

January 9, 2022

Welcome to worship this morning!

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

Water - in its many forms - offers us a lens through which we juxtapose the brittle harshness of deep winter with the internal softening of grace. As we in the North embrace this deadly cold time of year, we explore and deepen the potential and resilience we each carry within ourselves - as individuals and communities. Parts of this service are adapted from Epiphany resources by Rev. Emily Meyer, Executive Director, The Ministry Lab, St Paul, MN [UCC, UMC, & PC(USA)]

GATHERING AROUND THE WORD OF GOD

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

PRELUDE

*CALL TO WORSHIP

I am with you, says the Beloved Presence.

I have redeemed you. Do not fear.

I have called you by name, you are mine.

Never be afraid!

We gather to thaw frozen hearts and to let go -
so that we might be held;

we melt and let go, so that we might be filled.

OPENING HYMN GTG 475

Come, Thou Fount of Every Blessing

vs. 1 and 2



1 Come, thou Fount of ev - ery bless - ing; tune my heart to sing thy grace;
2 Here I raise my Eb - e - ne - zer; hith - er by thy help I'm come;



streams of mer - cy, nev - er ceas - ing, call for songs of loud - est praise.
and I hope, by thy good plea - sure, safe - ly to ar - rive at home.



Teach me some me - lo - dious son - net, sung by flam - ing tongues a - bove;
Je - sus sought me when a strang - er, wan - dering from the fold of God;



praise the mount! I'm fixed up - on it, mount of God's un - chang - ing love!
he, to res - cue me from dan - ger, in - ter - posed his pre - cious blood.

REMEMBERING OUR BAPTISM

adapted from Isaiah 43 for people of the upper Midwest by Rev. Emily Meyer

Our God, our Source of Life, calls to you, and declares:

When you pass through the waters, I will be with you;

when you walk through fire you shall not be burned.

Bring my sons from far away

and my daughters from the ends of the earth—

everyone who is called by my name.

To you, I say, “Come!”

All of you from the North country -

from Mississippi watersheds and vast rolling plains -

from Southwestern farmlands and Eastern ridges -

from the Great Lakes and Iron Range -

I will bring you again in one great gathering,

I will hold you, from the least to the greatest,

I have called you by name, you are mine.

We claim the joy of water as it sustains and nourishes us.

Let it flow and pour and sparkle for all people.

that each may know the daily gift of God in water.

LISTENING FOR GOD’S WORD

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

Saving God, source of our calling, your Word is full of power and glory. Pour out your Holy Spirit upon us as we turn to you, so that we may receive your grace and live as your beloved children, with Jesus our brother, the Christ of all creation. **Amen.**

RESPONSIVE READING Psalm 29

adapted from Nan Merrill, Psalms for Praying

Praise the Beloved, you heavenly hosts;

sing of Love’s glory and strength.

Adore the Beloved in holy splendor!

The voice of the Beloved is upon the waters,

and echoes over the oceans and the rivers;

The voice of Love is powerful; majestic is the heart of Love.

The mercy of the Beloved breaks bonds of oppression,
And shatters chains of injustice,
inviting all to the dance of freedom and the song of truth.

The Beloved lives in our hearts;
Love dwells with us forever.
**Awaken to the Light and know the joy
of serving in the great work of Love.**

SPECIAL MUSIC

GOSPEL READING

Luke 3:15-17, 21-22

The people who came to John for baptism had great expectations of a savior to come; but what were God's expectations for Jesus, who as yet has done little to warrant praise? What are God's expectations of us?

People were filled with expectation; everyone was wondering about whether John might be the Messiah. John answered them by saying, "I baptize you with water; but one who is more powerful than I is coming; I am not worthy to untie their sandal straps. This One will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire. With winnowing fork in hand, this One is ready to clear the threshing floor and gather the wheat into the granary; but the chaff will be burned with unquenchable fire."

Now when all the people were baptized, and when Jesus also had been baptized and was praying, the sky was opened, and the Holy Spirit descended upon Jesus in bodily form like a dove. And a voice came from heaven, declaring, "You are my Child, the Beloved; with you I am well pleased."

Holy Wisdom, Holy Word.
Thanks be to God.

SERMON

Expectation

Pastor Jan

RESPONDING TO GOD'S GRACE

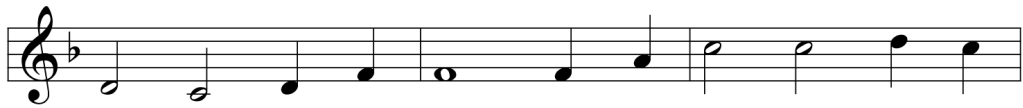
*HYMN OF THE DAY GTG 490 Wash, O God, Your Sons and Daughters vs. 1 and 3



1 Wash, O God, your sons and daugh-ters, new-born crea-tures
3 O how deep your ho-ly wis-dom! Un-i-mag-ined,



of your womb. Num-ber them a-mong your peo-ple, raised like
all your ways! To your name be glo-ry, hon-or! With our



Christ from death and tomb. Weave them gar-ments bright and
lives we wor-ship, praise! We your peo-ple stand be-



spark-ling; com-pass them with love and light. Fill, a-noint them;
fore you, wa-ter-washed and Spir-it-born. By your grace, our



send your Spir-it, ho-ly dove and heart's de-light.
lives we of-fer. Re-cre-ate us; God, trans-form!

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 375

Shall We Gather at the River?

vs. 1 and 2



1 Shall we gath-er at the riv-er, where bright an-gel feet have trod,
2 On the mar-gin of the riv-er, wash-ing up its sil-ver spray,



with its crys-tal tide for-ev-er flow-ing by the throne of God?
we will walk and wor-ship ev-er, all the hap-py gold-en day.



Yes, we'll gath-er at the riv-er, the beau-ti-ful, the beau-ti-ful riv-er;



gath-er with the saints at the riv-er that flows by the throne of God.

*CHARGE AND BLESSING

You are being sent:

To catch people with Good News.

To lure them with Love.

You are blessed. You are loved.

Your roots are firmly planted in the Water of Life,
in the stream that never runs dry.

Show the world with Love -
and watch as the Beloved Garden blossoms.

Go in peace, and walk wet, always.

Thanks be to God!

POSTLUDE

Coming in January

*Guest preacher, Jerry Locula
on Sunday, January 16*

*Annual Meeting on
Sunday, January 23*

*Book Discussion Group on
Sunday, January 30*



**Plan to stay after worship today
to de-green the church
(put away the
Christmas decorations).
Many hands make light work!**

Special guest preacher for January 16: Jerry Locula

Combining our observance of the PC(USA) Dismantling Structural Racism Sunday with our national commemoration of Martin Luther King, Jr. Day (January 17), we welcome Jerry back to our worship.

“Observed every January on the third Monday of the month, the Martin Luther King Jr. Day of Service is the only federal holiday that has a call to action focusing on building beloved communities from coast to coast. It was King who, in fact, popularized the concept of the “beloved community,” explaining that economic equity and social justice are the twin pillars of a healthy society. At its heart, the idea of the beloved community is simply this: We share the wealth of the Earth with all so there is human decency for all and no hunger, poverty, violence or homelessness for anybody.” from Presbyterians Today, December 20, 2021.

Jerry Locula comes from Liberia. He’s currently with Peace Church in Rochester. Jerry has spent his adult life working for peace, human rights and social justice in Africa in both Church and society.



On Sunday, January 23rd, CPC will hold the annual congregational meeting following worship (about 10:30 am). The Annual Meeting is a time to vote on leadership positions. It is also a time to look back on 2021 and look ahead to 2022. We will receive the budget and finance reports. All members of Community Presbyterian are invited and encouraged to attend! **Submissions for the Annual Report are due on Monday, January 10.**

Community Presbyterian Church

open hearted, open minded

TODAY AT CPC

Sunday, January 9

9:30 am Worship (Onsite and Online)
10:30 am De-greening of the Church

THIS WEEK AT CPC

Monday, January 10

Annual Report items due
Office Closed

Tuesday, January 11

Office Closed
12:00 pm Bulletin Announcements Due
12:00 pm Conference Call *
6:30 pm Building & Grounds Committee
6:30 pm Worship & Music Committee

Wednesday, January 12

Office Closed
6:30 am Prayer Group
7:00 pm Choir Rehearsal

Sunday, January 16

9:30 am Worship (Onsite and Online)

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
Mark Pillers' parents, Lars and June
Sue Chipman

*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	Bruce Felger
IT Support	Louis Bouchard