Community Presbyterian Church

open hearted, open minded

January 8, 2023

Welcome to worship this morning!

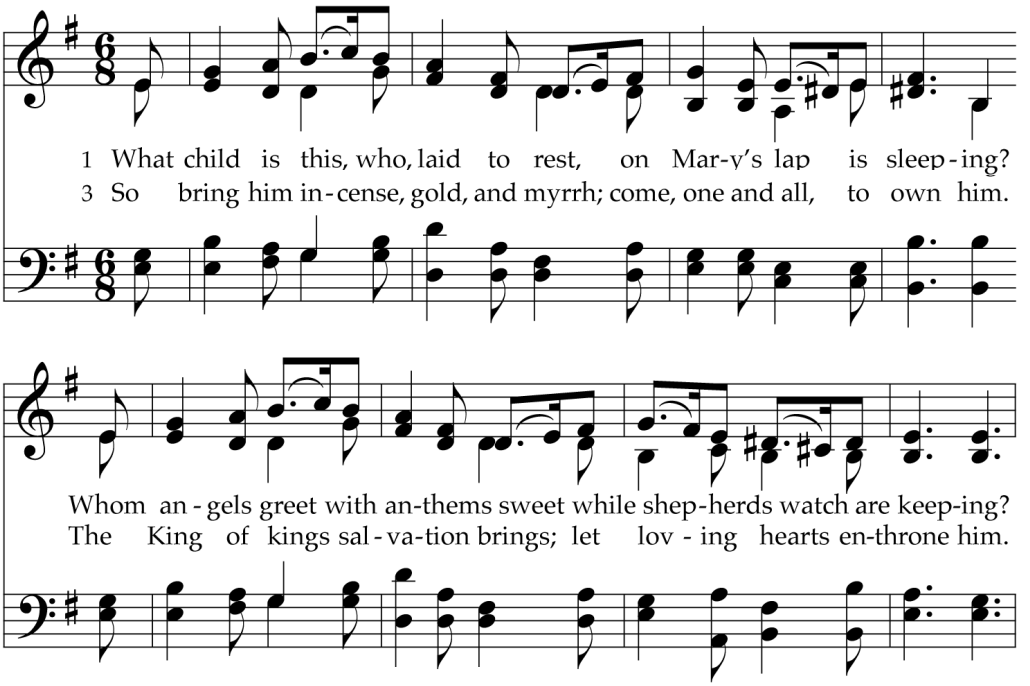
Bulletin Cues: **Bold** indicates congregational response, * indicates please stand, if able
Bathrooms are located down the hall, around the corner to the left. A family bathroom is located in the hallway on the right hand side (next to the Kidz Klub).

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

PRELUDE

*CALL TO WORSHIP
Calling all seekers, all dreamers, all believers...
Calling all star-chasers and bedtime prayer speakers...
Bring your questions, your hope, your faith and your fear into this space.
God is here. Come, let us worship!

OPENING HYMN GTG 145 What Child Is This *vs. 1 and 3*



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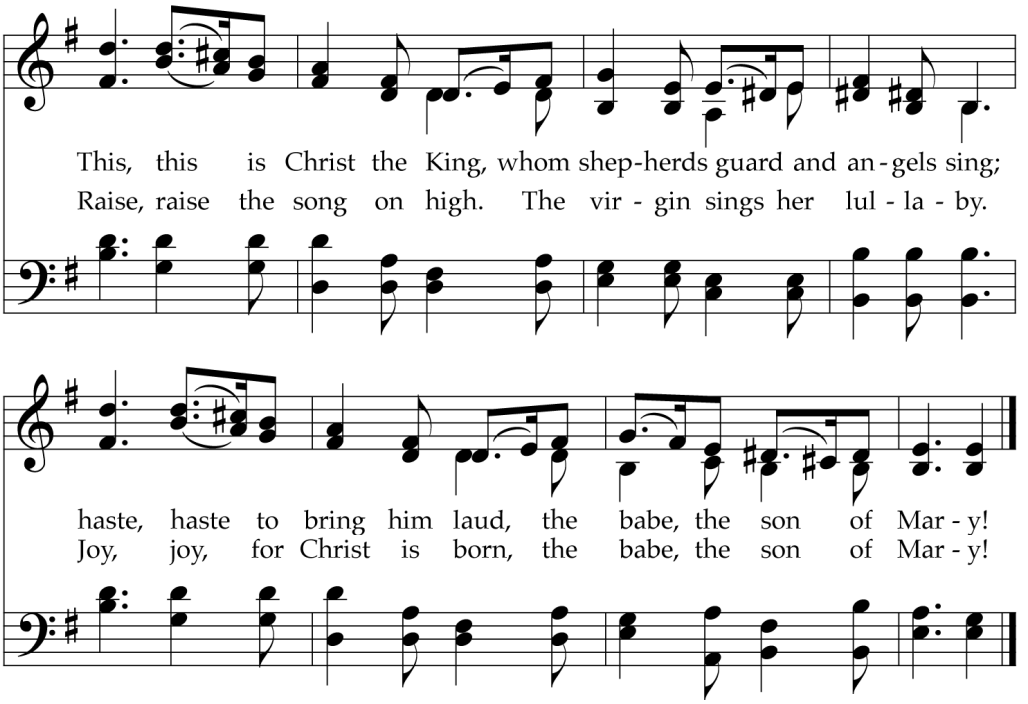


CALL TO CONFESSION

More often than we'd like to admit, we find ourselves following the wrong star. Fortunately for us, God is the map maker, and God's map is measured in grace, so we have nothing to fear. Let us seek God together.

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

In this noisy world, we can look for you in our midst.
We can walk toward you, just as the Magi did.
We can believe that love really can change the world.
We can seek the stars beyond the city lights.
Forgive us for forgetting that.
Forgive us for seeking you with only part of our hearts.
We long to be more like the Magi; may we walk your way every single day.
Amen.

WORDS OF FORGIVENESS

No matter what star you've followed, no matter how far you've walked,
no matter how lost you got—you belong to God.
God loves you. God forgives you. God claims you.
End of story. Thanks be to God! **Amen**.

LISTENING FOR GOD'S WORD

PRAYER OF ILLUMINATION
God of starlight, every part of us is trying to seek you:
Like a dog looking for its owner, who will search the whole house—
under beds, behind doors, in every corner of every room
until their person is found—
we are turning over every rock and leaf looking for you.
Quiet the rest of the world. Open the door to us and say, "Come on in!"
Find us in these words. Gratefully we pray, **Amen.**

RESPONSIVE READING adapted from Psalm 27
Love is my light and my salvation; whom shall I fear?
Love is the strength of my life; of whom shall I be afraid?
Though an army encamp against me, my heart shall not fear;
though war rise up against me, yet I will be confident.
One thing I asked of the Holy One, that will I seek after:
to live in the heart of Love all the days of my life,
to behold the beauty of the Creator, to know the Maker's plan.

For I will be hidden in God's shelter in the day of trouble.
and protected under the cover of the Blessed One.
Now my head is lifted up above my enemies all around me,
and I will offer sacrifices with shouts of joy;
I will sing and make melody to the Beloved.

Hear, O God, when I cry aloud, be gracious to me and answer me!
'Come,' my heart says, 'seek God's face!'
Your face, Beloved, do I seek. Do not hide yourself from me.
Teach me your way, O Lord, and lead me on a level path
I believe that I shall see the goodness of the Lord
in my own lifetime.
Be strong, and let your heart take courage;
wait for the Lord!

SPECIAL MUSIC Bailey Holman and Glenna Muir

GOSPEL READING Matthew 2:1-12

In the time of King Herod, after Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea, wise men from the East came to Jerusalem, asking, 'Where is the child who has been born king of the Jews? For we observed his star at its rising, and have come to pay him homage.' When King Herod heard this, he was frightened, and all Jerusalem with him; and calling together all the chief priests and scribes of the people, he inquired of them where the Messiah was to be born. They told him, 'In Bethlehem of Judea; for so it has been written by the prophet:

"And you, Bethlehem, in the land of Judah,
are by no means least among the rulers of Judah;
for from you shall come a ruler
who is to shepherd my people Israel." '

Then Herod secretly called for the wise men and learned from them the exact time when the star had appeared. Then he sent them to Bethlehem, saying, 'Go and search diligently for the child; and when you have found him, bring me word so that I may also go and pay him homage.' When they had heard the king, they set out; and there, ahead of them, went the star that they had seen at its rising, until it stopped over the place where the child was. When they saw that the star had stopped, they were overwhelmed with joy. On entering the house, they saw the child with Mary his mother; and they knelt down and paid him homage. Then, opening their treasure-chests, they offered him gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh. And having been warned in a dream not to return to Herod, they left for their own country by another road.

Word of God, Word of Life.
Thanks be to God.

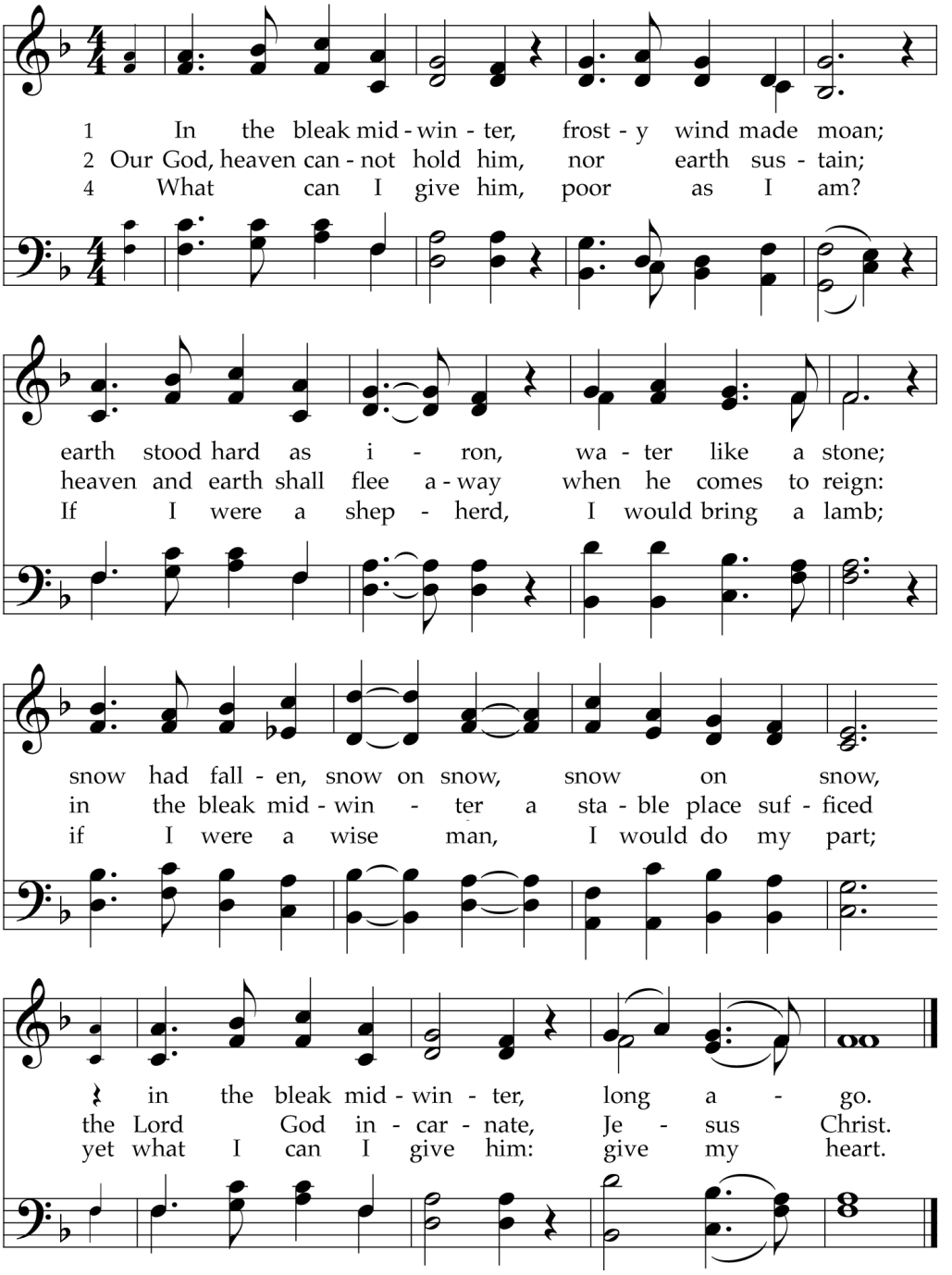
SERMON *Another Road* Pastor Jan

MEDITATION ON STAR WORDS

The season of Epiphany holds the time between Christmas and Lent. Traditionally, the visit of foreign dignitaries to worship the baby Jesus symbolizes the light of Christ revealed to the greater world. But an epiphany can be any realization that results in a new and deeper understanding. Like those who paid attention to the Star of Bethlehem, many Christians observe Epiphany with Star Words, words given to each person to ponder through the coming year. Choose a Star Word as the basket is passed. We'll meditate on them together for a few minutes. Take your Star Word home and place it somewhere that you will see it every day. On Epiphany of 2024, take time to remember and perhaps share how your Star Word has helped guide you through the year.

RESPONDING TO GOD'S GRACE

*HYMN OF THE DAY GTG 144 In the Bleak Midwinter *vs. 1, 2, 4*



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AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

We believe that faith is active,

found on long walks and in long talks,
in future days, and down memory lane.
We believe that those who seek will find,
although it may not be what they expected.
We believe that God finds us first.
We believe that God drops love notes along our way
in the shape of people, invitations, and even starlight.
We believe that being a seeker—of God, of justice,
of community—is a holy thing.
So we strive to live with an open spirit, with soft hearts,
and with room to grow. May it be so. Amen.

JOYS AND CONCERNS/PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

God, our Savior,

hear our prayer.

THE LORD'S PRAYER

Our Father and Mother 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 136 Go, Tell It on the Mountain *vs. 1 and 3*

Refrain:
Go, tell it on the mountain,
over the hills and everywhere;
go, tell it on the mountain
that Jesus Christ is born!

1 **While shepherds kept their watching**
o'er silent flocks by night,
behold, throughout the heavens
there shone a holy light. *[Refrain]*

3 **Down in a lowly manger**
the humble Christ was born,
and God sent us salvation
that blessed Christmas morn. *[Refrain]*

*CHARGE AND BLESSING
As you leave this place, may you go knowing that
from generation to generation, we have been claimed and loved.
From generation to generation, God has been by our side.
From generation to generation, we are not alone.
The God of yesterday and of tomorrow
knows you by name, loves you, and calls you forth,
saying, "Go be the person you are called to be,
love wildly, do justice, and come back soon."
Amen. Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE

Our artwork, liturgies, devotional materials, and scriptural focus for Advent and Christmas, including today's Epiphany worship and Star Words, come to us from *A Sanctified Art,* www.sanctifiedart.org. We are grateful for their creativity in bringing us a fresh look at beloved traditions.

Today we welcome Bailey Holman, bassoonist, back to CPC. She and Glenna will play *Sonata in F minor for Bassoon and Piano* by Georg Philipp Telemann.

WELCOME : *I. Andante cantabile.*
PRELUDE: *III. Andante.*
SPECIAL: *II. Allegro*
POSTLUDE: *IV. Vivace*

Please stay after church today to help "de-green" the church! Many hands make light work!

Church Staff	
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	Peggy McCarty
Special Music	Bailey Holman, bassoon Glenna Muir, piano
IT Support	Louis Bouchard

Community Presbyterian Church

open hearted, open minded

Sunday, January 8
9:30 am Worship - Onsite and Online
10:30 am De-greening of the Church
2:30 pm Building Usage: Labranza de Dios

Monday, January 9
Office Closed
9:00 am Annual Report items due

Tuesday, January 10
12:00 pm Bulletin Information Due
6:30 pm Building & Grounds Committee
7:00 pm Building Use: Mission Aid Network

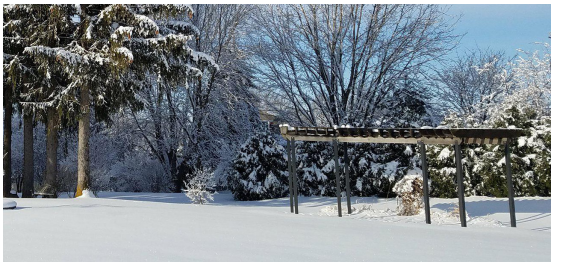
Wednesday, January 11
6:30 am No Prayer Group
12:00 pm Conference Call *
7:00 pm CPC Choir

Thursday, January 12
5:30 pm Building Use: Labranza de Dios

Sunday, January 15
9:30 am Worship - Onsite and Online
2:30 pm Building Usage: Labranza de Dios

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**
This week, the call will be on Wednesday.
+1 413-889-2244 PIN: 433 818 991#



In Our Thoughts & Prayers

Judy Leal
Jane and Ed Burgstaler family, especially daughters Jenny and Elissa
Connie Holst
MariLynn Johnson
Vera Atkinson's daughter, Teresa
Shannon Cisewski
Judy Robb's brother, Dan
Ron Murray
Dick and Nancy Massaro

To be added to the prayer list, please contact Pastor Jan at pastor@cpcrochester.org.
For emergency pastoral care, call Pastor Jan at 763-219-2927.

Annual Report/ Annual Meeting

Sunday, January 22, after worship, will be the Annual Congregational Meeting. Plan to attend as CPC will look back on the past year, recognize leaders that have completed their term, vote for the new class of elders and deacons as well as amend the by-laws, and look forward to the year ahead. All members are invited and encouraged to attend.

The **annual report deadline is Monday, January 9th**, with the hopes that the annual report will be available on Sunday, January 15th.

Women's Shelter AND SUPPORT CENTER
SAVING LIVES · RESTORING HOPE · CHANGING FUTURES

Community Presbyterian Church has donated $40,000 to purchase a used van for the Women's Shelter and Support Center in Rochester. The donation was part of a bequest to the church from Margaret Nelson, longtime member and supporter of the church. The money will be used to purchase a van to transport the shelter's clients and to replace another vehicle.

Jeannie Thompson, director of youth programming and community outreach at the women's shelter, will speak about the Women's Shelter & Support Center's goals at the church, 3705 Fairway Place NW in Rochester, at 10:30 a.m. Sunday, Jan. 15. The event is open to the public and will follow the worship service.

Jeannie's background is in mental health nursing, working in adolescent mental health and clinical psychology. Jeannie began volunteering at a domestic violence center in North Iowa. She eventually went on staff with that agency. She has been an advocate for victims and survivors of domestic violence and sexual assault for more than 30 years. She is a foster/adoptive parent, has four children, five grandchildren, one great-grandchild and two cats, Faith & Hope. (Hope is the naughty one.)

The worship committee is suggesting that CPC restart the coffee hour after Sunday service with the following guidelines: The individual(s) who host coffee hour will be the only individual(s) serving to minimize handling of items. Coffee hour hosts will wear a mask and gloves while serving. It is strongly encouraged that items be individually wrapped. Disposable cups will be used. **Sign up for a Sunday – in the narthex or by contacting the church office.**