

A vertical line of light descends from a bright, multi-pointed star in the upper left corner of a deep blue night sky. The sky is filled with faint, scattered stars. At the bottom of the image, the dark silhouettes of evergreen trees are visible against the horizon.

Hope
Peace
Joy

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

Isaiah 12:4-6

Prepare the way of the Lord!

Give thanks to God, call on the holy Name;
make known God's saving deeds among the nations;
proclaim the Name exalted above every name.

Sing praises to the Beloved, who has done gloriously;
shout aloud and sing for joy, O royal Zion,
for great in your midst is the Holy One of Israel.

*OPENING HYMN GTG 107

Awake! Awake, and Greet the New Morn

vs. 1 and 2



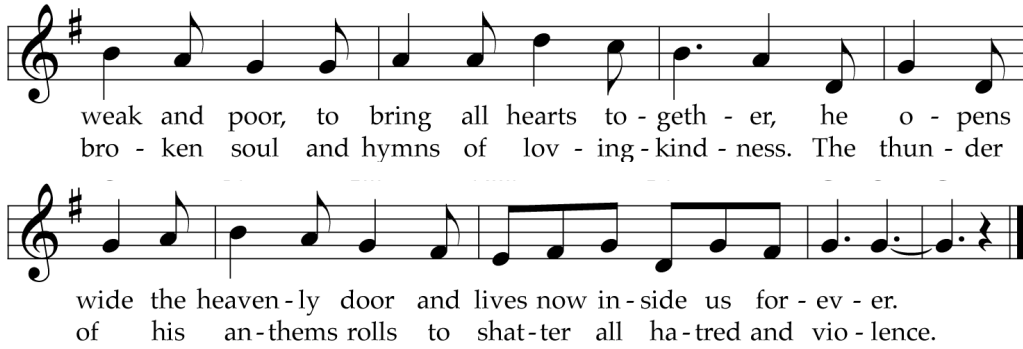
1 A - wake! A - wake, and greet the new morn, for an - gels
2 To us, to all in sor - row and fear, Em - man - u -



her - ald its dawn - ing. Sing out your joy, for soon he is
el comes a - sing - ing; his hum - ble song is qui - et and



born, be - hold! the Child of our long - ing. Come as a ba - by
near, yet fills the earth with its ring - ing; mu - sic to heal the



weak and poor, to bring all hearts to - geth - er, he o - pens
bro - ken soul and hymns of lov - ing - kind - ness. The thun - der
wide the heaven - ly door and lives now in - side us for - ev - er.
of his an - thems rolls to shat - ter all ha - tred and vio - lence.

LIGHTING THE CANDLE OF JOY

“Rejoice in the Lord always;
again I will say, Rejoice.”
The world says, “Worry,”
and we say, “Rejoice.”
The news says, “Fear,”
and we say, “Rejoice.”
The world says, “Be happy,”
and the church says, “Be faithful.”
As we light our third Advent candle,
We pray for hope, peace, and joy.
Come now, O child of Mary.
Come now, O Prince of Joy.

CALL TO CONFESSION

Trusting in God’s salvation, faithfulness and merciful love,
let us confess our sin and the sins of the world.

Silence before the prayer of confession.

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

**Merciful God, we confess that, in the midst of your glorious creation,
we have neglected our role in its care.
We ignore the cries of the hurting and the lonely,
those on the margins and those who are oppressed.
We have not prepared a way for the Lord,
through our words or our deeds, our actions or thoughts.
Grant us your mercy in forgiveness;
and lead us to act with compassion and justice.**

ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS

from Isaiah 12:2-3

Surely God is our salvation; we will trust and not be afraid.
God is our strength and our might, whose forgiveness is our salvation.
With joy let us draw water from the wells of salvation.

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 peace, 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**

RESPONSIVE READING Zephaniah 3:14-20

Sing aloud, O daughter Zion; shout, O Israel!
Rejoice and exult with all your heart, O daughter Jerusalem!
**Your Savior has taken away the judgments against you,
and turned away your enemies.**

God is in your midst; you shall fear disaster no more.
The Beloved will rejoice over you with gladness,
**and renew you in love, exulting with singing.
You will bear reproach no more!**

Then the Coming One will deal with all oppressors,
and will save those who cannot stand or walk unaided.
**God will gather those cast out by the powerful,
and will change their shame into praise and renown.**

And the Comforter will gather you and bring you home,
and will make you renowned and praised among all peoples.
**“I will restore your fortunes before your eyes,”
thus says our God.**

SCRIPTURE READING Philippians 4:4-7

Rejoice in the Lord always; again I will say, Rejoice. Let your gentleness be known to everyone. The Lord is near. Do not worry about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.

SPECIAL MUSIC

I Wonder as I Wander

Jubellation Handbell Choir

Traditional folk song arr. by Dave Howland

GOSPEL READING

Luke 3:7-18

Luke tells us that John's words are good news. Where in John's message do you hear good news?

John said to the crowds that came out to be baptized by him, "You brood of vipers! Who warned you to flee from the wrath to come? Bear fruits worthy of repentance. Do not begin to say to yourselves, 'We have Abraham as our ancestor'; for I tell you, God is able from these stones to raise up children to Abraham. Even now the ax is lying at the root of the trees; every tree therefore that does not bear good fruit is cut down and thrown into the fire." And the crowds asked him, "What then should we do?" In reply he said to them, "Whoever has two coats must share with anyone who has none; and whoever has food must do likewise." Even tax collectors came to be baptized, and they asked him, "Teacher, what should we do?" He said to them, "Collect no more than the amount prescribed for you." Soldiers also asked him, "And we, what should we do?" He said to them, "Do not extort money from anyone by threats or false accusation, and be satisfied with your wages."

As the people were filled with expectation, and all were questioning in their hearts concerning John, whether he might be the Messiah, John answered all of them by saying, "I baptize you with water; but one who is more powerful than I is coming; I am not worthy to untie the thong of his sandals. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire. His winnowing fork is in his hand, to clear his threshing floor and to gather the wheat into his granary; but the chaff he will burn with unquenchable fire." So, with many other exhortations, he proclaimed the good news to the people.

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

Thanks be to God.

SERMON

A Joyful Wonder

Pastor Jan

RESPONDING TO GOD'S GRACE

*HYMN OF THE DAY GTG 97

Watchman, Tell Us of the Night

vs. 1 and 3

1 Watch-man, tell us of the night, what its signs of prom-ise are.
3 Watch-man, tell us of the night, for the morn-ing seems to dawn.

Trav-eler, what a won-drous sight: see that glo-ry-beam-ing star.
Trav-eler, shad-ows take their flight; doubt and ter-ror are with-drawn.

Watch-man, does its beau-teous ray news of joy or hope fore-tell?
Watch-man, you may go your way; has-ten to your qui-et home.

Trav-eler, yes; it brings the day, prom-ised day of Is-ra-el.
Trav-eler, we re-joice to-day, for Em-man-u-el has come!

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 107 Awake! Awake, and Greet the New Morn vs. 3 and 4



3 In dark - est night his com - ing shall be, when all the
4 Re - joice, re - joice, take heart in the night. Though dark the



world is de - spair - ing, as morn - ing light so qui - et and
win - ter and cheer - less, the ris - ing sun shall crown you with



free, so warm and gen - tle and car - ing. Then shall the mute break
light; be strong and lov - ing and fear - less. Love be our song and



forth in song, the lame shall leap in won - der, the weak be
love our prayer and love our end - less sto - ry; may God fill



raised a - bove the strong, and weap - ons be bro - ken a - sun - der.
ev - ery day we share and bring us at last in - to glo - ry.

*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 joy.

Amen. Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE

W	E	G	T	H	M	K	I	C	X	J	Q
R	W	R	E	A	T	H	S	A	Z	O	C
M	P	E	K	D	J	E	S	N	B	Y	A
A	Y	A	D	V	I	M	P	D	H	O	P
R	J	O	S	E	P	H	E	L	O	V	E
Y	E	B	A	N	C	O	A	E	O	G	A
P	S	X	G	T	H	P	C	S	P	K	C
Z	U	G	M	L	O	E	Z	E	A	Y	E
Y	S	Q	P	U	R	P	L	E	X	R	A

Words to

Find

Words can be
found left to right
and up and down.

- Advent
- Wreath
- Candles
- Purple
- Hope
- Peace
- Joy
- Love
- Mary
- Joseph
- Jesus

Community Presbyterian Church

open hearted, open minded

TODAY AT CPC

Sunday, December 12 Advent 3

Wrapped Adopt-A-Family gifts due today

9:30 am Worship

THIS WEEK AT CPC

Tuesday, December 14

12:00 pm Bulletin Announcements Due

12:00 pm Conference Call *

6:00 pm Brain Injury Support

7:00 pm Christian Education Committee

Wednesday, December 15

6:30 am Prayer Group

7:00 pm Choir Rehearsal

Sunday, December 19 Advent 4

9:30 am Worship



Judy Leal

Jane and Ed Burgstaler family,
especially daughter Jenny

Connie Holst

MariLynn Johnson

Vera Atkinson's daughter, Teresa

Vera Atkinson's nephew, Bobby

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

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#

Serving in Worship Today

Liturgist	Frank Jones
Special Music	Jubellation Handbells
Advent Candle Lighter	Carolyn Bornhauser
IT Support	Louis Bouchard



Gage East Holiday Party

Where: Empowerment
Center (Enter in door?)

When: Tuesday,
December 21st

4:30 pm Note Time
Change!

Come for dinner, games,
Santa Claus, and fun!



Today, the **Jubellation Handbell Choir** plays during worship. The CPC handbells, hand chimes and related equipment used in the worship service were purchased with funds donated initially in 2004 by the Duane Olson family and, also, continuing donations from them.

The Jubellation Handbell Choir rings in tribute to the memory of Kathy Remtema, a charter member. When the bell choir was established and submissions were taken from the congregation for a choir name, it was Kathy's name submission, Jubellation, that was voted upon and chosen by the bell choir members.

Presbytery-wide choir to sing at CPC this Christmas season (virtually!)

With the support of the CPC choir and others, Pastor Scott Larson of First Presbyterian in Shakopee wrote a grant proposal to the Presbytery to cover the cost of professional mixing of a virtual choir, blending their voices in one video performance. The award received is enough to cover production of four video pieces! The first one planned will be "Joy to the World." Led by Meg Cain, members of the CPC choir will be recorded and mixed into the finished anthem, joining others from around the Presbytery. The video should be ready in time for Christmas. If so, Worship and Music plans to air it during worship on December 26.