

A blue-toned night sky with a bright star in the upper left corner. A thin vertical line extends from the star down towards the text. The bottom of the image shows the dark silhouette of a forest of evergreen trees against the blue sky.

Hope  
Peace

*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

*Keep Your Lamps*  
arranged by Andre Thomas

CPC Choir

**\*CALL TO WORSHIP**

A voice cries, "Prepare the way of the Lord."

**Lift every valley; lift every voice.**

Prepare the way of the Lord.

**And all flesh shall see the salvation of our God.**

**\*OPENING HYMN GTG 88**

O Come, O Come, Emmanuel

*vs. 1 and 7*



1 O come, O come, Em - man - u - el, and ran - som



cap - tive Is - ra - el, that mourns in lone - ly ex - ile



here un - til the Son of God ap - pear. Re-joyce! Re-joyce!



Em - man - u - el shall come to thee, O Is - ra - el.

7 O come, Desire of nations, bind  
all peoples in one heart and mind;  
bid envy, strife, and discord cease;  
fill the whole world with heaven's peace.  
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel  
shall come to thee, O Israel.

## LIGHTING THE CANDLE OF PEACE

A voice cries out in the wilderness, "Prepare the way of the Lord."

A choir sings in the silence, "Come, Emmanuel."

Every valley shall be filled. Every heart shall be made whole,  
for peace is stronger than turmoil, and love is louder than hate.

As we light our second Advent candle,

**we pray for the holy peace of God.**

Come now, O Child of Mary.

**Come now, O Prince of Peace.**

## CONFESSION AND PARDON

In Jesus Christ, God seeks to smooth the rough places in us.

With humility and hope let us make our confession.

*Silence before the prayer of confession.*

**Cleansing God, we hear the call to turn to you,  
but we struggle to respond.**

**A voice tells us to turn around and see you,  
but desires and distractions keep us unsettled,  
and lead away from you, away from life.**

**Clear a place of peace within us  
so that something new might be born,  
something that will return us  
to the way you have shown us in Jesus Christ.**

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 to guide our feet into the way of peace.

**In 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 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**

### SCRIPTURE IN WORD AND SONG

from Malachi 3 and Handel's *Messiah*

*Sometimes what we dread is ultimately what heals us, and delights us.*

See, I am sending my messenger to prepare the way before me, and the Lord whom you seek will suddenly come to his temple. The messenger of the covenant in whom you delight—indeed, he is coming, says the Lord of hosts. But who can endure the day of his coming, and who can stand when he appears? For he is like a refiner's fire and like fullers' soap; he will sit as a refiner and purifier of silver, and he will purify the descendants of Levi and refine them like gold and silver.

### SPECIAL MUSIC

*But Who May Abide the Day of His Coming*

Warsaw Philharmonic Orchestra and Choir

G.F. Handel *Messiah*

### RESPONSIVE READING

Luke 1:68-79

*This is the prophecy of the priest Zechariah, spoken on the birth of his son, the one who would be Jesus' herald: John the Baptist.*

Blessed be the God of Israel, who has favored and redeemed us,  
raising up a mighty savior for us in the house of David,  
as spoken through the mouth of the holy prophets from of old,  
to save us from our enemies and from the hand of all who hate us.

**The Faithful One has shown the mercy promised to our ancestors,  
remembering the holy covenant and oath sworn to Abraham,  
to grant us that we, rescued from our enemies, might live without fear,  
in holiness and righteousness all our days.**

And you, child, will be called the prophet of the Most High;  
to go before the Savior to prepare his ways,  
to give knowledge of salvation by the forgiveness of sin.

**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 the shadow of death,  
to guide our feet into the way of peace.**

SCRIPTURE READING

Philippians 1:3-6, 9-11

*How often are you exasperated by a project you began but can't seem to finish? God's work takes time, but its outcome is certain. Peace is one such endeavor!*

I thank my God every time I remember you, constantly praying with joy in every one of my prayers for all of you, because of your sharing in the gospel from the first day until now. I am confident of this, that the one who began a good work among you will bring it to completion by the day of Jesus Christ. ...And this is my prayer, that your love may overflow more and more with knowledge and full insight to help you to determine what is best, so that in the day of Christ you may be pure and blameless, having produced the harvest of righteousness that comes through Jesus Christ for the glory and praise of God.

GOSPEL READING

Luke 3:1-6

*Each of the four gospel writers tells the story of Jesus' life in their own way. Luke is particularly careful to place it at a distinct moment in history, while tying it to Israel's prophetic past.*

In the fifteenth year of the reign of Emperor Tiberius, when Pontius Pilate was governor of Judea, and Herod was ruler of Galilee, and his brother Philip ruler of the region of Ituraea and Trachonitis, and Lysanias ruler of Abilene, during the high priesthood of Annas and Caiaphas, the word of God came to John son of Zechariah in the wilderness. He went into all the region around the Jordan, proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins, as it is written in the book of the words of the prophet Isaiah, "The voice of one crying out in the wilderness: 'Prepare the way of the Lord, make his paths straight. Every valley shall be filled, and every mountain and hill shall be made low, and the crooked shall be made straight, and the rough ways made smooth; and all flesh shall see the salvation of God.'"

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

**Thanks be to God.**

SERMON

*A Peaceful Wonder*

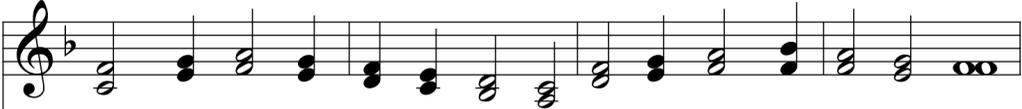
Pastor Jan

## RESPONDING TO GOD'S GRACE

\*HYMN OF THE DAY GTG 87

Comfort, Comfort Now My People

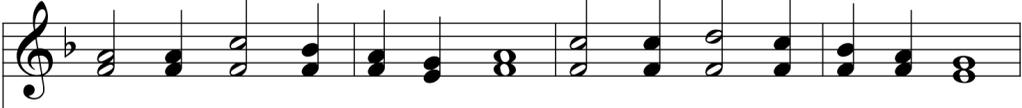
vs. 1 and 2



1 "Com - fort, com - fort now my peo - ple; tell of peace!" So says our God.  
2 For the her - ald's voice is cry - ing in the des - ert far and near,



"Com - fort those who sit in dark - ness mourn - ing un - der sor - row's load.  
call - ing us to true re - pen - tance, since the reign of God is here.



To my peo - ple now pro - claim that my par - don waits for them!  
O, that warn - ing cry o - bey! Now pre - pare for God a way.



Tell them that their sins I cov - er, and their war - fare now is o - ver."  
Let the val - leys rise in meet - ing and the hills bow down in greet - ing.

### JOYS AND CONCERNS/PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

God, our Savior,

**hear our prayer.**

### CELEBRATION OF COMMUNION WITH ALL GOD'S SAINTS\

#### GREAT THANKSGIVING

Lift up your broken hearts:

**We lift them up to God.**

Let us honor our Creator.

**It is right to honor God.**

It is right to honor God and to give our thanks.

**We give our thanks to God.**

It is indeed right to give our thanks and praise to the God of Abraham and Sarah, Isaiah and Jeremiah....

Therefore we praise you, joining our voices with all the people of faith of every time and place who forever sing to the glory of your name:

### SANCTUS GTG 569



Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow-er and might,



heav-en and earth are full of your glo-ry. Ho - san - na in the



high - est. Blessed is the One who comes in the name of the



Lord. Ho - san - na in the high - est.

### WORDS OF INSTITUTION/BREAKING OF THE BREAD

#### 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**

## THE BREAD AND CUP ARE SHARED

*For communion, gluten free bread and grape juice are served for all who partake. Please take and eat the bread as it is served, and then as a sign of unity, hold the cup until all are served so that we might partake together.*

## HYMN DURING SHARING GTG 103

## Come Now, O Prince of Peace



1 Come now, O Prince of Peace; make us one bod - y.  
2 Come now, O God of love; make us one bod - y.  
3 Come now and set us free, O God, our Sav - ior.  
4 Come, hope of u - ni - ty; make us one bod - y.



Come, O Lord Je - sus; rec-on-cile all peo - ple.

## PRAYER FOLLOWING COMMUNION

God, our Provision, we rejoice that you satisfy our needs. By your presence in this meal you have fed us and strengthened us, as a mother nourishes her baby. In this waiting season fill us with hopeful expectation that we may see the signs of your kingdom all around us and rejoice in your coming salvation and glory. **Amen.**

# SENDING INTO THE WORLD TO LOVE AND SERVE

\*CLOSING HYMN GTG 384

Soon and Very Soon

all verses



1 Soon and ver - y soon we are going to see the King.  
2 No more cry - ing there: we are going to see the King.  
3 No more dy - ing there: we are going to see the King.  
4 Soon and ver - y soon we are going to see the King.



Soon and ver - y soon we are going to see the King.  
No more cry - ing there: we are going to see the King.  
No more dy - ing there: we are going to see the King.  
Soon and ver - y soon we are going to see the King.



Soon and ver - y soon we are going to see the King.  
No more cry - ing there: we are going to see the King.  
No more dy - ing there: we are going to see the King.  
Soon and ver - y soon we are going to see the King.



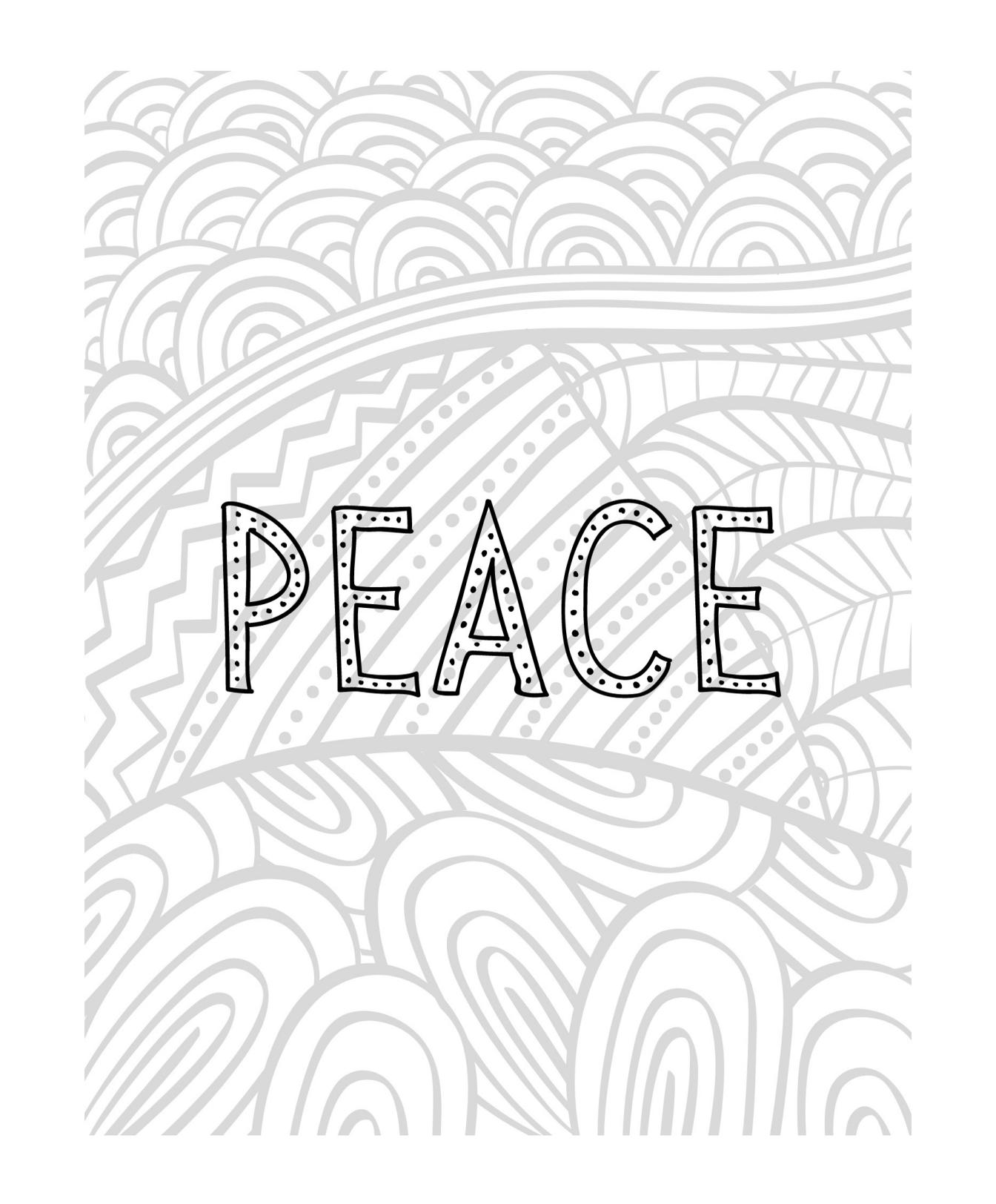
Hal-le - lu - jah, hal-le - lu - jah, we're going to see the King!

## \*CHARGE AND BLESSING

May the God of peace make you holy  
and the power of the Spirit sustain you  
until the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ. **Alleluia!**

Prepare the way of the Lord! **Amen.**

## POSTLUDE



PEACE

# Community Presbyterian Church

open hearted, open minded

## TODAY AT CPC

**Sunday, December 5 Advent 2**

**Sign up for Adopt-A-Family today**

- 9:30 am Worship with Communion
- 10:30 am Book Discussion Group
- 10:30 am Deacons Meeting
- 10:30 am Jubellation Handbell Rehearsal

## THIS WEEK AT CPC

Tuesday, December 7

- 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 8

- 6:30 am Prayer Group
- 7:00 pm Choir Rehearsal

**Sunday, December 12 Advent 3**

**Bring wrapped Adopt-A-Family gifts to CPC**

- 9:30 am Worship

**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#



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](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

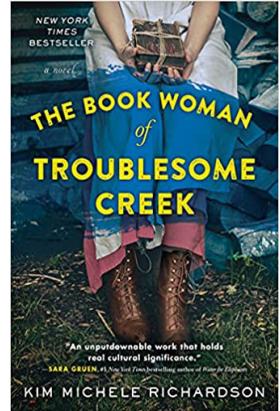
Liturgist	Dave Copeland
Special Music	CPC Choir
Advent Candle Lighter	Sue Chipman
IT Support	Louis Bouchard

# 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.

**Join in the discussion today,  
whether or not you've finished reading the book!**



## Adopt-a-Family



Sign up for the item(s) that you want to give to our Adopt-A-Family participants. This year, our family is a 30 year old mom and her 4 children (ages 6,7,12, and 14). Let's share some Christmas joy with them! Please sign up by December 5th and return the wrapped gifts to church by December 12th. Monetary donations are also accepted - please bring them by December 5th. Questions? Talk with Ronda with questions!

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/20f0545a5ab-2fa5f85-cpcadoptionfamily>

### Updates from Finance & Stewardship

**Pledge cards:** You may return your pledge cards to the offering plate, the office, or in the mail. Thank you to all who have returned their cards! Pledging is vital in preparing budget for the upcoming year.

**Per Capita:** If you haven't already, please submit your 2021 per capita of \$36.50/person.

**Mission & Special Giving:** If you made a 2021 pledge towards Special Mission Pledges or other special giving, please check your Giving Statements from October and at year end to make sure any special giving was accounted for properly. Also, be sure future special giving is accompanied by a note or a note in the memo field. You may contact Mark Pillers with any corrections: [pillersmn@charter.net](mailto:pillersmn@charter.net) or 507-269-2115.