

# Community Presbyterian Church

open hearted, open minded



**February 12, 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

We gather as the body of Christ today.

**We gather as God's servants working together.**

We gather to worship, to hear the good news,  
to sing our praise to the One who calls us out of darkness.

**We gather as the hands and feet of Jesus, here and now.**

OPENING HYMN GTG 403

Open Now Thy Gates of Beauty

*vs. 1 and 2*

1 O - pen now thy gates of beau - ty, Zi - on, let me  
2 Gra - cious God, I come be - fore thee; come thou al - so

en - ter there, where my soul in joy - ful du - ty  
un - to me; where we find thee and a - dore thee,

waits for God who an - swers prayer; O how bless - ed  
there a heaven on earth must be; to my heart O

is this place, filled with so - lace, light, and grace.  
en - ter thou; let it be thy tem - ple now.

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## CALL OF CONFESSION

Nothing can be hidden from the Holy One, maker of earth and heaven,  
whose wisdom is endless and whose mercy is great.  
Trusting in God's grace, let us confess our sin.

## PRAYER OF CONFESSION

**Generous God, you set before us life in your abundant Self,  
but we fix our sights on lesser ways:  
Convenience, self-reliance, getting ahead, making our mark  
We lose ourselves in greed and grudges.  
Break us of our longing for gods we can see and touch.  
Turn us back to you, the One mysterious and mighty God,  
so that we may walk whole-heartedly in your ways.  
*Silence for reflection***

## DECLARATION OF FORGIVENESS

Those who trust in God will renew their strength.

They will run and not be weary, they will walk and not grow faint.

In the name of Jesus Christ, you are forgiven. **Amen**

## LISTENING FOR GOD'S WORD

### PRAYER OF ILLUMINATION

Saving God, source of our calling, your Word is full of power and glory. Pour out your Holy Spirit upon us so that we may receive your grace and live as your beloved children, through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen**

### SCRIPTURE READING

Deuteronomy 30:15-20

See, I have set before you today life and prosperity, death and adversity. If you obey the commandments of the Lord your God that I am commanding you today, by loving the Lord your God, walking in his ways, and observing his commandments, decrees, and ordinances, then you shall live and become numerous, and the Lord your God will bless you in the land that you are entering to possess. But if your heart turns away and you do not hear, but are led astray to bow down to other gods and serve them, I declare to you today that you shall perish; you shall not live long in the land that you are crossing the Jordan to enter and possess. I call heaven and earth to witness against you today that I have set before you life and death, blessings and curses. Choose life so that you and your descendants may live, loving the Lord your God, obeying him, and holding fast to him; for that means life to you and length of days, so that you may live in the land that the Lord swore to give to your ancestors, to Abraham, to Isaac, and to Jacob

### RESPONSIVE READING Psalm 119:1-8

*Adapted from Nan Merrill, Psalms for Praying*

Blessed are those whose ways are blameless,  
who live with spiritual integrity.

**Blessed are those who keep God's decrees,  
who follow with their whole heart,  
who enfold the world with love and walk on peaceful paths!**

You have shown us the way of Truth, the way that leads to freedom.

**O that my ways may always reflect your will!**

Then I shall know inner peace, as I surrender to your desire.

**I will praise you with a grateful heart and lean on your righteousness.**

**As I forsake the paths of darkness, be merciful to me.**

## SCRIPTURE READING

1 Corinthians 3:1-9

And so, brothers and sisters, I could not speak to you as spiritual people, but rather as people of the flesh, as infants in Christ. I fed you with milk, not solid food, for you were not ready for solid food. Even now you are still not ready, for you are still of the flesh. For as long as there is jealousy and quarreling among you, are you not of the flesh, and behaving according to human inclinations? For when one says, 'I belong to Paul', and another, 'I belong to Apollos', are you not merely human?

What then is Apollos? What is Paul? Servants through whom you came to believe, as the Lord assigned to each. I planted, Apollos watered, but God gave the growth. So neither the one who plants nor the one who waters is anything, but only God who gives the growth. The one who plants and the one who waters have a common purpose, and each will receive wages according to the labor of each. For we are God's servants, working together; you are God's field, God's building.

## SPECIAL MUSIC

*Steal Away*  
African American spiritual

CPC Choir

## GOSPEL READING

Matthew 5:21-37

'You have heard that it was said to those of ancient times, "You shall not murder"; and "whoever murders shall be liable to judgment." But I say to you that if you are angry with a brother or sister, you will be liable to judgment; and if you insult a brother or sister, you will be liable to the council; and if you say, "You fool", you will be liable to the hell of fire. So when you are offering your gift at the altar, if you remember that your brother or sister has something against you, leave your gift there before the altar and go; first be reconciled to your brother or sister, and then come and offer your gift. Come to terms quickly with your accuser while you are on the way to court with him, or your accuser may hand you over to the judge, and the judge to the guard, and you will be thrown into prison. Truly I tell you, you will never get out until you have paid the last penny.

'You have heard that it was said, "You shall not commit adultery." But I say to you that everyone who looks at a woman with lust has already committed adultery with her in his heart. If your right eye causes you to sin, tear it out and throw it away; it is better for you to lose one of your members than for your whole body to be thrown into hell. And if your right hand causes you to sin, cut it off and throw it away; it is better for you to lose one of your members than for your whole body to go into hell.

'It was also said, "Whoever divorces his wife, let him give her a certificate of divorce." But I say to you that anyone who divorces his wife, except on the ground of unchastity, causes

her to commit adultery; and whoever marries a divorced woman commits adultery. 'Again, you have heard that it was said to those of ancient times, "You shall not swear falsely, but carry out the vows you have made to the Lord." But I say to you, Do not swear at all, either by heaven, for it is the throne of God, or by the earth, for it is his footstool, or by Jerusalem, for it is the city of the great King. And do not swear by your head, for you cannot make one hair white or black. Let your word be "Yes, Yes" or "No, No"; anything more than this comes from the evil one.

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

MESSAGE

*"But I say to you..."*

Rev. Carla Nelson

### RESPONDING TO GOD'S GRACE

\*HYMN OF THE DAY GTG 688 Spirit of God, Descend upon My Heart vs. 1, 2, 5

1 Spir - it of God, de - scend up - on my heart;  
 2 I ask no dream, no proph - et ec - sta - sies,  
 5 Teach me to love thee as thine an - gels love,

wean it from earth; through all its puls - es move;  
 no sud - den rend - ing of the veil of clay,  
 one ho - ly pas - sion fill - ing all my frame;

stoop to my weak - ness, might - y as thou art,  
 no an - gel vis - i - tant, no o - pening skies;  
 the bap - tism of the heaven - de - scend - ed Dove,

and make me love thee as I ought to love.  
 but take the dim - ness of my soul a - way.  
 my heart an al - tar, and thy love the flame.

## 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 546

Lord, Dismiss Us with Your Blessing



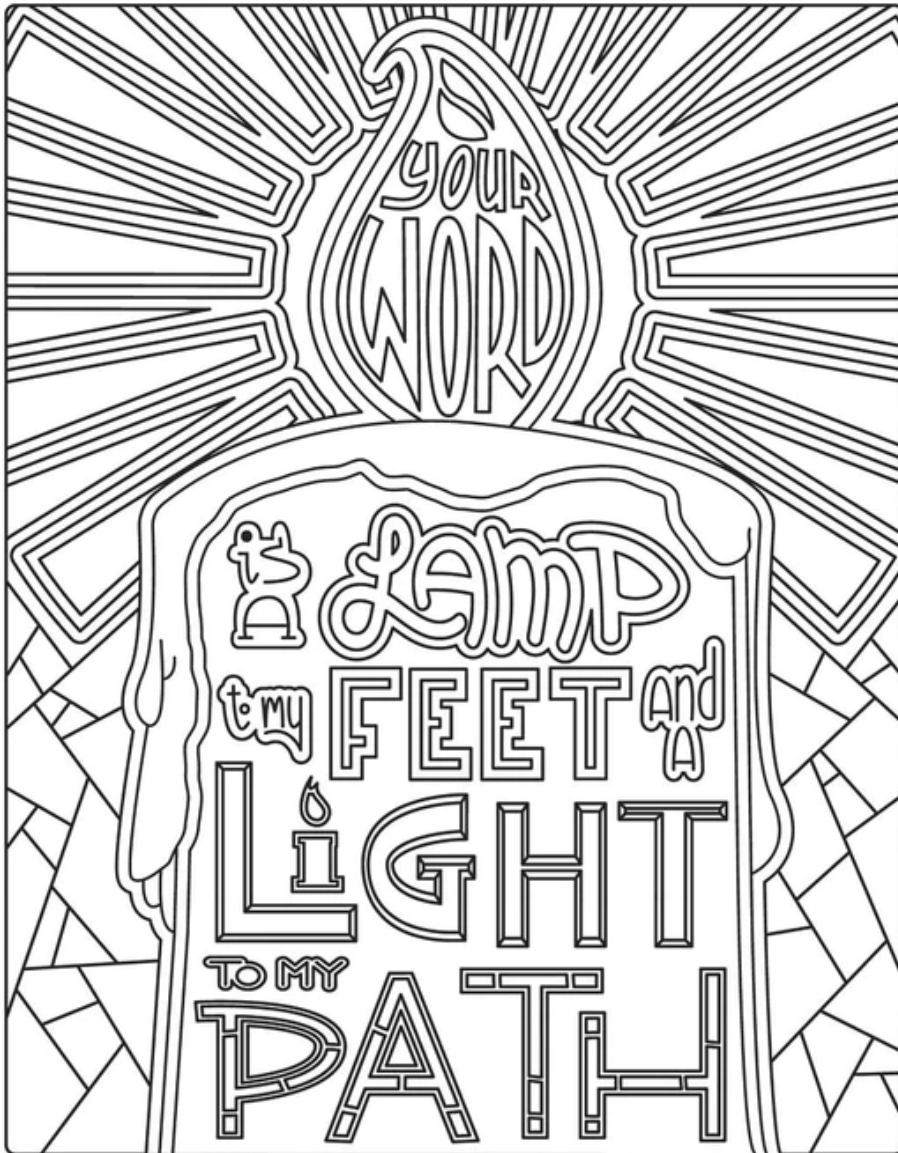
1 Lord, dis - miss us with your bless-ing; fill our hearts with  
2 Thanks we give and ad - o - ra - tion for your gos - pel's  
3 Sav - ior, when your love shall call us, from our strug - gling  
joy and peace; let us each, your love pos - sess - ing,  
joy - ful sound; may the fruits of your sal - va - tion  
pil - grim way, let no fear of death ap - pall us,  
tri - umph in re - deem - ing grace. O re - fresh us,  
in our hearts and lives a - bound. Ev - er faith - ful,  
glad your sum - mons to o - bey. May we ev - er,  
O re - fresh us, trav - eling through this wil - der - ness.  
ev - er faith - ful to your truth may we be found.  
may we ev - er reign with you in end - less day.



## BLESSING AND CHARGE

Beloved children of God, receive the gift of the Holy Spirit,  
The grace of Jesus Christ, and the blessing of the Beloved forever.  
As Jesus called the first disciples, so he calls us this day:  
Follow me. **Amen. Thanks be to God.**

## POSTLUDE





# Community Presbyterian Church

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## Sunday, February 12

9:30 am **Worship - Onsite and Online**

6:00 pm Building Usage: Labranza de Dios

## Monday, February 13

6:00 pm Building Usage: Med City Tai Chi

## Tuesday, February 14

12:00 pm Bulletin Information Due

12:00 pm Conference Call \*

6:30 pm Building & Grounds Committee

7:00 pm Building Use: Mission Aid Network

## Wednesday, February 15

6:30 am Prayer Group at Church of Christ

7:00 pm CPC Choir

## Thursday, February 16

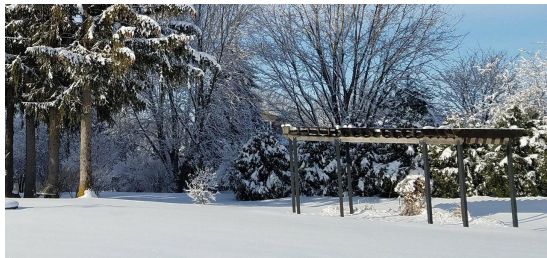
5:30 pm Building Use: Labranza de Dios

## Sunday, February 19

9:30 am **Worship - Onsite and Online**

**Installation of Elders, Deacons  
and Officers**

2:30 pm Building Usage: Labranza de Dios



Judy Leal  
Jane and Ed Burgstaler family,  
especially daughter Jenny

Connie Holst

MariLynn Johnson

Vera Atkinson's daughter, Teresa

Shannon Cisewski

Judy Robb's brother, Dan

Ron Murray

Dick and Nancy Massaro

### 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

+1 413-889-2244 PIN: 433 818 991#

*To be added to the prayer list,  
please contact Pastor Jan at  
[pastor@cpcrochester.org](mailto:pastor@cpcrochester.org).*

*For emergency pastoral care,  
call Pastor Jan at 763-219-2927.*

## Ash Wednesday

Lent opens with a traditional Ash Wednesday Service, February 22 at 7 pm.

Seeking: *Is this the fast that I choose?*

What are you seeking? What is your body, or your mind, or your soul seeking? Where does your seeking overlap with God's seeking? What areas of your life are discordant with what God seeks? God's words to the prophet in Isaiah 58:2 could also be translated as, "Day by day they are inquiring knowledge of me and delighting in my ways." What would it look like for this to be your Lenten quest?

*Why not show up for this thoughtful service, gateway to a season of seeking?*



## seeking: honest questions for deeper faith

Lenten Devotionals will be available for pick up or download soon! Daily Lenten messages will be posted on facebook as well.



### Book Discussion Group, Sunday, February 26 after worship

The group will read and discuss *First They Killed My Father: A daughter of Cambodia remembers*, by Loung Ung. "From a childhood survivor of Cambodia's brutal Pol Pot regime comes an unforgettable narrative of war crimes and desperate actions, the unnerving strength of a small girl and her family, and their triumph of spirit."

Books are available from Carol Jones, through the Rochester Public Library "Book Group in a Bag."

### 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

Guest Preacher	Rev. Carla Nelson
Liturgist	Bruce Felger
Special Music	CPC Choir
IT Support	Louis Bouchard