

A night sky with a bright star in the upper left corner. A thin white vertical line extends from the star down towards the word 'Hope'. The sky is a deep blue with many small stars. At the bottom, there is a dark silhouette of a forest of evergreen trees.

Hope

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

When will God's promise be fulfilled?

The days are surely coming.

When will we be saved?

The days are surely coming.

How will we know the signs to take place?

**The days are surely coming
when a branch from David shall come forth
to bring justice and righteousness to the land.**

What shall it be called?

The Anointed One is our righteousness.

*OPENING HYMN GTG 100

My Soul Cries Out

vs. 1 and 4



1 My soul cries out with a joy - ful shout that the
4 Though the na - tions rage from age to age, we re -



God of my heart is great, and my spir - it sings of the
mem - ber who holds us fast: God's mer - cy must de -



won - drous things that you bring to the ones who wait.
liv - er us from the con - quer-or's crush - ing grasp.



You fixed your sight on your ser - vant's plight, and my
This sav - ing word that our fore - bears heard is the



weak - ness you did not spurn, so from east to west shall my
prom - ise which holds us bound, till the spear and rod can be



name be blest. Could the world be a - bout to turn?
crushed by God, who is turn - ing the world a - round.

Refrain



My heart shall sing of the day you bring. Let the



fires of your jus - tice burn. Wipe a - way all tears, for the



dawn draws near, and the world is a - bout to turn.

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LIGHTING THE CANDLE OF HOPE

Louis Bouchard

The world says, "All is lost." God says, "All is loved."

The darkness says, "The light is dying." The light says, "The fire is catching."

Fear says, "Cover your eyes and your ears." Hope says, "Wait, watch, and listen."

As we light our first Advent candle,

we pray for holy hope of God.

Come now, O Child of Mary.

Come now, O Prince of Hope.

CONFESSION AND PARDON

We have all sinned, not one of us is innocent;
but there is mercy for those
who call on the name of the Lord.
Trusting in God's grace, let us confess our sin.

Silence before the prayer of confession.

**Coming Christ,
you may not find us as you hoped.
We've looked away from signs we do not wish to see.
We've stopped listening to distress we do not wish to hear.
We are numb to inconvenient truths.
Keep us alert, O God, to the needs of our neighbors.
Revive our hearts laden with compassion fatigue.
Sharpen our minds clouded by worries.
Sober our lives addicted to privilege.
Show us the signs of your coming,
that we may stand before you, the Son of Man,
in whose name we pray.**

Every valley is lifted up; every mountain made low.
Now the glory of the Lord is revealed,
for the mouth of the Lord has spoken.
In the name of Jesus Christ, we are forgiven!

SUNG RESPONSE GTG #100 "My Soul Cries Out with a Joyful Shout" *refrain*
**"My heart shall sing of the day you bring;
let the fires of your justice burn.
Wipe away all tears for the dawn draws near,
and the world is about to turn."**

LISTENING FOR GOD'S WORD

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

God of hope, who never lets us go, draw near to us in these ancient words. By your Holy Spirit may we be filled with wonder, lifted up, and leveled as you prepare in our hearts the path of your coming. **Amen**

SCRIPTURE READING Jeremiah 33:14-16

The people of ancient Israel hoped for the birth of a descendant of David, their greatest king.

The days are surely coming, says the Lord, when I will fulfill the promise I made to the house of Israel and the house of Judah. In those days and at that time I will cause a righteous Branch to spring up for David; and he shall execute justice and righteousness in the land. In those days Judah will be saved and Jerusalem will live in safety. And this is the name by which it will be called: "The Lord is our righteousness."

RESPONSIVE READING Psalm 25 (adapted)

To you, O God, I lift up my soul; I place my trust in you;

Let me not feel unworthy, or let fear rule over me.

Lead me in your truth and teach me; then I will be whole;

I will reflect your light by day and by night.

Forgive the times I've walked away from you, following my own will;

I seek your guidance so I may hope in the peace you bring.

Turn to me and envelop me with your love;

Remove the blocks in my heart that separate me from you.

Fill me with your healing light; protect and free me;

Relieve the pain and fears that shut out love and life.

For to you, O God, I lift up my soul; I place my hope in you.

GOSPEL READING Luke 21:25-36

Fear and foreboding are the opposite of the wonderful hope that promises the coming of God among us.

"There will be signs in the sun, the moon, and the stars, and on the earth distress among nations confused by the roaring of the sea and the waves. People will faint from fear and foreboding of what is coming upon the world, for the powers of the heavens will be shaken. Then they will see 'the Son of Man coming in a cloud' with power and great glory. Now when these things begin to take place, stand up and raise your heads, because your redemption is drawing near."

Then he told them a parable: "Look at the fig tree and all the trees; as soon as they sprout leaves you can see for yourselves and know that summer is already near. So also, when you see these things taking place, you know that the kingdom of God is near. Truly I tell you, this generation will not pass away until all things have taken place. Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will not pass away. "Be on guard so that your hearts are not weighed down with dissipation and drunkenness and the worries of this life, and that day

catch you unexpectedly, like a trap. For it will come upon all who live on the face of the whole earth. Be alert at all times, praying that you may have the strength to escape all these things that will take place, and to stand before the Son of Man.”

Heaven and earth will pass away but the word of the Lord stands forever.

Thanks be to God.

SERMON

A Hopeful Wonder


Pastor Jan

RESPONDING TO GOD’S GRACE


*HYMN OF THE DAY GTG 94

Now the Heavens Start to Whisper


vs. 1 and 2



1 Now the heav - ens start to whis - per, as the veil is
2 Heav - y clouds that block the moon - light now be - gin to



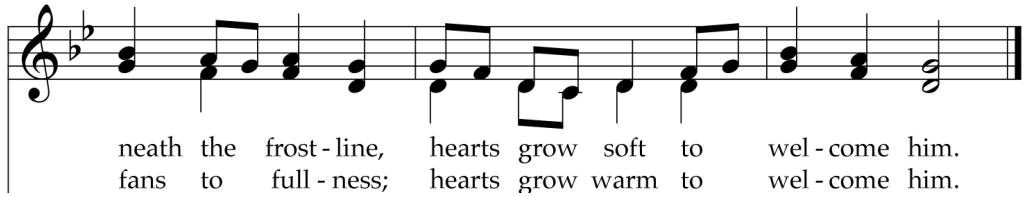
grow - ing thin. Earth from slum - ber wakes to lis - ten
drift a - way. Dia - mond bril - liance through the dark - ness



to the stir - ring, faint with - in: seed of prom - ise, deep - ly
shines the hope of com - ing day. Christ, the morn - ing star of



plant - ed, child to spring from Jes - se's stem! Like the soil be -
splen - dor, gleams with - in a world grown dim. Heav - en's em - ber



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 kindom, the power, and the glory are yours, now and forever. Amen**

SENDING INTO THE WORLD TO LOVE AND SERVE

*CLOSING HYMN GTG 82 Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus

*CHARGE AND BLESSING

By the tender mercy of our God,
the dawn from on high will break upon us,
to give light to those who sit in darkness
and in the shadow of death,
to guide our feet into the way of peace.

Go now, sharing the light of Christ with others
as you walk on the path of hope.

Amen. Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE

Come, Thou Long Expected Jesus



1 Come, thou long - ex - spect-ed Je - sus, born to set thy peo-ple free;
2 Born thy peo - ple to de - liv - er, born a child and yet a king,



from our fears and sins re - lease us; let us find our rest in thee.
born to reign in us for - ev - er, now thy gra-cious king-dom bring.



Is-rael's strength and con-so - la - tion, hope of all the earth thou art;
By thine own e - ter - nal Spir - it rule in all our hearts a - lone;



dear de - sire of ev - ery na - tion, joy of ev - ery long-ing heart.
by thine all - suf-fi - cient mer - it raise us to thy glo-rious throne.



Community Presbyterian Church

open hearted, open minded

TODAY AT CPC

Sunday, November 28 Advent 1

9:30 am Worship

10:30 am Greening of the Church

THIS WEEK AT CPC

Tuesday, November 30

12:00 pm Bulletin Announcements Due

12:00 pm Conference Call *

Wednesday, December 1

6:30 am Prayer Group

6:15 pm Jubellation Handbell Rehearsal

7:00 pm Choir Rehearsal

Sunday, December 5 Advent 2

9:30 am Worship

10:30 am Book Discussion Group

10:30 am Deacons Meeting

10:30 am Jubellation Handbell Rehearsal



Judy Leal

Jane and Ed Burgstaler family,
especially daughter Jenny

Connie Holst

MariLynn Johnson

Vera Atkinson's daughter, Teresa

Glenna Muir's sister, Annie

Judy Leals mother, Katie

Sherrie Wilson's brother-in-law, David

***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.***

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	Peggy McCarty
IT Support	Louis Bouchard

Online Worship: Sundays 9:30 – 10:30am

<https://meet.google.com/vao-wjef-cbe>

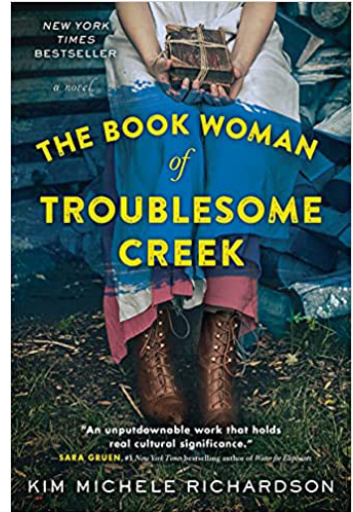
+1 575-305-4527 PIN: 652 821 468 #

* Tuesday's Conference Call

<https://meet.google.com/kee-rcys-sdh>

+1 413-889-2244 PIN: 433 818 991#

BOOK DISCUSSION GROUP



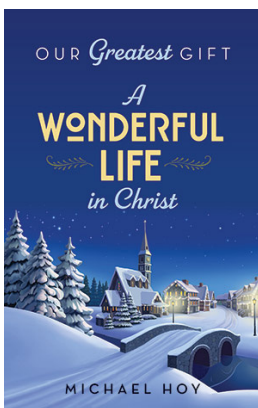
The joint November and December book discussion group get together will be December 5th after the worship service. This month, the group is reading and discussing *The Book Woman of Troublesome Creek*, by Kim Michele Richardson. The Goodreads website says this about the book:

“In 1936, tucked deep into the woods of Troublesome Creek, KY, lives blue-skinned 19-year-old Cussy Carter, the last living female of the rare Blue People ancestry.

The lonely young Appalachian woman joins the historical Pack Horse Library Project of Kentucky and becomes a librarian, riding across slippery creek beds and up treacherous mountains on her faithful mule to deliver books and other reading material to the impoverished hill people of Eastern Kentucky.

Along her dangerous route, Cussy, known to the mountain folk as Bluet, confronts those suspicious of her damselfly-blue skin and the government's new book program. She befriends hardscrabble and complex fellow Kentuckians, and is fiercely determined to bring comfort and joy, instill literacy, and give to those who have nothing, a bookly respite, a fleeting retreat to faraway lands.”

Looks like a good book! Join in the discussion on the 5th, whether or not you've finished reading the book!



Stay after worship today for the **Greening of the Church!** All are welcome to join in the fun of decorating our space! Also, please remember to pick up your Advent devotional, *A Wonderful Life in Christ*, available in the narthex. If you forget or are worshipping from home, you can stop in during the week to pick up the booklet, or ask Stephanie to mail you one!