

Community Presbyterian Church
open hearted, open minded



March 27, 2022

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

God's reach is endless.

God's mercy is unstoppable.

God's grace is lavish.

God's love is constant.

God's wisdom is vast.

God's hope is stubborn.

God's presence is here—

with us, among us, moving through us.

Breathe easy. Breathe deeply.

We are in God's house.

Let us worship the One who welcomes us home.

OPENING HYMN GTG 418

Softly and Tenderly Jesus Is Calling

vs. 1 and 2

1 Soft - ly and ten - der - ly Je - sus is call - ing, call - ing for
2 Why should we tar - ry when Je - sus is plead - ing, plead - ing for

you and for me. See, on the por - tals he's wait - ing and watch - ing,
you and for me? Why should we lin - ger and heed not his mer - cies,

The musical score is written for voice and piano. It features a treble and bass clef for the voice part and a treble and bass clef for the piano accompaniment. The key signature is one sharp (F#) and the time signature is 6/8. The lyrics are written below the vocal line, with two verses indicated by the numbers 1 and 2.

Refrain

watch-ing for you and for me.
mer - cies for you and for me? "Come home, come home!
"Come home, come home!

You who are wea-ry, come home." Ear - nest-ly, ten - der - ly,

Je - sus is call - ing, call - ing, "O sin - ner, come home!"

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CALL TO CONFESSION

If you ask any parent with a teenager what it's like to wait up for their child to come home, they will tell you—they're standing at the door. The porch light is on. No one can sleep until that child is home safe.

Is God like that for us? The porch light is on. The door is unlocked. We might be late for curfew, but God is just so glad we're home. So let us pray the prayer of confession together, trusting that no matter what we do or what we leave undone, the porch light is always on.

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

The prodigal son isn't given a name, but we know his name.

It sounds like ours.

And we know his story.

It sounds like ours.

For who among us hasn't burned a bridge?

**Who among us hasn't forgotten that we belong to one another?
Who among us has not ached for home?
The prodigal son isn't given a name, but we know his name.
Forgive us God. We want to come home.**

WORDS OF FORGIVENESS

Family of faith, the word 'prodigal' can be defined as wasteful or imprudent, hence the name, "Prodigal Son." However, 'prodigal' can also be described as extravagant and excessive. Friends, we worship a prodigal God—a God who is extravagant in mercy and excessive in grace. For no matter how many times we run, no matter how far we go or how lost we get, God is standing at the end of the driveway waiting for us. The doors are open. The feast is for you. This grace is extravagant.

Thanks be to God. Amen

LISTENING FOR GOD'S WORD

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

God of open doors, we often long to come home to you, to love, and to ourselves, but we aren't always sure how to get there. So we pray—quiet everything but your Word for us today. Drown out the distractions. Turn on the light. Speak through these words. Find the parts of us that are lost. With hope we pray. **Amen**

RESPONSIVE READING Psalm 32 (adapted from Nan Merrill, *Psalms for Praying*)

Happy are you when your wrongdoings have been forgiven,
and your shame is completely forgotten.

Blessed are you when divine Love finds a home in you.

When I failed to own my shortcomings,
my own defenses made me ill; guilt cramped my heart.

My spirit became dry as bones in the desert.

I cried out, "Forgive me, O Comforter, for the times I have sinned
in my thoughts, in my words, in my deeds."

And you created in me a clean and open heart.

Beloved, You are my guide. You teach me to walk in the Light.
Counsel me as I listen to you in the Silence.

**I pray for the gifts of inner peace and wisdom,
for the grace to reverence all Creation.**

Many are the heartaches of those separated from Love;
**but steadfast love abides with those
who surrender their lives to Love's way.**

SCRIPTURE READING 2 Corinthians 5:16-21

From now on, therefore, we regard no one from a human point of view; even though we once knew Christ from a human point of view, we know him no longer in that way. So if anyone is in Christ, there is a new creation: everything old has passed away; see, everything has become new! All this is from God, who reconciled us to himself through Christ, and has given us the ministry of reconciliation; that is, in Christ God was reconciling the world to himself, not counting their trespasses against them, and entrusting the message of reconciliation to us. So we are ambassadors for Christ, since God is making his appeal through us; we entreat you on behalf of Christ, be reconciled to God. For our sake he made him to be sin who knew no sin, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God.

SPECIAL MUSIC *Coming Home* CPC Choir
words by William J. Kirkpatrick, music by Mary McDonald

GOSPEL READING Luke 15.1-3, 11-32

Of all Jesus' parables, this story of extravagant waste, extravagant repentance, and extravagant love may be the favorite. Only the Luke of the four gospel writers tells it.

Now all the tax collectors and sinners were coming near to listen to him. And the Pharisees and the scribes were grumbling and saying, "This fellow welcomes sinners and eats with them." So he told them this parable:

Then Jesus said, "There was a man who had two sons. The younger of them said to his father, 'Father, give me the share of the property that will belong to me.' So he divided his property between them. A few days later the younger son gathered all he had and traveled to a distant country, and there he squandered his property in dissolute living. When he had spent everything, a severe famine took place throughout that country, and he began to be in need. So he went and hired himself out to one of the citizens of that country, who sent him to his fields to feed the pigs. He would gladly have filled himself with the pods that the pigs were eating; and no one gave him anything. But when he came to himself he said, 'How many of my father's hired hands have bread enough and to spare, but here I am dying of hunger! I will get up and go to my father, and I will say to him, "Father, I have sinned against heaven and before you; I am no longer worthy to be called your son; treat me like one of your hired hands."' So he set off and went to his father. But while he was still far off, his father saw him and was filled with compassion;

he ran and put his arms around him and kissed him. Then the son said to him, ‘Father, I have sinned against heaven and before you; I am no longer worthy to be called your son.’ But the father said to his slaves, ‘Quickly, bring out a robe—the best one—and put it on him; put a ring on his finger and sandals on his feet. And get the fatted calf and kill it, and let us eat and celebrate; for this son of mine was dead and is alive again; he was lost and is found!’ And they began to celebrate. “Now his elder son was in the field; and when he came and approached the house, he heard music and dancing. He called one of the slaves and asked what was going on. He replied, ‘Your brother has come, and your father has killed the fatted calf, because he has got him back safe and sound.’ Then he became angry and refused to go in. His father came out and began to plead with him. But he answered his father, ‘Listen! For all these years I have been working like a slave for you, and I have never disobeyed your command; yet you have never given me even a young goat so that I might celebrate with my friends. But when this son of yours came back, who has devoured your property with prostitutes, you killed the fatted calf for him!’ Then the father said to him, ‘Son, you are always with me, and all that is mine is yours. But we had to celebrate and rejoice, because this brother of yours was dead and has come to life; he was lost and has been found.’”

We proclaim Christ crucified—the wisdom and power of God.

Thanks be to God.

SERMON

Home

Pastor Jan Wiersma

RESPONDING TO GOD’S GRACE

*HYMN OF THE DAY GTG 488 I Was There to Hear Your Boring Cry *all verses*



1 "I was there to hear your born - ing cry; I'll be there when
 2 "When you heard the won - der of the Word, I was there to
 3 "In the mid - dle a - ges of your life, not too old, no



you are old. I re - joiced the day you were bap - tized to
 cheer you on. You were raised to praise the liv - ing Lord to
 lon - ger young, I'll be there to guide you through the night, com -



see your life un - fold. I was there when you were but a
whom you now be - long. If you find some - one to share your
plete what I've be - gun. When the eve - ning gent - ly clos - es



child with a faith to suit you well; in a blaze of
time and you join your hearts as one, I'll be there to
in and you shut your wea - ry eyes, I'll be there as



light you wan - dered off to find where de - mons dwell."
make your vers - es rhyme from dusk till ris - ing sun."
I have al - ways been with just one more sur - prise."



4 "I was there to hear your born-ing cry; I'll be there when you are old.



I re - joiced the day you were bap - tized to see your life un - fold."

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 649

Amazing Grace

vs. 1-3, 5

1 A - maz - ing grace, how sweet the sound, that
2 'Twas grace that taught my heart to fear, and
3 Through man - y dan - gers, toils, and snares, I
5 When we've been there ten thou - sand years, bright

saved a wretch like me! I once was lost, but
grace my fears re - lieved. How pre - cious did that
have al - read - y come. 'Tis grace has brought me
shin - ing as the sun, we've no less days to

now am found, was blind, but now I see.
grace ap - pear the hour I first be - lieved!
safe thus far, and grace will lead me home.
sing God's praise than when we'd first be - gun.

*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

The Book Discussion Group meets today, March 27 at

10:30 am, following worship. This month, the discus-

sion will be on *Hitler's Forgotten Children: A True Story*

of the Lebensborn Program and One Woman's Search for

Her Real Identity by Ingrid von Oelhafen and Tim Tate.

From the Amazon description:

Hitler's Forgotten Children is both a harrowing personal memoir and a devastating investigation into the awful crimes and monstrous scope of the Lebensborn program in World War 2. Created by Heinrich Himmler, the Lebensborn program abducted as many as half a million children from across Europe. Through a process called Germanization, they were to become the next generation of the Aryan master race in the second phase of the Final Solution.

In the summer of 1942, parents across Nazi-occupied Yugoslavia were required to submit their children to medical checks designed to assess racial purity. One such child, Erika Matko, was nine months old when Nazi doctors declared her fit to be a "Child of Hitler." Taken to Germany and placed with politically vetted foster parents, Erika was renamed Ingrid von Oelhafen. Many years later, Ingrid began to uncover the truth of her identity.

Though the Nazis destroyed many Lebensborn records, Ingrid unearthed rare documents, including Nuremberg trial testimony about her own abduction. Following the evidence back to her place of birth, Ingrid discovered an even more shocking secret: a woman named Erika Matko, who as an infant had been given to Ingrid's mother as a replacement child.



Per Capita

Providing the means to strengthen the connections of our work, and build lasting relationships to help all Presbyterians share God's love through mission and ministry.

2022 Per Capita

General Assembly

\$8.98

Synod

5.50

Presbytery

22.02

Total Per Member

\$36.50

The Journey Home

by Steve Garnaas-Holmes

It's not so far, that distance,
hidden here in my wayward heart,
seeking space from you,
and that righteous son of yours,
hungry for my own self-made place
beyond the borders I imagine,
the closed eye, the clenched hands.
It's not far at all, I can go there in a flash,
and do, daily.

What, even now, am I running from?
What am I never not looking for?

Oh, the things I could have used those
wings for.

And yet.
In this far country I see your fingerprints.
You created this place, too. Nothing is
outside you.
I can't escape you, can I?

No matter how I distance myself,
no matter how far the land,
how removed my heart,
I am not even in sight of your horizon.
I am in you.
I have never left the house.

Walk with me,
this long journey home.

What Doesn't Play by the Rules

by Sarah Speed

I come into the room
calculating
what I've done,
as if hurt could be measured,
as if there was a score system,
as if we could say what I owe in return.

I come into the room
ready to apologize,
ready to make amends,
ready to tell you all the things I'll do to
make it better,
but you put your arms around me.

Grace is the ocean
that softens the edges.
Grace is rain in the desert—
you're not sure whether to
laugh, cry, or dance.

Grace is a miracle,
all by itself.
In a scorekeeping world,
grace doesn't play by the rules.

I come into the room
calculating what I've done.
You say there's grace here.
It feels like a miracle.
I don't know whether to
laugh, cry, or dance.

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open hearted, open minded

TODAY AT CPC

Sunday, March 27

9:30 am Worship (Onsite and Online)

10:30 am Book Discussion Group

THIS WEEK AT CPC

Tuesday, March 29

12:00 pm Bulletin Announcements Due

12:00 pm Conference Call *

Wednesday, March 30

6:30 am Prayer Group

7:00 pm CPC Choir Rehearsal

Sunday, April 3

9:30 am Worship with Communion
(Onsite and Online)



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	Dave Copeland
Special Music	CPC Choir
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#

C	H	D	C	C	O	U	N	T	R	Y	F	E	G	X
O	E	I	E	D	D	D	P	R	K	C	A	L	F	I
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D	A	N	C	I	N	G	G	F	E	E	R	H	D	P
F	A	T	T	E	D	N	M	U	S	I	C	Y	O	U
S	O	N	S	P	I	G	S	R	O	B	E	F	B	H
A	I	M	P	R	F	D	H	C	E	B	X	S	S	L

Parable
 Father
 traveled
 squandered
 hunger
 compassion
 robe
 fatted
 elder
 angry

Prodigal
 property
 distant
 dissolute
 heaven
 kissed
 ring
 calf
 music
 plead

sons
 divided
 country
 pigs
 worthy
 slaves
 sandals
 celebrate
 dancing
 disobeyed