; for I will forgive their iniquity, and remember their sin no more.

RESPONSIVE READING

Psalm 46

God is our refuge and strength, a very present help in trouble.

Therefore we will not fear, though the earth should change,

**though the mountains shake in the heart of the sea;**

**though its waters roar and foam,**

**though the mountains tremble with its tumult.**

There is a river whose streams make glad the city of God,  
the holy habitation of the Most High.

**God is in the midst of the city; it shall not be moved;**

**God will help it when the morning dawns.**

The nations are in an uproar, the kingdoms totter;

God speaks, and the earth melts.

**The Lord of hosts is with us; the God of Jacob is our refuge.**

Come, behold the works of the Lord;

see what desolations God has brought on the earth:

**The one who makes wars cease to the end of the earth;**

**who breaks the bow, and shatters the spear;**

**who burns the shields with fire.**

“Be still, and know that I am God!

I am exalted among the nations, I am exalted in the earth.”

**The Lord of hosts is with us; the God of Jacob is our refuge.**

SCRIPTURE READING      Romans 3:19-28

*Paul puts forth his classic teaching that all are saved by faith, not by our own actions.*

Now we know that whatever the law says, it speaks to those who are under the law, so that every mouth may be silenced, and the whole world may be held accountable to God. For “no human being will be justified in his sight” by deeds prescribed by the law, for through the law comes the knowledge of sin. But now, apart from law, the righteousness of God has been disclosed, and is attested by the law and the prophets, the righteousness of God through faith in Jesus Christ for all who believe. For there is no distinction, since all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God; they are now justified by his grace as a gift, through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus, whom God put forward as a sacrifice of atonement by his blood, effective through faith. He did this to show his righteousness, because in his divine forbearance he had passed over the sins previously committed; it was to prove at the present time that he himself is righteous and that he justifies the one who has faith in Jesus. Then what becomes of boasting? It is excluded. By what law? By that of works? No, but by the law of faith. For we hold that a person is justified by faith apart from works prescribed by the law.

SPECIAL MUSIC

Nearer, My God, to Thee  
a traditional hymn arranged by James Stevens

BYU Men's Chorus

GOSPEL READING

John 8:31-36

*In this brief encounter, Jesus challenges us to ponder: what is truth? And what is freedom?*

Then Jesus said to the Jews who had believed in him, “If you continue in my word, you are truly my disciples; and you will know the truth, and the truth will make you free.” They answered him, “We are descendants of Abraham and have never been slaves to anyone. What do you mean by saying, ‘You will be made free?’” Jesus answered them, “Very truly, I tell you, everyone who commits sin is a slave to sin. The slave does not have a permanent place in the household; the son has a place there forever. So if the Son makes you free, you will be free indeed.”

Keep these words in your heart. The Lord is our God, the Lord alone.

**Thanks be to God.**

SERMON

Rev. Ann Siverling

**RESPONDING TO GOD'S GRACE**

\*HYMN OF THE DAY GTG 451    Open My Eyes, that I May See

# Open My Eyes, that I May See



1 O-pen my eyes, that I may see glimps-es of truth thou hast for me.  
2 O-pen my ears, that I may hear voic - es of truth thou send-est clear.  
3 O-pen my mouth, and let me bear glad-ly the warm truth ev-ery-where.



Place in my hands the won-der-ful key that shall un - clasp and  
And while the wave notes fall on my ear, ev - ery-thing false will  
O - pen my heart, and let me pre-pare love with thy chil-dren



set me free. Si-lent-ly now I wait for thee, read-y, my God, thy  
dis - ap-pear. Si-lent-ly now I wait for thee, read-y, my God, thy  
thus to share. Si-lent-ly now I wait for thee, read-y, my God, thy



will to see. O-pen my eyes; il - lu - mine me, Spir - it di-vine!  
will to see. O-pen my ears; il - lu - mine me, Spir - it di-vine!  
will to see. O-pen my heart; il - lu - mine me, Spir - it di-vine!

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STEWARDSHIP MINUTE

Dave Copeland

JOYS AND CONCERNS/PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

God, our Savior,

**hear our prayer.**

LORD'S PRAYER

**Our Father and Mother in heaven, hallowed be your name.**

**Your kindom come, your 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 let us not be led into temptation, but deliver us from evil.  
For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours, now and forever. Amen

### SENDING INTO THE WORLD TO LOVE AND SERVE

\*CLOSING HYMN GTG 275

A Mighty Fortress Is Our God

*vs. 1 and 2*



1 A might - y for - tress is our God, a bul - wark nev - er  
2 Did we in our own strength con - fide, our striv - ing would be



fail - ing. Our help - er he, a - mid the flood of  
los - ing, were not the right man on our side, the



mor - tal ills pre - vail - ing. For still our an - cient foe doth  
man of God's own choos - ing. Dost ask who that may be? Christ



seek to work us woe. His craft and power are great, and  
Je - sus, it is he. Lord Sab - a - oth his name, from



armed with cru - el hate, on earth is not his e - qual.  
age to age the same, and he must win the bat - tle.

\*CHARGE AND BLESSING

Look at your hands, see the touch and the tenderness;

Look at your feet, see the path and the direction;

Look at your heart, see the fire and the love;

Look at the cross; see God's Son and our Savior.

This is God's world,

**And we will serve God in it.**

Jesus said, "I am with you always."

May God the Creator bless you,

May God the Son walk with you,

May God the Spirit lead your lives with love.

**Amen**

POSTLUDE



# Community Presbyterian Church

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## TODAY AT CPC

### Sunday, October 31

9:30 am Worship (Onsite and Online)

## THIS WEEK AT CPC

Tuesday, November 2

12:00 pm Bulletin Announcements Due

12:00 pm Conference Call \*

6:00 pm Brain Injury Support Group

7:00 pm Christian Education Committee

Wednesday, November 3

6:30 am Prayer Group

7:00 pm Choir Rehearsal

Saturday, November 6

Daylight Saving Time Ends

### Sunday, November 7

#### All Saints Sunday

9:30 am Worship with Communion  
(Onsite and Online)

*Pastor Jan will be on a spiritual retreat from October 28-31. If a pastoral emergency arises during that time, please call Rev. Ann Siverling (507-234-5712).*

**Online Worship:** Sundays 9:30 – 10:30am  
**PW Bible Study:** 2nd & 4th Tuesdays, 10 am  
<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#



Judy Leal  
 Jane and Ed Burgstaler family,  
 especially daughter Jenny

Connie Holst  
 MariLynn Johnson  
 Vera Atkinson's daughter, Teresa  
 Judi Berg  
 Sue Chipman

Glenna Muir's sister, Annie

***To be added to the prayer list,  
 please contact the church office at  
 507-280-9291 or  
 email [office@pcrochester.org](mailto:office@pcrochester.org).  
 For emergency pastoral care,  
 call Pastor Jan at 763-219-2927.***

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

Guest Preacher	Rev. Ann Siverling
Liturgist	Sherrie Wilson
Special Music	BYU Men's Chorus
IT Support	Louis Bouchard

## Give Thanks in November

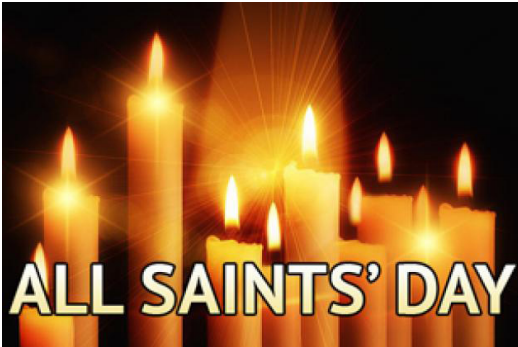
*November 7 All Saints Sunday*

*November 14 Armistice Remembrance, Stewardship Sunday*

*November 21 PW Thank Offering*

*November 28 First Sunday in Advent, Greening of the Church*

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### All Saints Sunday: November 7

All who wish to do so may bring a memorial candle to be placed on a central table and lit from the Christ candle prior to the service. During Joys and Concerns, we will have a chance to share the names of those specially remembered in this way.

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### STEWARDSHIP and DOUGHNUTS!!

Sunday November 14th is D<sup>o</sup>UGHNUT SUNDAY!! Also known as the annual Stewardship Sunday. This year, you are challenged to see how many "D<sup>o</sup>UGH<sup>n</sup>NUT\$ you can add to your 2021 pledge. If a traditional D<sup>o</sup>UGHNUT cannot be added to your pledge, let the traditional Long John "D<sup>o</sup>UGH<sup>n</sup>NUT guide you. We know that decisions should not be made on an empty stomach, so come and join us on Stewardship Sunday. In addition to the normal operating pledging, we also have an opportunity for Mission directed pledging available on your pledge card. Our tradition of D<sup>o</sup>UGHNUTS from <sup>o</sup>TT<sup>o</sup>'s Bakery in Byron continues!!

This year's stewardship theme is Growing in Faith Together: Growing to Serve. You should have received a letter and pledge card recently. Please plan to return your pledge on Stewardship Sunday, November 14 or that following week.



*Above all, maintain constant love for one another, for love covers a multitude of sins. Be hospitable to one another without complaining. Like good stewards of the manifold grace of God, serve one another with whatever gift each of you have received.*

1 Peter 4:8-9