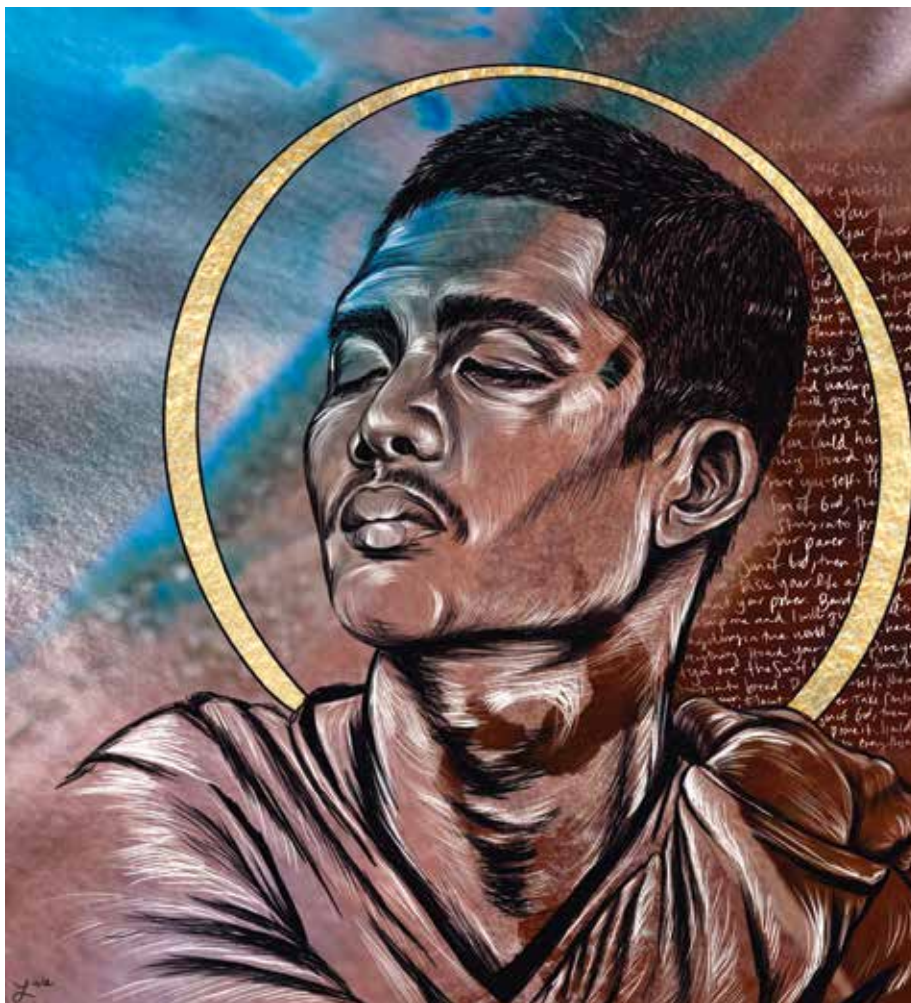


# Community Presbyterian Church

open hearted, open minded

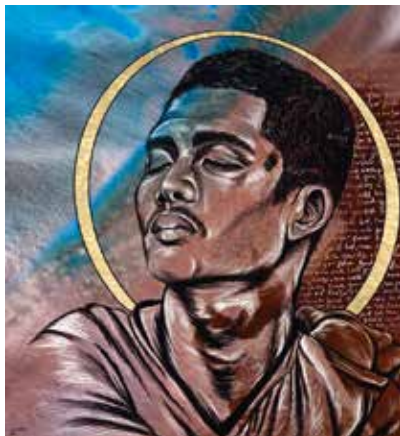


**February 26, 2023**

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).

## seeking: Who will you listen to?



### TUNE IN

by Lisle Gwynn Garrity

Inspired by Matthew 4:1-11

*Silk painting with digital drawing and collage*

In this image, the words of the Tempter hover in the background. The Tempter's voice lingers like a ringing in Jesus' ears, saying: "Take charge. Hoard your power. Dominate. Control."

Somehow, Jesus has deciphered that these words are simply background noise. He closes his eyes and goes inward, wrapping himself in a posture of self-embrace. From this introspective perspective, Jesus essentially says, "Get behind me, Satan."

The backdrop of this piece resembles the dust of the desert. Like sand washing along a beach, the sediment shifts into water in the top left, hinting at what bolsters Jesus in his ministry: his belonging to God. His belovedness washes over him, giving him the courage to defy the deception of the Tempter and tune into his inner wisdom. In this way, he is given a new song to carry with him, a lullaby from God that goes, "You, my child, in you, I am well-pleased." This is a melody for singing, a song for dancing.

What are the voices that linger with you like a ringing in your ears? What are the messages that try to deceive or devour you? Let those voices buzz and fade into the background. Close your eyes, tune in, and embrace yourself. From your belovedness, what song will you sing?

—Rev. Lisle Gwynn Garrity

 © A SANCTIFIED ART | SANCTIFIEDART.ORG

With many thanks and used with permission:

Words for Worship "Seeking." Adapted from prayers by Rev. Sarah A. Speed |

A Sanctified Art LLC | [sanctifiedart.org](http://sanctifiedart.org).

Paraphrased Lord's Prayer by Steve Garnaas-Holmes, *Unfolding Light*.

#### 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	Sue Chipman
Special Music	CPC Choir
IT Support	Louis Bouchard

## WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

### PRELUDE

#### \*CALL TO WORSHIP

Listen!

**There is hope to be found here.**

Listen!

**God calls you by name here.**

Listen!

**There is love that abides here.**

This world is full of chatter, so may we do our best to listen.

**God is speaking. Let us worship. Amen.**

#### \*OPENING HYMN GTG 720

#### Jesus Calls Us

vs. 1, 3, 4



1 Je - sus calls us: o'er the tu - mult of our  
3 In our joys and in our sor - rows, days of  
4 Je - sus calls us: by thy mer - cies, Sav - ior,



life's wild, rest - less sea; day by day his sweet voice  
toil and hours of ease, still he calls, in cares and  
may we hear thy call, give our hearts to thy o -



sound - eth say - ing, "Chris - tian, fol - low me."  
plea - sures, "Chris - tian, love me more than these."  
be - dience, serve and love thee best of all.

## CALL TO CONFESSION

Friends, if you are seeking grace, this moment is for you.  
If you are seeking growth, this moment is for you.  
If you are seeking honesty, this moment is for you.  
Let us admit together that we don't have it all figured out.

## PRAYER OF CONFESSION

**Holy God, too often we treat your Word like a radio station—something we can tune in and out of when it's convenient. We tend to gravitate toward the voices that think like us—easily ignoring the voices being silenced, easily ignoring your voice. Forgive us for failing to listen. Forgive us for getting caught in distractions. Forgive us for forgetting what your voice sounds like. With earnest hearts we pray, amen.**

## WORDS OF FORGIVENESS

Friends, even when we tune God out,  
even when we prioritize other voices,  
even when we do all the talking and fail to listen,  
we are still held by God.  
Your sins are forgiven. Nothing could ever separate you from God's love.  
We belong to God. **Amen.**

## SUNG RESPONSE

The Lone Wild Bird *tune: Prospect, GTG 807*  
**The lone, wild bird in lofty flight  
Is still with thee, nor leaves thy sight.  
And I am thine, I rest in thee.  
Great Spirit, come and rest in me.**

## LISTENING FOR GOD'S WORD

## PRAYER OF ILLUMINATION

Holy God, we shuffle into this space and try to quiet our minds, but the list of distractions is long. We need your help to listen. Dust the cobwebs from our ears. Stir our souls awake. Crack open our hearts to make room for you. We want to hear you, really hear you, so speak to us now. With hope we pray, **Amen.**

## SCRIPTURE READING

Genesis 2:15-17, 3:1-7

The Lord God took the man and put him in the garden of Eden to till it and keep it. And the Lord God commanded the man, 'You may freely eat of every tree of the garden; but of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil you shall not eat, for in the day that you eat of it you shall die.'

Now the serpent was more crafty than any other wild animal that the Lord God had made. He said to the woman, 'Did God say, "You shall not eat from any tree in the garden"?' The woman said to the serpent, 'We may eat of the fruit of the trees in the garden; but God said, "You shall not eat of the fruit of the tree that is in the middle of the garden, nor shall you touch it, or you shall die."' But the serpent said to the woman, 'You will not die; for God knows that when you eat of it your eyes will be opened, and you will be like God, knowing good and evil.' So when the woman saw that the tree was good for food, and that it was a delight to the eyes, and that the tree was to be desired to make one wise, she took of its fruit and ate; and she also gave some to her husband, who was with her, and he ate. Then the eyes of both were opened, and they knew that they were naked; and they sewed fig leaves together and made loincloths for themselves.

RESPONSIVE READING Psalm 32

Happy are those whose transgression is forgiven,  
whose sin is covered.

**Happy are those to whom the Holy One imputes no iniquity,  
and in whose spirit there is no deceit.**

While I kept silence, my body wasted away  
through my groaning all day long.

**For day and night your hand was heavy upon me;  
my strength was dried up as by the heat of summer.**

Then I acknowledged my sin to you,  
and I did not hide my iniquity;

**I said, 'I will confess my transgressions to my God,'  
and you forgave the guilt of my sin.**

Therefore let all who are faithful offer prayer to you;  
at a time of distress, the rush of mighty waters shall not reach them.

**You are a hiding-place for me; you preserve me from trouble;  
you surround me with glad cries of deliverance.**

Many are the torments of the wicked,  
but steadfast love surrounds those who trust in the Lord.

**"Be glad in the Holy One" and rejoice, O righteous,  
and shout for joy, all you upright in heart.**

SPECIAL MUSIC

*Give Me Jesus*

CPC Choir

African American Traditional, arr. by Jester Hairston, Harry Robert Wilson

GOSPEL READING

Matthew 4:1-11

Immediately after his baptism by John in the Jordan River, Jesus was led up by the Spirit into the wilderness to be tempted by the devil. He fasted for forty days and forty nights, and afterwards he was famished. The tempter came and said to him, 'If you are the Son of God, command these stones to become loaves of bread.' But he answered, 'It is written,

“One does not live by bread alone,  
but by every word that comes from the mouth of God.” ’

Then the devil took him to the holy city and placed him on the pinnacle of the temple, saying to him, 'If you are the Son of God, throw yourself down; for it is written,

“He will command his angels concerning you”,  
and “On their hands they will bear you up,  
so that you will not dash your foot against a stone.” ’

Jesus said to him, 'Again it is written, “Do not put the Lord your God to the test.” ’

Again, the devil took him to a very high mountain and showed him all the kingdoms of the world and their splendor; and he said to him, 'All these I will give you, if you will fall down and worship me.' Jesus said to him, 'Away with you, Satan! for it is written,

“Worship the Lord your God,  
and serve only him.” ’

Then the devil left him, and suddenly angels came and waited on him.

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

SERMON

*Slowly, Slowly*

Pastor Jan

**RESPONDING TO GOD’S GRACE**

\*HYMN OF THE DAY GTG 53

O God, Who Gives Us Life (vs. 1 and 2)

1 O God, who gives us life and breath, who shapes us in the womb,  
2 O God, who calls your peo-ple out to ven-ture and to dare,

The image shows a musical score for a hymn. It consists of two staves: a treble clef staff on top and a bass clef staff on the bottom. The key signature has one flat (B-flat) and the time signature is 4/4. The melody is written in the treble clef, and the bass line is in the bass clef. The lyrics are written below the treble staff, with two verses. The first verse is "1 O God, who gives us life and breath, who shapes us in the womb," and the second verse is "2 O God, who calls your peo-ple out to ven-ture and to dare,". The music is in a simple, hymn-like style.

who guards our lives from birth to death, then leads us from the tomb:  
to plumb the bleak a - byss of doubt and find you e - ven there:

de - liv - er us from fears that kill the life we have from you.  
when we de - spair in wan - der - ing through wastes of emp - ty lies,

Help us to know your Spir - it still is mak - ing all things new.  
re - fresh us with the liv - ing spring of hope that nev - er dies.

## AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

In a world full of noise,

**we believe that God is speaking.**

In a world full of chaos,

**we believe that God is singing.**

In a world full of temptation,

**we believe that God is healing.**

People of God, who will you listen to?

**We will listen to God—our Creator, Friend, and Guide.**

People of God, what will you listen for?

**We will listen for water in the desert,  
for the wind of the Spirit,  
for the laughter of children,  
for the sound of open doors,  
and for God's voice, who calls us beloved.  
Amen.**

### JOYS AND CONCERNS/PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

God, our Savior,  
**hear our prayer.**

### THE LORD'S PRAYER

**Our Mother and Father in heaven, holy be your name.  
Impose your reign that we may do your will, on earth as in heaven.  
Give us today this one day's bread.  
Forgive our wrongs as we forgive those who do wrong against us.  
Save us from our temptations and keep us from doing evil,  
For the Realm, the power, and the glory are yours,  
Now and forever. Amen.**

### SENDING INTO THE WORLD TO LOVE AND SERVE


\*CLOSING HYMN GTG 819

Be Still, My Soul

*vs. 1 and 2*



1 Be still, my soul: the Lord is on thy side.  
2 Be still, my soul: thy God doth un - der - take



Bear pa - tient - ly the cross of grief or pain.  
to guide the fu - ture sure - ly as the past.



Leave to thy God to or - der and pro - vide,  
Thy hope, thy con - fi - dence let noth - ing shake;



who through all chang - es faith - ful will re - main.  
 all now mys - te - rious shall be bright at last.

Be still, my soul: thy best, thy heaven - ly Friend  
 Be still, my soul: the waves and winds still know

through thorn - y ways leads to a joy - ful end.  
 his voice who ruled them while he dwelt be - low.

### BLESSING AND CHARGE

As you leave this place,  
 may God bless you with seeking.  
 Seek out the hungry. Seek the weary.  
 Seek the good in every person you pass.  
 Seek out the hopeful. Seek the faithful.  
 Seek God in each of us.  
 As you seek and as you wonder,  
 may you find what you are looking for.  
 In the name of our loving God, who is always seeking us,  
 go now in peace. **Amen.**

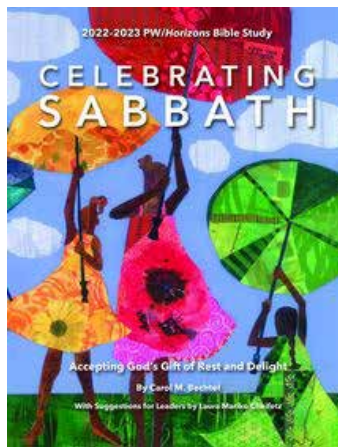
### POSTLUDE

## The Book Discussion Group meets today, 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.”



The PW Bible Study resumes on Tuesday, February 28, 10 am, and continues on alternate Tuesdays. We resume with *Celebrating Sabbath* Session 6: *Sabbath and Hospitality*

During Lent, daily devotions will be available “to expand and deepen your spiritual walk through Lent.” You’ll be able to pick up a devotional beginning Ash Wednesday. The same devotional will be available on our website. Another option is to receive daily messages via text. Please see the information below about signing up for texts/notifications. There will also be different daily messages on Facebook. Check it out!



Pick a way to receive messages for Daily Texts:

- A) If you have a smartphone, get push notifications. On your iPhone or Android phone, open your web browser and go to the following link: [rmd.at/ga2hfb](http://rmd.at/ga2hfb) Follow the instructions to sign up for Remind. You’ll be prompted to download the mobile app.
- B) If you don’t have a smartphone, get text notifications. Text the message @ga2hfb to the number 81010. If you’re having trouble with 81010, try texting @ga2hfb to (608) 467-4108. Note: you’ll be asked if you are a student (s) or a parent (p). Choose either one. The application was designed for schools, but will work for our purposes.

If you received daily texts last year, you’re likely still on the list and you don’t need to re-sign up. \* Standard text message rates apply.

# Syria-Turkey Earthquake



Presbyterian Disaster Assistance (PDA) urges your support in the aftermath of the 7.8- magnitude earthquake and its aftershocks in Syria and Turkey. Thousands are reported dead and injured, numbers that will rise as search and rescue continues. Buildings have been reduced to rubble, and roads and bridges have been severely damaged, resulting in dangerous conditions for first responders. In some places, such as Aleppo, this destruction is compounding the damage of the now 11-year war in Syria.

PDA is providing emergency relief and short-term recovery in the impacted areas. PDA will remain active throughout the recovery process, accompanying our partners as they determine long-term program needs and providing financial support for building and resilience.

Years of recovery lie ahead, and your commitment will help PDA extend the hands of Christ. Will you stand in the “GAP” for the people affected by this catastrophic earthquake?

**GIVE:** PDA’s emergency response and specialization in long-term recovery is fueled by your generous gifts. Gifts can be made online at [pcusa.org/give-STearthquake](http://pcusa.org/give-STearthquake), by phone at (800) 872-3283, or by check made payable to Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) with “DR999999-ST earthquake” written on the memo line and mailed to Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.), P.O. Box 643700, Pittsburgh, PA 15264-3700



**PRAY:** *God of mercy, we join in prayer for our siblings in Syria and Turkey, and all other regions affected. In the face of the terrible images that come to us, we ask that your Spirit, O God, once again move in the midst of chaos and destruction. May you provide protection, energy and strength through your presence.*

\$500    \$125    \$50    \$25    Other \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_ Congregation/PIN \_\_\_\_\_

Please detach the reply form and return it with your gift to your church; or enclose it in an envelope with your check and mail it to Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.), P.O. Box 643700, Pittsburgh, PA 15264-3700.

Donations will be matched by the CPC Mission Fund- up to \$500!

# Community Presbyterian Church

open hearted, open minded

## Sunday, February 26

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

2:30 pm Building Usage: Labranza de Dios

## Monday, February 27

6:00 pm Building Usage: Med City Tai Chi

## Tuesday, February 28

10:00 am PW Bible Study

12:00 pm Bulletin Information Due

12:00 pm Conference Call \*

6:30 pm Session Meeting (virtual)

7:00 pm Building Use: Mission Aid Network

## Wednesday, March 1

6:30 am Prayer Group at Church of Christ

7:00 pm **Worship - Onsite and Online**

## Thursday, March 2

5:30 pm Building Use: Labranza de Dios

## Sunday, March 5

9:30 am **Worship with Communion  
Onsite and Online**

2:30 pm Building Usage: Labranza de Dios



Judy Leal  
Jane and Ed Burgstaler family,  
especially daughter Jenny  
Connie Holst  
the family of MariLynn Johnson  
Vera Atkinson's daughter, Teresa  
Shannon Cisewski  
Judy Robb and her family as they  
mourn the death of her brother, Dan  
Ron Murray  
Dick and Nancy Massaro

*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.*

### **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#