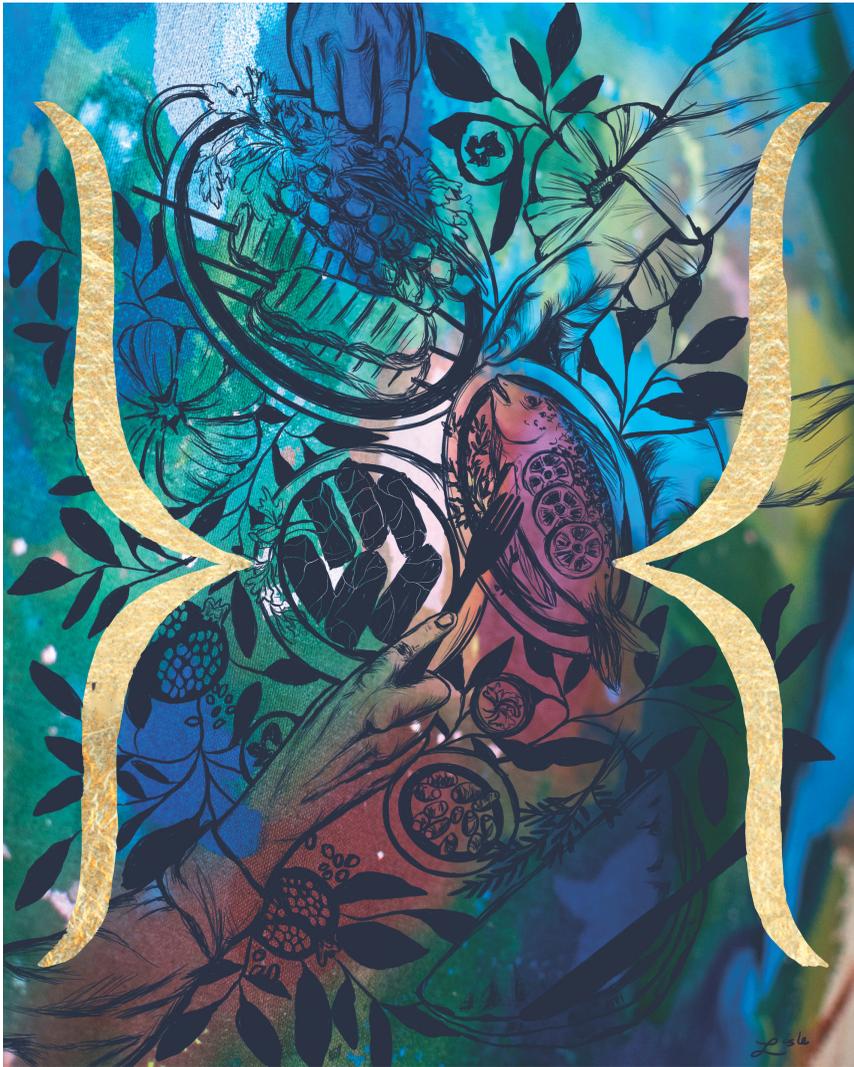


Community Presbyterian Church
open hearted, open minded



March 20, 2022

Welcome to worship this morning!

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



CALL TO CONFESSION

There is something so healing, so life-giving, about telling our stories. In the prayer of confession, that is what we get to do. The mask comes off. Any pretense of perfection is removed. We let the pressure to perform slip away and we sit here, face to face with God, sharing honestly who we long to be. Friends, there is healing here. There is life to be gained here. So join me in this moment of honesty. Join me in the prayer of confession.

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Holy God,

we treat our self-worth like something that can be bought at a store;

but you know this even better than we do.

Instead of trusting that we are made good,

instead of trusting that we are loved exactly as we are,

we stockpile our value in earthly things—

in trophies and awards, in likes and follows, in wealth and power.

Forgive us for creating our own measuring stick.

Heal our wounds and tell our hearts that we won't be forgotten if we slow down.

We won't be forgotten if we rest. Gratefully we pray. Amen.

WORDS OF FORGIVENESS

Friends, take a deep breath. Release the tension in your jaw.

For even when we stumble, even when we take the easy way out,

even when we forget our own self-worth,

even when we lose our way—we belong to God.

Say it with me—

We are loved. We are claimed. We are under God's wing.

We are worthy of grace. We belong to God. Amen.

LISTENING FOR GOD'S WORD

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

God of fig trees and foxes, of today and tomorrow, we ask that you scoop us up.

We are a scattered people, God. The world is moving faster than we can keep up.

So we pray—scoop us up. Catch our eye. Open our ears. Capture our attention.

We are here. We long to be close to you. **Amen.**

PSALM WITH SUNG RESPONSE

GTG 814 In God Alone (repeat after leader; then after each verse, as indicated)

The image shows three staves of musical notation in G major (one sharp). The lyrics are: "In God a-lone my soul can find rest and peace, in God my peace and joy. On-ly in God my soul can find its rest, find its rest and peace." The melody is simple and hymn-like, using mostly quarter and eighth notes. There are some rests and a fermata over the final note of the third line.

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O God, you are my God, I seek you, my soul thirsts for you;
my flesh faints for you, as in a dry and weary land where there is no water. R

So I have looked upon you in the sanctuary, beholding your power and glory.
Because your steadfast love is better than life, my lips will praise you. R

So I will bless you as long as I live; I will lift up my hands and call on your name.
My soul is satisfied as with a rich feast, and my mouth praises you with joyful lips
when I think of you on my bed, and meditate on you in the watches of the night; R

for you have been my help, and in the shadow of your wings I sing for joy.
My soul clings to you; your right hand upholds me. R

GOSPEL READING

Luke 13:6-9

Who is God in this parable, the vineyard owner or the gardener? Who are you? Your answer tells you whether you find mercy or judgment in Jesus' words.

Then Jesus told this parable: "A man had a fig tree planted in his vineyard; and he came looking for fruit on it and found none. So he said to the gardener, 'See here! For three years I have come looking for fruit on this fig tree, and still I find none. Cut it down! Why should it be wasting the soil?' He replied, 'Sir, let it alone for one more year, until I dig around it and put manure on it. If it bears fruit next year, well and good; but if not, you can cut it down.'"

Poem

What I Forgot

MESSAGE in music and in art

Luminous Night of the Soul

Sometimes what initially appears to be a dark night of despair and loss is revealed as a place of great fertility. Beneath the surface, the Spirit is at work, germinating beauty and abundance still to come. Norwegian composer Ola Gjeilo captures this truth in this work, "Luminous Night of the Soul," performed this morning by Central Washington University Chamber Choir. Carole Kinion Copeland captures the message of the music and the mercy in art.

Lyrics: Charles Anthony Silvestri/St. John of the Cross

*Long before music was sung by a choir,
Long before silver was shaped in the fire,
Long before poets inspired the heart,
You were the Spirit of all that is art.
You give the potter the feel of the clay;
You give the actor the right part to play;
You give the author a story to tell;
You are the prayer in the sound of a bell.
Praise to all lovers who feel your desire!
Praise to all music which soars to inspire!
Praise to the wonders of Thy artistry
Our Divine Spirit, all glory to Thee.*

*O guiding night!
O night more lovely than the dawn!
O night that has united
the Lover with his beloved,
transforming the beloved in her Lover.
Luminous night of the soul.*

SCRIPTURE READING Isaiah 55:1-3a

Ho, everyone who thirsts, come to the waters; and you that have no money, come, buy and eat! Come, buy wine and milk without money and without price. Why do you spend your money for that which is not bread, and your labor for that which does not satisfy? Listen carefully to me, and eat what is good, and delight yourselves in rich food. Incline your ear, and come to me; listen, so that you may live.

RESPONDING TO GOD'S GRACE

*HYMN OF THE DAY GTG 816 If Thou but Trust in God to Guide Thee *vs. 1 and 2*



1 If thou but trust in God to guide thee, with hope - ful
2 On - ly be still, and wait God's lei - sure in cheer - ful



heart through all thy ways, God will give strength, what - e'er be -
hope, with heart con - tent to take what - e'er thy Keep - er's



tide thee, to bear thee through the e - vil days. Who trusts in
plea - sure and all - dis - cern - ing love hath sent. No doubt our



God's un - chang - ing love builds on the rock that nought can move.
in - most wants are clear to One who holds us al - ways dear.

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LENTEN INTENTION

Jane Burgstaler

AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

We believe

that the God of the cosmos is at work here.

We believe that God is fertilizing the soil.

We believe that God is planting roots.

We believe that God is growing fruit that is yet to be tasted.

But until that promised day

when the fig tree stands tall and swords are beaten into plowshares,

we believe:

when our work does not bear fruit,

God still loves us.

When our soil grows dry and cracked,

**God still longs for us.
When all seems hopeless here on earth,
God holds hope for us.
The God of the cosmos is at work here.
We believe. Help our unbelief.
In Christ's name we pray. Amen.**

SACRED DANCE (video) “There Is No Fear in Love”
Dancing in Diversity

JOYS AND CONCERNS/PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

God, our Savior,
hear our prayer.

LORD'S PRAYER

**Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name.
Your kingdom 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

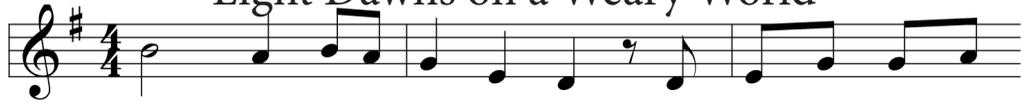
*CLOSING HYMN GTG 79 Light Dawns on a Weary World *next page*

*CHARGE AND BLESSING

May you be dazzled by the beauty of this world.
May your laughter be contagious.
May your love overflow to those around you.
May your hope and joy spread like honey,
and may all your being fill to the brim with God's Holy Spirit.
May it change your life.
In the name of the Lover, the Beloved, and Love itself—
go in peace to love as you are loved. **Amen.**

POSTLUDE

Light Dawns on a Weary World



1 Light dawns on a wea - ry world when eyes be - gin to
2 Love grows in a wea - ry world when hun - gry hearts find
3 Hope blooms in a wea - ry world when crea - tures, once for -



see all peo - ple's dig - ni - ty. Light dawns on a
bread and chil - dren's dreams are fed. Love grows in a
lorn, find wil - der - ness re - born. Hope blooms in a



wea - ry world: the prom - ised day of jus - tice comes.
wea - ry world: the prom - ised feast of plen - ty comes.
wea - ry world: the prom - ised green of E - den comes.



The trees shall clap their hands; the dry lands, gush with springs;



the hills and moun - tains shall break forth with sing - ing!



We shall go out in joy, and be led forth in peace,



as all the world in won - der ech - oes sha - lom.

Community Presbyterian Church

open hearted, open minded

TODAY AT CPC

Sunday, March 20

- 8:30 am Jubellation Handbell Rehearsal
- 9:30 am Worship (Onsite and Online)**
- 12:00 am Newsletter Items Due

THIS WEEK AT CPC

Tuesday, March 22

- 10:00 am PW Bible Study
- 12:00 pm Bulletin Announcements Due
- 12:00 pm Conference Call *
- 6:30 pm Session

Wednesday, March 23

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

Sunday, March 27

9:30 am Worship (Onsite and Online)

The Jubellation Handbell Choir is playing during the worship service today. The CPC handbells, handchimes and related equipment used were purchased with funds donated initially in 2004 by the Duane Olson family and, also, continuing donations from them.

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

Bonnie Kinion

Judy Leal's mother, Katie

Margie Petersen

Margaret Nelson

To be added to the prayer list, please contact the church office at 507-280-9291 or via email office@cpcrochester.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	Jane Burgstaler
Special Music	Jubellation Handbell Choir
IT Support	Louis Bouchard
Artist	Carole Kinion Copeland

You Are Worthy

by Rev. Lauren Wright Pittman

Inspired by Luke 13:1-9

Block print with oil-based ink

How often does society wish us to feel like we are wasting soil? The whole capitalist system lurches forward, powered by our collective sense of unworthiness and our searching for worth based on what we produce. This parable upends the notion that we are what we produce, and speaks truth: you are worthy. You deserve rest and care simply for existing. What a gift!

In this image, I wanted the fig tree to look unremarkable, surrounded by the hands of the Gardener reaching down to lovingly massage the soil. The sleeves contain patterning of simplified visual references to everything a plant needs to not only survive, but to thrive. Starting close to the roots and moving upward, the patterns include water, air, sunlight, nutrients, and space. The emphasis in this image is on what is happening below the surface, in the depths of the dirt. The roots stretch toward the hands of the Gardener as the specks of dirt seem to also image the stars of the vast universe. Within us, despite what we produce, despite what can be seen at the surface, we contain multitudes. We bear the image of God, and our mere existence makes us worthy of Sabbath and the loving arms of the Gardener reaching out to provide us with everything we need.

On a personal note, the Full to the Brim theme keeps bringing me back to the image of resting while God reaches to embrace us. Lately I've spent so much time and energy fighting so hard to get some kind of tangible grasp of God, all the while feeling so empty. I'm realizing that I need to practice surrender, allowing God to find me where I am, and to receive God's care and love, filling me to the brim so I can then be full to pour out once again.

—Rev. Lauren Wright Pittman